



Greetings Neighbor,

Happy Fall! I hope you and your families are enjoying the beautiful fall weather and that your children are thriving in school.

September was a busy month of activities throughout AD21. Please read about some of the vibrant events that I have attended throughout the district.

I had the opportunity to attend a variety of important forums and conferences on Long Island, NYS and NYC. On September 17-19, I attended the Annual Meeting of The Business Council of New York State which was a three-day forum focusing on improving New York's business climate and economy. Attendees included CEO's and senior management of many of New York State's most influential businesses and the agenda focused on the economy, energy, technology, business environment and the impact of decisions being made at the Federal level.

On September 30, I attended a Molloy University Talent Solutions Summit which was a dynamic discussion for leaders committed to strengthening the workforce and shaping a brighter future for Long Island. This was an ideal opportunity for business leaders, educators, and policymakers to share insights, explore innovative partnerships, collaborate and connect.

Challenges facing Long Island businesses were discussed as well as a variety of educational and certification programs to advance career opportunities for residents. We discussed pragmatic solutions to resolve challenges like hiring, retention, leadership development, workforce readiness, and incorporating educational programs at high schools and colleges to prepare students and those seeking a career change for career paths in industries and sectors in demand.

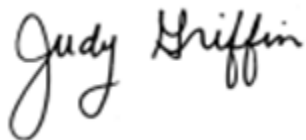
During Climate week, I attended an array of informative and dynamic summits in NYC. On September 24, I attended the Nuclear Symposium 2025 at the Cornell Tech Campus which featured innovators, scientists, engineers, investors, academia, legislators, and labor leaders. The focus was meeting energy demands in the 21st Century as global demand for electricity accelerates and the pressing need for clean, scalable and reliable energy. Rising energy costs, affordability, career opportunities and strategies to deal with our climate crisis were the main focus. On Sept. 25, I attended the Climate Jobs Institute (CJI) at Cornell ILR's NYC Conference Center for Key Interventions: How New York Can Still Achieve Its Climate, Jobs and Equity Mandates. This engaging discussion featured legislators, labor leaders, academia and advocates and included a presentation of key findings from CJI's new report, which identified ways in which New York can meet climate targets, build the work force and address historic environmental injustice.

I am pleased to announce that I have been appointed to be the Vice Chair of Majority Steering. My responsibilities include working with the chair of Majority Steering and leading meetings when the chair cannot. I appreciate Speaker Heastie's confidence in appointing me to a leadership position.

Wishing you and your children a safe and Happy Halloween!

As always I welcome you to email [griffinj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:griffinj@nyassembly.gov) or contact my office at 516-561-8216 if I can be of assistance.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Griffin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Griffin

Assemblywoman, 21st District

### **My Latest Op-Ed - Haven't Heard About Kratom? It's a New Cause for Concern**

Have you heard about Kratom? It's being marketed as a natural supplement — but it's quickly becoming a serious public health concern.

In my latest *LI Herald* op-ed, I discuss why New Yorkers should be aware of Kratom's risks — including addiction, liver toxicity, and even death — and what steps we're taking to protect our communities.

Kratom is an unregulated substance that can act as both a stimulant and a sedative. It's found in everything from energy drinks to gummies, and some products have even tested positive for lead. The FDA warns that it carries dangers similar to morphine and is now recommending that its most potent compound be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance.

That's why I co-sponsored two bills that passed unanimously in the Assembly — one requiring warning labels and another banning sale to anyone under 21. These measures are vital to keeping our families, especially young people, safe.

Read my full op-ed here:<https://www.liherald.com/stories/judy-griffin-havent-heard-about-kratom-its-a-new-cause-for-concern,218172>

## **9/11 Memorials in Assembly District 21**

### **Lynbrook**

I was honored to attend the Village of Lynbrook's 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, a moving tribute to the lives we lost and the heroes who answered the call on that tragic day 24 years ago. Special thoughts to all the families who lost a loved one on 9/11 or in the years after to a 9/11 related disease.

Thank you to the Village of Lynbrook, Mayor Beach, for leading this meaningful remembrance and reading the names of those victims we honor. Special thanks as well to Chief Clayton Murphy of the Lynbrook Fire Department and Chief Brian Paladino of the Lynbrook Police Department for leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Grateful to Toni-Ann Butler for her stirring performances of the National Anthem and *God Bless America*, and to Peter Ledwith on bagpipes, whose rendition of *Amazing Grace* deeply moved all in attendance.

Thank you to the veteran groups, Lynbrook Police and Fire Departments for your participation.

The invocation from Deacon Kevin McCormack of Our Lady of Peace Roman Catholic Church and the closing prayers from Rabbi Caroline Sim of Temple Am Echad offered a meaningful spiritual reflection as we came together as a community.





## East Rockaway

I had the privilege to attend the East Rockaway 9/11 24th Anniversary Commemoration. Together, we remembered the lost lives, honored the bravery of first responders, and reflected on the strength of our community.

A heartfelt thank you to the Village of East Rockaway and Mayor Fox for hosting such a meaningful ceremony, and to the many veterans' groups and East Rockaway Fire Department who joined in remembrance. Special thanks to Pastor Steve Hurkens of the Church of the Nazarene for the opening prayer, Rabbi Schlesinger of the Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Center for the invocation, and Father Chuck of St. Raymond's R.C. Church for the closing prayer. We are also grateful to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for their participation, and to Peter Rapanaro for singing the National Anthem and *Amazing Grace* so beautifully. Special thoughts to all the families who lost a loved one on 9/11 or in the years after to a 9/11 related disease.





## **Malverne**

I was honored to attend the Village of Malverne's Evening of Remembrance in honor of Malverne residents Scott Bart, Jacqueline Donovan, James Haran, and Diane Urban who were lost on 9/11.

Thank you to the Village of Malverne and Mayor Sullivan for hosting such a heartfelt ceremony. Special recognition to Father James Stachacz of Our Lady of Lourdes for the Prayer of Remembrance and Pastor Thomas Carpino of The Bridge Church for the closing prayer. We are grateful to Evelyn Brown for her beautiful renditions of *God Bless America* and the National Anthem, and to Greg Gutman, whose moving violin performance of *Amazing Grace* added such depth to the service.

As always, the placing of the wreath and roses was a powerful and emotional tribute, reminding us to honor, reflect, and never forget.







### **Rockville Centre**

On the evening of September 14th, I was honored to attend the Village of Rockville Centre's 24th Annual September 11th Remembrance Ceremony.

Each year, our community gathers to pay special tribute to the numerous residents of RVC that were victims of 9/11 on that tragic day or in the years since from a 9/11 related disease. It is paramount for us to be there in support of these victims' families, to honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost, and to express our gratitude to the brave first responders who ran toward danger on that tragic day and in the days after. The ceremony was a moving reminder of the resilience of our nation and the importance of standing united against hate and violence.

Thank you to the Village of Rockville Centre, RVC Fire Department and the RVC Police Department. Special thanks to RVC Girl Scouts, Brownies and Daisies for planting the mini flags, to RVC Boy Scouts for presenting the colors and all the residents who came together in remembrance. Your presence ensures that we will never forget.





### **Upcoming Community Events and Activities**



# Thanksgiving Food Dive

*Sponsored by Assemblywoman Judy Griffin*

*To benefit Long Island families in need*  
*Suggested donations include: turkeys, stuffing, canned vegetables, instant potatoes*



***Drop off donations until Nov. 21***

*at Assemblywoman Griffin's District Office*

*74 N. Village Ave. • Rockville Centre*

*And at these participating libraries:*

*Baldwin, Rockville Centre, Lynbrook, East Rockaway, and Malverne*

*Please call my office at 516-561-8216 or email [griffinj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:griffinj@nyassembly.gov) to arrange a drop-off or request donated items*

## **Stay Alert, Stay Protected: What You Need to Know About FAFSA and Unemployment**

### **Medicare Fraud Alert:**

This month, the New York StateWide Senior Action Council is warning seniors and caregivers about a growing threat: Artificial Intelligence (AI) scams targeting Medicare and healthcare.

⚠ Scammers are using AI to:

- ◆ Fake doctor signatures and prescriptions
- ◆ Clone voices to impersonate Medicare representatives
- ◆ Create fraudulent medical documents for false claims
- ◆ Build fake telehealth sites to steal personal info

✅ Protect yourself:

- ✓ Review Medicare statements carefully
- ✓ Hang up on unexpected calls asking for personal info
- ✓ Don't click links in suspicious texts, emails, or ads
- ✓ Verify doctors, telehealth appointments, and prescriptions directly

Fraudsters are getting smarter — but together, we can stay one step ahead. If you suspect Medicare fraud, report it right away.





**New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc**  
*Improving The Lives of Senior Citizens & Families in NY State*  
www.nysenior.org • 800-333-4374 • www.nysenior.org

There are several potential scams using Artificial Intelligence including:

**Prescription Fraud**

- AI deepfakes can create fake doctor signatures, videos, or voice messages authorizing prescriptions.

**Doctor and Medicare Spoofing Calls**

- Scammers use AI voice cloning to sound like real Medicare representatives and ask for your Medicare number.

**Durable Medical Equipment Scams**

- AI can generate realistic but fake medical documents, lab reports, and imaging results to support false claims.

**Telehealth Scams**

- Fraudsters create fake telehealth websites with doctor photos and chat features, to steal personal information.

**We have outlined several ways seniors can protect themselves from AI scams:**

**Review all Medicare statements**

- Check for any charges you didn't receive or approve of and report anything suspicious right away.

**Be Cautious of Unexpected Calls**

- Hang up if someone pressures you for your Medicare number or personal details over the phone.

**Don't click on links in unsolicited texts, emails, or pop-up ads.**

- Use official websites or trusted phone numbers to verify.

**Verify medical providers**

- Confirm telehealth appointments and prescriptions directly with a doctor's office and pharmacist.

## **FAFSA & TAP Applications Now Open — Don't Miss Out on Financial Aid!**

The FAFSA and NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) applications are officially open! Completing the FAFSA is the key to unlocking federal and state financial aid—and it's also the easiest way to apply for TAP.

Every year, millions of dollars in aid go unclaimed in New York because students don't submit the FAFSA. Last year alone, over **\$200 million** in federal financial aid was left on the table. We can't let that happen again.

If you're a graduating senior or know someone who is, take a few minutes to complete the FAFSA today—it could make all the difference for your future.



**Don't leave college aid**  
*sitting on the table.*



fill out the  
**FAFSA**

### **The state's Unemployment Benefit Rate is increasing!**

Starting October 6, 2025, unemployment insurance benefits increased for more than half of unemployed New Yorkers.

The maximum benefit rate is the highest benefit amount available to unemployed New Yorkers. How much an individual receives on a weekly basis is based on their previous income. The maximum benefit rate was previously \$504 per week and has increased to \$869 per week. The increased benefit rate will be reflected in payments starting the week of October 13. Visit the Department of Labor's [dedicated page](#) to learn more.

Want to know how the change will affect your current benefits or a future claim? Add your income information in the Department's [benefit rate calculator](#).



## **MAX WEEKLY BENEFIT INCREASE**

If you're collecting  
unemployment, you may  
see a higher payment  
starting this week.



Department  
of Labor



## **GRANDES NOTICIAS**

# **LOS BENEFICIOS POR DESEMPLEO AUMENTARAN**



Department  
of Labor



## **Lofts Pond Clean Up in Baldwin**

This month's Lofts Pond Clean Up was a true community effort! I was thrilled to see so many volunteers! Thank you to the Baldwin High School Key Club, the Baldwin Civic Association, those living in the Lofts Pond neighborhood, and local families and residents. I appreciated the joint effort to protect our waterways and help to keep them clean and pristine. We couldn't do this without the generous help of Sanitary District 2 for providing garbage bags, gloves and trash removal and Operation Splash for providing equipment. A big thank you to Legislator Debra Mulé and Senator Siela Bynoe for co-sponsoring this event with me and supporting this vital work.

Together, we're showing the power of community in caring for our shared spaces. I share the concern the Baldwin residents have for the overgrowth of bushes adjacent to the pond and for the longstanding overgrowth of spatterdock that deprive the pond of oxygen and essential nutrients and decrease the flow of water. Lofts Pond is a Nassau County Pond that requires the attention, resources and remediation from our Nassau County Executive.





## **Homecomings in Assembly District 21**

### **Malverne HS Homecoming Parade**

It was great to kick off the school football season at the Malverne High School Homecoming Game! The pride and energy from the students, marching band, cheerleaders, athletes, and families truly showcased what makes Malverne so special. This year was extra exciting as the start of the parade took place at the beautiful Whelan Park for the very first time — the perfect setting for the community to come together and cheer on the Mules. Go Mules!

Malverne homecomings are like no other—with their stellar marching band performance, outstanding school spirit, creative floats, and plenty of community fun for kids of all ages, from bounce houses to tasty snacks.

A heartfelt thank you to the Malverne school community for such a spirited celebration. Great to see BOE Trustees Nicole Henderson, 1st Vice President, Jeanne D’Esposito, 2nd Vice President, and Dr. Maria Rianna, the new superintendent. I appreciate the participation from Maurice Downing PTA, Davidson PTA, Howard Herber PTA, and Malverne High School PTA. It was great to visit and catch up with so many volunteers and residents.





### **East Rockaway Homecoming**

It was a beautiful day to stop by the East Rockaway Homecoming and see the community cheering them on! Congratulations to the East Rockaway Football team on an incredible 49-19 victory against Lawrence High School. I enjoyed meeting the Homecoming King and Queen, two outstanding students who reflect the excellence, spirit, and pride of East Rockaway High School. It was nice to meet their friends as well.

It's always inspiring to see East Rockaway's strong school spirit on display and the impressive turnout from students, parents, and families rooting for our Rocks!



### **Baldwin, Oceanside and Rockville Centre Homecomings**

What an exciting Saturday of Homecoming games here in AD21 on September 27th!

Oceanside had a big win over Port Washington with a final score of 51–14!

Baldwin dominated Roslyn/Friends Academy, shutting them out 42–0!

South Side fought hard in their match up against Carey, with a final score of 35–14.

While I wasn't able to be there in person, I was cheering on each of these incredible teams in spirit. I am so proud of the school spirit, determination, and energy each team brought to the field this Homecoming Saturday. Congratulations to our athletes, coaches, and communities for making it a memorable weekend!



### **Community Events in Assembly District 21**

#### **The 8th Annual Lighting of the Gold Tree –RVC**

On September 2nd, I was honored to join the community at the 8th Annual Lighting of the Gold Tree at Village of RVC, in recognition of Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month and the Mary Ruchalski Foundation. The evening was so moving—filled with



warmth, remembrance, and the community coming together to support the fight against pediatric cancer. The Mary Ruchalski Foundation, created by Mary's mother, Carol Ruchalski, has done extraordinary work raising awareness, funding pediatric cancer research, and providing support to families in need.

Thank you to Carol Ruchalski and the entire Ruchalski family for being Mary's voice, for your unwavering advocacy, and for the beautiful ways you keep her memory alive. Thank you to [Marie Augustine Giallombardo](#) and family who were also #lightingitupGOLD in memory of Marie's daughter, Gina Gialombardo, and all the other families who were there for their children or in support of children struggling with Pediatric Cancer or those families who lost their child due to Pediatric Cancer.

Together, we shine a light of hope—and reaffirm that our community stands strong against childhood cancer.





### **Malverne Whelan Park Grand Opening**

On September 4th, we proudly celebrated the Grand Opening of Whelan Park in Malverne — a true milestone for our community!

The incredible \$6.3 million revitalization and renovation of Whelan Park, is an ideal example of how state investment can vastly benefit communities. I applaud the Governor, NYS Homes and Community Renewal Commissioner Visnauskas and our

local government officials for prioritizing this project, working together and investing in our community. I appreciate Governor Hochul's focus on improving the resilience of communities along the Mill River while enhancing parks, fields and making green space accessible.

This park has been completely re-imagined with something for everyone: two brand-new ball fields , a larger dog park , a scenic ¾-mile walking/jogging path with exercise stations and educational features, picnic areas, updated concession stands, and so much more. A heartfelt thank you to Village of Malverne Mayor Sullivan, the Malverne Village Trustees, our local and state partners, and the past Village of Malverne mayors who helped lay the groundwork for this project. Your leadership and dedication have ensured that this park will be a vibrant gathering place for generations. Thank you to Kevin Brady, DPW Superintendent and team for your outstanding work.

Malverne has always been a village that values family, tradition, and community. Yesterday's ribbon-cutting was a reminder of what makes this village so special — neighbors coming together, honoring the past, and building a stronger, more connected future.

Here's to many memories being made in the heart of Malverne at the beautiful new Whelan Park!

### **Op-Ed from September issue of the Herald - Good Government in Action at Whelan Park**

What does good government mean? To me, it is the ability of leaders at every level to work together in partnership to deliver meaningful results for the people we serve.

The recent grand opening of Whelan Park in Malverne is a prime example of good government in action. This \$6.3 million revitalization project brought together local, state, and community partners to create a recreational space that serves all ages while simultaneously strengthening storm water infrastructure to reduce flooding and improve resiliency.

Whelan Park demonstrates how government, when focused on people rather than politics, can achieve outcomes that both enhance quality of life and safeguard our communities for the future. It is proof that collaboration, planning, and shared vision

lead to lasting benefits for residents.

I remain committed to advancing initiatives like this throughout Assembly District 21 and across Nassau County — projects that enrich our communities, strengthen infrastructure, and reflect the very best of what government can and should be.

Read my full op-ed here: <https://www.liherald.com/rockvillecentre/stories/judy-griffin-what-does-good-government-mean-to-you,217301>

### **RVC Playing on the Porch**

Rockville Centre was alive with music at this year's *Playing on the Porch*! From porches and decks to front yards, backyards and driveways, families and neighbors came together to enjoy incredible live performances all throughout the Village.

I appreciate the RVC Chamber of Commerce for their leadership in making this free, annual family-friendly tradition such a success! Events like this highlight the spirit of our community—celebrating local talent, bringing people together, and supporting the Chamber's South Side High School Scholarship Program.

I enjoyed the kick-off of Playing on the Porch at the home of Dr. James Lentini, President and Molloy University President and Dana Lentini with Village of Rockville Mayor Fran Murray, Deputy Mayor Kathy Baxley, Legislator Scott Davis, and the RVC Chamber of Commerce. It was great to see so many students, teachers, administrators from Molloy University and members of the community to listen to the excellent music of Prez and Friends.

I also enjoyed listening to MannChild and mingling with the community at the Restivo home. There were so many other entertaining bands I wanted to visit but as I rode my bike to the next home, the skies opened and the music stopped. The Chamber was smart to move the start time up because it gave a couple of hours for the bands to play and the community to enjoy the music.















### **Baldwin Cardboard Boat Race**

What an incredible day at the Annual Cardboard Boat Race in Baldwin! Thank you to the organizers for putting together such a special event that truly showcases the community spirit we're so proud of here in Baldwin. It was wonderful to see so many families, friends, and neighbors come together for this beloved community event. I was happy to join Legislator Debra Mulé in giving out trophies to the winners and participants.

Congratulations to all the participants and winners:

1st Place – Ryan Pastore, who built his boat in honor of Mason Kraese, a Huntington firefighter who tragically passed away.

Ryan's win is especially meaningful as his grandfather, Ed Phalen, first started this tradition.

2nd Place – The Irish Pub team, honoring Christina McKeen, an FDNY EMS who passed away this year.

3rd Place – Guillermo with the impressive SS NASA boat.

A big congratulations as well to everyone who came out, participated, and cheered on these amazing boats. That Sunday was a beautiful reminder of how Baldwin comes together in celebration, creativity, and remembrance. Thank you to the Baldwin Fire Department for keeping the boaters safe, the terrific MC John Cools and Samatha Cools for helping out.











#### **4th Annual Assembly Assemble Day**

On September 9th—Hunger Action Day during Hunger Action Month, we partnered with Island Harvest Food Bank for our 4th Annual *Assembly Assemble Day*.

Together with our incredible volunteers and partners, we packed 35-pound food boxes for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), helping low-income seniors across Long Island access the nutritious meals they deserve.

A huge thank you to everyone who rolled up their sleeves to make a difference—and to Island Harvest, who works tirelessly year-round to help communities, delivering more than 21 million pounds of food each year to over 300 food pantries, soup kitchens, and nonprofits. Your commitment ensures no family, and no senior is left behind.







**Press Conference: School Construction**

On the morning of September 9th, at Norman J. Levy Lakeside School in Merrick, we held a press conference to shine a light on fraud uncovered in school construction projects.

Two contractors working across three elementary schools were charged with wage theft, worker misclassification, and workers' compensation fraud. We also revealed evidence of another contractor falsifying certified payrolls—proving that workers were on-site but not reported, a clear act of fraud.

Accountability matters. Our community deserves full transparency in how public dollars are spent, and workers deserve to be treated fairly and paid honestly. We will not allow contractors to take advantage of our schools, our taxpayers, or our workforce.

Together, we are committed to ensuring integrity in every project that impacts our children, our educators, and our neighborhoods.



### **Nassau County PBA Golf Outing**

A great time was had by all in attendance at the Nassau County PBA Golf Outing on September 9th. Thank you for inviting me to the dinner. As always it was my pleasure to engage with so many friends and dedicated members of our law enforcement community. NCPBA President Tommy Shevlin, 2nd VP Frank Arcuri, MTA PBA Executive Vice President Joseph Pugliese, DAI 1st VP Chris Kelly, NYS Public Employee Conference Legislative Chair, Senior Partner BM & CO, Pete Paterson Superior Officers



1st VP Keith Jaklitsch, Superior Officers President Ricky Frassetto, Triborough Bridge & Tunnel Authority Superior Officers VP Dennis Lonergan, Treasurer, John Weissmeier, MTA PBA Executive Vice President Joseph Pugliese, DAI 1st VP Chris Kelly.





### **MLK Community Center Back to School Dinner**

I had a wonderful evening at the MLK Center in Rockville Centre for their annual Back-to-School Dinner! It was great to join families, students, and community leaders as we celebrated the start of a new school year together. Wishing all our students a year full of learning, growth, and success!







### ***Love, Nana* Book Launch**

What a joy to attend the *Love, Nana* book launch at Backyard Players & Friends!

Written by Frances Carver, illustrated by James Hyland, and inspired by Nana herself, Joan Hyland. *Love, Nana* is a beautiful story about kindness, family, and the magic of giving. Even more inspiring, every copy supports Backyard Players & Friends in empowering young adults with developmental disabilities and *Love, Nana*, which provides beautiful baby bundles to families in need locally and the greater community. I was thrilled to support this incredible endeavor by purchasing books, signed by Nana, for the special Nanans in my life.

Congratulations to everyone who brought this inspiring project to life—a true example of books with purpose!







### **Annual 4th Battalion Parade & Block Party**

What a fantastic day at the Annual 4th Battalion Parade & Block Party hosted by the Rockville Centre Fire Department! The Fourth Battalion Fire District combines the fire departments of East Rockaway, Lakeview, Lynbrook, Malverne, and Rockville

Centre. It was so nice to watch the festive parade with so many constituents and Legislator Davis outside of my office. One sweet two-year-old was so excited to see her grandpa in a Lynbrook Fire Truck! The Block Party afterward featured live music from the Danny Langdon Band (DLB), and a variety of Food Trucks serving delicious bites. It was a well-deserved celebration for the dedicated members of the 4th Battalion Fire District and a fun night for the entire community.

Congratulations to Grand Marshal Honorary Chief Steven Rakeman! Thank you for 50+ years of faithful service to the community and the RVC Fire Department. Congratulations to Eureka Hook, Ladder & Bucket Co 1 for celebrating 150 years of incredible service.

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate and make this event so special!













### **Barry & Florence Friedberg JCC Celebrating 25 Years of Community**

I was happy to join the Barry & Florence Friedberg JCC in celebrating 25 years of community at their Building Anniversary & Open House!

It was a wonderful opportunity to honor the past, celebrate the present, and look toward the future. I was especially proud to present a proclamation to recognize this special day. Congratulations to the JCC on celebrating 25 years of fostering friendship, support, and meaningful community connections at this location!

I appreciate the incredible community service Friedberg JCC has offered on the south shore for 60+ years. I appreciate this inclusive organization that warmly welcomes all and encourages people to be themselves!



### **AARP Walking Audit Baldwin**

It was an eye-opening experience to join AARP and Vision Long Island for the Downtown Walkability Walk in Baldwin.



Creating safe, accessible, and welcoming downtown streets is a priority for me because street safety impacts every resident—from families and seniors to local businesses. A strong and walkable downtown helps Baldwin thrive, and I am committed to supporting efforts that keep our community safe and connected.

Thank you to Erik Alexander from Vision LI, AARP, and Willy Zambrano from the Baldwin Civic Association for organizing this important event.







### **Malverne Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival & Classic Car Show**

I had a wonderful time at the Malverne Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival & Classic Car Show! The day was full of great energy – from incredible performances, live music, and dancers, to bounce houses, food trucks, local brews, and rows of stunning classic cars that brought the community together.

A big thank you to Elizabeth Krull, President, and Maria Casini, Chairwoman of the Malverne Chamber of Commerce for hosting such a fantastic event in collaboration with local businesses and organizations. The music was terrific, and there were so many activities for kids and families to enjoy! I was happy to interact with so many great community organizations,

including the American Legion Post 44, Boy Scout Troop 24, Malverne Fire Department, Malverne Kiwanis Club, Peaceful Yoga, and so many others.

I appreciate Samantha Cools, District Director, for tabling at this event to engage with the community, on my behalf, throughout the day. Events like these truly highlight the wonderful community in the Village of Malverne.







### **14th Annual Wounded Warrior Fundraiser by the Lynbrook Fire Department**

I was honored to attend Lynbrook Fire Department's 14th Annual Wounded Warrior End of Summer Bash to support our Nation's wounded, ill and injured troops at Greis Park, Lynbrook. With live music, great food, and over 100 raffle prizes — including JetBlue airline tickets — this incredible community event brought neighbors together for a meaningful cause.

I was proud to present citations to Lynbrook Ex-Chief Kevin Bien and Wounded Warrior fundraising chairman, Terence Powderly, Chairman of the Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior and Ex-Captain & Honorary Lynbrook Chief Steve Grogan, Vice Chair Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior for their dedication and service to our wounded military heroes. All proceeds support Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior, now in its 21st year of assisting injured service members here on Long Island and at military hospitals and rehabilitation centers along the East Coast.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our military heroes!







## **Turn Up the Sunshine Dance Hangout One Happy Place**

I had a fantastic time at the Turn Up the Sunshine Dance hosted by Hangout One Happy Place! The energy, joy, and sense of community were absolutely contagious — truly a celebration of happiness and togetherness.

Angela Lucas and her team at Hang Out One Happy Place do incredible work creating safe, welcoming spaces where children and adults of all abilities can learn, play, and connect in an inclusive environment. Events like this showcase their mission to bring smiles, inclusion, and support to so many in our community. It was my pleasure to attend, join in the fun and be surrounded by this enthusiastic, welcoming and kind group of people!





### **Baldwin Girl Scouts Silver Award Celebration**

I was thrilled to celebrate the completion of this beautiful project completed by a team of 4 Girl Scouts from Troop 2324. Congratulations to these inspiring young leaders on this dynamic installation of “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” planter, a creative and meaningful project that will entertain children and brighten the Baldwin Community Garden for years to come.

Your dedication, creativity, and service are and will continue to be appreciated by families. It was nice to see some toddlers already enjoying this project by listening to the story and doing the craft project organized by the Girl Scouts. This truly is an incredible Silver Award project! Thank you for making Baldwin an even more special place!









## Hope for Hydrocephalus Golf Outing

I was honored to attend the Hope for Hydrocephalus Golf Outing Cocktail Hour in support of an important cause inspired by Vivienne's brother Christian.

Vivienne Finley and Francesca McKenna planned this first Hope4Hydro Golf Outing at Hempstead Golf as their DECA project at South Side High School. Their leadership and compassion are truly remarkable.

I am truly impressed with Vivienne and Francesca for planning and executing such a successful fundraiser. Their dedicated efforts raised \$115,000! All proceeds from the outing will go toward research and treatment for children with hydrocephalus, making a meaningful difference for families impacted by Hydrocephalus.

A heartfelt thank you to Vivienne, Francesca, their families, and everyone involved for raising awareness, making a positive impact and supporting Hope4Hydro.





### **Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration-Hispanic Brotherhood**

I was honored to attend a festival and heartfelt celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month with my dedicated bi-lingual staff member, Valeria Pivaral. This lovely event was a wonderful opportunity to connect with engaged community members from an

array of countries, listen to stories and learn about cultures that enrich our community. Thanks to Valeria's invaluable translation skills, we were able to foster deeper communication and understanding, making the experience even more meaningful.

A special highlight of the day was celebrating the well-deserved retirement of the incredible Margarita Grassing. Margarita is a beautiful visionary leader whose decades of tireless dedication, advocacy and service have made a profound impact on our communities and throughout Long Island. Margarita's grace, commitment, guidance, compassion and leadership have not only positively impacted generations of Hispanic residents but has also inspired so many to emulate her approach. I have no doubt that her legacy will continue to uplift lives and strengthen our community. It was truly a privilege to honor her remarkable journey and wish her the very best in this new chapter.

I am proud and inspired by the strength, vibrancy and unity of our Hispanic community and remain committed to supporting and amplifying these vital voices every day.













**Herald Senior Health and Beyond Expo**



I had the pleasure of attending the Herald Senior Health & Beyond Expo at the RVC Rec Center! It was inspiring to see so many community partners, healthcare providers, and organizations come together with one goal: to make sure our seniors have the tools, resources, and connections they need to live healthy, active, and fulfilling lives. I am grateful that Nicolette Torres, Senior Community Liaison was able to table the event and speak with attendees, sharing important information and resources. It was also a true honor to present a citation to Richner Communications, Inc. in recognition of the LI Herald for serving and supporting the senior community in this engaging and helpful way.

Thank you to the LI Herald and all the participating organizations for putting together such a thoughtful and impactful event. Events like these show the strength of our community and the value of working together to improve and empower our seniors.











## **STRIKEOUT SUICIDE!**

September 27th was the 7th Annual Strikeout Suicide Softball Tournament presented by Beyond the Badge. It is so important to attend this event to show support for police officers and their families, especially since studies show that the suicide rate among law enforcement is 60% higher than the average population. I commend the dedicated efforts of Beyond the Badge, Inc., a volunteer-based organization comprised of current and former members of the law enforcement and first responder communities and their families, in raising awareness about the mental health and suicide crisis among first responders.

Each year more than 150 active law enforcement officers came together not only to play ball, but to shine a light on the vital need for officers to seek mental health support to reduce the incidence of suicide. Each year this admirable event is dedicated to the memory of officers we've lost far too soon and serves as a powerful reminder that no one should suffer in silence. By breaking the stigma and creating open conversations, our first responder community shows true strength, courage, and unity.

A heartfelt thank you to the organizers, participants, and supporters who make this event possible each year. Together, we are saving lives and standing strong for those who serve us every day.











## **EPIC LI Legislative Breakfast**

I was pleased to attend EPIC Family of Human Service Agencies Long Island, Inc.'s Annual Legislative Breakfast the morning of September 26th, hosted at the South Shore Guidance Center in Freeport. This important event highlighted the incredible work EPIC LI is doing to support individuals and families through their mental health and epilepsy-focused programs.

We heard from inspiring speakers and moving testimonies that underscored just how impactful EPIC LI's services are in our communities—providing critical resources, care, and hope for those who need it most. A heartfelt thank you to EPIC Long Island, Inc. for inviting me to join this meaningful conversation and for their ongoing dedication to improving lives across Long Island.

I am grateful for the positive impact Lisa Stern Burch, CEO of EPIC LI and her team, has made for our communities in AD21 and throughout Long Island.







### **RVC Golf Outing**

It was a pleasure to attend the 38th Annual Rockville Centre Community Fund Mayor's Golf & Dinner Classic. It was great to see residents join together for a day of fun, camaraderie, and a great cause. This year's event was especially meaningful as we honored Anthony Cancellieri for his outstanding contributions and dedication to our community. I appreciate the positive impact he continues to have on the Rockville Centre and greater community.





¿Le gustaria recibir mi E-NEWS end otro idioma? Por favor, envíe un correo electrónico con su solicitud para recibir este boletín en español u otro idioma.