

# MID-ISLAND TIMES

SERVING PLAINVIEW, HICKSVILLE, AND LEVITTOWN

## Levittown Tree Lighting



Hempstead Town Supervisor John Ferretti (rear, third right), Councilman Dennis Dunne (rear, second left), and Town Clerk Kate Murray (left) greeted local residents during the Tree Lighting Event on December 8, 2025 at Levittown Veterans Memorial Park. Also attending were Nassau County Legislator Tom McKevitt and New York State Assemblyman John Mikulin.

## Hicksville elementary school hosts innovative author's celebration

BY GARY SIMEONE

The fifth graders at Burns Avenue Elementary School got to show off their writing skills to their parents and guests at an innovative authors day. The talented students were part of the

schools annual Author's Celebration Day, which showcased their original writing skills through digital format.

The digital format made for an interesting day as the students shared their stories through a QR Code as opposed to voicing their sto-

ries out loud. The parents and guests invited listened to their child's and other students stories through headphones in the classroom which made for a quiet but enjoyable experience.

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## Water district thanks community for toy donations

The Plainview Water District (PWD) is proud to announce the successful completion of its annual Toys for Tots Holiday Collection Drive, made possible by the incredible generosity of the Plainview-Old Bethpage community. This year, the District collected more than 200 toys, all of which were donated to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation to help bring joy to children and families in need during the holiday season.

"The outpouring of support we continue to see each year is truly heartwarming," said PWD Commissioner Marc Laykind. "Our residents once again stepped up

to make the holidays brighter for those who need it most. The Plainview-Old Bethpage community's compassion and generosity never cease to inspire us."

The Plainview Water District served as an official drop-off site for the Toys for Tots program from November through December 19th, collecting new, unwrapped toys from residents, businesses and local organizations. The initiative, part of the District's ongoing commitment to community engagement, continues to be one of its most cherished holiday traditions.

"Participating in Toys for Tots

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Plainview Water District Commissioner Andrew Bader, Commissioner Marc Laykind and Commissioner Michael Chad with the Toys for Tots donations at District Headquarters.



SHS seniors win Young Artists awards PAGE 3  
Athletes commit to future teams PAGE 4

# 7 Bethpage seniors commit to play college lacrosse

Seven Bethpage High School student-athletes from the Class of 2026 celebrated their college commitments during a signing ceremony on Nov. 12, surrounded by proud administrators, coaches and family members.

The ceremony honored the following seniors as they prepare to continue their athletic and academic careers at the collegiate level: Christian Edwards (Mercy College), James LiPetri (Molloy University), Grace Miller (Loyola University), Caroline O'Connell (Stevens Institute of Technology), Chase Solliday (Long Island University), Joseph Traversa (Mercy College) and Luke Wexer (Bryant University). All seven students will play lacrosse for their respective colleges.

The commitments reflect the dedication these student-athletes have shown both on the field and in the classroom throughout their high school careers.



Seven Bethpage High School student-athletes from the Class of 2026 celebrated their college commitments during a signing ceremony on Nov. 12.

Photo courtesy of Bethpage UFSD.

## Hicksville school hosts innovative author's celebration

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Frances Blaney, one of the fifth grade teachers involved with the special day, said the students worked diligently to speak clearly and use an appropriate pace when recording their digital stories.

"We used a recording website and QR codes were created for each student's story so they'd be more enjoyable for the listener," said Blaney. "They displayed their stories alongside a title and illustration of their work and then parents were invited to join them

for a silent writing session, where they had the opportunity to listen to each student's writing."

Julie Covelli, another fifth grade teacher involved in the writing program, said the students gleaned story ideas from real life experiences and spent several weeks putting their story ideas into words.

"Throughout the unit, students practiced writing dialogue to show character thoughts and feelings, added vivid details to help readers picture events clearly, and experimented with interesting openings to hook the reader's attention," said Covelli. "They also spent time editing and

revising their work, focusing on clarity, organization, and strong word choice. By the end of the unit, students demonstrated growth as writers by transforming rough drafts into polished personal narratives they could be proud of."

Diana O'Neill, a fifth grade teacher, said the culmination of the day ended with students and parents working together on a craft as a bonding activity.

"After all of the stories were shared, parents and students participated in crafts and word-game activities to create a fun and meaningful experience and end the day on a high note," said O'Neill.



Burns Avenue Elementary students welcomed family members and guests to hear their original writing.

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### NASSAU COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Formation of BAYES ATLAS, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/2/2025. Office loc.: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The registered agent and address SSNY shall mail process to Corporate Service Bureau Inc., 283 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12206. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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is something our entire team looks forward to every year," said PWD Commissioner Andrew Bader. "It's a simple yet powerful way for us and our neighbors to make a mean-

ingful difference. We're so proud to see how strongly the POB community rallies behind causes like this."

Since beginning its partnership with Toys for Tots several years ago, the District and its residents have donated hun-

dreds of toys to help ensure that every child experiences the magic of the holiday season.

"This drive is a wonderful reminder of what community is all about," said PWD Commissioner Michael Chad. "We

thank everyone who took the time to drop off a toy and help make this year's effort such a success. It's a privilege to serve a community that continually shows such kindness and spirit."

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