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Page 10

VOL. 35 NO. 40

OCTOBER 1-7, 2026

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Herald file photo

Mini Mart often attracts thousands of people, including residents from Sea Cliff, the surrounding communities and beyond, as it did last year.

Mini Mart returns to Sea Cliff

Annual fall event, now in its 54th year, set for Sunday

By **JULIA CAPITELLI**

jcapitelli@liherald.com

Kiwanis Sea Cliff Mini Mart is returning for its 54th year, bringing vendors, live music and food to the village. Thousands typically show up to the annual fall event, from Sea Cliff and beyond.

"In the 23 years that I've been here, I would say that the atmosphere is just so positive and fun," Kiwanis member Judith Rivera said. "And people get to really talk to each other and get to know the neighbors."

Mini Mart, held on the first Sunday in October, will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Artists, artisans and retail vendors line Sea Cliff Avenue, offering a variety of artwork, handcrafted items and unique pieces.

According to North Shore Kiwanis Board

Member Julia Salat, space at this year's Mini Mart is sold out with more than 200 vendors from the tri-state area. She added that Kiwanis prefers the event to be a craft fair rather than commercialized. Longtime organizers Lisa and Roger Hill have passed the responsibility to Vinny Labbate and Tony Consalvo, of Kiwanis' Young Professionals Division. The Hills remain involved, providing support for the new organizers.

Salat praised Labbate and Consalvo for their work organizing Mini Mart, selling space to vendors and mapping where each booth will be set up.

"There's always room for improvement," Salat said, "and they're the people that are going to be doing this."

Mini Mart is one of the largest fundraisers of the year for North Shore Kiwanis.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Free screening puts the focus on skin cancer

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Michele Kutner noticed a strange mark on her face shortly before her 50th reunion at Glen Cove High School. She decided to wait until after the reunion to have it checked.

Then she got a call telling her to come in right away.

Kutner, a lifelong Glen Cove resident, was diagnosed with melanoma in 2023, when she was 69. She said she underwent five Slow Mohs procedures as doctors worked to remove the cancer. The procedure is a modified, staged skin cancer removal technique that uses overnight or multi-day permanent laboratory processing instead of rapid frozen sections.

The melanoma affected the right side of her face and extended toward her eye, Kutner said. She later underwent reconstructive surgery, which included taking tissue from her arm and grafting it onto her face.

Now 72, Kutner said she is doing well, and returns for

examinations every three months. Since her diagnosis, she has thought about the years she spent in the sun when she was younger.

"I remember all the days at the beach and baby oil," Kutner said. "If I could do it all over again, I would never sit in the sun."

Residents will have an opportunity to have their skin checked for free on Oct. 9, when Dr. Eve Lupenko conducts skin cancer screenings at the Glen Cove Senior Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lupenko, a board-certified dermatologist with more than 25 years of experience, said some people put off seeing a dermatologist because of the cost or because they have difficulty getting to an office.

"A lot of people, they can't afford the copays to go see a dermatologist," Lupenko said. "They don't have transportation to see a dermatologist."

Lupenko, who practices at Greenberg Cosmetic Surgery and Dermatology in Woodbury, said she takes part in a free

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Blood donations desperately needed

The Glen Cove Fire Department will host a community blood drive on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., giving residents an opportunity to help replenish the blood supply and support patients who depend on transfusions.

The blood drive will be held at the Glen Cove Fire Department, 10 Glen Cove Ave. Breakfast will be served by the fire department during the event.

Residents interested in donating can sign up by calling Pete at (516) 606-0014 or by scanning the event's QR code. All donors will also receive a voucher for a "Pint for a Pint" from Garvies Point Brewery in Glen Cove.

Blood donations are an essential part of health care because donated blood cannot be manufactured and must come from volunteer donors. Hospitals rely on blood donations for patients undergoing surgery, receiving treatment for serious illnesses, recovering from traumatic injuries and facing medical emergencies.

Maintaining an adequate blood supply is especially important when emergencies occur. Serious accidents, traumatic injuries and other unexpected events can create an immediate need for blood, while hospitals must continue treating patients who require transfusions as part of planned procedures or ongoing care.

Blood also has a limited shelf life,

making regular donations important. Waiting until an emergency occurs to donate may be too late for patients who need blood immediately. A consistent supply allows hospitals to respond to emergencies while continuing to meet the needs of patients receiving routine and specialized medical care.

For eligible donors, giving blood is a relatively simple way to help people in the community. A single donation can be separated into components that may be used to help different patients, depending on their individual medical needs.

The upcoming blood drive will provide Glen Cove residents with an opportunity to contribute to the local blood supply while taking part in a community event. Breakfast will be available to donors, and the "Pint for a Pint" voucher offers an additional thank-you for those who participate.

The drive will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 17 at the Glen Cove Fire Department, 10 Glen Cove Ave. Those interested in donating can register by calling Pete at (516) 606-0014. Donors are encouraged to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of fluids before giving blood. Every donation helps strengthen the blood supply and critical support when it is needed most.

—Roksana Amid

Church is designated as a landmark

The First Presbyterian Church of Glen Cove has been designated an individual city landmark, preserving one of the city's most recognizable historic buildings.

The Glen Cove City Council approved the designation during its Sept. 22 meeting, following a public hearing and months of consideration by city preservation officials. The church, located at 7 North Lane, was formally designated through a City Council resolution listed on the meeting agenda.

The Tudor-style building dates to 1906 and has long been a prominent feature of the Glen Cove landscape. The First Presbyterian Church congregation was founded in 1869 and moved to its current property after receiving the North Lane site in 1905. The church and adjacent manse were constructed in 1906.

The designation protects the historic character of the property, particularly its exterior, from changes that could significantly alter the building. The Glen Cove Landmark Preservation Commission had pushed for the designation after learning that the property could be sold. Preservation officials said the building has retained much of its original architectural character over the past 120 years.

At the Aug. 25 City Council meeting,

City Historian Dave Nieri, who also serves on the Landmark Preservation Commission, spoke in support of the designation. Nieri described the church as one of the city's most identifiable landmarks and said the building has been considered for landmark status for years. The council unanimously moved the matter forward and scheduled the official vote for Sept. 22.

Robert Labaw, chairman of the Landmark Preservation Commission, said the church meets the city's criteria for landmark designation. The commission had previously obtained temporary protected status for the property while investigating whether it qualified for permanent landmark protection.

The church held its final worship service on Jan. 11, 2025, after more than 150 years of congregational life. The building has also served broader community purposes over the years, including housing the North Shore Sheltering Program.

The landmark designation comes as the property enters a new chapter. The city's action preserves the building's historic exterior while allowing it to continue serving the community under its current ownership and use.

—Roksana Amid

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Pups to put their best paws forward

3

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@iherald.com

What began as a way to bring people together during the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic has grown into a fall tradition filled with costumes, tricks and plenty of four-legged contestants.

The Kiwanis Club of North Shore will hold its annual dog show on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 1 p.m. at Garvies Point Dog Park. The event raises money for the club's Koats 4 Kids and Kicks 4 Kids programs, which provide coats and sneakers to children in need.

Leslie Wanzor Klee, of the North Shore Kiwanis Club, came up with the idea during the pandemic, when many of the organization's usual fundraising activities could not take place.

"People were very isolated in their homes and dogs seemed to be a thing that was floating around," Klee said. "So I thought maybe we could do this. It was outside. It was something that was fun that could get people out of their house."

She launched the event without knowing whether the concept would catch on. It did.

"I started this, no concept of how it was going to work out," Klee said. "And it's adorable."

Dogs and their owners compete in four categories — fanciest, best matching outfit, best trick and overall winner. Contestants walk their dogs past the judges, while those entering the trick competition stop to demonstrate their talents — or at least attempt to.

"They all forget their trick because the dogs are all very excited to be there," Klee said. Owners insist their pets can normally perform on command, she added, but sometimes the excitement gets the better of them.

"It's just full of laughter and joy," she said.

The event typically draws about 25 dogs, though Klee said organizers can accommodate roughly 35. Participants range from children walking their pets to senior citizens and couples.

"I think the thing that's really nice about it is two things," Klee said. "One is that the dog owners get to show off their best friend. They're all so proud of their dogs and they get to dress them up and dress themselves up."

For Klee, the atmosphere is intentionally far removed from a formal competition.

"It's a lot of smiles," she said. "It's not serious. It is definitely not American Kennel Association competition."

John Canning, a longtime North Shore Kiwanis member who serves as the show's announcer and master of ceremonies, said owners put considerable creativity into their entries, particularly the matching costumes.

"People put tremendous thought into it," Canning said, noting that the October timing often inspires Halloween-themed outfits. "They extend it to the canine community."

The \$25 entry fee and sponsorships help the event raise roughly \$4,000, Klee said. The proceeds are divided between



Participants walked their dogs before the crowd during the Kiwanis Club of North Shore's annual fundraiser.



Four-legged contestants took center stage as they competed in categories including fanciest, best matching outfit and best trick.

purchasing coats and sneakers for local children.

But the fundraising is paired with something simpler: an afternoon designed to make people happy.

"The whole thing is just, everybody's just got this huge smile on their face the

whole time," Klee said. "It's just a fun, fun way to spend a nice fall afternoon."

Walk-ins are welcome, although advance registration is encouraged because participation is limited. The deadline to submit the \$25 entry fee by mail is Oct. 15.



Photos courtesy Leslie Wanzor Klee

The Kiwanis Club of North Shore will hold its annual dog show on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 1 p.m. at Garvies Point Dog Park.



Dogs of all shapes and sizes joined their owners for an afternoon of costumes, tricks and community fun.



Dogs and their owners showed off their style during the Kiwanis Club of North Shore's annual dog show.

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Better Sleep for Seniors

While sleep is essential for mental and physical health, aging presents some sleep challenges. About half of all seniors report a sleep problem such as taking longer to fall asleep, shorter sleep, waking up often and napping more and longer. As we age, our body clock deteriorates and melatonin (a sleep inducing chemical) levels decline. To increase the amount and quality of sleep, the three main factors are (1) routine, (2) sleeping environment, and (3) diet and exercise.

Routine:

A consistent evening routine works best for sleeping. Going to bed at the same time and "winding down" makes a considerable difference. Avoid uses of electronic devices such as smartphones and television as they emit "blue light" which inhibits melatonin production and can upset body rhythms. Blue light blocking lenses may avoid this problem.

Sleeping Environment:

Cooling down the bedroom can lead to better sleep. If the thermostat is out of your control, a fan will help. Light should be just enough to allow you not to trip and fall should you need to get out of bed.

Darkness options

are blackout blinds or curtains and covering any electronics that emit light. An eye mask can work wonders too. Outside noises or partners who snore can disturb sleep. Consider "white noise" machines or spa-like recordings to help you sleep. Like the eye mask for light, consider ear plugs for noise. While a firm, comfortable mattress and quality pillows with breathable fabrics are essential, there are other high-tech options that may assist, such as mattress and pillows that adjust their temperature as yours changes. Many people report a weighted blanket works wonders.

Diet and Exercise:

Caffeine and sugar are stimulants that prevent sleep. While alcohol can help you fall asleep, the sleep quality suffers. Eating earlier and drinking less will both help your body get to sleep and stay asleep. Moving around more, either by doing chores, taking a few trips up and down the stairs or simply sitting down and getting up avoids the sedentary lifestyle that causes insomnia. Few things promote sleep better than a walk outside in the fresh air. To learn more visit [purple](https://purple.com)

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NEWS BRIEFS

Woman pleads guilty in fatal driving crash

A Glen Cove woman pleaded guilty Monday to aggravated vehicular homicide and other charges stemming from a 2025 drugged-driving crash that killed a woman and seriously injured her husband, according to the Nassau County District Attorney's Office.

Nina Varrino, 52, pleaded guilty Sept. 28 before Judge Helene Gugerty to aggravated vehicular homicide, second-degree assault and driving while ability impaired by the combined influence of drugs. She is expected to be sentenced to seven to 21 years in prison when she returns to court Nov. 19.

The crash occurred July 12, 2025, at about 12:49 p.m. on the South Service Road of the Long Island Expressway between New Hyde Park Road and Shelter Rock Road in North Hills.

George Pelaez, 64, and his wife, Lisa Pelaez, 58, were riding a 2010 Harley-Davidson motorcycle and were planning to spend the afternoon in Port Jefferson and visit a motorcycle museum in Oyster Bay, prosecutors said. Lisa was riding behind her husband.

Varrino, driving a 2025 Kia Sportage behind the couple, passed out at the wheel and struck their motorcycle, ejecting both riders, according to prosecutors. The Kia and motorcycle became engulfed in flames.

Lisa Pelaez suffered blunt-force trauma and was taken to North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, where she died about two hours later. George Pelaez suffered multiple broken ribs, a fractured spine, fractures to both shoulders and a collapsed lung. He required intubation for about 10 days and remained hospitalized for a month.

Prosecutors said Varrino had worked as an Uber driver the night before the crash and afterward stayed up drinking alcohol and using drugs. Blood taken approximately four hours after the crash showed active levels of cocaine and Xanax.

About 80 minutes before the fatal collision, Varrino had been driving erratically on the Cross Island Parkway and pulled onto the shoulder, prosecutors said. Witnesses told her she should not continue driving.

Roughly 12 minutes later, Varrino crashed into the rear of another vehicle on Marathon Parkway in Queens, but continued driving afterward, according to the district attorney's office.

Nassau County police detectives arrested Varrino on Feb. 18.

District Attorney Anne Donnelly said the guilty plea brings the Pelaez family closer to seeing Varrino held accountable for the crash.

—Roksana Amid

Revolutionary War program explores life

The Glen Cove Public Library will host a program examining how the Revolutionary War transformed everyday life on Long Island on Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Glen Cove City Historian Dave Nieri will lead "Long Island During the Revolutionary War: Hard Work, Anxiety, and Taking Sides," an in-person discussion focusing on the experiences of Long Islanders during the conflict.

Through local stories and historical accounts, Nieri will discuss how families navigated British occupation, divided political loyalties and the challenges of daily survival as the war unfolded across the North Shore.

Long Island was occupied by British forces for much of the Revolutionary War, placing residents in the difficult position of living amid the conflict while communities were divided between those who supported independence and those who remained loyal to the British Crown.

The adult program will take place in the History Room at the Glen Cove Public Library. Registration is required, and seating is limited.

Those interested in attending can register through the Glen Cove Public Library's online events calendar.

—Roksana Amid

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Gory golf

Dear Great Book Guru,
On this cold and rainy afternoon, I wish I had a good mystery to read. The library is still open so I could rush over ...do you have a good suggestion for me?

Lover of Libraries

Dear Lover of Libraries,

I just finished a great mystery, but one that was so much more than just a mystery: "The Amateur" by Chris Bohjalian. A psychological thriller, a tale of suburban affluence gone awry, a tale of feminist empowerment, a court room procedural - all this ...but mostly a good story.

The novel opens with the voice of Kenny - a seventeen-year-old golf caddy at an exclusive country club his family could never afford to join. He's new to the school district and has few friends.

Moments later, we meet Mira - a teenage golf prodigy - popular, wealthy, and

troubled. By the end of this first chapter, Kenny is dead - struck by a golf ball hit by Mira. The remaining chapters are told from Mira's perspective and interspersed with courtroom testimony....

because Mira is accused of negligent homicide.

She turns to family, friends, the grieving sisters and parents of Kenny for comfort and forgiveness. But who is at fault: the country club, a nefarious golf instructor, the safety net manufacturer?

We move back and forth in time from moments just before Kenny's death in 1978 to the present, and while the "mystery" is solved, we are still left to marvel at how one

moment, one ball, one swing can change everything for everyone - highly recommended.

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



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Annual Mini Mart set to fill Sea Cliff streets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Vendors pay for their spots, and the funds support various Kiwanis initiatives like Klotches for Kids, where the community's children in need are taken back-to-school clothes shopping. Other initiatives made possible by Mini Mart funds include similar programs where children in need receive sneakers and coats, and scholarship awards.

Salat emphasized that Mini Mart is a community-focused event.

"We all join hands," she said. "We also make the vendors know why we're raising these funds and that the cost of their booth is going forward."

Salat is also the advisor for North Shore High School's Key Club, a Kiwanis affiliate. Key Club has its own booth at Mini Mart each year where Salat and student members bake and sell cookies. Funds go toward the club's community service initiatives.

The Sea Cliff General Store will participate for the first time, having opened in November. Laura Bonelli, who owns the store with her husband Ralph, said that the store's booth will include one section geared toward children and another toward adults.

In addition to its coffee and kombucha that the store has on tap, Bonelli said the booth will include a dirty soda bar. The customizable drink concept, which began trending nationally in 2021, includes soda, flavored syrups, creamers and garnishes.

The General Store has hosted live music and participated in other community events in the village. Bonelli said that she has heard from residents and other business owners that Mini Mart is an event everyone loves.

"It's great for us to be on the other side of this to provide something unique for the community," she added.

Some of the money the General Store makes at Mini Mart will be donated to causes the owners' children, Sofia and Luca Bonelli, have chosen. Sofia is raising money for cancer research at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Luca is doing the same for Long Island Lutheran Middle and High School's Meal Packing initiative.

Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce President Maxine Mayreis has taken a Mini Mart booth for her chiropractic practice for 35 years. Mayreis is a member of the Foundation for Wellness Professionals, a nonprofit focused on edu-



Herald file photos

Bands from the area play live music at a number of locations throughout Mini Mart each year.



Local organizations, like NOSH Delivers, take part in the event, along with artisans and other businesses.

cating people about holistic health and disease prevention. The foundation requires members to do community service, which is one factor that brings her to Mini Mart.

She explained that her goal since starting her practice is to help "as many people as possible," and that Mini Mart helps her do that.

"I have the opportunity to meet new people," Mayreis said. "And you know what? It used to be that I was approaching them, but now what I find the way

it's evolved over the years is that people come up to me and say 'Oh, you're a chiropractor. Well, I have this pain here, I have this problem.'"

Mayreis brings her massage chair to different community events, which she said is popular among attendees. She added that it allows her to speak with potential clients about health issues they may be having and that she can then invite them in for a consultation.

Other local businesses and organizations that have historically participated

in Mini Mart include K. DiResta Design, Peace Soap, Still Partners, Deja Vu Consignment, Hive Market and Gallery, the Sea Cliff Glen Head Lions Club and NOSH Delivers!. Businesses located on Sea Cliff Avenue get booths set up outside their storefronts.

Salat described Kiwanis' work on the day of the event as "all hands on deck." She added that she often arrives at 5 or 6 a.m. to begin setting up, and that the planning process is extensive.

"It takes a lot of work and a lot of effort," Salat said. "So, at each meeting, we go through a little bit about what's going on, who's doing what, so we really do get excited."

Rivera said that her favorite job at Mini Mart is checking in on vendors throughout the day, helping with questions or any issues that may arise.

"It's all volunteers," she added. "That's the thing. We are all doing this in service to the organization whose sole purpose is to help children, and that's the beauty."

Bonelli said it feels "great" to support Kiwanis with the funds from booking space.

"We love Kiwanis," she said. "We think that they do such a wonderful job, and we think that this is an amazing program that they put out. We hope that they continue to do it for many years to come."

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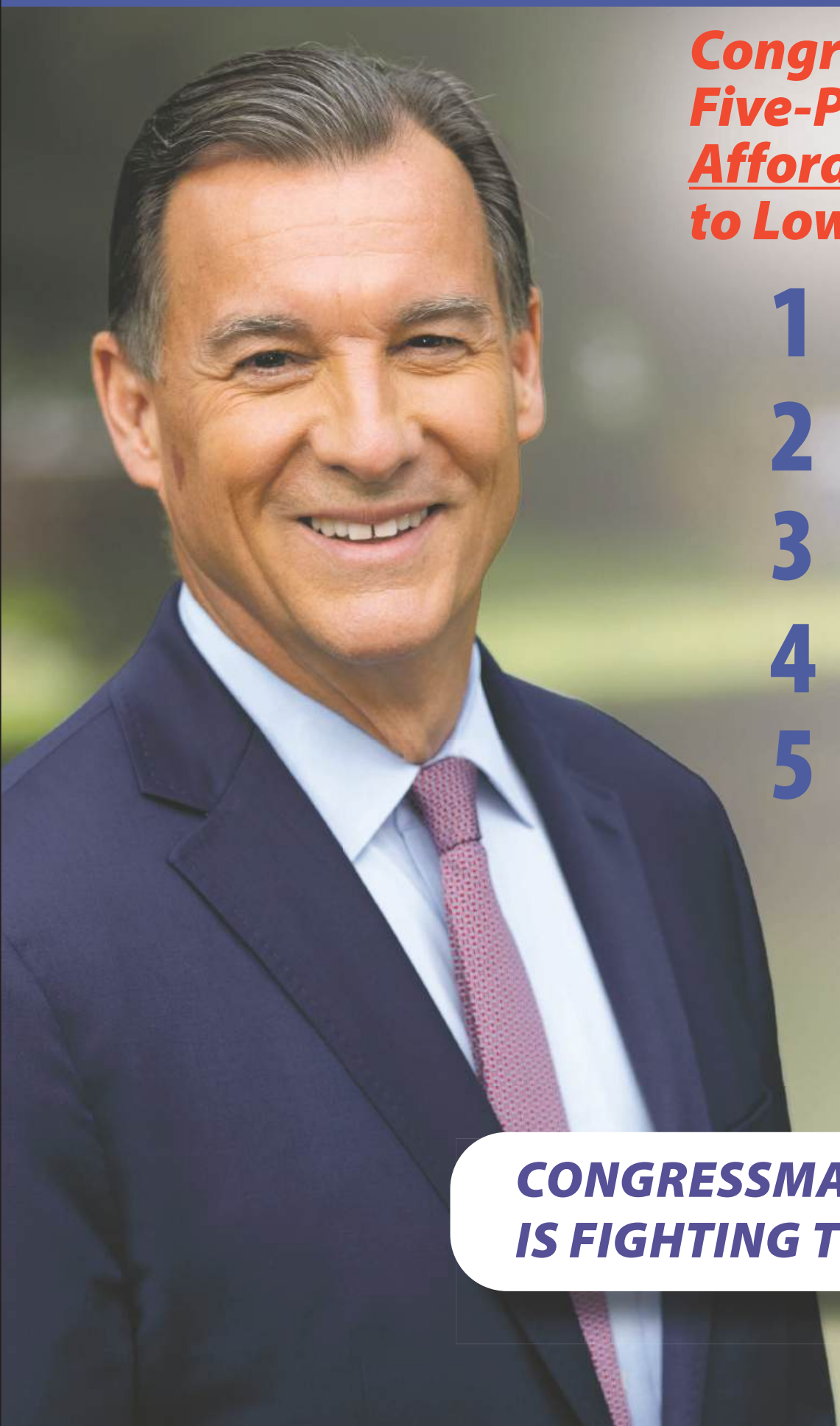
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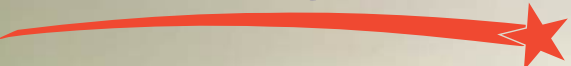
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Years of sun exposure leave a lasting lesson

October 1, 2026 – GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

screening at least once a year.

“I come in at least once per year to do a free skin cancer screening for people who are not able to get to a dermatologist’s office or who can’t afford it,” she said.

The screenings are open to people of any age, although a guardian must accompany minors. Exams are conducted in private, and participants can have a particular spot checked or opt for a full-body examination.

For a full examination, Lupenko said she checks from the scalp down to the feet.

“I usually have people stand up first and I check the backside of them while they’re standing,” she said. “Then when they sit down, I look scalp to toes.”

Lupenko said the scalp and feet are important to check because suspicious spots in those areas can be missed.

After the examination, participants receive paperwork noting any lesions Lupenko found and whether she recommends following up with a dermatologist or having a biopsy. They can take that information to any dermatologist they choose.

“They’re able to see any dermatologist,” Lupenko said. “It’s not that I’m pushing my office, but they can see any dermatologist.”

How often someone should see a dermatologist for a skin examination depends on the person’s medical history and risk factors, Lupenko said. Someone who has previously had skin cancer may need to be checked more frequently. People with a history of melanoma or a strong family history of it may initially need examinations

every three months, she said.

Sun exposure is not the only factor doctors consider when assessing melanoma risk. Lupenko said genetics and family history can also play a role.

She also warned that people who spend relatively little time outdoors can still expose themselves to harmful amounts of ultraviolet radiation during vacations or other periods of intense sun exposure.

“Maybe they’re not out in the sun every day,” Lupenko said. “But they fry a couple of times a year, and that might increase the risk of skin cancer.”

Lupenko said sun protection should not be limited to summer. She recommends protecting the skin throughout the year and using protective clothing to reduce exposure.

According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, about one in five Americans will develop skin cancer by age 70. When melanoma is detected and treated before it spreads to the lymph nodes, the five-year survival rate is 99 percent.

The Oct. 9 screenings will be held at the Glen Cove Senior Center, 130 Glen St., and are available by appointment only. To make an appointment, call Lisa at (516) 364-8200 and mention the free skin cancer screening.

“After a beautiful summer in which many of us have spent extended periods of time in the sun, it’s so important to make sure you’re up to date on your skin cancer screenings — especially as we age and deal with the challenges that come with a lifetime of sun exposure,” Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton said.



Courtesy Michele Kutner

Michele Kutner was treated for melanoma after a suspicious mark appeared on her face in 2023. Kutner, a lifelong Glen Cove resident, underwent multiple procedures and reconstructive surgery following her diagnosis.

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Photos courtesy Glen Cove City School District

Students filled the seats at the high school gym for the district’s pep rally.

School district celebrates Homecoming

Glen Cove High School celebrated Homecoming on Monday, Sept. 28, after a nor’easter forced the district to cancel Saturday’s parade and postpone its carnival. The rescheduled celebration brought students, families and community members together for an evening of athletics and school spirit. Girls varsity soccer opened the festivities with a 5 p.m. game against Elmont, followed by the varsity football team taking on North Shore under the lights. Homecoming activities began earlier with Friday’s pep rally and visits by high school students to the district’s elementary schools. During Monday night’s festivities, Gianna DiMaggio was crowned the 2026 Homecoming Queen and Ryan Lebowitz was named Homecoming King.

—Roksana Amid



Students came together to celebrate Homecoming after weekend weather forced festivities to be rescheduled.



Students cheered from the stands as Glen Cove celebrated Homecoming under the lights.



Glen Cove elementary students celebrated with classmates and the community during the 2026 Homecoming festivities.



Big Red pride was on display as students celebrated one of the school year’s biggest traditions.

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Create and Express

Wednesday, October 7 at 6 PM

Relax, create art and talk about resilience with Cassandra Stoffers from CEC Health Care.

TV Terrors: The Making of

The Night Stalker and Trilogy of Terror

Tuesday, October 13 at 7 PM

Explore how The Night Stalker (1972) and the Zuni doll segment of Trilogy of Terror (1975) became groundbreaking TV horror classics and changed network television. Presented by Lawrence Wolff. Brought to you by the North Shore Programming Consortium. Hosted by Locust Valley Library.

Spotlight Author Talk with Mary Noe:

The Man Who Shot J.P. Morgan

Wednesday, October 14 at 6 PM

Author Mary Noe explores one of Long Island's dramatic crime stories. The book recounts the 1915 shooting of financier J.P. Morgan Jr. at his Gold Coast estate by a man living under an assumed identity.

Senior Self-Defense & Safety

Tuesday, October 20 and/or 27 at 7 PM

Empowering seniors with practical safety skills, greater confidence and effective strategies for responding to threatening situations. Curated by Marvin German.

Sound Bath & Self Reflection

Wednesday, October 28 at 5:30 PM or 7 PM

Join Andrea Gonnella, founder of Notes & Nirvana for an immersive sound bath that nurtures both mind and body. Bring blanket and yoga mat.

Book to Film:

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Thursday, October 29 at 1 PM

Book available at circ desk.

Don't Look Now by Daphne du Maurier

1 hour, 50 minutes - Rated R

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- Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center

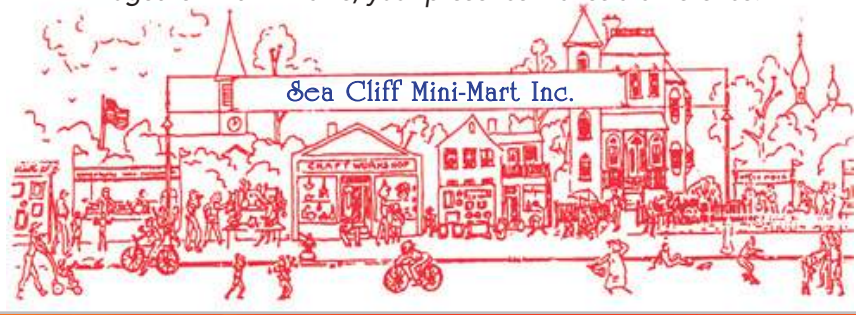
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NEWS BRIEF

Calling film and television productions

The City of Glen Cove is promoting its streets, beaches, parks and historic architecture as potential backdrops for film, television and photography projects through a new “Scout Glen Cove” initiative.

The city recently called on residents with connections to the film and television industry to help spread the word about Glen Cove to location scouts, producers and filmmakers. The campaign highlights the city’s range of settings, including its waterfront, downtown business district, residential neighborhoods, municipal buildings and recreational facilities.

Promotional materials for the initiative feature several locations, including downtown Glen Cove, Pryibil Beach and Crescent Beach. The city is also advertising its train stations, athletic facilities, parks and other green spaces as potential production locations.

Glen Cove is no stranger to the entertainment industry. According to the city’s promotional material, productions that have filmed in Glen Cove include

“The Devil Wears Prada 2,” “The Gilded Age,” “Joker,” “Succession,” “Gotham,” “The Week Of,” “Sabrina” and “Batman Forever.”

The campaign also emphasizes Glen Cove’s proximity to New York City, noting that it is approximately 30 miles from Manhattan. The city says it can provide streamlined film-friendly permitting, municipal parking and production support, as well as police and traffic coordination when needed.

City officials are encouraging residents who know location scouts, producers, filmmakers or others working in the industry to share information about the initiative.

The city maintains a filming and photography webpage with information about permits, locations and municipal support for productions interested in working in Glen Cove. The promotional campaign directs prospective production teams to the city’s website to learn more about scouting and filming locally.

—Roksana Amid

Let us Know

News Brief items including awards, honors, promotions and other tidbits about local residents are welcome. Deadline for submissions is noon Thursday, week prior to publication. Send to ramid@liherald.com



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City largely spared by weekend nor'easter

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

Koorosh Leibowitz has seen the end of Eastland Drive flood enough times to know what happens when a storm arrives at high tide. So when the nor'easter brought water onto the East Island street over the weekend, he pulled out his kayak.

"I've been doing this since I was a kid," Leibowitz said. "It's a little bit of a tradition for me."

Leibowitz estimated that the water reached a little more than a foot deep in some places, and perhaps a foot and a half in the deepest sections — enough for him to paddle around for about 20 minutes.

"It's a little bit of kind of like a lazy river," he said. "You're not paddling."

While Leibowitz was able to make light of the flooding, Glen Cove largely escaped the more severe effects of the nor'easter seen elsewhere on Long Island. South Shore communities experienced significant coastal flooding, with the National Weather Service reporting about two feet of inundation along portions of West Park Avenue in Long Beach and at least two feet in parts of Lindenhurst. Flooding near Island Park also disrupted Long Island Rail Road service on the Long Beach Branch.

In Glen Cove, flooding on East Island was among the storm's more visible



Courtesy Koorosh Leibowitz

When the nor'easter brought water onto East Island street over the weekend, Koorosh Leibowitz pulled out his kayak.

effects.

Leibowitz said flooding at the bottom of Eastland Drive is familiar to residents. An outfall near the bulkhead can become overwhelmed when high tide and storm surge push water toward the neighborhood, he said.

"You need to have the storm surge, so the tide is high enough to block that outfall down there, and then also if there's intense rainfall," Leibowitz said. "It's basically the perfect storm, pun intended, for flooding."

Still, Leibowitz said conditions elsewhere in the city appeared relatively mild.

"It wasn't really too bad," he said. "I think we fared pretty well here in Glen Cove."

Fewer than 10 homes in the city lost power during the storm.

Glen Cove also avoided widespread tree damage, although Department of Public Works crews responded to fallen trees and branches. According to Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck's official

Facebook page, larger trees came down on Karen Road at Elm Avenue and at Austral Park.

Resident Joanne Yee had a close call when a tree limb fell on her property.

"A limb of a tree fell," Yee wrote in response to a Glen Cove Herald Facebook survey, adding that it fortunately landed between sheds and a pool rather than crushing them.

The storm also disrupted weekend plans. Gracie Donaldson Cipriano canceled a garage sale she had been advertising since the beginning of September.

"I wasn't sure what to do at first, but when I saw Deep Roots cancel I knew it was serious business because Deep Roots never cancels," Cipriano said.

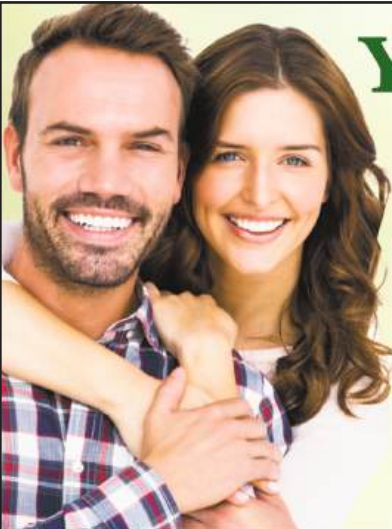
Her garage sale has been rescheduled for Oct. 24.

Downtown businesses also felt the effects as residents stayed home.

"As a small business in downtown Glen Cove, the weekend storm definitely affected our sales," Trubee Hill wrote in response to the Herald's Facebook survey. "What would have normally been a busy weekend with people shopping for fall items ended up being the opposite. Understandably people stayed home."

For Leibowitz, flooding is part of living along the water and knowing which roads may become difficult to navigate during storms.

"It's the island life, as we say on East Island," he said.



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THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE GLEN COVE SAGE FOUNDATION

The SAGE Foundation

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

For more than two decades, the Glen Cove SAGE Foundation has helped provide additional financial support for programs serving older adults in Glen Cove and surrounding North Shore communities. SAGE, which stands for Senior Activity Generational Endowment, works alongside the Glen Cove Senior Center to raise private funds for programs and services that are not fully covered by government funding. The foundation supports services ranging from health and wellness activities to programs for seniors with cognitive and physical challenges.

1

■ How did SAGE get started?

The Glen Cove SAGE Foundation was established in 2005 by former Glen Cove Mayor Vincent “Jimmy” Suozzi. The goal was to establish a private nonprofit organization that could raise money for the Glen Cove Senior Center beyond the government funding it receives.

Former SAGE President Rhoda Finer, former Senior Center Director Carol Waldman, Patti Yeomans and Mike Bono helped bring the organization to fruition.

Today, SAGE operates as the fundraising arm supporting the Senior Center. The foundation raises money through fundraising, grant writing and donations while also conducting outreach and advocacy on issues affecting older adults.

The organization is led by a volunteer board, with Carolynn Eipel as president.

2

■ Where does the money go?

SAGE says 100 percent of the money it raises is used to support the Glen Cove Senior Center.

That funding has helped pay for social work services, lifelong-learning programs, brain-fitness activities and art, dance and music therapy. SAGE funding has also supported exercise and wellness activities such as tai chi and chair yoga, as well as equipment, entertainment and improvements to the Senior Center.

The additional funding supplements support the center receives from the City of Glen Cove and federal, state and county sources.

The Senior Center, at 130 Glen St., currently serves approximately 1,600 members and provides about 25,000 meals annually. Its programs are available to adults 60 and older, including residents of Glen Cove and surrounding communities.

3

■ SAGE supports local seniors

SAGE raises money through individual donations, grants and other fundraising efforts, allowing the foundation to help pay for services that might otherwise fall outside the Senior Center’s regular budget.

Its support extends beyond recreational activities. SAGE helps fund programs designed to address the physical, social and emotional needs of older adults and provides resources for seniors who require additional assistance.

The foundation also supports the Senior Center’s Adult Day Program, which serves older adults with cognitive and physical challenges while providing respite and resources for caregivers and families.

Through its partnership with the Senior Center, SAGE helps expand programs and services.



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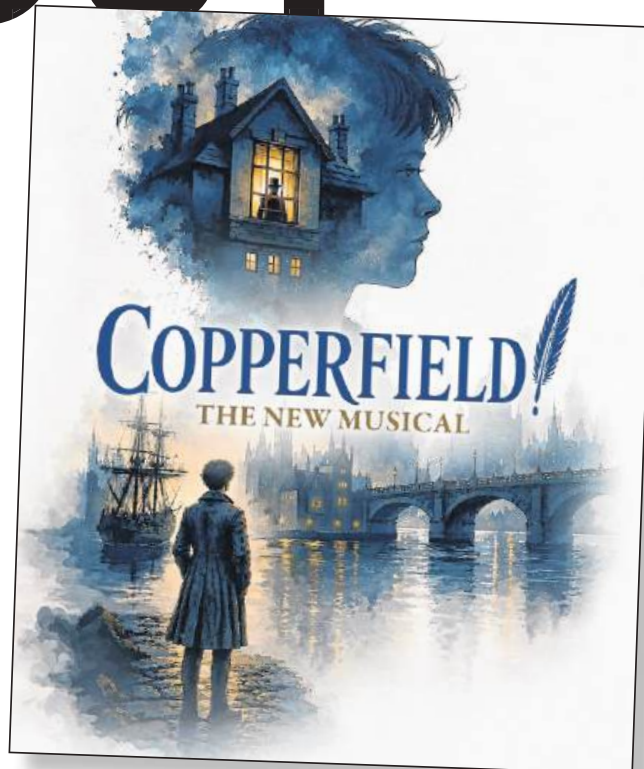
Alexander Sovronsky



Bobby Conte



Miyuki Miyagi



From Long Island to Dickens: 'Copperfield!' At home on the Off-Broadway stage

By Iris Wiener

What does "home" mean? For Bobby Conte, Alexander Sovronsky, and Miyuki Miyagi, this question is close to their hearts. Each performer brings a unique connection with Long Island to "Copperfield!," the new Off-Broadway musical now playing at The Duke on 42nd Street at New 42 Studios. Based on Charles Dickens' coming-of-age classic, the show allows these performers to draw on their families, communities, and artistic experiences that helped shape their journeys to the stage.

"Copperfield!" tells the story of a young man looking back on his life and trying to understand family, identity, perseverance, and where he belongs. Before Conte (Broadway's "A Bronx Tale"), Sovronsky (Broadway's "Cyrano de Bergerac") and Miyagi (Off-Broadway's "Beau the Musical"), found themselves bringing his story to life, their paths were touched by various lessons inspired by their local roots.

Conte, who leads the musical as David Copperfield, sees the idea of home through the lens of the people who helped shape him. His grandparents live in Manhasset, and Long Island became an important part of his life, particularly after college, when he lived with them while auditioning and saving money for his first job.

"They were the best roommates ever," he says.

His grandfather, who operated a pharmacy in Manhasset and New York City, was also a passionate supporter of the arts. His customers included Broadway performers like Ethel Merman due to his unique concoction of a remedy for sore throats. Conte considers his grandfather a lasting influence on his own decision to pursue acting.

"He's the forever inspiration of anything that I do," he says. "Whatever life he's built over 90-plus years affords me the opportunity to take a risk and try to be an actor."

For Sovronsky and Miyagi, the Long Island connection began with music. Sovronsky grew up in Syosset, and began playing violin at the age of 3, studying Suzuki violin with the

Children's Orchestra Society and in programs in Oyster Bay and Glen Cove. He later attended Syosset High School and became involved in theater, eventually finding a way to combine the two disciplines he had been told could not coexist professionally.

"I didn't want to choose," he said. "People said you can't do both, you have to choose. And I was like, 'Watch me!'"

Miyagi, who hails from Glen Cove and attended Portledge School in Locust Valley, also discovered her artistic identity early. She began playing violin at 3 (potentially crossing paths with future co-star Sovronsky with the Children's Orchestra Society) and danced throughout her childhood.

"I fell in love with theater in elementary school and thought, 'Well, I'm going to be an actor,'" she says. "No one took me seriously, but I meant it very seriously."

Her parents' Japanese restaurants — Asahi Tokyo in Glen Cove and later Maguro in Roslyn — provided another lesson in determination. Watching her parents navigate the demands and uncertainty of the restaurant business, she says, prepared her for the similarly unpredictable life of a theater performer.

"They trained me to persevere," Miyagi says.

Those Long Island experiences have become an unexpected throughline in a production centered on finding one's place in the world. But "Copperfield!" is also an unusually collaborative theatrical experience.

The production uses an actor-musician approach in which the company members do far more than act. They sing, play instruments, portray multiple characters, and help create the sound and physical world of the story in full view of the audience.

"It's really rare that you get everyone touching instruments," Sovronsky says. "That's a really exciting, unifying element."

For Conte, the musicality of the company has been one of the most remarkable parts of the rehearsal process. He recalled watching performers switch instruments during a rehearsal and somehow make the arrangement sound even better.

"I'm constantly surprised at the abilities of the people in the room," he says. "You are watching the creative people create something before your eyes," Conte says.

That philosophy also informs the performers' work with multiple characters. Sovronsky plays four different roles, using accents, vocal qualities, and physicality to distinguish them. Miyagi, a swing, covers multiple tracks, requiring her to move among characters with their own voices and physical identities.

Musically, the production avoids the conventional amplified sound of many contemporary musicals. Instead, the acoustic score incorporates strings, winds, piano, and live Foley effects, creating a soundscape that complements the period setting.

Sovronsky sees "Copperfield!" as ultimately a story about "finding your home and finding joy and the positivity in things."

Conte adds that the story's themes serve as an important reminder: "When you're dealt the cards you have, can you still find hope, purpose, and a reason to want to connect with other people?"

As he puts it, the power of theater may ultimately lie in its ability to remind audiences that everyone is deserving of "grace and patience and forgiveness," and that, even after a difficult journey, there is always the possibility of finding a way forward.

The performers' Long Island experiences are helping them tell a story about a young man doing exactly what they have done in their own ways: looking at where David Copperfield came from, discovering who he is, and finding the people and places that make him feel at home.

"Charles Dickens' Copperfield! The New Musical" runs through Dec. 6. Visit copperfieldthemusical.com to purchase tickets.



'Havin' a good time'...

Queen-mania is coming back to Long Island. Almost Queen's high-voltage tribute to one of rock's most legendary bands is complete with soaring vocals, Brian May-style guitar riffs, four-part harmonies and the theatrical swagger that made Queen unforgettable. Fronted by Joseph Russo as the charismatic Freddie Mercury, with Steve Leonard as Brian May, Randy Gregg as John Deacon and John Cappadona as Roger Taylor, Almost Queen delivers a meticulously crafted recreation of the Queen experience. From the authentic costumes to faithful renditions of "Bohemian Rhapsody," "We Will Rock You" and "Somebody to Love," every detail is designed to capture the grandeur, precision and sheer fun of a Queen concert. It's a full-throttle trip into the world of Queen. Expect big vocals, bigger guitar and plenty of reasons to get out of your seat.

Saturday, Oct. 3, 8 p.m. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington.



Curtain up on the Great White Way

Broadway's biggest hits take the spotlight at the Madison Theatre in "Give Our Regards to Broadway: A Salute to the 21st Century Musical." The focus is on 2000s favorites, with showstoppers from "Wicked," "Dear Evan Hansen," "In the Heights" and Disney classics. Add Broadway guest stars Nichelle Lewis and Harris Matthew "Molloy University's talented CAP21 Musical Theatre students and the soaring South Shore Symphony, and the result is a production packed with big voices, memorable songs and Broadway flair.

Sunday, Oct. 4, 3 p.m. \$45-\$65. Tickets available at madisontheatreny.org or (516) 323-4444. Madison Theatre, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre.

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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:** A1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor
- **Time:** Ongoing
- **Contact:** nassaumuseum.org or (516) 484-9337

OCT
2

Oktoberfest
Enjoy music, authentic German food, beer brewed by Pastor Father Gabriel, pumpkin patch, and fall fun for the family.

- **Where:** St. Patrick's Church, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 5-9 p.m., also Oct. 3, 3-9 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 676-0276

Falaise Tour

Visit Sands Point Preserve's cliff-side French Norman-style mansion, which was the residence of Captain Harry F. Guggenheim and his wife, Alicia Patterson, founder of Newsday. Explore the exquisite artwork, antiques, and furnishings inside one of the most inviting mansions on the Gold Coast.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** Varied times, also Oct 3 Oct. 9-11
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

OCT
3

NOSH Pickleball Tournament
Grab a paddle and join the fun at the NOSH Pickleball Tournament. Players and spectators are invited to enjoy a morning of friendly competition while supporting a local cause. The event will feature pickleball matches for participants of varying skill levels.

- **Where:** Stanco Park, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Contact:** Glen Cove City Hall at (516) 676-2000



OCT
9

A blast from the '80s
Tease that hair, dig out the neon and get ready to party like it's 1985. Jessie's Girl is bringing its wildly entertaining "Back to the Eighties" concert experience back to the Paramount, with a high-energy blast of pop, rock and pure '80s nostalgia. The New York City-based band features top rock and pop musicians and four powerhouse vocalists who transform into the era's biggest icons, complete with signature looks, choreography and plenty of attitude. Expect hits from the decade's biggest stars, delivered with a full live band and the kind of over-the-top production that makes Jessie's Girl a concert — and a party — rolled into one. Add audience participation, colorful costumes, props, bubbles and a blizzard of confetti, and you've got an all-out throwback celebration that keeps the crowd singing, dancing and reaching for those neon leg warmers. Whether you lived through the '80s or simply wish you had, Jessie's Girl knows how to take you back.

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

Autumn Sculpture Stroll

Join Dr. Einav Dembin, Director of Education and professional art historian, for an engaging journey through Nassau County Museum of Art's scenic grounds to discover a selection of sculptures nestled throughout the landscape. Along the way, uncover the stories behind each work as you explore the artists' inspirations, creative processes, and choice of materials. Experience these remarkable sculptures from new perspectives while enjoying the beauty of the museum's outdoor setting at a relaxed and leisurely pace. Rain date is Oct. 10.

- **Where:** 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor
- **Time:** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** nassaumuseum.org or (516) 484-9337

Art explorations

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

free.

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

OCT
4

Hello Dolly Foundation Walk
Take a walk along the waterfront in support of the Allyn P. Udell Hello Dolly Foundation, Inc. Participants can gather at Garvies Point for the foundation's community walk.

- **Where:** Garvies Point Esplanade, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** hellodollyfoundation.com

Art Talk

Nassau County Museum of Art welcomes Tiffany expert Arlie Sulka. She explores the enduring influence of the celebrated artist and designer, whose works are the subject of the current exhibition. Sulka is the owner of the world-renowned Tiffany gallery, Lillian Nassau LLC in New York City. Lillian Nassau, the gallery's founder, has been credited with reviving interest in and creating the market for the work of Louis Comfort Tiffany. A recognized specialist and dealer in late 19th- and early 20th-century

decorative arts, Sulka has been a devoted student of the works of Louis Comfort Tiffany and Tiffany Studios for over 45 years. \$20, \$15 seniors, \$10 students, members free. Limited seating; registration required.

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

OCT
7

Cove Animal Rescue's Casino Night Benefit
Cove Animal Rescue welcomes all to its annual casino night at Crescent Beach Club. Enjoy an evening featuring a cocktail hour, dinner, music and dancing, casino tables, an open bar, and silent auctions. \$165 per person, \$140 per person for first responders. Proceeds benefit homeless dogs and cats at Cove Animal Rescue. Register online or by phone.

- **Where:** 333 Bayville Ave., Bayville
- **Time:** 6:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** coveanimalrescue.org or call (516) 676-5913

OCT
10

El Señor de los Milagros Procession
St. Patrick's Church holds its annual "El Señor de los Milagros" procession,

bringing the community together for the traditional religious observance along Pearsall Avenue.

- **Where:** Pearsall Avenue, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 12:30-4:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 676-0276

Sculpture and Movement

Experience Nassau County Museum of Art's Sculpture Garden in a whole new way as art comes to life through movement, creativity, and imagination! Join Dance Visions NY for an outdoor workshop and performance exploring sculpture and dance. Discover how sculpture inspires movement through activities and dancer demonstrations, then create movement responses! \$20, \$10 children and members. Rain date is Oct. 17.

- **Where:** 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor
- **Time:** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Contact:** nassaumuseum.org or (516) 484-9337

OCT
15

'Brown Bag' Art Chat
Grab your lunch and join Nassau County Museum of Art Docent Riva Ettus for her popular "Brown Bag Lecture" at the museum. Discover the beauty, innovation and enduring legacy of the art of Louis Comfort Tiffany. Through Riva's engaging and insightful presentation, you'll gain a deeper appreciation for the exhibition and the remarkable artistry of one of America's most celebrated designers and creative visionaries. No reservations. First come, first seated.

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

OCT
18

North Shore Kiwanis Dog Show
Bring your four-legged friend to the North Shore Kiwanis of Long Island Dog Show for a morning of canine fun and community festivities at Garvies Point.

- **Where:** Garvies Point, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

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.



Julia Capitelli/Herald photos

The North Shore's Visual Cliff performed at Cafe Wha?, where several iconic artists have performed, on Sunday night.

Bringing North Shore sound to New York City

Friends, family and music lovers packed New York City's Cafe Wha? as the North Shore indie rock band Visual Cliff took to the stage. With Luca Antinori on guitar and vocals, Ethan S. Snyder on bass and vocals, Aidan Arevalo on second guitar and Angelo Antinori on drums, the band played mostly original music, and some covers, on Sunday night.

Visual Cliff secured the Cafe Wha? gig by winning Gotham Battle of the Bands, hosted by Gotham City Networking, in June. Six bands were selected to compete in the battle, held at Club Groove in New York City.

Several iconic musicians played at Cafe Wha? in the early stages of their careers, including Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen.

Visual Cliff played originals from across the band's repertoire, including some songs from several years ago and others that were written more recently, like "Look Around," which the band members have described as the best song they have written.

—Julia Capitelli



Visual Cliff was started by Ethan S. Snyder, left, and Luca Antinori, second from right, in 2020.



The band got the opportunity to perform at Cafe Wha? by winning Gotham Battle of the Bands in June.



Aidan Arevalo, right, is Visual Cliff's newest member, playing guitar alongside Luca Antinori.



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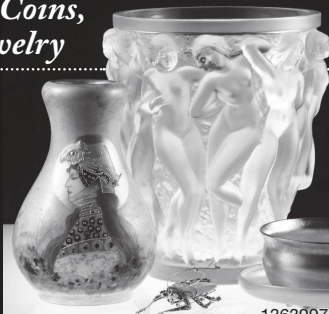
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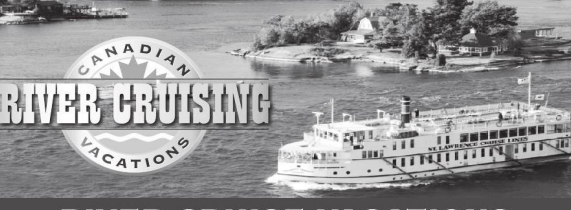
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HERALD
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OPINIONS

Taking action against 'forever chemical' companies

“We represent over 2,000 individuals from Nassau and Suffolk counties who have developed four types of cancer — liver, kidney, thyroid and testicular cancers — and also ulcerative colitis, in litigation involving PFAS,” said Jeffrey Guzman, a founding member of the Wall Street

law firm Krentsel Guzman Herbert.

Guzman knows the issues associated with PFAS, the so-called “forever chemicals,” well. He has a home on Long Island where wells have been impacted by PFAS.

Thousands of water suppliers across the United

States, including the Suffolk County Water Authority, have filed lawsuits against companies involved with PFAS. Last year the 3M Company agreed to a settlement of \$10.3 billion. SCWA expects to receive \$170 million of that. It got an initial payment of \$34 million last year.

Smaller settlements were reached with other companies, including DuPont, which developed PFAS in 1938 and patented its creation as Teflon.

But Guzman noted that this was “remediation litigation seeking money for the cost of cleaning up the PFAS that are already in the water. It did not intend to compensate any individuals who suffered as a consequence of their exposure.”

He added, “Those who have suffered health impacts from PFAS are entitled to compensation from these companies, which knew it was carcinogenic.”

On the Krentsel Guzman Herbert website, kglawteam.com, there are a series of pages detailing the firm’s PFAS litigation seeking compensation for those victims. They’re titled “Long Island’s PFAS Water Crisis: Your Health’s on the Line.”

Under “What Are Forever Chemicals, and Why Are They So Dangerous?” the explanation begins: “Forever Chemicals, or PFAS, are toxic chemicals tainting your tap ... Long Island’s drinking water ranks among the most contaminated. A federal database shows 19 water suppliers detected PFAS. In 16 districts, levels exceeded 20 [parts per trillion], one hitting 146 ppt, over double the 70 ppt seen nationwide, per Citizens Campaign for the Environment” — the organization based in Farmingdale.

“That’s your water,” the website goes

on to say. “You’ve been drinking it for years, cooking with it, and bathing in it. Each sip and shower adds toxins to your body.”

Under “The Effects of PFAS on Your Body,” the details continue: “These man-

ufactured chemicals don’t break down — not in the environment, not in your body. They build up in your bloodstream over time, and the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) warns they’re linked to serious diseases. Long Island’s exposure is worse than most in the U.S.”

Under “Am I Eligible for Compensation for PFAS-Related Cancers,” there’s this: “Yes. If you’ve lived on Long Island for years, drinking, washing and bathing in tap water, that’s exposure. Studies show PFAS increase your risk of cancer.”

In July, as I reported two weeks ago in “New York state takes on the ‘forever chemicals,’” state Attorney General Letitia James filed a lawsuit in New York State Supreme Court, charging corporations involved with PFAS — including 3M and DuPont — with being in violation of many state laws. James cited corporate documents in which the companies acknowledge that they knew about PFAS’ threats to human health and the environment, but still pushed

products made with the chemicals anyway.

Meanwhile, despite action by the state and private litigation targeting PFAS, the Trump administration is moving in the opposite direction. The Environmental Protection Agency — headed by Long Island resident Lee Zeldin, of Shirley — is seeking “roll-backs on regulations,” according to a letter of complaint that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer sent to Zeldin last month.

And the EPA just approved the licensing of “two new pesticides that contain PFAS,” Food & Water Action, a Washington, D.C.-based organization, reports. It issued a statement saying, “PFAS don’t readily break down in our environment and are linked to serious health concerns like cancer. They don’t belong anywhere near our food.”

FWA included a message that it encouraged people to sign and send to Zeldin, saying, “I demand that you rescind the approval of isocycloseram and cyclobutirifluram, deny future approvals of PFAS pesticides, and update the EPA’s definition of PFAS to fully reflect this dangerous class of chemicals.”

Karl Grossman has been an investigative reporter in a variety of media for more than 50 years. He is a professor of journalism at the State University of New York at Old Westbury.



KARL GROSSMAN

One busy lawyer has a home on L.I. where wells have been impacted by PFAS.

The books that challenge us belong on shelves

In a world driven by the overconsumption of technology and social media, one thing I’ve always prided myself on is my love of books. I was raised to enjoy reading — scouring pages for enjoyment, an escape from reality or, perhaps most important, a new perspective on life.

In 2025 I read 70 books, my highest total in recent years and an uptick from 55 in 2024. This year I set out to at least match that accomplishment, but for some reason I’ve found myself consistently dejected by many things I’ve tried to read.

I’ve hit a “reading slump” in the past, but never

one that’s lasted for what feels like months on end. And don’t get me wrong — there’ve been some gems this year — but mostly I’ve been particularly unmoved by the material I’ve chosen.

A few weeks ago, I was compiling a weekly calendar for the East Meadow Herald and included a “Bestsellers Book Discussion” at the East Meadow library. The book of choice for September was

“James,” by Percival Everett, a historical novel that retells Mark Twain’s “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” from the perspective of one of that landmark book’s two main characters, the enslaved Black man named Jim.

Several friends have read and enjoyed “James,” and rightfully so: It was awarded the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. I figured if *anything* were to yank me out of my rut, surely it could be a novel like “James.”

I haven’t yet finished the book, but I can tell you that it’s exactly the kind of historical story that normally piques my curiosity. Thus far I’ve been captivated by the way Everett challenges the stereotypes historically used to portray enslaved people, depicts the relationship between a young white boy and a Black man, and explores what freedom truly means.

In my early reading of “James,” a thought occurred to me: Could a book like this end up being banned? I turned to Google, where I was informed that no, it isn’t currently widely censored or flat-out banned, although the novel possesses the qualities of books that have previ-

ously been challenged, including the use of rough language and a raw depiction of slavery.

As it turns out, others — lots of readers — had wondered the same thing. Everett spoke with “CBS Sunday Morning” in 2024 about the possibility of “James” being censored, calling the banning of any book a “performative act by small and frightened people in an attempt to control a world that they can’t control.”

Everett’s words were powerful. It’s troubling that we live in a world where an author must consider how censorship might affect the reception of his work.

I share this with you because we’re approaching Banned Books Week, which will be observed Oct. 4-10. This year’s theme is “Let Books Be. Protect the Freedom to Read.” The annual event seeks to bring attention to the issue of censorship, uniting librarians, educators, authors and readers against organized attempts to restrict access to information.

PEN America, a nonprofit that protects free expression, has tracked nearly 23,000 instances of books being banned

in the U.S. since 2021. Florida, Texas and Tennessee lead the country, with the highest volume of restrictions and removals. The books that make those lists often feature LGBTQ themes, discussions of race and racism and big-picture American history, wars and all.

Censorship, in any form, undermines everyone’s ability to think freely, explore challenging topics, and learn.

As I’ve learned this year, not every book speaks to every reader. But everyone deserves the chance to decide that for themselves.

I’m not writing this to tell you to read “James,” although it may just turn out to be the book that gets me out of my slump. I do, however, think it’s the type of book that people who are looking to expand their worldview and interact with diverse perspectives should read.

Ahead of Banned Books Week, I urge you to look up a list of novels that have been challenged, removed or restricted. Choose one and read it. Even if it isn’t your next favorite, it might show you something you hadn’t thought to look for. And remember: A book doesn’t have to be comfortable for it to be worth reading.

Jordan Vallone is the deputy managing editor of Herald Community Newspapers. Comments? jvallone@liherald.com.



JORDAN VALLONE

Banned Books Week begins Sunday. I urge you to look up a list of them and read one.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Celebrating newspapers and local reporting

National Newspaper Week, Oct. 4-10, is an opportunity to focus attention on something Long Islanders experience every day but can easily take for granted: the value of having journalists paying attention to your own community.

Long Island is home to roughly 2.9 million people, divided among two counties and 285 distinct communities, which include two cities, 13 towns, 97 villages and 173 hamlets and two cities. There are hundreds of school districts, libraries, fire departments and civic organizations, too.

Being sure that the important stories in all of these municipalities, organizations and more are adequately covered sounds like a job for Superman. In this case, however, the brigade of Clark Kents and Lois Lanes show up in the form of journalists, from newspapers big and small.

A reporter covering a village board meeting might be the only journalist in the room when trustees debate a zoning change, a development proposal, a new law or a decision that could affect your property taxes.

A reporter covering a school district might follow a proposed budget, ask questions about spending and report on decisions that directly affect students and their families. Those stories may never attract national attention. They may not go viral on social media. But for the people who live in those communities — the readers the Herald serves — these stories matter.

The same is true of county government, town boards, planning and zoning

boards, libraries, parks and recreation departments and local elections. Hyperlocal journalism puts a spotlight on decisions that can have an immediate effect on where people live, work, send their children to school and spend their tax dollars.

And that coverage creates accountability. Public officials know that their actions are being observed and reported. School administrators know that budget decisions will be examined. And community members have a place to turn when they want to understand what is happening in their own backyard.

That doesn't mean local newspapers exist simply to scrutinize government. Some of the most important work community journalists do has little to do with politics or public policy.

Local newspapers celebrate accomplishments that might otherwise go unnoticed. At the Herald, one of our favorite things to do is introduce readers to neighbors who are making a difference. Local newspapers chronicle local businesses, community organizations, libraries, charitable efforts and cultural events. We cover high school sports, from championship teams to the performance of individual student-athletes.

Those stories become part of a community's history. Years from now, today's newspaper stories can help residents understand what their town, village or school district was like, who its leaders were, what issues mattered and how the community responded to challenges and celebrated successes.

That historical role is easy to over-

look when the newspaper arrives each week or a story appears online. But the cumulative record created by community journalism is one of its most important contributions.

Local journalism also provides something increasingly difficult to find in an era of information overload: a trusted focus on place. Readers can find thousands of stories about Washington, Albany, national politics and international affairs with a few taps on a phone. But there is no substitute for a journalist who knows the local neighborhood, recognizes the people involved and understands why a particular issue matters to the community.

Supporting local journalism can be as simple as subscribing to the Herald, visiting our website, sharing stories with friends and neighbors and paying attention to the reporting that keeps a community informed.

Businesses and civic organizations can support local publications through advertising and partnerships.

National Newspaper Week is a reminder that journalism doesn't happen only in major newsrooms or on national television. It happens in village halls, school board rooms, town halls, courtrooms, athletic fields, community centers and Main Streets all across Long Island. The Herald is there wherever people gather to make decisions, solve problems, celebrate accomplishments and build their communities.

If you appreciate our work, please let us know. And if we can do better, let us know that, too. Reach out to execeditor@liherald.com or (516) 569-4000 ext. 201.

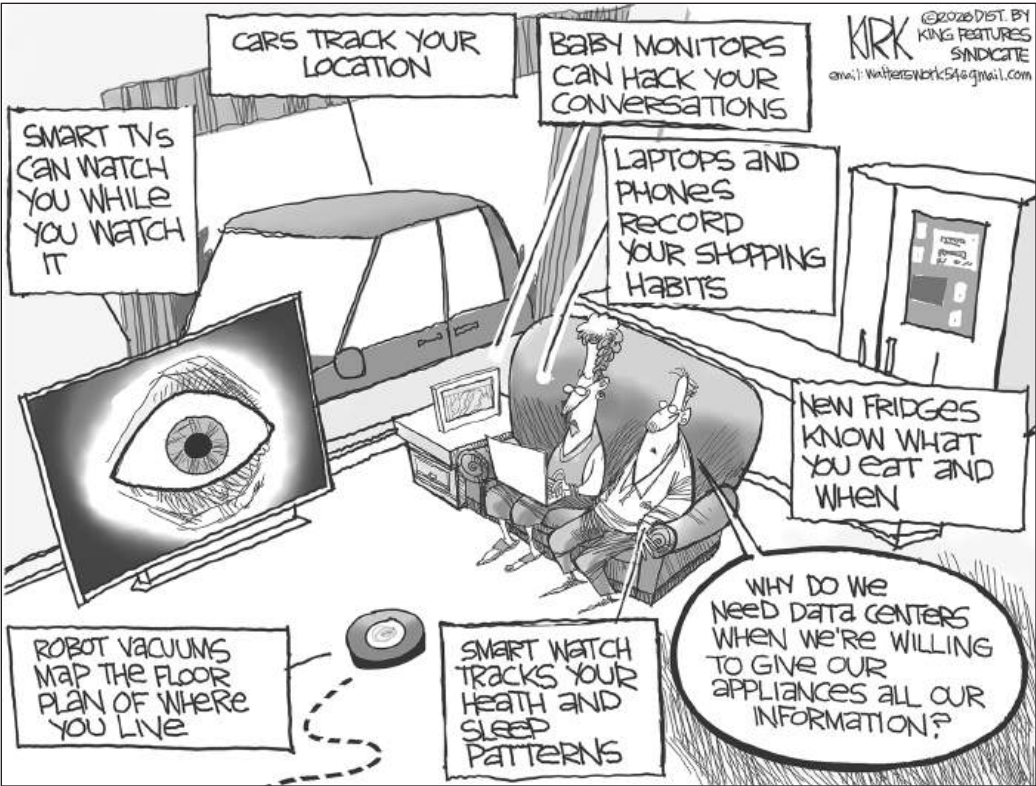
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OPINIONS

E-bikes and scooters: Safety is everyone's responsibility

It's time to turn the spotlight on our roadways toward the growing use of e-bikes and electric scooters.

This has become one of the most frequent concerns I hear from residents lately.

The increase in the numbers of these vehicles has made driving and walking through our community feel at times like navigating an obstacle course. Riders speed, weave through traffic, ignore stop signs and enter roadways without warning. This endangers everyone who may have only a split second to react.



MICHAEL O'NEILL

Although much of the concern focuses on young riders, this isn't just a young-person issue. There are adults operating e-bikes and scooters carelessly, riding against traffic or on sidewalks, and ignoring traffic controls. *Everyone* operating one of these vehicles must follow the rules of the road and respect those around them.

I've seen children who appear to be as young as 10 darting across streets with little awareness of other vehicles or

pedestrians. Many aren't wearing helmets, while others carry passengers on vehicles not designed for more than one person, increasing the possibility that a moment of carelessness will result in serious injury, or tragedy.

The number of e-bikes in New York City increased from roughly 96,000 in 2020 to more than 272,000 in 2023. Some doctors are calling the use of e-bikes a public health crisis due to the surge in pediatric trauma cases. Stony Brook University Hospital reports an increase of as much as 900 percent in hospitalizations resulting from the use of "micro-mobility devices," which in 2025 accounted for 30 percent of all pediatric trauma emergency cases.

Although we don't have specific data showing how many e-bikes and scooters are being operated locally, I believe most residents would agree that we've seen a major increase. They are now a regular presence throughout our neighborhoods.

These aren't simply toys. They are motorized vehicles capable of reaching speeds that can cause severe injuries. They must be operated with the same attention, caution and respect for traffic laws that we expect from everyone using our roads.

In Amityville, the e-bike speed limit is 20 mph, and it's 15 mph for electric scooters. Scooter operators must also be at least 16 years old.

State lawmakers are considering additional protections.

Legislation sponsored by State Sen. Jeremy Zellner and Assemblyman William Conrad III would require every e-bike and scooter operator to wear an approved helmet.

Safe operation is only one of the riders' responsibilities. Lithium-ion batteries can create a serious fire hazard if damaged, modified or improperly charged. Owners should

only purchase bikes, scooters and batteries tested and certified by an accredited laboratory, use the manufacturer-approved battery and charger, and never leave a battery charging unattended or overnight. Batteries should be taken out of service immediately if they overheat, swell, leak, emit an unusual odor or show signs of damage. There have been two incidents in which improperly disposed-of lithium-ion batteries have caught fire, creating a difficult situation for our Fire Department.

Our Police Department shares these concerns. It is actively conducting public outreach and ramping up enforce-

ment of the laws governing e-bikes and scooters, but enforcement can be challenging. These vehicles are highly mobile, violations may occur quickly, and officers generally must see the unsafe behavior or identify the rider. They can't be on every street at every moment, which is why education, parental involvement and cooperation from residents remain essential. Officers can respond to complaints, speak with riders and contact the parents of younger riders.

It is parents' responsibility to know what type of vehicle their child is riding, whether they can legally operate it, how fast it can travel and where it may be used. And adult riders must understand that traffic laws apply to them, and that pedestrians have the right to feel safe.

The rules should be clear: Wear a helmet that fits properly, obey stop signs and traffic signals, stay off sidewalks, don't carry passengers, remain visible and never assume that a driver sees you.

E-bikes and scooters can be useful and enjoyable forms of transportation. The goal is not to prevent their responsible use, but to ensure that they're operated safely and respectfully. This is a community-wide responsibility, and every rider must do their part to prevent serious or life-changing accidents.

Michael O'Neill is the mayor of Amityville.

It's up to parents to know what their child is riding and where it can legally be used.

FRAMEWORK courtesy Teresa Eberhart



A destination wedding: Leanne Eberhart, second from right, and Renato Gamboa, of Lindenhurst, with Eberhart's parents, Darren and Teresa, of Freeport, in Machu Picchu, Peru.



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Meet Illustrator Rebecca Meade and take home something worth framing; custom illustrations of the family done on-site, or bring a photo of your home and leave with a work of art.

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Whether you're curious about home values, thinking of moving, or just have questions, drop in to connect and get helpful local insights.

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