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OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 3, 2021

# Mercy Hospital honors breast cancer survivor

By **TOM CARROZZA**  
 tcarrozza@iherald.com

Six months ago, Yolanda Sanchez had a routine breast exam at Mercy Hospital, in Rockville Centre, and got life-changing news when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. After a whirlwind half-year, she was honored at the hospital on Oct. 18 for being proactive about her disease, as physicians say women across the country should be.

"I never thought it would be me," the 43-year-old Sanchez, a radiology technician in Island Park, said at the ceremony in Mercy's Garden of Caring. "I'm young, a new mom, had zero symptoms and no family history. But it was me, and I'm here to share that it could be you, too. Please schedule your mammograms. It can save your life. It saved mine."

Dr. Alice Kim, the hospital's director of imaging, encouraged others to be proactive and get

tested even if they do not feel any lumps in their breasts. Sanchez had no such warning sign, and caught the cancer early because she had a routine check.

**I'm going to appreciate all the moments, no matter how small they are, and just enjoy the things I love.**

**YOLANDA SANCHEZ**  
 Breast cancer survivor

Sanchez was brought to tears just thinking about celebrating her 44th birthday next month, one day before her twin sons, Lucas and Liam, will turn 2. "This birthday is definitely going to be different," Sanchez said. "I'm aware that my outcome could have been different had I not made that appointment, so I'm going to appreciate all the moments, no matter how small they are, and just enjoy the things I love."

Jeannie Colamussi was the nurse navigator who aided Sanchez through the diagnosis and treatment processes. "It's really not hard when you get a day like today," Colamussi said. "I get more from my patients than they get

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



Tom Carrozza/Herald

**ELLEN WHITE, CENTER**, with Backyard Players members Johnny Kilduff, left, and Charlie Kosina.

## Grand opening for Backyard Players

Two-year journey comes to an end with new location

By **TOM CARROZZA**  
 tcarrozza@iherald.com

Last Friday, the Backyard Players, a fixture in Rockville Centre, celebrated the grand opening of their new storefront on Long Beach Road. After years of sharing space throughout the village, the self-described inclusive arts-based community program finally has a space to call its own, much to the delight of its participants and staff.

Over the years, the pro-

gram operated at St. Mark's Church, Molloy College, the John A. Anderson Recreation Center and the Knights of Columbus hall. Its director, Ellen White, said that the coronavirus pandemic put the nonprofit in a tough spot, because the availability of indoor space was limited. That presented a daunting challenge, White said, because the community members the program serves, many of whom have special needs, could struggle if they

didn't have a place to meet new friends and express themselves.

Mike Durney, chairman of the Backyard Players' board of directors, was integral in getting the funds to buy and refurbish the building on Long Beach Road. "They finally have a permanent home where they control their own destiny," Durney said. "If you believe that good comes from bad, the pandemic made us really notice that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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# Cronin, Phillips vie for county comptroller seat

By **CRISTINA ARROYO RODRIGUEZ**  
carroyo@liherald.com

Ryan Cronin and Elaine Phillips are running for county comptroller, as the current comptroller, Jack Schnirman, is not seeking re-election. Cronin is a Democrat from Garden City who has forged a career as business litigator—he ran twice for state senate but lost to Republican incumbent Kemp Hannon. Phillips is a Republican from Manhasset who has a background in finance as well as local and state political experience as Floral Park mayor and state senator.

The Herald asked the candidates questions focused on vital issues and what makes them qualified for the position.

**Herald: Covid-19 has altered how we do “business as usual” in terms of technology, health care and the economy. How would you navigate the “new normal”?**

**Cronin:** We have to lean into the “new normal” and embrace modernization. The comptroller’s office currently functions on innovations from the mid-1900s and is long overdue for a technology upgrade. In doing so, it would allow the office to adapt more effectively not just to our “new normal” but to any hurdles to come.

**Phillips:** All Nassau County governmental agencies have been forced to adjust to the “new normal” of Covid-19. In many cases, the adjustments have been inadequate, and the delivery of county services is suffering as a result. As Nassau County comptroller, I will have a crucial role to play in objectively identifying those governmental agencies whose performance is lagging and making recommendations to address deficiencies. A specific example of a lack of adequate management and adaption has been seen within the Department of Consumer Affairs. Many business owners have been waiting for months to secure required licenses. Some



**Ryan E. Cronin**

**Age:** 40

**Hometown:** Garden City

**Professional Background:** Business Litigator/Lawyer

**Political experience:** Ran for state senate for 6th District twice



**Elaine R. Phillips**

**Age:** 61

**Hometown:** Manhasset

**Professional Background:** Financial Analyst, vice president of institutional sales

**Political experience:** State Senator for 7th District, mayor of Flower Hill, trustee of Munsey Park

are in danger of going out of business. This is totally unacceptable. The county’s administration should follow the Town of Hempstead’s successful practice of issuing permits and licenses off campus through the use of mobile trailers. Strict safeguards have been employed to meet the needs of taxpayers in a safe and efficient manner. As comptroller, I will audit these areas of need and will push for swift corrective action.

**Herald: Since the George Floyd protests, organizational/institutional diversity, equity and inclusion have been put front and center. How would DEI instruct your practice as an elected official?**

**Cronin:** Nassau County has become a hub

of diversity. As comptroller, I would be representing the entire county, and as such I would strive to have voices from every community heard. Most new businesses in Nassau County are minority-owned, and we will use the upcoming disparity study to ensure that the county’s contractors represent its population.

**Phillips:** While in the private sector at Goldman Sachs, I oversaw the diversity efforts, and while in public office as a New York state senator, I sponsored multiple educational and outreach forums on MWBE. As Nassau comptroller, I would continue this pursuit to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace and continue to educate and promote solutions to ensure equal rights to all. What’s

more, I would undertake performance audits of all county departments to ascertain whether they are meeting DEI metrics. I would do the same for the entities that do business with Nassau County.

**Herald: What are the most pressing issues in the county, and how do you address these collaboratively with all stakeholders within the next term?**

**Cronin:** The Comptroller is the taxpayers’ watchdog responsible for fighting waste and fraud. This role will take on increasing importance given the uncertainty of the post-COVID economy. We are recruiting high-level professionals from the private sector to join our team so that we have the skilled team required to address these unprecedented times. Taxpayers must have confidence that this team is not politicized. Like most taxpayers, I am sick and tired of divisive politics. This is why I have committed to hiring a moderate Republican as my top deputy. Such bipartisanship has become far too rare in today’s politics.

**Phillips:** As Nassau County comptroller, I will serve as the taxpayers’ watchdog. Taxes and spending need to be controlled in Nassau County. I have the background and expertise to implement audits to weed out waste, abuse and fraud, saving taxpayers money. Further, I will audit the recent property tax reassessment to determine the extent to which mistakes made in the Department of Assessment’s recent reassessment have adversely impacted property owners. Mistakes in assigning assessments have directly resulted in the erroneous taxation of homeowners and businesses. I will work as an independent watchdog for Nassau’s taxpayers, and I will protect their tax dollars. That is my job, and it is my commitment to the residents who I will serve.

## Triplets discharged from NICU at Mercy Hospital

On Oct. 20, Wendy Pacheco Enriquez of Hempstead finally brought her triplets home from Mercy Hospital in Rockville Centre after the three boys were born on Sept. 9 at 30 weeks. Gerardo and Thiago each weighed 3 pounds, 7 ounces and Axel was 3 pounds, 14 ounces.

The babies were delivered by Dr. Francine Guzman, director of clinical OB/GYN; Dr. Baraa Allaf, chair of maternal-fetal medicine; and a team of nurses, therapists, techs and more. On Oct. 20, all three babies weighed more than five pounds after their more than 40-day stay in

the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, where they were cared for by Dr. Swarna Devarajan, director of neonatology, and Dr. Jordana Hannam, attending neonatologist, and a variety of mother/baby and NICU nurses.

This is the fourth set of triplets delivered by Guzman and Devarajan in their 22 years working at Mercy. Allaf said that triplet pregnancies occur one in 8,000 births.

“I’m very happy and very thankful,” Enriquez said of the Mercy staff and their work.



**THE STAFF OF** the NICU celebrated the discharging of the Pacheco triplets.

Tom Carrozza/Herald

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### Arrests

■ On Oct. 12 at 9:25 p.m., Andrew Sepulveda, 31, of Rockville Centre, was arrested and charged with second-degree criminal contempt after he violated an order of protection at his residence.

■ At 3:12 p.m. on Oct. 20, Jason Fruin, 37, of Rockville Centre, was arrested and charged with third-degree assault during an investigation at his residence.

■ David Smyth, 21, of Woodmere, was arrested on Oct. 20 at 7:48 p.m. and charged with third-degree unauthorized use of a vehicle after an investigation on Sunrise Highway.

■ On Oct. 21 at 2:36 p.m., Johan Upegul Arango, 21, of Flushing, Queens, was arrested and charged with fifth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and second-degree unlawfully dealing with a child during an investigation at Yafa Tobacco Shop on S. Park Avenue.

### Criminal mischief

■ At 6:22 p.m. on Oct. 11, an apartment resident on Banks Avenue reported that someone threw a rock at his bedroom window, breaking the glass.

■ A motorist reported that someone scratched her vehicle while it was parked on Maple Avenue on Oct. 20 at 1:03 p.m.

### Larceny

■ A credit union customer reported that his wallet was stolen after he left it by an ATM on Banks Avenue on Oct. 11 at 1:06 p.m.

■ On Oct. 12 at 7:03 p.m., a customer reported that cash was stolen from her wallet after she accidentally left it in an office on Sunrise Highway.

■ At 8:15 p.m. on Oct. 21, a motorist reported that a wallet and laptop computer were stolen from his vehicle while it was parked in a lot on Peninsula Boulevard.

### Leaving the scene

■ A motorist reported that his car was struck by a vehicle that left the scene while it was parked on Lehigh Court on Oct. 12 at 7:17 p.m.

■ On Oct. 22 at 6:51 p.m., a pedestrian reported that she was struck by an SUV that left the scene while she was walking on N. Park Avenue. The pedestrian suffered minor injuries and refused medical attention at the scene.

■ At 12:10 p.m. on Oct. 24, a motorist reported that her car was struck by a vehicle that left the scene while it was parked in a lot on Merrick Road.

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



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COMMUNITY UPDATE

ROCKVILLE CENTRE

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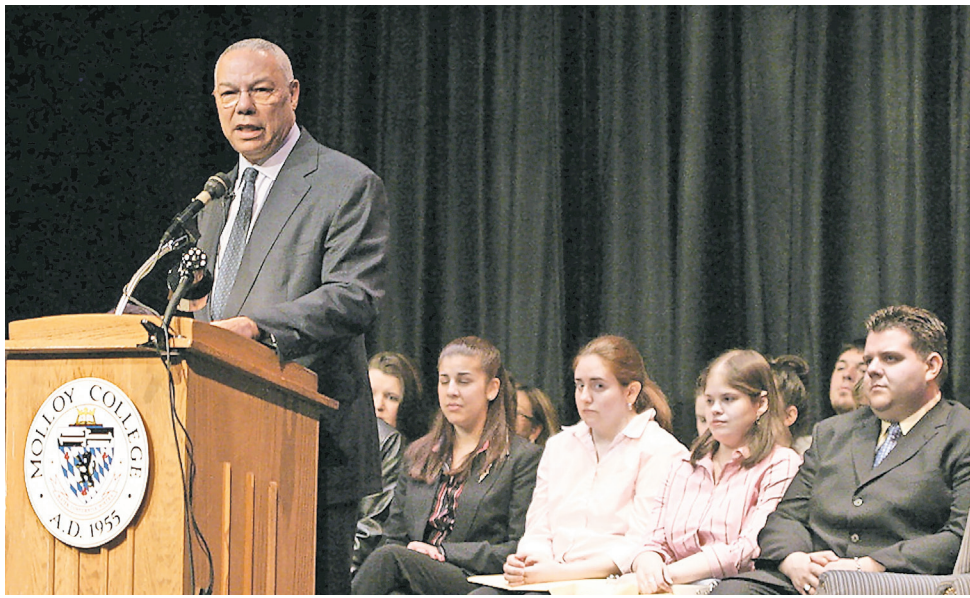
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Courtesy Molloy College

**LATE FORMER SECRETARY** of State Colin Powell visited Molloy College in 2005.

# Molloy administrator reflects on late Colin Powell's visit

By **MIKE SMOLLINS**  
msmollins@lherald.com

When then-Secretary of State Colin Powell visited Molloy College in Rockville Centre for a forum on April 29, 2005, he spoke to attendees about international affairs and expressed the importance of diversity across the world. Though he died on Oct. 18 at 84 from complications of Covid-19, many people who witnessed his speech still remember his message 16 years later:

"I think the thing that I liked, he talked about the country in general, he didn't say the country was perfect," said Ed Thompson, the college's vice president for advancement, "but he did say we're still the greatest experiment on the planet because our ideals are what's important. It's not necessarily the land, not necessarily the people, but it's the ideals that we aspire to."

Thompson helped facilitate Powell's visit that spring day, and said he was touched by how knowledgeable Powell was about Thompson and the college, and by his message of the importance of diversity in the country, a sentiment that has only grown louder in the years after his speech.

Powell, a retired four-star general who became the country's first Black secretary of state and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under President George H.W. Bush, appeared before a packed house at Molloy. He spoke to those gathered about international relations and how he was able to build himself into a success story despite coming from humble beginnings.

"He talked about the fact that he wasn't rich, didn't go to West Point, but that he was raised right and was raised about the ideals of service," Thompson recalled. "He connected that to the type of student that was attending Molloy. Molloy modeled diversity and service and those are the things that we value at the college . . . all those things that we modeled, so did Colin Powell, so I think all those things helped our students."

Before working alongside Bush, Pow-

ell rose up the military ranks and worked as U.S. national security adviser and deputy national security adviser for President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. Powell served twice in Vietnam — during the first tour, he was wounded in action and on the second tour, he received the Soldier's Medal for rescuing several men from a burning helicopter.

Thompson said he got to spend an hour one-on-one with Powell before his speech, and that he was taken aback by him. He said Powell was gracious, a good listener and offered him advice about how to be a strong leader, which included telling Thompson to "aggressively listen and take in data, but not too much," Thompson recounted, noting that Powell told him not to wait on "perfect data" before making leadership decisions.

Thompson added that Powell told him he was impressed by Molloy because it served first-generation students who often don't have money for higher education.

"People see us as sort of a nursing, education college, but in fact, our mission was really to talk about issues that were regionally and nationally important," Thompson said. ". . . When there's a chance to really get personal, hands-on explanations of what's going on in the world, we see ourselves as a place that can provide that type of access to our friends and neighbors."

Thompson said he respected Powell because, though he was a Republican, he had no fear in crossing the political aisle if it aligned with his ideals. He called him a champion of diversity and a gracious man who was willing to compromise when he had to.

"I think his legacy, for me, is one of service against all odds," Thompson said. "A diverse, Black soldier in Vietnam rises through the ranks to become one of the preeminent statesman of his time, so that speaks to his perseverance, and speaks to how America changed. He was symbolic about how America became more diverse and open to equality and excellence, so I think that's his legacy."



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# O'Connell, Brown vie for county clerk

By MIKE SMOLLINS

msmollins@liherald.com

Newcomer Justin Brown is challenging longtime incumbent Maureen O'Connell for the county clerk's post this November.

O'Connell, a Republican, was first elected to the position in 2005, and re-elected in 2009, 2013 and 2017. Brown, a Democrat, is running for office for the first time, but brings with him leadership experience from serving as a health-care administrator at Sloan Kettering Memorial Cancer Center and on the Uniondale Board of Education since 2018.

Ahead of Election Day on Nov. 2, the Herald asked each of the candidates about their goals for the position and what they plan to do to implement ways to efficiently help residents.

**Herald: Why are you running for county clerk?**

**O'Connell:** I have always sought ways to give back to my community, and what better way than serving in local government? I feel it is important for everyone to be civically active to maintain the quality of life we value here in Nassau County within our local communities. Experience matters at the clerk's office. I have the background and proven experience to continue leading as county clerk. I am proud to run on my record of modernizing the office and creating ease of access for my constituents, who I am honored to serve each and every day. As a registered nurse, attorney, former state assemblywoman and public servant for nearly 30 years, I take great pride in assisting people and serving our residents. The services my office provides are personally vital to the residents using them. Many times when people come to us, they are not always sure what it is they need to do. So one of my top priorities is to guide our residents through their transactions to ensure their interaction with our office is as seamless as possible. All of this cannot be done without our wonderful staff. I bring the knowledge needed to effectively and efficiently provide our services.

**Brown:** Helping people and being an advocate for our residents has always been a passion of mine. I served on the Uniondale School Board for the past three years, on one of the many Nassau County boards and as a member for Hofstra's Healthcare Alumni Board. And with my vast experience in health care and community initiatives, I can improve a lot within the clerk's office.

**Herald: What do you think is the most**



**Maureen O'Connell**  
Incumbent

**Age:** 70

**Hometown:** East Williston

**Career:** Attorney; former nurse

**Political experience:** State assemblywoman (1998 to 2005); County clerk and clerk of Supreme Court (2006 to present)



**Justin Brown**  
Challenger

**Age:** 30

**Hometown:** Baldwin

**Career:** Healthcare administrator

**Political experience:** Served on the Uniondale school board for the past three years

**important function of the county clerk?**

**O'Connell:** As county and Supreme Court clerk, I am a state constitutional officer charged with maintaining the official records relating to property ownership and Supreme Court actions in the county. My top priority is the delivery of efficient, timely and easily accessible services to the residents of Nassau. One of the most important roles of the clerk is to ensure the integrity and security of the records we maintain. The land and court records are vital to the individuals they relate to. Properly filing and safeguarding these records is crucial.

In addition, making the records available to the residents in an efficient manner is very important. During my tenure, I have modernized the office by implementing technology, streamlining services and creating efficient processes. Another important function is to protect residents from predatory deed scams and identity theft. To combat this, I created a property fraud alert system for residents to use.

Also, as many residents are facing financial hardship, another top priority for me is to have the statutory fees at my office reduced by the county administration. Maintaining costs at my office is essential to ensuring taxpayer savings. My office pays for itself solely by user fees, and is one of the most efficient offices in county government. The revenue generated exceeds the cost

to operate it.

**Brown:** Being able to store, provide accessibility and ensure requested documents are provided in a timely manner for residents are key to having a successful clerks office.

**Herald: What have you (can be) done to help improve the county clerk's office?**

**O'Connell:** I have brought the office into the modern day. Upon taking office, I eliminated a multi-year backlog within the first year. I have implemented new technology making access virtually all electronic. Residents can now access records maintained by my office online to provide them with ease of access to the vital documents my office maintains on their behalf. I also created a property fraud alert system for residents to protect them against predatory deed scams and identity theft.

Under my leadership, the office has implemented electronic filing of court and land records, enabling residents and professionals to conduct business with the clerk's office remotely while also creating greater efficiencies in the processing and maintenance of these records. The office is one of the highest-volume electronic filers in the state. Continuing on the path of greater access, I established mobile office operations to bring services directly to residents' communities and have extended office hours to better serve them. I will

continue to implement state-of-the-art technology and digitize older records to our electronic platform to better protect and serve my constituents. I will also continue my work on modernizing the infrastructure of the office to create greater efficiency in the way it serves the public. I will always bring about initiatives consistent with my goals of providing an enhanced level of service in an efficient and professional manner.

**Brown:** If elected as clerk, my main focus would be to modernize [the office]. In 2021, implementing an electronic system should not be a goal, but we should be discussing ways on how to make the office more innovative with technology so that our residents can receive documents and have more accessibility without all the trouble of having to come up to the office in person. I will implement an in-house, more modernized system that the clerk's office will have full control over. In addition, my staff and I will ensure that we can engage with our communities by providing more education and collaborating with key stakeholders in all towns so that our residents can take full advantage of the resources and benefits the office provides.



## LET US KNOW

News Brief items including awards, honors, promotions and other tidbits about local residents are welcome. Photographs may be emailed as well.

Deadline for submissions is noon Thursday, week prior to publication. Send to [exeditor@liherald.com](mailto:exeditor@liherald.com)

# Longtime RVC resident Francis Stillwell dies

Longtime Rockville Centre resident Francis Joseph Stillwell, affectionately known as “Joe,” died on Oct. 10. He was 82.

Stillwell was born in Brooklyn on Dec. 11, 1933, the third child of Catherine and Francis Stillwell. Though he faced difficulties in his early life, he never let the obstacles define him, instead using them to become a man of integrity, loyalty, kindness and compassion.

As a youngster, his family moved 28 times, forcing him to change elementary schools many times.. An easy target, being picked on as the smallest in the class, Stillwell learned to fight pretty quickly to defend himself. He got lost in the large classes in Catholic school, never learned to spell, but had beautiful handwriting to his teacher’s delight.

Luckily, he found himself in George Westinghouse Vocational High School, where he became a master carpenter, a perfectionist, and like his namesake St. Joseph, carried those skills into life and into the Navy, which he joined immediately after high school graduation in 1953, following in his brother John’s footsteps, just in time to join the ranks fighting the Korean War. Upon return, he was never thanked by others for his service, often spit on and harassed for his military duty, and was also advised to not wear his uniform in public. All that was a hard way to come home unappreciated by the protesting public, but it only made Stillwell more patriotic.

Stillwell was proud of being “Navy trained.” He was a “spit and polish man,” neat as a pin, so proud of his uniform and country. He was always a true patriot, serving 28 years in the Navy and its reserves. Those who knew him, knew about his Honda, so easy to identify in any parking lot by the American flag that proudly flew from it. He was the first to salute and place his hand over his heart during the National Anthem or when a flag is passing by. It was part of his DNA. He always loved parades and drum and bugle corps competitions, always ready with his folding chair for local firemen St. Patrick’s and Memorial Day parade celebrations.

Along with his years in the Naval Reserves, Stillwell had a 35-year career with American Airlines as part of the Air Freight Department, retiring in 1991. At home, he was officially in charge of packing any luggage his family used, especially when his children went off to college, because he could pack them so full and so perfectly.

As his first marriage fell apart, Stillwell became an alcoholic. His future

wife, Elaine, said she didn’t know him in those days, but later whenever something really got him mad, he’d proudly say, “Good thing I’m not drinking” and his family would laugh. With the help of God and Alcoholics Anonymous, Stillwell remained sober for more than 40 years. In that time as a recovering alcoholic, he reached out to help many others, especially those persons at American Airlines who needed a friend, sponsor or some strong advice. He had a convincing way of sharing his story and his struggles and his ultimate happiness, while also knowing that he was just “one drink away” from losing it all. The standing family joke was that his wife would drink for both of them.

Joe danced into Elaine’s life 38 years ago at a DSC dance. They were as different as night and day, but somehow complemented each other so beautifully to be a formidable team. It was that spirit of always being right there at your elbow, ready to do whatever you needed, day in and day out, that singled him out as so special and a keeper, Elaine

said. Stillwell personified Mother Teresa’s words, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” He truly was a prayer in action.

When Stillwell’s congestive heart failure doctor told him and Elaine in May 2020 that there was nothing more he could do for him and suggested they contact Hospice to enjoy their comfort care, they did. Having a full team, Stillwell had 17 months of their devoted care, including his Aide Claudette, and assisted by his little Beagle, Lily, which enabled them to enjoy each day as the doctor suggested, “One day at a time.”

Stillwell’s life echoes the words of George Bernard Shaw, “My life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live.” Through life’s ups and downs, Elaine’s Navy man, sweetheart, and “honey bunny,” all rolled up into one, reminds her, “Life is a shipwreck, but we must not forget to sing in the lifeboats.”

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Joe’s name to Last Hope Animal Rescue, 3300 Beltagh Ave., in Wantagh, which can be reached at [info@lasthopeanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@lasthopeanimalrescue.org), or (631) 425-1884. Donations can also be made to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which builds mortgage-free smart homes for the country’s most catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. It can be reached at [info@Tunnel2Towers.org](mailto:info@Tunnel2Towers.org) or (718) 987-1931.



Francis Joseph Stillwell

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# HERALD SPORTS

## South Side eyes championship goal

### SPOTLIGHT ATHLETE



**CHARLIE MCKEE**  
Oceanside Senior Football

**IN THE THIRD** quarter of last Friday night's victory over East Meadow, McKee etched his name into the Nassau County football record book when he became the all-time leader in passing yards. He entered the contest 159 yards shy of Lawrence 2013 graduate Joe Capobianco's 8,013. McKee, the reigning Thorp Award winner as the county's top player, threw for 1,459 yards and 16 touchdowns in a shortened junior campaign. He has 80 career touchdown passes to rank No. 2 all-time in Nassau behind Capobianco's 100.

### GAMES TO WATCH

- Friday, Oct. 29**
- Football: Oceanside at Freeport ..... 6 p.m.
  - Football: Bethpage at South Side..... 6 p.m.
  - Football: C.S. Harbor vs East Rockaway (at Hewlett) ..... 6 p.m.
  - Football: Seaford at Island Trees..... 6:30 p.m.
  - Football: Hewlett at Mineola..... 7 p.m.
  - Football: V.S. South at Division..... 7 p.m.

- Saturday, Oct. 30**
- Football: East Meadow at Uniondale ..... 2 p.m.
  - Football: Sewanhaka at Long Beach..... 2 p.m.
  - Football: Garden City at Elmont..... 2 p.m.
  - Football: Calhoun at Mepham..... 2 p.m.
  - Football: MacArthur at New Hyde Park..... 2 p.m.
  - Football: Baldwin at Roslyn..... 2 p.m.
  - Football: V.S. Central at Carey..... 2 p.m.
  - Football: Lynbrook at V.S. North..... 2 p.m.
  - Football: Wantagh at Floral Park..... 2 p.m.
  - Football: Roosevelt at Kennedy ..... 2 p.m.
  - Football: Malverne at North Shore..... 2 p.m.
  - Football: Carle Place at Lawrence..... 2 p.m.
  - Football: Oyster Bay at West Hempstead ..... 2 p.m.
  - Football: Locust Valley at Clarke..... 2 p.m.

By **ANDREW COEN**  
sports@iherald.com

After overcoming early season challenges off the field, South Side girls' soccer is now focused on conquering a repeat county title run and more.

Judi Croutier, who returned as head coach more than a decade removed from retirement, said the defending Nassau Class A champions have made big strides since she took over the program just before the opener on Sept. 9. Croutier's resurrection occurred on the heels of Jude Massillon resigning shortly after the Rockville Centre Board of Education opted not to bring back Jennifer Abgarian despite guiding the Cyclones to a county crown in the spring.

"We have settled in," said Croutier, a former standout South Side player who guided her alma mater eight Long Island titles and five state championships before stepping down as head coach following the 2009 season. "We have learned a lot about each other and we're working for the same goal," she added.

Second-seeded South Side (9-3-2) kicked off its championship quest with a dominating 8-0 victory against Long Beach in its playoff opener last Friday to advance to the quarterfinals on Wednesday versus Wantagh after press time. The offense was sparked by two goals from Emma Hospodka along with tallies by Emma Madden, Nora Basile, Laney Fox, Hannah Porter and Maggie Colvin.

The offensive surge against Long Beach underscores South Side's myriad of scoring weapons led by Anna Pennecke, Basile, Colvin, Madden and Hospodka. Cristina LiCalzi and Charley Doreste anchor the defense in front of sophomore goalkeeper Avery Testa, who has recorded five shutouts.

"She has kept us in games and gives us a lot of confidence in the back," said Croutier of Testa, who registered eight saves in South Side's 2-0 win against MacArthur on Sept. 23 in a rematch of last season's county finals. "She shores up our defense and gives us confidence knowing she is there."

A win against Wantagh would advance South Side into the Class A semifinals Saturday evening at Cold Spring Harbor High School against the winner of



Tony Bellissimo/Herald

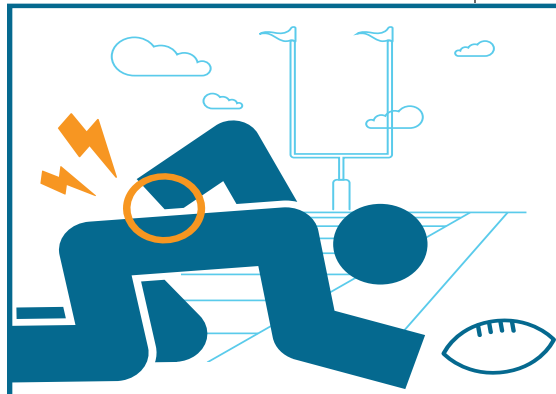
**SENIOR EMMA HOSPODKA** and the Cyclones have their sights set on repeating as Nassau Class A champs, but the competition is fierce.

Wednesday's Garden City- Mepham quarterfinal match. The county finals are scheduled for Nov. 2 back at Cold Spring Harbor.

South Side is looking to return to the championship stage six months after topping MacArthur 2-0 in overtime in the delayed 2020 season county finals held in the spring due to the pandemic. The Cyclones swept MacArthur in the regular season in two close contests and could be on a collision course with the Generals to meet.

In addition to seeking a repeat county crown, South Side is also eyeing the program's first Long Island title since 2012 and a chance to compete for a state championship. There were no Long Island or state championships held in the shortened spring season.

"With South Side we always set high standards for ourselves and you always want to do better," Croutier said. "You always want that goal but you can't look too forward and have to take it game by game."



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## OBITUARY

# Longtime former RVC resident George Grech, 88

Former Rockville Centre resident George Grech died on Oct. 21 after a brief illness. He was 88.

Grech was born and raised in Astoria, Queens. He and his wife, Ellie, made a home for their family in Rockville Centre for 31 years and then retired to Palm Coast, Fla., in 1994. Grech was active in the Flagler County Republican Club, the St. Augustine/Palm Coast Council of the Navy League of the U.S., the local Veterans of Foreign Wars lodge, the Elks Club and the Knights of Columbus.

Grech proudly served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He was an electrician's mate on the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany, his pride and joy. Upon his discharge from the Navy, Grech started a 39-year career with the New York Telephone Company (Verizon).

He was a devoted father to his two sons and was actively involved with Rockville Centre Little League teams, Boy Scout Troop 163, and organized numerous family camping excursions. Grech was a talented handyman and delighted in helping friends and neighbors with their "around the home" projects.

Grech is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 62 years, Ellie; his sons, Robert (Kathy) and Thomas



Courtesy Thomas Grech

**FORMER ROCKVILLE CENTRE** resident George Grech died on Oct. 21.

(Janet), of Malverne; his two beloved grandchildren, Thomas II and Ashley Rose; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Joseph, and sister, Maryanne.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy are welcomed to be shared for the Grech family at [craigflaglerpalms.com](mailto:craigflaglerpalms.com)

## Obituary notices

Obituary notices, with or without photographs, can be submitted by individuals as well as local funeral establishments. They should be typed and double-spaced. The name of the individual or funeral establishment submitting the obituary should be included. A contact phone number must be included. There is no charge for obituaries. Send to: [msmollins@liherald.com](mailto:msmollins@liherald.com) or 2 Endo Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530

### Message to All Rockville Centre School District Residents

If you believe that your school-age or preschool child may have a disability, please contact Ms. Jeanne Love, Executive Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services for the Rockville Centre School District at 516-255-8928.

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# Backyard Players christen new home

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

we needed a place to call our own.”

Understanding how difficult it would be for the special-needs community to go without such a valuable resource at such a difficult time, White and Co-directors Ryan Delaney and Cristina Daly — White’s sister — started looking for locations. They heard from a friend, Lisa Umansky, of the Polka Dot Pound Cake store, that the empty store next to her business could be a viable location.

After visiting the site and realizing how much bigger the space was than they expected, the BYP board jumped at the opportunity.

The Backyard Players are known for giving participants a chance to socialize while learning about theater, yoga, photography, dance, writing and art, in classes that routinely comprise about 50 people. On opening night, the clean, white walls of the new space were covered in photos of past activities, visual evidence of the joy the program has spread over the past decade.

“Seeing their passion, I was just passionate about helping them,” Durney said of the staff and participants. That passion has helped the program grow from five students 10 years ago to 200 now.

Classes have begun at the new building, and one participant, Kaitlin Christenson, said that her favorite activity is the hip-hop class, which gives her and her friends the chance to sing and dance in the new space. White, Daly, Delaney and Durney said they were excited about the Backyard Players’ future.



Tom Carrozza/Herald

LOCAL OFFICIALS AND attendees celebrated the grand opening of Backyard Players’ new home last Friday.

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1132789

## KAREN GLEASON

LEVITTOWN  
Chief Quality Officer,  
St. John's Episcopal  
Hospital



I always had a passion for patients and their families, and throughout my career I always wanted to help drive improvement for our patients and their families. Throughout the years, as I began my career, I realized that as I knew I was providing our patients with great care, I wanted to lead at a higher level and drive improvement across the organization, and that led me to a role in administration. ... While I might not have direct one-on-one impact with our patients, I know that I'm making a difference every day for our patients, the hospital at-large and our community.

My career is everything to me. I always had a passion for people and helping and advocating for others, and I feel that working in this administrative role helps me to strategically align the hospital's mission and vision with quality and patient safety always at

the forefront.

On a personal level, four family members died in April 2020, at the height of it, and it was not an easy thing to go through. Other than that, thank God we stayed safe and were able to keep our commitment to the community.

Our run numbers went down as the Nassau County Police Department had the Federal Emergency Management buses, and that relieved the pressure and stress on us. With people being home there were [fewer] false alarms, and that made it a little easier.

Operationally now, we are somewhat back to normal. Most people are vaccinated in the fire department with the delta variant, which is kind of a scary thing. Bottom line, if we do the right thing, everyone will be safe.

### HERALD HOMETOWN HERO



## ROSSY DUARTE

OCEANSIDE  
Family Specialist, Mount  
Sinai Doctors Oceanside  
Family Medicine



At the beginning of the pandemic, my staff and I found most difficulty navigating patient safety while the protocols for Covid were still being developed. We had to find a balance between keeping everyone safe while also continuing to care for all the patients; it was really tough because it felt like something was changing every day, but my incredible staff rose to the challenge every day to keep the practice running.

The most important change to my practice during the pandemic is telehealth visits. It allowed us to continue care for all of our patients who could not leave home.

For office changes, many safe measures are still in place. There is more disinfecting before and after patients, spacing visits out, and starting earlier as well as changes to the

waiting room for proper social distancing. These changes will most-likely last after the pandemic.

Medical professionals collectively have stepped up to the plate during this pandemic. It's incredible to see how everyone came together and no matter what, continue to move forward. People need to remember that their primary care doctor is the number one resource when it comes to health. Your primary doctor knows you, your health history, and has an in-depth understanding of Covid based on extensive research within the medical community.

Primary care doctors are underutilized right now. I would encourage people to keep in contact with their doctors and get back on track with their health.

### HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

## CAROL WRIGHT

NASSAU COUNTY  
Pandemic Response  
Coordinator/Charge Nurse,  
Mount Sinai South Nassau



I am in charge of coordinating the Covid-19 swab team for the employees that are being checked for symptomatic or exposure reasons. I prepare and adjust the schedule as need be, assisting other nurses in swabbing, and coordinating registration for new and incoming patients.

We started in May of last year after Covid first hit us, and we started off with the pre-procedurals. It has escalated from swabbing about 150 patients a day in any kind of weather and then it dipped because Covid was being contained and people were wearing proper personal protective equipment.

In 2021, the Covid cases took a turn for the better, and so we were doing less swabbing in May and June. In July, cases started to escalate again because of the Delta variant, so we were

swabbing more people again. So, we have been swabbing people whether they have been vaccinated or not. We're back up to seeing up to 70 to 80 patients a day.

It's very disconcerting watching so many people being infected, but as a pandemic unit, we feel good about what we're doing because we are controlling the cases that might come into the hospital for people who are having surgery.

We're controlling that environment to protect the doctors, patients, the hospital staff and their families. Swabbing isn't a pleasant job, but it is a job that's necessary. If you're a nurse, it's something you get used to.

### HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

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CANDIDATE PROFILES, BALLOT REVIEW AND MORE INSIDE!



# Blakeman, Curran vie for county executive

By JEFFREY BESSEN

jbessen@liherald.com

Democratic incumbent Laura Curran is running for her second four-term as county executive. Her Republican opponent is Town of Hempstead Councilman Bruce Blakeman. The Herald asked the candidates three pertinent questions to get their take on the issues.

**Herald: Nassau is one of three counties that pay the highest average property taxes in the state. What is your plan to help reduce the tax burden?**

**Curran:** As the hardworking families of Nassau know, you can't get far without a balanced budget. Before I took office, decades of wasteful corruption and reckless mismanagement plagued our county. I am proud that through dogged fiscal discipline, my administration has turned budget deficits into surpluses. Nassau families deserve to know their hard-earned money is being spent responsibly. That's why I devoted my first term to cleaning up the mess others left behind and bringing real accountability to government:

I delivered four balanced budgets and consecutive budget surpluses; secured Nassau's first bond upgrade in over a decade; held the line on property taxes and proposed a responsible \$70 million tax reduction for 2022, and a \$150 million tax reduction over the next four years.

As Nassau continues the economic recovery from Covid, I am also proud to say that we are in a position to give American Rescue Plan dollars back to the taxpayers. Our books are balanced, so I am giving \$375 direct cash payments to more than 400,000 households. I have worked hard to earn the trust of Nassau taxpayers, and I will continue to pursue tax relief, like my tax cut, without sacrificing our future fiscal stability.

**Blakeman:** Laura Curran's reassessment is crushing families and seniors with higher property taxes. School tax bills are arriving at home this October, and just like last year, property taxes will soar for an overwhelming majority of homeowners because of Curran's reassessment. While your property taxes are going up, Laura Curran's taxes went down [decreased by \$255].

For the majority of homeowners, Curran's tax hikes continue for three more years unless you stop her this Election Day. I believe it's wrong for Laura Curran to increase county property taxes to the highest level ever in Nassau's history while also generating millions in surplus funds.

As county executive, I will end Curran's reassessment and cut taxes. Government should never collect more than it needs to operate. My plan cuts property taxes by over \$128 million – that's \$58 million more than Laura Curran is willing to give back – and I'll pay for that tax



**Bruce Blakeman**

**Age:** 66

**Hometown:** Atlantic Beach

**Professional Background:** Attorney

**Political experience:** Town of Hempstead councilman; Nassau County legislator including serving as presiding officer; Port Authority commissioner

cut by returning Nassau County's entire budget surplus to residents. I will continue to return budget surpluses each year while restricting new spending and reducing debt. It's time to put government on a serious diet, and it's time to really cut taxes.

**Herald: The residential property assessment system still needs an overhaul. What would you do to make it beneficial for homeowners and the county?**

**Curran:** Nassau's assessment system has been a mess for decades. Politician after politician kicked this can down the road, choosing what was politically convenient over what was right. I ran on a promise to finally address our broken assessment system, and I did just that. My administration took on a tough fight and had the political courage to implement a fair and accurate reassessment of the tax roll, which had been frozen for nearly a decade.

The accuracy of my administration's reassessment has been verified by Newsday, by the state and by independent experts. I have ensured residents have the opportunity to adapt to changes in assessment values by implementing my Taxpayer Protection Plan, which phases in any assessment correction over the next five years. I will also always protect residents' right to grieve their property assessment.

In my first term, I tackled the fiscal mismanagement that has plagued Nassau for decades, turning chronic deficits into surpluses. I took on reassessment when my predecessors lacked the political courage to do so. As a result, our assessment system is fairer and more accurate today than it has been in years.



**Laura Curran**

**Age:** 53

**Hometown:** Baldwin

**Professional Background:** Journalist, Herald Community Newspapers, New York Daily News and New York Post

**Political experience:** Baldwin Board of Education and Nassau County legislator 2014 to 2017

**Blakeman:** Laura Curran placed a huge financial burden on the backs of families and seniors, with an overwhelming majority of homeowners facing soaring school taxes in 2021 as a result of her reassessment.

Errors in Curran's assessment roll also resulted in multi-millionaires having their property tax bill erased. Mansions received tax bills for zero dollars in property taxes. While the reassessment was supposed to create equity, it did not. Neighboring homes built by the same developer pay different tax amounts regardless of being exactly the same.

It's clear that we need to scrap Curran's reassessment plan entirely and start fresh. As county executive, I will terminate Laura Curran's reassessment. Her phased-in tax hikes for the next three years will be immediately terminated by my administration. Instead, I will hire qualified professionals to run the Assessment Department and create a new, fair system while also cutting property taxes by over \$120 million.

**Herald: The Covid-19 pandemic remains an overarching problem. What would you do to help ensure that residents are healthy life can to return to "normal?"**

**Curran:** I worked around the clock with communities and health officials during the toughest days of the pandemic to keep residents healthy and informed. I visited small businesses constantly to keep a finger on the pulse of our local economy. I advocated for safe re-openings when it made sense to support our long-term economic health.

We were open and transparent

throughout the pandemic, pursuing an approach centered around education, outreach and accessibility. It is this approach that has earned us the ranking of highest vaccinated county in the state and second highest vaccinated among large counties nationally. Our 93.6 percent adult-vaccination-rate has allowed for a robust recovery – but we're not done.

As we recover, the county is reaching out to small business owners to get \$10,000 in individual grants to those that need them. County mobile vaccination teams are visiting businesses directly and providing vaccinations to staff. Paramedics are taking vaccines to the homebound. We will provide \$100 million in American Rescue Plan funds to some 400,000 households as \$375 direct cash payments, which will help families buy school supplies, cover utility bills and stimulate our local economy as we continue to come back stronger.

**Blakeman:** Covid-19 will be around for years to come, and we can never return to the days of a closed economy. We must adapt by fully reopening government to serve the people and welcome those in need of services. We must continue to offer free testing, vaccines and booster shots to people who want them. Schools must never close again. Big box stores should never be allowed to stay open while small businesses are shuttered. Restaurants should be allowed to keep outdoor dining and continue their indoor operations. As county executive, I'll keep my pledge to do these things while also ensuring we have a transparent reporting process related to Covid cases.



## LET US KNOW

News Brief items including awards, honors, promotions and other tidbits about local residents are welcome. Photographs may be emailed as well.

Deadline for submissions is noon Thursday, week prior to publication.

Send to [exeditor@liherald.com](mailto:exeditor@liherald.com)

# Re-Elect Don Clavin Supervisor Re-Elect Anthony D'Esposito Councilman



On  
Tuesday,  
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- Froze taxes for 2021.
- Cut administrative staff costs by \$1 million (annually).

## HELPING PEOPLE -

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- Investing \$75 million in roadway improvements and \$10 million in parks upgrades.
- Don and Anthony delivered masks and gloves to local businesses and created outdoor dining zones to help restaurants.
- Enhancing our downtowns with streetscape upgrades that include Victorian street lighting, brick-paved walkways and more.
- Operation Clean Sweep is sending sidewalk sweeping crews to clean our business districts.



**Re-Elect**  
**Don**  
**Clavin**  
Supervisor



**Re-Elect**  
**Anthony**  
**D'Esposito**  
Councilman



# Donnelly, Kaminsky slug it out for D.A.

By JIM BERNSTEIN

jbernstein@liherald.com

The contest for Nassau County district attorney has been the most bitterly fought off all races this election season, with State Sen. Todd Kaminsky, the Democrat, and Anne Donnelly, the Republican, trading a slew of bighting accusations against each other, mostly centering on who is most responsible for setting prisoners free on the street to commit other crimes.

The accusations stem from Donnelly's attempts to paint Kaminsky as the legislator who wrote the state's Bail Reform Law, which gives and prohibits judges' discretion to assign bail in many felony and certain non-felony cases. Kaminsky voted for the bill, but did not write it.

Although the State Legislature amended the law in April 2020 to include a greater number of crimes for which bail could be assigned, the issue continues to dominate the campaign, and the ads continue to run on local TV stations. Donnelly points to her 30 years of working as a prosecutor in the Nassau D.A.'s office, heading different bureaus. Kaminsky notes that he served as a prosecutor in the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan.

**Herald: Nassau County has a growing immigrant population that often does not trust law enforcement. How would you improve that relationship?**

**Kaminsky:** As district attorney, my office will have information available in every language, as well as community liaisons who do outreach in every part of Nassau County. And let me be clear: I will have a zero tolerance for hate crimes as district attorney. Hate crimes against the immigrant population have risen at troubling rates recently, and the trend must be addressed aggressively. It doesn't matter if you're Jewish, LGBTQ, Asian, Black or Muslim: You deserve to feel safe walking down the streets of your neighborhood. As district attorney, I will take a tough and aggressive approach to hold racists and other hate-mongers accountable in our community by instituting a zero-tolerance policy. I am proud to have the support of law enforcement, including the New York State Troopers and local Police Benevolent Association. They know my record. They know I will fight to protect all Long Islanders. Rebuilding trust doesn't just mean the prosecutor's office has to have a better relationship with communities—it also means trust in government and institutions overall has to improve by prosecuting corruption. Corruption has infested every level of government here in Nassau County. As a federal prosecutor, I worked on the highest-level corruption cases, successfully prosecuting both Democrats and Republicans who violated the public trust. Corruption will have no place to



**Anne Donnelly**

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 56

**Hometown:** Garden City

**Professional Background:** Worked in the district attorney's office for more than three decades and serves as the deputy chief of the Organize Crime and Rackets Bureau. Spent time as the acting chief in the Public Corruption Bureau, senior trial assistant in the Rackets Bureau and as deputy chief of the Economic Crimes Bureau. She earned her law degree from Fordham University in 1989.

hide when I am district attorney.

**Donnelly:** I am committed to serving all residents of Nassau County in a fair and respectful manner. Part of that commitment consists of helping to ensure that people who have emigrated from other countries into the United States are welcomed into the communities in which they have chosen to settle. Outreach programs that feature governmental liaisons who speak the primary languages of members of our diverse community should be at the top of the priority list. Educational initiatives and literature in various languages are also needed to welcome residents and build trust. I am prepared to play a leadership role in this area.

**Herald: Gangs are growing in Nassau and Suffolk. Aside from prosecuting those apprehended, what else can the district attorney's office do to stem the violence?**

**Kaminsky:** As a federal prosecutor, I successfully took down gang leaders and the gun and drug traffickers who supplied them, cleaning up our streets and keeping dangerous weapons out of criminals' hands. Gang violence is a serious threat to our communities, and



**Todd Kaminsky**

**Party:** Democrat

**Age:** 43

**Hometown:** Long Beach

**Professional Background:** Member of New York State Senate representing the 9th district, based on South Shore since 2016. He previously worked as an assistant district attorney in the Queens County District Attorney's Office before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York as an assistant U.S. attorney. Kaminsky was elected to the State Assembly, serving in that body from 2014 to 2016. He earned his law degree from New York University.

combating them will be a top priority of my office. Some of the worst gangs are international in scope and go beyond our state and even our country's borders. This means that having strong partnerships with federal law enforcement agencies is critical. As someone who worked as a federal prosecutor, I will coordinate with our federal partners closely to root out gang violence. Importantly, when it comes to gangs, we also cannot keep treating the symptoms—we must treat the underlying disease. We must establish trust in communities with gang violence and work with local organizations to identify bad actors and offer alternatives to crime. My office will be constantly working with schools and after-school programs to educate young people about the dangers of gangs, and investing in these programs so our young people are learning, partaking in constructive activities and do not choose to walk the path that gangs offer them.

**Donnelly:** Collaborating with schools, as well as municipal governments and non-for-profits, we can provide more opportunities for enrichment and socialization programs as viable alternatives to gangs. Safe activities and

good mentors are important components of attractive and positive choices for young people. I plan to explore the use of asset forfeiture funds to further programs of this type.

**Herald: Our jails are often overcrowded and riddled with Covid-19 cases. What would you recommend to ease these conditions?**

**Kaminsky:** The best way to address overcrowding, deliver swift justice for victims and lower crime is to fully fund our court system. There are federal funds available through the Department of Justice to help—and I will push the state to add more dollars to ensure justice is served. I will also make sure that programs with proven track records to turn around criminal behavior — especially for substance abuse — are funded to keep Nassau safe and to reduce the recidivism that floods our courts with cases.

**Donnelly:** The Nassau County jail is not overcrowded, and I am intimately aware of this fact, having served as the district attorney's liaison to the correctional center until recently. Indeed, the inmate population is at its lowest level in the past 25 years. What's more, the facility did an excellent job in containing and treating Covid. Unfortunately, the "cashless bail" law that was co-authored by my opponent has greatly limited the ability of judges to make incarceration decisions for individuals based upon the pertinent facts in each case.



## LET US KNOW

News Brief items including awards, honors, promotions and other tidbits about local residents are welcome. Photographs may be emailed as well.

Deadline for submissions is noon Thursday, week prior to publication.

Send to [exceditor@liherald.com](mailto:exceditor@liherald.com)





# NASSAU COUNTY CLERK

## Maureen O'Connell Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 70

**Hometown:** East Williston

**Career:** County clerk, former nurse

**Political experience:** Nassau County clerk, 2006-present; New York state assemblywoman, 1998-2005; trustee and deputy mayor, Village of East Williston, 1991-98

**On the issues:**

Maureen O'Connell said her goal is to continue to expand on the many steps taken to improve the office since she was first elected in 2005, and to ensure that it operates effectively and efficiently. She and her staff



worked with military veterans to protect them from data breaches through the years. She said she has also found ways to get the community involved by extending office hours, creating outreach programs and educating constituents on what the clerk's office provides.

have worked to process more than a million backlogged records and implemented an electronic filing process that converts paper land records to a digital format to ensure they remain safe for the future, and she said she hoped to continue to serve residents of all ages in the community by helping them to learn about the benefits of the clerk's office.

O'Connell and her staff have also implemented security measures to protect residents from scams and identity theft, and have

## Justin Brown Challenger

**Party:** Democratic

**Age:** 30

**Hometown:** Baldwin

**Career:** Health-care administrator

**Political experience:** Served on the Uniondale Board of Education for the past three years

**On the issues:**

Justin Brown said he has long been passionate about helping people and being an advocate for residents. He intends to make the office more innovative with technology so that residents could receive documents and enjoy greater accessibility without having to visit the office in person and imple-



menting a modern system that his office would have full control over online.

Brown said he would also ensure that the clerk's office could engage with the communities by providing more education and collaborating with key stakeholders in all towns to create a dialogue so that residents can take full advantage of the county clerk's resources and benefits.

# HEMPSTEAD TOWN CLERK

## Kate Murray Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 59

**Hometown:** Levittown

**On the issues:**

Kate Murray has been active in the Town of Hempstead politics since first holding the position of town clerk in 2002. After serving a lengthy tenure as town supervisor from 2003 through 2016, she was re-elected for the role of clerk in 2019.

Having faced the challenges created by Covid-19, Murray has worked to modernize the office by launching a paperless Long Island Rail Road parking pass system in Oceanside last June, which became available to



a translation component so the site can be seen in the language preferred by the user.

A firm believer in providing tax relief, Murray maintained that she worked with the town supervisor to craft a tax-freeze budget in 2021, and would work toward a tax-cut budget in 2022.

the rest of the town in March of this year. She advocated for keeping the clerk's office open during the pandemic by creating safe ways for the office to continue to serve the community. An advocate for catering to all residents, Murray supports multilingual outreach and said she believes the clerk's office must represent people of all nationalities.

If re-elected, Murray would be a part of the implementation process of the Town of Hempstead's new website, which will have

## Oneka Nicks Challenger

**Party:** Democrat

**Age:** 29

**Hometown:** Uniondale

**On the issues:**

First-time candidate and challenger Oneka Nicks is a Uniondale Library trustee, a 1st Lieutenant in the Uniondale fire Department and a foundation relations and donor communications manager for Planned Parenthood.

If elected, Nicks envisions a modernized clerk's office with a Freedom of Information Law cue system that could best monitor when requests came in, the deadline to answer and the progress that has been made retrieving the requested documents. Additionally, Nicks



it available in numerous languages. Lastly, Nicks would like to oversee the creation of a 311 system for residents who prefer to speak on the phone about certain services or issues. She feels that this, as well as online meetings discussing how the office works, would effectively modernize the office.

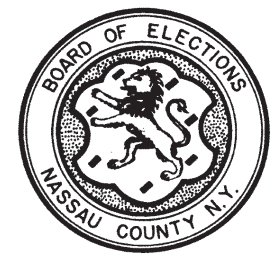
said she believes the office would benefit from a meeting management system, and she would like to see the removal of equipment, such as typewriters, to create a fully electronic and digitized office.

Nicks would also like to ensure that documents for residents are available in multiple languages and to make sure that everyone the community is informed on the services offered by the clerk's office. She believes outreach is key, as is modernizing the website to make



# SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT

# ELECTION '21

**OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR GENERAL ELECTION**  
**November 2, 2021**  
**NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

**ROCKVILLE CENTRE**

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
 To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on the ballot, mark the oval to the left of 'write-in' and print the name clearly, staying within the box. Any mark or writing outside the spaces provided for voting may void the entire ballot. You have a right to a replacement ballot. If you make a mistake or want to change your vote, call the Board of Elections at (516) 571-2411 for instructions on how to obtain a new ballot. The number of choices is listed for each contest. Do not mark the ballot for more candidates than allowed. If you do, your vote in that contest will not count. Instructions for Voting on Questions and Proposals  
 To vote on a question or proposal, mark the oval to the left of your choice. If you make a mistake, or want to change your vote, call the Board of Elections at (516) 571-2411 for instructions on how to obtain a new ballot.

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
 Para votar un candidato cuyo nombre no está en la papeleta, marque el óvalo a la izquierda del 'write-in' y escriba el nombre claramente en la casilla. Cualquier otra marca, o escritura fuera de los espacios proporcionados para votar, puede anular toda la papeleta. Usted tiene el derecho a una papeleta de reemplazo. Si comete un error o quiere cambiar su voto, llame a la Junta De Elecciones al (516) 571-1245 para instrucciones sobre cómo obtener una nueva papeleta. El número de opciones está listado para cada elección. No marque mas candidatos de lo permitidos. Si lo haces, su voto en esa elección no sera contado.  
 Instrucciones para la votación de preguntas y propuestas Para votar sobre una pregunta o sobre una propuesta, marque el óvalo a la izquierda de su preferencia. Si comete un error o quiere cambiar su voto, llame a la Junta De Elecciones al (516) 571-1245 para instrucciones sobre cómo obtener una nueva papeleta.

This is not an actual ballot, but a composite of several sample ballots so as to reflect all the districts within the communities covered by your edition of the Herald. Complete reporting on candidates running in districts covered by the Herald – as well as the full text of our endorsements in each race – may be found at LIHerald.com under the Elections '20 tab.  
 For election results after the polls close Tuesday night, go to LIHerald.com

Office	Justice of the Supreme Court (Vote for up to eight) Juez de la Corte Suprema (Vote hasta por ocho)								County Executive (Vote for one) Ejecutivo del Condado (Vote por uno)	District Attorney (Vote for one) Fiscal del Distrito (Vote por uno)	County Comptroller (Vote for one) Controlador del Condado (Vote por uno)	County Clerk (Vote for one) Secretario del Condado (Vote por uno)	Family Court Judge (Vote for one) Juez de la Corte de Familia (Vote por uno)	District Court Judge District 2 (Vote for one) Juez de la Corte de Distrito Distrito 2 (Vote por uno)	Hempstead Supervisor (Vote for one) Supervisor (Vote por uno)	Hempstead Town Clerk (Vote for one) Secretario Municipal (Vote por uno)	Hempstead Council Member District 1 (Vote for one) Concejal Distrito 1 (Vote por uno)	Hempstead Council Member District 4 (Vote for one) Concejal Distrito 4 (Vote por uno)	County Legislator District 2 (Vote for one) Legislador del Condado Distrito 2 (Vote por uno)	County Legislator District 6 (Vote for one) Legislador del Condado Distrito 6 (Vote por uno)	County Legislator District 7 (Vote for one) Legislador del Condado Distrito 7 (Vote por uno)
Democratic	<input type="radio"/> 1 Timothy S. Driscoll	<input type="radio"/> 2 Susan B. Heckman	<input type="radio"/> 3 Vito M. DeStefano	<input type="radio"/> 4 Christopher Modelewski	<input type="radio"/> 5 Conrad D. Singer	<input type="radio"/> 6 Danielle M. Peterson	<input type="radio"/> 7 Eileen Daly Sapracione	<input type="radio"/> 8 Elizabeth Fox-McDonough	<input type="radio"/> 9 Laura Curran	<input type="radio"/> 10 Todd D. Kaminsky	<input type="radio"/> 11 Ryan E. Cronin	<input type="radio"/> 12 Justin R. Brown	<input type="radio"/> 13 Darlene D. Harris	<input type="radio"/> 14 Vincent T. Muscarella	<input type="radio"/> 15 Jason L. Abelove	<input type="radio"/> 16 Dorothy L. Goosby	<input type="radio"/> 16 Aaron E. Meyer	<input type="radio"/> 22 Siela A. Bynoe	<input type="radio"/> 22 Laura J. Burns	<input type="radio"/> 22 Lisa Daniels	
Republican	<input type="radio"/> 1 Timothy S. Driscoll	<input type="radio"/> 2 Susan B. Heckman	<input type="radio"/> 3 Vito M. DeStefano	<input type="radio"/> 4 Christopher Modelewski	<input type="radio"/> 5 Conrad D. Singer	<input type="radio"/> 6 Danielle M. Peterson	<input type="radio"/> 7 Eileen Daly Sapracione	<input type="radio"/> 8 Elizabeth Fox-McDonough	<input type="radio"/> 9 Bruce A. Blakeman	<input type="radio"/> 10 Anne T. Donnelly	<input type="radio"/> 11 Elaine R. Phillips	<input type="radio"/> 12 Maureen C. O'Connell	<input type="radio"/> 13 Darlene D. Harris	<input type="radio"/> 14 Vincent T. Muscarella	<input type="radio"/> 15 Donald X. Clavin, Jr.	<input type="radio"/> 16 Kate Murray	<input type="radio"/> 16 Anthony P. D'Esposito	<input type="radio"/> 22 Harold H. Germain	<input type="radio"/> 22 C. William Gaylor	<input type="radio"/> 22 Howard J. Kopel	
Conservative	<input type="radio"/> 1 Timothy S. Driscoll	<input type="radio"/> 2 Susan B. Heckman	<input type="radio"/> 3 Vito M. DeStefano	<input type="radio"/> 4 Christopher Modelewski	<input type="radio"/> 5 Conrad D. Singer	<input type="radio"/> 6 Danielle M. Peterson	<input type="radio"/> 7 Eileen Daly Sapracione	<input type="radio"/> 8 Elizabeth Fox-McDonough	<input type="radio"/> 9 Bruce A. Blakeman	<input type="radio"/> 10 Anne T. Donnelly	<input type="radio"/> 11 Elaine R. Phillips	<input type="radio"/> 12 Maureen C. O'Connell	<input type="radio"/> 13 Darlene D. Harris	<input type="radio"/> 14 Vincent T. Muscarella	<input type="radio"/> 15 Donald X. Clavin, Jr.	<input type="radio"/> 17 Kate Murray	<input type="radio"/> 16 Anthony P. D'Esposito	<input type="radio"/> 22 Harold H. Germain	<input type="radio"/> 22 C. William Gaylor	<input type="radio"/> 22 Howard J. Kopel	
Working Families									<input type="radio"/> 11 Ryan E. Cronin	<input type="radio"/> 12 Justin R. Brown				<input type="radio"/> 17 Olena Nicks			<input type="radio"/> 22 Siela A. Bynoe	<input type="radio"/> 22 Laura J. Burns	<input type="radio"/> 22 Lisa Daniels		
Common Sense									<input type="radio"/> 9 Laura Curran					<input type="radio"/> 15 Jason L. Abelove			<input type="radio"/> 16 Aaron E. Meyer				
Write-in	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

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PULL OUT

# COUNTY LEGISLATURE 2ND DISTRICT

## Siela Bynoe Incumbent

**Party:** Democratic, Working Families

**Age:** 53

**Hometown:** Westbury

**Professional experience:** Principal of acclaim management Strategies LLC, a housing and management consulting firm; adjunct professor at LIU Post; former executive director of the Huntington Housing Authority

**Political career:** Nassau County Legislature, 2014-present; Westbury School Board trustee, 2010-2014

**On the issues:**

As a member of the Legislature's Rules committee, Bynoe said one of the most



important responsibilities is overseeing county contracting and ensuring the integrity of the billions of dollars in procurement it entails. To that end, she introduced and passed legislation that requires vendors to provide updated background information in writing as a condition of approving any new contracts.

As part of the Democratic minority's efforts to correct the imbalances caused by years of a frozen tax roll, she said she continues to support efforts aimed at ensur-

ing Nassau County's Department of Assessment is "properly resourced and optimally positioned to succeed in its mission," noting, "Their efforts are crucial as we seek to restore equity to the system and correct the unfair burden that has been placed upon property owners who did not consistently 'grieve' their assessment - a phenomenon which has resulted in a disproportionate tax burden in many majority-minority communities."

Using its allotment of federal American Rescue Plan Covid-19 relief funds, Bynoe said, Nassau County established the Boost Nassau Resource Center and dedicated tens of millions of dollars toward the creation of low-interest loans grant programs for small businesses, and other timely assistance for our local business.

## Harold Germaine Challenger

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 33

**Hometown:** New Cassel

**Professional experience:** Information technology manager

**Political career:** First-time candidate

**On the issues:**

Harold Germaine said, "We need to put a stop on County Executive [Laura] Curran's tax reassessment that has devastated the county, caused headaches for many constituents in a time of desperate need for assistance due to Covid-19. The Curran reassessment has caused an increase in



taxes for around 65 percent of Nassau County residents. We need transparency in the reassessment process, we need to see and understand the algorithm that is being used for those reassessment calculation (that the executive has yet to make public), we need an independently elected assessor that the public can hold accountable via public meetings where clear plans can be discussed and a vote can be taken on changes impacting the county."

The elected assessor, he

said, "would have an independent budget and staffing. The currently appointed assessor, David Moog, has not held a single community forum to address the questions of residents as to how assessments are calculated, how to analyze assessment data, including ladder reports, and how the various components of a home are valued."

He continued, "Local businesses need the backing and support of their locally elected government that will ensure that they won't be hit with increased taxes and fees while they try to recover from the pandemic. We need to ensure that folks feel safe to go back to work and local businesses can begin hiring once more."

*Includes Hempstead, Lakeview, New Cassel, Rockville Centre, Uniondale and Westbury*

# COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 5

## Debra S. Mulé Incumbent

**Party:** Democratic

**Age:** 59

**Professional experience:** Social worker

**Political career:** Nassau County Legislature, Freeport Village trustee, Freeport School Board president and vice president

**On the issues:**

Debra Mulé offered praise for the current county administration's "conservative budgeting and smart fiscal management." The county, she said, "has been able to earmark large portions of its American Rescue Plan allocation toward direct relief programs that will help local businesses continue to



adapt to the post-pandemic world."

This past summer, she said, the Democratic minority in the Legislature "advocated for and secured unanimous approval for dedicating tens of millions of dollars to recovery grants for small businesses, low-interest loan programs and other forms of crucial support for entrepreneurs."

"I'm blessed with the opportunity to represent a tremendously diverse constituency in the 5th Legislative District," Mulé said, "and

it has always been my practice to equip my office to best meet the needs of our community. Since the district I serve includes a large number of Spanish-speaking residents, I have ensured that my staff will always include a person who is fluent in Spanish. My current staff includes a Haitian-Creole speaker as well."

Baldwin's downtown revitalization continues to be the top issue that Mulé is focused on. The county's contribution to this effort - Complete Streets - will be starting by the end of the year. "This investment in our infrastructure," she said, "promises to provide for a safe, walkable and revitalized downtown and serve as a catalyst for further smart, transit-oriented development."

## Brian McEvoy Challenger

**Party:** Republican

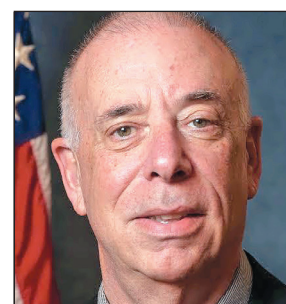
**Age:** 59

**Professional experience:** Operations manager, high school coach

**Political career:** South Hempstead Civic Association President

**On the issues:**

"The economy has taken a huge loss during Covid," McEvoy said. "On Long Island, we need more help locally to help our small businesses survive and to grow new business. Long Island lost one in six businesses and, with that, people lost jobs and many left the state. We need a lot more capital spending to



grow businesses in Nassau County."

McEvoy said he believes "it's the responsibility of those that seek or hold government office to fight discrimination wherever it is found, promote policies that foster equality and support those that have been discriminated against. This includes ensuring that discriminatory policies, actions or barriers in employment, housing, banking are eradicated. I also believe that total inclusion is important in making decisions."

McEvoy continued that he believes "the tax reassessment is extremely flawed," noting, "It's hard to understand that some homeowners' taxes will go up drastically while others will stay the same. The \$375 that the county will be sending out is not enough to counterbalance the tax increases."

He also said that he believes crime has risen following the bail-reform laws that passed in recent years. "I believe that law enforcement should be able to do their jobs and protect the citizens of Nassau County, whether in the neighborhoods or in our local jails," he said.

*Includes Baldwin, Baldwin Harbor, Freeport, Merrick, Oceanside, South Hempstead, Rockville Centre.*

**PULL OUT**

**SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT COURTESY OF**



# COMPTROLLER

## Brian Cronin

**Party:** Democratic

**Age:** 40

**Professional experience:** Corporate attorney, business litigator

**Political career:** Second-time candidate

**On the issues:**

Brian Cronin said the Nassau County comptroller's office must lean into the "new normal" and embrace modernization, saying that the office still uses technology from the middle of the 20th century and is thus overdue for an upgrade. In doing so, it would allow the office to adapt more effectively not only to the "new normal" but also to any hurdles to come.



Nassau has become a "hub of diversity," he said. As comptroller, he would "represent the entire county" and strive to have voices from every community heard. Many new businesses in Nassau are minority-owned, he said, and he would work to ensure that county contracts were evenly distributed among business owners.

The comptroller, he said, is the "taxpayers' watchdog responsible for fighting waste and fraud," adding that the office will take on "increasing importance given

the uncertainty of the post-Covid economy."

He would recruit "high-level professionals from the private sector to join our team so that we have the skilled team required to address these unprecedented times," adding, "Taxpayers must have confidence that this team is not politicized. Like most taxpayers, I am sick and tired of divisive politics. This is why I have committed to hiring a moderate Republican as my top deputy. Such bipartisanship has become far too rare in today's politics."

## Elaine Phillips

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 61

**Professional experience:** Financial adviser, vice president of mortgage finance and institutional sales

**Political career:** Formerly state senator, 7th District, mayor of Village of Flower Hill

**On the issues:**

As Nassau County comptroller, Elaine Phillips said she would play a crucial role in "objectively identifying those governmental agencies whose performance is lagging and making recommendations to address deficiencies." An example of a lack of adequate management and adaption has been seen within the Department of



Consumer Affairs, she said. The county administration, she said, should "follow the Town of Hempstead's successful practice of issuing permits and licenses off campus through the use of mobile trailers. Strict safeguards have been employed to meet the needs of taxpayers."

While in the private sector at Goldman Sachs, she said, she oversaw the diversity efforts, and while she was a New York state senator, she sponsored multiple educational and outreach

forums on diversity. As Nassau comptroller, she said she would work to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace, and educate and promote solutions to ensure equal rights for all. At the same time, she would undertake performance audits of all county departments to ascertain whether they are meeting diversity, equity and inclusion metrics.

As comptroller, she said, she would serve as the "taxpayer's watchdog." "Taxes and spending need to be controlled in Nassau County," she said. "I have the background and expertise to implement audits to weed out waste, abuse and fraud, saving taxpayers money. Further, I will audit the recent property tax reassessment to determine the extent to which mistakes [were] made."

# SUPERVISOR

## Don Clavin

Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 52

**Hometown:** Garden City

**Career:** Elected official, attorney

**Political experience:** Hempstead town supervisor (2019 to present); receiver of taxes (2001-2019)

**On the issues:**

Don Clavin said tax relief is at the top of his priorities, and that after freezing taxes in 2021, he intended to cut them in 2022. He has also dedicated \$75 million to road repaving and infrastructure upgrades and \$10 million on parks improvements. Additionally, he said, he



hoped to continue to slash unnecessary spending after trimming \$1 million from the supervisor's staff budget upon taking office, while also eliminating "take-home cars" for top managers, and driving his own personal car.

He added that he is proud of the town's fiscal strength under his administration, which has been recognized with credit rating upgrades from two top Wall Street credit agencies — Moody's and Standard & Poors. Clavin said he was pleased to have recently ntro-

duced the "pothole patrol," an effort to expedite roadway repairs using state-of-the-art pothole repair vehicles and promoting a hotline for residents to report potholes in their neighborhoods. He said that under his leadership, the town has worked to ramp up efforts to improve town infrastructure, which he called critical for the safety and quality of life of residents, while still freezing town taxes for 2021 and cutting them in 2022. Clavin said he has sought and will continue to seek to assist small businesses as they reopen. Using federal CARES Act funds, the town distributed money and personal protective equipment kits to small businesses and residents during the pandemic.

Clavin also said he instituted an Economic Advisory Council to help strategize and make decisions.

## Jason Ablove

Challenger

**Party:** Democratic

**Age:** 51

**Hometown:** Oceanside

**Career:** Discrimination attorney since 1994

**Political experience:** First-time candidate

**On the issues:**

Jason Ablove said his top priorities are to lower taxes and bring equity to the delivery of town services.

He added that he believes the town has wasted money on "high salary patronage jobs, bloated budgets, expensive mailers and inflated no-bid contracts."

Ablove said his goal is



to cut excessive spending to improve infrastructure in the town based upon areas of most need.

He said he also wants to use federal CARES money and the Boost Nassau initiative to provide direct support to small businesses, and to promote job fairs and lower taxes to make business thrive in the town.

He said he would streamline permitting, promote job fairs and lower taxes to make business thrive in the town.

Ablove said if he were

elected, Hempstead would distribute the federal relief money. Ablove said he believes that the town's primary responsibility is local infrastructure, and roads need to be adequately cared for.

He added that, if elected, he would place resources on infrastructure based upon need.

Ablove said he would slash \$5 million that is spent annually on town mailings and would end the waste, putting taxpayer's priorities over those of politicians, and running the town with an eye toward service rather than re-election would save residents millions of dollars.



# HEMPSTEAD COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

## Dorothy Goosby

Incumbent

**Party:** Democrat

**Age:** 83

**Professional experience:** Licensed dietician nutritionist, journal author, chemistry teacher

**Political career:** Town of Hempstead councilwoman, Association of Towns president, Hempstead Board of Education vice president, Marshall Elementary School PTA president

**On the issues:**

Dorothy Goosby said she voted to implement and supported the following measures during the coronavirus pandemic:

- Mobile Covid-19 testing and vaccinations



- More than \$11 million in federal pandemic relief funds to colleges and schools.

- Over a million meals and six million for food banks.

- More than \$800,000 to local villages.

- More than \$400,000 to fire departments.

- A small business personal protective equipment program.

- An expedited process for outdoor dining permits.

"My entire life and political career have been dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion," Goosby said. "I'm a living testament of DEI. Goosby v. the Town of Hempstead has been cited in over 150 cases nationwide as an instrument God divinely used and continues to use to let the world know that diversity, equity and inclusion are our reasonable service to humanity.

"My focus is quality-of-life equity," she said, "because the disparities in my district remain unbalanced and alarming. In terms of sewage equity, our sewage system is at the forefront of my list. The Village of Hempstead must be repaired, not just the sewers maintained by the government. In terms of water equity, the North and South shores must be treated fairly and equitably."

## James Lamarre

Challenger

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 45

**Professional experience:** Business owner

**Political career:** None

**On the issues:**

Lamarre did not respond to the Herald.

Editor's note: James Lamarre could not be reached, despite many attempts.

**PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE**

*Includes Baldwin, Freeport, Hempstead, Lakeview, Lynbrook, Rockville Centre, Uniondale and West Hempstead.*

# HEMPSTEAD COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

## Anthony D'Esposito

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 39

**Hometown:** Island Park

**Professional experience:** NYPD detective (retired)

**Political experience:** Town of Hempstead councilman, 2016-present

**On the issues:**

In spring of 2020, alongside Supervisor Don Clavin, Councilman Anthony D'Esposito spearheaded the region's first outdoor dining initiative, waiving fees and expediting the process to allow and expand outdoor dining. In doing so, he said, the town saved restaurant owners thousands in fees and helped keep their doors



open. Many villages followed the town's lead, and thousands of restaurants are participating in this program, which has been extended to the fall of 2022.

Using federal CARES funding, he said, the town worked with local chambers of commerce to distribute thousands of personal protective equipment kits to small businesses, which helped keep employees and customers safe. As co-chairman of the Town of Hempstead Covid-19 Task Force, D'Esposito was part of

Clavin's Economic Advisory Council, a group of leaders in business, industry, higher education, healthcare and the community brought together to strategize on how to help businesses navigate the pandemic.

For the last three years, D'Esposito said, he has helped draft and implement either a tax-cut or tax-freeze budget. "I will support Supervisor Clavin's 2022 proposed tax-cut budget," he said. "I have worked hard since 2016 to improve roads, facilities and expand programs. I remain proud to join colleagues in dedicating over \$75 million to roads and infrastructure projects, over \$10 million in park improvements and continue to make the communities I represent along our shoreline more resilient in the face of future storms."

## Aaron Meyer

**Party:** Democratic

**Age:** 42

**Hometown:** Oceanside

**Professional experience:** Attorney, author, researcher, academic, public speaker, consultant

**Political experience:** First-time candidate

**On the issues:**

Aaron Meyer said he believes there is much work to be done to help small businesses through the pandemic. "A lot more can be done to help local businesses, which should be the town's priority," he said. "Whether that means starting by designating town personnel to work directly with



small business to tasking the Hempstead Industrial Development Agency to evaluate rental and/or tax relief available under section 862 of the General Municipal Law, or any number of other options available, nothing will happen until local businesses are treated as the priority they should be.

"With respect to staffing shortages," he continued, "that can't be solved without rectifying our housing shortage, which in turn means the town and its IDA have an obligation to promote con-

struction that will keep our younger generation here, especially and pointedly our growing differently-abled community, who must be able to commute from their homes to their jobs. Two-story garden-style apartment buildings can be prioritized in keeping with existing zoning and built to be affordable for the rising generation of younger Long Islanders and those who will come next. It's absurd to expect people to travel long distances in order to collect low hourly wages.

"The three hallmarks of my candidacy have been, from the start, bringing about transparency, accountability and representation," he said. "So, my overall priority is to be the catalyst for the Town Board to be transparent, which in turn will force it to be accountable."

*Includes Baldwin, Cedarhurst, East Rockaway, Hewlett, Island Park, Lynbrook, Malverne, Oceanside, Rockville Centre, South Hempstead, Valley Stream, Woodmere.*



# 2021 JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

## 3rd District Court Judge

### Lisa Saltzman

Running on the Democratic, Republican and Conservative party lines in the general election

Age: 55

Lives in: Great Neck

**Education:** Bachelor's from New York University, 1988; law degree from Yeshiva University in 1991

**Legal career:** Upon graduation, Saltzman began working as a trial attorney at the Legal Aid Society, where she stayed until 1997. She has worked as a supervising attorney with Queens Defenders since 1997, and an attorney at law in her private practice since 2010. Saltzman is also an adjunct professor of law at Seton Hall University, a position she has held since 2010.



### David I. Levine

Democratic, Republican, Conservative

Age: 55

Lives in: Roslyn Heights

**Education:** Graduated from SUNY Binghamton in 1987 and earned his law degree from New York Law School in 1990.

**Legal career:** Judge Levine was appointed by the County Executive Laura Curran to the Nassau County District Court this past March.

Levine previously served as the associate justice for the Village of Manorhaven from November 2019 to March 2021.

Levine was also a member of the Town of North Hempstead Board of Zoning and Appeals from January 2012 to March 2021.

Prior to ascending to the District Court bench, he maintained a private practice in Mineola from 1997 to March 2021 and was an assistant district attorney in Queens from 1990 to 1997.



### William Hohausser

Democratic, Republican, Conservative

Age: 62

Lives in: xxxxx

**Education:** Earned bachelor's degree from SUNY Binghamton in 1981 and his law degree from Columbia Law School in 1984.

**Legal career:** Hohausser served as counsel and the executive director for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney from 1987 to 2015. While there, his areas of practice included securities, corporate, employment, RICO and real estate law as well as Uniform Commercial Code and tort claims.



## Family Court Judge Candidate

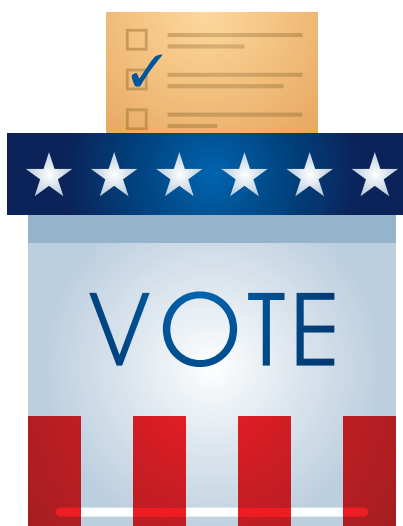
### Darlene D. Harris

Age: 55

Hometown: Uniondale

**Education:** University of Pennsylvania; Hofstra University

**Legal career:** District Court judge since January 2015, practiced law in family court for 13 years, former Nassau County legislator.



## 2nd District Court Judge

### Vincent T. Muscarella

Vincent T. Muscarella, a Republican, is running unopposed for the 2nd District Court. He was elected to the first session of the Nassau County Legislature on Nov. 5, 1995. He represents the 8th Legislative District, which encompasses Franklin Square, Floral Park, Bellerose, Bellerose Terrace, West Hempstead and portions of Elmont, New Hyde Park and Stewart Manor.



Muscarella was born in Nassau County in 1954 and is a life-long resident of the county. After completing his undergraduate studies at Bowdoin College in Maine, he attended St. John's Law School and received his J.D. in 1979. Muscarella is a partner in the law firm of Muscarella and Tomasone and a member of the Nassau County, New York State, and Florida Bar Associations. He is admitted to practice in the Federal District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts.



NOVEMBER 2, 2021



# STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

## Danielle Peterson

**Party:** Republican **Age:** 46

**Education:** Peterson earned her bachelor's from the University of Delaware in 1997 and a J.D. from Hofstra University on 2000.

**Legal career:** Peterson began her legal career as an attorney in a private practice in 2001. In 2010, she became the principal law clerk to the Hon. Anthony L. Parga of the Nassau County Supreme Court and was elected justice in 2015.

## Elizabeth Fox McDonough

**Party:** Democratic, Republican and Conservative **Age:** 59

**Education:** Earned bachelor's from St. John's University in 1984 and J.D. St. John's University in 1987.

**Legal career:** From 1987 to 1997, served as an assistant district attorney in Queens. From 1997 to 2001, served as the principal law clerk to Justice Arthur Cooperman in the Criminal Term of the Queens County Supreme Court.

## Joseph Girardi

**Party:** Democratic, Republican and Conservative **Age:** 62

**Education:** Graduated with Highest Honors from SUNY Oneonta in 1981 with a dual major of U.S. history and political science. Graduated from Georgetown Law Center in 1984 and was a Criminal Justice Clinic participant.

**Legal career:** From 1984 to 1988, served as an assistant district attorney in Queens. From 1988 to 2015, he was an attorney in private practice specializing in criminal cases.

## Eileen Daly-Sapraicone

**Party:** Democratic, Republican and Conservative **Age:** 57

**Education:** Bachelor's from St. John's University in 1991; law degree from City University of New York Law School in 1995.

**Legal career:** Daly-Sapraicone began her legal career in 1995 as an assistant district attorney Queens, where she worked for six years. Daly-Sapraicone served as a special counsel in the special commissioner of investigation for the New York City School District.

## Susan B. Heckman

**Party:** Democratic, Republican and Conservative **Age:** 41

**Education:** Earned bachelor's in history and political science from Bucknell University in 2002; received law degree from Villanova University School of Law in 2005.

**Legal career:** From 2007 to 2010, served as a defense attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County. Since 2012, Heckman has served as the principal law secretary to Suffolk Supreme Court Justice John B. Collins.

## Timothy S. Driscoll

**Party:** Democratic, Conservative, Republican **Age:** 54

**Education:** Bachelor's Hofstra University, 1988; law degree, Harvard Law School, 1991.

**Legal career:** After graduating from law school, Driscoll began a year-long clerkship with the Hon. Joseph M. McLaughlin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the second circuit. Upon completion of his clerkship, he entered into private practice. Driscoll left the private sector in 1996 to join the Nassau district attorney's office.

## Vito DeStefano

**Party:** Democratic, Republican, Conservative **Age:** 54

**Education:** Wagner College; Brooklyn Law School.

**Legal career:** Elected to the New York State Supreme Court in 2007 and is presiding in the Commercial Division and over the Tax Certiorari part of the court in Nassau County. He was a Nassau County District Court judge from 2004 through 2007. Was appointed to the New York State's Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics.

# COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 7

## Howard Kopel Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 70

**Hometown:** Lawrence

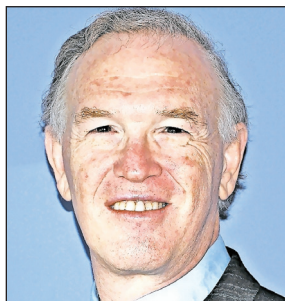
**Career:** Attorney corporate 1975 to 1985; owner Sutton Alliance, a national title insurance and settlement firm 1985 to present

**Political experience:** Six-term county legislator, deputy presiding officer

### On the issues:

Howard is running for his seventh two-year term. Kopel, the Legislature's current deputy presiding officer, said he stands on his financial experience and bipartisan work, and is running for another term because he said he has significant influence in the Legislature.

On the ongoing reassess-



ment, he said he disagrees with County Executive Laura Curran administration's computer modeling, saying he believes that facts on the ground indicate that it is incorrect. Kopel said the county should halt property-tax increases, conduct a careful study to determine what went wrong and correct the system.

With multiple development projects proposed in the district and nearby surrounding communities, Kopel said he has been an outspoken community leader in opposing the proposed Woodmere Club redevelopment, as well as other apartment projects throughout the

district and beyond.

He has expressed opposition to any Industrial Development Agency benefits being extended to such projects, which he said harm the community. Kopel said he supports sensible development and business expansion with the accompanying infrastructure for the proper support.

## Lisa Daniels Challenger

**Party:** Democrat

**Age:** 55

**Hometown:** East Rockaway

**Career:** Attorney and owner of Law office of Lisa Daniels, 1998 to present; adjunct professor, Queens College 1997 to 2001; adjunct professor Hofstra University, 1997 to 2001

**Political experience:** Second-time candidate

### On the issues:

Lisa Daniels ran against Howard Kopel in 2013. Daniels said she would work with municipal officials to promote the creation of a community advisory board and master planning commission, saying that residents and community leaders should have more of a say about the direction of their



communities, and these decisions should be made holistically to see what makes sense for the entire community.

She said the county must ensure development does not exceed the level of its infrastructure, with roadways and wastewater infrastructure already often overwhelmed by existing use. She said she would seek to bolster the infrastructure work to ensure there is more coordination between jurisdictions when development is proposed.

Daniels said she supports increasing the amount of green space across the county and

doing a better job of maintaining it. Saying that she does not want what she called the same mistakes after Superstorm Sandy, Daniels said she acknowledges the climate crisis and how it affects shoreline communities.

Daniels said she supports the work of Curran's administration, from the budgets to the Boost Nassau program that uses federal money to offer grants to small businesses and the \$375 payment that is open to 400,000 households across the county, which could help residents a pay a bill or spend locally at small businesses.

Includes Cedarhurst, East Rockaway, Hewlett Bay Park, Hewlett Harbor, Oceanside, Rockville Centre, Woodmere.



# COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 6

## Bill Gaylor Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 58

**Hometown:** Lynbrook

**Career:** Retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel; attorney

**Political experience:** County legislator since 2015; Lynbrook Village Associate Justice from 2009 to 2015

**On the issues:**

Bill Gaylor said he seeks to continue to advocate for Nassau's veterans, first responders and seniors to ensure their mental and physical health needs are being met. Additionally, he said, he would never vote to defund the police, and would always make sure they



have the resources they need to return home safe at the end of their shifts. He added that he plans never to vote for property-tax increases, and to fight to make the reassessment system is more fair, accurate and transparent. Gaylor said he pushed for legislation to cut \$100 million in fees that residents pay to deliver real financial relief for working class families.

Gaylor said he was proud to secure tens of millions of dollars in federal funding that went directly to small

business relief to ensure that businesses had personal protective equipment and to create a special revenue fund to pay down county refund liability owed to small businesses.

He added that he would continue to strongly denounce any legislation that supports defunding the police and oppose Albany's cashless bail laws, which he called "dangerous," and he would continue to support law enforcement and work closely with them to keep communities safe.

## Laura Burns Challenger

**Party:** Democratic

**Age:** 52

**Hometown:** Rockville Centre

**Career:** Writer and activist; founding member of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

**Political experience:** Second-time candidate.

**On the issues:**

Laura Burns said her top priority is to maintain the county's fiscal health. She added that the taxpayers' money should be spent on infrastructure, programming and services to make taxpayers' lives better. Additionally, she said, her goal is to maintain financial stability



and phase out the Nassau Interim Finance Authority so that the county can move forward with more funding for the taxpayers. Burns would also maintain regular communication with her constituents by hosting bimonthly town halls and weekly "office hours" with district residents in public places and at local businesses.

She said her focus would be to assess the infrastructure needs of the 6th District and begin work on addressing them, making sure to

include constituents in the process.

Burns said that as an advocate for gun violence prevention, she has become well-versed in building coalitions among community groups working on different aspects of a complex issue that spans legislation, cultural outreach, public education and community organizing. She said her experience is what's needed in local government for many complex issues that the district faces — a willingness to seek out diverse voices, gather different points of view, and synthesize them into a plan for action to make people's lives better.

*Includes Franklin Square, Hewlett, Lynbrook, Malverne, North Lynbrook, Rockville Centre, Valley Stream, Woodmere.*

## RELIEF IS AVAILABLE FOR NASSAU RESIDENTS

**Nassau County has approved a plan to use federal relief funds for direct payments of \$375 to eligible households.**

**Here's what you need to know:**

If you receive the Enhanced STAR benefit for Seniors, Senior Citizens' Property Tax Exemption or the Limited Income-Disability Exemption, you will automatically be mailed a \$375 direct payment.



If your household earned \$168,900 or less in 2020 collect your necessary documents and then follow the link or QR code below.

If your household earned \$168,901 or more but under \$500,000 in 2020 follow the link or QR code below to learn if you qualify.

**Household Assistance Program (HAP) Information**  
[www.nassaucountyny.gov/HAPinfo](http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/HAPinfo)

If you need in-person help, call 516-571-1555 for an appointment.



1149666



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# HERALD LROC1 1028 PUBLIC NOTICES

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: ROCKVILLE CENTRE HERALD.  
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e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months, 2155; Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date, 1993.  
f. Total Distribution: Average

No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months, 5261; Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date, 5043.  
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16. This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the October 28, 2021, issue of this publication.  
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Stuart Richner, Owner; Date: October 1, 2021. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material information requested on the form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).  
1150038  
To Place A Notice Call 516-569-4000 x232

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Public Notice to Bidders  
Sealed Bids will be received by the Purchasing Department of the Village of Rockville Centre One College Place, Room 204, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 for the matter stated below until 11:00 am prevailing time on NOVEMBER 15, 2021 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The contract will be awarded as soon thereafter as practicable for:  
**PROPOSED PARKING LOT 2021**  
MORRIS AVENUE and FIRE HOUSE PARKING LOT  
Bid No. 2110CP1(1026)  
The contract documents, specifications and plans can be examined on the Village's website at www.rvcny.gov. Follow the link to the Purchasing Department. Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, bank check or bid bond payable to the Incorporated Village of Rockville Centre in the amount of five (5%) percent of the gross amount of the bid. All questions should be directed to the Purchasing Department. Please contact Lisa Strazzeri via email only at lstrazzeri@rvcny.us. Questions must be submitted no later than November 4, 2021. Award of Contract will be made to the lowest responsible bidder in accordance with applicable provisions of

the law. The Village reserves the right to reject all bids, or make such determination as in the best interests of the Village, as provided by law.  
Purchasing Department  
Lisa Strazzeri  
Purchasing Agent  
516-678-9213  
128128  
To place a notice here call us at 516-569-4000 x232 or send an email to: legalnotices@liherald.com  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Village of Rockville Centre Nassau County, New York  
Notice of Board of Zoning Appeals  
Hearing Date: November 3, 2021  
Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 340 Rockville Centre Village Code NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Appeals of the Village of Rockville Centre will hold a Zoning Appeals Hearing at the Eugene J. Murray Village Hall  
1 College Place, Rockville Centre at 7:00 p.m.  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
November 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM  
Case # 41-2021 - Mary Soehner  
To maintain a front portico including platform and steps, and a rear yard wood deck with a proposed front yard setback of 18 feet 3.25 inches to the front portico where 21.0 feet is the minimum required, a unenclosed platform that

extends 9 feet .75 inches from the principal dwelling where 4.0 feet is the maximum allowable, unenclosed entrance steps which extend 9 feet .75 inches from the principal dwelling where 7.0 feet is the maximum allowable, and a setback from the rear deck to a detached garage of 5 feet 2 inches where 6.0 feet is the minimum required within a Residence A district.  
Premises known as 200 Brower Avenue  
Case # 42-2021 - Robert & Anne Daly  
To construct a second story addition over existing first story and a covered front porch with a proposed lot coverage of 33.2% where 30% is the maximum allowable, and a side yard setback of 5.37 feet where 8.0 feet is the minimum required within a Residence A district.  
Premises known as 28 Cumberland Street  
Case # 43-2021 - Anuj & Donna Arora  
To construct a new single-family dwelling with a proposed lot frontage of 50.0 feet where 80.0 feet is the minimum required, a lot size of 6900 square feet where 8000 square feet is the minimum required, lot coverage of 35.0% where 30% is the maximum allowable, and F.A.R of 54.9% where 50% is the maximum allowable within a Residence A district.  
Premises known as 45 Riverside Drive

Case # 44-2021 - Donato & Gabrielle Nicolo  
To construct a detached garage which is a change to an existing non-conforming use which requires consent from the Board of Appeals.  
Premises known as 53 Woods Avenue  
Dated: October 21, 2021  
**BOARD OF APPEALS OF THE VILLAGE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE, Rockville Centre, New York**  
J. Robert Schenone, Chairman  
Patrick D. O'Brien, Secretary  
Information and records for appeals cases are available at the Office of the Secretary of the Board of Appeals, 110 Maple Avenue, RVC, NY 128130  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice of Public Hearing  
Village of Rockville Centre  
Nassau County, New York  
Meeting Date: November 1, 2021  
Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 330 Rockville Centre Village Code NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Exterior Design Review Board of the Village of Rockville Centre will have a Public Hearing at the Eugene Murray Village Hall, 1 College Place, Rockville Centre  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
November 1, 2021 at 7:00 PM  
Case No. 11-2021  
Summit Health  
310 Merrick Road



Photos by Tom Carrozza/Herald

**THE MERCY TEAM** with breast cancer survivor Yolanda Sanchez; her husband, Alan; her sister, Michelle; and her twins, Liam and Lucas.

## Yolanda Sanchez beat cancer by being proactive

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

from me. That's what gives us all the strength to carry on and do this every day, is because of patients like Yolanda." Yolanda's father, Eddie Sanchez, was with her for every chemotherapy treatment. Her husband, Alan, who attended the ceremony, couldn't hide his glee that his wife was being recognized.

Sanchez opted to have a total mastectomy, after hereditary genetic testing at Mercy determined that she was positive for a moderate risk of the breast cancer gene, which increases her overall lifetime risk of contracting cancer. She had the procedure on Monday.

Dr. Sophia Fu, the hospital's director of breast surgery, performed the mastectomy, and will also conduct Sanchez's reconstructive surgery.

"This will help give her a chance to



**SANCHEZ, SECOND FROM** right, was recently celebrated for beating breast cancer at Mercy Hospital. With her, from left, were Nurse Jeannie Colamussi, Dr. Alice Kim, director of imaging, and Dr. Sophia Fu, director of breast surgery.

feel normal again," Fu said, "and not be reminded every day, physically, that she had cancer as she journeys into being a breast cancer survivor."

# HERALD PUBLIC NOTICES

Rockville Centre, New York 11570  
Description: Exterior renovation of the building with new signage.  
Premises known as: 310 Merrick Road  
The Exterior Design Review Board OF THE VILLAGE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
Eugene Murray Village

Hall, Rockville Centre, New York  
George Bella, Chairperson of the consultants to The Exterior Design Review Board  
Thomas Domanico, Secretary to The Consultants  
Information and records for Exterior Design Review cases are available the Office of the

Secretary, 110 Maple Avenue, RVC 128129  
To Place A Notice Call 516-569-4000 x232  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice of formation of CSM Design LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 6/02/21. Office located in Nassau County. SSNY has

been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC to 12 Addison Pl, Rockville Centre, NY 11570. Purpose: any lawful purpose. 127599  
Search for notices online at www.newyorkpublicnotices.com



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 (law enforcement background required)

**SUBSTITUTE POSITIONS:**

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 \$14.18/hr.

**BUS DRIVER**  
 \$19.50/hr.  
 (must have proper 19A documentation)

**CLEANER**  
 \$14.00/hr. (days & evenings)

Send Cover Letter & Resume to:  
**Dr. Mara Bollettieri**  
 Deputy Superintendent  
 1260 Meadowbrook Road  
 N. Merrick, NY 11566  
 (516) 992-1014

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 Encouraged to Apply

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**SOCIAL WORKER**

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**PLANT BIOLOGIST**

MS, natural landscape planning; restoration  
 and maintenance, intern manager

**SOCIAL DIRECTOR**

MFA Theatre Directing; planning, presenting  
 membership special events

**HISTORIAN**

BFA Photography, story writer,  
 maintain documentation

**TYPIST**

HS Commercial Diploma, AA credits;  
 "Form Letters" to gov't departments, and media releases

**BOOKKEEPER**

HS Commercial Diploma, AA credits, full charge

Opportunity for professional Career advancement.  
 Retired professionals welcome.

Resumes to:  
**Community Beautification**  
 PO Box 341, Hewlett NY 11557

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**A.** When things go bump in the night you cannot always run to your mummy. It seems we humans have always had a fascination with death, and our minds create endless possible scenarios.

The first two things I was taught in architecture school were that we need to always be concerned about water and movement. How water affects our lives as a gas, liquid or solid is fascinating and maybe a little spooky. The center of a tree trunk now exposed, sanded and coated becomes reactive to humidity we cannot easily see as it causes the wood to re-swell. The fibers in wood were once a set of feeding tubes drawing water from the roots to the leaves before someone came along and cut the tree down, stripped, sliced and kiln-dried it.

Nature is super and natural, so it's no wonder that it seems supernatural for wood to want to regain its former capability and creak and moan as it delightfully regains its former life. Some things can't be explained easily, like why someone doesn't check to see that a door is hung correctly, to be plum in the horizontal and vertical, so that the slightest breeze or pressure change makes it seem to move on its own. When heated or cooled, water moves through a metal pipe (more so than through a plastic pipe), expanding it or contracting. If the pipe hangers holding it in the floor structure or the holes it snakes through are only the size of the pipe, the materials push and pull against each other, making banging and tapping sound or squealing sounds in some cases.

I've often explained that homes are in many ways just like other living things, possessing nervous systems with electric wiring, a skeleton, a skin and the ability to breathe in and out. Even though your home may have "good bones," it still gets creaky and expands and contracts with the heat and cool cycles of being hit with the hot sun and cool winds. Every day your home lifts itself out of the ground, expands outward toward the sun and then, as you lie in bed in the darkness, you hear the materials all move past each other as they contract, settling in for the night, just like you.

Just remember, if you don't pay your exorcism bill when it comes due, you run the risk of being repossessed.

## Ask The Architect



MONTE LEEPER

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Readers are encouraged to send questions to yourhousedr@aol.com, with "Herald question" in the subject line, or to Herald Homes, 2 Endo Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530, Attn: Monte Leeper, architect.

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Solution time: 23 mins.

Y	N	O	P	S	D	E	Y	R	O	G
P	O	T	A	P	E	Y	R	O	G	I
S	M	U	S	P	M	U	L	O	W	E
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		S	A	W	O	L				
E	Y	E	Y	M	E	P	T	R	V	
L	A	V	Z	W	O	H	S	E	T	L
V	A	R	A	G	B	E	X	V	J	V
S	L	O	T	S	N	O	M	A	V	L

# HERALD Crossword Puzzle

## King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Tibetan monk
  - Triumphed
  - Used car sites
  - Trojan War hero
  - Lincoln nickname
  - Taj Mahal city
  - TV fare for a night owl
  - Gusto
  - Gallery display
  - "The Raven" writer
  - "No way!"
  - Sign before Virgo
  - "Now, where - I?"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19			20			
			21			22				
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31			32			
33				34			35			
			36			37				
38	39	40			41			42	43	44
45					46			47		
48					49			50		
51					52			53		

- Borodin's "Prince -"
- Reveal
- Dating from
- Embrace
- Salty septet
- "Citizen Kane" sled
- Train tracks
- Observe
- "Ray Donovan" actor Voight
- Dish
- Pirate's drink
- Expert
- San -, Italy
- Single payments

- Revolving server
- Curved molding
- Serving aid
- Auction
- Detail, briefly
- Dallas hoopster, briefly
- Biography
- Peruke
- Scratch
- Mil. morale booster
- "Mayday!"
- Lemon
- Wahine's gift
- Guy's date
- Curvy letter
- Coloration
- Spell-off
- Cavort
- Checker moves
- Bluenose
- Toy block name
- Cupid's specialty
- Regretted
- Car
- "Let's go!"
- Glimpse
- Caustic solution
- Potential syrup

# HERALD ENDORSEMENTS

## Siela Bynoe deserves another term in the 2nd L.D.

**R**epublican Harold Germaine is challenging Nassau County Legislator Siela Bynoe in the 2nd Legislative District. Though the young challenger shows promise in his first bid for office, the Herald endorses Bynoe, in part because of her strong record of advocating for bipartisan police reform and her efforts to reduce wasteful government spending.

Germaine, who has experience as an auxiliary police officer, wants to bridge the gap between constituents and the police. Though it is a noble and necessary goal, the specifics of his plan are unclear aside from promoting more

### HERALD Endorsement



Siela Bynoe

communication.

Bynoe wrote a letter to County Executive Laura Curran in the wake of the George Floyd murder about the need for Nassau County police officers to wear body cameras. Her attention helped make body cameras a reality for the 13th-largest police department in the country, with support from the Nassau Police Benevolent Association, whose executive board unanimously approved of the legislation.

Germaine said he would work to stop the property-tax reassessment, citing the roughly 65 percent of Nassau homeowners who saw their taxes increase last

year, according to county data. Germaine said that his neighbors had been hit especially hard by tax raises, and that he would encourage Curran to make the algorithm used in the reassessment public in the interest of greater transparency.

Bynoe was part of the effort to create an independent Office of the Inspector General to oversee county procurement to safeguard taxpayer dollars. Additionally, she shepherded legislation requiring vendors to provide updated background information in writing as a condition of approving contracts with the county. This came after county Inspector General Jodi Franzese found that the county had lost \$700,000 because of vendor fraud in 2019.

Vote for Bynoe next Tuesday.

## Debra Mulé is the best choice in 5th L.D.

**I**n the race between incumbent Debra Mulé and challenger Eric McEvoy, the choice to reelect Mulé comes down to experience in the highly political arena that is the Nassau County Legislature.

Mulé, a Democrat, is now finishing her second term, during which she has advocated for revitalization and green projects in Baldwin, Freeport, South Hempstead and parts of Rockville Centre, Merrick and Oceanside.

She has an established track record of following through on projects, despite bureaucratic red tape, pandemic delays and political opposition, with unwavering persistence and creative problem-solving.

If re-elected, Mulé said, she wants to finish the projects that she has either initiated or adopted

during her tenure, which would not only improve the quality of life of residents and the business economy, but also create environmental sustainability.

Those projects include remediating the Oakwood Beach Club property in Baldwin, building on flood-mitigation efforts on Long Beach Road in South Hempstead and following through on the reconstruction of this crucial county thoroughfare.

While Mulé has been effective at project management, she has been less so in addressing systemic issues within the government. For example, even though she has made an effort to employ a

### HERALD Endorsement



Debra Mulé

diverse staff, this has not translated to creating or advocating policies that address the lack of diversity in the county workforce overall.

As a newcomer to politics but a veteran in community building through his basketball coaching and managerial experience at Verizon, McEvoy prefers a big-picture approach to politics. His platform prioritizes business support and public safety. The lack of specificity in his platform and lack of understanding of his potential role and jurisdiction in the Legislature, however, are disqualifying.

Vote to return Debra Mulé to her seat in the 5th Legislative District.

## Vote for Laura Burns in the 6th L.D.

**H**aving served as the 6th District legislator since 2015, Bill Gaylor has introduced several bills for the betterment of his constituents and has shown commendable support for veterans, seniors and law enforcement officers.

Gaylor, a Republican from Lynbrook, has shown that he is knowledgeable on the issues, but after three terms in office, many of those issues persist, and few solutions have been offered.

Meanwhile, his challenger, Rockville Centre resident Laura Burns, showed a willingness to address issues throughout the district. Burns, who became a gun-control advocate in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Conn., in 2012,

### HERALD Endorsement



Laura Burns

also became a community organizer after helping to found the group Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. Through the coalition, she became a specialist in community outreach and communication, and it is her willingness to engage more with constituents on all issues that would make her the better fit for legislator.

Burns has vowed that, if elected, she would host bimonthly town halls, both in-person and online, so she could listen to constituents' concerns and work with them to overcome the problems they face. Her plan would

also include weekly office hours when she would meet with district residents in public spaces or at small businesses around the district to better assess their needs.

Through her gun-sense group, Burns has shown a keen ability to communicate, keep others informed and build solid cases for change, which would come in handy when introducing legislation and advocating for constituents. She also displayed knowledge of many issues other than gun control, including affordable housing, renewable energy and infrastructure.

While Gaylor addressed many issues, his main concern seemed to be bashing County Executive Laura Curran over her reassessment plan, without offering viable alternatives. Burns, meanwhile, noted that while imperfect, reassessment was necessary, and she lauded Curran's Taxpayer Protection Plan, which calls for no additional property taxes for the next four years with the goal of creating accurate rolls and reducing the necessity of grieving.

We urge District 6 residents to cast their ballots for Burns.

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# HERALD ENDORSEMENTS

## Re-elect Town Supervisor Don Clavin

**A**fter slashing the Town of Hempstead supervisor's budget in half, proposing tax freezes or tax cuts each year in office and spending tens of millions of dollars to repair town roads and parks, Don Clavin deserves to be re-elected to two more years as town supervisor.

Clavin, of Garden City, ran an efficient office as the tax receiver for nearly two decades, and then admirably dealt with the issues that arose during the coronavirus pandemic in his first term as supervisor. Given all of his experience in town government, he is a better fit for the position than his opponent, Jason Ablove, a discrimination attorney from Oceanside who has no experience in elected office, but still offered many solid ideas.

On his first day in office, Clavin cut the supervisor's staff spending by half, saving taxpayers \$1 million annually, and he has since dedicated \$75 million to road repaving and infrastructure upgrades, as well as \$10 million to parks improvements. In addition to road repairs, his administration introduced the "pot-

### HERALD Endorsement



Don Clavin

hole patrol," an effort to expedite repairs using state-of-the-art vehicles and promoting a hotline for residents to report potholes.

Clavin and the Town Board also acted quickly at the height of the pandemic, aiding seniors, small businesses and essential workers. He used millions of dollars in federal CARES Act funding to provide thousands of free Covid-19 tests for essential workers, personal protective equipment for businesses and meals for residents in need, including seniors.

Though Ablove claimed that Clavin spent some of the money on raises and promotions for political insiders, Clavin offered a reasonable defense, explaining that every expenditure was approved by an advisory review panel and an impartial law firm, and the money was spent properly to help those in need and to safeguard residents. He added that he built a solid partnership with U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer in his first term, amid the pandemic, which we believe will come in handy down the road if Clavin is re-elected.

To further aid local businesses dealing with

the health crisis, Clavin and the board instituted the first outdoor dining initiative in the state in the spring of 2020, waiving permit fees and expediting the process for restaurant owners.

Clavin's background in finance has proved critical. To help save money, he eliminated take-home cars for top managers, including himself, and the town has received credit-rating upgrades from Moody's and Standard & Poor's.

Ablove offered many sound ideas, including trimming the \$5 million per year the town spends on mailers; instituting new guidelines and practices to make its animal shelter more efficient; focusing on road repairs across the town, not just in certain areas; adding a town diversity officer; and creating an office focusing on services for people with disabilities. Ablove also said that residents need more opportunities at town meetings and online to offer feedback on projects before they are approved.

His line of work is a good indication of Ablove's dedication to advocating for people. We urge him to run again in the future, perhaps at a more local level than supervisor.

While both candidates are passionate, eager and approachable, we believe Don Clavin is the better choice given all he has done for the town and his leadership during the pandemic. We urge voters to re-elect him on Tuesday.

## Re-elect Laura Curran Nassau County executive

**J**ust over two years into Laura Curran's first term as county executive, the world was roiled by the coronavirus pandemic. Its continuing impact on life might have consumed lesser elected officials, but not Curran.

The county executive, a Democrat, took control and, following the fact-based advice of health officials, she worked to keep residents informed through her Covid-related news briefings that took place in many communities across the county.

In large part because of her outstanding pandemic response, the Herald enthusiastically endorses Curran for a second term as county executive.

Through a phased-in reopening of businesses, houses of worship and schools, Curran and her administration kept a keen eye on the infection numbers and aimed to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the county. When vaccinations were rolled out, Nassau officials from Curran on down doubled down on the need to vaccinate. As of press time, the county had a 94 percent vaccination rate for adults with at least one dose — the highest in New York state.

Curran used federal money to fund the Boost Nassau program, which began last summer to offer grants to businesses. Also, some 400,000 county households will receive a one-time \$375 direct payment for residents to use as they wish, but which Curran is encouraging people to spend locally to help support pandemic-ravaged businesses.

Her Republican challenger, Hempstead Town Councilman Bruce Blakeman, has been part of the town's battle against Covid-19, which has included a mobile vaccination unit and an array of programs and services that

have assisted residents through the pandemic, all paid for with federal dollars. We also commend Blakeman for his role at the town level in easing restrictions for restaurants to create outdoor dining spaces to help them survive the pandemic.

Financially, Curran has navigated the county through the past two budgets, 2019 and 2020, and has delivered balanced fiscal plans but has not raised county taxes since being elected. The current budget battle is still playing out. Her proposed \$70 million tax cut appears sounder than the Republican plan for a \$120 million cut that Blakeman has campaigned on.

A recurring issue that vexes residents is the way homes are assessed across the county. Reassessment has long been thought of as the third rail of Nassau politics, but Curran showed courage in taking on an issue that made so many other elected leaders quiver. The reassessment process was imperfect, with thousands of mistakes. The system is, however, considerably more accurate now for hundreds of thousands of homes.

Blakeman, for all his years in public office, which include two stints as a town councilman and his time in the County Legislature, where he served as presiding officer, was unable to offer concrete suggestions for fixing the reassessment. The best plan he offered was to take a look under the hood, so to speak, assemble a panel of experts and appoint a special master to investigate what was done and how it could be repaired. When running for the county's

### HERALD Endorsement



Laura Curran

highest office, a candidate needs to offer more than that.

During the turmoil of the past couple of years, Curran, in partnership with Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder, kept a lid on crime in the county. The work was recognized nationally by U.S. News & World Report, which named Nassau the safest community in the country based on several metrics. Now we expect Curran to take on the challenge of increasing the NCPD's diversity as enthusiastically as she did reopening two police precincts in Manhasset and Levittown.

Both candidates support upgrading Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, and Curran said that she has asked the federal government for \$200 million to enhance the hospital's infrastructure. Blakeman said he would aim to increase its revenue by focusing on specialties such as cardiac surgery. Both are good ideas, especially if the federal money is received and spent on what Curran envisions as village-like housing for military veterans on the grounds of the county's "safety-net" hospital. And Blakeman is right that a greater focus on specialties is needed.

We believe Curran's outstanding work in protecting her constituents throughout her first term — particularly during the pandemic — coupled with her willingness and ability to take on critical issues like reassessment have earned her another four years. We urge voters to re-elect her next Tuesday.

# HERALD ENDORSEMENTS

## Lisa Daniels is the choice in L.D. 7

In 2013, Democrat Lisa Daniels challenged Republican County Legislator Howard Kopel when he was running for a second term. Fast-forward to 2021 and Kopel, now the Legislature's deputy presiding officer, is running for a seventh two-year term.

We think it's time for a change, especially with redistricting right around the corner.

Daniels, a lawyer and a career advocate, promises to listen and represent the entire district. We like her idea of having residents involved in planning as part of a community-oriented advisory board to help ensure that the people who live in the immediate area of a project could enhance their quality of

### HERALD Endorsement



Lisa Daniels

life.

Daniels supports the balanced budgets put forth by County Executive Laura Curran and \$375 direct payments to help families. She believes the reassessment grievance system is tilted in favor of people with the wherewithal to hire others to represent them. She likes the online system Curran put in place for everyone to compare homes and submit appraisals to try to lower their assessments.

What has changed in the district? Residents from Hewlett to Cedarhurst are still waiting for the West Broadway project, first discussed in 2015. Kopel, a Lawrence resident, appears to concentrate his representation in the Five Towns, while other

areas of the district, such as Oceanside, are ignored.

In 2014, Kopel began a campaign in partnership with then State Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder to persuade the state to complete the Nassau Expressway and build a bypass to reduce the traffic volume along the Rockaway Turnpike-Rockaway Boulevard corridor. It's a great idea, but it's not in a county legislator's purview.

In 2013, when the Legislature was conducting redistricting, Kopel cast the deciding vote to split the Five Towns into four districts. He said that if changes had to be made, the fewer the better. Dividing one district into four isn't fewer.

Daniels does not have any elected government experience, but neither did Kopel when he first elected in 2009. District 7 needs a new face, and we urge residents to vote for Daniels.

## Dorothy Goosby is only option in Hempstead's 1st District

In the race between incumbent Dorothy Goosby and challenger James Lamarre, the choice to re-elect Goosby comes almost as a default, because Lamarre has been a ghost throughout this race.

Goosby has served for 20 years on the Town of Hempstead Council, advocating for communities of color such as Hempstead, Lakeview, Roosevelt and Uniondale, as well as portions of Baldwin, Freeport, Rockville Centre, East Garden City and West Hempstead.

Although she is the only Democrat, person of color and woman on the council, she has worked collaboratively with the rest of its members to address revitalization, quality of life and, most recently, the business and health needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

In her upcoming term, if re-elected, Goosby

said, she will prioritize renovating the town's sewage system, which is in disrepair and outdated. She also has her sights on making water more affordable for residents, bearing in mind that there is the potential municipalization of New York American Water. Finally, she has expressed concern about charter schools diverting resources from public schools, which are already underfunded in the district.

With the bureaucratic know-how and political savvy that comes with her veteran status, Goosby is adept at perpetuating the status quo rather than challenging it. But the town and its leadership need an audit of its internal processes to

### HERALD Endorsement



Dorothy Goosby

address the lack of transparency and conflicts of interest and to streamline its bureaucracy. In other words, the town needs her to be a disrupter, an ideal position for the sole Democrat on the board, as residents currently wrestle with inequitable distribution of resources, lack of minority representation and a long history of nepotism and cronyism.

Lamarre, 45, a Republican, was not available for comment, questions or interview. What we do know is that he is a West Hempstead resident, and the owner and president of County Cleaners Corporation, a commercial

cleaning company.

Vote for Dorothy Goosby in the 1st District.

## Re-elect Anthony D'Esposito in the 4th Council District

The Herald endorses Town of Hempstead Councilman Anthony D'Esposito in the 4th Councilmatic District.

D'Esposito, a Republican, is seen with constituents often, and has sponsored programs like Narcan trainings to aid in the fight against opioid abuse. Narcan is a life-saving drug that disrupts an opioid overdose.

With the coronavirus sweeping across Nassau County over the past year and a half, D'Esposito co-chaired the town's Covid-19 Task Force and helped provide critical resources like testing materials and personal protective equipment to residents and business owners.

### HERALD Endorsement



Anthony D'Esposito

D'Esposito, a retired New York City police detective who made more than 600 arrests on the job and a former volunteer fire chief, is clearly committed to public service and has the leadership credentials to do enormous good during crises such as the coronavirus pandemic. That is why Supervisor Don Clavin tasked him with leading the town's coronavirus task force.

An Island Park resident, he witnessed firsthand the destructive power of Superstorm Sandy, and has committed to ensuring that local infrastructure is improved to

limit and prevent damage in future storms.

His opponent, Democrat Aaron Meyer, has said Hempstead needs to do more to keep young

people in the district, and that the town's Industrial Development Agency should prioritize local businesses over luxury rental apartment complexes like Woodcrest Village Park. The town, Meyer says, has not made enough of an effort to use the IDA to keep local businesses open rather than outsource jobs to Manhattan-based groups like Woodcrest's Feil Organization.

D'Esposito was, however, the lone vote against the Woodcrest plan in 2019, citing his and his constituents' concerns about the size of the project. Though the project was completed, and there are concerns among residents about overcrowding on local roads, D'Esposito showed that he was on their side.

Despite a strong showing from Meyer, the Herald encourages voters to re-elect D'Esposito.



# HERALD ENDORSEMENTS

## Give Hempstead Clerk Kate Murray another term

In the race for Town of Hempstead clerk, the Herald endorses incumbent Kate Murray.

Murray, who served as clerk in 2002-03 before becoming the first female town supervisor — a position she held until 2016 — is fully qualified to remain in her current position, to which she was re-elected in 2019.

Having taken office shortly before the coronavirus pandemic began, Murray, 59, of Levittown, quickly made changes to ensure that the clerk's office would remain open and work efficiently. Many services were moved to outdoor sheds rented by the town, so residents and employees would feel comfortable with in-person interactions.

Because the clerk's office remained open, it served Hempstead residents throughout the pandemic. Murray even officiated at marriage ceremonies over

Zoom, having been granted permission to do so by the New York state.

She also oversaw the implementation of a sticker-less parking pass system in June 2020. Starting with a pilot program in Oceanside, the system became available to the rest of the town in March of this year. The clerk's office even made the process contactless: Residents can register their license plates online, and Public Safety officers check plates digitally to ensure that vehicles are registered. About two-thirds of commuters have registered online for the program.

Murray also put many applications online, and she has continued the Child Safety ID program and the Senior ID Program, which

### HERALD Endorsement



Kate Murray

collect information from residents that can be used in an emergency. Additionally, she started a Special Needs ID Program.

Murray reassured the Herald that the clerk's office is capable of serve all residents, regardless of language, with staff members who speak a number of languages. Next month the town will unveil a new website that will allow residents to switch to languages other than English.

Murray's opponent, Oneka Nicks, is likable, and offered useful ideas — including one to add languages to the town website. She did not, however, give us reason to vote for her. We support

Murray's re-election on Tuesday.

## Vote for Maureen O'Connell for county clerk

Though we found both candidates in the Nassau County clerk race to be strong, we see no reason to unseat Maureen O'Connell after all she has accomplished in the past 16 years.

O'Connell, a registered nurse from East Williston and a Republican, was first elected clerk in 2005, and re-elected in 2009, 2013 and 2017 — for good reason. She has taken many steps in that time to improve the office and ensure that it operates effectively and efficiently. She and her staff have worked to process more than a million backlogged records, and implemented an electronic filing process that converts paper

### HERALD Endorsement



Maureen O'Connell

land records to a digital format to ensure they remain safe in the future.

O'Connell and her staff also implemented security measures to protect residents from scams and identity theft, and have worked with military veterans to protect them from data breaches. She has extended office hours and created outreach programs to educate constituents about services the clerk's office provides.

Her opponent, Justin Brown, a Democrat from Baldwin, offered many solid ideas for improving the office moving forward, and as a health care administrator for Sloan

Kettering Memorial Cancer Center and a former

Uniondale Board of Education trustee, he has shown proven leadership skills.

Brown's ideas include making the clerk's office more technologically efficient, so residents can receive documents without having to appear in person; implementing a modern, user-friendly online system that the office would have full control over; and offering greater community outreach to residents and constituents to show them how to maximize the office's services. Brown is just 30 years old, we believe there is a strong future in politics for him, and encourage him to seek elected office in years to come.

For now, though, O'Connell has the county clerk's office humming along, and has instituted a great deal of positive change there in the past 16 years. We encourage voters to re-elect her.

## Ryan Cronin is choice for county comptroller

In the race to fill Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman's post between Democrat Ryan Cronin and Republican Elaine Phillips, our choice to support Cronin boils down to his holistic plan to provide increased accountability across party lines and modernize the office of the comptroller.

Keeping in mind the controversy swirling around the office with the current comptroller because Schnirman overpaid tens of thousands as Long Beach city manager, Cronin, 40, said one of his goals is to gain back the trust of his constituents.

Indeed, Cronin, a Garden City resident, has a track record as a corporate attorney who has dealt with complex contract disputes and fraud claims, and of advocating for those who have been taken advantage of. Cronin defended more than a dozen victims of the Bernie Madoff Ponzi scheme and took on a global corporation to force the recall of a defective product that caused the injury and death of infants—in other words, watchdog-caliber experience.

Cronin raised a blueprint for the office's priorities, both short- and long-term. As an immediate concern was the vendor payment process, which is plagued by chronically delayed payments that lead to extra costs for all parties involved. He also wants to proactively address Nassau's antiquated technology, which will not comply with coming accounting standards within the next three to five years.

Cronin also prioritizes building a bipartisan office, already pledging to appoint a Republican as his top deputy. Aligned with his apolitical view of how the office should run, he has critiqued County Executive Laura Curran for not collaborating with the county Republicans on jettisoning county fees and for perpetuating the structural gap between recurring county revenues and expenses.

Unlike Cronin, who lost two State Senate races against Republican incumbent Kemp Hannon, Phil-

### HERALD Endorsement



Ryan Cronin

lips has already had a political career. As Flower Hill mayor, she stabilized the village's finances and incentivized green projects, a tenure that attests to her familiarity with local bureaucracy and financial savvy.

However, it is her time as the 7th District senator that has raised some red flags regarding her leadership and partisanship. As the head of the Ethics Committee, the body held few meetings, which resulted in no material progress.

Phillips has strong professional financial experience as a financial analyst for Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan, where she juggled the competing needs of her clients and her employers; however, she did not provide specific new ideas for the office of comptroller.

Because of Cronin's independence from his party, his professional experience going after the big guys and his specific plan of action, the Herald supports Cronin. Vote for him on Election Day.

# HERALD ENDORSEMENTS

## Elect Kaminsky for Nassau County district attorney

The most hard-fought, nastiest race in Nassau County this election season has been the contest for district attorney, pitting Democratic State Sen. Todd Kaminsky against Republican Anne Donnelly. Both have run scathing television ads, with Donnelly accusing Kaminsky of freeing prisoners under the state's new bail-reform law, and Kaminsky accusing Donnelly of botching a murder trial leading to a mistrial.

But the bad-mouthing began with the Republicans, who see the D.A.'s race as their best chance to capture a powerful seat in county government and were first to air the ads. In our view, Kaminsky is the better candidate.

The State Legislature passed a bail-reform measure in 2019, restricting the use of cash bail and pre-trial detention in misdemeanor and nonviolent felony cases. It also gave judges discretion to assign bail in almost all violent felony cases and certain nonviolent cases, such as witness tampering. The law was amended in 2020, and Kaminsky voted for the amended law, which gives judges bail discretion in a greater number of cases.

In her TV ads, Donnelly accused Kaminsky of *writing* the bail-reform bill. That was untrue. Kaminsky voted for it, but was not its author.

This issue was central to the campaign for D.A. That's a shame, because there are other issues that demanded the attention of both candidates. Kaminsky, while having to defend himself against the false allegations, did bring up other matters, including the need for stronger gun control legislation and a

woman's right to choose in the growing debate over abortion.

Kaminsky has proven himself to be an able state senator, particularly when it comes to the environment, an issue of great importance to his South Shore constituency. He is chairman of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, and authored the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, an aggressive climate-change program that puts New York on the road to carbon neutrality and a green-energy economy. He has been in the forefront of a fight to regulate carcinogenic contaminants in Long Island's water supply, and has passed legislation banning products containing toxic substances. He secured billions of dollars for clean-water systems.

While Kaminsky's environmental record is enviable, the question is, does this make a good prosecutor? We believe his passion for issues demonstrates his hunger to do good work through public office, and his ability to work effectively as an elected leader. Kaminsky has pledged to use the bully pulpit of the D.A.'s office to take on big-picture law-enforcement issues, and he no doubt can.

### HERALD Endorsement



Todd Kaminsky

Donnelly argues that she is the law-enforcement professional. She has been a prosecutor in the county D.A.'s office for 32 years, and served as deputy chief of the Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau. Certainly, such service is admirable.

Kaminsky, who became a state senator in 2016, worked as an assistant district attorney in the Queens D.A.'s office before joining the U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of New York. He prosecuted elected officials who used taxpayer dollars to support their lifestyles, including former State Senate Majority Leader Pedro Espada Jr., State Assemblyman Jimmy Meng and Michael Grimm, a member of Congress.

Kaminsky offered some fresh ideas to improve the D.A.'s office. He promised to crack down on hate crimes at a time when anti-Semitic and racist acts are rising in New York. He also promised to root out corruption in Nassau, whether among Republicans or Democrats, and swore to improve trust in government at a time when that is sorely lacking.

Kaminsky has also vowed to work harder with federal law-enforcement officials to defeat the rise of gang violence in Nassau. But he said he wanted to go deeper, and work with communities and schools dealing with such problems.

Our view is that Kaminsky, given his background in both government and the U.S. attorney's office, is an excellent choice for Nassau district attorney. We give him our wholehearted support, and voters should, too.

## OPINIONS

### Jason Kreiss at 50: Blessings on your head

How is my son, Jason, like a MacDonald's quarter-pounder? They are both 50 years old this year. And, might I add, both awesome. Also 50 this year? Disney World, the Nasdaq, email, floppy disks, Sacha Baron Cohen, and Hamburger Helper.

Right up alongside my shock at being the mom of a 50-year-old is my shock that e-mail is only 50 years old. How is that possible? The day Jason was born, I couldn't email anyone or send a text or snap a photo on my iPhone. That gizmo wouldn't be launched for 36 more years.

When your child hits the half-century mark, attention must be paid. How did the little kid with mittens clipped to his jacket learn to drive a car, run a household, start a business? How did the boy who tracked seagulls overhead instead of the soccer ball find his way? What does it mean that he was born, and how does he

see this gift of a life to live?

His story is his to write, but let me say what only a mother can get away with saying: He is a mensch, a loving family man, a loyal friend and a responsible earthling. These things I expect. What I could not have known when he was 6 pounds 9 ounces is that he is both a skilled, empathic lawyer and a dedicated fisherman. One is his profession, the other his passion.

You'd have to ask his kids what they think about his parenting, but I expect, like most teens, they'd give him a B today and an A when *they* turn 50.

You can see that I'm taking this landmark birthday seriously.

I was such a kid when he was born.

Twenty-four years old. He was due on Halloween, and all that day I rested on the couch in our apartment, waiting for some sign and getting only annoying trick-or-treaters banging on the door. Clearly it was too late for second thoughts, but I began wondering what I wanted kids for anyway. They would just grow up to become annoy-

ing goblins beating at the door.

We had a crazy dog in those days, a toy poodle named Lambchop, who quickly became known as the Chopper due to his appetite for domestic goods. That day, while waiting for Jason to be born, I rested on the couch and apparently dozed off for some time, because when I woke up, my pant leg was gone. The Chopper had been gnawing on my cuff (in his favorite flavor, polyester), found a thread and unraveled the entire leg. It was a sign, but not the one I was looking for.

I thought Halloween would be my low point, but seven more days would pass before Jason's birth. And every day I got bigger and more nervous.

On Nov. 6, I ate a large corned beef sandwich for dinner and went to bed early. At 4 a.m. on Nov. 7, my water broke, and my husband and I went into Birth Alert. In a scene reminiscent of a sitcom, my husband leapt up, cracked his head on the headboard and nearly lost consciousness. We immediately called our best friends, who were on call to

drive us to the hospital, and told them we might need them within a few hours. They really appreciated that heads-up at 4 a.m.

"Don't worry," I reassured my husband, "it will be many, many hours before the contractions start. Go back to sleep."

As he put his head back down on the pillow, I got a contraction. A big one. "Get up," I said.

"I think I just went to sleep," he said.

"But I'm getting another contraction, and it's only two minutes later," I said. "It's not supposed to happen like this. We better get to the hospital."

Six minutes after we first called our friends, we called them back to pick us up.

Then the friend who drove told me what he said was the hardest thing he ever had to tell anyone in his life: "I have to stop for gas." He was on empty.

It was a wild ride, but we got to Long Island Jewish Hospital at about 5:30 a.m. Forty minutes later, our son was born.

We named him Jason Wyatt and he will be 50 years old next week. To us he's still a kid, still evolving. But the early results are promising.

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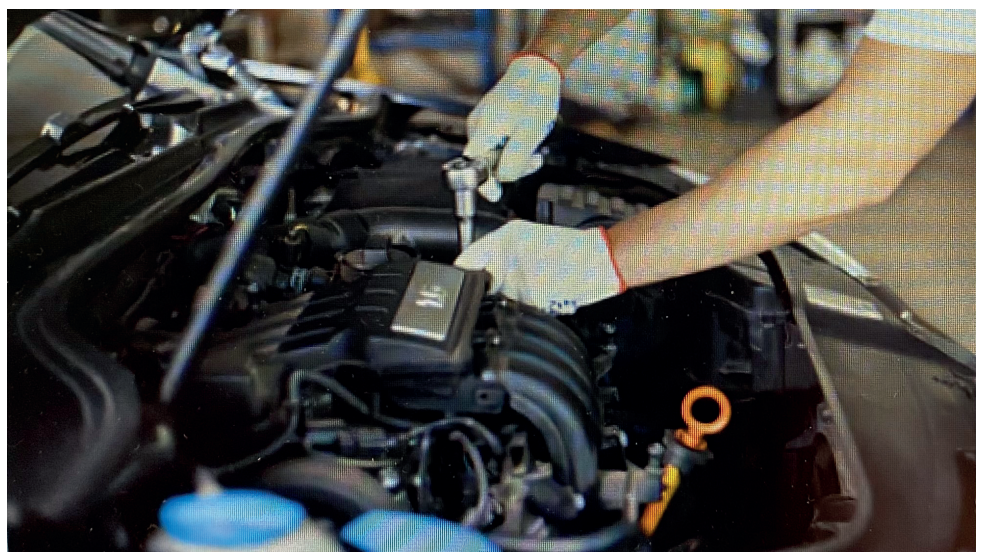
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