

EAST MEADOW

HERALD



Donating hair for a cause

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OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 3, 2021



Mallory Wilson/Herald

MARCEE RUBINSTEIN, OF the East Meadow Kiwanis Club, handed out Halloween-themed pencils and stickers last Saturday to trick-or-treaters.

Candy heaven for children at trunk-or-treat

By **MALLORY WILSON**
mwilson@liherald.com

Children of all ages, in all forms of costume, made their way through a Halloween candy lover's dreamscape last Saturday at the East Meadow Chamber of Commerce's second trunk-or-treat event. Members of the East Meadow community set up booths, some themed and some not, to hand out candy to the trick-or-treaters.

The event, which took place at the East Meadow baseball fields on Merrick Avenue, featured a one-way path for chil-

dren to follow while Halloween-themed tunes were played. Everyone who took part had to pick a specific time because of Covid-19 to keep the number of people there to a minimum.

The event began last year, when Taleen Krug, a chamber member and event co-chair, started thinking of ways that her children, Christian, 6, and McKenzie, 4, could have a safe and healthy Halloween amid the pandemic.

"Everybody kept asking me if I was going to take my kids trick-or-treating," Krug said. "I wasn't too sure, and I thought

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

McVey Elementary book fair inspires children to read

By **LAURA LANE**
llane@liherald.com

The McVey Elementary School students could hardly contain their excitement. Trying their best to maintain an orderly line, they practically ran out of the building to reach the tables and shelves overflowing with books.

The Scholastic Book Fair came to McVey Oct. 12 to 14 for the entire school to enjoy. PTA members set up the fair outside the building on the lawn, with a variety of books selling for \$8 to \$15. The goal is to inspire children to fall in love with reading.

"Nothing is better than crisp

autumn air and the smell of new books," read a flier sent home to parents by PTA co-chairs Jennifer Pevsner and Allison Vardakis. "Reading helps your child discover who they are while developing stronger reading skills."

The event, held in the spring and fall, is traditionally in the school's all-purpose room, but this year, because of Covid, it was outside.

"This was our biggest book fair fundraiser to date," said Pevsner, a former PTA president. "I think we had amazing parents and volunteers and amazing teacher support in a year where our families have suffered finan-

cially from Covid, with some losing their job."

There were children who didn't bring money to the fair, but each one still left with a book, she said, because of donations from parents and teachers.

"This is my favorite event," she said. "It's good for the kids, even if they don't want to buy a book, because it gets them out of the building to enjoy the fresh air. I feel like they light up and just love watching the excitement."

Emma Rajnarain couldn't decide which book to buy. A third-grader in Helana Gelleri's class, she said chapter books are her favorite, but with so many

for sale at the fair, she was having a tough time choosing one.

"I like how books inspire me," Emma said. "Reading a book gives me feelings — is the book happy or sad? When you read it, you can feel it."

Book fairs are important, McVey Assistant Principal Len Minerva said, because children are excited to attend them.

"They go there thinking about what they want to read. Regardless of whether they buy the book, it sparks their interest," he said. "A book fair reinforces the message that reading can be fun."

He's grateful, he said, for this year's Scholastic Book Fair, as last year's was canceled. It is one

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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THIRD-GRADERS FROM HELANA Gelleri's class said they looked forward to the annual fall Scholastic Book Fair.

Photos by Laura Lane/Herald

Fair sends a message: Reading can be fun

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

of the ways the district is working to restore a sense of normalcy for the children.

Aaron Jin, also a third-grader from Gelleri's class, clutched a copy of "Popular Armies — Enter the Mine." Then he looked for a second book to buy.

"I like to read," he said, taking a book off the shelf and flipping through it. The "Popular Armies" book is from a game, but he said he likes it because it has cartoons, as it's a graphic novel. "This is a mini-movie of a show in a book," he noted.

McVey raised \$2,000 at this year's book fair, of which the school will receive 15 to 20 percent. All of the money goes back to the students, Pevsner said. Roughly \$1,000 will go toward "Scholastic Dollars," which she described as "fun funds." The dollars can be used to purchase items from the Scholastic website, which the PTA uses to buy prizes for its bingo night, including posters, books, erasers and pencils. Or the funds are used to purchase books for the school's library, or are given to a new teacher who is creating a classroom library.

There is even a Scholastic vending machine in the school lobby. If children go above and beyond for another student or are kind, they are given a gold coin, which they can put in the vending machine to receive a prize.

McVey's PTA president, Karen Baker, said she loves books, particularly those from the mystery and crime genre. "There are so many different types of books here for them," she said, adding that she noticed that a friend's choice often influences what a child will choose. "It's very important to encourage kids to learn by reading."

With their books in hand, students in Gelleri's class returned to their classroom. Then a group of second-graders in Emily Heinemann's class hurried out of the school, and the "book excitement" began anew.



Why kids should read

■ Students who read independently become better readers and score higher on their achievement tests in every subject. Scores rise in proportion to the amount that students read.

■ Several studies have found that even a small amount of independent reading increases primary and elementary students' reading comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, understanding of grammar and knowledge of the world.

Reading should be voluntary.

-The American Library Association

SECOND-GRADER AARON JIN, above left, said he loves to read.

SECOND-GRADERS WILLIAM SCHMIDT, left, and Samuel Hurtado spent a great deal of time deciding which books to buy.



**SHABBAT
SHALOM**
Long Island

Fri. nite Oct 29
and Sat. Oct 30

This week's
Torah portion:
Chayei Sarah
Shabbos Mevarchim

Candle Lighting
5:37 pm

Shabbat Ends
6:45 pm

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Mallory Wilson/Herald

RICHIE KRUG SR., of the Krug Team Real Estate, gave candy to trick-or-treaters.

RELIEF IS AVAILABLE FOR NASSAU RESIDENTS

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

Here's what you need to know:

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

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

Household Assistance Program (HAP) Information
www.nassaucountyny.gov/HAPinfo

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



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Trunk-or-treat – the new Halloween norm?

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

this was a great way to maintain some social-distancing guidelines but also let the kids have a Halloween."

Marcella Pizzo co-chaired the trunk-or-treat with Krug last year. Five hundred people registered. This year, 2,700 people signed up.

"This event is great because it brings local businesses and community members and organizations together," said Richie Krug Jr., president of East Meadow Chamber of Commerce. "Everybody comes together."

There were other things to do besides collect candy. There was a costume contest, raffles and a picture station.

"I thought this was a great event for our community," said Steven LaSala, commissioner of the East Meadow Baseball and Softball Association. "East Meadow is a great place to live. I love this idea, and I hope we do this every year."

He added that events like structured trunk-or-treats might become the new norm for Halloween. "It's a controlled environment for the kids, it makes everything safe for the kids, and I think these fields are a great place for the kids to do this," he said.

The fields were alive on Saturday with baseball and softball games going on all around the trick-or-treaters.

"It's nice to get all of the kids together and feel a sense of normalcy," said Becky Mattia, an East Meadow resident who was there with her daughter, Madison, 6, who dressed up as Mary Poppins. "A small little area for the kids set up helps keep things safe. Being outside makes things seem safe from Covid."

LaSala described the feedback he

received as overwhelmingly positive. "Everyone has thanked us," he said. "They thought it was a wonderful thing to do, especially because of the pandemic last year. It was a safer way to have your kids go trick-or-treating."

Heather Sutz, an East Meadow resident who brought her children, Dylan, 8, and Colin, 5, liked the community aspect of the event. "I like that this is safe and community-oriented," Sutz said. "This is better for the younger kids to get them in and out. I like the community aspect of this beyond Covid."

Larry Fuchs, who brought his children, Michael, 6, and Alani, 19, agreed. "All of these people involved take pride in where they live," he said. "This is all about family, friends and the community coming together, and this is a perfect place for it. This is my second year coming, and it's a wonderful event."

It wasn't hard to get businesses to participate, Richie Krug said. "We put it out there, and the amount of support we received and the number of hands that went up was great," he said. "We got the original people from last year, plus even more." He said he thinks all of the business owners love dressing up and participating.

After last year, people expressed a need for another event like this, he said. Since the event was limited last October because Covid, chamber officials said they were grateful more people could participate this year because of the vaccines.

"I hope Halloween becomes a hybrid of events like these and normal trick-or-treating," Krug said. "These events are great to have a sense of community pride."

EAST MEADOW HERALD

HOW TO REACH US

Our offices are located at **2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530** and are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Infections as of Oct. 20

4,759

Infections as of Oct. 4

4,695

HERALD SCHOOLS

Teens, faculty donate their hair for a cause at EMHS

A sea of pink filled East Meadow High School's gymnasium as students and faculty members gathered for a special cause on Oct. 22. More than a dozen volunteers donated their hair to the nonprofit organization, Children With Hair Loss. Organized by East Meadow High School senior, Natalie Hernandez, each volunteer cut at least 8 inches of their hair to support the organization.

The event served as Hernandez's Girl Scout Gold Award project with Girl Scout Troop 1256. Hernandez said she had previously donated her hair through events at Woodland Middle School, which inspired her to host a similar event at the high school. Through this project, she hopes to educate others on hair loss.

"Whether it's brought on by cancer or other medical conditions, hair loss comes with extreme emotional challenges to those affected," she said. "The wigs that will be made from our hair will be life-changing to the people receiving them and will allow them to regain their confidence after suffering from a difficult time, both physically and emotionally."

Hernandez's project adviser, Colleen Fitzpatrick, said she has numerous family members who were affected by cancer. Fitzpatrick first met Hernandez through her living environment class when she was a sophomore.

"I'm so happy to be a part of this amazing event to help people that might need donations of hair," Fitzpatrick said.

In addition to Fitzpatrick, Hernandez thanked district leaders and school administrators from the high school and Woodland Middle School for inspiring her to pursue this project.



Courtesy EMSD

MORE THAN A dozen students and faculty members at East Meadow High School donated their hair to Children With Hair Loss on Oct. 22.

LAURA CURRAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE



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Cruised Maple and Brown Sugar Sweet Potatoes
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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Thursday, Oct. 28

Tax exemption help

Stop by the East Meadow Public Library for tax exemption help at 11 a.m. Staff from Nassau County will be at EMPL to help fill out the forms and register requests. Appointments are required. To register visit www.nassaucountyny.gov/Assessment. Attendees should bring two forms of identification and a tax return from last year.

Friday, Oct. 29

"Scoob!"

There is a drive-in screening of the family friendly movie "Scoob!" at the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre in Eisenhower Park, field 6A. The movie starts at 6:30 p.m. There is space for 185 cars. Food trucks will be on site.

Saturday, Oct. 30

Steps 4 OCD Walk

Join fellow members of the OCD and related disorders community at this year's 1 Million Steps 4 OCD Walk in Eisenhower Park at 9 a.m. The walk starts at the Scarlett Oak Picnic Area in field 4. To register visit https://support.iocdf.org/event/long-island-1-million-steps-4-ocd-walk/e348860?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=event&utm_content=long-island&utm_campaign=walk.

"Casper"

There is a drive-in screening of the family friendly movie "Casper" at the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre in Eisenhower Park field 6A. The movie starts at 6:30 p.m. There is space for 185 cars. Food trucks will be on site. Before the event, at 5 p.m. families can participate in a trunk-or-treat event by decorating the back of their cars for Halloween and providing candy for kids. Costumes are encouraged.

Sunday, Oct. 31

Sunday divine liturgy

The Divine Liturgy is celebrated ev-



Herald File Photo

Barkfest at Eisenhower Park

Nassau Barkfest, Long Island's largest free pet costume contest and parade is back in Eisenhower Park at field 6 near the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre on Saturday, Oct. 30, from 1 to 4 p.m. The judging is done at 2:30 p.m. sharp. Barkfest is free and will be happening rain or shine. For further information visit www.nassaucountyny.gov/barkfest.

ery Sunday at 9:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church at 369 Green Ave., in East Meadow. Those interested in the church's ancient traditions and liturgical life welcome. Coffee hour follows. For further info email htocem@gmail.com.

Vampire kiss

Head down to Pinot's Palette at 2557 Hempstead Tpk., for a Halloween night of painting a vampire kiss. This class uses blacklight paint. Class is from 7 to 9 p.m. and is \$40 per person. To register visit <https://www.pinotpalette.com/eastmeadow/events>

Monday, Nov. 1

Coastal morning

Head down to Pinot's Palette at 2557 Hempstead Tpk., for a night of painting

a coastal morning. Class is from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and is \$45 per person. To register visit <https://www.pinotpalette.com/eastmeadow/events>

Tuesday, Nov. 2

Advanced crochet class

Join the East Meadow Library for a virtual crochet class at 7 p.m. with April. Supplies needed include light color skein of yarn and a size G, H, I, or J crochet hook. To register, visit eastmeadow.info or call (516) 794-2570. The Zoom link will be sent the morning of the event.

East Meadow Kiwanis

The East Meadow Kiwanis will be meeting at 7:15 p.m. at Borrelli's at 1580 Hempstead Tpk., in East Meadow. New members are always welcome. Social

distancing is enforced. Mask should be worn when not eating. For further information contact club president Jennifer Reinhardt (516) 351-9891.

Wednesday, Nov. 3

Psychic night at La Novella

There will be a psychic-night dinner at La Novella Ristorante located at 364 East Meadow Ave., beginning at 6:30 p.m. \$75 plus gratuity gets you food, soft drinks and dessert. For reservations call (516) 794-6248.

Thursday, Nov. 4

CEMCO meeting- Bloom Energy

The Council of East Meadow Communi-

ty Organizations will be having a special meeting agenda at 7 p.m. The meeting will take place at the East Meadow Fire Department Headquarters located at 197 East Meadow Ave. on the second floor. The topic of the night is Bloom Energy. The guest speakers of the night are representatives of Bloom Energy. A special exemption for a proposed public utility to have fuel cells on concrete pads and associated underground electrical, gas and water services will be discussed. Natural gas would be used to generate electricity that would be sent to the grid. The proposed location is the south side of Hempstead Turnpike, 823.5 degrees east of Merrick Avenue. A 7-megawatt installation is proposed. For further information call Joseph Parisi, president of CEMCO at (516) 542-7609.

Light the Night virtual walk

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society will be having its Eisenhower Park walk virtually this year. Instead of meeting in the park, participants will meet online to mark the day together from 7 to 8 p.m. The virtual event will include a circle of survivors, remembrance pavilion and a supporter celebration with virtual lanterns. To sign up visit <https://www.lightthenight.org/metny>.

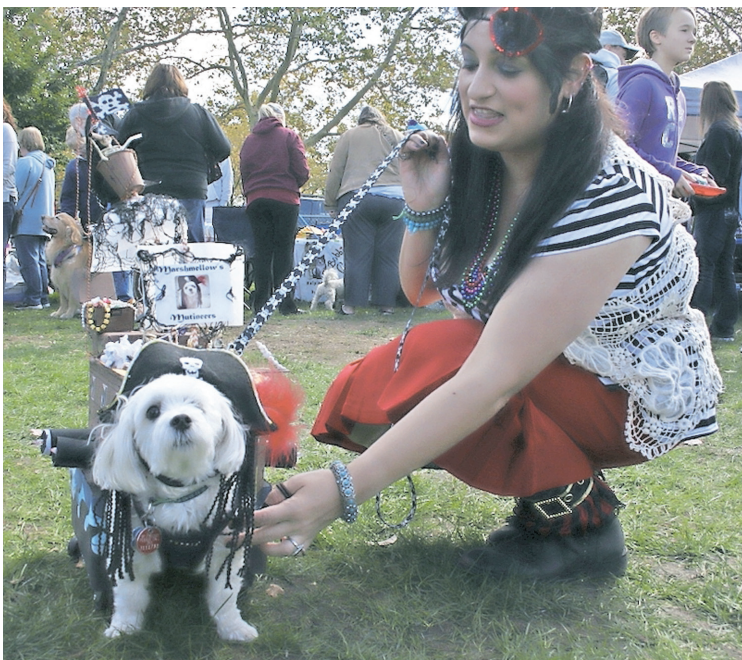
HAVING AN EVENT?

Items on the Community Update pages are listed free of charge. The Herald welcomes listings of upcoming events, community meetings and items of public interest. All submissions should include date, time and location of the event, cost, and a contact name and phone number. Submissions can be emailed to llane@liherald.com.

5 things to know about your town

- Scared in the park drive-in movies at Eisenhower Park starts Friday Oct 15. and goes to Friday Oct. 30
- Doc Gooden will be at Lucky's Sport Card and Signings on November 20 from 5 to 7 p.m.
- The Nassau County Turkey Trot at Eisenhower Park will be November 14.
- The Elitefeats Long Island Turkey Trot is Nov. 6 at 8:30 a.m. in Eisenhower Park.
- The Long Island Coalition Against Bullying walk is Nov. 7 at 8:30 a.m. in Eisenhower Park.

**BEST COSTUMES
WIN prizes at
Barkfest.**



Herald file photos

Barkfest set to return to Eisenhower Park

Halloween isn't just a time to dress-up humans but dogs as well. Nassau Barkfest, Long Island's largest free pet-costume contest and parade is back in Eisenhower Park on Saturday, Oct. 30. It was held virtually last year due to Covid. This will be the ninth year that Nassau County is hosting this event.

Dogs of all shapes, sizes wearing all kinds of costumes can enter into this costume contest, which will be held at field 6 near the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre from 1 to 4 p.m. The judging is done at 2:30 p.m. sharp.

Barkfest is free and will take place rain or shine. There will be 13 opportunities to win prizes, courtesy of the Nassau SPCA, that range from \$50 to \$150 in gift cards.

"Nassau Barkfest has become an annual Halloween tradition for dog owners across Long Island," Nassau County Executive Laura Curran said. "For many of us, our pets are members of our family, so I am thrilled to bring back this beloved event in person. I encourage all residents to come to enjoy this light-hearted annual event in beautiful Eisenhower Park."

All pets must be on a leash. The event is sponsored by Nassau County SPCA



DOGS OF ALL shapes and sizes are invited to dress up on Saturday.

and KJOY 98.3 radio station. Rescue groups with puppies and dogs for adoptions as well as animal-friendly organizations will be on-site to celebrate.

For further information visit www.nassaucountyny.gov/barkfest, email barkfest@nassaucountyny.gov or call (516) 603-0252.

CEMCO to hold presentation on Bloom Energy

The Council of East Meadow Community Organizations will be having a special meeting agenda on Thursday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. This meeting will take place at East Meadow Fire Department headquarters located at 197 East Meadow Ave. on the second floor. The topic of the night is Bloom Energy. The guest speakers of the night are representatives of Bloom Energy.

Bloom Energy is a public company that has its headquarters in San Jose, California. It manufactures and markets solid oxide fuel cells that produce electricity on-site.

The meeting's purpose is to discuss a special exemption for a proposed public utility to have fuel cells on concrete pads and associated underground electrical, gas and water services. Natural gas would be used to generate electricity that would be sent to the grid. The proposed location is the south side of Hempstead Turnpike, 823.5 degrees east of Merrick Avenue. A 7-megawatt installation is proposed.

For further information call Joseph Parisi, president of CEMCO at (516) 542-7609.

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HERALD SPORTS

Clarke earns conference title

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

Though Clarke managed a tie and squeaked out a couple of one-goal wins over a six-day span, the second time around the Nassau Conference II field hockey schedule proved much tougher than the first.

Then on Oct. 20, the Rams were rejuvenated, coach Brittany Dougher said, by a matchup with rival East Meadow and put together their best offensive performance of the season to seal the conference title. Sophomore Sophia Papacostas scored four times and her senior sister, Andrea, and sophomore Lina Resende added goals as Clarke rolled to a 6-1 road victory.

"It's always a good matchup and a fun rivalry with East Meadow," Dougher said. "We hadn't lost games or lost confidence, but I felt we were in a little bit of a lull and playing East Meadow helped fuel the fire we needed re-lit."

Senior Catherine Amini added three assists for the Rams, who improved to 10-0-1. "We're playing a lot of strong teams and most of them we saw twice," Dougher said. "We surprised ourselves a little bit with how well we were doing. We have a lot of raw talent and athleticism."

Sophia Papacostas has been the ignition switch for the offense, scoring 15 goals, and has a "sibling chemistry" with Andrea and together they lead the attack, Dougher said. Andrea Papacostas has 5 goals. "Sophia is a constant threat and just has a knack for putting the ball in the net," the coach said. "She got varsity experience and confidence in the spring. She practices and plays at 100 percent."

Amini, a captain and three-year starter, serves as the quarterback on the field and leads the team in assists with seven. "She's a level-headed and solid two-way player who helps our defense and generates offense," Dougher said.

Additional keys to the midfield are defensive-minded Angelina Ferrara and offensive spark Gianna Smith. Both are senior captains and the latter has three goals.

Junior Nicole Servider is a tremendous defender but also a weapon on corners. She has a couple of goals and a few assists. "It's tough for anyone to get by her," Dougher said. "Nicole has great stick skills and is quick, smart and patient yet aggressive."

Junior Sophia Ruperto is one of the team's best communicators and "keeps everyone focused and positive," Dougher said.

Servider, Ruperto and sophomores Lauren Henning and Britney Roller "create a wall" in the back, Dougher noted, that makes it tough for the competition to keep the pressure on senior goalie Shanza Ahmed, who has more than 40 saves and a large hand in six shutouts. "Our defense stands out," the coach said.

The Rams played two intense overtime games against Friends Academy, winning both. Amini set up Sophia Papacostas for a 1-0 win in the first matchup on Sept. 24, and the rematch was a 2-1 shootout victory Oct. 6. Ferrara scored in regulation with an assist from Servider.

Clarke will be part of the six-team field in the Class B playoffs, which open Friday and conclude with the county championship game Nov. 4.



Karen Millindorf/Herald

CLARKE'S SOFIA PAPACOSTAS, left, who scored four goals, worked against East Meadow's Nikki Turrisi during the Rams' 6-1 win on Oct. 20.

SPOTLIGHT ATHLETE



CHARLIE MCKEE

Oceanside Senior Football

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

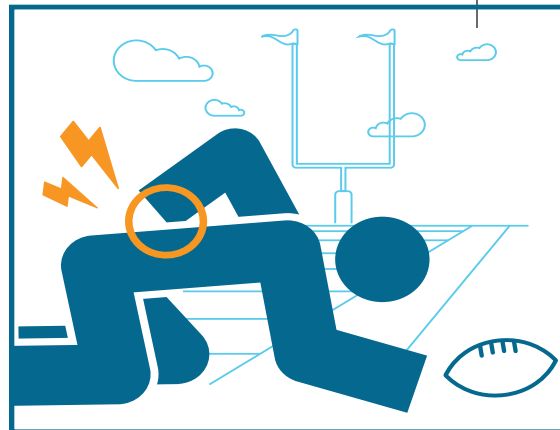
GAMES TO WATCH

Friday, Oct. 29

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

Saturday, Oct. 30

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



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1132789

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

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Send to exeditor@liherald.com



NASSAU COUNTY CLERK

Maureen O'Connell Incumbent

Party: Republican

Age: 70

Hometown: East Williston

Career: County clerk, former nurse

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

On the issues:

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



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

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

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

Justin Brown Challenger

Party: Democratic

Age: 30

Hometown: Baldwin

Career: Health-care administrator

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

On the issues:

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



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

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

HEMPSTEAD TOWN CLERK

Kate Murray Incumbent

Party: Republican

Age: 59

Hometown: Levittown

On the issues:

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

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



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

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

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

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

Oneka Nicks Challenger

Party: Democrat

Age: 29

Hometown: Uniondale

On the issues:

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

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



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

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

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



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.



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Send to exceditor@liherald.com



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 15

John Ferretti Incumbent

Party: Republican

Age: 38

Hometown: Levittown

Political experience: Prior to being elected to the Nassau County Legislature in 2017 and re-elected again in 2019, Ferretti served as the chief deputy county clerk of Nassau County.

Career: Practicing attorney at the Mineola-based law firm Nicolini, Paradise, Ferretti & Sabella, where he specializes in bodily injury, subrogation, no-fault, real estate, zoning and land use law.

On the issues:

John Ferretti, who has served as the 15th District legislator since 2017, said



that small businesses were significantly impacted by Covid-19, which is why he helped create a special revenue fund in the county budget to help pay off county refund liability owed to small businesses and will continue to vote against tax increases for Nassau residents. He also said he voted to approve tens of millions of dollars in Covid-19 relief money to be used towards revitalization efforts for downtowns and to help promote struggling small businesses.

Ferretti, along with the legislative majority, proposed cutting county fees that residents have experienced. The proposal would cut the red-light camera public safety fee, the tax map verification fee would be eliminated and the mortgage recording fee would be reduced to \$50.

In terms of the housing crisis, Ferretti said he would continue to work alongside members of the legislature to create a fairer, more accurate, and transparent reassessment that did not result in additional tax increases for Nassau property homeowners. In order to keep more seniors, veterans and young people here, he said, Nassau County needs to be more affordable.

Don't forget to vote!

Tuesday, Nov. 2

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

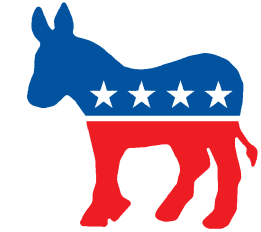
Visit www.liherald.com for results



John Ferretti's opponent, Mathew Malin, could not be reached, despite many attempts.

SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT

ELECTION '21



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

EAST MEADOW

INSTRUCTIONS

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

To vote on a question or proposal, mark the oval to the left of your choice. If you make a mistake, or want to change your vote, call the Board of Elections at (516) 571-2411 for instructions on how to obtain a new ballot.

INSTRUCTIONS

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

Instrucciones para la votación de preguntas y propuestas Para votar sobre una pregunta o sobre una propuesta, marque el óvalo a la izquierda de su preferencia. Si comete un error o quiere cambiar su voto, llame a la Junta De Elecciones al (516) 571-1245 para instrucciones sobre cómo obtener una nueva papeleta.

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

For election results after the polls close Tuesday night, go to LIHerald.com

Office	Justice of the Supreme Court (Vote for up to eight) Juez de la Corte Suprema (Vote hasta por ocho)								County Executive (Vote for one) Ejecutivo del Condado (Vote por uno)	District Attorney (Vote for one) Fiscal del Distrito (Vote por uno)	County Comptroller (Vote for one) Controlador del Condado (Vote por uno)	County Clerk (Vote for one) Secretario del Condado (Vote por uno)	Family Court Judge (Vote for one) Juez de la Corte de Familia (Vote por uno)	District Court Judge District 2 (Vote for one) Juez de la Corte de Distrito Distrito 2 (Vote por uno)	Hempstead Supervisor (Vote for one) Supervisor (Vote por uno)	Hempstead Council Member District 6 (Vote for one) Concejal Distrito 6 (Vote por uno)	Hempstead Town Clerk (Vote for one) Secretario Municipal (Vote por uno)	County Legislator District 13 (Vote for one) Legislador del Condado Distrito 13 (Vote por uno)	County Legislator District 15 (Vote for one) Legislador del Condado Distrito 15 (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 Sapraine	<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. Abelow	<input type="radio"/> 16 Matthew A. Galante	<input type="radio"/> 17 Olena Nicks	<input type="radio"/> 22 Eileen M. Napolitano	<input type="radio"/> 22 Matthew W. Malin
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 Sapraine	<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 John R. Ferretti
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 Sapraine	<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 John R. Ferretti
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 Matthew W. Malin	
Common Sense								<input type="radio"/> 9 Laura Curran						<input type="radio"/> 15 Jason L. Abelow	<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"/>

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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."

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.

Includes Bellmore, Bethpage, East Meadow, Levittown, Merrick, Seaford and Wantagh.



2021 JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

3rd District Court Judge

Lisa Saltzman

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

Age: 55
Lives in: Great Neck



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

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

David I. Levine

Democratic, Republican, Conservative

Age: 55
Lives in: Roslyn Heights



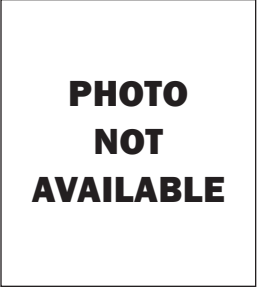
Education: Graduated from SUNY Binghamton in 1987 and earned his law degree from New York Law School in 1990.

Legal career: Judge Levine was appointed by the County Executive Laura Curran to the Nassau County District Court this past March. Levine previously served as the associate justice for the Village of Manorhaven from November 2019 to March 2021. Levine was also a member of the Town of North Hempstead Board of Zoning and Appeals from January 2012 to March 2021. Prior to ascending to the District Court bench, he maintained a private practice in Mineola from 1997 to March 2021 and was an assistant district attorney in Queens from 1990 to 1997.

William Hohausner

Democratic, Republican, Conservative

Age: 62
Lives in: xxxx



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

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

Family Court Judge Candidate

Darlene D. Harris

Age: 55
Hometown: Uniondale
Education: University of Pennsylvania; Hofstra University
Legal career: District Court judge since January 2015, practiced law in family court for 13 years, former Nassau County legislator.



2nd District Court Judge

Vincent T. Muscarella

Vincent T. Muscarella, a Republican, is running unopposed for the 2nd District Court. He was elected to the first session of the Nassau County Legislature on Nov. 5, 1995. He represents the 8th Legislative District, which encompasses Franklin Square, Floral Park, Bellerose, Bellerose Terrace, West Hempstead and portions of Elmont, New Hyde Park and Stewart Manor. Muscarella was born in Nassau County in 1954 and is a lifelong 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.

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 introduced 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.

eLEVate the Conversation

The immersive experience of Merrick

By LAUREN LEV

It's pre-sunrise on the Merrick train-station platform. Daylight savings time has not yet ended and the darkness doesn't deter a flow of traffic, both east and west on Sunrise (ironic, eh?) Highway. It also doesn't deter the many commuters who are going to work or school at this early hour.

It is not my preference to be here, or anywhere at this time of day that's not my bed, but the timing has allowed me to notice some unexpected art integrated with the experience of commuting at this station.

It starts with the vinyl window and door manufacturer that is aligned against the train tracks on the north side of the station. Its façade is white siding and it's as clean as a movie screen. Although there is activity inside, a few people moving around and a man (perhaps security?) near one of the windows in the center of the factory, it is the outside that makes for the basis of the "exhibition."

In a world that has become suddenly fascinated with immersive-art experiences (such as patrons visiting the Van Gogh exhibit in Manhattan), this factory

uncharacteristically creates its own event with travelers interacting with light and shadow.

A large used-car dealership on the south side of Sunrise Highway shines a very big floodlight on its own property. This light is so strong in the morning's darkness that it shines straight across the lanes of traffic and bounces off the manufacturer's building. Therefore, if you are walking along the LIRR platform you walk in the path of this light and project your silhouette onto the factory's outside wall.

So, you see this parade on the big "screen" — the student with a backpack, the high-heeled lady with the jumbo cup of coffee in outstretched hand, the parent holding their child tightly as they move to the back of the station. You see the guy with the oversized briefcase, the gym rat with workout bag, the station employee all walking by, all unaware that they are part of a mega-sized, motion-filled mural that changes by the moment.

Am I the only one who notices this? Doubtful. But alert the NYC media. If you honor fresh, inclusive art, this installation is only 45 minutes away and we all contribute so no one can declare it uniquely theirs.

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Incumbent John Ferretti to run for re-election

By MALLORY WILSON
mwilson@liherald.com

County Legislator John Ferretti, a Republican from Levittown, has held the county legislator seat in District 15 since 2017.

This year, Ferretti is challenged by Democrat Matthew Malin of Wantagh. He did not respond to the Herald for this story or to arrange for an endorsement interview.

The 15th legislative district encompasses all of Levittown, Salisbury, and parts of East Meadow, Bethpage, Wantagh and Seaford.

East Meadow Herald: How can you bring more businesses and revenue to the area post-Covid?

John Ferretti: Small businesses were significantly impacted due to Covid, which is why I helped to create a special revenue fund in the county budget to help pay off the county refund liability owed to small businesses. I will continue to vote against tax increases for Nassau residents. I also voted to approve tens of millions of dollars in Covid relief money to be used towards revitalization efforts of our downtowns and to help promote struggling small businesses.

Herald: What would you do legislatively that would help in the housing crisis?

Ferretti: As part of the majority's efforts to help combat the housing crisis, I will continue to work alongside members of the Legislature to create a more fair, accurate and transparent reassessment that does not result in additional tax increases for Nassau property homeowners. In order to keep more seniors, veterans and our young people here, we have to make Nassau more affordable.

Herald: What would you do at the legislative level to improve the livelihood for the younger population on Long Island and ensure that they don't leave?

Ferretti: We need to ensure that taxes and fees are low so that residents, especially our young people, can continue to live in Nassau for decades to come. That includes an overhaul of the current reassessment program so that homeowners feel as if their property is being assessed both fairly and accurately through a transparent process.



John Ferretti
Incumbent

Age: 38

Hometown: Levittown

Party Affiliation:
Republican

Political experience:
Prior to being elected

to the Nassau County Legislature in 2017 and re-elected again in 2019, Ferretti served as the Chief Deputy County Clerk of Nassau County.

Career: Practicing attorney at the Mineola-based law firm Nicolini, Paradise, Ferretti & Sabella where he specializes in bodily injury, subrogation, no-fault, real estate, zoning and land use law.



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Cronin, Phillips vie for county comptroller

By CRISTINA ARROYO RODRIGUEZ

carroyo@liherald.com

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

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

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

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

Phillips: All Nassau County governmental agencies have been forced to adjust to the “new normal” of Covid-19. In many cases, the adjustments have been inadequate, and the delivery of county services is suffering as a result. As Nassau County comptroller, I will have a crucial role to play in objectively identifying those governmental agencies whose performance is lagging and making recommendations to address deficiencies. A specific example of a lack of adequate management and adaptation has been seen within the Department of Consumer Affairs. Many business owners have been waiting for months to secure required licenses. Some are in danger of going out of business. This is totally unacceptable. The county’s administration should follow the Town of Hempstead’s successful practice of issuing permits and licenses off campus through the use of mobile trailers. Strict safeguards have been employed to meet the needs of taxpayers in a safe and efficient manner. As comptroller, I will audit these areas of need and will push for swift corrective action.

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

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

Phillips: While in the private sector at Goldman Sachs, I oversaw the diversity efforts, and while in public office as a New York state senator, I sponsored multiple educational and outreach forums on MWBE. As Nassau comptroller, I would continue this pursuit to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace and continue to educate and promote solutions to ensure equal rights to all. What’s more, I would undertake performance audits of all county departments to ascertain whether they are meeting DEI metrics. I would do the same for the entities that do business with Nassau County.

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

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

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



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c. Total Paid Distribution: Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months, 2458; Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date, 2874.
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16. This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the October 28, 2021 issue of this publication.
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Stuart Richner, Owner; Date: October 1, 2021 I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material information requested on the form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties). 1150042

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LEGAL NOTICE
ANNUAL FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION OF THE EAST MEADOW FIRE DISTRICT

December 14, 2021
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Annual Election of the East Meadow Fire District will take place on December 14, 2021, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the East Meadow Fire Department Headquarters Building, located at No. 197 East Meadow Avenue, East Meadow, New York, and at Station No. 3 of the East Meadow Fire Department, located at Newbridge Road and Carnation Road, East Meadow, New York, for the purpose of electing one (1) commissioner for a five (5) year term commencing on January 1, 2022, and ending on December 31, 2026 AND electing a Treasurer for a three (3) year term commencing on January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2024. All duly registered residents of the East Meadow Fire District shall be eligible to vote, but residents must be registered to vote by November 22, 2021 with the Nassau County Board of Elections.
PLEASE FURTHER TAKE NOTICE, that Candidates

for District Office shall file their names with the Secretary of the East Meadow Fire District at the East Meadow Fire District Office Building located at No. 197 East Meadow Avenue, East Meadow, New York, no later than twenty (20) days before the date of the election. Said filing shall be submitted in the form of a petition subscribed by twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the Fire District to the Fire District Secretary. Petition forms shall be made available by the Fire District Secretary. Dated: East Meadow, New York October 18, 2021
DIANE BARTONE
Fire District Secretary
EAST MEADOW FIRE DISTRICT 128133
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Notice is hereby given that an order granted by the Supreme Court, Nassau County, on the 7th day of October, 2021, bearing Index Number 000662.21, a copy of which may be examined at the office of the clerk, located at 240 Old Country Road, Mineola, NY grants me the right to

assume the name of Jonathan Blair Michaels. The city and state of my present address are East Meadow, NY; the month and year of my birth are February, 1957; the place of my birth is Bronx, New York; my present name is Johnathan Blair Michaels, aka Jonathan Michaels 128137
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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGISTRATION ROLLS FOR ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE EAST MEADOW FIRE DISTRICT
PLEASE BE ADVISED, that the Board of Elections of the East Meadow Fire District shall meet on the 29th day of November, 2021 between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the Fire Headquarters Building located at 197 East Meadow Avenue, East Meadow, New York for the purpose of preparing the rolls of registered voters of the East Meadow Fire District. The annual election of the East Meadow Fire District will be held on the 14th day of December 2021 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the East Meadow Fire Headquarters Building located at 197 East

Meadow Avenue, East Meadow, New York, and at Station No. 3, Newbridge Road and Carnation Road, East Meadow, New York. PLEASE BE ADVISED that only those persons who have registered with the County Board of Elections on or before the 22nd day of November, 2021 shall be eligible to vote. PLEASE BE ADVISED that candidates for District Office shall file their names with the Secretary of the East Meadow Fire District at the East Meadow Fire District Office, located at No. 197 East Meadow Avenue, East Meadow, New York no later than twenty (20) days before the date of the election. Said filing shall be submitted in the form of petition subscribed by twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the Fire District to the Fire District Secretary. Petition forms shall be made available by the Fire District Secretary. Dated: East Meadow, New York October 18, 2021
DIANE BARTONE
Secretary
EAST MEADOW FIRE DISTRICT 128132
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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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E	A	C	E		M	U	R		E	T	A	P
				N	O	J	E	E	S			
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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
- "Yippee!"
- Bassoon's kin
- Just out

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HERALD ENDORSEMENTS

Re-elect Laura Curran Nassau County executive

Just 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.

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

HERALD Endorsement



Maureen O'Connell

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

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

Her opponent, Justin Brown, a Democrat from Baldwin, offered many solid ideas for improving the office moving forward, and as a health care administrator for Sloan Kettering Memorial Cancer Center and a former Union-

dale 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

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.

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

HERALD Endorsement



Todd Kaminsky

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.

Give Hempstead Clerk Kate Murray another term

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

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

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

HERALD Endorsement



Kate Murray

Because the clerk's office remained open, it served Hempstead residents throughout the pandemic. Murray even officiated at marriage ceremonies over Zoom, having been granted permission to do so by the New York state.

She also oversaw the implementation of a sticker-less parking pass system in June 2020. Starting with a pilot program in Oceanside, the system became available to the rest of the town in March of this year. The clerk's office even made the process contactless: Residents

can register their license plates online, and Public Safety officers check plates digitally to ensure that vehicles are registered. About two-thirds of commuters have registered

online for the program.

Murray also put many applications online, and she has continued the Child Safety ID program and the Senior ID Program, which collect information from residents that can be used in an emergency. Additionally, she started a Special Needs ID Program.

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

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



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.

HERALD Endorsement



Tom McKeivitt

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 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 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. 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.

Ferretti deserves another term

In the race for the seat in Nassau County's 15th Legislative District, which includes parts of East Meadow, Wantagh and Seaford, Republican incumbent John Ferretti faces challenger Matthew Malin, a Democrat from Wantagh.

It's clear that Ferretti is the best choice to continue serving the 15th District.

A lifelong resident of Levittown, he has made connections in the community and is an accomplished politician who jumped right into the role when he was first elected in 2017. He is a strong voice for the community and consistently works for its best interests.

Ferretti, along with the Republican

majority, proposed cutting county fees incurred by residents by almost \$100 million. The proposal would cut the red-light-camera public-safety fee and the tax-map-verification fee, and the mortgage recording fee would be reduced to \$50. Those reductions, Ferretti says, are close to his heart because of the time he spent as deputy, and chief deputy, county clerk.

One of his most important accomplishments is Benny's Law, which passed in March and requires overly aggressive dogs to be added

HERALD Endorsement



John Ferretti

to a public online registry. The law, which Ferretti proposed, mandates that if a judge determines that a dog meets the high threshold to be considered dangerous, its owners must mail a copy of the judicial order to neighbors within 1,000 foot, or roughly six blocks.

The Herald could not reach Ferretti's challenger despite several attempts.

Ferretti has been a committed legislator since 2017, and deserves another term. His constituents should re-elect him.

In the 6th Council District, elect newcomer Galante

The 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'

HERALD Endorsement



Matthew Galante

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 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 harked 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.

HERALD ENDORSEMENTS

Re-elect Town Supervisor Don Clavin

HERALD Endorsement



Don Clavin

After 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 "pothole patrol," an effort to expedite repairs

using state-of-the-art vehicles and promoting a hotline for residents to report potholes.

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

Though Ablove claimed that Clavin spent some of the money on

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

To further aid local businesses dealing with the health crisis, Clavin and the board instituted the first outdoor dining initiative in the state

in the spring of 2020, waiving permit fees and expediting the process for restaurant owners.

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

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

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

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

OPINIONS

Jason Kreiss at 50: Blessings on your head

How is my son, Jason, like a MacDonald's quarter-pounder?

They are both 50 years old this year. And, might I add, both awesome. Also 50 this year? Disney World, the Nasdaq, email, floppy disks, Sacha Baron Cohen, and Hamburger Helper.



RANDI
KREISS

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

launched for 36 more years.

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

does he see this gift of a life to live?

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

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

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

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

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

ed 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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