

BELLMORE

# HERALD



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OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 3, 2021



Courtesy Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District

## Can't stop Colt pride

Varsity kickline members Missy Bello, Mia Williams and Sophia Crowley were ready to get the crowd moving at Sanford H. Calhoun High School's Homecoming game last Saturday. More photos, Page 3.

# Rabbi Klein says goodbye to Jewish Centre congregation

By **ANDREW GARCIA**  
agarcia@iherald.com

It was a momentous and bittersweet night at the Merrick Jewish Centre last Sunday as Rabbi Charles A. Klein, its religious leader for 43 years, retired. It was a special event, attended by hundreds who share a connection with the rabbi. For many, including Klein himself, it was hard to say goodbye.

And what better way to kick

off the event for the always-jovial Klein than with a crowd wave?

While many throughout the night shared their fondest memories of their rabbi, eliciting smiles and laughter, the reminder that those days are now in the past made for choked words and held-back tears.

Klein was selected as the Jewish Centre's rabbi in 1978, and the decades since have "flashed by in an instant," said his wife,

Betty. In addition to weekly Shabbat services and holiday events, Klein presided at countless marriages, funerals, births and bar mitzvahs, and offered guidance to many in their darkest times.

He has worked side by side with several MJC presidents, many of whom spoke last Sunday. Current President Howard Tiegel, who is serving for the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

# District grants laptops for all

By **JORDAN VALLONE**  
jvallone@iherald.com

The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District is in the process of implementing a 1:1 Chromebook Initiative that will put laptops in the hands of all students in grades seven through 12.

Joseph Innaco, the district's director of administrative and instructional technology, told the Herald that the initial plan was to give Chromebooks to seventh- to ninth-graders. But with additional state aid and approval by the Board of Education, the initiative was expanded to include grades 10 through 12.

"We didn't have a 1:1 initiative prior to this," Innaco said. "But students had the opportunity to use Chromebook, laptop or iPad carts — as well as a bring-your-own-device policy."

As reported in the Herald in June, Superintendent Mike Harrington explained that the district realized over the course of the 2020-21 school year how crucial technology had become in helping students succeed. "We are truly grateful for the Board

of Education and the school community for getting this done," Harrington said. "It will truly enhance the academic experience of the students."

Although all students in the district will be given Chromebooks this year, the rollout has started with grades seven

**Y**ou see students actively engaged — and it empowers students, too.

**JOSEPH INNACO**  
Technology director,  
BMCHSD

through 10. "Right now, seventh through 10th grade has a Chromebook," Innaco said. "We are in the process of giving them out to grades 11 and 12."

"We had to update the infrastructure over the summer," he added. "We really condensed three years of network upgrades into one summer."

With the staggered rollout, the district gave parents a time frame for when their kids would receive the new equipment. According to a letter sent home to parents, the district is assessing the stability of the network upgrades in the younger grades to make sure everything is working smoothly. Once the network is proven stable, the older grades will begin receiving their laptops.

"So far, the rollout has been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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Photos by Jordan Vallone/Herald

**A SIZABLE CROWD** came out on Monday night for the “Meet the Candidates” night, hosted by the South Merrick Community Civic Association, in partnership with the South Bellmore Civic and the North and Central Merrick Civic Associations.



**“MEET THE CANDIDATES”** organizers Lenny and Francine Goldstein, Joe Baker, Berta Weinstein and Mark Salsberg.

## Civics host annual ‘Meet the Candidates’ night

By **JORDAN VALLONE**  
[jvallone@liherald.com](mailto:jvallone@liherald.com)

On Oct. 25, the South Merrick Community Civic Association hosted its 15th annual “Meet the Candidates” night at the Merrick Golf Course Clubhouse in South Merrick, in partnership with the South Bellmore Civic Association and the North and Central Merrick Civic Association.

The event drew a sizable crowd, and attendees were able to listen to and interact with candidates at both the town and county level.

Prior to the start of the evening, Berta Weinstein, vice president of SMCCA, announced the rules each candidate had to adhere to. Each candidate was allotted five minutes of open speaking time, followed by five minutes of questions. If both candidates for the same race were present, the incumbent could choose to speak first or last. If only one candidate was present, they would speak in the order in which they arrived at the meet-

ing.

Issues discussed included the tax reassessment, the response to Covid-19 by both the county and Town of Hempstead, and infrastructure improvements such as road repairs and storm preparedness, among many others.

The candidates in attendance were, for Nassau County Executive, Laura Curran and Bruce Blakeman; for Town Supervisor, Jason Ablove; for Nassau County Comptroller, Ryan Cronin and Elaine Phillips; for Nassau County Clerk, Maureen C. O’Connell and Justin Brown; for Nassau County District Attorney, Todd Kaminsky; for Nassau County’s 5th Legislative District, Debra Mulé; for Nassau County’s 13th Legislative District, Thomas McKevitt and Eileen Napolitano; for Nassau County’s 19th Legislative District, Steve Rhoads; for the town board’s 6th district, Matthew Galante; and for the town clerk, Olena Nicks.

For more information on the candidates, refer to our election guide inserted in this issue, or visit [www.liherald.com](http://www.liherald.com).



# Colt pride kicks off homecoming festivities

Colt pride was kicking all week long as Sanford H. Calhoun High School hosted a spirit week, culminating in a homecoming dance, festival and football game on Oct. 23.

"The hallways were decorated, the courtyard was beautiful and the energy of our kids was great," explained Principal Nicole Hollings. "To say that school feels normal would be an understatement. It is truly wonderful to see kids wanting to be involved and engaged."

The 36-6 loss didn't dampen spirits as crowds visited various Calhoun club booths, participated in lawn activities and enjoyed the music from the school's Rock Band, led by Ed Tumminelli.

At halftime, the cheerleading and kickline squads pulled off high-spirited routines. Alex Rosario and Ava Stanek were crowned homecoming king and queen, respectively.



FROM LEFT, SABRINA Jones, Lucas Porcar, Jasmine Ramlowtan and Alexa Saade, along with Assistant Principal Mark Melkonian, collected donations for the district's food pantry, the Community Cupboard.

Photos courtesy Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District

Compiled by Andrew Garcia



**HOME COMING KING AND** queen Alex Rosario and Ava Stanek, far left.



**THE CALHOUN ROCK** Band, directed by Ed Tumminelli, provided musical entertainment for the homecoming game.

**THE COLTS RAN** plays ahead of their matchup against Glen Cove at their Oct. 23 homecoming game.

**CALHOUN CLUBS, SUCH** as the Racial Equity Club, bottom left, had activities and informational booths at the festival ahead of the Homecoming game.





# HERALD NEIGHBORS

## Merrick Festival comes back to the hamlet

By **ANDREW GARCIA**  
agarcia@liherald.com

The annual Merrick Fall Festival was back and bigger than ever.

Cancelled last year due to Covid-19, Merrick's many businesses once again had a chance to interact with thousands of visitors, and entertainment was again abundant. Over the whole weekend, the foot traffic around the LIRR and up Merrick Avenue was dense.

In addition to the hundreds of vendors, families rode on carnival rides and enjoyed a magic show and a petting zoo.

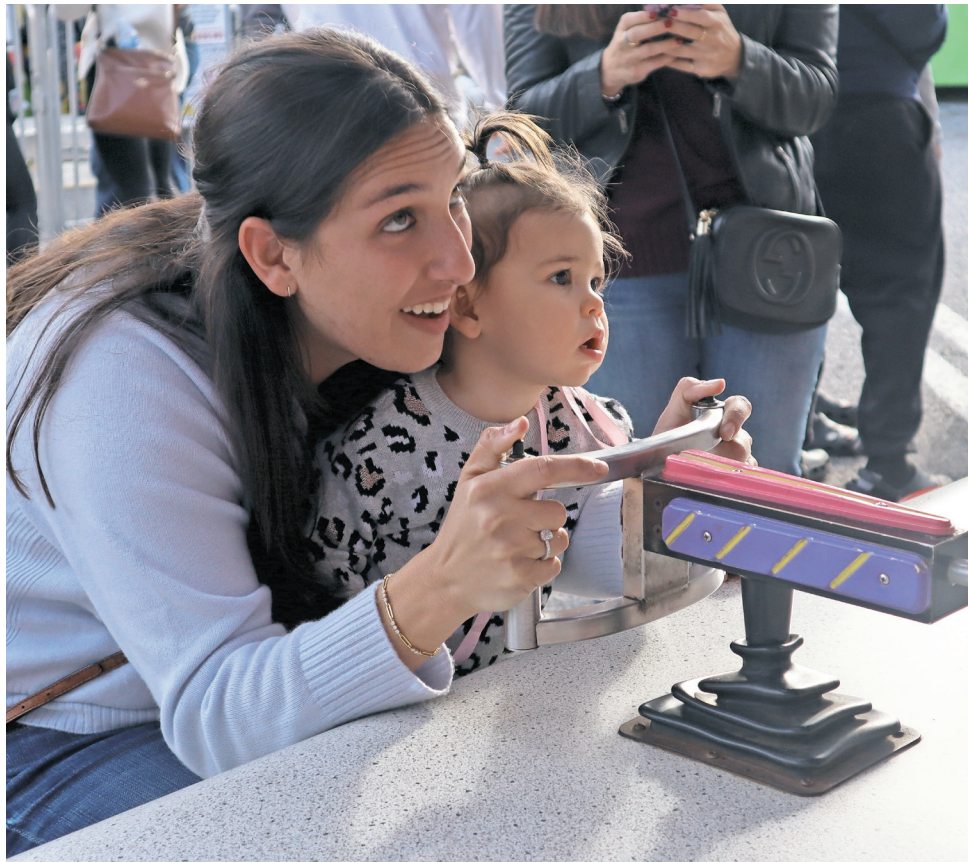
"We tried to think of any possible way to make this happen," said Mer-

rick Chamber President Ira Reiter before the weekend, "and we thought outside the box."

Last year's festival cancellation was a blow to the chamber and larger Merrick business community, which sees a large influx of cash during the event. The revenues are used to fund the chamber's holiday lights program, scholarships and other community initiatives.

"We're very excited to be hosting and to be doing so after many, many years," said Julie Marchesella, past president of the Merrick chamber and the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce.

The festival will return to Merrick again next year.



Photos by Andrew Garcia/Herald

### CORONA VIRUS

COMMUNITY UPDATE

**Total infections**

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**New infections from Oct. 11 - 18**

**51**

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## SHABBAT SHALOM

Long Island

**LYNDSEY AND KYLE**  
Patterson  
gun game on Saturday.

Torah portion:  
**Chayei Sarah**  
Shabbos Me'areimin

**THE CHATTERTON**  
SCHOOL 6th grade  
bake sale was tabled  
by students from left,  
Benet, Dylan, Max,  
Adam and Eli

Five towns times from the  
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**NORTH MERRICK**  
LIBRARIAN Janet  
Wasserman served up  
laughs and snooks  
with a "Consumption  
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# Families honor loved ones at Pinelawn Memorial

Pinelawn Memorial Park and Arboretum, known for its world-class arboreta, hosted its third Candlelight Remembrance Vigil where more than 630 guests reflected on lost loved ones in a beautiful, peaceful setting.

The first evening vigil took place on Sunday, Oct. 3, when Star Larreynaga, of North Bellmore, spoke about the loss of her mother to Covid and how she continues to walk the path of grief.

"It's very important to us that we offer opportunities for families to honor the memories of their loved ones, which is a very important part of the grieving process," said Kristyn Hovanec, marketing manager at Pinelawn. "Our vigils are set in a tranquil environment and serve as a source of unity for the attendees to share together."

The vigils, which included the reading aloud of names of loved ones, also featured a non-denominational sermon. They were set in a beautiful outdoor setting amongst of Pinelawn's Louis Natalie Mall, surrounded by the gentle sounds of live string music and live vocals, and the soft glow of string lights.

Pinelawn Memorial Park and Arboretum offers several remembrance events throughout the year, including its Spring Candlelight Remembrance Vigil and a Lantern Lighting Celebration.

Pinelawn Memorial Park and Arboretum, located in Farmingdale, is a non-sectarian cemetery prided on creating and



Photos courtesy Pinelawn Memorial Park

**MORE THAN 250** names were read aloud to help over 300 guests pay tribute to loved ones.

maintaining a beautiful and serene environment where families can find tranquility and comfort. Its open and expansive landscape features hundreds of acres of manicured grounds, unique architecture, flowing bronze fountains and flower-lined walks. Its memorial gardens offer all who visit scenic beauty where they can reflect

upon their loved ones in peace.

For more information on Pinelawn Memorial Park and Arboretum, or to schedule a tour of the property, visit [www.pinelawn.com](http://www.pinelawn.com) or call 631-249-6100.

Compiled by Andrew Garcia



**STAR LARREYNAGA, A** resident of North Bellmore, spoke about the loss of her mother to Covid-19 during a Fall Candlelight Remembrance Vigil held on Oct. 3. Star shared memories about her mother, the matriarch of her family, and discussed how she continues to walk the path of grief, with the help of Pinelawn.



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# Community celebrates legacy of Rabbi Klein

October 28, 2021 — BELLMORE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

second time, said he was both the 19th and 23rd person to have the honor to be president alongside Klein.

“During our three and a half years together in this capacity we have exchanged over 70,000 emails and texts — plus or minus 20,000 — spoken on the phone at least 2,000 times, attended more than 125 meetings together and spent at least 500 hours sitting with each other on this bema,” Tiegel said. “Along the way, not only has he been an incredible rabbi, an incredible teacher and a wonderful collaborator, but he has also become one of my very, very best friends, and someone I deeply, deeply treasure.”

The event was organized over many months by the Klein Retirement Recognition Event committee, and featured a few special surprises at the end.

“He helped raise two generations of our congregational families, shaping the values and beliefs and instilling in our children, and even all of us, the wisdom of our faith,” said Alan Sussman, past president and co-chair of the committee.

Throughout the night, recorded interviews with Klein were played, in which he recounted his career, from the biggest challenges — like the rabbinic’s encroaching on his time with his family — to the happiest moments.

“That was hard, and to this day it remains hard,” Klein said. “I want to have some balance in my life — Betty deserves it. She deserves me not being rushed and not passing her by in the house as I’m going out to this or going out to that.”

“We sometimes take for granted that the Merrick Jewish Centre is one of the most dynamic and important Jewish institutions on the South Shore of Long Island,” said George Feld, “and indeed we have achieved a great deal over the last half-century in our community and well beyond, but it wasn’t always that way.”

In 1977, Feld became president, overseeing the search for a much-needed rabbi, one who could bring “vigor and real Jewish meaning to a divided congregation,” he said. Back then, before MJC had the bustling of congregants it enjoys today, it was in constant competition with other local synagogues.

Feld invited Klein to be interviewed by the board, and he was met by a 27-year-old, “baby-faced” man. While his lack of experience had board members harboring doubts, Klein’s passion left them impressed. “The rest, fortunately for our beloved Merrick Jewish Centre and all of us, is our incredible history,” Feld said.

Speaking on the topic of community, past President Steve Kussin said, “Perhaps most important, community makes people feel welcome. Nobody did that better than Rabbi Charles Klein. He had the magic to unite 700 families, 400 adults, countless scores of Hebrew school children and bring them together over three generations. In short, he turned them into one being.”

“When it came time for me and [my wife] Joanne to find a community in which to settle and our family, one of the main reasons we chose Merrick was to have Rabbi Klein as our rabbi,” said Char-



Photos by Andrew Garcia/Herald

**LAST SUNDAY, RETIRING** Merrick Jewish Centre Rabbi Charles Klein was awarded a baseball jersey with a significant number.

lie Skop, MJC’s ritual chairman, who has known Klein since he was a teenager.

“As I reflected on my relationship with Rabbi Klein, and just watching him through the years, it wasn’t the words once spoke, it wasn’t the words once written, it was the actions always taken,” said Rabbi Jack Dermer, who was MJC’s assistant rabbi for three years. “We know what makes you a man of wisdom is not the words — the words are the easy part. It’s the showing up day in and day out, and being there in all the ways you have been for everyone in this room.”

“He said something to me I will remember for the rest of my career,” said Rabbi Ravid Tilles, a former assistant rabbi at MJC. “He said at every given moment as rabbis, we have the potential to change people’s lives. Whether it’s a really big moment on high holidays in front of thousands of people, or if it’s just talking to one person as they sit with dread in a hospital bed, and anywhere in between.”

In an emotional segment of the recorded interviews, Klein reflected on what he would miss the most. “I’ll miss not playing my role in the unfolding of the Jewish story,” he said. “Ultimately, that’s what I wanted to do.”

Toward the end of the event, the past presidents in attendance gathered to honor Klein as the congregation’s rabbi emeritus. The sanctuary was also dedicated to Klein, and renamed the Rabbi Charles A. Klein Sanctuary.

Betty Klein — not one who is usually in the spotlight — took to the bema to toast those what have helped make MJC what it is today. “It is very difficult for me to focus on the fact that this is an evening of reflection, memories, gratitude and official farewells as Charlie prepares to retire,” Betty said. “On June 13, 1978,

we arrived here and it was Charlie’s 27th birthday . . . that was the day that our story began. It was exciting, it was scary, and it was truly an overwhelming time. We never imagined then that we’d be here 43 years later. In the blink of an eye, we traveled through time from 1978 to 2021.”

“This is a pretty amazing thing — this sanctuary,” her husband told the audience. “This has been my place. I have loved walking into this shul for over 43 years.

“This lectern, this pulpit, has been my therapy couch,” he continued. “When I was moved by injustice, I spoke about it here. When I was sad, I shared my feeling from here. When life punched me, you heard my pain.”

Klein was presented with retirement gifts by the committee, including a Yankees jersey with a 43 on the back, a golf outfit and an artist’s rendition of the pulpit so it’s always close by.

A second “surprise” event is planned for Klein on Nov. 7, at 1:45 p.m., in the MJC parking lot. All are welcome to attend.



**KLEIN SAID GOODBYE** to the synagogue he has called home for 43 years. Hundreds attended the event.



**KLEIN SAT AND** laughed with his family through the speeches and guest appearances.





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# HERALD SPORTS

## Mephram knocks off Lynbrook

By **TONY BELLISSIMO**  
tbellissimo@iherald.com

### 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 Mephram..... 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.

In search of its second Nassau Class A boys' soccer championship in four years, Mephram took the first step many lower seeds couldn't in the first round last Friday afternoon by scoring twice midway through the first half and holding off a late push by Lynbrook for a 2-0 victory.

The Pirates, who shared the Conference A1 title with MacArthur, earned the No. 7 seed but was only three of eight home teams to advance to the quarterfinals. Top-seeded South Side, No. 2 Mineola, No. 4 MacArthur, No. 5 North Shore and No. 8 Lawrence were all eliminated.

"All of us want to be in these kinds of games and all of us want to win," said junior midfielder Konstantinos Karousis, who gave Mephram (9-0-4 overall) its two-goal cushion in the 22nd minute. "Our confidence level is very high," he added. "We came out aggressive and pressing. Once we put in the goals and got the lead, we did our job to hold it."

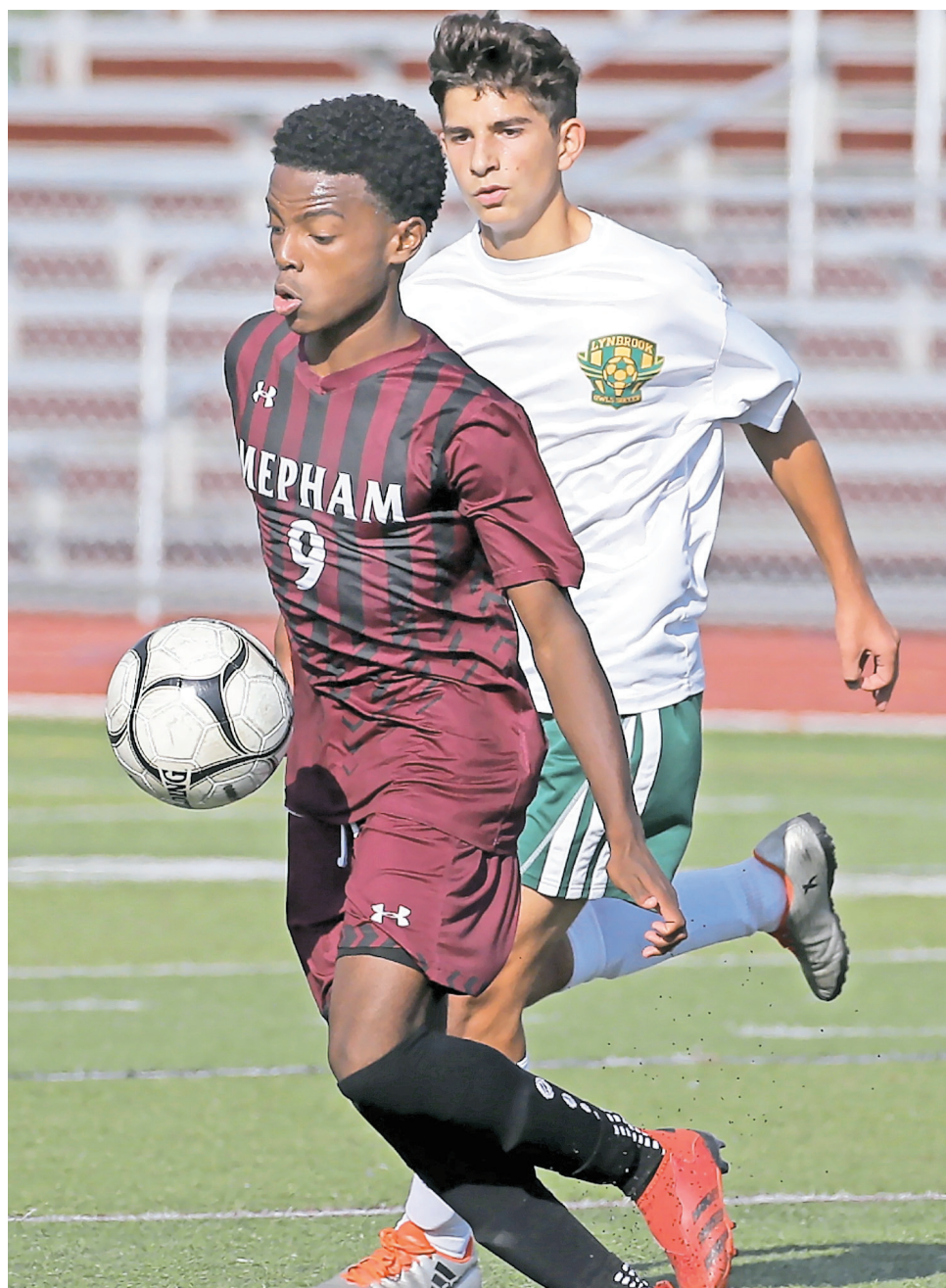
The Pirates were to host No. 15 Roosevelt in the quarterfinals after Herald presstime, with a spot in this Friday's semifinals at Mitchel Athletic Complex going to the winner. The county final is Nov. 3 also at Mitchel.

"It was difficult to advocate for individual awards because our talent is so deep and spread out," Mephram coach Zachary Gosse said. "Our offense has come from all over the place, which is great, and we've only allowed seven goals all season."

Lynbrook (7-4-2) enjoyed the better of the play in the second half but couldn't get anything past Mephram junior goalkeeper Nicholas Parisi, who made 8 saves. It didn't help that the 10th-seeded Owls' leading scorer, senior Conor Lynch (8 goals, 4 assists) was banged up with a calf issue in crunch time. They got 8 stops from senior keeper Haris Sekic.

"We had a couple of tactical mistakes on defense in the first half and they capitalized on them," Lynbrook coach Josh Berlin said. "Our kids kept battling and we were much better in the second half. We had some chances and put a few shots right at the keeper."

"Conor going down sucked a little life out of us, but I give him a lot of credit for gutting out the injury as best he could and



Brian Ballweg/Herald

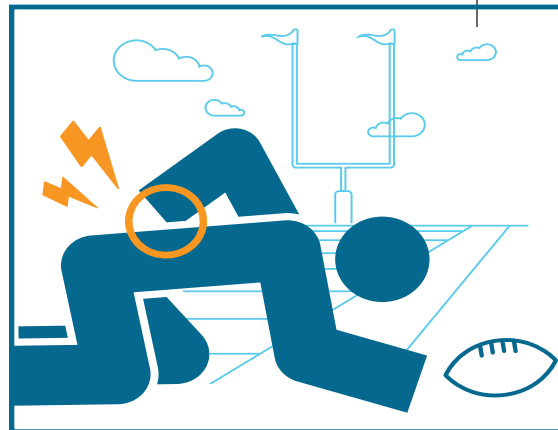
**JUNIOR DESHAUN MAITLAND**, the leader scorer for a deep Mephram side, picked up an assist in its 2-0 win over Lynbrook in last Friday's Nassau Class A playoff opener.

going back in for a while," he added.

Junior Dominic Saraceni scored in the 18th minute to give Mephram all the offense it would need as a defense led by senior Carter Chiarello, juniors Dimitri Gogas, Jeffrey Decina and Kyle Persaud, and freshman Mark Diener set the tone for its 10th shutout in 13 matches.

Juniors Deshaun Maitland and Emilio Avalos Paz had assists. Maitland leads the team in scoring with 15 points, including 9 goals.

"I think our side of the bracket is stacked," Gosse said. "But if we play well and play the way we're capable, we can win it all."



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## JOHN HAMBROOK

OYSTER BAY COVE

Chief,  
Oyster Bay  
Fire Department



When Covid hit, it was confusing at first. It was an unprecedented situation for us. In the beginning, everything stopped. People stopped calling 911 because they were afraid to go to the hospital. We were dealing with a lot of fear.

We were dealing with people who were concerned, scared, and some had potential respiratory issues. I did what I was told. I was actually more concerned about my people. Some got Covid right away, but fortunately none of them had to go to the hospital.

What I focused on was getting [personal protective equipment]. We already had it but weren't sure how long we would be needing it or how effective it was. So, we had a PPE drive and got a lot of response from the community. We ended up never running out.

During Covid, we went to fewer fires, I

think, because people were aware of what was going on at home. They weren't rushing out the door in the morning and coming home exhausted. My EMS officers really rose to the occasion during Covid.

That first year was a long year, and it was pretty tough. The Fire Department really worked hard, the department and the officers.

I was watching all of the conferences to figure out what we were supposed to do. And our battalion had conferences regularly, too, so we always knew what we could and couldn't do.

I'm proud of what we did in Oyster Bay. We are a completely volunteer Fire Department — no one is on the payroll. The volunteers drive this community.

### HERALD HOMETOWN HERO



## 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 know 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 FEMA buses and that relieved the pressure and stress on us. With people being home there were less 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

## DEREK WASHINGTON

VALLEY STREAM

Nurse Manager,  
Nassau University  
Medical Center



During school when I went through the various clinicals, the psych rotation grabbed my attention the most. I always had an interest in how the mind works and mental health.

At NUMC, I manage the staff for ... one of the [six] psych units. ... My unit deals with more acute patients. These are the patients that are too aggressive or have more of a serious mental health problem than the average patient. We also take the inmates from the neighboring jail.

Covid-19 made our job more challenging because we had to deal with the mental aspect of patients and the medical side of it. Someone with a mental problem may not know how to take care of themselves. We started to experience more deaths, more illnesses and everyone throughout the hospital started

hearing the codes called constantly, the codes that describe a patient's condition. ... It caused us to work short-staffed, too, because a lot of staff got Covid-19.

It shocked me to see the resiliency of the staff at the hospital. Despite everything going on, even at the height of the pandemic, we still had a core group of staff members that showed up regardless and found a way to get the job done.

For me, it was hard to be strong for my peers and staff that looks at me for direction.

Coming out of the pandemic, we are more appreciative of certain freedoms that we didn't highlight before, like walking around freely and not thinking we were going to get sick. We were always worried whether a symptom we had was Covid-19.

### HERALD HOMETOWN HERO



**LOCAL**  
**ELECTIONS**  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **GUIDE** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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)





# 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.





# COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 13

## Thomas McKeivitt Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 50

**Hometown:** East Meadow

**Professional experience:** County legislator, attorney

**Political experience:** New York State Assembly, 2006-2017; Nassau County Legislature, 2018-present

**On the issues:**

Thomas McKeivitt, who has served as the District 13 legislator since 2017, said that it is important to revitalize the economy and down-towns post-Covid. He said he voted in favor of allocating millions of dollars from federal funds to assist small businesses with loans and grants to assist them with



the severe consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. He said he has been and will continue to follow up with businesses to make sure that their grant applications are being timely processed and the funds are promptly received. He supports the development of the Nassau Coliseum property that will not only provide economic development in the area but also housing for our next generation, which is sorely needed, he added.

As far as the two most important issues in the dis-

trict, McKeivitt believes that public safety is one of them. He said he will continue to ensure that police and first responders are adequately funded so they can carry out their missions. He said that providing public safety also includes addressing the opioid crisis, which he said was being addressed before Covid. He has also sponsored numerous drug take-back programs as well as Narcan training. The other issue that he deems important is providing for a full county workforce to provide services for the residents. Staff shortages allow for things to fall by the wayside, where employing workers will generate income.

In terms of keeping the younger generation on Long Island and making it affordable to them, McKeivitt said that property taxes need to be less than they are now.

## Eileen Napolitano Challenger

**Party:** Democratic

**Age:** 59

**Hometown:** East Meadow

**Professional experience:** New York state licensed optician for over 30 years

**Political experience:** Second-time candidate

**On the issues:**

Eileen Napolitano, who is the challenger for the incumbent Thomas McKeivitt, has no prior political experience. A long-time East Meadow resident, Napolitano said that she would use a portion of the surplus of tax revenue for businesses needing assistance recovering from the pandemic. She said that getting business back up



and working puts employees back to work, which is especially helpful since usually, the employees are local residents. She believes that this is a cyclical effect and that as more individuals get to full-time work, more money is used in the community.

As far as the two most important issues in the district, Napolitano believes that better contract vetting and making sure that services are not being overpaid for is important. She believes that the contractors should be held to a warranty, to

ensure that the work they do lasts a decent amount of time. Along these same lines, she believes that sustainable roads are something that should be looked into. Also, leasing out county-owned vacant buildings and land that can bring revenue is another topic that should be addressed. This puts them back on the tax roll and increases revenue that can be passed down to the taxpayer, she said.

In terms of keeping the younger generation on Long Island and making it affordable to them, Napolitano said that the property assessment program should remain unfrozen because residents are paying their fair share, which reduces the number of grievances and refunds that historically have impacted the county's finances.

*Includes East Meadow, Freeport, Hempstead, Uniondale, Roosevelt, South Hempstead.*

# COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 19

## Steve Rhoads Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 52

**Professional/political experience:** From 2006 until 2015, he served on the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee to the Nassau County Planning Commission, becoming its secretary in 2009. In 2015, he was elected in a special election to represent the 19th Legislative District in the Nassau County Legislature. Rhoads is also a volunteer firefighter with the Wantagh Fire Department and is an ex-captain of Engine Company No. 5.

**On the issues:**

On improving the lives of Long Island's younger popu-



lation to ensure they keep a residency here, Steve Rhoads pointed to opportunities for transit-oriented development. In Farmingdale, for instance, its Main Street corridor now includes apartment-style housing aimed at young professionals who commute on the Long Island Rail Road. Restaurants, a grocery store, dry cleaners and more are all within walking distance.

Rhoads also proposed working with the county Industrial Development Agency to encourage busi-

ness development, which he said could have been done with the nearly \$100 million in federal CARES Act funding that went toward county salaries. He added that Nassau should also work with New York state to create a first-time homebuyer tax credit for Nassau residents to help put home ownership in reach of young people.

Rhoads has been critical of the county-wide property reassessment carried out by Executive Laura Curran's administration. He called it "error-riddled" and the cause of a shift of the tax burden further onto middle-class homeowners. In the 19th District, he noted, nearly 70 percent of homeowners saw school and property tax increases are a result of the reassessment.

## Jake Schuster Challenger

**Party:** Democrat

**Age:** 26

**Professional/political experience:** After receiving a bachelor's in business administration at Hofstra University, Schuster attended the College of Law at the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Okla., where he received his law degree. In 2017, he volunteered for Bellmoreite Jeff Gold's campaign for the same seat, and then worked for State Sen. John Brooks as a legislative aide.

**On the issues:**

As a young resident making his first foray into politics, Jake Schuster is very aware of the issues affecting Long Island's youth, he said.



Schuster wants to encourage younger residents to have an increased involvement in government operations, giving them opportunities to have their voices heard. He would also create leadership opportunities for young adults for sustained investment.

On housing, Schuster wants to convert plots of empty land and abandoned buildings into affordable housing for those who need it. By working with county and state officials, Schuster said the county could

demand greater funding assistance. Funds could also be reallocated from over-funded programs, he said, to provide for those who are living outside their means.

Schuster also strongly supports marijuana legalization within the district. Through taxation, he believes legalization could bring in much-needed revenue for the county and local governments. He opposes opting out of the sale of marijuana in the district.

While he has not served in an elected political position, Schuster is comfortable in a political environment, he said.

*Includes Bellmore, Freeport, North Bellmore, North Merrick, North Wantagh, Seaford, South Bellmore, South Merrick, Wantagh.*





# 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.

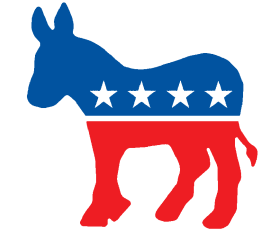
Nicks would also like to ensure that documents for residents are available in multiple languages and to make sure that everyone the community is informed on the services offered by the clerk's office. She believes outreach is key, as is modernizing the website to make





# SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT

# ELECTION '21



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

**BELLMORE**

**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)								County Executive (Vote for one)	District Attorney (Vote for one)	County Comptroller (Vote for one)	County Clerk (Vote for one)	Family Court Judge (Vote for one)	District Court Judge District 2 (Vote for one)	Hempstead Supervisor (Vote for one)	Hempstead Council Member District 6 (Vote for one)	Hempstead Town Clerk (Vote for one)	County Legislator District 13 (Vote for one)	County Legislator District 19 (Vote for one)
	Juez de la Corte Suprema (Vote hasta por ocho)								Ejecutivo del Condado (Vote por uno)	Fiscal del Distrito (Vote por uno)	Controlador del Condado (Vote por uno)	Secretario del Condado (Vote por uno)	Juez de la Corte de Familia (Vote por uno)	Juez de la Corte de Distrito Distrito 2 (Vote por uno)	Supervisor (Vote por uno)	Concejal Distrito 6 (Vote por uno)	Secretario Municipal (Vote por uno)	Legislador del Condado Distrito 13 (Vote por uno)	Legislador del Condado Distrito 19 (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 Sapricono	<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. Ablove	<input type="radio"/> 16 Matthew A. Galante	<input type="radio"/> 17 Olena Nicks	<input type="radio"/> 22 Eileen M. Napolitano	<input type="radio"/> 22 Jacob I. Schuster
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 Sapricono	<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 Dennis Dunne, Sr.	<input type="radio"/> 17 Kate Murray	<input type="radio"/> 22 Thomas McKeivitt	<input type="radio"/> 22 Steven D. Rhoads
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 Sapricono	<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 Dennis Dunne, Sr.	<input type="radio"/> 17 Kate Murray	<input type="radio"/> 22 Thomas McKeivitt	<input type="radio"/> 22 Steven D. Rhoads
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 Jacob I. Schuster	
Common Sense								<input type="radio"/> 9 Laura Curran						<input type="radio"/> 15 Jason L. Ablove	<input type="radio"/> 16 Matthew A. Galante		<input type="radio"/> 22 Eileen M. Napolitano		
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"/>
	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in	Write-in



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**PULL OUT**



# 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 [exeditor@liherald.com](mailto:exeditor@liherald.com)

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**SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT COURTESY OF**



# 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.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

### 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.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

## Family Court Judge Candidate

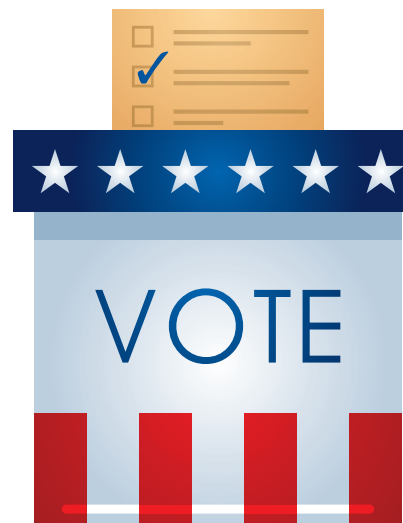
### Darlene D. Harris

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.

# ELECTION DAY

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.

# HEMPSTEAD COUNCIL DISTRICT 6

## Dennis Dunne

Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 70

### On the issues:

If re-elected, taking a stand against Covid-19 is "critical," Dennis Dunne said. As a town board member, Dunne voted in favor of making provisions for outdoor dining and for distribution of personal protective equipment kits to local businesses. He and Supervisor Don Clavin also provided Covid-19 tests and vaccines to senior centers and other vulnerable areas. And he helped secure funding for local hospitals, public schools and colleges and air filter replacements for local municipalities.

Dunne said he takes pride in Hempstead's "progressive" stance on green initiatives: Town employees use electric vehicles,



and it's home to an award-winning solar energy park and the Norman Levy Park and Preserve.

The town conducted an energy audit, which has led to the conversion of tens of thousands of streetlights to LED lights, which require half the energy to operate. Hempstead town facilities are subject to the same updated lighting.

To Dunne, the most pressing issue facing residents of his district is the property-tax burden. Dunne has voted to cut taxes for two consecutive years, and taxes were frozen last year. Along with Clavin, a tax cut budget was introduced.

Funds are also being invested into infrastructure, including \$75 million for road resurfacing and \$10 million to upgrade local parks.

## Matthew Galante

Challenger

**Party:** Democrat

**Age:** 32

### On the issues:

Taking his first foray into politics, Matthew Galante has been critical of the opposing Republican party. He argues there is waste that can be cut from the town budget, namely in patronage jobs given to friends or family members who already have a foot in the door. Eliminating the waste would be a cost-saving measure, helping the town expand or introduce services.

Galante's top priorities are to help those financially affected by the pandemic and to promote the district's local businesses. Galante wants to provide more extensive aid and services, such as legal aid, to residents to help them stay in



their homes. The town can also cut red tape to make it easier to open a business, further encourage residents to shop locally and work hand in hand with local business owners to hear and address their concerns.

To protect the district against severe weather, Galante wants to turn toward state and federal relief. With additional aid, the district could retrofit and reinforce its residential and commercial buildings against severe weather and flooding, he said. Building in heavily affected areas should also be discouraged.

Long-term, Galante sees the primary issue for younger residents as housing costs. It is too expensive to live in the district, he said, owing to high property taxes, high rents and high mortgage costs. Working with state representatives, property taxes could also be cut by limiting what residents pay in school taxes.

Mixed-use development, especially along Hempstead Turnpike, must also be encouraged, according to Galante, so seniors and young people can stay in their communities.



# Long Beach eliminates Kennedy

By BRIAN KACHARABA

sports@liherald.com

The Long Beach boys' soccer team picked the perfect time to break out of its scoring slump.

Aran Corbett scored the Marines' first goal in over two weeks and Yeris Miranda added two more as No. 16 Long Beach topped No. 17 Kennedy 3-0 to advance to the second round of the Nassau A playoffs on Oct. 20.

Arthur Quezada had two assists and Ryan Ocampo also had a helper for the host Marines.

"Today, we played like we played in the beginning of the season," said Long Beach coach Leo Palacio. "We focused on scoring the last two days, getting the ball to the outside and get it back in. And that's exactly how we scored today."

Kennedy took the field with heavy hearts after assistant coach Marc Stein passed away days earlier. No cause of death was given, but a moment of silence was held before the game at Alumni Field and each Cougar player carried a small black swatch with a white 'S' on it.

"We put our best foot forward out there," said coach Ari Bisk. "It was a difficult game. Long Beach played well, but I'm proud of our effort and we'll try to get further next year."

Long Beach controlled the play for most of the game and limited the Kennedy offense to just four shots on goal. Goalkeeper Ari Mann's toughest save came with just over 17 minutes remaining, when he punched out a 35-yard one-hopper by Cougar midfielder Dylan Cut-

ler.

The Marines' moved the ball crisply right from the opening whistle and the offense finally broke through when Ocampo's crossing pass from the left wing was finished by Corbett at the right side of the goal 21:31 into the game.

"Me and Coach Leo were talking about how I have to go to the back post in school today," Corbett recalled. "I just waited back post, the ball came in perfectly and I just put it in the net."

It was Long Beach's first tally since a 2-1 win over Great Neck North on Oct. 2. The Marines were shutout in each of their last four games, resulting in three losses and a tie.

"We've all been missing celebrating with the team when we score," Corbett said. "We haven't in a while, so that goal really meant a lot for everyone."

Just over two minutes later, Quezada dribbled towards the goal from the left side, drawing Kennedy goalkeeper Antonino Scimeca out of the net. Quezada then sent a pass into the middle of the box, where Miranda converted the easy tap-in.

With just under 24 minutes left in regulation, Quezada chipped a lead pass to Miranda just outside the middle of the box and the junior forward poked the ball into the lower right side of the net for his fifth goal of the season.

Scimeca finished with 11 saves for the Cougars, which finished the season 5-7-1. Defensive back Youssof Bendary had a strong game despite the loss as he consistently broke up Long Beach rushes and scoring opportunities.



Eric Dunetz/Herald

**KENNEDY'S CHRISTIAN MALTES** controlled the ball during the Cougars' Nassau Class A outbracket playoff defeat at Long Beach on Oct. 20.



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# BMCHSD unveils Chromebook initiative

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

successful," Innaco said, "and so have the network upgrades."

"Joe Innaco and his team have been at this from the beginning," Harrington said. "The rollout has been very, very smooth."

"I've been in a couple classrooms, and teachers are already implementing the Chromebooks into their classrooms," he added. "This is a really exciting time for Bellmore-Merrick."

The district is looking forward to seeing what students will gain from the program, Innaco said. "The initiative will support collaboration between students, create innovative learning opportunities and programs, enhance personalized learning methods and foster attainment of digital skills," he said.

Innaco also said he believed the initiative would help foster safe online habits. "Students had to sign a student device policy — a digital citizenship pledge," he explained.

The pledge — which can be found on the district's website under the "Parents/Students" tab — asks students, while using their device, to respect and protect themselves and others as well as their new equipment. "In this blended environment, this is an opportunity to enhance digital citizenship, Innaco said. "I think this is more important now than ever."

"I think we're always trying to prepare [students] for the world around them,"



Courtesy Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District

**MERRICK AVENUE MIDDLE** School staff member Alana Schultz, left, library media specialist Rachel Matthieu-Leo, seventh-grade students Jesse Sandler and Joseph Smith and Assistant Principal Kate Caporusso at the Chromebook rollout.

Harrington said. "We hope that this gives them enhanced learning opportunities, and that a level of digital citizenship is met so they can handle the next phases of their lives."

The pledge is included in a larger user guide, which details the Chromebook, how to use it and replacement costs, among other things. Parents and students must read and sign off on the guide and

the pledge before the laptop is issued.

The Chromebooks allow students to have access to instructional technology programs such as GoGuardian Teacher, SSO-ClassLink, Google Workspace for Education, Google Classroom, Edpuzzle Pro, Nearpod, Screencastify, SMART Learning Suite (Lumio), Infinite Campus Grade Passback and Remind.

"We've had some of these resources —

some are not new," Innaco said. "The district provides [further] opportunity with these resources."

As to how the district has helped make the transition easy for both students and teachers, Innaco said there is a tech support team as well as ongoing professional development. "There is a team in the building and on a district level that help students on a daily basis," he said.

For staff, Innaco said, "The key to any success is ongoing professional development."

Teachers who are also members of the technology team "work with their colleagues on a regular basis," he said. "[The professional development] ensures that the teachers are prepared, and know how to use the programs, and integrate it into the classroom."

The district also provides full-day workshops for teachers, with the next one taking place on Nov. 2, during Superintendent's Day. "[The workshop] is all 1:1 related instructional work courses," Innaco explained, which detail the use of some of the new and existing educational programs that are available on the Chromebooks, as well as mental health and wellness training.

As the rollout continues, the district is looking forward to seeing it succeed. "The whole point is to give students enhanced learning [opportunities]," Innaco said. "You see students actively engaged — and it empowers students, too."

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# HERALD NEIGHBORS

## Bellmore-Merrick sheds its unwanted meds

By **JORDAN VALLONE**  
jvallone@liherald.com

The Bellmore-Merrick Community Parent Organization hosted its eighth annual 'Shed the Meds' Event this weekend at Brookside School in North Merrick in recognition of National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Oct. 23.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., school administrators, teachers, parent and student vol-

unteers, in partnership with community coalitions and local legislators, accepted drive through drop offs of unused prescriptions, syringes and sharps as well as illegal drugs which could be dropped off anonymously.

"We're getting drugs off the streets in a safe way," Wendy Tepfer, director of the Community Parent Organization said. "Each year we build upon our successes — we're just thrilled we can help the com-



Photos by Jordan Vallone/Herald

**IT WAS A** community effort at the Community Parent Organization's 'Shed the Meds' event, which took place on Saturday at Brookside School.



**SUPERINTENDENT MIKE HARRINGTON** and Community Parent Organization Director Wendy Tepfer with student volunteers Maya Stone, Melissa Hellman, Lauren Price, Sophia Green, Kayla Rudnitsky, Sadie Heller and Mephram High School counselor Carol Murray.

**ANGIE DEPUY AND Tina Wolfe**, below, from the Community Action for Social Justice, attended to help with the collection of sharps and syringes.



community." The Parent Center partnered with the Community Action for Social Justice, an organization that serves the community through overdose prevention. Executive Director Tina Wolf told the Herald they participate in the 'Shed the Meds' event to help with the collection of syringes and sharps. "We run a syringe return on [Long] Island," Wolf explained. "The larger mission of the organization is to keep people safe."

"We have our partnership with CASJ to collect the sharps," Tepfer said, adding that CASJ has also worked with them in the past for things such as NARCAN training and other overdose prevention events.

Of the students volunteering, there were Honor's Society volunteers from Merrick Avenue Middle School, and leadership class volunteers from Wellington C. Mephram High School.

Student Lauren Price said that the leadership class at Mephram "teaches us how to become a good leader," through videos, documentaries and interviews with people who present leadership skills.

Kayla Rudnitsky, another student volunteer, explained that Carol Murray, a

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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 (1150040)

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LEGAL NOTICE  
SUPREME COURT-  
COUNTY OF NASSAU

BNB BANK, formerly known as THE BRIDGEHAMPTON NATIONAL BANK successor by merger with FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK, successor in interest to MADISON NATIONAL BANK, Plaintiff -against- BARRY DAVID COHEN A/K/A BARRY COHEN; JILL DONNA COHEN A/K/A JILL D. COHEN A/K/A JILL COHEN, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated March 18, 2019 and entered on March 19,

2019, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on the North Side steps of the Supreme Court, 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY on November 8, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. premises situate, lying and being in Bellmore, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at point on the Southerly side of Rebecca Street, distant 317.59 feet Easterly from the extreme end of an arc of a curve connecting the Southerly side of Rebecca Street with the Easterly side of Judith Drive; being

a plot 60.00 feet by 100.00 feet by 60.00 feet by 100.00 feet. Section: 63 Block: 337 Lot: 6 All bidders must wear a face mask/shield at all times and social distancing must be observed by all bidders at all times. Bidders who do not comply with the face mask and/or the social distancing mandate will be removed from the auction. Said premises known as 2654 REBECCA STREET, BELLMORE, NY Approximate amount of lien \$607,993.91 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold

subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale.

This foreclosure sale is subject to a first mortgage in an unknown principal amount. Index Number 16-008771 DAVID W. GRABER, ESQ., Referee CULLEN AND DYKMAN LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 44 WALL STREET, New York, NY 10005 {\* BELLMORE L\*} 127694

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## This house sounds spooky

**Q.** Our home seemed very normal when we first moved in, but little by little, things began to happen that we couldn't explain. Doors would open and close, floors creaked with nobody in the room, a particular wall only "sweats" one day a year, and we keep hearing a low moaning sound followed by tapping coming from our den. We've had a handyman come and try to assess some of the door stakes and things, but is any of what I described normal, or could some of it truly be a sign of something unexplainable?

**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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## ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

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	R
E	A	C	E		M	U	R		E	T	A	P
				N	O	J	E	E	S			
S	L	I	V	R	D	U	B	E	S	O	R	
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				S	A	W		O	L	E		
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S	O	T			N	O	M		A	V	A	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?"
- Vivaldi's output
- 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
- Borodin's "Prince -"
- "Uh-huh"
- Perched on
- Like slasher films
- Mag. staff
- Shetland, for one
- 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

**DOWN**

- In - land
- Slightly open
- Damon of Hollywood
- Chopper
- "Yippeee!"
- Bassoon's kin
- Just out

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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 towns 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

## Elect Todd Kaminsky 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 pretrial 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 stron-

ger 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.

## 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 pri-

orities, 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.

### HERALD Endorsement



Ryan Cronin

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

## Re-elect Tom McKeivitt in L.D. 13

County Legislator Tom McKeivitt, a Republican, is a true public servant. He is now in his second term as a legislator, and before that, the lifelong East Meadow resident was a state assemblyman for 11 years. He appears to love his community, and has demonstrated a commitment to improving it.

We believe McKeivitt should be given the chance to continue his work in the Legislature. He is accessible, and takes pride in doing the little things for residents that sometimes go unnoticed. His work focuses on quality of life and public safety. When he grew up in East Meadow, it was a safe place to live, and he's committed to keeping it that way.

His interest in government began early, in 1989, after his graduation from East Meadow High School, when he worked as a seasonal clerk at the Board of Assessment Review for

### HERALD Endorsement



Tom McKeivitt

assistance, his goal, he says, is to quickly solve their problems. He has been known to answer emails at 1 a.m. to assure residents that he is trying to help.

four years while attending Hofstra. Now an attorney, he has argued and won cases before the State Court of Appeals, New York's highest court. He had previously interned for a State Supreme Court justice and in the state attorney general's office.

But McKeivitt is a regular guy. He's pleasant and caring. When residents call him for

He has focused on helping the uninsured and undocumented by fighting to keep Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow open, which also benefits many nearby businesses. He voted to support County Executive Laura Curran's \$375 one-time cash assistance for those recovering from the economic effects of Covid-19, funded with money the county received under the federal American Rescue Plan. If it were up to McKeivitt, residents would receive more, he said.

We liked McKeivitt's Democratic opponent, Eileen Napolitano, who has long been active in civic affairs in the East Meadow community. She is clearly committed to doing good for people. We, however, see no reason to unseat an equally committed incumbent with proven track record of governance.

Next Tuesday, vote for McKeivitt, and allow him to continue his good work in the 13th L.D.

## In 19th District, Steve Rhoads deserves your vote

Republican Steve Rhoads has worked passionately for the residents of Nassau County's 19th Legislative District over the past two years. In a term that became defined by a pandemic, the district was fortunate to have Rhoads in the seat.

Known for having a constant presence in the community, Rhoads shifted to social media to keep followers up to date on the ever-changing reality of the health crisis.

Recently he was critical of direct \$375 payments to homeowners introduced by County Executive Laura Curran, saying that the amount and the timing were not adequately tied to need. While Rhoads ultimately voted for the payments, he said he believed they were too little, too late. He was also critical of the county's use of federal CARES Act funding,

some of which went to county salaries and benefits.

Perhaps his most vocal opposition has been to the countywide property reassessment. While it became — much to our disappointment — a partisan issue in the Legislature, Rhoads has spoken out about errors in the process. He acknowledges that a reassessment of county properties was necessary, but he points to the inequities in its results. In his district, 70 percent of homeowners saw their school and property tax increase,

### HERALD Endorsement



Steve Rhoads

and he advises homeowners to grieve their taxes.

Correcting the errors has cost the county nearly \$50 million in refunds in the past year. Rhoads has also joined other Republican legislators in proposing a property tax cut of \$120 million and fee cuts in excess of \$100 million.

His challenger, 26-year-old Jake Schuster, has mounted his first political campaign, and we encourage his continued involvement in the district. Schuster said he felt as if this was the first time he has had a voice in the political conversation. That voice can be just as loud from a strong advocate who is not in an elected seat.

We strongly encourage residents of the 19th District to cast their votes for Rhoads 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 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

### HERALD Endorsement



Maureen O'Connell

moving forward, and as a health care administrator for Sloan Kettering Memorial Cancer

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

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.



# HERALD ENDORSEMENTS

## In the 6th Council District, elect newcomer Galante

**T**he race in the Town of Hempstead's 6th Council District pits Republican political veteran Dennis Dunne, of Levittown, against newcomer Matthew Galante, also of Levittown, a Democrat. The stark contrast between one candidate, who has long been entrenched in machine politics, and a young face with fresh ideas, is more than clear. This election presents an opportunity for change in the district.

Galante, 36, is approaching his campaign with a message of efficiency, transparency and accountability — changes we hope to see if he is elected.

He wants to cut the town's budget — potentially by eliminating employees he claims are in patronage positions gained through political connections — which would reduce residents' taxes. At the same time, Galante wants to invest more in town services by cutting waste elsewhere. He added that he would vote against unnecessary pay increases.

He was critical of the town's use of federal CARES Act funding — some of which went to employee salaries. That funding, Galante said, could have gone to residents when they needed it the most.

He proposed hiring an outside auditor to investigate the town's operations to find greater efficiencies. He pointed to Freedom of Information Act requests, which can be left unanswered by town departments for weeks.

While Galante has the necessary enthusiasm to serve in the office, he also has applicable experience for the position. He once served as the attorney for a school board, which

### HERALD Endorsement



Matthew Galante

helped him become familiar with budgets, meeting laws and general town laws. Currently, he practices financial, real estate and corporate law.

Perhaps most important, Galante appears to want to serve in a government that works for its people.

Dunne, 70, has done little beyond maintain the town's status quo. When asked about his accomplishments, it wasn't long before he harkened back to his successes as a county legislator.

In times of crisis, being a leader requires bold action. We believe leaders should encourage their constituents to be vaccinated against the coronavirus, but Dunne was hesitant to say whether he had been inoculated.

Young faces in politics — on a local or national level — are absolutely necessary. The Herald enthusiastically encourages residents to cast their votes for Galante in the 6th District.

## OPINIONS

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

**H**ow is my son, Jason, like a Mac-Donald'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



RANDI  
KREISS

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 annoying 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,

### How did the boy who tracked seagulls overhead instead of the soccer ball find his way?

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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