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Photo: Patricia Brexel

*100's of people this past weekend enjoyed the warmth of the greenhouses at Planting Fields Arboretum's Annual Camellia Festival.
If you missed the festival the flowers will be in full bloom until the end of February.*



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Fire Guts Port W Home: Firefighter Injured; 5 Displaced



Manorhaven House Fire
Photo courtesy of Port Washington Fire Department

By MARK DEMETROPOULOS

A huge fire broke out last week at a home in Manorhaven in Port Washington, destroying a residential home, and displacing five local residents.

Over 50 volunteer fire fighters from various areas of the county worked together magnificently to prevent the fire from spreading to other homes, according to the Nassau County Fire Marshal.

According to the Fire Marshal, fire trucks were first dispatched from the Port Washington Fire Department at approximately 9:01 AM, to respond to fire call for a two story residential home on Firwood Road in Manorhaven.

At the time of the incident only one resident was home and evacuated the premises once the fire began, alerted by the home's fire alarm.

The fire was contained in about thirty minutes, with the additional assistance coming from nearby volunteer fire departments from Manhasset-Lakeville, Plandome, Albertson, and Roslyn.

One person was injured - a Port Washington firefighter - who suffered from minor injuries and was taken to the NUMC

via ambulance.

This emergency team was coordinated by the command of Chief LoRe of the Port Washington Fire Department, along with The Office of Emergency Management, and further assisted by Medical Response Vehicle.

As the fire was extinguished, the Village of Manorhaven Building Department arrived to access the overall damage to the residential dwelling.

The Fire Marshal's Office has not yet stated an exact cause as to the origin of the fire: An investigation is currently ongoing directed by Nassau County Fire Marshal investigators and Nassau County Police Department Arson Bomb Squad Detectives.

Students Hold "ICE Walk-Outs" at North Shore and Northport



Anti-ICE Protest at Northport High School

By THOMAS NOTHEL

Students at both North Shore High School in Glen Head, and Northport High School staged recent student walk-outs to protest the controversial actions of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

ICE has received criticism over their killing of two US citizen protestors in Minnesota, and attracted protests nationally over their efforts to apprehend some of the 13 million criminal and other illegal aliens inside the US.

On Friday February 6th Northport High School students staged a peaceful walkout to protest ICE. Dozens of students left their classrooms and gathered outside the school.

The Northport protest ended after 15 minutes, and security and school administrators were present during the protest.

Some other Northport students joined together in a "counter protest" in support of ICE. Both groups remained orderly throughout the event.

Students at North Shore High School in Glen Head walked out of class on February 4th to protest ICE. A reported

100 Students took part in the walk out and protest.

The Organizers stated they planned the event to speak out against what they call violence and lack of accountability.

North Shore School District Superintendent Dr. Zublionis released a statement:

"As you can imagine, protests are not a common occurrence. We learned on Friday that students may be organizing a protest and we informed the community through a letter and did speak to many residents on the phone. The school does not and did not organize this or any protest."

"Students were told that there would be consequences for certain behaviors, including cutting class. Students were respectful and handled themselves in a mature manner. The event ended after one hour, students returned to class and we monitored students back in the school to ensure normal operations."

"We actively worked with our internal security team and the Nassau County Police Department to ensure safety for all. We appreciate their partnership as did our students, many of which thanked the police officers and security team for their time and for ensuring safety."

"Our students are really good kids navigating complex times; they were respectful of the boundaries that we communicated to them and when finished, quickly got back to learning."

Remembering Vincent Martinez

By VICTORIA CROSBY

Everybody in Glen Cove, and in surrounding communities, knew Vincent (Vinnie) Martinez Sr. who passed away recently. Driving past Vinnie's Island, a one-hundred-foot-long traffic median, at the intersection of Brewster Street, North Lane and School Street, people would see him there, or they would see the plaque reading Vinnie's Island. Since 1984 Vinnie had been tending his garden, planting, weeding and making the area beautiful. While Vinnie was working in the garden, people driving by would wave to acknowledge their appreciation of his work. The plants changed with the season, but Vinnie was a "man for all seasons."

A plaque was placed at Vinnie's Garden by the Tribute and Honor Foundation in collaboration with American Legion Post 67, in November 2024, when Vinnie was ninety, to honor the dedication Vinnie had shown in beautifying the community.

Vinnie was a veteran of the US Navy who fought in Korea, and was Commander of Glen Cove American

Legion Post 76, former Commander and Chaplain of James E. Donohue VFW Post 347 and volunteer firefighter with the Glen Cove Fire Department. Vinnie was also very active in his church St. Hyacinth Roman Catholic Church in Glen Head. He was presented with the Legacy Award in 2023 by the Tribute and Honor Foundation in recognition to a lifetime of service, his dedication to veterans and first responders,

Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, president of the Tribute and Honor Foundation, posted on social media. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the Martinz family and with the many lives Vinnie touched. May his life live on as an enduring example of selfless service, integrity and devotion to community."



Vincent (Vinnie) Martinez Sr.



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LaLota “Yes”, Suozzi “No” Over Election Integrity Law

By RUPERT DEEDES

Last week the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act - to improve integrity and reduce the risk of fraud in elections - by a narrow vote of 218-213.

The two members from Long Island's north shore - Nick LaLota (R-NY1 Huntington, East End) and Thomas Suozzi (D-NY3 Oyster Bay, N Hempstead) came out on opposite sides.

The bill would impose stricter documentation requirements for voter registration and ballot casting, including voter ID and stricter "mail-in" ballot rules.

"Ballot integrity" has become a partisan issue over election security, voter access, and federal versus state control of election laws.

The core provisions of the bill include: Requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship before a person can register to vote in a federal election; mandating state election officials to share unredacted voter rolls with federal authorities (e.g., DHS) to help validate citizenship in some versions of the bill; and requiring government-issued photo ID for voting, whether in person or by mail.

Proponents of the SAVE Act argue the measure will tighten election integrity, stemming from concerns about noncitizen voting and election fraud.

Critics of the measure counter that

noncitizen voting in federal elections is already illegal and rare, and that the SAVE Act would erect significant obsta-



Tom Suozzi



Nick LaLota

cles for many eligible voters, especially those without ready access to the required documents.

The SAVE Act passed the House, but it faces an uncertain future in the Senate, where it would need to overcome a 60-vote threshold to proceed.

The House vote was nearly uniform along party lines, with Republicans in favor and Democrats opposed. Only one Democrat voted with Republicans on this measure - Rep. Henry Cuellar of Texas.

Long Island's Delegation: LaLota vs. Suozzi

In this contentious vote, Long Island's Republican representative — Nick LaLota — voted yes and backed the SAVE Act as a way to strengthen what he and supporters describe as electoral integrity.

LaLota, a co-sponsor of the bill, issued a statement: he emphasized that the legislation reinforces the principle that only U.S. citizens should be registered to vote and that it helps ensure "confidence in our elections." LaLota also framed the requirements as commonsense and supported by broad public opinion.

By contrast, Tom Suozzi, the Democratic representative from NY 3rd District, voted no on the SAVE Act. Suozzi's vote was consistent with the broader Democratic opposition to the bill. Democrats generally argued that the SAVE Act would make voting more difficult for eligible citizens, particularly those who lack the specific forms of identification the bill would require, and that it represented an unnecessary federal intervention into election administration.

Suozzi's "no" vote also aligns with traditional Democratic priorities around voting access, civil rights protections, and state authority over elections.

Broader Debates

The debate over the SAVE Act underscores two central fault lines in U.S. electoral politics.

1) Integrity vs. Access

Supporters of the bill emphasize election integrity, stricter documentation, and uniform federal standards as safeguards against fraud and to maintain public trust in electoral outcomes. They argue that many citizens already must

present ID for basic functions (e.g., driving, banking), and that voting — the most fundamental civic act — should be no different.

Opponents argue that the practical effect of the bill, if enacted, would be to raise administrative barriers which disproportionately affect eligible voters — including naturalized citizens who may lack the requisite proofs or struggle to obtain them. Critics also point out that federal criminal law already makes noncitizen voting illegal, and that studies show such occurrences are extremely rare.

The partisan split reflects long-standing philosophical differences over federal election policy: whether the focus should be on restricting potential fraud through uniform requirements, or on maximizing access and avoiding disenfranchisement.

2) State vs. Federal Control

The SAVE Act — if eventually enacted — could reshape federal election administration by imposing the first nationwide documentary citizenship and photo ID requirements.

Opponents fear these mandates will shift more control over elections toward federal standards and potentially reduce turnout among vulnerable populations; supporters believe they will bolster confidence in U.S. electoral outcomes.

The bill's future remains unclear: even with House passage, significant opposition in the Senate and likely legal challenges stand between the measure and its enactment.

Dangerous Shoaling Threatens to Shut Mattituck Inlet

By LEADER STAFF

The only marine harbor on Long Island's north shore between Port Jefferson and Orient Point is threatened with a complete shut-down by extreme shoaling that has deposited shallow sand bars in the inlet, and threatens to breach the jetty walls bracketing the inlet.

"Mattituck Inlet, for all intents and purposes, could cease to exist until this gets dealt with," stated Mattituck Park District Chair Kevin Byrne at a recent community meeting.

A scheduled maintenance dredging - which was planned to dredge over 6,000 cubic yards of sand to nearby Bailie

Beach last fall - was postponed until sometime in late 2026.

Now Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine is ringing the alarm bell, and calling for an immediate dredging of the now dangerous inlet.



Ed Romaine

"Mattituck is the only harbor between Port Jefferson and Greenport, serving as a harbor of refuge during severe weather, supporting recreational use and commercial marinas, as well as providing access for fishing and boating," stated Romaine.

"It is a critical navigation and community asset on the North Fork in Suffolk County."

"The buildup of sand is not a minor inconvenience," added Romaine. "It has already created areas within the inlet that are dangerously shallow for navigation and has formed a pseudo-beach inside the inlet, creating unpredictable currents that pose hazards to swimmers and boaters alike."

Romaine has called for the inlet to be dredged immediately: "Timely dredging will help ensure safe navigation for commercial and recreational vessels."



Mattituck Inlet Dredges
Photo courtesy Strong's Marine

Gun Shooting at Huntington Village Starbucks

By ISHAN SHAH

Multiple rounds of gunfire erupted last week outside the Starbucks coffee shop in downtown Huntington, sending a local resident to the hospital with multiple gunshot wounds.

Arrested is Huntington resident John Rech, age 71, of Huntington.

Rech claimed that the younger man assaulted and chased him, which forced him to draw his gun and open fire outside the Starbucks.

Police say the incident occurred after a dispute led to the older man being threatened and chased by the 21-year-old man. During the confrontation, the older man allegedly fired multiple shots, striking the younger man in the stomach and leg.

The victim was transported to a local hospital and treated for his injuries, which were reported to be non-life-threatening.

The shooter was taken into custody at the scene without further incident and later charged with multiple offenses, including criminal possession of a weapon and reckless endangerment. Officials have not yet released details explaining what initially caused the altercation, and the investigation remains ongoing.

The suspect's defense attorney,



Starbucks in downtown Huntington

Robert Macedonio, maintained his client's innocence and cooperation with authorities.

"He is 100% cooperating with the District Attorney's Office and the police department, and I believe he is going to be fully exonerated. The charges will be dismissed," Macedonio predicted.

Residents expressed concern about the shooting occurring in a busy public area during the daytime. One local resident said the incident was unsettling, adding, "Definitely different. Hopefully, they'll find out what happened, and if they do know, hopefully they'll let us know."

Authorities continue to review surveillance footage and witness statements as they work to determine the full circumstances surrounding the shooting.

Editorial

PASS THE SAVE ACT - PROTECT VOTING INTEGRITY

A few weeks ago, this newspaper called for the end of Gerrymandering - to protect the integrity and competitiveness of elections.

Now the US Congress has before it the SAVE Act - the Safeguarding American Voter Eligibility Act - to combat against voter fraud and cheating in elections.

The SAVE Act passed the US House of Representatives by a three (3) vote margin: the parties voted nearly unanimously Republicans voting "Yes" and Democrats voting "No" - except for Democratic Congressman Henry Cuellar (D-TX) who voted "Yes."

The SAVE Act would require some voter ID - a drivers license, passport, library card - before voting, and require proof of US citizenship before registering to vote.

The Democrats nearly all opposed the SAVE Act - but they don't oppose mandatory ID to attend a baseball game, or collect Government benefits, or even to attend the Democratic National Committee's own meetings.

The reason for the Democrats current opposition is because of cheating: there is a long sordid tradition of Democratic machine politicians cheating - impersonating voters; casting the votes of dead or long gone people. That was the source of power for Tammany Hall; or the Pendegast Machine; or the Daley Machine in Chicago.

With no Voter ID, anyone can walk up to a polling place; say they are someone else; and then receive and illegally cast a ballot.

And the stakes are huge: The direct spending by the various branches of US government now exceed \$10 Trillion annually. And the controls that money brings are vast.

So there is a history of cheating; a powerful motive for cheating; and the means to do it.

For hundreds of years, New York and the federal and other state governments fought to stop cheating. The fact that New York's Election Law runs to hundreds of pages is testament to the desire to stop cheating.

The SAVE Act builds upon that desire to end - or at least minimize - ballot cheating.

Thank you Nick LaLota (R-NY1) for co-sponsoring and voting for the SAVE Act; and shame on you Tom Suozzi (D-NY2) for running scared of a left-wing Democratic primary - and refusing to support the SAVE Act.

Let's get the Act through the US Senate - and start doing something to protect our sovereignty and democracy.

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.

EPSTEIN'S SURVIVORS MUST BE HEARD

To the Editor;

I must say I have seen so much Epstein coverage that it has given me a nightmare.

My stomach lurched as I read Virginia Giuffre's "Nobodys Girl." I cannot believe there has not been more attention paid to the abusers/clients of Epstein who were named.

A named client former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson (now deceased). Hollywood visitors to Epstein Island Chris Tucker and Kevin Spacey. And the icing on the cake for any Republican paying attention none other that

Ghislaine Maxwell was invited to attend Chelsea Clintons wedding. When Hillary is before the committee on February 26, will anyone ask her about that? Why was a sexual procurer attending your only child's wedding?

Allowing such a monster access to New York Society, your other guests? How is that acceptable behavior of a former presidential candidate and secretary of state?

When the tranche of files were first released there was a picture of Bill Clinton in a hot tub with a female of undetermined age face blacked out.

The silence from Hollywood is deafening.

Another Hollywood picture showed Epstein seated at a table with Rob Reiner, his wife and the son who killed them. The now infamous video of Trump at a party whispering in Epstein's ear was more interesting to me was who was cavorting with Ghislaine Maxwell in the background.

None other than Hollywood royalty Lisa Marie Presley (now deceased). She would oddly enough go on to marry accused pedophile Michael Jackson.

Which leaves me to wonder what other celebrities will be found under rocks slowly being overturned by the media spotlight?

Any woman who has ever held the

hand in comfort to a sexual abuse survivor must speak up.

That is what I am trying to do with this letter. The survivors stories must be heard.

Jamie Hanja

GLEN COVE ADVANCES NEARLY \$50 MILLION IN WATER UPGRADES

To the Editor;

The City of Glen Cove continues to invest in its drinking water system, advancing nearly \$50 million in upgrades to well facilities and treatment infrastructure designed to protect public health and meet evolving state and federal standards.

Mayor Pam said the projects reflect the City's commitment to safe, reliable water service. "Protecting our water supply is one of the most important investments we can make as a community," she said. "We've been ahead of it, thankfully — making improvements early so our infrastructure keeps pace with changing regulations."

Across its six wells, Glen Cove has invested tens of millions of dollars to modernize treatment systems and address emerging contaminants such as PFAS. Federal guidelines are expected

to lower allowable PFAS levels from 10 parts per trillion to 4 parts per trillion by 2031.

Current and planned projects include:

- Seaman Road Well: \$6.3 million invested to restore service, with an additional \$800,000 planned to replace treatment carbon media.

- Nancy Court Well: A \$2.6 million rehabilitation project is about 80% complete, along with the design of an approximately \$11 million PFAS treatment system, with engineering anticipated later this year.

- Duck Pond Road Facility: Construction has begun on a \$17.0 million upgrade project expected to take about two years.

- Kelly Street Well: An additional \$11.5 million PFAS treatment project has been identified.

Public Works Director Mike Yeosock said the investments are part of a proactive strategy to maintain compliance and protect water quality for approximately 10,000 customers. Several state and federal grants have helped offset project costs.

The Glen Cove Water District is the second-largest water district in Nassau County.

City of Glen Cove

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Op-Ed: 15 Steps Marxists Are Using to Take Control of America

BY STEVE LEVY

Investigative reporter and author Peter Schweitzer just published a new book, entitled "The Invisible Coup," which highlights the efforts by communists and other leftist powers to destroy America's free markets and traditional institutions, and rebuild the nation as a Marxist utopia.

While I've yet to read the book, news reports on its content suggest that immigration, both legal and illegal, plays a huge role in this revolution by importing a new set of voters and advocates to push the communist efforts over the top.

As I heard about Schweitzer's book, I was in the midst of penning this article, which lays out the many steps that leftists are incorporating to obtain control of all of the nation's political levels, and to maintain them for generations to come.

With apologies to Schweitzer where I might be redundant, here's the list I was putting together, regarding the steps the leftists are employing:

1. Import as many new voters as you can.
2. Make it almost impossible to deport them.
3. Keeping them here allows you to count them in the census, thereby avoiding losing electoral votes in states that have been losing population due to horrific blue state policies.
4. Give the illegal newcomers voting rights.
5. Give them lots of free stuff so they are beholden to you and thankful.
6. Take control of Congress and the

presidency for generations to come with the help of these new voters and enact nationwide legislation, making it impossible for the minority party to get any traction.

7. Nationalize the election system to ban voter ID, permit illegals to vote in non-federal elections, expand mail-in voting while diluting signature verification, and impose ballot harvesting and ballot drop-off boxes to end the ballot's chain of custody.

8. Make every state like California, Illinois, and New York, where Democrats control every statewide position and every governing body.

9. Use your control of the state legislatures to gerrymander your opposition into oblivion.

10. Create new states that are Democratic-leaning, such as Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, to get more senators

11. Pack the US Supreme Court with three more liberal judges.

12. Demonize the opposition as "racists" and "Nazis" and use funding from sources emanating from Communist China to promote it.

13. Minimize the opposition to the greatest extent possible until the entire nation becomes what California and New York have morphed into — states where one party rules and the minority has no say.

14. Stack the lower and appellate courts with your avid partisan activists, who will support all of your policies to further suppress the minority.

15. Control the media so that all of the horrible results that come about from your terrible leftist policies are blamed on the minority party, thereby giving you a pass to continue to control the government.

I guess something has to explain how leftists in blue cities from Chicago to Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. to Baltimore to San Francisco continue to maintain a monopoly of power, despite policies that created horribly violent, failing schools, homeless chaos, rampant drug abuse, unaffordable prices and rampant crime.

Some states have been able to avoid this chaos coming to their home turf, but they better beware of the Invisible Coup that is underway that seeks to impose Californication on the entire nation.

Steve Levy is president of *Common Sense Strategies*, a political consulting firm. He served as Suffolk County, New York, executive, as a New York state 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, steve@commonsensestrategies.com.



Steve Levy

Finance Op-Ed: Get Bigger Deductions on Rentals

BY AMAN VERMA

Many rental property owners are surprised to learn that federal tax law often restricts their ability to deduct losses, treating most rental activities as passive unless specific requirements are met.

But if you can qualify for the real estate professional exception, you may be able to turn otherwise suspended losses into immediate tax savings.

For federal tax purposes, rental real estate losses are usually treated as passive, meaning they can be deducted only against passive income, such as profits from other rental properties.

If you don't have enough passive income, your unused losses are suspended and carried forward. Those suspended losses can be deducted later, once you have sufficient passive income or when you sell the property that generated them.

However, there's a big exception for real estate professionals. If you qualify, a rental real estate loss potentially can be classified as a nonpassive loss.

To be eligible for the real estate professional exception:

- You must spend more than 750 hours during the year delivering personal services in real estate activities in which you materially participate, and
- Those hours must be more than half the time you spend delivering personal services (in other words, working) during the year.

The next step to being able to claim a nonpassive loss is determining if you have one or more rental properties in which you materially participate. Generally, you need to pass one of the following to meet the material participation test for a rental real estate activity:

1. Spend more than 500 hours on the activity during the year.
2. Spend more than 100 hours on the activity during the year and make sure no other individual spends more time than you.
3. Make sure the time you spend on the activity during the year constitutes substantially all the time spent by all individuals.

There are other ways to meet the material participation test, but these three are typically the easiest. Note, also, that participation by your spouse is included for material participation purposes, although it's not included for the real estate professional test.

If you qualify as a real estate professional and meet the material participation test for a property, losses from the property are treated as nonpassive losses that you can generally deduct in the current year.

If you don't meet the real estate professional rules, you may still deduct certain rental losses currently through limited exceptions:

Small landlord exception. If you own at least 10% of the property and actively participate, you may be able to treat up to \$25,000 of losses as non-

passive. (Properties owned via limited partnerships don't qualify.) This exception begins to phase out when adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds \$100,000. It's eliminated when AGI reaches \$150,000.

Seven-day rental rule. If the average rental period is seven days or less, the activity is treated as a business, not real estate. Passing a material participation test makes losses nonpassive.

30-day rental with services. If the average rental period is 30 days or less and significant personal services are provided, the activity is also considered to be a business. Losses may be treated as nonpassive if a material participation test is met.

Make the Most of Your Tax Benefits With proper documentation and knowledge of available exceptions, you can better position yourself to reduce your tax liability. Professional guidance can assist. Contact Verma Tax and Accounting Solutions today

Aman Verma is the Principal of *Verma Tax & Accounting Solutions*, an accounting and bookkeeping firm located in Smithtown. He and his team can be contacted at tax@supporthqs.com or (516) 226-8900.



Aman Verma

Understanding the History of Hood A.M.E. Zion Church



Dr. Denice Sheppard

Learn the true history behind Hood A.M.E. Zion Church and the beginning of the Methodist movement, the earliest formation of the Pine Hollow descendant community and the Underground Railroad with us at Hood A.M.E. Zion Church on Sunday, February 22nd at 1:00 pm.

Lecturer: Dr. Denice Sheppard; A Spoken Word: Dr. Anthony Teets,

"Faith, Hope & Creating a Path Towards Freedom". Music: Gospers featuring June Townes.

The Hood AME Zion Church is located at 11 Summit Street, Oyster Bay.

This is a free community event, however, donations are kindly accepted. Refreshments will be served immediately after. The event hosted by the Oyster Bay Historical Society.



The historic Hood AME Zion Church

Planting Fields Gets \$100K From BOA for “Oudolf Garden”



Bank of America Presents Planting Fields with \$100K for the new Oudolf Garden

Photo courtesy PFF

By THOMAS NOTHEL

The Planting Fields Foundation has announced a \$100,000 grant from Bank of America in support of the highly anticipated “Oudolf Garden” opening this fall.

The grant advances the Foundation’s vision to create a world-class four-season garden that “inspires visitors, strengthens community connections, and enriches Long Island’s cultural and environmental life.” The Oudolf Garden will be a dynamic one-acre landscape adjacent to the historic Rose Arbor, offering a space for reflection, learning, and engagement with the natural world.

The garden is designed by internationally renowned landscape designer Piet Oudolf, whose work includes the iconic High Line in New York City. The Oudolf Garden will be Long Island’s first public garden by Mr. Oudolf.

“The Oudolf Garden will be one of the most significant additions to the cultural landscape of Long Island and an important resource for New Yorkers and our shared natural environment.” said

Dr. Gina Wouters, the President and CEO of Planting Fields Foundation. “We are deeply grateful to Bank of America for their early support and invite others to join this growing community of partners helping bring this remarkable garden to life for Long Island and beyond.”

“Honoring Long Island’s native species and biodiversity, the Oudolf Garden at Planting Fields will allow visitors of all ages to explore the intersection of art, design, and the natural world,” stated Marc Perez, the President of Bank of America Long Island. “We look forward to cultivating connection and curiosity at the Oudolf Garden and across Long Island.”

Planting Fields invites the public to participate through its “Sponsor a Plant” program, and sponsor one or more of the garden’s 24,000 plants, selected by Oudolf for their beauty, texture, and ecological value.

Sponsorships range from \$25 to \$100 and may be dedicated in honor of a loved one or meaningful moment. All sponsors will be recognized online and invited to celebrate the garden’s opening in 2026.

To sponsor a plant or learn more about the Oudolf Garden, you can go to www.plantingfields.org, or contact Planting Field’s Development Manager Maddie Schulz at mschulz@plantingfields.org.

Michael Sniffen Nominated for Episcopal Bishop of LI

By VICTORIA CROSBY

The Episcopal Diocese of Long Island announced three candidates approved by the Joint Oversight Committee being considered for the ninth Bishop of Long Island following the retirement of Bishop Lawrence Provenzano. The Very Rev. Dr. Michael T. Sniffen is one of three candidates. Dean Sniffen grew up in Bayville and has been the Dean of the Cathedral of the Incarnation and the Mercer School of Theology in Garden City since 2015. He was the curate at St. John’s of Lattingtown from 2007 until 2010 and then Rector of St Luke and St. Matthew in Brooklyn from 2010 until 2015.

Ordained in 2007, Dean Sniffen holds a Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude from West Virginia Wesleyan College, Masters Degrees of Philosophy and Divinity, and a Ph.D. in Theology from Drew University in New Jersey.

Dean Sniffen is a founding member of the Racial Justice Advisory Council of the Brooklyn Community Foundation and was honored with a Luce Fellowship at the Center for Christianity in Global Contexts. In 2021 he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy Chaplain Corps, and now serves in the US Navy as

Command Chaplain of the Empire Battalion, 4th Marine Division, US Marine Corps. He was selected in 2025 for the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Dean Sniffen was a Steward of the 2008 Lambeth Palace Conference of

Bishops in Canterbury and London UK. In 2022 he was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for his work during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since 2008 Dean Sniffen has taught Liturgical Studies as part of the faculty of The Mercer School of Theology and has also served as an Adjunct Professor of



Rev. Dr. Michael T. Sniffen

Worship and Preaching at Drew Theological School where he currently teaches, “Preaching in a Divisive Age” an advanced preaching seminar.

Dean Sniffen and his wife Joanna are avid sailors and runners who live with their two Whippets, Huck and Burleigh on the Cathedral Close in Garden City. His proud parents, Diane and Robert Sniffen, are still residents of Bayville.

The other candidates for consideration for bishop are the Very Reverend Hickman Alexandre of St. James, Brookhaven, Long Island, and the Rev. Adam J. Shoemaker from Charleston, South Carolina.

For further information visit diocese-li.org

Urgent Blood Drive



The New York Blood Center is holding a much needed blood drive at St. Gertrude’s Parish Center, 28 School Street, Bayville. Sunday, February 22nd, from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. Walk-ins are welcome, but appoint-

ments are highly encouraged at: <https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive-schedule/33968> or call Ed Willie at 516-776-0743 or email: EJWillie@gmail.com.

Age 76 and over need a doctor’s note, and 16 year olds must have parental permission and proof of age.

Tailgate Party a Success!

The Bayville Centre Island Republican Club held a Winter Tailgate



Nancy Staab draws the winning raffle ticket. Photo: Patricia Mavros Brexel

Party at the Italian American Club in Oyster Bay. The party was well attended, even though there were no football games being played that weekend. Everyone enjoyed the camaraderie while watching basketball and a delicious BBQ, open bar, raffles, and they each received a Super Bowl game box.

If you are interested in joining the Bayville Centre Island Republican Club, or would like more information on their next event call (516) 606-6586, and (516) 644-9582.

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“Love in the Air” at TOB’s Marriage Vow Renewals



Supervisor Joe Saladino leads a Romantic “Wedding Vow Renewals” Ceremony
Photo courtesy TOB

BY SOPHIA ANCONA

Love was certainly in the air this past Friday, February 13th, as Oyster Bay Supervisor Joe Saladino played Cupid to several dozen couples who came to renew their marriage vows.

The event at Oyster Bay Town Hall has become a wonderful tradition, where many couples gather for the Valentine’s Day Vow Renewal Ceremony hosted by town supervisor Joseph Saladino and Town Clerk Rich LaMarca.

This heartwarming event welcomed couples ranging from newlyweds to those married for many decades.

The ceremony was co-sponsored by the Raynham Hall Museum, and offered married town residents the opportunity to reaffirm their love and commitment to one another just before Valentine’s Day through a wedding vow renewal.

“This is the most romantic day of the year!” stated Saladino, as blushing wives

and proud husbands gathered to re-exclaim their feelings of love and commitment to each other.

The ceremony included a reading of “America’s First Valentine,” a love poem originally written in Oyster Bay dating back to February 14th, 1779, during the time of the American Revolution.

This touching poem reminded locals that love and romance have always been a part of this town - and the nation’s - history.

Following the ceremony, guests were welcomed to refreshments while they shared stories, laughs, and memories of their journeys in marriage.

The heartwarming celebration reminded residents of a timeless message just ahead of Valentine’s weekend: true love is always worth celebrating!

After a love-filled morning, this definitely feels like a tradition where Oyster Bay residents will be saying “I do” to every year.



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Bayville Students Showcase Abilities at Annual Circus



Juggling with the diabolo.



Performing with devil sticks.
Photos: Patricia Brexel

Bayville Intermediate School fifth graders demonstrated their athleticism, attentiveness and team work at the annual Circus Night performance on Jan. 30.

With one fewer day to practice their routines due to the Monday snow day, this year's fifth graders showed an amazing ability to pick up the exciting acts, which ranged from balancing, clowning, hula hooping, diabolo stick throwing, juggling and stilting. Throughout the week, students worked



Very talented plate spinners.



Stilt walkers showcasing their balance.



with professionals from the National Circus Project during their P.E. periods.

Organized by the Bayville Elementary Parents Council, this annual tradition helps students discover their ability to achieve incredible feats and coordinate intricate routines with their classmates in a short period of time.



Crowd pleasing juggling act.



Bayville Intermediate School fifth graders clowning around at the Circus Night.

Photo LVCSO

Beloved Crossing Guard Jayne Morfis Retires

Nassau County Police Department's Crossing Guard Jayne Morfis has retired. Her last day was Friday, February 13th. Jayne has been crossing the children at the Bayville Primary School for twenty years. She also crossed the St. Dominic School's religious education program on Monday nights, in Oyster Bay.

Jayne has enjoyed crossing the kids in Bayville and watching them grow up. It is a fun and rewarding job, but sometimes it can be very dangerous. She will miss the children, and the friendly dog walkers, but she will not miss the cold, rain and snow. This winter has been one of the coldest winters since she began her job in back in 2006.



Jayne Morfis at Bayville Primary School

Jayne will enjoy her retirement by spending more time with her family and traveling.

Sea Cliff Students Participate in Community Culmination

Second grade classes at Sea Cliff School had a Communities Culmination on January 30, 2026, where each class built a mini town in their classrooms. Thank you to all of the Sea Cliff families, 2nd grade classroom teachers, students, and Principal Ms. Megan McCormack for participating in this interdisciplinary community celebration!



Just some of the second graders at the Sea Cliff School.

Photos: Shelly Newman

In front of their classmates and families, students presented their unique stores or buildings that they created in art class with Ms. Lisa Giurlanda. They included a school, police station, hospital, best burgers, firehouse, pet store, and arcade – just to name a few! The children also shared comprehensive written reports with their families. Additionally, they performed on stage poems and songs under the direction of music teacher, Ms. Ashley Hassett-Bordes.

As part of this interdisciplinary com-

munity study, the students not only learned about different communities, but also traveled outside into the Village of Sea Cliff to learn about their own neighborhood. Their teachers helped them learn that while communities are interdependent, they need their surrounding neighbors and the people who live inside to remain happy, healthy, and safe. In addition, the second graders learned about urban, suburban, and rural neighborhoods, rules and laws, goods and services, needs and wants, and public and private places.

Bravo to the entire second grade at Sea Cliff School for learning all about their community and working so hard.

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Obituaries

CARUSO, Nora F., on February 8, 2026, age 87, of Bayville, NY. Beloved mother of DonnaMarie Feeney, William Caruso, John Caruso (Jennifer), and the late Dominic Caruso. Loving grandmother of Ryan Roethel (Amy Le Blanc) and Brendan Roethel. Also survived by many loving siblings, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Interment Holy Rood Cemetery. www.oysterbayfuneralhome.com



COMFORT, Elizabeth nee Albani of the Hamptons, NY formerly of Bayside, NY at age 69. Beloved wife of James B, loving sister of Robert Albani (MiMi). Dear sister-

in-law of Robert (Joanne) and Nancy (Rick). Also, survived by her loving niece Uma, many cousins and Liz's loving and faithful pups, Luna and Tara.

Born and raised in Bayside, New York in a loving traditional Italian home, Liz's parents Armando and Filomena taught her the true meaning of family values. A beautiful foundation in Liz's life tapestry that she wove with love, resilience and joy to all she encountered.

Liz's heart was always filled with a warmth of her unwavering kindness, it was the simple things for Liz. No complications, just simple straightforward love, loyalty and honesty. All the ingredients she poured into her lifelong friendships and family.

Liz was a gifted cook. She believed food is love and her five star Italian meals and delectable baking of homemade cream puffs, Struffoli and corn bread always found a way into the tummies of the people she loved most. She enjoyed listening to music. A favorite of hers was Josh Groban and singing at the top of her lungs to Frankie Valli...Your Just Too Good To Be True and she was!

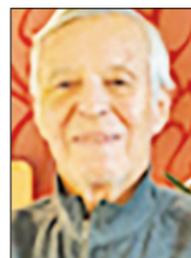
Liz met the love of her life Jim 27

years ago, they married and together they were the greatest duo, the best travel buddies and entrepreneurs. They moved south to Florida for a period of time and returned home to The Hamptons where Liz and Jim found their comfort (last name Comfort no pun intended) surrounded by family and friends.

Liz was a pure person, a person of integrity, honor and old fashioned values. We will miss her with all our hearts everyday of our lives and until we see her again she will be in God's embrace. We love you Liz forever and always.

The family wishes to thank Dr John Ferretti who in Liz's greatest time of need was there as a dear friend from childhood for both she and her family. A sound voice and a beautiful heart which helped tremendously at the end of Liz's life. Thank you John.

Interment to follow at Holy Rood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project or St Jude's Foundation. www.DodgeThomas.com



JACKSON,

Frost B., 85, passed away peacefully in his Locust Valley, NY home on Jan 20, 2026. Residing in Locust Valley from a very young age, he was born on Oct 24, 1940, the loving son of Raymond S Jackson, Sr. and Mary Van Vranken (nee McInerney), both of whom predeceased him. He is survived by his older brother Raymond S. Jackson, Jr. (aka "Stoney") of Manhattan, cousins Carl, John, and Kathleen McInerney, and dear friends Sheldon Clark and Louann Boeckem.

Frost attended Portledge School and Friends Academy in Locust Valley and graduated from Washington and Lee University. His earliest career was in advertising, but Frost's heart was first and always on the waters of Long

Island's north shore and the eastern United States coast. He became an owner of the Glen Cove Marina and obtained a Ship Captain's License. Frost captained and retrofitted power yachts out of New York and Palm Beach alongside builder Frank Sciamè, which was the high water mark of Frost's marine career. A long time member of the Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club, and an avid sailor, Frost participated in both Bermuda races and local regattas. He leaves behind many close friends in Locust Valley, at Seawanhaka Yacht Club, and in the sailing and marine communities.

Arrangements for Frost's final voyage were entrusted to the Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home in Glen Cove, NY, with visitation and a commemorative service. Interment was at the Locust Valley Cemetery immediately after the service. Fair winds and following seas to all. www.DodgeThomas.com



GERVASE,

Janet Anne of Glen Cove, and Malverne, NY on February 5, 2026 at Age 73. Loving mother of Luke (Stefanie).

Dear sister of Susan and Michael (Mary). Beloved grandmother of Atticus. Fond aunt of John & Elise (Andrew).

Interment is private. Donations in her memory to Parkinson and Michael J. Fox would be appreciated. www.DodgeThomas.com

MADDEN, Ida Marie "Tootsie" Lifelong resident of Glen Cove, on



December 29, 2025 at Age 88. Daughter of Harry Carlson and Jean Morrison Carlson. Former wife of the late Vincent J. Loving mother of Lynda, Susan Croucher and Krystine Beresford (Chris). Dear sister of Harriet Rich (late Mike). Proud grandmother of Ethan, Aaron, Kasey, the late Ryan and Kate.

Retired from the North Shore School System, Buildings and Grounds Department. Ida was the Founder of the Food Pantry and the Thrift Shop at Trinity Lutheran Church GC. She also worked alongside Island Harvest. Ida had a deep love for animals, her loving cats and especially Piper.

Service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 74 Forest Avenue, Glen Cove on February 28, 2026 at 10:30AM. Internment is Private. Donations may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church 74 Forest Ave Glen Cove NY 11542, or to Cove Rescue or the Alzheimer's Association. www.DodgeThomas.com

MATARAZZO, Camille, on January 30, 2026, age 86, of East Norwich, NY. Loving wife of the late Raymond. Beloved mother of Mark, Todd and Heather. Entombment St. Charles Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations in her memory can be made to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hangerstown, MD 21741.

MOLESKY, William G. of Glen
(Continued on page 10)

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Obituaries Continued

(Continued from page 9)



Cove, New York on February 7, 2026 age 79. Loving husband of Linda. Beloved father of Deana (John Charon) & William (Mercedes). Dear brother of Edith Famiglietti (the late Ray), Ann Nelson (John), Joan Mini (the late Frank), the late Jack & the late Tom (the late Diane). Proud Pop Pop of Jace, Johnny, Jay & Cayde. Also survived by many nieces & nephews. Interment is private. www.DodgeThomas.com

NICHOLSON, Mary V., on February 2, 2026, age 86, of Bayville. Beloved wife of the late James Michael. Loving mother of Doreen Schieferstein (Ernest) and the late Catherine Hines. Cherished grandmother of Daniel Hines (Ashley), Brandon Hines (Rachel), Ernest Schieferstein (Caitlyn), and James Schieferstein. Proud great grandmother of Nora Hines, London Hines, Bree Hines, Knox Hines, Baby Schieferstein to be. Dear sister of Robert Thomson (Peggy). Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Interment St. Charles Cemetery. www.oysterbayfuneralhome.com

NUNEZ, Jose Jesus of Glen Cove, NY on February 4, 2026 at age 74. Beloved husband of Carmen. Loving

father of Liz and Elbert (Mercy). Proud grandfather of Nigel, Matthew, Sophia and Alexandra. Dear brother of four sisters. Interment at East Hillside Cemetery. www.DodgeThomas.com

SHEEHAN, Brian P., tragically on February 3, 2026, age 49, of Oyster Bay. Beloved husband of Tanya. Loving father of William and Jack. Cherished son of George and Eileen Sheehan. Dear brother of Erin (Justin Crowder). Devoted companion of his favorite puppy Mia. Proud uncle of Serena Emmett and Maeve Crowder. Also survived by many loving relatives and friends. Interment Locust Valley Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations in his memory can be made to C26 Youth Triathlon, c26ytri.org. www.oysterbayfuneralhome.com



SPINA, Patricia, the cherished heart and soul of her family, passed away peacefully on February 4, 2026, surrounded by the love of those she held most dear. Patricia was the devoted wife of Roy Spina for over 67 years; together, they built a lifetime of laughter and unwavering devotion. She was the loving daughter of the late Marie Denny and the dear sister of the late Bill Denny. Her greatest legacy lives on through her children, Marie (Tom) and Sal (Lisa);

her six cherished grandchildren, Tommy, Joey, Katie, Emma, Henry, and Allison; and her beloved great-granddaughter, Dylan.

The cornerstone of her family, Patricia offered both stability and a supportive grace that inspired them all. A life-long learner with a relentless spirit of curiosity, Patricia truly embraced the world around her. She was an avid traveler, a dedicated reader, and a lover of classic cinema. While many adults shied away from the rapid pace of technology, Patricia leaned in with enthusiasm. She was famously the most tech-savvy 88-year-old in any room, always sport-

ing the latest iPhone and wearing her Meta glasses with style. Patricia's vibrant love of life was a gift to everyone who knew her. Whether sharing a quiet moment with Roy or celebrating with her family and friends, her warmth and modern spirit left an indelible mark on all who crossed her path.

Interment at Locust Valley Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Patricia's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital: <https://www.stjude.org/> or the North Shore Soup Kitchen: <https://www.northshoresoupkitchen.org/>. www.DodgeThomas.com

Public Notices

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Board of Education
Locust Valley CSD
Administration Building
22 Horse Hollow Road
Locust Valley, NY 11560

The Board of Education of the Locust Valley CSD, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, New York hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for the following:

- Electrical Installation, Repair and Maintenance Services - March 13, 2026 at 11:00 A.M

Sealed bids will be addressed to the attention of Ingrid Wright, Purchasing Agent, Administration Building, 22 Horse Hollow Road, Locust Valley, NY 11560, until the times listed above at which time the proposals will be publicly read.

All bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes, bearing on the outside the name and address of the bidder and the title of the bid in the lower left-corner. The specifications and bid forms for each may be secured on or after February 23, 2026 from the Purchasing Office, Administration Building, 22 Horse Hollow Road, Locust Valley, NY 11560 or by emailing lv purchasing@locustvalleyschools.com

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject all bids and to re-advertise for new bids, or to waive technical defects, irregularities and omissions, when doing so is deemed, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the School District.

Board of Education
Locust Valley CSD
By: Alison Dunne
District Clerk

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Locust Valley Central School District invites the submission of sealed bids for:

LVHS Theatre VTX Sound System & Installation

Bid Opening: 11a.m. on February 23, 2026
Locust Valley Central School District
Administration Office, Board Room
22 Horse Hollow Rd, Locust Valley, NY 11560

Bids will not be accepted after 11 am, where bids are open and read aloud.

The LVHS Theatre VTX Sound System & Installation Bid can be obtained on or after February 12, 2026 by contacting Karen Horoszewski at 516-277-5021 or emailing at khoroszeswki@locustvalleyschools.org.

LLC

Notice of formation of Tax Boss Advisors LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 09/16/2025. Office located in Nassau. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC to c/o Northwest Registered Agent, 8 The Green, STE B, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LLC

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.

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