



KALEIDOSCOPE

The official student newspaper of Ward Melville since 1969

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ELECTION DAY: NOV 5

Kaleidoscope is proud to present our Elections 2024 print edition. We live in a time of political turmoil, a never-ending news and social media cycle and constant interests competing for our attention. In the face of this, I've frequently heard my friends and peers say things like, "Both candidates are terrible," or "All of the politicians suck." At the same time, it seems youth are more concerned than ever about the future of the country and the planet.

A Harvard Youth Poll conducted earlier this year described young people as "engaged and disillusioned." That description feels perfectly adept to me. As the

late civil rights activist John Lewis wrote in a posthumously-published essay, "Democracy is not a state. It is an act." We all have a responsibility to be civically engaged, to further the act of democracy in our own way. Because we are made up of high school students not yet of voting age, this is *Kaleidoscope's* contribution to that act.

This edition contains five in-depth interviews with political candidates seeking to represent Three Village in the State Assembly, State Senate and Congress. It also contains pertinent information on how to participate in this year's elections, coverage of local issues and student perspectives.

I hope the interviews will provide readers with a better sense of the local races happening this year. There's a common thought in New York that our state is so solidly blue, our votes matter very little. But the election for our State Assembly district was decided by several hundred votes in 2022, the NY-1 Congressional race is considered competitive and there are two important ballot measures being voted on this year—the Equal Rights Amendment and the Suffolk Water Quality Restoration Act (*Kaleidoscope* plans to provide detailed coverage of these two measures on our website in the near future).

Finally, as we pull closer to

Election Day and beyond, I want to encourage people to read and support local journalism. This includes Newsday, TBR News Media, the East Hampton Star, Riverhead News Review, the Suffolk Times, Northforker, the Long Island Advance and more. Especially in a presidential election year, national news can so easily dominate our attention. But local coverage can help us understand how issues pertain to our community, and the actual stakeholders involved in addressing them.

Kaleidoscope would like to thank the five candidates who took the time to speak with us and their teams, all those who spoke with us about local issues and the businesses who supported us with ads—their support makes this edition possible. Most of all, I want to thank all of the *Kaleidoscope* members who contributed to this edition while balancing homework, college applications, athletics and other obligations.

-Oliver Wu, Editor-in-Chief

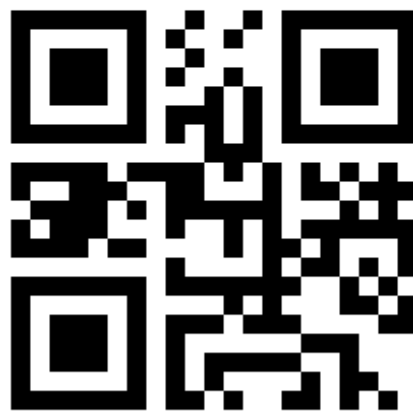
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Register to Vote!

Register to vote by October 26:

Visit www.ny.gov/services/register-vote

Click "Register to Vote"

Fill out all fields. You will need:

- Your NYS driver's license, permit, or ID card
- Your ZIP code on file with the DMV
- Social Security Number

Submit the form

Vote:

By mail: visit elections.ny.gov/request-ballot and request by Oct 26.
Once received, follow instructions and mail it postmarked by Nov 5.

Military/overseas voting: Deadlines start October 26

More info: elections.ny.gov/military-and-overseas-federal-voting

Early: Oct 26 – Nov 3. Find polling locations: bit.ly/suffolkearlyvote2024

On election day: Vote 6am–9pm. Find your polling location at voterlookup.elections.ny.gov



General Voting Information

by TYLER MATUKONIS,
SCIENCE EDITOR

With Election Day swiftly approaching on Tuesday, November 5th, it is important for you to know how to best cast your ballot.

One of the first steps in order to ensure that you're eligible to vote is to register. In order to qualify for voter registration in New York State, you must be a United States citizen, at least 18 years of age, and a resident of the state and county you want to register in for at least 30 days (ny.gov). For this election cycle, there are three main ways to register.

For those who would prefer to register in person, they can visit the Suffolk County Board of Elections at 700 Yaphank Ave, Yaphank, NY 11980 (suffolkcountyny.gov). Alternatively, New York State agencies such as the Department of Labor, Department of Social Services, and Department of

Motor Vehicles can process voter registrations.

Considering that many of these places are not located in the Three Village area, a more convenient option may be to register to vote online. By visiting the website my.ny.gov, you can access a portal to enter information including a NYS driver's license ID, zip code, and social security number. Following approval, you will be eligible to vote in this year's election.

As an additional option, people may choose to register by mailing in a form. In order to request this option, prospective voters must enter their name on the Voter Registration Form Request mailing list, accessible from elections.ny.gov, or must call 1-800-367-8683. Once you receive this form, you must print it out, sign it, and mail it to the Suffolk County Board of Elections to receive approval.

No matter how you register to vote, the deadline to do so is October 26th. However, it is important to note that mailed in forms

must be received by the Suffolk County Board of Elections by this date. For the most updated information, prospective voters should visit the "Voter Registration Process" page on the New York State Board of Elections website.

After verifying their registration, there are three different ways one can vote in Suffolk County. The first option is to cast a vote at an in-person polling site on Election Day. There are also 28 early polling locations available from October 26th to November 3rd. While one can find their Election Day polling site at the website voterlookup.elections.ny.gov, the nearest early polling site for most Three Village residents is Nesconset Elementary School at 54 Browns Road, Nesconset, NY 11767 (suffolkcountyny.gov).

The two other options for voting are early mail-in ballots or absentee ballots. The two are similar, as both require voters to fill out a ballot and mail it in to the Suffolk County Board of Elections. However, there is one key difference

between the two: while anyone can qualify for an early mail-in ballot, absentee ballots are only for people who face extenuating circumstances like extended absence from their county or serious illness. Both early mail-in and absentee ballots can be requested from the "Request a Ballot" page on elections.ny.gov or by visiting the Suffolk County Board of Elections in person. To ensure your vote is accounted for, your form must be brought to a poll site by 9 P.M. on November 5th or received by the Board of Elections no later than November 12th (elections.ny.gov).

Registering to vote and casting your ballot may sound inconvenient, but there are many ways to approach this process. It is important to get informed on registration, polling locations, and the issues that will appear on the ballot in order to properly participate in this year's election cycle.

Redistricting Headaches Come to a Close

by OLIVER WU,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

New York's drawn-out redistricting process came to a close earlier this year, finally establishing the district lines for the State Assembly, the State Senate and Congress that will be used until the next redistricting cycle after the 2030 census.

Assembly District 4 was slightly redrawn so that the entire Three Village School District is now within the district, rather than being split between Districts 4 and 5 as it was in the 2022 elections. The State Senate maps remain unchanged from the 2022 elections, with the school district remaining split between District 1 and District 3.

The new Congressional maps were signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul in February of this year. The maps are relatively neutral, shifting two swing districts to the left while leaving the partisan makeup of the state's other 24 House districts largely unchanged. Congressional District 1, which Three Village is in, was a district won by Biden (50.1% of the vote) in 2020 under the maps used in the 2022 midterm elections, but is now a district won by Trump (50.9% of the vote).

The district, which covers around 2/3 of Suffolk County, includes areas such as the northern part of Brookhaven, Commack, Smithtown, and the East End.

A section near Huntington was moved out of the district into District 3, and an area near the Moriches was moved from District 2 into District 1.

These new maps came after the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court, ordered that the state's Independent Redistricting Commission be given another chance to draw them. The commission was created following a 2014 amendment that New York voters approved with the intention of limiting gerrymandering. Once redistricting began after the 2020 census, the commission, evenly divided along partisan lines, failed to reach agreement on one map. It submitted two maps to the State Legislature, one from Democratic members and one from Republican members. Both were rejected by the State Legislature and sent back to the Commission for redrawing, as mandated by the 2014 amendment. However, the Commission reached a deadlock and was unable to submit a second round of plans, leading the State Legislature to enact its own maps. Democrats have supermajorities in both chambers and were able to push forward their priorities.

However, when these maps were challenged in court by Republicans, the Court of Appeals found the State Senate and Congressional maps to be in violation of Constitutional procedure, since the Commission is required to submit a second round of maps before the Legislature can draw its own. It also found the Congressional map to be an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander. Thus, redistricting



expert Dr. Jonathan Cervas of Carnegie Mellon University was selected to draw the state's State Senate and Congressional maps for the 2022 elections.

After this, Democrats filed a legal challenge, arguing the Commission must fulfill its Constitutional duty to submit a second map. In December of 2023, the Court of Appeals ruled in favor of this argument, directing the Commission to draw another set of Congressional maps. The Commission submitted a single bipartisan map in February 2024, and Democrats made limited changes before passing the maps with some Republican support.

While the Assembly district maps were left unchanged from the initial map passed by the State Legislature for the 2022 elections, a judge later ruled that the Commission should have another chance at the Assembly maps. The Commission submitted a bipartisan proposal to the State Legislature in April 2023 with maps fairly similar to those used in 2022, which the State Legislature passed without change.

These new maps brought the entirety of the Three Village Central School District into Assembly District 4. In 2022, a small section of Stony Brook near the AMC movie theater was cut into District 5. However, because the State Senate maps remain unchanged from 2022, that part of Stony Brook is still separated from the rest of Three Village in terms of State Senate districts. It is in District 3 while the remainder of the school district is in District 1.

For Congressional District 1, the candidates are incumbent Republican Nick LaLota and Democrat John Avlon. In State Senate District 1, incumbent Republican Anthony Palumbo is facing Democratic challenger Sarah Anker. In State Senate District 3, incumbent Dean Murray and Democrat Michael Conroy are the candidates. Finally, in State Assembly District 4, incumbent Republican Ed Flood and Democrat Rebecca Kassay are competing.

Find your polling site and districts at: voterlookup.elections.ny.gov

The Presidential Election

by **MICHAEL RETAKH,**
OP-ED EDITOR

The 2024 presidential election, contested by Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump, will be held on November 5, 2024, although voters in some states will be able to cast ballots as early as mid-September.

The campaign officially began more than two years ago when Trump declared his candidacy in November 2022. He, along with President Biden, who formally announced his reelection campaign in April 2023, both easily won their primary contests, though not without opposition; Trump from more moderate Republicans, most notably Nikki Haley, and Biden from Democratic voters concerned about his age and angry with his response to the Israel-Hamas war.

On June 27, the two candidates met for a debate on CNN, where President Biden's performance raised concerns about his age and health. Over the next several weeks, public pressure mounted on him to drop out of the campaign, a step that would have little precedent in American history, due to his victory in the primaries. On July 21, after polls showed that a Biden victory was becoming all but impossible, President Biden left the presidential race and endorsed his vice president Kamala Harris, who quickly became the presumptive nominee. In a speech several days later, he explained his decision, saying, "I revere this office, but I love my country more."

Vice President Harris soon chose Tim Walz, governor of Minnesota, to be her running mate, after an extensive and shortened vetting process. Several weeks earlier, Trump chose J.D. Vance, the junior Senator from Ohio, to be his running mate. Once the race had generally recovered from the repeated shocks and massive changes, polling showed that Harris is slightly ahead of Trump in national polls, though the race remains extremely close.

On September 10, Harris and Trump met for their first presidential debate. Pundits declared a Harris victory, but it is yet unclear whether the polling will change.

With both national political conventions over, the campaign has now become an energized sprint to define the candidates and their stances on an enormous amount of issues in just two months. It may seem as though this only applies to one candidate, as Harris is the only new name at the top of the ballot, but there is still an ongoing effort to

redefine Trump, a presence in presidential politics for nearly a decade. Democrats, for years, have portrayed him as a man who threatens the institutions of America itself, and this messaging had only grown after his efforts to overturn the 2020 election and the January 6 attack on the United States Capitol.

The Harris campaign, however, has taken a different approach, and it seems to be working. While the campaign continues to mention threats to American democracy, it does not form a central plank of their message. Instead of describing the election as a "battle for the soul of the nation," as the Biden campaign did, they are instead seeking to portray the Trump-Vance ticket as "weird" men who only "serve themselves." Instead of making Trump seem large and looming, the Harris campaign is seeking to make him small and portray him as from the distant past.

As for defining Harris, both parties are trying to be the first to do so. Republicans have highlighted Harris' positions in her 2020 presidential campaign, many of which were significantly more left-wing than her current ones, and are trying to portray her as too weak and unserious to lead the world. On the other hand, the Democrats have highlighted her career as a prosecutor and have sought to portray her as a compassionate leader who will never stop fighting for those without a voice.

Despite the change in messaging and enthusiasm since President Biden dropped out, the campaign has remained largely centered on similar issues, and policy proposals on both sides have not changed significantly. Former president Trump continues to focus on immigration, inflation, and crime, three issues that have consistently appeared at the top of voters' concerns and that he tends to poll well on. He has proposed tax cuts, tariff hikes, and increased drilling for oil to improve the economy, although it is unclear what the true effects of these policies will be. Specifically, tariffs, and especially those of similar magnitude to Trump's proposed ones, have been shown to raise prices on the average consumer, contrary to Trump's messaging.

Trump has also advocated for a stronger and more forceful foreign policy, saying that he would end the war in Ukraine "in 24 hours," though it is unclear how he will keep such promises, providing no specifics. His America First agenda has long scorned ideas of international cooperation and alliances such as NATO and the United Nations.

As for many other issues, including healthcare, reproductive freedom, housing, Social Security



and Medicare, the Affordable Care Act, and TikTok, Trump's position is unclear. He has often staked out an extreme position on these, but he attempted to moderate after wide-ranging criticism. As an example, he has taken credit for overturning *Roe v. Wade*, calling it a "great victory" and describing abortion bans as a "beautiful thing to watch." However, in the last several weeks, he has removed some anti-abortion language from the Republican platform, had his running mate announce that he would veto a national abortion ban, and posted several times on social media about "reproductive rights."

However, on other issues, such as climate change, the civil service, and the 2020 election, he has refused to moderate, much to the consternation of his allies. He continues to describe climate change as a "hoax," to falsely claim that he won the 2020 election, to promise that he will pardon January 6th rioters who violently assaulted police officers, and to plan to replace the civil service with his loyalists.

Vice President Harris has not broken with President Biden on any significant issues. Instead, the campaign simply mentions the most popular accomplishments of the Biden-Harris administration more often and has so far been able to avoid too much discussion of the less popular agenda items. The few differences between the policies of the two campaigns are largely based in Harris' apparent desire to go further than President Biden has on several issues, including affordable housing, price gouging, reproductive freedom, and addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. All of these were part of the Biden platform, but Harris has placed greater emphasis on them.

Partly because the Harris campaign has been operating on a shortened timeline, and partly because voters tend to not be interested in policy minutiae, the Harris campaign has not detailed its policies, earning some criticism from pundits and political opponents. (It should be noted, however, that the main detailed policy proposal associated with the Trump campaign is a book titled *Project 2025*. The Trump campaign has denied involvement with the controversial document several times, despite extensive evidence that ties exist.)

Despite the lack of detail, it is not difficult to understand the broad agenda of the Harris campaign. In the vice president's speech at the Democratic National Convention, she spoke of an "opportunity economy." To achieve this goal, the vice president has proposed, among other things, reinstating the child tax credit, helping first-time homeowners with down payments, creating manufacturing jobs, especially by investing in a green economy, and helping students pay off their student loans.

On foreign policy, Harris has spoken both of Israel's right to defend itself and the plight of the Palestinian people, and strongly supports both Taiwan and Ukraine. In her convention speech, she said, "I will stand strong with Ukraine and our NATO allies."

Finally, on social issues, Harris has embraced what is by now the standard Democratic position: strong support for abortion rights and reproductive freedom, a desire to restore *Roe v. Wade*, a belief that the government should not discriminate based on gender identity, and a strong opposition to Republican efforts to restrict certain books in schools and public libraries.

Rep. Nick LaLota's 1st Term in Office

by OLIVER WU,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Representative Nick LaLota was not available for interview. His team offered to provide emailed statements for our questions, but we have not received a response at the time of publication.

Nick LaLota was elected to Congress in 2022 after four-term Representative Lee Zeldin stepped aside to run for Governor. LaLota, a Republican, is currently serving his first term and is seeking re-election in the 1st Congressional District. Democrat John Avlon is challenging him for the seat. Republicans have held the seat for a decade and the nonpartisan Cook Political Report still considers the race “Likely Republican,” but Democrats hope increased energy surrounding Kamala Harris’ candidacy will help sway the election.

During his time in Congress, LaLota has generated the most media attention for his votes during the House Speaker selection process and his criticisms of disgraced former Rep. George Santos. In October of 2023, far-right conservatives in the House voted Former Speaker Kevin McCarthy out of his position due to his compromise with Democrats on a budget agreement. Following McCarthy’s removal, LaLota voted for the first nominee House Republicans put forth—Steve Scalise.

However, when House Republicans next nominated the far-right Jim Jordan for Speaker, LaLota joined fellow Long Island Representatives Anthony D’Esposito (R, 4th District) and Andrew Garbarino (R, 2nd District) in casting protest votes for Lee Zeldin. (House Speakers have always been a member of the House at the time, but the Constitution does not require this.) In a joint statement, the three wrote, “This process has always been about policies which put Long Island first, not any person or politics. For weeks, we have been incredibly open and transparent with every candidate for speaker about the need to support the best interests of our constituents including keeping government open while securing the border and fixing the budget, SALT cap relief, flood insurance, and the World Trade Center Health Program.” LaLota ultimately voted in favor of Representative Mike Johnson, who successfully became the Speaker.

Also in October of 2023, LaLota co-sponsored a resolution to expel then-Representative

George Santos from Congress. This came after criticism from Democrats for his vote on an earlier expulsion resolution to refer the resolution to the Ethics panel instead. Ultimately, it was not the resolution co-sponsored by LaLota that passed and got Santos expelled, but the following one. Then, earlier this year, Santos announced that he would be challenging LaLota for the Republican nomination in NY-1. LaLota dismissed Santos as a “pathological liar” on social media before Santos switched to running as an independent. Santos ultimately dropped out of the race after raising \$0.

LaLota was the first Republican Congressman representing a district that Biden won in 2020 to endorse Donald Trump, which Democrats have used to paint him as out of touch with the moderate values of the district. However, the The Lugar Center and Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy rank him as #65 out of 436 House members on their bipartisanship index, which LaLota has highlighted in his campaign.

One of Avlon’s main attack lines against LaLota is that he hasn’t held a single in-person, public town hall in his first term, criticizing him as unresponsive to the needs of the district (Avlon has committed to 12 in his first year). LaLota claims that he has held 14 town halls, four of them tele-town halls and ten in-person. However, constituents have reported numerous obstacles in joining the tele-town halls and the in-person ones that LaLota lists are all either private or paid events.

Serena Martin-Liguori, a coordinator from the Long Island Social Justice Action Network, tried to join two of the tele-town halls. For one of them, she told *Kaleidoscope*, “I joined and it just kept saying you’re in the waiting room. I stayed in the waiting room for 20 minutes because I said, ‘You know what? I’m going to get into this town hall.’ Other people were in the comments saying, ‘When is it starting?’ or ‘I’m waiting to be let in.’ And then, all of a sudden, the entire zoom shuts off. I tried to go back into the zoom and it said, ‘This town hall has ended.’ And then I’m on Twitter, and I’m like, ‘Did anyone else just get kicked out of a town hall that never began?’ And then everyone was like, ‘Yeah!’” For the next town hall, Martin-Liguori said, “They never sent the zoom link.”

LaLota has been an outspoken critic of the Biden administration’s border policy. He opposed a bipartisan border bill negotiated in the Senate by Republican James Lankford, Democrat Chris Murphy and independent Kyrsten Sinema,



writing on social media, “My nine year old did a better job negotiating last night’s bed time than Senator Lankford did on this so-called border bill.” The bill included provisions to close the border if illegal crossings reached a certain level, to make it harder for migrants to win asylum, and to give funding to communities struggling to accommodate migrants, but was not as hardline as the immigration bill that House Republicans passed last year, known as H.R. 2. LaLota later co-sponsored the bipartisan Defending Borders, Defending Democracies Act in the House that would reinstate the “Remain in Mexico” program, require immigration officers to expel inadmissible migrants and give the Department of Homeland Security Secretary the authority to suspend the entry of migrants.

LaLota has also been vocal in his support for restoring the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction but has not been successful in doing so. Republicans initially capped the deduction at \$10,000 under the Trump administration to help pay for a 2017 tax cut package. To protest the absence of SALT provisions, LaLota voted against a bipartisan tax bill earlier this year. He then co-sponsored the SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act, which would have doubled the amount married couples could write off, but it failed in a procedural vote.

On abortion, LaLota asserts that he opposes a federal abortion ban, supports IVF access and has views on abortion “much like that of former President Clinton: I do not oppose it in the first trimester or in cases of rape, incest, or when the mother’s life is at risk. However, I share the concerns of the majority of Americans regarding abortions in the second and third

trimesters.” However, he supported the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Democrats have criticized him for supporting bills which they say undermine reproductive freedom, including the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act and the Pregnant Students’ Rights Act. He opposed an agriculture spending bill pushed by House Republicans that would have banned the mail delivery of mifepristone. However, he supported earlier bills with similar provisions, including in the National Defense Authorization Act.

With regards to energy production, LaLota voted for House Republicans’ Lower Energy Costs Act, which would undo practically all of President Biden’s climate agenda, arguing that it would bring down energy prices. The bill would require the Department of the Interior to expand oil and gas drilling on federal lands, reverse President Biden’s decision to stop the Keystone XL pipeline from being built and repeal tax credits for renewable energy. He also voted for a spending bill that would cut funding to the Environmental Protection Agency by 39%.

In other notable actions, LaLota supported House Republicans’ impeachment inquiry into President Biden, which has not turned up any evidence of impeachable offenses. He was one of three Republicans to vote against the Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act, which would reduce oversight and regulations for cryptocurrency. Finally, he co-sponsored the bipartisan DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act, which successfully passed the House and would enhance the Department of Homeland Security’s ability to detect and manage illegal drugs like xylazine and fentanyl.

An Interview With John Avlon

by MICHAEL RETAKH,
OP-ED EDITOR

Kaleidoscope spoke with John Avlon, the Democratic nominee for the House of Representatives in New York's First Congressional District, and asked him a variety of questions pertaining to the campaign and its issues. We thank him for his time.

Printed below are excerpts from our interview. The full interview is available at bit.ly/rkscope-avlon, which can also be reached by scanning the QR code at the bottom of the page.

***Kaleidoscope:* Let me get started with the issue of your residency. Your opponent, Representative Nick LaLota, says that you live in Manhattan. A story in the New York Post recently expanded on this, saying that you scored tax abatements on your apartment and that you had to claim it as your primary residence to do that. Are these allegations true, and what is your response?**

John Avlon: Look, I appreciate any chance to clarify and clear all that up. Obviously, my home is in Sag Harbor. I was an anchor on CNN, worked in the city, and went back and forth between the two properties. My family bought our home in 2017 and took the census out there in 2020. The article is just an opposition research dump; it had a lot of inaccuracies in it, including claiming that there were issues regarding previous property taxes during times in which I did not own property. Obviously, I think for me, this is a deflection of the fact that Nick LaLota doesn't live in the district. He promised he'd move here. He never did. He's also never held a single in person town hall. So I think those are attempts to deflect from that issue. My home is in Sag Harbor.

On your campaign website, you talk about defending democracy and defeating the Trump coalition. But voters have consistently shown that democracy is not at the top of their most important issues. Instead, they often talk about cost of living and immigration. Do you think focusing on what many consider are more practical issues is a better way to run this campaign and win?

Well, I think democracy is very practical, but I think it's one of many issues. Affordability is a number one issue and that's why my campaign is focused on

rebuilding the middle of our politics and rebuilding the middle of our economy.

As a journalist, I've focused extensively on the dangers to our democracy from hyper-partisanship and polarization. It's not a coincidence that we've hauled out the middle of our politics at the same time we've hauled out the middle of our economy.

That's why while Nick LaLota talks about SALT a lot, he can't get it done because Republicans have announced that they will not support a restoration of the state and local tax deduction (SALT) that Trump and the Republicans took away. [Democratic leaders in the House and Senate] Senator Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries have said that would be a top priority. I think that's a game changer for working families.

In addition, expanding the child tax credit. Those are down payments on rebuilding the middle and rebuilding the middle of our economy, and we can get it done and restore faith [in our system].

I also think reproductive freedom is an essential issue of this campaign. My opponent cheered the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and said states should go further. He has even called on New York to repeal its own abortion laws.

I think border security is an essential issue. I'm the grandson of immigrants, I think we need comprehensive immigration reform. I would vote for the bipartisan border security bill that my opponent helped kill. I think those are all crucial differences.

But you know what, if you take democracy for granted, you're sort of missing the point of the entire experiment of self-government and being a self-governing society in a democratic republic. I think there's a grave danger in trying to reward someone [Donald Trump] who tried to overturn an election on the back of a lie, and who is then using that lie as a litmus test for party loyalty. I think there is an opportunity and an obligation in this election to build a broad patriotic coalition to defend our democracy and to focus on what unites us, not on what divides us. That's why I'm running for Congress.

An important issue in this election is inflation, as well as the cost of housing. Prices seem to keep on rising. What will you, as a Congressman, do to lower prices, especially those of housing?

I think there are a number of things that can be done. First of all, we need to build more housing. We need to get back in the business of building, but it needs to be done in conjunction with communities. I think first-time homeowner loans



Photo courtesy of John Avlon for Congress.

are one way to encourage people to buy a home.

I think certain communities may choose to do ADUs [Accessory Dwelling Units] based on their own regulations and judgments.

Another one of the opportunities I've spoken a lot about, which is something they're experimenting more with out West, is taking commercial properties and building residential buildings, particularly on strip malls.

This is an idea that creates sort of pop up communities with good sewer and transportation infrastructure. And I think those should be prioritized for cops, firefighters, teachers, and nurses because they're the soul of our communities. In too many cases, they increasingly can't afford to live in the communities in which they serve. I don't think that's right.

What will you do to bring down the cost of college? I'm not just talking about student loan forgiveness, which has been touted by the Biden administration, but rather a permanent fix on the cost of college.

When you say a permanent fix, that implies a macro government solution. We've obviously got state universities, we've got community colleges, and we have private universities. The cost of college has gone up faster than the rate of inflation, as you say. There are many cost drivers for that. One of which is that federal funding didn't keep pace with what it had previously been.

But if you look at what built the middle class in America, it's overwhelmingly three things: unions, the GI Bill, and community colleges. And I do think on the issue of loan forgiveness, one idea that I think has real merit is to expand the definition of national service to allow more people to get out of their respective bubble, to work with other people and kids from across the country, and to emphasize that what unites us is

greater than what divides us. All these things can then be done in exchange for student loan forgiveness.

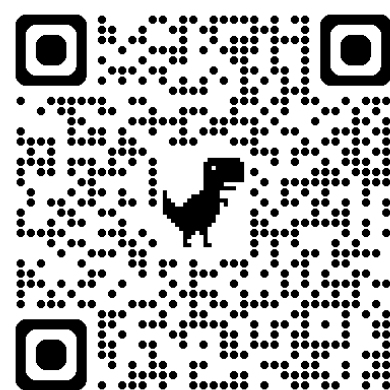
The gig economy has proven to be an issue for young people because it effectively forces them into very difficult, long-hour, and low-income jobs. Do you support any regulations on the gig economy and the business models of companies such as Uber or Lyft?

I'd have to look at specifically what proposals you're referring to with regard to the gig economy, but the changing nature of work should change the way that we make sure that there's a reasonable social safety net.

If they've got good jobs with good health care plans, that's great. But I think the A.C.A. [Affordable Care Act], for example, allows people to get coverage at a lower rate than they previously did.

13 states have now passed some form of restrictions on cell phones in school. Do you think this is an issue that should be dealt with federally? And if so, what would you do about it?

I think as long as it is being dealt with on a state level, I do support regulations. The reforms that are being put in place to ensure that there aren't smartphones in schools, I do think they are a win-win. They have better outcomes for students for socialization, for families, for teachers, and for the broader educational process. So I think that those sorts of individual state efforts are quite healthy.



Scan QR code to access the full transcript.

An Interview With Anthony Palumbo

by OLIVER WU and
CLAIRE SLONIEWSKY,
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Anthony Palumbo is the Republican incumbent seeking reelection in New York’s 1st State Senate District, a seat which he has held for two terms. Before his time as a State Senator, he served as a State Assemblyman for three terms. Palumbo is facing Democratic challenger Sarah Anker.

Palumbo highlighted a community housing fund he successfully passed as one of his proudest accomplishments in office so far, which provides assistance to first-time homebuyers in five eastern towns. Along with this, he emphasized his sponsorship of Chelsey’s Law, a bill that would allow fentanyl dealers to be charged with manslaughter if they are connected with a fatal overdose, explaining, “Right now, [being responsible for a fatal overdose] is simply a drug sale even though I’m knowingly putting poison into the existing drug that I’m going to sell to you. ... That is clearly a murder. ... At the very least, it’s reckless, if not intentional, and they should be

held accountable.”

Palumbo said, “The biggest issues on Long Island don’t really change: public safety, affordability and the environment. Taxes and jobs are where our focus needs to be.” A vocal critic of New York’s 2019 bail reform, he believes that many public safety concerns have “a very simple fix: allowing judges to have discretion to consider the dangerousness of a defendant. ... Every other state except New York allows the judges to consider the dangerousness of the defendant.”

With regards to addressing climate change, Palumbo said he is in favor of having different forms of renewable energy, but, “We can’t do it tomorrow. I know sometimes we get a little bit over our skis by proposing really bold ideas.”

On the topic of school funding, Palumbo provided an example of situations he wanted the state to take into account: “I spoke specifically with the Mattituck superintendent, and he said in 2012, their student body was 5% English as a New Language (ENL), and in 2022, just ten years later, it was over 35%. So, in a situation like that, those services cost money. Over time, we need to think about what the services are that the school is providing and the different demographics that they are servicing.”

geothermal and even hydrogen is starting to come to the surface as a possible renewable energy source.” However, she says, “I’m not crazy about nuclear energy.” She explains, “I have always been an intense environmental advocate because I truly feel our environment directly impacts our health.” But she also notes, when it comes to the renewable energy transition, “There needs to be a better transition period. The folks need to understand that we just can’t switch and we need to prepare for that.”

When asked about Governor Hochul’s intended changes to “hold harmless,” which guarantees school districts get at least as much state funding as the previous year, Anker says it “gets a little tricky. Unfortunately, because people can’t afford to live here on Long Island, they’re moving, and especially a lot of young families... So we need to relook at that.”

Anker supports limiting cell phone usage in schools, but she does not support a complete ban, saying, “Can you have your cell phone during breaks, during lunch or on your own time? I think that’s a fair situation for kids... because there’s almost like a mental attachment to having your cell phone.” She also brings up the role of social media: “They’re given free reign to create a negative impact in our kids’ lives. It’s affecting the



Photo courtesy of Palumbo for Senate.

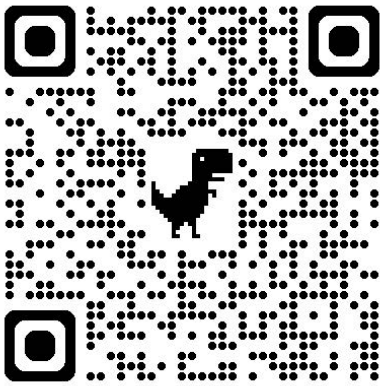
He also brought up his support for universal free school meals.

Palumbo offered “conveying to younger voters how important it is to vote” as a means of improving youth civic engagement. He noted, “In non-presidential years, you have turnout that’s half, sometimes less than half, which is unfortunate because then you have groups who have agendas who can basically control an election because every day folks just shrug their shoulders and don’t go out and vote.”

He does not support the Equal Rights Amendment being considered on the ballot this year because “[Democrats] didn’t

change the language they said they were going to fix,” but supports the Water Quality Restoration Act.

You can read the full interview at bit.ly/kscope-palumbo or by scanning the QR code below.



Scan QR code to access the full transcript.

An Interview With Sarah Anker

by KAITLYN HORN,
FEATURES EDITOR

Sarah Anker is the Democratic candidate for State Senate District 1, running against incumbent Republican Anthony Palumbo. She previously served in the Suffolk County Legislature for over 12 years until she was term-limited. She cites her campaign’s primary issues as affordability, as well as water quality, “opioid addiction, mental health, social media, bullying and teen suicide.”

To address the affordability crisis, Anker stresses “building near transportation hubs” and “transit-oriented development, where you build near railroad stations for commuter purposes.” She is aiming to initiate a program for “Planned Young Adult Communities,” which would be similar to the Planned Retirement Communities that seniors have. She also suggests subsidies for young adults coming out of college.

Anker brings up her past as Brookhaven Town’s Energy Director when talking about environmental conservation and climate change. She helped initiate the town’s Green Homes Go Solar program, and is “a very strong proponent of wind power, solar,



Photo courtesy of Anker for NYS Senate.

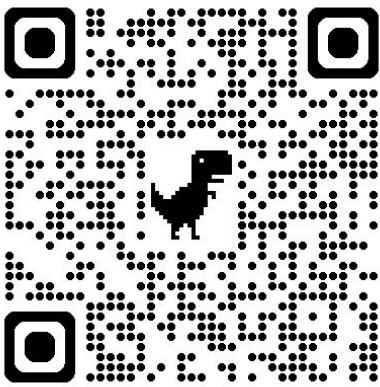
mental health of our children... I would invite you and your friends to be part of this discussion because this is how a democracy works.”

On the topic of addressing substance abuse and drug overdoses, Anker brings up three components: “education, law enforcement and the courts.” She says, “These folks, a lot of them are kids, so I would propose really ramping up the education component,” and cites this as a bipartisan issue she worked to address as the former chair of Suffolk County’s Addiction Prevention and Support Advisory Panel.

When asked about running in a district that Republicans won by over 12 points in 2022, Anker says, “I have represented a heavily

Republican district, as a Democrat, for well over a decade. On paper, my candidacy should never have been possible... My slogan is ‘People Over Politics,’ which embodies the spirit of my approach to public service.”

You can read the full interview at bit.ly/kscope-anker or by scanning the QR code below.



Scan QR code to access the full transcript.

An Interview With Ed Flood

by SARAH CHERLIN and OLIVER WU, A&E EDITOR and EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ed Flood is a first term Assemblyman representing New York's 4th Assembly District. The former Town of Brookhaven prosecutor was first elected in 2022, narrowly defeating Democrat Steve Englebright, who had held the seat for 30 years. Flood is seeking re-election this November against Democratic opponent Rebecca Kassay.

Assemblyman Flood's proudest accomplishment during his first term was giving grant money to deserving communities. He explains, "The Gordon Heights Fire Department is the highest taxed fire department in the state because there is no commercial tax base. I was able to get them a \$75,000 grant to help fix their roof, which means that's \$75,000 that the taxpayers don't have to foot the bill on."

If re-elected, Flood's plan to make New York more affordable includes shrinking the state budget, lowering spending and reducing taxes, saying, "We have to do a better job of not wasting money. We have to put money into the

right places, like creating infrastructure that can support jobs and can support new housing." Furthermore, Flood opposes certain social programs, specifically those that he views as supporting undocumented immigrants, saying, "We can't just have an open door policy where we tell the world anyone in the world can come here and we're going to give you housing, food, and clothing. It's skyrocketing the price."

Flood positions himself as a "tough on crime" candidate who will support law enforcement. He is opposed to progressive changes in the justice system, including many aspects of bail reform. He partially attributes the current fentanyl crisis to New York's 2019 bail reform, explaining, "We've talked to people who are running the drug rehabilitation centers, pastors, school officials, and you see that massive increase because there's no legal avenue for the justice system to force people into treatment."

Flood believes that New York should take steps to combat climate change by switching to renewable energy. However, he said that the state doesn't have the proper infrastructure yet to do so. He said, "We need to make decisions that are environmentally sensitive, but are also pragmatic, so that we don't come up with a lack of energy." Concerning the topic

to start families on Long Island while simultaneously maintaining the current value of homes. Her aim is to introduce legislation that will encourage developers to build more affordable homes while protecting green spaces. She is a proponent of eco-friendly housing and feels that environmental preservation shouldn't be sacrificed for the sake of inexpensive housing.

Kassay graduated from SUNY New Paltz in 2010 with a degree in Environmental Science, so it's no surprise that climate change and environmental protection are key issues for her campaign. She claims that Long Island is "uniquely vulnerable" to the threat of climate change, promoting conservation efforts, the use of clean energy and planning to mitigate the effects of climate change on Long Island.

As the creator of Avalon Park and Preserve's teen volunteer program, she worked with teenagers to address local environmental issues. She wants the community to be aware that they "have the opportunity and the capability to be a local [environmental] steward," encouraging participation in beach cleanups and the creation of biodiverse habitats. Furthermore, Kassay has collaborated with Relic to implement beach cleanup stations



Photo courtesy of Aileen Markowsky, Assemblyman Ed Flood Chief of Staff.

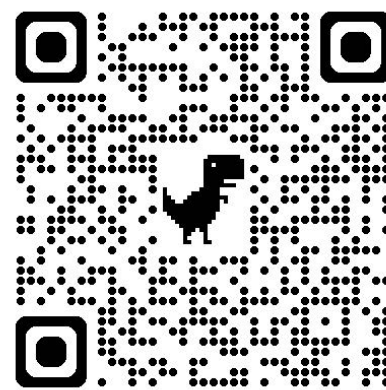
of offshore wind development, he said, "My personal opinion is I think it's a great idea, but again, right now the cost of it seems to be exorbitant."

While Flood acknowledges that updates to the state's school funding formula may be necessary in the future, he does not support decreasing funding to schools in any way, even as enrollment numbers decrease. He said, "In a budget that's this bloated, ensuring that we properly educate our children should be a top priority. It shouldn't be a way that we're going to shortchange the children of our future, because that's just creating a less qualified, less educated workforce for the future."

Flood also expressed support for Governor Kathy Hochul's plan to introduce legislation that would ban cell phone use in

schools: "I would support some type of blocking signal that can make it so that your phones do not work during school hours... Just a full-out ban on allowing electronics into a school, I think, is not safe. It's quite frankly dangerous in this world of modern technology."

You can read the full interview at bit.ly/kscope-flood or by scanning the QR code below.



Scan QR code to access the full transcript.

An Interview With Rebecca Kassay

by ALEXANDRA POTEKHIN and REBECCA MALZ, NEWS EDITOR and STAFF WRITER

Rebecca Kassay, the former Deputy Mayor of Port Jefferson, is running for election in New York State Assembly District 4. Kassay served as a Port Jefferson Village Trustee for four years, directed programs at Avalon Park and Preserve and has owned the Fox and Owl Bed and Breakfast for the past decade. She ran for Port Jefferson Trustee as a member of the Action Party, allowing her to sidestep political affiliations. Kassay stated that she is looking forward to "bringing that practice of working with people, no matter what their [political] affiliation is, to solve our local issues."

Kassay has proposed solutions to a number of local economic issues. A key component of her campaign is providing affordable housing to her district. Many working families and young professionals on Long Island cannot afford current home costs. To dissuade young people from moving out of the area, she plans to assist people with tax credits to allow them



Photo courtesy of Friends of Kassay for Assembly.

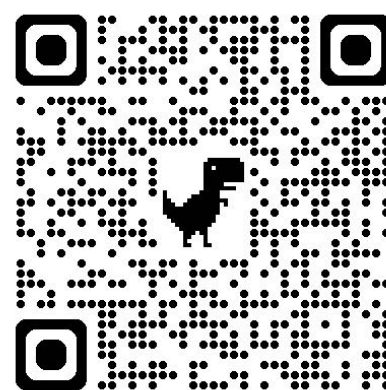
throughout Port Jefferson beaches.

On education, Kassay says, "I'll be a fierce advocate to make sure that our schools are well funded... as we have conversations about how to look at the school funding formula." She also states: "If giving meals through the school systems gives [students] access to their two meals a day, breakfast and lunch, and we can fight hunger in that way, then there's no question that I will support that."

Throughout her political career, Rebecca Kassay has worked closely with Catholic Health Services to provide functional addiction services. Kassay says that she will "fight strongly to make sure that our insurance companies are covering inpatient care so that we can stop that cycle [of addiction]

and really get people the care they need." Outpatient rehabilitation centers have a greater chance of relapse than inpatient rehab, yet the latter isn't currently covered by most insurance policies.

Read the full interview at bit.ly/kscope-kassay or by scanning the QR code below.



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Kamala, Trump and The Student Debt

by KATHERINE KELTON,
COPY EDITOR

This article was originally published in DCReport.

During the first presidential debate between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump, a topic many Democrats and Republicans did not expect to come up did: student debt, a crucial issue to young people like me.

Although not directly asked, Donald Trump managed to turn a rebuttal about abortion into the shortcomings of the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to cancel student debt. "It reminds me," Trump said, "of when they said they were going to get student loans terminated and it ended up being a total catastrophe." He continued discussing student debt for more than a quarter of his response time before returning to abortion.

The moderators next asked Harris about at what stage abortions should be legal, leaving viewers unsure about where Harris stands on student debt relief. However, her views on student debt seem to offer a promising future to those currently owing or planning to take out student loans.

As a senior in high school currently applying to colleges, financial aid seemed straightforward: those who need it would be able to obtain it. However, after listening to people who have already taken out huge loans in their freshman years of college, something about the system didn't seem fair.

The idea is that for some, the college experience could be carefree and a time to explore, while for others, it would be spent in worry about what college major will make the most money to pay back their debt. College should not only be available to the elite and the few who can secure scholarships. While state schools offer great education, in most cases, one should not have to shrink their horizons because of money.

Additionally, those bold enough to take out loans in the hopes of paying them off with a college graduate level job, in many cases, never do as a result of less than expected pay, unexpected events like illness or injury and other realities that crush dreams.

In a survey, one in four Americans with student loan debt — for their education or someone else's they have guaranteed such as

parents and grandparents — told Bankrate.com that they are having trouble affording their monthly payments or have skipped at least one monthly payment since October 2023. That's when a payment forbearance period, put in place during the COVID pandemic, ended.

That survey and other data suggest that many Americans have a stake in student loan relief, which many people want and some others believe is an improper form of welfare.

While Harris did not ex-



Graphic courtesy of DCReport.

plicitly address student debt relief, she did tout two of her "opportunity economy" policy proposals. One would give people starting a new business a \$50,000 tax deduction, ten times the current amount. The other would be a \$25,000 subsidy for first-time home buyers. Both proposals would need Congressional approval, which is unlikely unless Democrats regain control of the House and keep control of the Senate in the Nov. 5 elections.

Biden's various student relief efforts were all challenged in court. Some judges, including the Supreme Court, held that Biden exceeded his authority under existing law to compromise or cancel student debt.

If Harris were to consider canceling student debt, the direct effect would be raising the net worth of each debtor by the exact dollar amount of debt canceled. In this scenario, many debtors would instantly have the financial muscle to start a business or buy a home with a mortgage. Large student debt makes banks understandably leery of extending credit for a risky venture like a new business or buying a home.

Trump further claimed, "Her boss [Biden] went out and said we'll do it again but a different way. He went out, got rejected again by the Supreme Court." What Trump is suggesting was indeed a loss, but not entirely.

According to one of the nation's leading advocates for student debt cancellation, Astra Taylor,

"Biden's attempt to cancel student debt wasn't as good as it could be, but it definitely wasn't a catastrophe."

Biden, through executive orders, canceled some or all of the debt of five million Americans. The Biden administration stated they have erased \$168.5 billion in student debt, less than a tenth of the total outstanding.

Taylor was critical of Biden's precise administrative mechanisms, which Harris also might use to cancel all student debt. She advises, "Joe Biden

could have issued relief in a way that would have made it difficult, if not impossible, for the right wing to sabotage it. Use the executive power as smartly and as boldly as possible."

Congress has full power to erase, reduce or otherwise give relief from student loan debt. Congress also sets the interest rates on student loans, which it could set at zero. However, so long as Republicans control either chamber, any student loan relief seems unlikely.

Congress could repeal the law that prevents those crushed by student loan debt from seeking refuge in the Bankruptcy Court, something that Alan Collinge of Student Loan Justice has advocated for.

Of the two choices, Trump and Harris, the candidate most likely to cancel student debt and work to make public university education free or nearly free is unequivocally Harris. A 2017 Tweet by Harris, then the junior senator from California, supported legislation to make college tuition-free for most Americans.

The organization, The Debt Collective, which Taylor co-founded, owes some of its origins to Harris' work as California attorney general. Harris prosecuted a chain of for-profit schools known as Corinthian Colleges, Inc. where she exposed abuses of students.

"It was actually by organizing with the students of that predatory for-profit college that the debt collective got its start," Taylor shares.

Harris won a \$1.1 billion judgement against Corinthian. Harris' dedication to support students of the predatory chain continued into her vice presidency when she announced the student debts from this predatory for-profit college would be canceled. Student loan debt weighs heavily on many voters and will affect how many of them vote, a PBS/Marist poll found.

Prior to the debate, the poll showed that 44% of Gen Z/Millennials voters said the debate would have a great or good influence on how they cast their ballot. Student loan erasure is a contentious issue not only for those already buried under debt, but also for new college students, who are unsure if they are destined to end up like the older Americans, taking debt to the grave.

Although Harris has a slight 2-point edge over Donald Trump among voters under 45, she still falls seven points behind the lead that Biden enjoyed in 2020. Getting young voters excited about a candidate when 25% of them consider her "too conservative" poses a challenge. The other candidate is far more conservative, making rejection of Harris on these grounds politically inchoate.

Harris received some good news less than a half hour after the debate ended. Singer Taylor Swift, with a massive following on Instagram of 238 million, endorsed Harris through a post. Many of her fans could be swayed by her Instagram post expressing support for Harris' leadership capabilities and ability to stay calm. Swift also commended vice presidential candidate Tim Walz's positions on LGBTQ+ rights, in vitro fertilization, or IVF, for couples who have trouble conceiving and a women's right to decide medical care.

While endorsements by entertainers have never been shown to have much of an effect, this time may be different. Swift may play a key role in winning that decisive young vote. The following day, 30,000 people visited Swift's link on registering to vote, locations and early voting dates.

Harris has the opportunity to win over many young voters — perhaps enough to ensure victory — if she promises bold action to eliminate student debt, which will become a decades-long burden for some students under current policies. Since providing relief aligns with her beliefs, promising to push Congress to act, and to take administrative steps if Congress doesn't, could convince many new and young voters that they should support her.

25A Demonstrations: A Local Display of Activism

by KAITLYN HORN and KATHERINE KELTON, FEATURES and COPY EDITORS

Every Saturday morning, conservatives and liberals line their respective sides of Route 25A, protesting and providing a literal representation of the stark division in American politics today. Though re-energized by the upcoming election, the two sides have held their posts for over twenty years.

One progressive, Myrna Gordon, shared, “I’m a member of the North Country Peace Group and I’ve been on this corner now for almost 22 years.” She detailed her relationship with the ‘other side’ over the years, “I actually know many of them by name, I’ve had many conversations with them. My goal is to present our message, not react to theirs. We do have a relationship with them. At the very beginning, it was not very pleasant. We were actually physically accosted.”

Booing, middle fingers and profanities characterized a majority of the passerby reactions, as one runner even stopped to chime in, “nobody gives a s***, guy; you’re in Setauket.”

Her story is corroborated

by leftist Jim Lynch who stated, “We have had guns brandished at us, we’ve had eggs thrown at us, I got a camera strap around my neck. It used to be worse when the Iraq War was around.”

Similarly to the war in Gaza, the Iraq war was incredibly contentious in the US. The Bush administration announced the War on Terror in 2002, which inspired the progressive presence. “We originally came together because of the Doctrine of Perpetual War, our government adopted that policy in the 90s when they first invaded Iraq. And it was that atmosphere that prompted us to come out and take a stand on behalf of nonviolence. War is not the answer. Problems should be dealt with as they arise. As we stayed here for 22 years, many different issues came along that were very connected to that idea of war-making. Because war-making ultimately is a lesson in domination,” said Bill McNulty, a career activist for the left.

Their conservative opponents also point to the Iraq War as their origin. “We came down here [about twenty] years ago to support the troops that were over in Iraq. I had a nephew over there,” explained Jim Sivirio, one of the senior right-wing demonstrators. “It’s evolved over the years; it’s mostly individual freedoms to the Constitution, old school kinda stuff.” He added, “Illegal immigration is the number one issue, the economy number two, and public safety number three.”

community. Not only will changing to a different waste management method disrupt these economic advantages, but the rising expenses related to garbage disposal will be transferred to taxpayers.

Brookhaven Town Councilmember Jonathan Kornreich discussed the results of closing the landfill with *Kaleidoscope*. An increase somewhere from \$200-400, as estimated by Kornreich, would be levied on Brookhaven residents’ taxes. “The Town of Brookhaven is less than 7% of your taxes,” Kornreich explains, “So it (the landfill tax) is in there. The \$365 is part of that \$1,000. So you know if it goes up \$200 a year, your taxes would go from \$15,000 to \$15,200.”

To lessen the dependency on the landfill, Kornreich points to increasing recycling rates as a promising alternative. One method of doing so is expanding technological mechanisms to sort and recover recyclable materials from the waste stream. However, Kornreich noted that this may only provide a marginal benefit because much of the waste is contaminated by non-recyclable material mixed in.

Kornreich also mentioned



Photos taken by Katherine Kelton, Copy Editor.

While we spoke with the conservatives, honking and cheering drowned out much of the conversation. “I got involved not too long ago, and it’s one of the high points of my week. You see the support we get, it’s like eight to one,” one conservative gestured to the roadway. However, this same conservative later preferred not to provide a name for the purpose of this article, revealing that they’re not always supported by the community. “The reason why I would rather not, is because we are targeted. We are targeted by liberals. We are targeted by the media. If I say something, I give you my name, my business will be attacked and it will affect 200 plus people.”

There were many clear misunderstandings between the two groups. Lynch proclaimed his dedication as a progressive to “stopping a fascist movement,” referring to the Republican agenda. A Republican countered, “They call us fascists. Fascists? We’re for the Constitution, freedom of speech,

Second Amendment, First Amendment—all these things that go to less government. Fascists means lots of government and imposing government. We’re definitely not those people.”

Another notable difference between the two sides was the central theme of their messaging. While the conservatives donned ‘MAGA’ merchandise and waved ‘Trump 2024’ flags, the progressives focused on the end to wars in Ukraine and Gaza, and equal rights at home. “The issues are the most important. The people on the Trump side really idolize him. I wish conservatives were more concerned with the issues. I respect Harris, but I don’t idolize her,” explained a demonstrator.

In spite of these stark differences, the demonstrators showcase steadfastness to their own beliefs yet provide a lesson in finding common ground. They represent the outspoken voices of our diverse community, as they converge on one small town intersection.

Closing of Brookhaven Landfill to Pose Challenges

by ALEXANDRA POTEKHIN and ALEXANDRA COTLET, NEWS EDITORS

The Town of Brookhaven Landfill is set to close in 2028 after reaching near total capacity. In anticipation of closing the landfill, no more Construction & Demolition waste will be accepted in 2025. The effects of the closing will have significant impacts on the greater area’s economy and environment.

The landfill holds a large portion of Long Island’s waste, and this trash will have to be diverted elsewhere, possibly even to other states once the facilities at Westbury, Huntington, and Ronkonkoma reach capacity. This diversion may lead to increased costs and environmental impacts in our region. As of now, the Brookhaven landfill supplies residents with job opportunities and brings money into the

the concept of a “dirty MRF”—a more advanced Material Recovery Facility that could more accurately sort through raw garbage to extract recyclables. But he acknowledged that this would be an expensive solution. In terms of changing public behavior, Kornreich was uncertain about how to get more people, especially those who are busy or disinterested, to recycle consistently. He noted that recycling rates tend to correlate with education levels and wealth, suggesting cultural shifts may be needed.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation raises concerns about the health of residents near the landfill. Landfills are known to emit toxic air pollutants that pose serious threats to the short and long-term health of humans. Multiple lawsuits have been filed against the landfill, linking it to serious illnesses in the community. Beyond this, the odor, constant traffic and environment worsen the daily life of those living near the landfill.

Located in Bellport, the landfill opened in 1974 and is comprised of six compacted areas called “cells.” It is estimated that

the landfill has an annual capacity for 1.2 million tons of waste. In 1989, the landfill stopped accepting solid waste. Today, it consists mostly of construction and demolition (C&D) waste.

Albany has historically avoided creating a solid waste plan for Long Island, citing municipal home rule. Now, Long Island public officials propose various strategies to address the waste disposal crisis. Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine has hosted conferences to initiate discussions and identify appropriate solutions. A component of his approach is a strategy to utilize rail transportation as a disposal method. Garbage would be transported to various locations: Seneca Falls, New York; Bucks County, Pennsylvania; and furthest, Fostoria, Ohio. According to Romaine, rail is efficient and cost-effective, saving taxpayers money.

As the landfills servicing Long Island reach capacity, local and state governments grapple with large-scale solutions that address all facets of the matter without drastically raising prices for residents.

Is Brat Summer Enough to Get Harris to the White House?

by KATHERINE KELTON,
COPY EDITOR

It's been a big summer for two women: pop singer Charli XCX and Democratic Presidential nominee Kamala Harris. But what do these two have in common? They both have the privilege of being labeled certified BRAT.

The origin: British singer Charli XCX surged in popularity after releasing her sixth studio album *BRAT* in June. The album's distinctive lime-green cover and club-ready tracks led many social media users to declare a "brat summer." TikTok dances to her song "Apple" went viral and many began proclaiming they were "so Julia," referencing lyrics in her song "360."

On the day President Joe Biden dropped out of the presidential race in late July, Charli XCX declared on X, "kamala IS brat." This immediately sent Gen Z into

a frenzy on social media, with various clips of Harris going viral. In an especially notable one, Harris asks, "You think you just fell out of a coconut tree?" before continuing solemnly, "You exist in the context of all in which you live and what came before you." The quote actually came from her mother, but viewers ironically took it out of context to soundtrack edits and songs.

While Biden struggled to generate enthusiasm among young people when he was campaigning, the surge in energy on social media has buoyed the Harris campaign in the weeks since. TikTok, once dominated by jokes over Biden's declining mental acuity, became filled with edited clips of Harris soundtracked to pop songs, especially those of Charli XCX. Users interwove her "coconut tree" comments with videos of Harris dancing, spinning clips viewed by many as a symbol of unprofessionalism into a positive trait.

The online energy was also matched by record-breaking fundraising numbers. The campaign raised \$81 million in the 24 hours after Biden dropped out, a presidential donation record. Since then,

is bolder, as it calls for term limits for justices. Under the president's plan, a justice would be appointed every two years to a term of eighteen years.

While the president is no longer running for reelection, Vice President Harris has made it clear that she supports the reform plan, thereby maintaining it as a relevant issue in the campaign.

The main catalyst for such bold reforms, especially when coming from a politician who has, throughout his long career, been unreceptive to similar ideas, was a *ProPublica* report from early 2023 which revealed that Supreme Court justice Clarence Thomas had received lavish gifts from various people with business before the Court. Moreover, Thomas had failed to disclose these gifts, which included cruises on private yachts, private jet flights, and stays at vast private resorts.

Over the next several months, further investigative reporting discovered even more gifts to Thomas, as well as many undisclosed gifts to Supreme Court justice Samuel Alito.

Influential Democrats quickly called for investigations, as well as the creation and enforcement of a stringent ethics code. However, their efforts were met with opposition by Republicans, who claimed that Democrats were simply trying to punish a court that has issued rulings the party had disagreed with, such as



Harris' campaign has raised over \$540 million. The Trump campaign raised \$130 million in August, down from \$139 in July (Politico).

Despite its initial momentum, the popularity of the *BRAT* Kamala phenomenon began to wane mere weeks after Charli XCX's statement on X, as is typical for memes. Hype surrounding the release of *BRAT* diminished, and Harris supporters braced for the harsh reality of the 2024 Presidential election. The Trump campaign has made attempts to combat this massive movement from Harris' base with his support from the so-called "manosphere," a community on the internet consisting largely of right-wing males.

Popular creators such as Adin Ross, Theo Von and the Nelk Boys have influenced many young fans with their pro-Trump political commentary. This demographic of young men has been dubbed "the bro vote." The Nelk Boys, who attended the Republican National Convention, featured Republican Vice Presidential candidate JD

the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Democrats, in turn, have said that Republicans are simply ignoring real ethical concerns to protect a court that has flaunted precedent to provide Republicans with legal victories. (While the justices are officially nonpartisan, 6 of them were appointed by Republican presidents, and so tend to decide cases as Republicans would want them to.)

While the extreme nature of the court is a matter of political debate, the court's rulings have often overturned long-standing precedent and employed novel legal theories. The most famous example of this is *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2022), which overturned nearly a half-century of precedent and ended the national right to an abortion. Although the majority opinion did not go so far, Justice Thomas, in a concurrence, left the door open for a more wide-ranging ban on contraception.

Another noteworthy example was *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* (2024), which overturned forty years of precedent and fundamentally changed the structure of the federal government. The ruling severely hampered the ability of independent agencies led by experts, including the Environmental Protection Agency, to do their jobs and enforce regulations.

However, the most extreme case of this has been in *Trump v. United States* (2024). Upon getting indicted by the federal government

Vance on their podcast and have golfed with Mr. Trump. These internet personalities can be incredibly impactful on the turnout of their primarily young male audiences, which could make a difference in the November election.

At the Republican National Convention in mid-July, most attendees were all but certain that Trump would win the election. However, Harris' entrance to the race has leveled the odds significantly. Recent polls show Harris and Trump neck and neck, and as summer fades into fall, many Americans are unsure of what the political landscape will look like in a few short months.

As the presidential race enters its final stretch, each campaign's success may hinge on its ability to turn out young voters. Polling often struggles to accurately reflect the views of young people, so the relative impacts of Harris' brat summer and the manosphere may only be known following the election.

for his role in the January 6 United States Capitol attacks, former President Trump began to employ the extremely novel legal position that presidents, even former presidents, were completely immune from any prosecution. Widely seen as a delaying tactic due to the extreme nature of the defense, the case nevertheless made it up to the Supreme Court. While the Court was widely expected to fully reject the immunity arguments, it instead provided Trump, and by extension all presidents, with immunity for any official acts.

This last ruling has become an issue of itself in the campaign. Former President Trump has praised the ruling and is using it to support a broader (and completely false) argument that the Biden administration is unjustly persecuting their political opponents. Vice President Harris mentioned the ruling in her speech accepting the Democratic nomination, tying it into a broader narrative about the danger that Trump poses to American democracy.

Additionally, the immunity decision clearly influenced the president's reform plan, as he also called for a constitutional amendment specifying that presidents do not have immunity. It should be noted, however, that the high bar for passing a constitutional amendment is unlikely to be cleared as long as Trump continues to have allies in Congress and in state governments across the country.

The Election and the Courts

by MICHAEL RETAKH,
OP-ED EDITOR

Throughout election history, the Supreme Court has rarely been a campaign issue, largely due to the perceived independence of the judiciary and the bipartisan way that justices were appointed. When it has been, debates over the Court largely centered around specific potential cases, and were therefore closely linked to other issues. As an example, former President Trump promised during his 2016 campaign to appoint pro-life judges that would overturn *Roe v. Wade*, a statement that drew attacks from his opponents.

However, this election is unlike any other, in more ways than one. The issue of the Supreme Court has, therefore, become more about fundamental disagreements over the federal judiciary system than about any specific litigation.

In late July, President Biden unveiled his plan for Supreme Court reform, which has two main planks. First, the president called for a code of conduct to be implemented for the justices. It would require that justices, among other things, "disclose gifts, refrain from public political activity, and recuse themselves from cases in which they or their spouses have financial or other conflicts of interest" (The White House). The second plank

Suffolk County's Driving Problem

by KATHERINE KELTON,
COPY EDITOR

2024 saw 371,368 traffic collisions in New York State. Suffolk County drivers are responsible for over 10% of them with 38,877 traffic accidents. Of all 62 counties in New York, Suffolk is the clear winner of a not-so-desirable title. Followed closely by Nassau and Queens, Long Island counties are the worst place in the state for drivers.

The reason for this needs to be clarified. Long Island is a place with generations of tradition and a distinct identity. How could such a deadly driving style be characteristic of a certain location?

On my first day of driving, my father took me in a 2013 Toyota Highlander, a vehicle with notably high wind resistance and unreactive brakes. I was doing fine maneuvering, stopping, and going. However, as a driver with only a learner's permit, I stayed below the 30 miles per hour speed limit on Christian Avenue in Stony Brook.

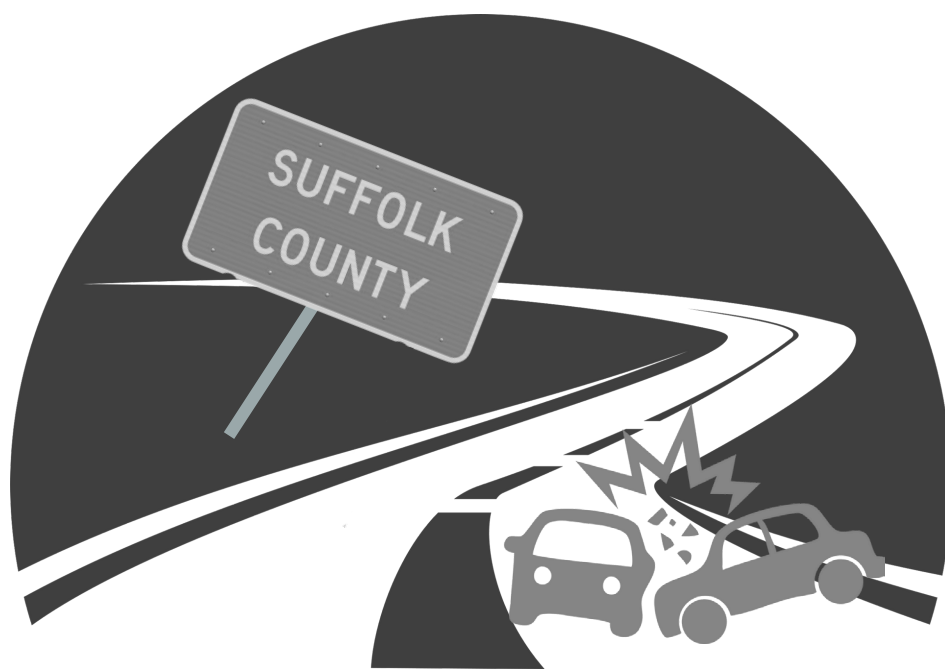
"I feel bad for the people behind me," I muttered to my father.

"Don't worry about them," he told me. All was good and well until a pickup truck veered into the oncoming lane and sped past me. To make matters worse, the cars in front of the truck were not too far ahead. This driver effectively put two people's cars and the people in them at risk just to be able to cruise above the speed limit.

My Oklahoman father and my military-brat mother unequivocally declared Suffolk the most dangerous place to drive. They were incredibly wary of letting my older brother onto the road after securing his license. For me, their youngest, they were abjectly horrified.

I began Driver's Ed last winter in a course called "Defensive Driving." It was taught by a very intimidating Mr. V whose job was to terrify his students out of ever getting behind the wheel of a motor vehicle before sending them out to drive with an instructor.

Mr. V would constantly detail what victims could do to remove themselves from dangerous situations: obsessively checking a rearview mirror for distracted drivers, pulling over when seeing a drunk driver and looking around before advancing at a green light. However, it was not uncommon for him to say, "There's really nothing you could do in this situation," a statement that inspired unwavering confidence in the safety of our local roads.



Ever the optimist, Mr. V showed us videos of people slamming into gas stations, leaving the whole joint in flames, footage of semi-truck drivers who glanced at their phone for a moment before smashing into a family of four in a mini-van, and most strikingly, older siblings who crashed with the younger one in their car. His message? "You will kill your little brother or sister if you drive them anywhere."

I was thoroughly disturbed by the number of previous students of Mr. V's who were either jailed or died for their poor driving decisions. I began to wonder why he chose to showcase his greatest teaching failures and wondered even more if I was becoming desensitized to fatal traffic accidents. The anxiety-inducing lectures were followed by driving lessons, a hands-on opportunity to witness the horrors that Mr. V had described. Most lessons began with a pit stop at a fast food place before the real terror began. I knew that at some point, we were going to have to bite the bullet and get on the LIE.

The Long Island Expressway is possibly the most daunting road to any new driver. Parents who take it daily when commuting may laugh when reading that, but to any green driver, the LIE is another level of intensity. Everyone on the road is going at least 20 miles over the speed limit, cars going 80 are merging without signals, drivers ahead of you braking without warning and nobody ever lets you merge even after you've signaled and checked your blind spot.

Despite this, my 70-year-old driving instructor forced us onto the LIE where we all took turns driving with shaky hands and white knuckles. I remember my legs feeling like jello, not fully being able to process what I was even doing. When he said merge, you weren't graced with time to look. You just had to go.

The LIE isn't even the most dangerous road on Long

Island. Perhaps the most dastardly of all Long Island roads is Middle Country Road, also called Jericho Turnpike or State Road 25. Middle Country Road is the most dangerous road in all of New York, often referred to as the most dangerous in the Tri-State area. What makes 25 particularly dangerous? The road allows drivers to go fast, but it is congested by countless stop lights and intersections, upping the chances of accidents.

Furthering the notoriety of Long Island drivers is the maneuver named after us. The "Long Island Left" is a move in which a vehicle makes an unprotected left-hand turn through oncoming traffic without even entering the intersection. Proponents of this style will cut straight across in a diagonal line when they are supposed to inch out into the intersection and make a quarter-circle-shaped turn. Usually, these people do so right before a car coming in the opposite direction enters the intersection, cutting them off.

Other characteristics of Long Island drivers include tailgating, merging without signaling and road rage. You may feel like a jerk for simply driving the speed limit around said drivers. That's not to say I'm blameless. I too have succumb to my environment in some aspects, catching myself slipping into careless driving practices.

Regardless of the danger posed by highways like the LIE and 25, and the reckless drivers who populate them, many of my peers were incredibly eager to get their licenses. The more daring among them were giddy to do donuts in parking lots and race on Rt. 111, which rarely has police with radars. Driving is exciting, yes, but dangerous activities like these pose a risk to other drivers. Ward Melville High School's own parking lot is evidence of this.

Our school used to have two parking lots: the junior lot and the senior lot. However, the class of 2024 had a few too many fender benders with staff vehicles in the North lot during their junior years.

In my opinion, the danger of the roads strictly correlates to speeding and careless drivers. Take, for example, Nicolls Road or Rt. 97, which has, for the majority, a 45 mph speed limit. The double-laned road is separated by a divider and has high visibility. In other words, it seems safe to go fast. However, just a week ago, another violent accident occurred on Nicolls. Furthermore, many Stony Brook students walk along Nicolls to access nearby student housing, several of whom have been killed in collisions in recent years. Clearly, this road isn't as safe as it seems.

One factor contributing to speeding is the lack of police monitoring our roads. They are often seen traveling on the highways speeding past other cars, but scarcely are cars seen pulled over for traffic violations.

One step in the right direction came in the form of school buses. In 2021, Suffolk County began implementing school bus camera ticketing. In the stop sign that protrudes when a school bus is stopped, there is now a camera that can ticket cars driving within 20 feet of a school bus. The fine starts at \$250 and increases for repeat offenders. *Newsday* reports that 250,000 were written on Long Island last year.

While the ticketing implementation has aggravated many locals, I believe it furthers the notion that the problem needs to be addressed. Additionally, the reckless Ward Melville drivers, who leave right after the buses, will be held to a higher standard of driving lest they bring home a \$250 fine to their parents.

As a young person on the brink of voting age, I am concerned with the lack of awareness and legislation to fight against the danger that Long Islanders face on the roads every day.

Sidewalks should be installed along roads that have skinny lanes and limited lighting after dark. Police should be better at regulating the roads. PSAs and outreach to high schools and colleges should be increased. Drinking and driving should be taboo among young people rather than celebrated and joked about.

Suffolk County is not cursed to have eternally poor driving and countless fatalities. Legislators, town boards, Senators and even local governments can do their part to lessen the issue at hand. The first step to recovery is admitting that we have a problem.

An Interview With Hazel Cohas, Student Gov. President

by JAKE NARDOLILLO,
SPORTS EDITOR

Question: Why are you in Student Government, and what do you say to other students thinking about joining this year?

Hazel Cohas: Personally, I joined Student Government in 10th grade when I first entered Ward Melville. Coming into a school so much bigger than Gelinas with so many people I didn’t know, I thought Student Government would be a great opportunity to get connected and meet new people. Also, Student Government allowed me to get involved with many school activities and events that I may not have otherwise. I feel so much more connected with what is going on at Ward Melville since joining. To anyone thinking about joining this year, I would say 100% do it. You can totally get what you want out of Student Government, whether that be coming to weekly meetings, volunteering at every event, or even joining the board. As I said already, this club hosts so many fun events and really gets you involved in so much like the electric light parade, Homecoming, Trick-or-Treat Street, etc., and getting to really be at the forefront of running these events makes attending them even better. You won’t regret joining!

Q: Other than Student Government, what activities are you involved in and what do you like to do in your free time?

HC: Outside of Student Government, I am a part of multiple other clubs such as Key Club and Model UN which I really enjoy. I also love working with some close friends on a non-profit organization called Project Happy Feet. It’s such an amazing way to give back to the community, something that Student Gov. has helped me realize the importance of. Two of my favorite hobbies to do in my free time are baking and hiking.

Q: What specific qualities do you look for in a Student Government member?

HC: I would definitely say that a Student Government member who is driven and passionate about bettering our school community is what makes the club great! It’s so awesome to see members excited about getting involved and without them, the club would not be the same. To add, members who are motivated to come to weekly

meetings and stay active in the plans of that meeting are really how Student Government is able to run so smoothly.

Q: How long have you been in Student Government, and what are your favorite memories from the club?

HC: I joined Student Government in 10th grade as a way to get more involved and some of my friends were in the club. In coming to every meeting and participating in events, I realized that aside from getting to spend time with friends, I really loved the club which is why I stayed involved and came back for junior year, and then decided to join the board. My favorite memory from Student Government is definitely the Philadelphia trip from 2 years ago. Although we do not run the trip anymore, getting to have this experience with the club was something that really made it feel like so much more than just an extracurricular activity once a week; it also really brought together all the members. Other than that trip I have especially enjoyed big events such as Homecoming.

Q: Are you planning on changing anything about the club this year or adding any new events?

HC: In being a member of the club for two years now, I have seen the hard work and dedication that the board and former presidents have done to put in place efficient systems and fun projects for the club. With that being said, I currently plan on working hard to live up to these standards for the club. I look forward to working with the rest of the board and the club to hear out my classmates on any changes they might like to see in the club to be able to shift anything according to what club members would like.

Q: What Student Government events should students look forward to most this year?

HC: There are so many exciting Student Government events coming up this school year. Shortly after we come back to school we have a big event coming up, that being Homecoming. Homecoming is the Student Government’s biggest event every year and is definitely something to be looking forward to. Especially given that it had to be canceled last year, Homecoming is going to be a really fun time for everyone to come together with the carnival and the football game to kick off the school year. The hard work of the club as a whole will really pay off for this event. Other than that, there is a lot to look forward to, from spirit weeks to holiday-themed events to Trick-or-Treat Street and so much more!

13
sep

20
sep

28
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05
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11
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19
oct

25
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01
nov

SACHEM NORTH
away | 6:00 PM

SACHEM EAST
home | 7:00 PM

CONNETQUOT
home | 2:00 PM | HOMECOMING

WALT WHITMAN
away | 6:00 PM

WILLIAM FLOYD
home | 3:30 PM

RIVERHEAD
away | 1:30 PM

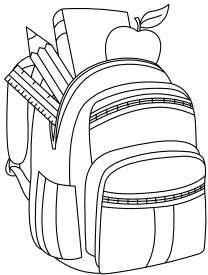
LONGWOOD
away | 6:00 PM

BAY SHORE
home | 7:00 PM | SENIOR NIGHT

Ward Melville

2024 schedule

Run for Three Village School Board



bit.ly/3vboardcandidate

Upcoming Brookhaven Town Board meetings:
<https://brookhavenny.portal.civicclerk.com>

Suffolk County Legislature General Meeting:

- **Tuesday, October 1** Rose Caracappa Auditorium, William H. Rogers Building #20, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, NY 11787
- Public portion **9:30AM**, public hearings 2PM
- Submit comment:
 - In person. Public portion: bit.ly/publicportioncomment.
 - Public hearing: bit.ly/publichearingscomment
 - Written testimony to Frank.Tassone@suffolkcountyny.gov
 - Regular mail to the Suffolk County Legislature Clerk’s Office: P.O. Box 6100, Hauppauge, NY 11788
 - Audio message (up to 3 minutes): 631-853-3685
- Committee meetings 9/23-9/26
 - To submit comment: bit.ly/committeemeetingcomment

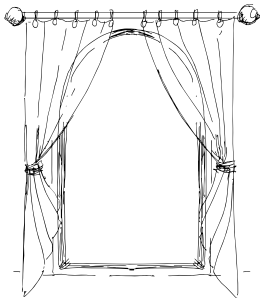
Brookhaven’s Got Talent Student Art Show

Theme: Living Your Best Life Drug Free

Submissions Deadline
September 30, 2024

Art Show: Thursday, October 17 at Brookhaven Town Hall

Submit:
BrookhavenNY.gov/arts



Emma Clark Library Volunteer Fair



Wednesday, September 25,
4pm-7pm

Learn more:
emmaclark.org/communityvolunteerfair

WE ASKED SENIORS THEIR BEST ADVICE FOR INCOMING SOPHOMORES. HERE'S WHAT THEY SAID...

Spend more time catering towards your interests, there are so many classes and people don't take them just to get more STEM or rigorous courses, which is stupid.

– HAFSA QUARISHI

Nobody's really going to remember what you were like in junior high. They're all hoping to move on too.

– ALTHEA GRUBBS–AUBRECHT

Make sure you work time into your week to socialize whether it's staying after for a club or hanging out in the library; being in a new school means new people you can meet and learn about. Also, take classes in different areas of interest, so you can see what you enjoy learning about.

– YUMI JIN

Take all the opportunities given to you, even if you don't think you'll enjoy them. You never know who you could meet, what you can learn or what fun you could have.

– ANDREW CHUANG

Get involved in clubs, sports, or extracurricular activities because they allow you to connect with new people who share similar interests with you.

– TEGAN JARNAGIN

Be very vocal and talk to a lot of the students in your classes - even if you don't know them - since you are going to have to ask them for help eventually, and it's the easiest way for you to meet new friends

– OPHELIA ROSENTHAL–VINCENTI

Long term, don't focus on studying for a test, focus on understanding the final.

– DHIKSHIKA CHERIVIRALA

Sometimes, the cruelest person to you is yourself. Don't get caught up in what other people think of you because a lot of time they aren't judging you at all. You're never going to regret being the most genuine version of yourself.

– RYAN SCRIVEN

Make sure to manage your time wisely, it gets a lot harder as you go on during high school.

– ALEX ZHENG

Let yourself grow as a person. Life is such a blur, and the work is never ending, but make sure to leave room for reflection and those you treasure.

– OLIVER WU

Try to manage your time and your workload. Once you stay too late one night, it becomes a vicious cycle. Your work efficiency will plummet and so will your sharpness in class. Get that deep sleep.

– MICHAEL WEI

You only get one childhood. Not everything is about grades, college, and success, so make sure to leave room for fun. Everything else will fall into place as it should. You're still in high school, relax.

– ETHAN TAM

Don't worry about the future; just focus on the present moment and join electives and extracurriculars you are genuinely interested in. You're only in high school Once, so enjoy it!

– CLAIRE SLONIEWSKY



FREE DIAGNOSTIC
TEST AND TWO FREE
COLLEGE COUNSELING
SESSIONS



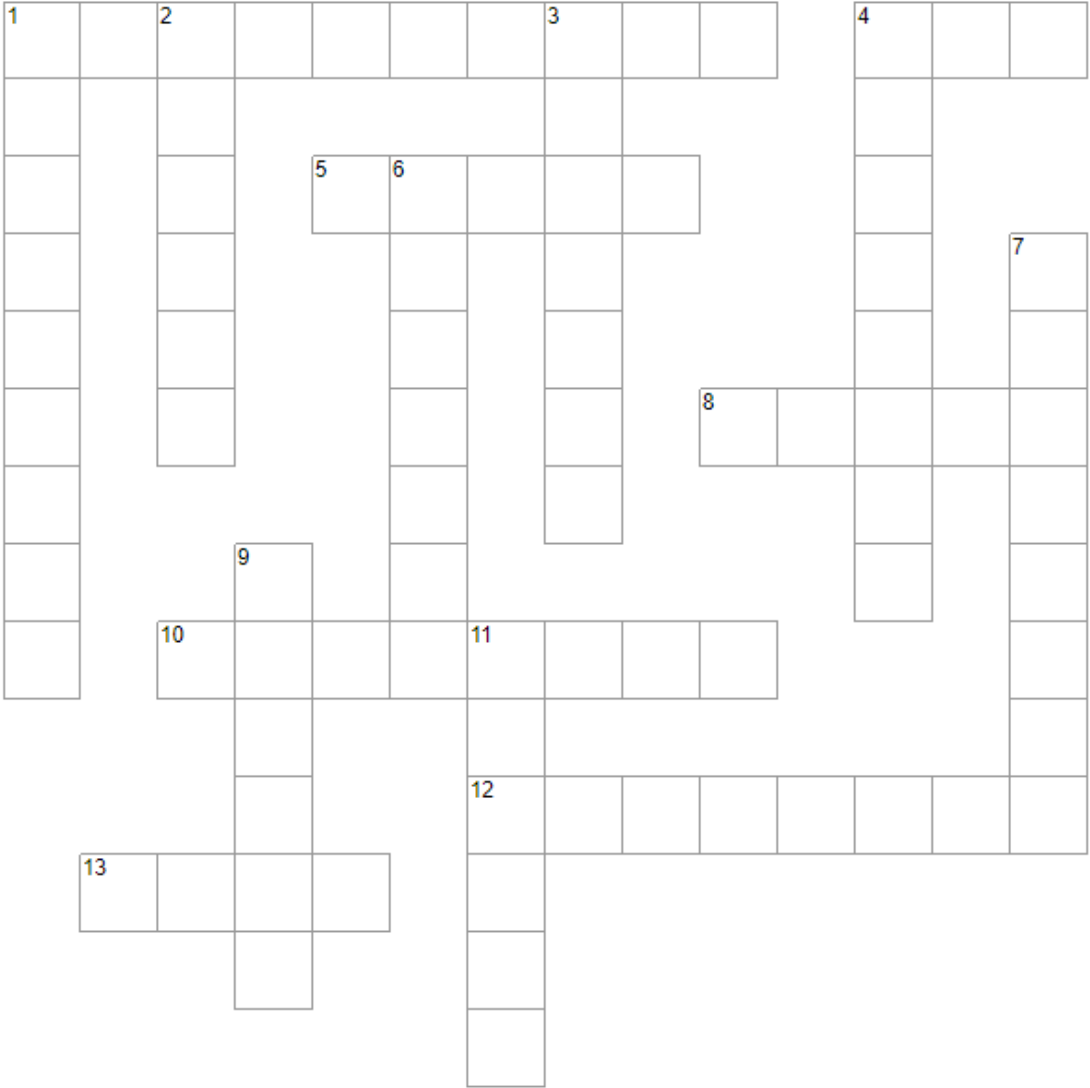
Back to school!

ACROSS

- 1 Device used to perform mathematical calculations.
- 4 Vehicle that transports students to school.
- 5 Written composition on a particular subject.
- 8 Device used to wake up students in the morning.
- 10 School reading material
- 12 Place for lecture notes
- 13 Short test

DOWN

- 1 Place where students eat lunch.
- 2 Small storage space for students' belongings.
- 3 Classroom leader
- 4 Carries school supplies
- 6 Learner in class
- 7 After-school assignments
- 9 Writing instrument
- 11 Folder used to organize and hold papers.



Why Join Kaleidoscope?

by **CLAIRE SLONIEWSKY, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

I first joined Kaleidoscope in the fall of my sophomore year, unsure of my future here at Ward Melville, my future life goals and my future career ahead of me. To be honest, I didn’t know what to expect out of this club; I was worried about its competitiveness and the judgment I would receive regarding my writing abilities. The second I stepped foot into room 411, all of my worries were replaced with an instant sense of belonging. *Kaleidoscope* quickly became my favorite club and I vowed to stay involved however I could: whether it was

through writing articles, formatting our print editions (like this one here) and conducting interviews. The power that we hold as student journalists, being able to educate our community and share our opinions with the world, is something to be admired. We have the open opportunity to change perspectives with just the power of our pens and ink-stained hands. I believe student journalism is the ability to tell the truth for and alongside our large student body. With the position of Editor-in-Chief, I hope to encourage the members of the paper to invest themselves in the value inherent to journalism. I want them to get involved in stories beyond basic research, solicit people with impactful stories and investigate what is meaningful to our school and community as a whole. I also

want our members to feel the same way I do when entering Mr. Oatis’ room every Thursday: inspired to enact change and to build a strong community with all of my peers. My love for *Kaleidoscope* was enhanced even more in my junior year at Ward Melville through the creation of the *Innerscope Podcast*, a news and opinion-based podcast I created with two of my friends and fellow *Kaleidoscope* members: Soraya Masrour and Katherine Kelton. On Instagram and Spotify, we are able to discuss relevant topics that specifically impact teenagers living in the Three Village community. This podcast has opened up a whole new side to our school newspaper and I couldn’t be any prouder of what we have made together. As one of *Kaleidoscope’s* Editor-in-Chiefs, I strongly encourage you to join our club and the amazing community we’ve built. Here, we welcome you to express yourself, to create, and to inform,

with no competition or judgment. We’re not looking for essays or analyses—we want writers, interviewers, political commentators, graphic designers and photographers. We’re looking for students who want to make a difference; we’re looking for you. I can’t wait to see what we create this year because I can see firsthand the potential we hold as student journalists in the Three Village community. This sense of belonging doesn’t vanish, no matter how many meetings or layout days I’ve attended and organized over the past 3 years. We are a kaleidoscope in how we embrace and search for every type of perspective; we spotlight and record as many of the aspects of our community as we possibly can and will push to continue our half-century legacy. You belong here.

***Kaleidoscope* meets every Thursday at 2pm in Room 411!**

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