



The North Shore
Over 79 Years!
Leader

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The Hazy Days of Summer



Photo courtesy B. Bontempi

Canadian wildfires spread smoke across the U.S., and on July 16th the smoke on Long Island was so heavy, many events were canceled. Hundreds of blazes are burning across Canada's hardest-to-reach forests, in the least populated areas.



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NYU Langone to Build Medical Campus in Melville

By RUPERT DEEDES

NYU Langone Health has unveiled a sweeping multibillion-dollar plan to construct a state-of-the-art academic medical center in Melville on Long Island. Set near the border of Nassau and Suffolk counties, the new facility represents one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects in the health system's history and its first ground-up hospital construction in decades.

The announced NYU Langone Center is a slap in the face to the Town of Huntington's controversial recently-enacted "Melville Overlay District" which seeks to turn the Melville industrial zone – one square mile – into a mass of high-density rental apartment housing.

The Town just approved a 400-unit apartment development proposal by Steele Equities in March.

The proposed medical center will sit on a 45-acre parcel at the Huntington Quadrangle, a property NYU Langone officially acquired on 21 May 2026, for \$135.5 million.

Located just southeast of the intersection of the Long Island Expressway and New York State Route 110 in western Suffolk County, the campus is positioned to offer exceptional access to patients across the region.

Once completed, the sprawling medical complex is expected to cover more than one million square feet. The plans outline a highly modern hospital facility equipped with over 500 private inpatient rooms and 70 emergency department bays.

In addition to these core features, the hospital will include advanced operating and procedure suites featuring the latest capabilities in diagnostic imaging. The project will also incorporate an extensive ambulatory footprint around the main campus, creating a cohesive network that provides comprehensive out-



The NYU Langone Melville Medical Center (courtesy Ennead Architects)

patient care to the local community.

A central pillar of the new Melville campus is its focus on medical education and scientific innovation. The site will become the new home of the NYU Grossman Long Island School of Medicine, which is currently based near NYU Langone's existing hospital in Mineola.

As part of the transition, the medical school will move its training and research programs to Melville once the facility is built.

By bringing together clinical care, education, and dedicated research facilities under one roof, NYU Langone aims to reflect its highly integrated approach to healthcare.

The tuition-free medical school is expected to draw top talent, further positioning Long Island as a hub for leading-edge medical research and clinical excellence.

The multiyear project is expected to deliver a massive economic boost to Long Island and the surrounding region. Construction alone is projected to create up to 8,000 union-represented jobs, along with an estimated 2,500 indirect jobs across the broader area.

Once operational, the academic medical center will introduce thousands of

permanent jobs, providing well-paying opportunities in healthcare, administration, and research.

NYU Langone leadership has emphasized their commitment to aligning the new campus with local community goals.

The expansive campus design also prioritizes preserving green space and providing ample parking. Before construction can begin, the project faces a lengthy process, including extensive state and local approvals as well as a SEQRA environmental impact study that will solicit public feedback.

Town Honors Bay Constables for Lifesaving this Summer



Supervisor Joseph Saladino, and town board members with Bay Constables and their families.

Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Joseph Saladino and members of the Town Board recently honored five Bay Constables for their heroic lifesaving efforts out on the water this summer.

Honorees included Sgt. Carmine Montesano, of Glen Cove, and Bay Constable Kim Allstadt, of Massapequa, who aided an unresponsive swimmer in the waters off Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park and Marina in Oyster Bay, as well as Bay Constables Robert Walles, of Bayville, James Altadonna III, of Massapequa Park, and William Monjardo, of Massapequa, who performed lifesaving

actions on man who was ejected from and ran over by his boat after hitting a sand bar in the Amityville cut.

Supervisor Saladino stated, "I commend you all for demonstrating an ability to act quickly and decisively when fellow citizens were in need. The selfless actions of these five extraordinary individuals exemplify the best in all of us and reflects a genuine desire to answer the call for help. It is due to your courage, and the courage of all our first responders and men and women in uniform, that we get to enjoy the safety and beauty of each new day."

Robbers Steal Over \$200K From Great Neck Business

By MARK DEMETROPOULOS

A 4AM break-in by multiple thieves resulted in over \$200,000 in cash and merchandise stolen from a Great Neck business.

Multiple masked thieves smashed the windows of HK Auto Group located at 57 Watermill Lane in Great Neck, and then quickly targeted cash and high-end merchandise in a carefully-choreographed robbery.

The break-in and robbery occurred just before the July 4th celebrations, at around 3:53 AM on Thursday July 2, 2026.

The vandals once inside robbed property well over Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars. The stolen merchandise included: two motorcycles valued at \$60,000, a Patek Phillipe watch valued at \$90,000, as well as other multiple electronic devices and helmets valued at \$48,000.

Upon stealing the loot, the vandals



HK Auto Group

apparently fled in in waiting vehicles in various directions.

The police investigation is currently ongoing and the Great Neck and Nassau police have no concrete description of the suspects nor which direction they fled.

Police have asked for the public's assistance.

If anyone has any information on the theft, please contact Nassau County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-244-TIPS.

G-Taste Crepe Cafe Celebrates 3rd Anniversary

By LEADER STAFF

Two brothers from the Republic of Georgia are living the dream, and celebrating three successful years after opening their amazing Crepe Cafe in downtown Huntington.

Luka Gotsiridze and his brother Levan Gotsiridze grew-up in the ex-Soviet republic of Georgia in the Caucasus - now a flourishing democracy.

The G-Taste Cafe features both sweet and savory crepes, and the brothers will customize the crepes to suit a customer's tastes.

Try the Khachapuri (Georgian cheese) crepe - or for a sweeter crepe, try the mixed berry crepe - like a sweet cheese blintz with fresh fruit preserves.

"Thank you to everyone who has supported us since day one and to those who continue to visit us in the heart of



Luka and Levan at G-Taste Crepe Cafe

Huntington Village," stated Luka. "We appreciate you all and look forward to many more years serving this great community!"

What started as a small dream has grown thanks to all of your support and love over the years."

The G-Taste Cafe is located right across New York Avenue from the old Book Revue.

Editorial

TIME IS NOW, FOR DEMOCRACY
IN VENEZUELA

It has now been seven (7) months since US Special Forces helicoptered into Caracas, Venezuela, and seized the dictator Nicolas Maduro, to be flown to New York to face charges of drug smuggling, human trafficking, massive human rights abuses.

Maduro ruled as an illegal dictator since 2013, when he was installed in office to succeed the deceased dictator Hugo Chavez - by Chavez’ own “Bolivarian” revolutionary clique - in a rigged election.

Maduro was long accused by the world community of being a dictator who jailed or persecuted political opponents and repeatedly staged sham elections.

Rigged election after rigged election was followed by the arrest, torture and jailing of opposition members of the National Assembly, and the destruction of all civil rights in Venezuela.

Accompanying the Dictatorship was Kleptocracy - the systematic looting of the country by Maduro and his Bolivarian cronies: Everything as stolen: the once oil-rich country saw oil production plummet from over 2 million barrels per day, to 600,000 barrels per day, as the Bolivarian thugs literally stole and sold-off the oil equipment.

The result was a human rights horror: Gangs shot and beat anyone they wanted. Women were raped, men and boys gunned down, and Bolivarian death squads ran wild. One third of the population - over 8 million people - has now fled the country.

The US ouster of Maduro in January promised the return of democracy - including the return of opposition leader Maria Machado (the winner of the 2025 Noble Peace Prize) and the actually elected President, Edmundo Gonzalez (who defeated Maduro in the 2024 presidential election - 70% to 25% - but was then threatened with arrest and death and had to flee the country).

Instead, the Bolivarian thug Delcy Rodriguez - Maduro’s “Vice President” and head of the Bolivarian prisons and enforcement apparatus - has been anointed as "President" - with the approval of the United States. US sanctions were lifted, and over \$15 billion in oil has now been sold - with the revenues shared between Delcy and the US-designated “brokers.”

Talk of “freedom” and “democracy” have faded - and shunted into the future.

Finally - under prodding from US Secretary of State Marco Rubio - talks will finally begin in August between the Delcy Bolivarian thugs - and the opposition leaders who were driven out and jailed by Delcy and her gang.

Incredibly, Noble Laureate Maria Machado - and the 2024 presidential election winner Edmundo Gozalez - are still both still barred from the country. And Delcy still keeps thousands of "political prisoners" in her torture-jails.

Enough of the playing footsies with Delcy and her Bolivarian thugs - It is time to schedule real elections and return democracy and freedom to Venezuela.

The Publisher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: We encourage our readers to express their view regardless of opinion, through the Letters to the Editor column. Letters published represent the viewpoint of our readers. *They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Leader* and, in fact, may be of opposite viewpoint. Letters should be typed and mailed or emailed to the editor’s attention. Letters will be edited for length, clarity and accuracy. All letters should be signed and contain author’s address and telephone number for verification. Although it is discouraged, we will withhold an author’s name if the subject matter is sensitive or the writer may be subject to intimidation or harassment. Letters that contain accusations or important “facts” must demonstrate knowledge in the area described or show evidence for their writing. *The Leader* will not return letters and reserves the right to publish them at a later time or not at all, due to lack of space or editor’s discretion.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Leader has received several unsigned letters to the editor. We will respect an author’s request for anonymity, but must have your name, address, and phone number. We want to hear from you and publish your opinions, so in the future, kindly include the above requested information.

KATHY HOCHUL WANTS YOU TO
SWEAT IN THE DARK

To the Editor;

Kathy Hochul’s energy policy is a blueprint for blackouts. Right now, during a massive heat-wave, she wants you to turn your thermostat up to 78 degrees because she broke New York’s power grid. Her administration aggressively wiped out 3,000 megawatts of reliable energy—enough to power over two million homes—leaving our infrastructure maxed out and ready to snap.

We already pay 70% higher utility bills than the rest of the nation. For those prices, basic air conditioning shouldn't be treated like a privilege, yet Hochul wants New York families to sweat in the dark for her incompetence. I have a better recommendation for New Yorkers: keep your AC cold this summer, and let’s change the thermostat in Albany this November.

Bruce Blakeman
Nassau County Executive

PERMITTING REFORM NEEDED

To the Editor;

We continue to read about rising electricity rates that are exacerbating the inflation that is making our lives more expensive and difficult. While some states have been proactive in addressing the problem, a national solution is needed. Our existing grid can be made more efficient, but in the end we will need to build new transmission lines and create stronger connections between each of the regional grids. A major problem is that it takes too long to build these lines due to outdated regulations. The cost of solar and battery storage has decreased so dramatically that virtually all new genera-

tion capacity is clean. Unfortunately, the grid hasn't been able to keep up and this new capacity often has to wait years to get plugged in.

Federal legislation is already being considered in DC to help ease these bottlenecks while still encouraging public input. Ask your Member of Congress to join you in support of comprehensive clean energy permitting reform so we can build our way out of these high electricity rates.

Jon Berman
Elmhurst, IL

THE AMERICAN DREAM

To the Editor;

My wife and I got married in 1968, in our mid-twenties. The one-bedroom apartment we rented cost 13% of our combined gross income. After two years, we bought a house in Port Washington. Today, most people in Suffolk County can’t find a house they can afford.

Those who believe in upward mobility and feel hopeful about the future are the people who were born somewhere else and chose to come here, not those who were born and raised here.

The American Dream is not something most people have given up on. They have given up on the idea that it belongs to everyone equally. That is a meaningful distinction, and it points directly at the failure that actually needs addressing.

The failure is that for decades, politicians have found it more useful to weaponize the American Dream than to expand it. They have changed it from a vision of what America could be for every person who lives here, into a talking point that wins primaries. People who believe the American Dream is achievable are harder to mobilize with fear than the people who believe it is a competition with a limited number of winners.

Charles Gueli
Port Washington

SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM
DEATH IS NEVER CONVENIENT

To the Editor;

We were shocked by the death of Senator Lindsey Graham. For 23 years he was a mighty force in the United States Senate representing South Carolina.

There have been a multitude of news releases. Hours of television reports have aired about the service and life of Lindsey Graham. Our President and Washington will miss Lindsey Graham regardless of which side of the aisle his colleagues sat.

Graham had just returned from a trip to the Ukraine. He had spoken with President Trump just hours before his death. His death was sudden and without apparent warning.

As I write this, a preliminary autopsy report indicates that the cause of death was an aortic dissection. By now there may be an update on the final cause of death. Did Graham have heart issues that he was being treated for? Did he know he had cardiovascular issues? Was he taking a blood thinner? The plane ride from Ukraine is a long. Did he develop a blood clot while traveling. Plane rides can be dangerous for this very reason. People are often stationary for a long period of time. It is not always easy to stretch out or move around on a plane. It's easy to develop a blood clot. Many people do and have done so.

Early reports indicate Graham had a tear in his aorta and serious plaque buildup in his arteries. A tear in the aorta is almost always a death sentence.

The fact of the matter is that death can happen anytime and any day. Death is never convenient. Death never provides an announced warning years in advance. Yet, it sort of does. We know it’s coming but we don’t know the day.

We all come into this world naked and crying and leave the same way.

The Bible says in Psalm 90 “So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

Dr. Glenn Mollette

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Op-Ed: The Hypocrisy at “60 Minutes”

By STEVE LEVY
Every time I think I have written my last article on liberal bias in the media, particularly CBS and 60 Minutes, another thing pops up that forces me to pick up my pen once again.

In this case, it is the articles written by journalists in Newsday, who give accounts of the firing of 60 Minutes reporter Scott Pelley and the resignation of Cecilia Vega, both of whom complained that the new leadership at the program was injecting bias into their segments.

The articles were not framed as though these were the opinions of Pelley and Vega. Rather, it was presented as a fact that the new management was politicizing the program and injecting propaganda into the segments.

All this leads us back to the definition of “projecting.” It’s when you accuse others of doing what you yourself are doing. The liberal media’s ridiculous circling of the wagons around Pelley and Vega is the ultimate example of journalistic projecting.

60 Minutes lost its way decades ago. It hasn’t been the revered, hard-hitting news program of Mike Wallace and Morley Safer for quite some time. No, today it’s infested with liberal activists such as Pelley, Lesley Stahl, and Sharyn Alfonsi.

It’s a shame that the Newsday reporters couldn’t just say that the claims of overreach were merely the opinions of Pelley and Vega and then balance it with a few of the many glaring examples of liberal bias in the program.

Remember, this is the same Scott Pelley who issued a segment defaming the Moms for Liberty group as being anti-gay and hysterical conspiracy theorists simply because they objected to pornography and critical race theory being injected into the U.S. educational system.



Steve Levy

This is the same Scott Pelley who went on a tirade in a commencement address about how the Trump administration was destroying journalism, yet had no comment as to how the Biden administration pressured the media to silence critics of the government’s Covid policies or negativity against Biden, including the Hunter Biden laptop fiasco.

Here are just a few of the many other examples of bias from 60 Minutes that come to mind when preparing this article:

Propping up Kamala

In one of the most egregious examples of media bias in the last several decades, 60 Minutes was caught manipulating the word salad commentary by presidential candidate Kamala Harris to make it appear that her responses were far more coherent than they actually were. This was more than an edit due to time constraints, it completely changed the nature of her answer, obscuring the incoherent rambling response that she gave.

Denying Spying on Trump

Democratic shield and cheerleader Leslie Stahl did her utmost to try to debunk President Trump’s accurate statement that he was spied upon by the Obama administration. When Trump brought up the issue, Stahl condescendingly and definitively claimed he was wrong, and that there was no evidence of any spying. This was despite the fact that it was clear to any objective observer that the Obama administration had engaged in surveillance of Trump’s campaign team, including Carter Page.

Giving a Pass to Censorship

An awful segment allowed German censors to spout their horrific methods without any challenge.

The German bureaucrats who were policing the Internet were giddy over how many people they were arresting for posting things that were considered

harmful or misinformation. Not a bit of pushback from the 60 Minutes reporter.

Favoring GOP’s Enemies

One segment promoted the claim that the Health Department was being gutted without saying that Trump just wanted to get a handle on the wasteful spending. They interviewed Frances Collins, the lying former head of the National Institute of Health, without referencing massive Medicaid fraud.

Highlighting the Radical Right, But Not the Radical Left

A segment in May 2026 centered on one or two white supremacists as though the idiots are representative of the Republican establishment. However, there was no mention of the radical left from Antifa or the surge of antisemitism within the Democratic Party.

Repeating Debunked Claims

In a recent interview with the president, Nora O’Donnell read to Trump unverified statements from his would-be assassin that he’s a pedophile. There was no basis of fact to this ridiculous claim, but her repeating it underscores her bias.

Positive GOP Stories, But Only When They Leave Office

60 Minutes did a glowing piece about Ben Sasse, but only after he was out of the Senate and about to die.

Misrepresenting the Facts

When doing a story on ICE in Minneapolis, the Republican they chose to put on air was Rand Paul, who opposes the administration. Pelley even had the audacity to claim that ICE was attacking protestors, who in turn were forced to respond violently to ICE. He then interviewed a former attorney in the civil rights division who is a Trump hater, but there was no interview from a Trump ally.

Failure to Get Balanced Opinions

Bari Weiss, a liberal former New

York Times reporter who was recently hired to oversee CBS News, has been trashed by the 60 Minutes staff and the leftist media for having the audacity to demand that the liberal stories at least give the opposition the ability to get a quote in.

That was the case in the now-infamous segment from Sharyn Alfonsi that talked of supposed horrid conditions for detained illegal aliens. All Weiss was asking for was that the administration’s perspective be put on camera. This was hardly injecting bias into the story as Alfonsi and Pelley claim. Weiss was properly seeking to balance out an already leftist slant in the segment.

Newsday lamented that “firing Pelley, 68, isn’t just a blow to 60 Minutes but actually to an entire culture at CBS News W. 57th St. headquarters and to an entire proud industry.”

Pelley was fired because he was a sanctimonious ass who tried to derail the incoming director of 60 Minutes by yelling at him in an introductory meeting to virtue signal to his colleagues. Such insubordination would not be tolerated in any private company.

As for the proud history of 60 Minutes, there has been little to be proud of in the last 15 years at that once-prestigious entity. They have allowed leftists to control their content and their reporting. A course correction has been long overdue.

Steve Levy is President of Common Sense Strategies, a political consulting firm. He served as Suffolk County Executive, as a NYS Assemblyman, and host of the “On the Right Side Podcast.” He is the author of “Solutions to America’s Problems” and “Bias in the Media.” www.SteveLevy.info, [@SteveLevyNY](https://twitter.com/SteveLevyNY), steve@commonsensesstrategies.com

Nassau County Comptroller Shuts Down Double Dippers

When staff and leadership in the Comptroller’s Payroll and Health Benefits Division became aware in late 2025 that some County retirees and/or their spouses might be receiving duplicate Medicare Reimbursement checks, an audit was immediately launched. The audit reviewed Medicare Part B reimbursement payments made to County retirees from their retirement date, as far back as 2002, through December 2025. After reviewing records for the more than 10,000 retirees and 3,600 retirees’ dependents for whom the County provides health benefits, the Comptroller’s Office determined that 94 individuals were receiving inappropriate payments.

The overpayments totaled \$1,507,096.97.

“Although the 94 recipients found double dipping constitute less than 1%

of our retirees, and the \$1.5 million total impact on the County is less than 0.04% of the County’s \$4 billion budget, I take misuse of funds very seriously,” said Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips. “To date, 39 retirees have repaid the County in full or in part and dedicated staff in my Payroll and Health Benefits Division continue to reach out to the rest of the involved retirees by phone and letters.”

As of this writing, the County has recovered \$449,008.74 and efforts to recover the remainder will

continue, including arranging repayment plans for retirees if necessary.

The Comptroller’s audit, published on July 15, 2026, focused on retirees who have dependents on their health insurance plan and who were eligible for Medicare (typically 65 years and older).



Elaine Phillips

Revolutionary War Lecture at North Shore Historical Museum

Long Island During the Revolutionary War: Hard Work, Anxiety, and Taking Sides. Thursday, August 6 at 7:00 PM at the North Shore Historical Museum.

Explore how the Revolutionary War reached Long Island’s doorsteps. This program, presented by Glen Cove Historian Dave Nieri, Glen Cove’s City Historian. His talk will explain how the Rev War story wasn’t fought only on distant battlefields — it unfolded in farmhouses, taverns, coves, and crossroads across our own North Shore.

Nieri’s presentation, Long Island During the Revolutionary War, explores the daily realities of a region caught between British occupation and Patriot resistance. Through local accounts, maps, and community histories, he reveals how families balanced survival



The Red Coats of the Revolutionary War.

with principle, how neighbors found themselves on opposite sides of the conflict, and how the war reshaped the social and economic landscape.

Register now to reserve your seat. Tickets: \$20 General Admission; \$15 for NSHM Members. North Shore Historical Museum, 140 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542. Reserve at northshorehistoricalmuseum.org.

Oh DEER! Symposium

Homeowners, land managers, municipal leaders and members of the public are invited to attend Oh DEER! Addressing Challenges, Exploring Solutions, an educational symposium focused on the growing ecological and public health impacts of deer on Long Island.

The symposium will take place on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at LIU Post's Hillwood Commons in Brookville, New York.

The program will feature keynote speaker Dr. Bernd Blossey, Professor in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at Cornell University and one of the nation's leading experts on deer ecology, invasive species and ecosystem restoration.

Across Long Island, growing deer populations are placing unprecedented pressure on native forests and ecosystems. While many people are familiar with the impacts of deer on gardens, agriculture, vehicle collisions and the spread of ticks associated with Lyme disease, fewer recognize the profound ecological damage occurring in our woodlands. Heavy browsing by deer prevents young trees and native wildflowers from regenerating, allowing invasive plant species to thrive and reducing biodiversity. Over time, these changes weaken forest health, diminish wildlife habitat and even affect water quality by disrupting forests' natural ability to filter pollutants and protect local waterways. The symposium will explore these challenges while highlighting practical, science-based solutions that individuals, communities and municipalities can



The growing population of deer.

implement to help restore healthy, resilient landscapes. Topics will include:

- Deer impacts on healthy plant communities
- Best management practices for deer exclusion
- Deer and public health

Following the morning program, participants will have the opportunity to visit a North Shore Land Alliance preserve to explore the use of deer fencing and learn about practical deer management techniques in the field.

The program is sponsored by the North Shore Land Alliance and the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Suffolk County and other organizations. Advance registration is required. The registration fee is \$10 per person.

For more information, please contact the North Shore Land Alliance at 516-922-1028 or events@northshorelandalliance.org. To register visit www.northshorelandalliance.org/events.

The INN Golf/Pickleball Classic



The beautiful Nassau Country Club

Jean Kelly of Northport, who is the Executive Director of The INN, is hosting a Golf Classic and Pickleball fundraiser, at the Nassau Country Club,

30 St Andrews Lane, Glen Cove. The event takes place September 28, 2026.

The INN serves the hungry and homeless Long Islanders. The INN is located at 211 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead. The proceeds from this fun event will help hundreds of families.

This year's honorees are Rich Humann (H2M Architects and Engineers) and Leo Sancho (Elecnor Hawkeye).

For Tickets, sponsorships, or additional Information please visit: the-inn.org/events or call (516) 486-8506, ext. 108.

Raynham Hall Museum’s Spirit of ‘76 Annual Gala



(L-R) Co-chair Rebecca Hollander Smiros, Executive Director Harriet Gerard Clark, co-chair Lucy Taglich, co-chair and Board member Claudia Taglich

The Spirit of '76 Gala was the annual summer fundraiser for the Raynham Hall Museum, held on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at the Rynwood Estate in Old Brookville, New York. The fundraiser celebrated our nation's 250th anniversary.

With the inspiration of our honorees, George Washington and his secret agent man, Raynham Hall's own Robert Townsend, and our honored guest, the inimitable Constance M. Cincotta, Raynham Hall Museum hosted a wonderful party and raised over \$250,000 for the museum!

The Benefit Co-chairs were Rebecca Hollander Smiros, Lucy Taglich, and



(L-R) Franklin Hill Perrell, honored guest Constance M. Cincotta, Celia Ipiotis, and Marek Mlotkowski

Claudia Taglich, as well as their dedicated Benefit Committee members. The Museum is deeply grateful to everyone who supported this year's fundraiser and helped make it such a success.



Grooving to the music of Epicsoul



Volunteers Austin and Noah Siebel.

Photos: Rob Rich



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GRAND OPENING SPECIAL



Friends Academy Welcomes New Head of School

Friends Academy welcomed Alfred F. (Rik) Dugan III as the new Head of School on Wednesday, July 1, making him the 26th person in the school’s illustrious 150-year history to lead the longest-running independent school on Long Island.

Day 1 on the new job felt like just another day at home for Dugan, who has been at Friends Academy for two years as Principal of the Lower School and Middle School.

“I am honored and inspired to serve as Friends Academy’s 26th Head of School,” Dugan says. “This is a school that I love, with a mission that I believe in, and a community that my family and I are grateful to be a part of. As we pursue excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts, our students will grow as moral and ethical leaders, contributing positively to our world with purpose. They will learn to let their lives speak.”

Friends Academy, the top-ranked independent school on Long Island, educates students from nursery school through 12th grade on a 65-acre campus in Locust Valley, N.Y. Founded in 1876 as a Quaker School by Gideon Frost, it remains committed to teaching the timeless and enduring Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equity, and stewardship.

Friends will commemorate its 150th anniversary throughout the upcoming school year.



Alfred F. Dugan III

“From the moment Rik arrived on campus two years ago, he has been a source of warmth, optimism, deep connection with our students, an authentic embrace of Quaker values and tradition, and genuine ambition for our school’s future,” says Frank Ingrassia, Co-President of Friends Academy’s Board of Trustees. “We could not be more excited about Rik’s leadership as we celebrate such an historic milestone.”

Dugan steps into the office previously held by Paul J. Stellato, who had served as Head of School since July 1, 2023, and retired at the end of June from a 40-plus-year career with independent schools.

“Rik has worked closely with Paul on a thoughtful transition plan,” says Steve Witthuhn ’01, Co-President of the Board of Trustees. “Paul’s tenure with us was brief but impactful. His determined leadership delivered and laid the groundwork for a range of investments in our school’s future, including our new Science and Innovation Center. There is much to do in the year ahead, and Rik is ready to step in and carry forward the work underway across the school.”

Prior to joining Friends in July 2024, Dugan served for nine years as the Head of School at Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart, a K-8 boys school in Princeton, N.J. Before Princeton Academy, he served in leadership, admissions, and teaching roles at Far Hills Country Day School and the Delbarton School.

He holds an M.A. in Educational Leadership and Administration from Teachers College, Columbia University, and graduated with a B.A. in English from Williams College, where he was a standout offensive lineman on the football team.

Dugan’s wife, Joanna, is the Director of Strategic Communications at the Berkeley Carroll School in Brooklyn. They have three children.



Alfred F. (Rik) Dugan III welcomes a student to school.

Annual Garden Party Benefits the Community Foundation



(L-R) Vice President Fern Senior, and President Julia Vaughan

BY VICTORIA CROSBY

The annual Garden Party to benefit the Community Foundation of Oyster Bay Inc., was recently held at Coe Hall at Planting Fields Arboretum.

Guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, which included tuna tartar, maple flavored bacon, lobster salad, large platters of cheeses and dried fruits, and other delicious treats, with spring flowers adorning the tables. Guests could wander through the many lovely rooms of the Tudor Revival mansion and outside on the portico, and through the beautiful gardens.

President Julia Vaughan and Vice President Fern Senior welcomed guests and thanked them for their continued support. A large chart was displayed showing the names of the organizations

supported by the Community Foundation.

In attendance were members of the board of directors of the Community Foundation and of Planting Fields in addition to members of the community, who support the work of these dedicated people and continue to support the efforts of the non-profit organization

The Community Foundation was founded by Abby and George O’Neil and other concerned residents in 1965, as a nonprofit organization and a vehicle through which tax-free donations are channeled into the community. The board of trustees evaluates the needs of local organizations in order to help fund the services that improve the lives of neighbors. All donations are passed on to charities and organizations that support the community.

For further information visit www.oysterbaycf.org



Enjoying the party.



The event was well attended.

Photos: Abby Aronowitz

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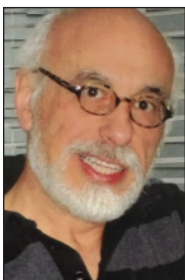
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Obituaries



A R C E L L A , Constantine John, age 79, affectionately known as “Costa,” passed away peacefully on June 21, 2026, after a courageous battle with Parkinson’s Disease. Born on March 4, 1947, in Queens Borough, New York, Constantine was the beloved son of John F. Arcella and Marina E. Arcella. He was preceded in death by his cherished daughter, Laura Faith Arcella, his parents, and his brother, John C. Arcella. Costa leaves behind a devoted family, including his loving wife, Cheryl M. Arcella, to whom he was married since 2003. Together, they created a life filled with shared moments of joy and tranquility, enjoying bike rides and evening strolls with their dog in Garden City, NY, where they lived for 23 years before moving briefly to Glen Cove, NY. He is also survived by his daughters, Jacqueline E. Ferris and Jennifer E. Urbina, their husbands, James Ferris and Greg Urbina, and his treasured grandchildren, Aidan, Alaina, Ian, and Laura. Also, two stepchildren Charles E. Roberts and Jaclyn R. Roberts. His brothers, Frank and David Arcella, sister in laws Ellen and Carol and Rosa, sister-in-law Betty Stone and brother-in-law Randy Stone cousins Ronald Willoner and Robyne Williams, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Raised in Queens, Constantine was a proud alumnus of Queens High School and Queens Borough College. His dedication to serving others was reflected in his 25-year career with the NYPD, where he worked at Midtown South, NY. His professional life extended into the hospitality industry, where he owned and managed two taverns for over 12 years, and he was involved in real estate ventures in Richfield Springs, NY. He was a member of The Police Benevolent Association, which reflected his lifelong commitment

to public service. Costa’s personal life was equally rich and meaningful. He was a devoted father who cherished every moment with his daughters and found great joy in family gatherings with his brothers in Manhattan. Despite the challenges of Parkinson’s and spinal stenosis in his later years, which limited his ability to travel, he found contentment in the simple pleasures of home life with Cheryl, who was his steadfast caregiver.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to honor his memory are invited to make a donation to a charity of their choice. The family extends heartfelt gratitude to The Glen Cove Hospital for the exceptional care provided to Constantine during his time in ICU. Special thanks are also extended to The Regency of Glen Cove for ensuring his safety and well-being during the transition to their new home.

Constantine’s warmth, kindness, and unwavering spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His legacy lives on through the love he shared and the memories he created with his family and friends. www.DodgeThomas.com



B L A T C H L Y Frances known lovingly as Mom, Mrs. B., Fran, Franny and Granny Franny, passed away on May 22, 2026 at the age of 93. She had been living on Long Island surrounded by the people and places she held dear.

She was born in 1932 to Peter and Alice McKeon. One of 5 children, she grew up in Franklin Square NY. She attended Sewanhaka High School and later worked for Bell Telephone Company in Manhattan NY.

She married Nigel Blatchly on August 3, 1956, they had six children, raising their family in the seaside village of Bayville. Frances and Nigel separated in 1970.

As a single parent she worked as a cook at night and obtained her GED. She then attended Adelphi University where she received her degree and became a certified drug and alcohol counselor. Later she became a licensed massage therapist.

She loved being at the beach, camping, boating, and enjoyed traveling to Europe solo and with her friends Liz, Pat and Madelyn.

She lived in Englewood FL for 15 years. Six years ago she returned to Long Island to be closer to family and friends.

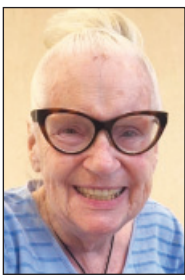
Our Mom was a proud and active member of AA for more than 50 years where she realized her truest self and helped countless others on their path to recovery.

She was predeceased by her parents, siblings: Peter, Peggy, Sally, and Josie, her former husband Nigel and her beloved son Christopher John Blatchly. She is survived by her sister-in-law Joan McKeon, her children Carol, Cathy (Dale), Jill (John), Jimmy (Patty), Lise (Bud), daughter-in-law Linda (Tom), nine grandchildren, six great grandchildren and 10 nieces and nephews.

Fran will be remembered by all as a force to be reckoned with. Her sense of humor was as big as the great outdoors. Those who knew her would tell you she loved deeply and easily, opening her heart and her home to just about anyone who crossed her path.

A Celebration of Life will be held on September 12th, at Theodore Roosevelt Park Pavillion.

CALLAHAN, Cornelia M. of Glen Cove, NY on July 4, 2026 at Age 89. Loving mother of Laura Weiland (Andrew



Zaager), the late Michael and the late Jennifer. Dear sister of Theresa. Proud grandmother of Jason, Allison, Abigeal, Declan, Ciara and Aidan. Adored great-grandmother of Haden and Landon. Interment at Locust Valley Cemetery. www.DodgeThomas.com

COLLINS, James Peter of Glen Cove, NY on July 4, 2026 at Age 85. Beloved husband of the late Mary Jane. Loving father of Christian Sr. and Jason. Proud grandfather of Stephanie, Christian Jr., Taylor, Melanie, Zachary and Hunter. Adored great-grandfather of Amaya and Jasmine.

Mr. Collins was the President of Sea Cliff Junior Baseball for over 20 years. He loved the game and loved the time he put in. www.DodgeThomas.com



G A U D I O , Salvatore A. of Glen Cove, NY on July 9, 2026 at Age 67. Beloved husband of Olinda. Loving father of Carmine Gaudio and Teresa Sacco (Peter). Proud grandfather of Frankie and Viviana. Dear brother of Connie (Mimmo), Fran (the late Chuck) and Maria (Glenn). Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Interment to follow at Holy Rood Cemetery. www.DodgeThomas.com

(Continued on page 10)

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Fundraiser for Local Food Pantry at Bahr Gallery



(L-R) Ted and Rebecca Bahr, Paul Mahoney, Peggy Zieran, Mary Crowley, and Taryn Peel.

By VICTORIA CROSBY

Following the Oyster Bay Day event, a large street fair, The Bahr Gallery hosted a fundraiser featuring the band, Rays No Quitter. The event was to benefit the local food pantry People Loving People. Guests enjoyed the music while nibbling on hors d’oeuvres and sipping drinks.

Donations of \$20 per person were requested, and the amount raised was matched by gallery owners, Ted and Rebecca Bahr. Following the event a donation of \$5,000 was donated so the total given to the charity was \$7,000.

People Loving People Inc, is a self-serve marketplace where people in need can come and choose the food and bag it

themselves. PLP also holds toy drives at holiday times, food drives in partnership with many local restaurants and churches, and an annual block party. They offer ESL, English as a second language classes, and while the parents are learning homework help tutoring is offered free of charge to their children, as many children have parents who don’t speak or read English well enough to help them with their homework.

They are, as the website states, “Ordinary people doing extraordinary things through love and compassion for others.”

PLP is open to people in several neighborhoods including Oyster Bay, Locust Valley, Bayville, East Norwich and Syosset. People Loving People is a 501c3 nonprofit organization located at 123 Audrey Avenue in Oyster Bay.

The website www.peopleloving-people.net, also states that they are volunteers who are committed to helping and loving others, and who take their convictions and beliefs and put them into action.

If you would like to help, call 516 945-9738.



Rays No Quitter band. Photos: Abby Aronowitz

“We the People” Artist Talk

By VICTORIA CROSBY

Raynham Hall Museum is hosting a free series of talks by artists who will discuss their works on view and their practice at the Raynham Hall Museum’s current exhibition, “We the People”.

The event will take place on August 6th, from 5:30 -7:00 PM. The featured artists will be Dave Alexander, Mike Goudket, and Ryan Schroeder

Raynham Hall recently held an opening night cocktail party to celebrate their current exhibit, titled We The People, a display of artworks by artists in various mediums.

Among the more than thirty art works selected for the exhibit was The Bayman by Tom Mason, an oil painting on a panel depicting five baymen. The artists statement reads in part “The work is brutal. They are out in the elements all year round in all kinds of extreme weather.”

Matryoshkas, an oil painting by Ryan Schroeder depicts Ukrainian children who were abducted by Russians during the war.

In A Pickle by Dave Alexander shows an American Flag stuffed into a



Matryoshkas by Ryan Schroeder Photo: Abby Aronowitz.

two-gallon wide mouth mason jar filled with water and vinegar. Alexander’s statement describes the vinegar as both preserving and cleaning and states that “These dual functions become a metaphor for a nation caught between protecting its foundations and attempting to purify itself!”

This is a very forceful and moving exhibit which shows the artist’s interpretation of the current political situation. The artworks all included prices and are for sale with a portion of the proceeds to benefit Raynham Hall Museum.

The exhibit will be at the museum until August 30th.

For further information visit raynhamhallmuseum.org.

Obituaries Continued



MALDONADO, Jose of Glen Cove, NY on July 18, 2026 at Age 79. Beloved husband of Marcela. Loving father of AnnMarie, Jonathan, Christopher, Ashley and Michael. Devoted grandfather of Hanna, Brandon, Daniel, Adrianna, Marco, Christian and the late Jonathan Thomas. Also survived by many loving sisters, cousins and nephews. Mr. Maldonado was an active member in the Knights of Columbus. He was a longtime employee in the First Presbyterian Church. He enjoyed playing the piano and the accordion. Interment is Private. www.Dodgehomas.com

MARONI, Regina Ann, on July 13, 2026, age 92, of Locust Valley, NY. Beloved wife of the late Forindino “Fred”. Loving mother of Jean Rhodes (Edward), Karen Cassidy, Fredrick (Christine), Laura Reisiger (Hal), and the late Michael (Maria). Cherished grandmother of Edward Rhodes (Diana), Jennifer Sullivan (Patrick), Kevin Cassidy (Bryana Vasquez), Justin Reisiger (Jasmine), Daniel Cassidy (Bella), Chloe Reisiger, William Maroni, and the late Taylor Reisiger. Proud great grandmother of Richie, Alexis, Liam, Emelie, Michael, Jackson and Josie. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. Interment Calverton National Cemetery. www.oysterbayfuneralhome.com



MORFIS, Jane of Bayville, NY on July 10th, 2026 at age 84. Beloved wife of the late Theodore. Loving mother of Theodore Jr. (Jayne) and Paul (Deborah).

Proud grandmother of Kevin, Jack, Dayna, Kendall and Teddy III. Also survived by loving nieces and nephews.

Interment is Private. www.Dodgethomas.com

NOWICKI, Wanda Nadine, passed away on July 15, 2026, at the age of 72. Wanda was a devoted wife, loving mother, and cherished grandmother whose greatest joy was her family. She shared her life with her beloved husband, Henryk Nowicki, and together they built a family grounded in love and support.

She is lovingly remembered by her daughters, Carolyn Willis and Catherine Nowicki; and by her treasured grandchildren, Aliyah Willis and Justus Henry Prince Nowicki, who brought immense happiness to her life. Her love, kindness, and unwavering devotion to her family will remain a lasting source of comfort and inspiration to all who knew her.

Wanda’s memory will live on in the hearts of those who loved her. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered with love. www.Whitting.com

SANT'ANGELO, Marion P. – on July 15, 2026, age 103, of East Norwich, NY. Beloved wife of the late Francis. Loving mother of Russell (Pat), and John (Maria). Cherished grandmother of Ariana Wengrofsky (Shawn), James (Tonia), Leah Raper (Zach), and Gabrielle Chrabaszcz (James). Proud great grandmother of Avan Wengrofsky, Mathis Raper, Landon Wengrofsky, Elena Wengrofsky, Violet Chrabaszcz and Leonard Chrabaszcz. Dear sister of the late Joan Narracci (Mike). Also survived by many loving relatives and friends. In lieu of flowers donations in her memory can be made to Christ Church, 61 East Main Street, Oyster Bay, NY 11771. www.oysterbayfuneralhome.com

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LLC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF **ROMERO FLOOR EXPERTS LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/14/2026. Office Location: Suffolk County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Verma Tax and Accounting Solutions, 496 Smithtown Bypass, Suite 306, Smithtown, NY 11787. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

LLC NOTICE

Notice of formation of **LE MONT BLEU LLC**. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/04/2026. Office location: Suffolk County, New York. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: THE LLC, 366 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Suite 9, Commack, NY 11725. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

LLC NOTICE

Notice of formation of **168 Hegemans LLC** Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 12/11/25. Office location: NASSAUCounty. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 7 Coriegarth Ln, Locust Valley, NY, 11560. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Grenville Baker B&G Club Celebrates an Evening in Bloom



GBB&GC 2026 Gala Honorees John and Kim Bancroft.



(L to R) GBB&GC 2026 Gala Chairs Suzanne Brooke, Catherine Blondell and Krystina Tomlinson

Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club hosted An Evening in Bloom: A Night to Inspire, its 76th Annual Gala, beneath a beautiful beachside tent at The Creek Club. Guests enjoyed cocktails, floral-themed décor, and dancing by the water while celebrating the Club’s lasting impact on the community.

The evening featured both silent and live auctions with exclusive items and experiences, raising substantial funds to support the Club’s mission.

This year, Kim and John Bancroft were honored for their dedicated service. Kim Bancroft, a realtor with Daniel Gale Sotheby’s International Realty, also serves on the Club’s Board of Directors.

The gala marked 76 years of service and was made possible by the generosity of supporters, sponsors, and friends.

“The 76th Anniversary Gala was a wonderful reminder of what makes this community so special,” said Executive Director Melissa Rhodes. “We are incredibly thankful for the supporters, volunteers, and families whose commitment helps us create life-changing opportunities for the children we serve.”

For more information, visit www.GBBGC.org.



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