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Vol. 20, No. 51

March 14, 2024

\$1.00



### Albany's bail laws under fire

Local officials demand accountability for perpetrators of recent crimes

**A4**



**Inside**

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## Honoring Our Beloved Pets: Memorial Tribute Page

Celebrate the memories of your furry, finned, feathered and scaly companions who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

TBR News Media invites you to contribute to our Pet Memorial page, a tribute to the pets who have left paw prints on our hearts.

Your tributes will appear on a dedicated page published quarterly, creating a space to remember and celebrate the lives of our beloved pets.

**How to Participate:**

- Share a snapshot that captures the essence of your cherished pet.
- Craft a brief memorial message up to 50 words, expressing the love and joy your pet brought into your life. Feel free to share a funny anecdote or a special moment. Include your pet's year born or adopted and year passed.

Email your submissions to [petmemorials@tbrnewsmedia.com](mailto:petmemorials@tbrnewsmedia.com)

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05E9350

# Journey through SCWA Education Center & Laboratory

BY SAMANTHA RUTT  
EDITOR1@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

The Suffolk County Water Authority Education Center & Laboratory, located in Hauppauge, offers an immersive experience that invites visitors to explore the world of water management, conservation and purification.

Opened to the public every second Thursday of each month, the Education Center & Laboratory serves as a hub for educational outreach and research initiatives aimed at promoting water awareness and sustainability practices within the community.

**COUNTY** Its state-of-the-art facilities showcase the intricate processes involved in delivering safe and clean drinking water to homes and businesses across Suffolk County.

One of the highlights of the Education Center is its interactive exhibits, which provide visitors with hands-on learning opportunities. From water cycle and watershed protection to understanding the importance of water quality testing, visitors of all ages can engage with informative displays that make learning about water conservation both educational and enjoyable.

Exhibits include the evolution of water main, water quality/quantity monitoring technology, advanced oxidation process display, water testing and lab technology, as well as advancements in meter reading.

Also at the center is an interactive water testing display allowing visitors to learn about Long Island's aquifer and its

role in the water cycle, while also examining real aquifer sediments extracted from the various geologic layers of the aquifer system.

Guided tours of the laboratory are also available, allowing for a behind-the-scenes look at the rigorous testing protocols employed to ensure the safety and purity of the county's water supply. Led by knowledgeable staff members, these tours provide valuable insights into the science of water treatment and the vital role that water quality plays in public health.

In addition to its educational offerings, the SCWA Education Center & Laboratory also hosts various community events and workshops throughout the year. These events cover a range of topics, including water conservation strategies, environmental stewardship and the latest advancements in water technology.

For schools and educational groups, the Education Center offers tailored programs designed to complement classroom curricula and provide students with real-world examples of environmental science in action. Through engaging activities and demonstrations, students are encouraged to think critically about water-related

issues and explore potential solutions to environmental challenges.

To learn more about the Suffolk County Water Authority or to sign up for a tour, visit the website at [www.scwa.com/educationcenter](http://www.scwa.com/educationcenter).

SCWA staff explains the water distribution cycle as the display illustrates.  
Photo by Samantha Rutt



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# Local officials demand bail reform

BY SAMANTHA RUTT  
EDITOR1@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

A chilling crime has shaken communities across Suffolk County as police discovered scattered human remains in Babylon and Bethpage, leaving residents horrified and demanding justice.

**COUNTY** The shock has escalated into outrage as local officials and law enforcement point fingers at Albany's bail laws, which they claim have allowed suspects to walk free without posting bail.

County Executive Ed Romaine (R) minced no words in expressing his frustration, stating, "The failure of Albany's bail laws has resulted in those charged with dismembering and placing body parts in our communities to walk free without posting any bail." Romaine's sentiments echoed the feelings of many Suffolk County residents who consider the current bail system is failing to protect the community.

In response to the recent crime, New York State Sen. Anthony Palumbo (R-New Suffolk) and Assemblyman Michael Durso (R-Massapequa Park) swiftly introduced new legislation (S.8751) to address the shortcomings of the bail system. The proposed bill aims to make body dismemberment and concealment of a human corpse a bail-eligible offense, highlighting the urgency of the situation.

Palumbo condemned the current bail laws, stating, "Nobody with an ounce of sensibility would say it's a good idea to let someone charged with the sickening act of human dismemberment leave jail and roam the streets." Durso agreed, vowing to fight for change to ensure the safety of Suffolk County residents.

Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond Tierney (R) also weighed in on the issue, responding to Gov. Kathy Hochul's (D) statements on bail reform in relation to the recent tragic discoveries. Tierney accused the governor of being "completely clueless or deceitful" about the criminal justice system and defended the efforts of law enforcement in the face of what he called "a broken bail system."

Assemblyman Ed Flood (R-Port Jefferson) added his voice to the chorus of criticism, expressing dismay over the release of suspects involved in the recent case where human remains were found. Flood denounced the lack of "humanity and morals" in the criminal justice system, attributing the problems to the flaws in bail reform laws.

The collective outcry from local officials emphasizes the need for action to address the failures of New York State's bail laws.

As communities continue to grapple with the consequences of these shortcomings, residents are looking to Albany for solutions that prioritize public safety and accountability in the criminal justice system.

## Gov. Hochul responds

In a recent interview with PIX11, Hochul addressed concerns about bail reform, acknowledging the frustrations of law enforcement. She emphasized the importance of allowing judges to consider the whole body of evidence when making bail decisions and expressed her commitment to keeping people safe.

Hochul responded to additional comments made by Tierney, who suggested the need to reinstate the dangerousness clause and emphasized the law needs to be looked over.

"The standard changed just a few months ago — less than a year ago — and instead of the



Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine speaks at a press conference to call on bail reform. Photo courtesy Ed Romaine flickr page

standard of dangerousness, we ask the judges now to look at a whole body of evidence," she stressed.

Meanwhile, the community remains on edge as law enforcement continues to investigate the disturbing crime that has left a deep impact on the residents of the respective areas. As the investigation unfolds, residents are hopeful that meaningful change will come.

"Now, this is a very unique circumstance in Suffolk County," Hochul said. "I know the Suffolk County Police Department is working hard to get to the bottom of this as is the DA. ... They're doing their job and I respect that. But the bail laws I thought went too far in the wrong direction. I'm bringing them back, and we're going to continue to make sure that we keep people safe."

LEGALS

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Email: [legals@tbrnewsmedia.com](mailto:legals@tbrnewsmedia.com)

Notice of formation of Your Hood Therapy LCSW PLLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on November, 15, 2023. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 68 Flower Hill RD Huntington NY 11743. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

189690 2/8 6x thn

Notice of formation of Brooks Sickler LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of the State of New York on 4-30-23. Office located in Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served against Brooks Sickler LLC, 3 Kew Court, Huntington NY 11743 Purpose – Any lawful purpose.

189970 2/8 6x thn

Notice of formation of JAG Management & Consulting Services LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 1/9/2024. Office located in Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC to 2 Amberson Pl., Melville NY 11747 Purpose: any lawful purpose.

190010 2/8 6x thn

Notice of Formation of J&M PLUMBING AND HEATING OF LI LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/04/2023. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Michael C. Kinney, 78 Quaker Path, Stony Brook, NY 11790. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

190160 2/8 6x thn

Notice of formation of ORGANIZATION ANGEL LLC.

Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 2, 2024. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 32 Ross Avenue, Melville, NY 11747. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

191030 2/15 6x thn

Notice of formation of Hephania Stelen, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 2/08/2024. Office located in Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC to 16 Wildwood Drive Dix Hills, NY 11746. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

192450 2/22 6x thn

NOTICE OF SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING OF THE NORTHPORT-EAST NORTH-PORT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BUDGET VOTE & TRUSTEE ELECTION  
APRIL 16, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Special District Meeting of the qualified voters of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District will be held at both branches of the Northport-East Northport Public Library on Tuesday, **April 16, 2024**, commencing at 9:00 a.m. ending at 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, for the purpose of voting upon the following items:

1. To adopt the Annual Library District Budget for the fiscal year **2024/2025** and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of said School District; and
2. To elect TWO (2) Trustees to the Board of Trustees of the Northport-East Northport Public Library: the first for a term commencing immediately upon election and ending on June 30, 2025, as a result of the expiration of the appointment presently held

by Lisa Herskowitz; the second to a five-year term commencing July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2029, as a result of the expiration of the term of office presently held by Jacqueline Elsas.

The Trustee election will be conducted “At-Large,” with the candidate receiving the most votes occupying the full five-year term, and the candidate receiving the second most votes occupying the shorter term.

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN, that the voting at such meeting on **April 16, 2024**, shall take place in two election districts at the two polling places designated below between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time:

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1. POLLING PLACE: Northport Public Library, 151 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York, shall be bounded as follows:

- On the South by the centerline of Route 25A;
- On the East by the library district boundary;
- On the North by the library district boundary;
- On the West by the library district boundary.

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2. POLLING PLACE: East Northport Public Library, 185 Larkfield Road, East Northport, New York, shall be bounded as follows:

- On the South by the library district boundary;
- On the East by the library district boundary;
- On the North by the centerline of Route 25A;
- On the West by the library district boundary.

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN, that nominating petitions for the office of Library Trustee shall be filed in the Library Business Office located at 151 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York, not later than **5:00pm on Monday, March 18, 2024**. Each petition must be directed to the Clerk of the Library Vote, must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District, and must state the name and residence of the candidate and the signers thereof; and

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN, that personal registration of voters is required and no person shall be entitled to vote at the meeting whose name does not appear on the Register of the School District prepared therefore. All persons who shall have been previously registered for any annual or special School District meeting or School District election and who shall have voted at any such annual or special meeting or election held or conducted at any time within four (4) years prior to the preparation of the register are not required to re-register for this special district meeting. In addition, all those who are registered to vote with the Board of Elections of Suffolk County prior to **April 6, 2024**, shall be entitled to vote at this special district meeting, notwithstanding any failure to have previously registered with the School District.

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN, that personal registration is available any day that school is in session; at the office of the School District Clerk, 158 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. In order to vote at the meeting to be held on **April 16, 2024**, personal registration must be completed on or before **April 6, 2024**, and

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN, that the Register will be filed in the Library Business Office at 151 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York, and will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the School District on each of the five (5) days prior to **April 16, 2024** excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., prevailing time; and on **April 16, 2024** from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN, that the Library Board of Trustees will hold a public information meeting for the purpose of discussion of the proposed Library budget on **April 2, 2024** at the Northport-East Northport Public Library, 151 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York 11768 at 7:30 pm.; and

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN, that copies of the proposed Library budget and the annual estimated expenditures to be voted upon shall be available at the both library branches (addresses above) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. commencing on **March 19, 2024**, and each weekday through **April 16, 2024**; and

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN, that early mail and absentee ballots to vote on any questions and propositions that appear on the voting ballot may be applied for at the Library Business Office, 151 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York during regular business hours. Such applications must be received by the Clerk of the Library Vote seven (7) days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or by 5:00 pm, prevailing time, on the day prior to the vote if the ballot is to be personally delivered to the voter. No early mail or absentee voter’s ballot shall be canvassed, unless it shall have been received in the Library Business Office, 151 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York no later than 5:00 pm, prevailing time, on the day of the election.

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN, that a qualified voter whose ability to appear personally at the polling place is substantially impaired by reason of permanent illness or physical disability and whose registration record has been marked as permanently disabled by the Board of Elections pursuant to the provisions of the Election Law shall be entitled to receive an absentee ballot pursuant to the provisions of the Education Law without making separate application for such absentee ballot. A list of all persons to whom early mail and absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the Library Business Office, 151 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York on each of the five (5) days prior to **April 16, 2024**, except Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN that military voters who are not currently registered may apply to register as a

qualified voter of the School District. Military voters who are qualified voters of the School District may submit an application for a military ballot. Military voters may designate a preference to receive a military voter registration, military ballot application or military ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail in their request for such registration, ballot application or ballot. Military voter registration forms and military ballot applications must be received in the Library Business Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday March 22, 2024**. No military ballot will be canvassed unless it is received by the Library Business Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

Dated: Northport, New York  
**January 18, 2024**

BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NORTHPORT-EAST NORTH-PORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Carolyn McQuade,**  
**Chairperson**  
Board of Trustees

192590 2/29 4x thn

LEGAL NOTICE

Board of Education  
Huntington Union Free School District  
Town of Huntington  
Suffolk County, New York

The Huntington Union Free School District is soliciting proposals from qualified providers for **OCCUPATIONAL & PHYSICAL THERAPY (RFP)**. A copy of the Request for Proposal may be obtained in person or by contacting Huntington Union Free School District, Jack Abrams School, 50 Tower Street, Huntington Station, NY 11746 (631) 673-2029, fax (631) 673-4199. Contact person: CHRISTINE DOHERTY. **Proposals must be submitted by 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 2024.**

The Board of Education, Huntington Union Free School District, Huntington, Suffolk County, New York,

**LEGALS** *con’t on pg. 9*



# Farmingville woman indicted for allegedly stealing \$440K from parents

## Used money to gamble at Jake’s 58 Casino in Islandia

Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond A. Tierney today announced on March 13 the indictment of Elizabeth M. Motti, 55, of Farmingville, for allegedly stealing approximately \$440,000 from her vulnerable elderly parents over a one-and-a-half-year period that she used to gamble at Jake’s 58 Casino in Islandia.

“Our elder community is at increased risk for fraud and theft,” said District Attorney Tierney. “We want to place those who choose to exploit our vulnerable populations on notice that if you are caught, you will be held accountable.”

According to the investigation, between April 2017 and November 2018, Motti allegedly stole a total of \$440,063 from her parents’ bank accounts by using debit cards to make withdrawals in the amount of \$355,046 at ATM machines located at Jake’s 58 Casino and by making cash withdrawals from their accounts in the amount of \$85,017. Motti’s parents had moved in with her after her mother had surgery so Motti could be her caretaker.

On March 13, 2024, Motti was arraigned on the indictment before Supreme Court Justice Richard Ambro, for Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C felony.

Justice Ambro ordered Motti to be released on her own recognizance.

Under current New York State law, the offense for which Motti was indicted is considered non-bail eligible meaning prosecutors cannot ask for bail. Motti is being represented by the Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County. Her next court date is April 18, 2024.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Donna M. Planty of the Financial Crimes Bureau, and the investigation was conducted by Detective Anthony Mezzapelle from the Suffolk County Police Department currently assigned to the Financial Crimes Bureau of the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office.

—SUFFOLK COUNTY D.A.’S OFFICE

# POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents have been reported by Suffolk County Police:

### Arrests made in HS foot spa raid

Suffolk County Police arrested three Flushing women during a raid at a Huntington Station foot spa on March 11. In response to community complaints, Second Precinct Crime Section officers along with the Town of Huntington Fire Marshal and Town of Huntington Building Department conducted an investigation at Cleopatra Foot Spa, located at 1783 New York Ave., at approximately 3 p.m.

Three women were arrested. The manager, Xiu Rong Lin, 61, was charged with alleged Criminal Nuisance 2nd Degree, a misdemeanor. Employees Xi Urong Lin, 32, and Xin Peng, 23, were charged with alleged Unauthorized Practice of a Profession, a felony, and Prostitution, a misdemeanor. Multiple violations were issued by Town of Huntington officials.

### Ronkonkoma woman killed in car crash

New York State Police are investigating a single-vehicle crash that killed a Ronkonkoma woman on the Southern State Parkway on March 4. Stephanie T. Malone, 28, was operating a 2013 Nissan Altima on the eastbound Southern State Parkway near exit 40S in Islip when the accident occurred. No other injuries were reported. It was not immediately clear how many vehicles were involved in the crash. The investigation is ongoing.

New York State Police are asking for any witnesses or anyone with information to call 631-756-3300.

### Commack massage parlor raided

Suffolk County Police arrested a Flushing woman during a raid at a Commack massage parlor on March 7.

In response to numerous community complaints, Fourth Precinct Crime Section officers, in conjunction with the Community Support Unit, Fourth Squad detectives, Property Section officers, and Huntington Public Safety, conducted an investigation into Nature Therapy, located at 160 Commack Road, and arrested Zhuo Wang at 3:16 p.m.

Wang, 55, of Flushing, was charged with alleged Unauthorized Practice of a Profession and Sexual Abuse 3rd Degree. The Town of Huntington issued multiple violations to the business. Wang was issued a Desk Appearance Ticket and is scheduled to be arraigned at First District Court in Central Islip on a later date. Visit [www.tbrnewsmedia.com/police](http://www.tbrnewsmedia.com/police) for more press releases from the Suffolk County Police.

### CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Do you recognize this man? Photo from SCPD

#### Wanted for Grand Larceny

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Second Squad detectives are seeking the public’s help to identify and locate the man who allegedly stole credit cards from two lockers at 24 Hour Fitness, located at 4000 Jericho Turnpike in East Northport on Feb. 24 at approximately 11:50 a.m. The same man later attempted to use the credit cards at Target, located at 98 Veterans Memorial Highway in Commack.



Do you recognize this woman? Photo from SCPD

#### Wanted for Theft of Services

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Second Precinct Crime Section officers are seeking the public’s help to identify and locate the woman who received hair and nail services, valued at \$168, from Bocu Salon, located at 6401 Jericho Turnpike in Commack, on Feb. 9 at 1:30 p.m. and allegedly left without paying.

— COMPILED BY HEIDI SUTTON

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers offers a **cash reward** for information that leads to an arrest. Anyone with information about these incidents can contact Suffolk County Crime Stoppers to submit an anonymous tip by calling 1-800-220-TIPS.

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# Harlem Wizards weave their magic for Rocky Point fundraiser

BY BILL LANDON  
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

The Harlem Wizards made their annual visit to Rocky Point High School in yet another basketball rematch with the elite Rocky Point school district faculty Friday night, March 8.

**SPORTS**

The ticketed event drew a standing room only capacity crowd at the high school gym where Wizards' memorabilia was in plentiful

supply and available for purchase for this fundraising event to benefit the Rocky Point Athletic Booster Club.

An impromptu third quarter trade saw two Rocky Point players donning Wizards jerseys, and "Mr. Bounce" was traded to the Eagles roster to even up the score.

At the halftime break every Wizard team member autographed anything and everything to the delight of the enthusiastic crowd.

— Photos by Bill Landon



The Harlem Wizards visit Rocky Point High School.





# 90th annual Huntington St. Patrick's Day parade





# Remembering Michael H. Burner

PREPARED BY THE BURNER FAMILY  
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Michael Burner, 80, of Westhampton Beach, passed away on March 6.

Michael was born on Sept. 15, 1943, to Kurt and Anna Burner in the Bronx. At 16 years old, his first job was in a button factory also in the Bronx. He was a rising star in the retail world and as only Michael could do, he went into an entirely new field: construction. Later in life he became a builder/developer, as the founder and president of Elderco Inc., a creator of fine homes in the Hamptons.

In 1980 with three kids in tow, Brian, Robin and Gabriele, he married Nancy J. Marchesini who already had daughter Tara. Soon Britt, Kyra and Taylor made it an uneven seven.

To say Michael was a family man is an understatement.

From starting the Safe Homes Program and Friday Night Recreation to coaching sports teams and serving as president



of the Port Jefferson School Board of Education, Michael was an impactful part of the local community. Ever dedicated to

community service, Michael was a leader and active member of the Port Jefferson Lions Club and, later, the Moriches Bay Project, Kiwanis of Greater Westhampton and was a charter member of the Westhampton Yacht Squadron.

Michael will be missed by his friends, family, clients, business associates, the Elderco team and all of the other various lives he touched with his sarcasm and quick wit.

Michael is survived by his wife Nancy; son Brian; daughters Robin, Gabriele, Tara, Britt, Kyra and Taylor; 18 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to The Michael H. Burner Community Service Trust at [everloved.com/life-of/michael-burner](http://everloved.com/life-of/michael-burner). All donations will be used to support various community groups and projects in which Michael was involved.

## LEGALS

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### LEGALS *con't from pg. 5*

reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any or all proposals.

Joanne Miranda,  
District Clerk  
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Huntington Union Free  
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Huntington, New York

193190 3/14 1x thn

### LEGAL NOTICE

Board of Education  
Huntington Union Free  
School District  
Town of Huntington  
Suffolk County, New York

The Huntington Union Free  
School District is soliciting  
proposals from qualified

providers for **NURSING SERVICES (RFP)**. A copy of the Request for Proposal may be obtained in person or by contacting Huntington Union Free School District, Jack Abrams School, 50 Tower Street, Huntington Station, NY 11746 (631) 673-2029, fax (631) 673-4199. Contact person: CHRISTINE DOHERTY. **Proposals must be submitted by 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 2024.**

The Board of Education, Huntington Union Free School District, Huntington, Suffolk County, New York, reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any or all proposals.

Joanne Miranda,  
District Clerk

Board of Education  
Huntington Union Free  
School District  
Huntington, New York

193200 3/14 1x thn

Notice of formation of Kathryn Nordmann Occupational Therapy, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/09/2023. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the PLLC: 12 Bryant Dr. Huntington, NY.11743. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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# Remembering Vincent A. Smyth



Vincent A. Smyth, right, aside his son, Huntington Town Supervisor Ed Smyth. Photo courtesy Suffolk County GOP

PREPARED BY  
THE SUFFOLK COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE  
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of Vincent Smyth, father of Huntington Town Supervisor Ed Smyth.

Join us in expressing our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Smyth family during this difficult time in their lives. The streets of heaven are crowded

with one more angel.

Leave a sympathy message to the family on the memorial page of Vincent A. Smyth to pay a tribute.

Visitation will be held on Monday, March 18 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the M.A. Connell Funeral Home in Huntington Station.

A Mass will be held on Tuesday, March 19, at 10 a.m. at the St. Patricks Church in Huntington.

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- Professional Services
- Schools/Instruction/Tutoring
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- Employment
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- Power Washing
- Roofing/Siding
- Tree Work
- Window Cleaning
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  - Out of State Property



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# Editorial

## Importance of civic associations and resident-run conversations

In the heart of every thriving community lies a network of voices, opinions and ideas that form the very essence of its identity. These voices, when united through platforms such as civic associations and other civic groups, become a powerful force for positive change and progress. As we navigate the complexities of modern life, it is essential to recognize and emphasize the invaluable role that community forums play in representing the unified voice of residents.

Civic associations and similar groups serve as the lifeblood of local democracy, providing a platform where residents can come together to discuss issues that matter most to them. These forums offer a space for open dialogue, collaboration and problem-solving, allowing community members to actively engage in shaping the future of their neighborhoods and cities.

One of the primary benefits of community forums is their ability to amplify the collective voice of residents. In a world where individual voices can often feel drowned out by larger forces, these forums empower individuals to come together and advocate for common goals and interests.

It is necessary for these groups to facilitate ongoing and productive dialogue rather than drown one another out with differences of opinions. The goal of such associations is to gather together and advocate together. Whether it's for improved public services, addressing community concerns or promoting initiatives for positive change, the unified voice of residents carries significant weight in decision-making processes.

Community forums foster a sense of belonging and solidarity among residents. By bringing people together from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, these forums bridge gaps and foster understanding, strengthening the social fabric of our communities. They provide opportunities for residents to connect, build relationships and work toward common objectives, creating a sense of shared ownership and responsibility for the well-being of their community.

Civic groups can serve as a vital link between residents and local government authorities. By acting as a platform for dialogue and collaboration, these forums enable residents to communicate their needs and priorities to decision-makers. This direct engagement not only ensures that the voices of residents are heard but also facilitates more informed and inclusive decision-making processes that reflect the genuine needs and aspirations of the community.

In today's rapidly changing world, the importance of community forums cannot be overstated. As we face various challenges, ranging from urban development and environmental sustainability to affordability and changing public school landscapes, it is crucial to harness the collective wisdom and energy of our communities.

By actively participating in civic associations and other civic groups, residents can contribute to the creation of vibrant, resilient and inclusive communities that reflect their values and aspirations.

# Letters to the Editor

## In celebration of Long Island

Thank you for your wonderful editorial celebrating Long Island and highlighting the benefits of Long Island's history, culture, institutions and natural beauty ["Uniqueness of where we live," TBR News Media, March 7].

We should all be very proud of being Long Islanders — one of the most beautiful places in the world.

My wife reminds me that since we met 16 years ago, we have traveled to more than 39 countries, but I still love Long Island, NY, USA, the best!

Yes, it's expensive, traffic is bad, mass transit is substandard, taxes are excessive, regulations burdensome, many rules are prudish and Victorian. But Long Island has some of the best beaches, fishing, parks, wildlife and water sports in the world.

Our spring and fall seasons are beautiful and most of our people are diverse, friendly and caring. But most of all we have the NY Islanders, the NY Yankees, the NY Mets, NY Knicks, NY Nets, NY Giants and NY Jets and some of the best sports fans in the universe.

I have been a Smithtown Rotarian for over 40 years and we are dedicated to local and international charities. Long Islanders are extremely generous to Rotary helping our veterans, children, seniors, handicapped and those less fortunate. Celebrate Long Island and let's work to make it the paradise it can be.

*Alan H. Cohn  
Nesconset*

## Women are not cattle

Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote, "The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives."

Ironically, anti-choice Assemblyman Ed Flood [R-Port Jefferson] sponsors program CWA332 at our local Comsewogue Public Library titled, "Financial Literacy for

Women," which includes the descriptor, "Learn the basics to make informed financial decisions, regarding goals."

We know how to make informed decisions because we are not cattle. Unfortunately we must constantly organize against anti-choice legislators who consider us as such. How big to grow our families is key to our informed financial decisions, goals, investments and budgets. Is lesson No. 1, "Try not to be born with a uterus"?

*Joan Nickeson  
Terryville parent*

## Electric buses save money in the long run

Your article on the necessary and state-mandated transition to electric school buses makes a number of valid points, but then pivots to a recitation by state Assemblyman Ed Flood [R-Port Jefferson] of the supposed disadvantages of electric buses [TBR News Media, Feb. 29].

Before echoing the disinformation of the fossil fuel industry perhaps Flood should visit Chile, which has the world's second largest fleet of electric buses after China. Santiago alone has several thousand electric buses used for public transit in a city known for its hills. This is a far tougher job than carrying perhaps 60 students on a limited route on the flat island we live on.

Cost is another phony issue Flood raises. At the moment, the upfront cost to purchase an electric bus is higher than that of a diesel bus — that will come down in a few years as production ramps up. But even now, the electric "fuel" and maintenance required by an electric bus cost far less than those of their diesel counterparts.

And we are all paying the hidden health and medical cost of the asthma and other respiratory ailments caused or worsened by the toxic diesel bus fumes breathed by our children who ride those buses every school day.

Those few school districts that own their buses should start by buying some

electric buses as soon as possible to gain experience with them. Gov. Hochul's [D] administration needs to give them the tools they need to navigate the acquisition and installation of charging stations.

The districts that bid out their transportation contracts should modify their bid packages to reduce risk to the companies bidding by offering longer contracts for bus companies that provide an increasing portion of electric buses in their fleet during the contract.

Mass charging of school bus fleets will require upgrades to our electric grid, but these upgrades can be implemented gradually as the number of buses increases over the years. The buses can be charged at night, when off-peak rates are lower. And during the summer, when bus usage is low, their batteries can be used for grid backup and to support electric demand at peak times in the late afternoon, just as PSEGLI uses our home batteries whose cost has been subsidized by government rebates.

Finally, eliminating diesel from New York state's school bus fleet is one of many steps to fulfilling the state's climate law. Investments we make now are going toward a livable future for our kids — on and off the school bus.

*Peter Gollon  
Huntington*

## On the road again

March 12 was the 102nd anniversary of Northport resident Jack Kerouac. It made me reread one of his best writings, "On The Road." His works reminded me of the more adventurous spirit of youth. Sadly, as we get older, with more responsibilities and less free time, there are fewer journeys to take, but Kerouac's ideals continue to live in all of us.

*Larry Penner  
Great Neck*

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# Opinion

## Peaking through the window into the lives of other families

When we are born, the experience is passive, as we don't suddenly decide, despite what our families might tell us later about how we couldn't wait to see the world, that it's time to leave the womb.

Similarly, once we're outside, we don't make many choices. We can't say, "Milk? Again? You don't have orange juice or maybe a chocolate milkshake?"

The people around us, the customs that define our days and years, the languages we speak and many other factors that shape who we are remain outside our control.

Definitions of normal vary by our circumstances. People who share a single room and one bathroom with four siblings and those with four dogs, three cats, and two parakeets typically accept the conditions around them.

"Everyone has a crazy Uncle Allen and a chatty Aunt Dorothy," they think. Or, perhaps, "everyone shops for a new wardrobe each year before the start of a school year" or "doesn't everyone run three miles before breakfast every morning?"

And then, in the journey through life, we get a window into the lives of other people.

When our daughter was about four years old, she visited a friend, who, our daughter reported, drank soda with breakfast and ate candy as a post breakfast snack. "I like soda," our daughter declared after the playdate. "Why can't I have it with breakfast, too?"

It's not just visits to other homes that become eye-opening experiences: we read about people, watch dramas about their lives, and get a sense of what we think we might strive for or reject in our expanding world.

We and our children see our families in a completely different light when we have the opportunity to compare them to the world outside. Sometimes, we not only measure up, but we exceed the limitations of other people's lives. Our children might, for example, spend

time with parents who pay little to no attention to their sons and daughters, barely aware of their comings and goings.

At that point, our helicopter parenting, which made them gnash their teeth every time we asked for more details about the events of their day, upcoming tests, school dances, or tryouts for school plays, might seem considerably less unbearable or even, dare I say it, charming.

Other times, we fall short in ways that even our children recognize is well outside the experience of most people. Some of their friends' parents might own private jets, have a spare house on the lake, or have season tickets near the front row to watch one of their favorite teams.

Despite the id-driven desire to have similar life amenities, our children, sooner or later, recognize that they shouldn't expect such lavish luxuries, even if they secretly, or, perhaps, not so secretly, hope to attain them.

And then there are the times when the world outside the family seems like the kind of easy-going, light-hearted, jovial tv show in which they'd like to star as the plucky but successful child.

During those moments, we can ask some questions about what they want or wish for that they don't have, or that, perhaps, they find too cumbersome. Yes, we tell them, we really are related to that wacky Uncle Allen, but that doesn't mean our children are going to become like him or that he has no redeeming qualities. Indeed, the search for redeeming qualities in everyone, starting with our own extended family, may help re-inflate our disappointed children.

If the head-to-head match up leaves them wanting something else, we have other options. We can suggest that no one will ever love or appreciate them as much as we do.

We can also suggest that they can use their desire for something more or different to inspire them to work hard for it and to find it for themselves and, if they choose to have one, for their own families.

Hopefully, our children can recognize that, on balance, the things that they considered givens — material, cultural, ethical and otherwise — didn't drop from the sky, but came from hard work and the best of intentions.

## The Ides of March tell a tale of violence, betrayal and murder

This week brings us the Ides of March on the 15th. The designation comes from the Romans, who marked several religious services on that 74th day of the Roman calendar. It was also the deadline for settling debts in Rome. But most notable,

it's the day Julius Caesar was assassinated in the Senate by conspirators who may have numbered between 60-80.

Caesar was stabbed 23 times that day, but only one knife thrust was fatal, delivered through his ribs. He probably bled to death, and his body was left unmoved for a long time after the assailants fled. Caesar was 55 years old.

Caesar is not just a remote figure in history for me. In high school, I suffered with him and because of him through his account of the Gallic Wars during my four years of Latin. Reading of military battles in his own words has left me with some sense of him. In addition to being a warrior, he was also a historian, a statesman and an author who thought highly of himself, and not without merit.

History regards Caesar as one of the most brilliant military commanders. He and his legions conquered Gaul, essentially what is France today, among other major victories and reached as far as Britain.

But it was on his return

from those eight years of warfare that he was told by the Senate to disband his army and return to civilian life. Refusing, he crossed the Rubicon (where the phrase indicating an irreversible decision originates) and marched with his soldiers to Rome.

Ruling as dictator from 49 BC, Caesar was declared head of the Roman Republic by the senate for life. It was shortly thereafter, in 44 BC, that those who opposed him were able to gather support for his murder, fearing his permanent stature and absolute power. The scene was carefully staged to happen in the senate so as to appear an act for the public good.

In fact, it was his death that ended the Republic. Four years of civil war ensued until

his adopted son and designated successor, Octavian, was victorious in 40 BC, and on the anniversary of Caesar's death, executed 300 senators and staff to avenge the murder. He came to rule Rome as Emperor Augustus in 27 BC. Thus began the Roman Empire.

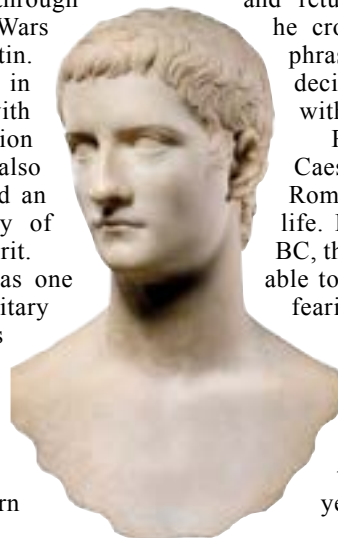
Caesar's reforms were allowed to stand, most notably the Julian calendar, land distributions, offering citizenship to many in far off lands, unheard of until then, and a vast building program.

Caesar was warned of a plot to overthrow him, and he was urged by his wife not to go to the senate on March 15. Initially he sent word to its members that he was not coming. But then one of the conspirators went to his home and coaxed him into attending the fateful session.

Unlike Caesar, beware the Ides of March. Or at least, like Shakespeare, commemorate the event by telling one of history's better tales.



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