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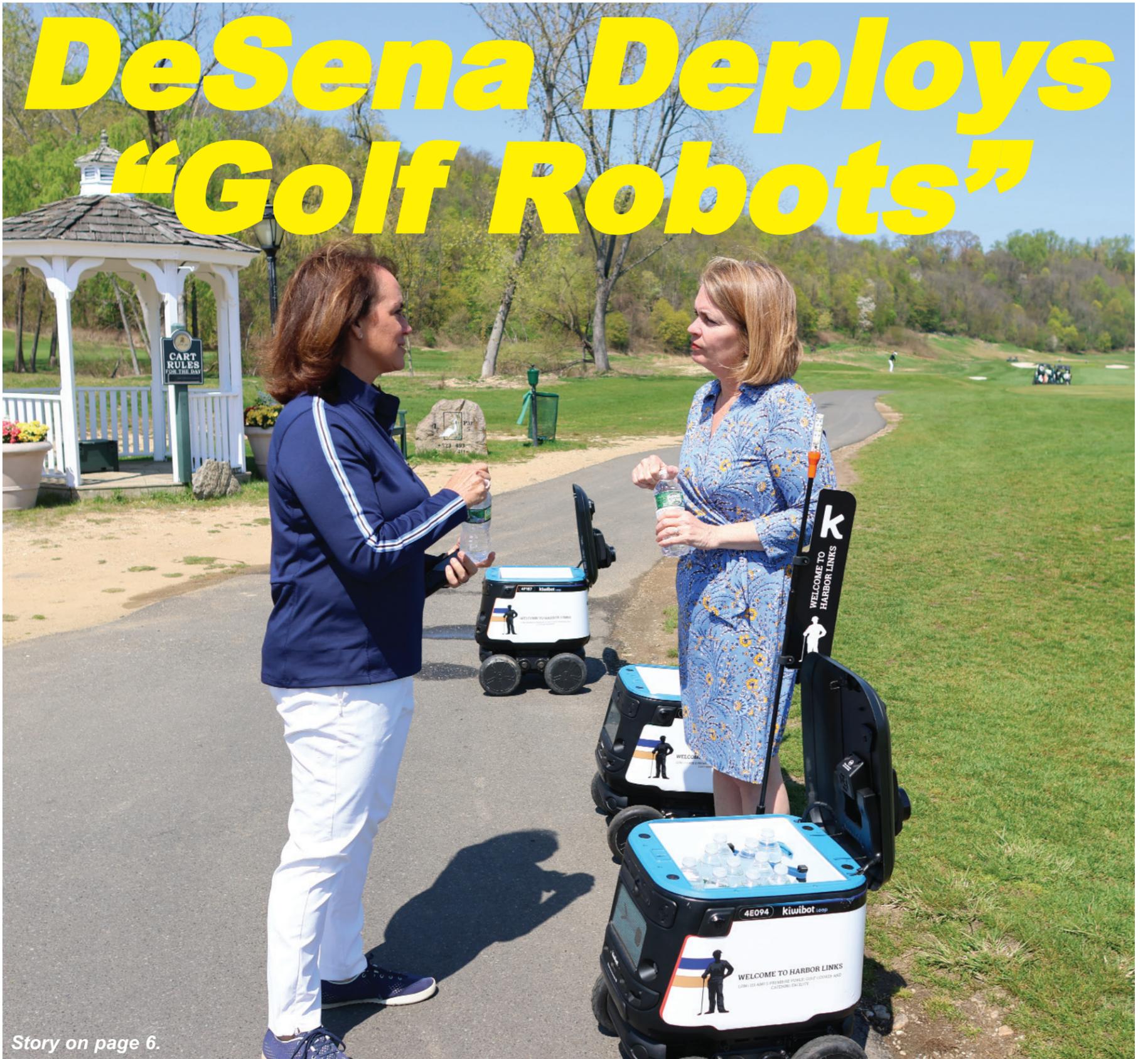
The Leading News Source for Long Island's Gold Coast Communities.

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# DeSena Deploys "Golf Robots"

Story on page 6.

New Harbor Links Director Kelley Brooke (left) and North Hempstead Supervisor Jennifer DeSena demonstrated the country's first golf course refreshment delivery robots.



**TOB Receives  
Highest Award**  
Page 6

**Huntington  
Primaries "On"**  
Page 3

**GC Chorale to  
Tour London**  
Page 10

**Old Westbury  
Gardens**  
Page 7



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# Smyth Loses at BOE: Huntington GOP and Conservative Primaries are "On"

**BY LEADER STAFF**

The Suffolk Board of Elections rejected Huntington Supervisor Ed Smyth's attempts to cancel this year's June 24th primary elections in Huntington, ruling that Smyth's "Objections" to the Republican Nominating Petitions filed by Councilwoman Brooke Lupinacci were groundless.

Smyth's confederates filed Objections with the Board claiming falsely that Lupinacci had filed 1,767 Republican voters' signatures and that 842 were "invalid."

But the Board ruled that Smyth was lying on both counts: Lupinacci had in fact filed 1887 signatures - 120 more than falsely miscounted by Smyth - and that over 1,628 of those were "clearly valid" signatures. The threshold to get on the ballot is 1,000 signatures. Meaning that Smyth's claims were not even close.

"I stood up for the people of Huntington by opposing Ed Smyth's attempt to ram thousands of high-density rental apartments into our neighborhoods without any plan or compliance with the mandatory environmental SEQRA studies," stated Lupinacci. "And when I reported reports of kickbacks, pay-offs, bribes and favors from corrupt

developer cronies of Ed Smyth to law enforcement, Smyth illegally retaliated against me by firing both my Council staff."

"Huntington is at a crossroads: Ed Smyth has sold us out to his developer buddies and will destroy Huntington and saddle us with huge tax increases to pay for it," added Lupinacci. "I am running to protect Huntington and keep it a safe, beautiful place to live and raise my kids."

The Board also rejected Smyth's attempt to disqualify former Halesite Fire Chief Dom Spada, who is running for Supervisor in the Conservative Party primary on June 24th. Spada was a former candidate for Suffolk County Legislature, and is a registered Conservative.

Smyth falsely alleged that most of Spada's Conservative nominating signatures were "invalid," but the Board ruled that Smyth and his confederates lied again, and that Dom Spada filed a good and valid Conservative nominating Petition.

Smyth planned the mass apartment development scheme with his crony, a corrupt Huntington developer named Gregory DeRosa. Court charges detail that DeRosa is behind a \$50 million "Ponzi Land Fraud" and has stolen millions from Huntington residents.

Last month, DeRosa was arrested and charged by the Suffolk DA for

fraud. The FBI and Department of Justice have been investigating corruption in the Smyth administration for months, including a secret \$240,000

"Consult Agreement" between DeRosa and Smyth's right hand man on the Town Council. Federal arrests are expected soon.



Brooke Lupinacci



Ed Smyth



Dom Spada

## Raynham Hall to Host "Casino Royale" Annual Gala

**BY NIAL FITZGERALD**

The Raynham Hall Museum is hosting its annual benefit Gala, and the theme of this year's extravaganza is "Casino Royale."

MI6 and Spectre are expected to have secret agents planted and present in strategic locations, as north shore aspirants to emulate James Bond 007 take to the roulette wheels or the silent auction to add spice to the evening.

The Gala will be held at the spectacular Rynwood Estate in Old Brookville, a 51-acre estate, with a Tudor Cotswold-style, 60-room mansion. The home's area is a modest 40,000 square feet - tied for the 94th largest residence in America - and was designed by Roger Bullard for Samuel Agar Salvage, an early 20th-century textile industrialist known as "the Father of the Rayon Industry."

The Estate gardens were designed by Ellen Biddle Shipman, and the Estate's name was inspired by Salvage's wife, Lady Katherine, whose nickname was "Ryn."

The headline honoree for the Gala is noted author and Fox News personality Brian Kilmeade, who authored the book, "George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution."

Also being honored are dedicated supporters of Raynham Hall Museum, James and Rita Roselle and Family.

Raynham Hall advises that

there will be delicious featured cocktails (both shaken and stirred), auctions, and entertainment, with hors d'oeuvres and a strolling supper by Robbins Wolfe Eventeurs. "Casino Royale" attire is encouraged.

The Gala will be on Saturday, June 7th, 2025, from 7PM to 10PM, at the Rynwood Estate, 1091 Cedar Swamp Road, Old Brookville, New York.

The Benefit Co-Chairs are Colette Buzzetta, Elvire Daniels, Carolyn Mott, and Claudia Taglich.

Sponsorships are available, including Commander-in-Chief \$8,000 for a premium placed full page ad and ten tickets; Spymaster \$5,000 for a full page ad and six tickets; Secret Agent: \$2,500 for a half page ad

and four tickets; Courier: \$1,250 for a quarter page ad and two tickets; or regular Tickets at \$325 per person

You can purchase tickets online at <https://raynhamhallmuseum.square.site>.



Brian Kilmeade  
Photo: FOX News



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## EDITORIAL

### GOOD RIDDANCE TO THE "EMPIRE WIND" BOONDOGGLE

The Albany Lobbyists and their flunkies are screaming... And New York's homeowners and business owners are cheering.

The Trump administration gave New York's overtaxed residents a reprieve - and "paused" all development of the massive "Empire Wind" project boondoggle that would have killed jobs and bankrupted New Yorkers.

Governor Kathy Hochul and her "green lobby" cronies pushed the huge multi-billion dollar offshore windmill project to burnish their green credentials - and pour tens of millions into their favored lobbyists' pockets.

But with Hochul's "guaranteed" electric purchases at \$155.00 per MWH - when clean natural gas or nuclear power plants generate electricity at \$40 per MWH - to be paid for by you, the deal was little more than a grotesque rip-off.

And with 160 giant windmills churning and blinking all night just 12 miles offshore - covering a huge area of 150 square miles (half the size of Nassau County) - a new maritime "no go" zone - the project promised to make Long Island's now beautiful scenic oceanfront into an ugly - and dangerous - industrial thicket of whirling, nautical metal hazards.

What made the "Empire Wind" boondoggle even more offensive was that the entire project - and the "guaranteed" profits - were going overseas. The project is from Equinor, a Norwegian corporation re-investing the profits from Norway's oil export industry; and the huge wind turbine blades were to be built in Denmark.

New York Attorney General Letitia James (D-Bronx) is suing the Trump administration to try to force them to "back-off" any opposition. For the sake of fiscal sanity and the protection of our environment, let's hope she fails.



Windmills 12 miles offshore.

So "Thank You" to US EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin and acting US Interior Secretary Walter Kruickshank for issuing the Orders to "pause" the Empire Wind boondoggle. And "Thank You" to President Trump for backing them.

A White House spokesman put it best: "Americans in blue states should not have to pay the price of the Democrats' radical climate agenda."

Nor should New Yorkers be bled and impoverished just to enrich a bunch of corrupt Albany Lobbyists - or be forced to see our electric bills more than triple to pay for it.

*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.

### LOCUST VALLEY WAS FIRST TO BAN CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS

To the Editor;

As New York State finalized its budget, one key piece of legislation was a ban on cell phone use in schools "from bell to bell."

I am proud to share that the Locust Valley Central School District (LVCS D) was ahead of this movement by two full years.

In 2023, under the leadership of a new middle school principal Mr. Mike Cestaro and a new superintendent Dr. Kristen Turnow, LVCS D implemented a cell phone free policy in grades K-8, expanding it to the high school in 2024.

This initiative was based on data and observations from staff and parents that the constant use of cell phones during the school day was interrupting learning, and the natural development of our children. Unlike many districts that rely on outside vendors or costly programs like the Yondr pouch system to assist in implementing a cell phone free learning environment, our district developed and implemented its own in-house solution—and achieved incredible results.

Now, for the second year in a row, our administration has presented data at our school board meetings—both anecdotal and measurable—that demonstrates the positive impact of this initiative. We've seen a decrease in disciplinary issues and significant improvements in student behavior, interpersonal skills, and social interaction.

Our recess areas are full of students running, playing, laughing,

talking, and even organizing their own ping pong and basketball tournaments. In the hallways, children are walking with their heads up, engaged with their peers rather than their screens. The social benefits are both noticeable and meaningful.

Districts like ours are fortunate to have administrators with the vision and acumen to design and implement programs like this from the ground up, and a Board of Education that supports bold, forward-thinking initiatives. It's important to recognize the strength of leadership in our district and to appreciate that they took this important step well before it became the norm statewide.

Margaret Marchand  
Locust Valley  
Board of Education



Margaret Marchand

### ENOUGH OVERDEVELOPMENT IN HUNTINGTON: TIME FOR COMMON SENSE ZONING

To the Editor;

As the former Chairman of the Huntington Town Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), I worked tirelessly to balance the interests of residents, landowners, and prospective applicants.

New York State Zoning Law requires that neighbors and other residents' interests are represented in hearing applicant requests. The burden of consideration by the applicant, under the law, covers at least five explicit considerations for area variances requests: an undesirable change, feasible alternatives, substantiality, adverse effects, and self-created hardship. As a board we emphasized careful review of potential undesirable changes to neighborhoods, always lending a sensitive ear to the neighbors.

You may have met me at your door during some of these applications, as I would often take the time to

walk a neighborhood impacted and speak to residents instead of putting the burden on them to show up at a ZBA meeting.

Residents shouldn't have to leave their house during a cold winter night, wait hours to speak at a public hearing to fight to defend their zoning and quality of life every time a development application comes up. That is a strict responsibility of the board; residents should not be on the defensive.

Our Town Board and the individuals they appoint have a duty and responsibility to represent us, not simply facilitate development.

The need for the Zoning Board and Planning Board's independence in this Town is paramount if we are to restore trust in the Town's zoning process.

Land use rules and laws protect our most precious investment, our homes. Good zoning and land use guidance is the most important responsibility of Town government, it is what knits our communities and neighborhoods together. Applications for exemptions from prevailing laws deserve careful review, but that review should never be at the disadvantage of neighbors and residents.

Now, more than ever, we need this balanced common sense approach.

John Posillico  
Huntington

*(The author was the Chairman of the Huntington Town Board of Zoning Appeals and is currently a Republican Candidate for Huntington Town Council.)*



John Posillico

*The North Shore*  
**Leader**

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## Op-Ed: Hochul's MTA Tax Hike-Money Grab Hurts New Yorkers

**By COMPTROLLER ELAINE PHILLIPS**

Governor Kathy Hochul's latest scheme to raise the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation Mobility Tax—AKA the MTA Payroll Tax—is yet another blow to New York's businesses and working-class families.

The Governor's plan to increase the MTA Payroll Tax is just one more regressive maneuver by an out-of-touch Hochul Administration to prop up a dysfunctional and failing mass transit system on the backs of overburdened businesses. It will stifle economic growth, stunt the recovery of regional corporations from the

COVID pandemic and result in increased costs for goods and services for Long Islanders and everyone else who lives in the suburbs which surround New York City.

The Governor's stunt increases the payroll tax rate on employers on Long Island, and in Westchester, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, and Rockland Counties from 0.34% to 0.635%. It also hikes the tax rate on New York City companies with annual payrolls over \$10 million from 0.6% to 0.895%.

The justification to fund the failing MTA—an agency plagued by chronic waste, fraud, and mismanagement—while lavishly spending other tax rev-

enues on services for illegal immigrants, pet projects, and unnecessary programs.

Let's be clear: this is not the first time Albany has promised that higher taxes would "save" the MTA. The original payroll tax was introduced in 2009 with the same goal. Fifteen years and billions of dollars later, the MTA is still hemorrhaging money, and New Yorkers are once again being told to foot the bill. How long are we going to let this broken cycle continue?



Elaine Phillips

The proposed tax hike sends a dangerous message to the job creators who keep our economy moving. Businesses in New York City are already struggling to bounce back from the pandemic and the shift toward remote work.

The last thing they need is a new financial burden that will make hiring more expensive and expansion less attractive. For companies just outside the five boroughs, including those on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley, this tax is especially unfair. These regions receive subpar MTA service, yet they're being asked to pay nearly double their current tax rate.

This kind of regional taxation without adequate representation or return is indefensible. Even former U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato and United States Congressman Michael Lawler have

warned that this move could drive companies—and jobs—out of New York entirely.

But the most galling part of this proposal is that it does nothing to address the root problem: the MTA's utter lack of fiscal responsibility. Time and again, investigations have uncovered rampant overtime abuse and fraudulent behavior. In one notorious case, five current and former MTA employees were charged for falsely claiming more than \$1 million in overtime while barely showing up for work. This isn't an isolated incident—it's part of a systemic culture of waste that has gone unchecked for years.

My office—the Nassau County Comptroller's Office—recently conducted an investigation revealing that Nassau taxpayers contribute \$36 million annually to the MTA specifically for the maintenance of Long Island Rail Road stations plus more than \$100 million in taxes and fees. Yet, when asked for transparency and documentation, the MTA has been unwilling or unable to properly account for how these funds are utilized to benefit our community.

This is a glaring example of how the MTA continues to take from taxpayers without any measurable accountability, improvements, or results.

Now layer on top of that Hochul's congestion pricing scheme—a \$9 toll for vehicles entering Manhattan below 60th Street. This is a regressive policy that punishes working-class commuters who have no viable public transit options. It's not just a tax on driving; it's a tax on

childcare, on shift work, on people who live in transit deserts. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy rightly called it a "warped" attack on the middle class, forcing less affluent citizens onto an unreliable and often unsafe transit system.

And safety is no small issue. As subway ridership increases under congestion pricing, so too do violent incidents underground and Nassau County residents are at risk. Felony assaults in the subway rose 9% over the past year—and 55% compared to pre-pandemic 2019. These aren't statistics; they're real people, hurt in a system that's supposed to serve them.

The MTA doesn't need more of our money. It needs accountability, transparency, and reform. Before asking hardworking New Yorkers and struggling businesses for another dime, Governor Hochul should demand an independent audit of the MTA and a comprehensive plan for eliminating fraud and improving conditions at Nassau County's LIRR stations. Without such changes, this tax hike is nothing more than a bailout for a failing agency with no incentive to change.

This is not sustainable. It's not fair. And it's not the kind of leadership New Yorkers deserve. We need investment in efficiency—not another endless cash grab from Albany.

*Elaine Phillips is the Comptroller of Nassau County. She previously served as Mayor of the Village of Flower Hill.*

*Old Westbury Gardens*

# MOTHER'S DAY

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## Harbor Links Unveils Historic New Delivery Robots

Supervisor Jennifer DeSena, members of the Town Board, and new Harbor Links Director Kelley Brooke introduced and demonstrated a fleet of new refreshment delivery robots at The Clubhouse at Harbor Links on Thursday, April 24. The Kiwibot-developed robots become the nation's first autonomous food and beverage delivery bots on a golf course, as they track and deliver orders through a GPS system to find golfers on the course without disrupting play.



Supervisor Jennifer DeSena

"This is one of the more impressive innovations I've seen, and it's yet another example of Brooke Management taking Harbor Links to the next level," DeSena said. "We think this is going to be the best municipal course in the country soon, and these delivery bots are a big part of making that happen."

The robots are the latest in a list of significant upgrades facilitated by Brooke Management Group, which signed a 20-year contract with North Hempstead Town this past winter to secure management rights to Harbor Links Golf Course. Brooke Management is owned by Ms. Brooke, a

former LPGA pro golfer who operates multiple municipal courses across the country, including Montauk Downs Golf Course and Bethpage Black Golf Course. To date, Brooke Holdings has already upgraded the Harbor Links clubhouse, locker rooms, and dining and lounge areas.

"I'm happy that we can help Harbor Links become a leader in global golf innovation, and I'm thankful to Kiwibot for being a great partner throughout this development,"

Brooke said. "Our plan is to help this course become the gold standard, and milestones like today's are crucial in that goal."

Brooke Management has multiple upgrades in store for the near future at Harbor Links, including a new beer garden, an upgraded mini golf course, and a new driving range that will feature interactive Inrange technology for patrons. North Hempstead residents receive two-week preferences when booking reservations and tee times at the course. Harbor Links' address is 1 W Fairway Dr, Port Washington, NY 11050.

## TOB Receives Highest National Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting



(L-R) Audit Division Head Richard Principe, Town Supervisor Joseph Saladino and Town Comptroller Steve Ballas.

Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Joseph Saladino announced that the Town received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The recognition, awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA), is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. The Town was praised for its annual comprehensive financial report, earning this recognition for the second consecutive year.

"This award represents a significant accomplishment by our Town and the way we have managed our finances," said Supervisor Saladino. "Since taking office, my administration has eliminated a historic \$185 million in debt – the largest reduction in Town history – while producing budget surpluses and

earning 9 credit rating upgrades from Wall Street. Even more impressively, we've done this all while cutting property taxes and repaving more roads than ever before! We're proud to earn this recognition and will continue practicing fiscal restraint to protect taxpayers."

The Town's financial report is judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the GFOA program, which includes demonstrating a constructive 'spirit of full disclosure' to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. The GFOA, founded in 1906, represents public finance officials throughout the United States and Canada deeply involved in planning, financing and implementing thousands of governmental operations in each of their jurisdictions. GFOA's mission is to advance excellence in public finance.

## Locust Valley High School Honors the Class of 2025



LV High School's top 15 students in the Class of 2025 were honored for their achievements.

Photo: LVCSO

Locust Valley High School honored the top 15 students in the Class of 2025 for their dedication to academic pursuits on April 28. Each student invited teachers and staff members from throughout the district who helped them become the successful young people they are today and gifted them flowers.

"Tonight, I want you to take these moments in and give yourself credit for the work you have done," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kristen Turnow said. "What each of you has

done in balancing your academics with extracurriculars, sports, work in the community and more is an incredible accomplishment."

Congratulations to Inshaal Abid (Valedictorian), Addison Edwins, Jack French, John Gambino, Maeve Germans, Isabella Iodice, Elzbieta Kungys, James Martyn, Abigail Maselli (Salutatorian), Grace O'Mahony, Sienna Singe, Gianna Werle, Andrew Wieman, Olivia Wilde and Sam Zarou on their accomplishment.



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## Garden Days Returns to Old Westbury Gardens with a Bold Celebration of Plants, Gardens, Nature and Music!



*Old Westbury Gardens was the former home of John S. Phipps and his family*

Garden lovers, green thumbs, and spring seekers—mark your calendars! Old Westbury Gardens’ beloved Garden Days returns May 15–18 for four vibrant days filled with plants, programs, and purpose—highlighted by the much-anticipated Plant Sale Preview Party on Friday evening.

On Friday, May 16 (6–8pm), guests are invited to sip, shop, and stroll through the gardens during this exclusive first-look event, featuring live music, sweet and savory treats, and early access to a lush array of rare perennials and signature plants grown right here on Long Island.

The two-day Plant Sale runs Saturday

and Sunday (May 17–18, 10am–4pm), where shoppers can select from a curated selection of garden favorites with expert guidance from the Gardens’ horticulture staff.

“We designed this event to be both enlightening and uplifting,” said Maura Brush, President and Chief Executive Officer of Old Westbury Gardens. “Our goal is to celebrate the intelligence of nature, the beauty of the garden, and the power we all have to protect them both.”

**Additional Highlights Include:**

“Nature’s Resiliency” Panel Discussion (Thursday, May 15, 7–8:30pm)

A free evening conversation featuring leading scientists and conservationists as they explore today’s environmental challenges—and the role the community plays in determining solutions.

**Panelists:**

- Jase Bernhardt, Director of Sustainability, Hofstra University
- Lisa Ott, President, North Shore Land Alliance
- Ullas Pedmale, Associate Professor, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
- Jennifer Wilson-Pines, President, North Shore Audubon Society

**Guided Walks & Garden Tours**

Including a Nature Walk (Saturday, 11am) and a Walled Garden Tour (Saturday, 1pm), led by Old Westbury Gardens’ knowledgeable staff.

A Spring Celebration Concert (Saturday, May 17, 7pm)

An enchanting evening of music presented in collaboration with Chamber Players International.

Whether you’re looking to expand your garden, connect with nature, or simply take in the beauty of spring, Garden Days is your invitation to celebrate the season, the joy of gardening, and the power of community to cultivate a more beautiful and resilient world.

Proceeds from the Plant Sale support the Gardens’ horticultural and educational initiatives.

For full schedule and ticket details,

visit: [www.oldwestburygardens.org/2025-garden-days](http://www.oldwestburygardens.org/2025-garden-days)

**About Old Westbury Gardens**

Built in 1906 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Old Westbury Gardens was the former home of John S. Phipps and his family. Today, as a nonprofit organization, Old Westbury Gardens welcomes visitors of all ages for a wide range of historical, cultural, artistic, educational, and horticultural events. Through faithful preservation, the estate continues to inspire appreciation for early 20th-century American country estates.

For more information, visit [www.oldwestburygardens.org](http://www.oldwestburygardens.org), or connect with us on social media: [facebook.com/oldwestburygardens](https://facebook.com/oldwestburygardens), [twitter.com/oldwestburygard](https://twitter.com/oldwestburygard), [instagram.com/oldwestburygardens](https://instagram.com/oldwestburygardens)



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# EAST WOODS SCHOOL SPRING FAIR

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### 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

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Spring Fair Chairs: Cynthia Murray, Sarah Prisco, and Tara Cavitollo

## Birds: Feed Them and They Will Come



Terri Swenson, Kassie Roth, Lucy DeVito, and in back, Allyn Adams, Terri's daughter.

**BY DAGMAR FORS KARPPI**

When the Locust Valley Garden Club wanted a program to feature what to grow in our gardens to attract birds, Jane Benstock, program director, reached out to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center, in Oyster Bay, to find a speaker. The property was donated to Audubon in 1920.



Nancy Capobianco holding the flowers that Jonathan Grimm brought from his garden

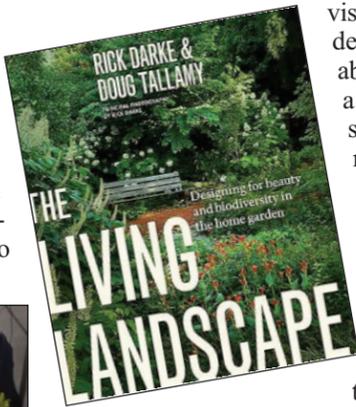
After TR died, (on Jan. 6, 1919,) his cousin Emlen Roosevelt bought land bordering Youngs Memorial Cemetery where TR is buried, creating a land buffer to the gravesite. It became the first Audubon Sanctuary in the United States.

Our speaker was Joyann Cirigliano, Sr. Coordinator of Bird Friendly Communities, at the TR sanctuary. She educated garden club members on the challenges our bird populations are fac-

ing as a result of global warming, and other pressures, and to see what we can do to help them thrive. The best way to entice birds into our gardens is to plant the native species that the birds prefer. Each bird and insect has a favorite flower or tree it needs.

You could say "Feed them and they will come," a take-off from the movie, "Field of Dreams" line — "Build it and they will come".

Joyann recommended the book, *The Living Landscape: designing for beauty and biodiversity in the home garden*, by Rick Darke & Doug Tallamy, that illustrates a new



vision for gardens. It talks about creating a home landscape that nourishes and fosters wildlife, but also w a n t s beauty, a space for the kids to play, privacy, and maybe even a vegetable patch.

Native trees are super for your garden, as they offer seeds, nuts, berries and harbor many of the insects that birds eat. Trees vary in the number of insects they attract for example, Oak trees harbor 521 insects; the Cherry tree, 455; the Willow, 431; the Birch, 410; the Aspen, 360: the Maple, 295; the Pine 259.

You can welcome birds in your own backyard by creating safe places for them to rest and nest by using fewer pesticides, letting dead trees stand where they become homes to insects that birds eat. You won't be limited in what you chose for your gardens since birds eat nuts, seeds and insects. The birds keep insect pests under control as they feast on them by the billions.

If you want to discover what to feed different birds, Audubon has a site called "11 tips for feeding backyard birds". It's great resource where you can decide on



Kassie with the flowers for the bouquet. She has been named a Town of Oyster Bay Woman of Distinction for her volunteer work in Locust Valley.

how much effort you want to put into feeding birds. An easy choice of feed is using blends, choose mixtures containing sunflower seeds, millet, and cracked corn—the three most popular types of birdseed. Installing birdbaths is another great idea and can give new focus to your garden.

Interestingly, Audubon has a website for North American birds. It includes their songs. Visit, [Audubon.org/bird-guide](http://Audubon.org/bird-guide). The more we know about birds and their amazing attributes the more reasons we have to take a stand to protect them.

The LVGC members choice for their luncheon theme was Tapas, and included



Joyann Cirigliano, Sr. Coordinator of Bird Friendly Communities, at the TR sanctuary.

Sangria and a great dessert table. Members set up the room the night before— this time with bright colored tablecloths and a centerpiece made of an open fan. The set up team included Nancy Capobianco, Pat Sullivan, Susan Keller, Kassie Roth and Jackie Bartley who provided fresh flowers. Irene Duque contributed to the décor.

The May 21, program will be a talk on "The best of hydrangeas" by Landscape Architect Steve Dougherty. Doors open at 10 a.m. There is a \$15 donation for the program and luncheon. New members are welcome to join.

For information please call the Locust Valley library at 516-671-1837.



Program Director Jane Benstock.

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 Barnes and Noble • Apple

## Obituaries

**GALLO**, Celia Jean, a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and cherished member of the Glen Cove community, passed away peacefully on April 29, 2025, at the age of 98.

Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Celia eventually made her home in Glen Cove, where she built a life filled with love, faith, and service alongside her beloved husband, Anthony, who preceded her in death. Together, they raised a family grounded in warmth, generosity, and strong values.

Celia's life was one of quiet devotion and simple joys. She was happiest when surrounded by family or busy in the kitchen, baking something sweet to share with friends and loved ones. She loved crocheting, solving puzzles, and giving back to her community. Celia was a long-time volunteer at St. Patrick's Thrift Store and an active member of the Glen Cove Senior Center, where she formed many cherished friendships over the years.

Celia is lovingly remembered by her children: James (Marie) Gallo, Rosemary (Francis) McGuire, Diane Gallo (Dave), and Thomas Gallo. She leaves behind her adored grandchildren: Sean (Elizabeth) McGuire, Heidi (Michael) Lantier, Timothy (Elyse) McGuire, Matthew (Jessie) Cusack, Danielle Foster, Jonathan (Karyn) Troffa, and Melissa Troffa. Her legacy continues through her great-grandchildren: Alyx, Joseph, Abbey, James, Kevin, Anthony, Emma, Ruth, Michael, Luca, Jonathan, Mackenzie, and Alexandra.

Interment at Locust Valley Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made in Celia's memory to the Glen Cove Senior Center, St. Jude Children's Hospital, or St. Patrick's Church.

Celia's kindness, strength, and unwavering love for her family and community will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew her. [www.Whitting.com](http://www.Whitting.com)

**INGRASSIA**, Rita T., peacefully on May 2, 2025, age 92, of Locust Valley. Beloved mother of Frank Ingrassia (Elizabeth McCaul), Joann Halder (the late Steven Halder), Barbara Pauley (Christopher), William Ingrassia (Deborah). Cherished grandmother of Carole M. Bates (Dr. Andrew T.), Peter Francis Ingrassia (Rochelle), Jenna Halder, Katherine Powanda (Jonathan), Kristen Merchant (Devin), Maxwell Ingrassia, Jake Ingrassia, Gregory Pauley, Alexander Ingrassia, Timothy Patrick Ingrassia, Theodore William Ingrassia, Owen Quincy Ingrassia, Benjamin Ingrassia, and Elizabeth Nell Ingrassia. Proud great grandmother of Liam Bates, Henry Bates, Anna Bates, Sullivan Powanda, Mila Merchant, Poppy Merchant, Edie Merchant, and Aurora Eden Ingrassia. Dear sister of the late William Schiavone (Rose), James Schiavone (Sara), Anna Agresti (John), Marie Bojsa (Gus and Irving) and Catherine Peters (Paul). Companion of the late Hank Poppe and former spouse of the late Salvatore Ingrassia. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. Visiting Oyster Bay Funeral Home, 261 South Street, Oyster Bay, NY, Friday 4-7 p.m. Funeral Mass St. Dominic RC Chapel Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Interment private. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to support the Northwell Aging Institute in honor of Rita Ingrassia and with deep gratitude to Dr Maria Torroella Carney or to The Life Enrichment Center of Oyster Bay. [www.oysterbayfuneralhome.com](http://www.oysterbayfuneralhome.com)

**LEE**, John "Jack" of Glen Cove, on May 2, 2025 at Age 80. Jack devoted his life to his family with love. He shared a deep and loving bond with his wife. His face lit up around his daughters and grandchildren. Beloved husband of Dianne Loving father of Marissa Lee Damiano and Candace Alessandro (Ralph). Dear brother of Raymond

(Maria) and the late Richard (Mary Jane). Adored grandfather of Cooper, Mackenzie and Lexi. Also survived by several loving nieces and nephews. Jack's life was a gift to all who knew him. Interment is Private. [www.DodgeThomas.com](http://www.DodgeThomas.com)

**LAROCCA**, Jack J., on May 3, 2025, age 93, of Woodbury, NY, formerly of Babylon, NY. Beloved husband of Elizabeth "Betty" for 72 years. Loving father of Lisa LaRocca and the late Frank LaRocca. Cherished grandfather of Meghan Schou (Joseph), Jordan Woldenberg, and Emily LaRocca. Proud great grandfather of Kerry and John Schou. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.. Interment is private. [www.oysterbayfuneralhome.com](http://www.oysterbayfuneralhome.com)



**MALLOY**, Edward T. of Locust Valley, NY on April 16th, 2025 at Age 69. Beloved father of the late Sean. Loving son of the late Donald and the late Sofija. Dear brother of Alan (Dorothea), Maureen (Herbert) and Rachel (William). Also survived by loving nieces and nephews. Interment at Locust Valley Cemetery. [www.DodgeThomas.com](http://www.DodgeThomas.com)

**MEYER**, Robert "Bob" August, passed after a short illness, on May 2, 2025 at the age of 80 in Fort Myers, Florida.

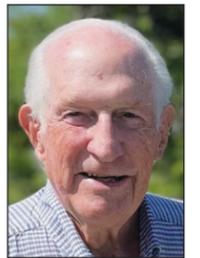
Bob is survived by his loving wife,

Janet Meyer (née Famalett); his son, Russell Meyer; his daughter, Noreen Wenig (née Meyer), her husband, Kevin Wenig, their children, Harrison and Lilly Wenig; his sister, Marilyn Heilig; and nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his brother, Jack Meyer; his father, John C. Meyer; and his mother Marie Meyer (née Lemp).

Bob was born in Glen Cove, New York on December 25, 1944 and raised in Locust Valley. He graduated from Locust Valley High School and C.W. Post College on Long Island. Bob was a volunteer fireman, serving on the Locust Valley Fire Department ambulance squad and married Janet on August 21, 1965 after which he was drafted by the U.S. Army. He became a decorated veteran for his service in the Vietnam War and most notably was a Bronze Star recipient among other commendations. In his professional life, Bob's career highlights included his time as a CPA in public and private accounting, mergers and acquisitions work and board appointments until his retirement in 2005.

Bob was a devoted husband, father, friend, son, brother, uncle and grandfather. He enjoyed family time, vacationing, sports, great books, ice cream, his grandkids, and all things golf. Bob played hard and worked harder, but was happiest surrounded by family and friends at his home. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him and will remain in our hearts for all of eternity.

(Continued on page 10)



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## Obituaries Continued

(Continued from page 9)

We thank him for his service, his love and the joy that he and the joy that he spread.

Celebrations of Life will be held in Florida and Connecticut. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations in his name to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Fuller Metz Cremation & Funeral Services



**ROSSI, Louis** - of Glen Cove, on April 28th, 2025 at age 70. Longtime member of the Glen Cove Elks Club, Knights of Columbus Council 1828 and the Glen Cove Men's Golf Club. Beloved husband of Peggy. Devoted father of Victoria. Loving son of the late Angie and Angelo. Dear brother-in-law of Susan (Arthur) and Jane (Jeffrey). Special cousin of Virginia (Angelo). Also survived by loving nieces and nephews. Interment private. Donations may be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. [www.DodgeThomas.com](http://www.DodgeThomas.com)

**SPERANZA, Sr., Donald J.** - on Apr. 29, 2025, age 89, of Fort Lauderdale, FL, formerly of Commack, NY. Beloved husband of Yolanda. Loving father of Donald (Leslie), Steven (the late Stephanie Tesoriero), Robert (Lisa), Dean (Desiree) and the

late Lisa Josephine. Cherished grandfather of Jordan (Michael Krahn), Peter, Taylor Raia (Joseph), Hayley, Jandreau (Cyle) Robert Jr., Donnie (Yulianny), Dino, Vincent (Erin), Deanna Catalano (Joseph), Dominick and Paulie. Proud great grandfather of Dante Raia, Charlie Krahn, Gianna Raia, Theodora Krahn, and Vivienne Jandreau. Dear brother of Linda Hellmold (the late Joseph) and the late Emil (Diana), and Rosemarie Aguila (Edward). Devoted companion to Pinot. Interment at St. Charles Cemetery. [www.oysterbayfuneral-home.com](http://www.oysterbayfuneral-home.com)



**STACKLER, Walter L.** of Centre Island, NY and Hobe Sound, FL. Born on January 23, 1937, died on February 10, 2025. Walter was president of his Class of 1954 at Roslyn High School and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1958. Had long career in real estate development. Survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Lucy, son Walter A. (Lesley), of Plandome, NY and grandchildren Walter E., William, and Katherine. Longtime member of The Creek, Locust Valley, NY; Loblolly, Hobe Sound, FL; New York Yacht Club; and Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club. He had a passion for vintage cars with many awards to prove it. A memorial is planned for June 20, 2025 at 11:00 am at St. John's Cold Spring Harbor, NY. [www.oysterbayfuneralhome.com](http://www.oysterbayfuneralhome.com)

### ESTATE AND SOCIETY LIFE A CENTURY AGO ALONG OUR GOLD COAST

Join renowned historian Orin Z. Finkle for an all-new presentation depicting the fanciful lifestyles of affluent people of a century ago relishing summers on Long Island.

Wednesday, June 18 10a.m.-12noon, at The Hutton House Lectures on the Campus of LIU Post, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville. Fee: \$33 Register Online: [liu.edu/HuttonHouse/Courses](http://liu.edu/HuttonHouse/Courses), (516) 299-2580.



Orin Finkle

### LLC

Legal Notice # 122194 Notice of formation of Dircks Design, LLC. Articles of Organization filed w/ Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 4/30/25. Office located in Suffolk. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC 4 Parkridge Ct, Huntington NY 11743. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

## Public Meeting

### Public Meeting – Locust Valley Fire District

The next Regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners is scheduled as follows:

**May 12, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.**

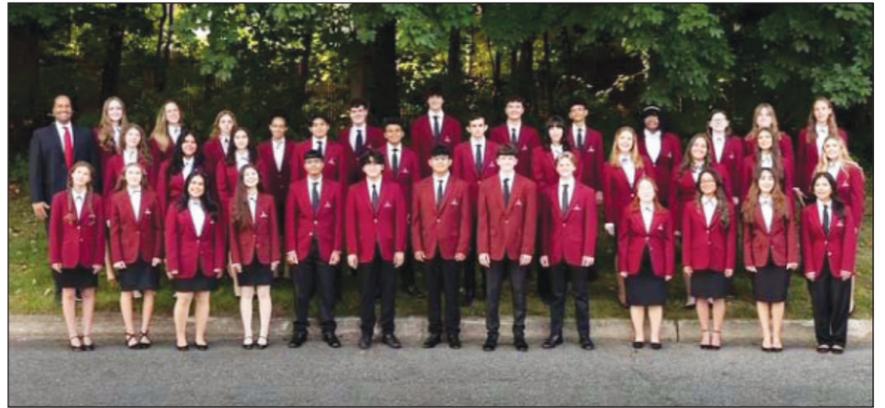
All meetings are open to the public and held at Fire Headquarters, 228 Buckram Rd., Locust Valley, N.Y.

This notification is being given to the news media pursuant to the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York.

By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Locust Valley Fire District.

James Bonislowski  
Fire District Secretary

## Glen Cove Select Chorale to Tour in London



Glen Cove High School Select Chorale with Music Director Ed. Norris III

Photos courtesy of GCHS Select Chorale

### By VICTORIA CROSBY

The Select Chorale has been a part of the community under the direction of Ed Norris III for many years. In the past the group has performed in Washington DC, in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York and even in Italy at the Vatican.

This year the chorale will visit London, England and perform free concerts at churches, and other concert venues. They will sing compositions by Ola Gjeilo, a Norwegian born American, who is an accomplished pianist and composer, and will accompany the Chorale. Their repertoire will include a new piece with a unique arrangement and has never been performed in public before.

Composer Dr. Jeffrey Aimes will conduct their performance of his composition "Requiem for Color." Dr. Aimes is a professor and Director of Chorale Activities at Belmont University School of Music in Nashville, Tennessee. He is the first African American to represent the USA in the ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) International Conductor Exchange Program. His "Requiem for Color" is a musical, literary and visual journey, which includes spoken word, and blends many genres from classical to rhythm and blues. It tells the story of the Black experience from slavery to the present, honoring those who died for freedom.

The Select Chorale performs as a

community service throughout the year in many locations; at the Glen Cove Christmas tree lighting ceremony, singing Christmas Carols for nursing homes, and performing every year on MLK Day, at the Wunch Art Center as part of the celebratory tribute, and at the Black History Month celebrations. They have also performed at St. Rocco's Catholic Church for their toy drive, at The Regency Assisted Living, and recently at Hofstra University.

New members join each year as the senior class graduates and freshman join. This year there will be thirty-six students traveling on this tour, with many adult chaperones including parents and teachers. Carolyne Dilgard-Clark, whose daughter is a member of the Select Chorale, and who is going as one of the chaperones for the trip said "They are such awesome kids; I'm so impressed by them. They do so much more than sing, they are involved in the theater group, and many other school activities. This is an amazing opportunity for the students. There's such a diversity of talent in this group." If you would like to donate to help these students all afford to go on the tour of London, please send checks made out to Glen Cove High School Chorale Dept., to GCHS att. Ed Norris, 150 Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove NY. If you prefer Venmo send to Carolyne Dilgard-Clark @carolyne-dilgard with a specification for Select Chorale or call Carolyne at 267-258-9579.

### LLC

M.R. Immigration Services LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/05/25. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, at ZEN BUSSINESS INC., 41 STATE Albany Suite 112, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

### LLC

Angel Ping LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/24/2024, . Office: Suffolk County SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, at 1 Seven Springs Court, Lloyd Harbor, NY 11743. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

### PLLC

G. Kugler, MD, PLLC Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/24/25. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, 123 South St., Oyster Bay, NY 11771. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

## Oyster Bay, Theodore's Books to Host "Gold Coast Book Fair"

**BY LEADER STAFF**

The Gold Coast Book Fair will be coming to Oyster Bay the weekend of May 16th-18th, featuring more than 100 authors.

The Book Fair is hosted by the Town of Oyster Bay, in partnership with Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, Nassau Legislator Samantha Goetz (R-Locust Valley), Long Island University, and former US Congressman Steve Israel (D-Huntington) who now owns Theodore's Books in Oyster Bay.

"This fun and informative book fair is the largest literary event on Long Island," stated Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino.

"Featuring something for book lovers of all ages."

The fair will be held at "Long Island University CW Post in Brookville, and on the streets of downtown Oyster Bay," added Saladino. "The Gold Coast Book Fair will provide readers with endless activities."

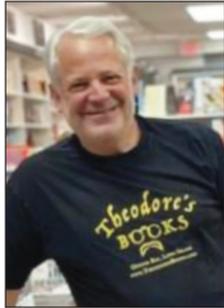
The Fair is open to the public and free to attend. Select events require paid tickets.

Theodore's Books is the official bookseller of Gold Coast Book Fair.

On Saturday at Long Island University, books by featured Fair authors can be found in the Fair Bookstore inside Hillwood

Commons, on the first floor. They will also be available for sale outside of each session room.

A Children's Books Sales Tent will be in the Kids Zone on the Creative Quad, behind the Humanities building.



Steve Israel

On Sunday in Downtown Oyster Bay, books by featured Fair authors can be found in a tent outside of Theodore's Books at 17 Audrey Avenue, and a children's books sales tent will be next to the Kids Author Tent on Audrey Avenue.

Bestsellers and other general interest, Long Island, and other titles can be found inside of Theodore's Books, which will be open all day.

The 2025 Gold Coast Book Fair will feature keynote speaker Pulitzer

Prize-winning historian Ron Chernow, as well as headlining authors Gretchen Rubin, Lili Taylor and Art Shamsky.

For more information: [www.gold-coastforum.org](http://www.gold-coastforum.org).



The Gold Coast Book Fair in Oyster Bay. Photo: Courtesy GCBF

## Devoted *Leader* Reader Donates to Glen Cove Boxing Club



(L-R) Grady Farnan Glen Cove City Councilman; Mike Ktistakis Glen Cove City Councilman and Frank Pena of Glen Cove Boxing Club

Recently, a devoted *Leader* Reader saw the edition from 3-20-25 article titled "Glen Cove Fitness Donates Gear to Glen Cove Boxing Club" and got in contact with Mr. Alvin Batista from Glen Cove Fitness. Mr. Batista was moved by the Ely Family Story of a leather bond heavy bag that the family wanted to donate and knew that this would be a great item for the Glen Cove Boxing Club. Mr. Batista got in contact with Glen Cove City Councilmen Grady Farnan and Michael Ktistakis and provided them with the family's information.

Farnan and Ktistakis coordinated with the Ely Family and met with them at their family home. Farnan and Ktistakis were impressed with the history of this leather heavy bag. It had been a part of the Ely Family for many years

hung in the basement. This heavy bag was an intricate item in the family development of body and mind. They took very special care of this item and kept it well preserved.

The Heavy Bag was removed from the Ely home and was transported to Mr. Frank Pena of Glen Cove Boxing Club. Mr. Pena loved it and stated that they do not make heavy bags like they used to and was impressed with its history and condition.

Glen Cove Fitness continues to appreciate the commitment that Mr. Pena provides for the youth in the community

by mentoring and teaching them to be class "A" Boxers. The item donated to the GC Boxing Club from The Ely Family will enable and motivate the boxers on their core exercises to strengthen themselves in the ring. The Ely Family is happy that the heavy bag has a great new home and will have a positive impact on future boxers for many years to come.

You can visit both facilities at <https://www.glencovefitness.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Glen-Cove-Boxing-Club/1380775062250993/>.

You can also email Glen Cove Fitness at [info@glencovefitness.com](mailto:info@glencovefitness.com) to learn more about what their newly designed gym has to offer. Both are great places to get in shape!



P.O. Box 214 Mill Neck, New York 11765  
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# COME JOIN US FOR North Shore Wildlife Sanctuary Annual Spring Gathering

Thursday, May 22, 2025

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Mill River Rod and Gun Club

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## Clothing Drive

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