

St. Rocco's hosts 82nd feast & festival

By PETE FONTAINE

One of Rhode Island's longest standing traditions will make its 82nd annual appearance this weekend in Johnston.

It's called the St. Rocco's Feast and Festival which will officially open Thursday, Aug. 18, at 6 p.m. on the grounds behind the Roman Catholic church at 927 Atwood Ave. The feast will run through Sunday, Aug. 21 at approximately 10 p.m. after tickets for a total of \$7,500 in cash prizes have been drawn.

"We'll be rolling out our welcome mat for visitors to come and enjoy the finest in Italian cooking," said Richard Montella, who is serving as co-chairman for the 15th consecutive year. "We pride ourselves on serving only the freshest homemade food. Our signature item is, of course, our delicious doughboy donated by the Original Italian Bakery."

Montella, who noted the feast is presented annually by the Holy Name

FESTIVAL FOLKS:

Rev. Angelo Carusi is joined by St. Rocco's Feast and Festival Co-chair Richard Montella, Sisters Donna, Mary Antoinette and Daisy along with Carol Blanchard outside the St. Francis Garden that is decorated with American and Italian flags in honor of this weekend's 82nd annual fun and food fest.



FEAST - PAGE 13



Break's over

BACK TO WORK: The Johnston football team got back to work this week as practices officially started on Monday. The Panthers have reached the Division III playoffs the past two seasons and are looking to return in 2022 with a young roster. For the full story, turn to Page 15.

As the mercury dips, power bills will soar

RI Energy requests big jump in electric rates

By RORY SCHULER

The Ocean State's new power company issued a warning to customers: "Rhode Island Energy Encourages Customers to Prepare Now for Significantly Higher Winter Electricity Supply Prices."

The headline topped a press release from the company, issued on July 21.

"Despite summer rates being the lowest in years, escalating costs of natural gas will have major impact on electricity supply prices starting Oct. 1," according to the press release. "While most Rhode Islanders use less electricity in the winter months, they likely won't see a decrease in their monthly electric bills this winter as they may have noticed in the past."

Pennsylvania power company PPL (formerly known as Pennsylvania Power & Light) acquired the Narragansett Electric Company earlier this year. The newly formed Rhode Island Energy provides power to more than 94 percent of Ocean State electricity customers.

The company has been testifying before the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (RIDPUC) in public hearings, requesting "temporary winter supply" rate increases, to take effect Oct. 1 through March 31, 2023.

"Last year's LRS winter rate for the average residential customer was 10.88¢/kWh," according to RI Energy. "The new rates for the upcoming winter season, if approved by the Commission, will be 17.785¢/kWh for residential customers, up from the summer rate of 7.810¢/kWh. For small business customers, the new proposed rate would be 18.279¢/kWh, up from the summer rate of 8.047¢/kWh. A residential customer who is receiving LRS — and paying the new rate — will see the price of their



STATE HELP? Gov. Dan McKee attended a Warwick Rotary Club luncheon last Thursday, and fielded a question from a member regarding soaring winter electric rates. He promised help was on the way. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

POWER - PAGE 9

Scituate

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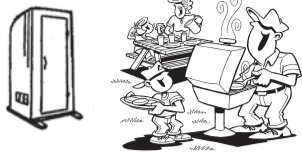
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The 4 D's



TALENTED TROUPE: Classic Blend – Ron Giorgio, Ron Iacobucci, Peter Goneconte, Jack Mento and Maria Russo – put on an outstanding performance during Saturday night's Johnston Democratic Town Committee fundraiser. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

Dinner, Doo Wop, Dems & Dancing

By PETE FONTAINE

Dinner, doo wop, Dems and dancing! As the invitation-style ticket read: (the) Johnston Democratic Town Committee (JDTC) presents A Night Down Memory Lane with Rhode Island's premier Doo Wop Group Classic Blend and music by disc jockey Vito Giorgio."

It all happened Saturday night inside the storied Santa Maria Di Prata Society off Walnut Grove Avenue in Cranston and was designated as the JDTC's major fundraiser for the upcoming 2022 election.

Following a welcome greeting from JDTC Chairman Richard J. DelFino Jr. — who along with his wife Deb were congratulated in honor of their 39th anniversary — Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena said it best declaring: "I'm very proud of all our elected officials; we're all Democrats here for this special night."

A night, in fact, that may have been the JDTC's all-time best-and most successful fundraiser that included handshakes and hugs, testimonials and tributes, a delicious family style dinner prepared and served by Ralph's Catering, highlighted by the super sounds and singing of Ron Giorgio, Ron Iacobucci, Peter Goneconte, Jack Mento and Maria Russo.

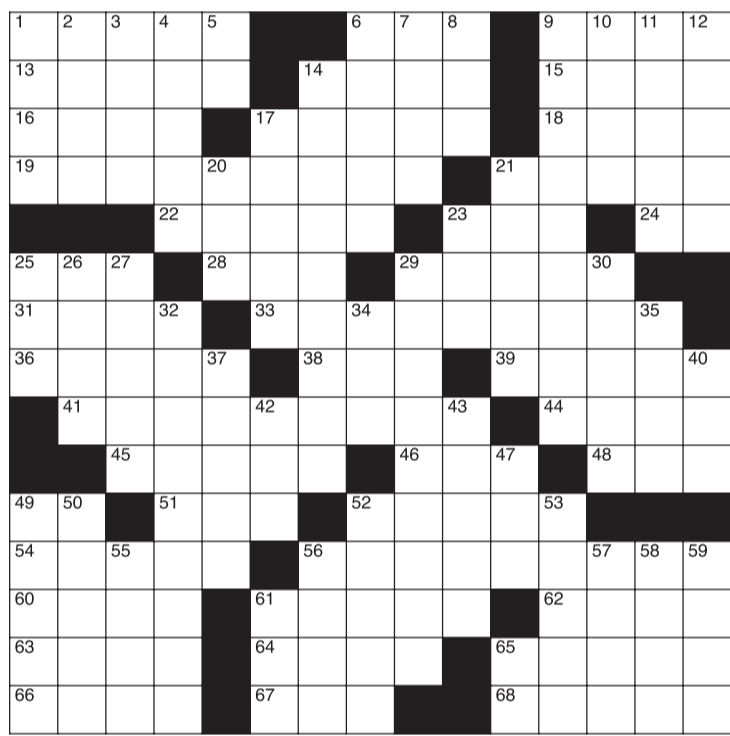
From the time Classic Blend began the first of two impressive sets, the sold-out gathering of 130 people was singing from their seats and filled much of the dance floor as the multi-talented Giorgio mused "going cheek-to-cheek with the partners just like the days of old."

DOO WOP - PAGE 4



MILESTONE MEMORIES: Deb and Richard DelFino were toasted Saturday night during the JDTC's fantastic fundraiser in honor of their 39th anniversary.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

- Influential Swedish, Belgian clan
- Swiss river
- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Like coagulated milk
- Lima is its capital
- Lying down
- Jai ____, sport
- Egyptian statesman
- Napoleon Dynamite's uncle
- Renovated
- Chadic language
- 18-year period
- Beverage container
- Natural logarithm
- The "mecca" of basketball
- A way to darken
- Mackerels
- Actor Pitt
- Places to buy seafood
- True firs
- Neither
- Fencing sword
- Italian pastas
- Island nation close to the U.S.
- Begets
- Resembles a pouch
- ____ student, learns healing
- Sodium

CLUES DOWN

- Mark left behind
- Cry weakly
- Ancient region in modern Syria
- Farewell
- Blue grass state
- Genus of mosquitoes
- S. Israeli city
- You can get stuck in one
- One who mistrusts others unjustifiably
- First month of ancient Hebrew calendar
- Tigers legend Fielder
- Make more attractive

- Horses
- Slight projection in typefaces
- Male parent
- Jack and Jill are two
- After B
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Missile with about 600-mile range
- Goddesses
- A day kids love
- Oily secretion
- One-tenth of a meter
- A father's male child
- One point east of southeast
- Silk garments
- Cool!
- The color of anger
- Trade profession
- It can get you around
- Mother-of-pearl
- Hurt
- Legendary slugger Hank
- Polio vaccine developer
- Incline from vertical
- Sea creature
- Actress Kate
- Affirmative votes
- Nothing
- Pie ____ mode
- Expresses surprise

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2022 Rosario Society Bocci Team keeps the tape measure handy

GOTCCI SOME BOCCI? From left to right, the 2022 Rosario Society Bocci Team: Joe Scichilone, John Almagno Jr., Jason Patrone, Richard Voccio, Chris Bessette, John Almagno and Louis Spremulli.

**By Louis Spremulli
Special to the Sun Rise**

This is the seven-man Rosario Bocci Team, coached by John Almagno. The team has come a long way since the beginning of the season. The team home court is at the Rosario Society in Providence, but trav-

els to different venues. They play on Wednesday or Thursday Nights under the lights. You will hear calls like "roll-in, hit, slow, hard, one bank," and the tape measure may come out. The court requires a special surface and preparation with water, broom and roller work before every game. Still there will be divots once

play begins. The Rhode Island Bocci League plays under very strict rules and all teams are very proud of their play. There are two divisions, North and South, and they even have an all-star game. This year's all-star game was played at the Prata Society in Cranston. Most of the players live in John-

ston, and this is a good example of Italian Heritage being kept alive through a community event, which brings out the importance of having a fun and competitive play. **Editor's Note:** Louis Spremulli, a Johnston resident, will provide occasional Rhode Island bocci play updates from the courts in and around Johnston and Cranston.

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Franka2002@outlook.com

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

- Lifelong resident of Providence
- Proud dad of Carla Ciccone
- Attended Bryant University
- Attended Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiations
- Attended National Labor & Management Conferences

EXPERIENCE

- Elected State Senator, 2002
- Chairman, Senate Committee on Labor
- Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Former, Chairman Senate Committee on Housing & Municipal Government
- Former Business Manager, Local Union 808 Laborers' International Union
- Former Field Representative & President RI Laborers' District Council
- FORMER EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, RI SUPREME COURT

IN THE COMMUNITY

- Life Member, Disabled American Veterans
- Member, American Legion
- Past National & Judge Advocate, Italian American War Veterans
- Trustee, Piave Lodge Sons and Daughters of Italy
- Treasurer, Rosario Society
- Member, Santa Maria Di Prata, Calabrese Society & St. Mary's Feast Society

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FANTASTIC FUN: Saturday night's sold out Johnston Democratic Town Committee fundraiser featured dinner, doo wop, Dems and dancing inside the Santa Marias Di Prat Society in Cranston. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

■ Doo Wop
(Continued from page 2)

"This group is absolutely fantastic," exclaimed Steve "Sheik" Mul-lane, who along with his wonderful wife Dottie have followed Classic Blend through the years. "Just listen to their harmony; even their choreography is classical."

To which Vin Palumbo, who along with his wife Ellie who will celebrate their 55th anniversary next year, added: "Classic Blend has offered entertainment at its best for many years."

Saturday night's "super show" featured a Motown Medley of the Temptations greatest all-time hits, special songs by the Duprees, Capris, Jimmy Beaumont & The Skyliners, Dion & The Belmonts, Del Vikings and The Five Satins just to name few.

There were also two terrific tributes during the night.

The first came when Giorgio issued a heart-warming "thank you" to his former school nurse - a.k.a.

Polisena's wonderful wife Lucy - who was all smiles and obviously very touched by his kind and compassionate words when he recanted his younger years and issued a "HUGE THANK YOU LUCY for all you did for me."

The second tribute came when Classic Blend sang the iconic sounds of Mister Lonely which was made famous a group named The Videls (of Charles Street in Providence fame) - namely, Vin Poncia, Peter Andreoli, Bobby Calitri and Norman Marzano - who went to the Big Apple where they became known as The Tradewinds and recorded a huge hit titled "New York's A Lonely Town."

"This was a great night," DelFino assessed. "Everyone loved Classic Blend's Doo Wop sound and the opportunity to get up and dance. Some people even left their (chocolate covered vanilla ice cream) dessert and stayed on the dance floor. We'll be looking to doing more of this type of event in the near future."



LINKED LEADERS: Mayor Joseph Polisena is all smiles and joined by Councilwoman Linda Folcarelli, JDTC Fundraiser Co-chairs Fred Iafate and Bob LaFazia and party chairman Richard DelFino during Saturday's special event.

SUN RISE SCOOPS

By Meri R. Kennedy and Rory Schuler

Matt and Grace Golf Tournament

There are still spots open in the Fifth Annual Race for Matt and Grace Golf Tournament, scheduled for Friday, Aug. 19, at the Connecticut National Golf Course.

The tournament will start at noon with registration and lunch, and a 1 p.m. shotgun. Last year's event raised approximately \$16,000 (after expenses) for the fight against Friedrich's ataxia (FA).

Men's, women's and co-ed divisions cost \$140 per player. Memorial Tee Signs cost \$65, and Tee Sponsor signs cost \$85. Your organization can become a Major Sponsor for \$500. Visit www.RFMGGolf.com to register for golf, become a sponsor, purchase tee signs or make a donation.

Email RFMGGolf@gmail.com for more information or with questions.

All funds raised benefit the Friedrich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) and the tournament will be held annually in honor of its late namesake, Johnston resident Matthew DiIorio, who died on July Fourth, 2021, after living with the disease since 1994.

More information on FA can be found at www.curefa.org/rfm (checks to FARA may be mailed to 533 W. Uwchlan Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335; reference RFMG).

Senior Center Picnic

The Johnston Senior Center is hosting a JSC member picnic at Johnston Memorial Park on Friday, Aug. 19, from 12-2 p.m. All Johnston Senior Center members are invited.

At the Johnston Senior Center, all exercise classes have resumed, and new classes have been added too. Call the center for information.

If you need any help with heating, housing, etc., during this cold winter or humidity or any other time, contact the Johnston Senior Center Social Services Department by calling 944-3343. Madeline or Amy will be happy to help you.

Celebrate Mr. Potato Head's 70th B-day

Join Garden City Center for a Mr. Potato Head's 70th birthday party on Aug. 26 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Kids can enjoy life-size toys and games, write a birthday card for Mr. Potato Head and enjoy snacks. Around 7:30 p.m. there will be a showing of Toy Story – the center recommends bringing a lawn chair or blanket. Be one of the first 250 kids to register for this event and get a potato head toy with your ticket. Select "Tater Tot Ticket" at checkout. Tickets cost \$5 per child (adults free). 100 percent of ticket sales benefit The Tomorrow Register here: www.gardencitycenter.com/event/mr-potato-heads-70th-birthday-party/.

Greek Festival

The Church of the Annunciation will hold its Greek Festival from Sept. 9 to Sept. 11. There will be authentic Greek food, Greek music and dancing and Odyssey Dance Troupe performances. There is free admission and the event will take place at 175 Oaklawn Ave. The festival will be open the following days/times: Friday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday from noon to 10 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 8 p.m. Additionally, there will be free shuttle buses running from Cranston West.

Volunteer Opportunity

Friends Way invites caring, sensitive and committed individuals to take advantage of the organization's volunteer opportunities. Approximately 15 volunteers come together each group night to work with the grieving children, teens and adults.

Facilitators work with a specific group of children, teens or adults by helping them safely and openly express their feelings of grief through age-appropriate activities using the expressive arts. Hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. every other week on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings. Professional training is provided. Friends Way asks for a commitment of one year and eight hours a month. The dates include Aug. 29, 31, Sept. 6, 10 and 13. Interested applicants should contact Ryan Loiselle at 401-921-0980. All trainings occur at 765 West Shore Road, Warwick. Meals are provided, a background check is required and the Covid vaccine is required.

Youth Waterfowl Training and Mentored Hunt

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is teaming up with Rhode Island's chapters of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and Ducks Unlimited, GottaQ SmokeHouse BBQ, and other partners to announce the eighth annual Youth Waterfowl Training and Mentored Hunt this fall. Youths ages 12 to 15 who have completed a Hunter Education Class are invited to register. Space is limited and applications are due on Aug. 25.

"Providing opportunities for Rhode Islanders to gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence necessary to be legal, ethical hunters is in direct alignment with our DEM's mission and wildlife conservation," said DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife Hunter Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation Specialist Dan Lehman. "Hunting benefits conservation in many ways from providing funding to providing an avenue to eat locally and sustainably, to fostering a sense of respect, responsibility, and stewardship for our wildlife and habitat. Programs like the youth mentored hunt create positive hunting experiences for kids, while teaching individuals and their families the importance of sustainability, firearm safety, conservation, and outdoor ethics."

This multi-day event includes training and cookout for youth and their parents and a mentored hunt. The training and cookout, on Sun., October 2, will include a barbeque lunch and will prepare the young hunters by providing an overview of hunting rules and regulations, firearm safety, and waterfowl identification. Participants will also have an opportunity to shoot clay targets during the training. Clay targets, safety gear, and 12- and 20-gauge ammunition will be provided by DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) during the training.

During the waterfowl hunt, on Saturday, Oct. 29, participants will be paired with experienced mentors and partake in a mentored youth waterfowl hunt on Sat., October 29, followed by breakfast and a demonstration of proper field dressing techniques. A current R.I. hunting license and Harvest Information Program (HIP) permit are required for participation. Youth waterfowl hunting days are Oct. 29-30 and provide an opportunity for youth hunters ages 12 to 15 to hunt ducks and geese. Youth hunters are required to possess a current Rhode Island hunting license and HIP permit. Parents or guardians assisting youths are prohibited from possessing a firearm and hunting during the youth waterfowl hunting days.

In addition to the application, applicants are required to submit a writing assignment focused on the importance of being a youth leader and role model. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance into the program in September. For further details and to apply, visit www.dem.ri.gov/waterfowl.

Hunters pay more for wildlife conservation than any other user group in the United States. In Rhode Island, hunters and anglers purchase around 70,000 licenses, permits, stamps, and tags each year and contribute more than \$235 million to Rhode Island's economy. A critical source of funding, these monies are leveraged to match federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program dollars that support outdoor recreational opportunities for fishing, hunting, and boating in Rhode Island. In addition to funding programs like the Youth Waterfowl Mentored Hunt, these funds allow DEM to acquire and protect many of Rhode Island's Wildlife Management Areas, study local species, and educate the public on the importance of conservation and stewardship in the state.

Hunter education is offered as part of the DEM's DFW Hunter Education Program. Safety training is required by law in Rhode Island for beginning hunters. To date, more than 40,000 people have completed a hunter safety course in Rhode Island, helping to reduce related accidents in the state and elsewhere. A complete schedule of hunter educational offerings is available on our website.

More information about Rhode Island's hunting and fishing licensing system is available at www.dem.ri.gov/huntfish. The site also acts as a portal to help plan adventures that make the most of Rhode Island's great outdoors. The site links to information on hunting and fishing opportunities, trails, and natural areas through a variety of maps, as well as certification information for hunter safety and boating safety.

For more information on DEM programs and initiatives, visit www.dem.ri.gov. Follow DEM on Facebook, Twitter (@RhodeIsland-DEM), or Instagram (@rhodeisland.dem) for timely updates.

Holidaze Harvest Bazaar & Craft Fair

The Holidaze Harvest Bazaar & Craft Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30, at Our Lady of Grace Church, 15 George Waterman Road in Johnston.

Events will include the "Penny Social, Food, Raffles, Sweet Treats, Crafts & More," according to organizers, who are also "calling all Vendors/Crafters." For additional information call Patricia Leoncavallo at 401-529-7592.

OSDRI Needs Volunteers

The message atop a recent Operation Stand Down RI (OSDRI) bulletin sounded the alarm: "We need your help!"

OSDRI needs volunteers for a number of different roles for their Veteran Assistance Event on Sept. 15 and 16.

If you have any questions please contact 401-383-4730 or osdri@osdri.org.

OSDRI is located at 1010 Hartford Ave. in Johnston.

Local organizations can sponsor an OSDRI Tent at the event.

Sponsorship Benefits, following a \$250 contribution, sponsors a service provider tent at the event. The "business name & logo featured on a service provider tent and the event banner; seen by veterans, volunteers, service providers, and community officials," according to organizers.

"Make a difference in the lives of hundreds of veterans!"

E-mail with a high-quality company logo to sponsorships@osdri.org no later than Monday, Sept. 5.



Watch Your MOUTH

by Rochelle Rhodes, D.M.D. and David McFarland, D.D.S.

SMILE MAKEOVERS

There are more ways to improve your smile than whitening your teeth or getting implants. In addition to daily brushing and flossing and regular dental checkups, there are several treatment options to improve your smile. Crowns can cover discolored or misshapen teeth as well as fix broken teeth and protect weak ones. Veneers are thin shells designed to cover the fronts of teeth and look just like natural teeth. Bonding can also create the look and feel of healthy teeth. By "bonding" natural materials to enamel and dentin, a dentist can improve both the appearance and structure of teeth. Orthodontic work isn't just for kids anymore and provides an option for fixing the look of crooked or crowded teeth.

If you've looked at yourself in the mirror and wished

you liked your smile more, why not make a change for the better? Teeth can be bonded, veneered, crowned, and whitened and their appearance improved by several methods of cosmetic dentistry. In fact, it is truly amazing what can be accomplished in a short time that can enhance your appearance for the rest of your life. Comprehensive, quality, gentle dental care for patients of all ages is available here at DENTAL ARTS GROUP, 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston. And new patients are always welcome—call 401-521-3661 for an appointment. Most insurance plans accepted.

P.S. Limiting the amount of sugary and starchy foods in your diet will reduce the acid levels in your mouth, protecting both tooth enamel and color.

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SUN RISE SCOOPS

■ Scoops

(Continued from page 5)

Call for Artists

The RI State Arts Council has announced a "Call for Artists" for the galleries at Block Island Airport and GREEN SPACE at Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport. The deadline for submissions is 11:59 p.m., Oct. 10.

The RI State Council on the Arts (RISCA) is accepting applications for artists for 2023 exhibitions at the two galleries, which are a partnership with the RI Airport Corporation (RI-AC).

The "Call for Artists" will consider artists who work in all media and applicants must be Rhode Island residents, but "no students, please."

The GREEN SPACE Gallery includes several large walls and open spaces that are suitable for large-scale works. The gallery selects nine artists to exhibit in three group shows per year. The Block Island Airport Gallery is best suited for smaller scale works and hosts single artist exhibitions, four times per year.

"GREEN SPACE and the Block Island Airport Gallery provide Rhode Island artists the opportunity to share their work with an ever-changing audience of local, national and international travelers," said Lynne McCormack, Executive Director of RISCA, "RISCA is pleased to continue this important partnership with RIAC, promoting outstanding work by artists living and working in the Ocean State."

The selection of artists will be by a review panel, which will include practicing artists, arts professionals and community members. Artists included in the 2023 exhibitions will receive a \$300 stipend for participating in the program.

Artists who have exhibited previously at one of the galleries are ineligible for new consideration for a period of two years. RISCA encourages artists who have applied in the past and have not been selected to apply again.

If selected, artists agree to suitably frame, wire or otherwise prepare their artwork for display at their own expense. Artwork is hung at gallery coordinator's discretion, and gallery coordinator reserves the right of final selection of artwork and approval of installation. Artwork is not insured by the galleries during exhibition; artists are encouraged to carry their own insurance. Artwork may be listed for sale if desired, and any sales are direct without commission to the galleries.

To apply, follow these links:
TF Green Greenspace Gallery: <https://forms.gle/BUVB->

1knCDVRqLQZy8

Block Island: <https://forms.gle/wXn2F7CTDEz9Srqr8>

Read more: <https://risca.on-line/resources/airport-galleries/>

Free Canoe Rides

From 4-6 p.m., Thursdays in August, the public is invited to take free canoe rides on the Woonasquatucket River.

The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council is once again offering free canoe rides on the Woonasquatucket River in Providence on Thursday evenings from 4-6 p.m. throughout July and August. Meet at the Fish ladder at Riverside Park, 50 Aleppo St., Providence. On-site registration is required for adults and children, and all ages are welcome.

The WRWC's experienced paddle team will guide participants up and down the river for about a 10-minute loop, where you will likely see painted turtles basking on the banks and red-winged black birds flying ahead on this surprisingly peaceful stretch of the river.

Paddles and life jackets are provided by the organization. Participants must sign a waiver and wear a life jacket in order to ride. All youth must be accompanied to the launch site by a parent or guardian.

This Community Canoe Program is made possible thanks to the generous support of AARP RI and REI COOP.

School Supply Drive

"Kids, Cops & Classrooms" has launched its 2022 School Supply Drive.

Rhode Island state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies are working together to collect donations of new backpacks and school supplies for Rhode Island school children through the Kids, Cops and Classrooms program.

The Rhode Island State Police, the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association, the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Rhode Island will accept donations at State Police barracks, local police departments, Cardi's Furniture & Mattresses locations, and other offices across the state. Donations will be distributed to local agencies that work with disadvantaged families throughout the state.

These are some of the supplies being sought through the Kids, Cops, and Classrooms program:

- Backpacks – small, medium, and large
- #2 pencils
- Pens
- Pencil box
- Box of crayons
- Spiral notebooks
- 3-Ring binder (1, 1 ½, 2

inches)

- Subject dividers
- Book Covers
- Index cards
- Pencil sharpener
- Assignment book/weekly planner

• Ruler (marked in inches and centimeters)

- Protractor
- Compass
- Scientific calculator
- Calculator
- Dictionary (pocket size)
- Thesaurus (pocket size)
- Mini-stapler and staples
- USB Flash Drive
- Facial tissues
- Antibacterial hand sanitizer
- Box of colored pencils
- Box of washable markers
- Highlighters
- Watercolor paint set
- Pad of coloring paper
- Large pink erasers
- Glue sticks
- Bottle of glue (Elmer's type)
- Safety scissors
- Two-pocket folders
- Composition book
- Wide-rule loose-leaf paper
- Graph paper

Donations can be brought to any State Police barracks, local police departments and any Cardi's Furniture & Mattresses locations. They will be given to the following agencies for distribution to families: Crossroads Rhode Island; Family Service of Rhode Island; Wiggin Village; Children's Friend; the Hispanic Ministerial Association of Rhode Island; Multi-Service Center for All; African Alliance; Mount Hope Neighborhood Association; Chad Brown Alumni Association; and the Center for Southeast Asians.

JHS Class of '82 Reunion

The Johnston High School Class of 1982 will hold its 40th Reunion on Oct. 28 at the Alpine Country Club. For more information, email johnston-class82@gmail.com.

CHSE Class of '65 Reunion

Join the Cranston High School East Class of 65 for a belated 55th reunion on Sept. 17 at the Radisson Hotel (2081 Post Road, Warwick), from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Join the class for dinner, dancing and seeing old friends. Tickets are \$65 per person. For more information contact michaeljsepe@yahoo.com.

More at Mohr Library

Ice Cream Scavenger Hunt — the library will have a special end-of-summer scavenger hunt with a tasty surprise for all children who finish it. It will start on Aug. 18 and continue while supplies last.

The next storytime session will start in mid-September.

Drop-In activities this month include Legos on Tuesdays and crafts on Fridays and Mondays.

Want to run your own book

club? The library can supply you with a bag of five copies of "Fly Girl," the new memoir by bestselling author and Rhode Island resident Ann Hood, or Anne Tyler's new novel, "French Braid."

These books and the statewide Rhode Island Summer Reading Program are supported by the RI Office of Library and Information Services with funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Local support includes The Friends of Mohr Library, Tri-County HEZ and generous gifts in Memory of Andrew Greene.

Mohr Library offers on-the-spot computer help and can schedule longer sessions for individuals needing more help. Librarians can also help you find classes at other locations. They can help you find electronic books and journals, career and testing guides, self-improvement media and more.

Mohr Library offers use of computers, printers and scanners. The library staff will send faxes for \$1 a page, and have a free Notary service evenings and Saturday mornings (call ahead).

The library's bookdrop is back in service. The book sale happens every day.

Mohr Library posts hours, services and programs at mohrlibrary.org, where you can also sign up for updates. If you don't get them electronically, they'll mail you a newsletter. Mohr Library is at 1 Memorial Ave. in Johnston (phone 401-231-4980).

The Library is closed Saturdays until after Labor Day.

Johnston Parks & Rec Reminder

Just a general reminder to please follow all park rules, especially no smoking and no dogs are allowed at Johnston Memorial Park.

Rec department staff has "noticed an abundance of cigarette butts and dogs recently" and they are asking the public for help keeping the park clean. Signs with the complete list of park rules are posted at each entrance.

Dogs are allowed in the nature trail across the street from the parking lot. No smoking or tobacco use on park grounds. No bikes, scooters, skateboard, etc. are allowed on the walking track that surrounds the pond. They may be used on the center path of the park, Please do not feed the ducks, birds, or any wildlife.

Please keep the park clean by using the available trash barrels. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages are permitted on town property. No vehicles allowed in the park. No swimming or boating in the pond; No open flames or charcoal

grills. Gas grills are permitted. Fireplace use is prohibited. For your safety, please do not climb trees or fences. The park closes at 10 p.m. No overnight parking. No foul language or loud music. Field use is by permit only.

Also, please be mindful of parking. Please display a handicap placard if you park in a handicap space. The area behind the office is reserved for employees. If you have any questions, please call 401-272-3460.

Apple Fest Scheduled

The 34th Annual Apple Festival has been scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 10 and Sunday, Sept. 11. The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

The event will be held at the Johnston Memorial Park — 1583 Hartford Ave. in Johnston. Register: members.nrichamber.com/.../the-34th-annual-apple.

The annual Apple Festival has been called by many a "Time-Honored Community Tradition & Fun for Everyone." As always, this year's fest will feature its "Artisan Row" — filled with beautiful handcrafted items, Pony Rides, and more.

The Annual Apple Festival will run for two days at Johnston Memorial Park, 1583 Hartford Ave. The event is free and open to the Public.

Johnston Historical Society General Meetings

For July and August, a Summer Hiatus will begin, as Executive Board meetings and General meetings are suspended for the summer. Have fun everyone!

To see photos of past events, visit the Johnston Historical Society Facebook page at www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical.

The Johnston Historical Society's Elijah Angell House continues to be open by appointment — the society always welcomes visits by interested individuals or groups. Just shoot them an email at johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com, or leave a message at 401-231-3380 to set one up.

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at the Johnston Historical Society Museum Barn, 101 Putnam Pike, Johnston, and are free and open to the public. Events are subject to change. For more information, call 401-231-3380.

Contact the Johnston Historical Society at 231-3380 or at johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com, www.johnstonhistorical.org or www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical.

■ SCOOPS - PAGE 8

Helping Local Businesses Thrive & Survive

Thank You



Atwood Florist, Inc.

for your continued loyalty



Call us at 732-3100 to advertise your business

Opinion

EDITORIAL

One lesson learned, one ignored

Another summer is flying by and parents are surely already looking ahead to the start of school a few weeks from now.

Compared to last autumn and the spring of 2020, there is certainly a more palpable feeling of optimism that Covid will not create the same degree of disruption and chaos for our schools. Adults and children alike are hardened pandemic warriors at this point — battle tested and equipped with the knowledge and reflexes to respond effectively when the disease rears its ugly head.

This familiarity certainly bodes well for students and teachers when it comes to offering the best opportunity for positive educational outcomes: in-person learning. Although our ability to pivot and offer remote learning options during the height of the outbreaks of the past was admirable — and students, teachers, and administrators really do deserve a heap of credit for adjusting on the fly in the midst of such an unprecedented and complex crisis — the data and anecdotal evidence has made it very clear that there is no substitute for students being in school, learning and forming social skills with their peers.

In this sense, getting back to a more “normal” rhythm, where Covid is a closely-watched and respected threat, but not an immediate cause for panic or alarm when a positive case pops up, is a positive adaptation in our collective societal evolution. We certainly wish there was a way to go back in time and nip this virus in the bud when it first began spreading, but perhaps this is the best we can do considering the circumstances.

What we are not excited about going back to “normal”, however, is the return of the three-tiered system of providing school meals to our children. Through government policy during an unprecedented moment of need, all school lunches have been provided at no cost, with no paperwork necessary for kids to get a healthy, filling meal that fuels their day of learning and could be one of the only good meals they get all day.

That free ride ended on June 30, and students will be back to their segregated categories of either paying for lunch, getting reduced price lunch, or getting free lunch if they demonstrate enough need.

Just as our experience has solidified that in-person learning is the only effective way forward for student instruction, so too have we learned just how beneficial providing free school lunch (and breakfast, for that matter), to every student, regardless of their parent’s economic status, truly has been.

We find it a bit maddening that such a radical shift in how we provide school lunch to kids — brought on by a moment of sheer, undeniable need — could be carried out so easily, so effectively, and with so little fanfare, only for us to immediately revert to the old, wholly inferior status quo once the federal government said ‘You don’t have to do that anymore.’

We should do it indefinitely, no questions asked. Politicians love to talk about how important children are to our future, so it only follows that they should advocate for a lasting investment in their education by providing guaranteed nourishment that does not require them and their family to be outed as economically disadvantaged.

We all agree kids should stay in school to learn, so why is it a matter of debate whether we should just foot the bill to feed them while they’re present?

The House Minority Leader pops into town!



LETTERS

‘I am seeking re-election for the office of State Rep.’

Constituents of District 43:

I’m writing to inform you that I am seeking re-election for the office of State Representative and have received the endorsement of my Representative Committee. During the most recent legislative session, I sponsored Ryan’s Law targeting reckless prescription practices which would increase fines to help ease the opioid epidemic. I’ve also introduced legislation that advocates for the families of the developmentally disabled community. I supported the budget which provides tax relief eliminating the car tax and eliminated taxes on veterans’ pensions.

I am proud to say that this 8th term of mine has been one of the most productive. I was able to continue advocating for my constituents, many who are teachers, senior citizens and front-line workers. During the pandemic, we’ve had to overcome many challenges and I’m happy I’ve been able to lend support for small business owners and those who needed assistance with unemployment services. Locally, I’ve provided grants to the Johnston Historical Society, JHS Music and Arts Departments, and the Tenant Association of Johnston Housing Authority.

If re-elected, I hope to work with the new General Treasurer on finding ways to help those retirees who were impacted by the state pension reform. In 2011 I voted NO on the pension reform bill but because the

bill did pass, it has affected the lives of many hard-working people and their retirement. I also plan to introduce legislation to eliminate the VIN checks that were abolished during the pandemic. In my role as State Representative, it’s my job to assist you, the residents of Johnston with any concerns, issues, or questions you may have and make sure the matter is addressed efficiently as possible and if re-elected in November I am committed to continue doing just that.

In the House of Representatives, I serve as Senior Deputy Majority Leader, second vice chair of the House Conduct Committee, and am a member of the House Labor Committee, the House Oversight Committee, and the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

Don’t forget to vote on September 13th and November 8th. Feel free to reach me at 401-470-3924 or repdfellela43@aol.com.

Deborah A. Fellela, Johnston

EDITOR’S NOTE: If you’re running for office in Johnston, send us your photo and your declaration speech. We pledge to provide even coverage to all candidates seeking local office. We also encourage letters to the editor by candidates on a variety of topics, including campaign platforms. Send photos, speeches and letters to Johnston Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler at rorys@rhodybeat.com.

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RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION:

Incumbent State Rep. Deborah A. Fellela, D - District 43 is so far, unopposed in the primary. She will likely face Republican Nicola Antonio Grasso in the General Election.



SUN RISE SCOOPS

■ Scoops

(Continued from page 6)

Neighborhood Watch

The 2022 season of Johnston's Neighborhood Watch has officially kicked off. This Neighborhood Watch brings together residents who want to make their neighborhood safer by working together with members of the police department. The program pairs residents with Johnston Police officers in an effort to open up communication, meet other neighbors and create partnerships that help build community resiliency.

Consider donating blood

The Rhode Island Blood Center is in need of blood donations. Individuals wishing to donate must book an appointment at the donation center; walk-ins are only accepted if safe distancing allows at the person's time of arrival.

Nearby areas to donate include The Shops at Greenwood, which is located at 615 Greenwich Ave., in Warwick. Sign up by visiting www.ribc.org.

Walk and Talk at Rocky Point

Come join the "Rocky Point Pacers" for a walk around Rocky Point every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9 a.m., weather permitting. They meet at the gate on Rocky Point Avenue. Get some sunshine and burn off some holiday pounds.

Prepare RI High School Internships Program

Calling all RI public high school juniors: The 2022 PrepareRI High school Internship Program is accepting applications to participate in on-site/in-person, PAID summer experiential learning internships with local employers across the state.

This program will help you earn, learn, and connect with employers across Rhode Island. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Visit www.skillsforri.com/prepareri for more information.

Comedy Course

If you've ever thought of giving stand-up comedy a

try, now's your chance. This \$200 Comedy Course kicks off Sept. 12 for six weeks in Warwick (except Columbus Day). The instructors are John Perrotta, Coleen Galvin Yaroshenko and Rockin' Joe Hebert. At the end of the course, you'll take the stage in our graduation show at Rhode Island's newest comedy hot spot, the Comedy Park in Cranston. They anticipate a full class, so sign up early by calling the Comedy Factory at 401-639-7726. www.comedyfactoryri.com, richof.org.

Family-to-Family Course

The Rhode Island chapter of the National Alliance (NAMI-RI) on Mental Illness is now accepting registration for their next virtual Family-to-Family course, which began Thursday, Aug. 11. This is a free, eight-session educational program for family, significant others and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program, which means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition. NAMI-Rhode Island's Family-to-Family course is taught by trained family members who have lived experience with a loved one, and includes presentations, discussions and interactive exercises.

For more information on the Family-to-Family curriculum and registration requirements, visit namirhodeisland.org or call 401-331-3060 or email beth@namirhodeisland.org.

Caregivers

Are you caring for someone with dementia who exhibits difficult to manage behaviors? You may be eligible to participate in a research study seeking advice and feedback from caregivers about what types of supports are needed. Enrolled participants will be compensated for their time. The study will take place (video call) through Rhode Island Hospital's Neuropsychology Program. If interested, contact the study coordinator Dr. Kim Chapman at 401-829-4310.

Exhibit of Commemorative Ceramics

Currently on display at Clouds Hill Museum in War-

wick is a collection of commemorative and souvenir ceramics. Intern Wren Joyrich has gathered dozens of pieces collected by the many generations of the family of Clouds Hill and created an exhibit for all to see. Call 401-884-9490 to arrange a time to tour — there is always something new.

Blackstone Valley's Operation Zap

Fifty years ago in September 1972, 10,000 volunteers lined the banks of the Blackstone River to remove tons of trash, appliances, furniture, even cars and a school bus from its banks; it became the largest one-day regional environmental clean-up in American history. Join the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative Aug. 27 to clean up and green up part of the Blackstone River Watershed and mobilize Project ZAP50. Learn more at zaphtheblackstone.com.

Homeless Animals Day

The Defenders of Animals in cooperation with the International Society for Animal Rights will hold a homeless animals day candlelight vigil at Governor Sprague Mansion on Aug. 20. The humane heroes award ceremony will take place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Charity Golf Tournament

Nico's Tree nonprofit will hold its fifth annual charity golf tournament on Sept. 25 at the Cranston Country Club (69 Burlingame Road, Cranston) to benefit the nonprofit. Join Nico's Tree for nine holes of golf for a great cause. After the game, enjoy a multi-course buffet dinner with dessert. Don't golf? Join the nonprofit after the tournament for Nico Tree's "Grow a Little Hope" dinner and raffle event for \$40. Registration deadline for golf and dinner is Sept. 19. For more information, call Dana Venteuolo at 401-241-5311 or Dennis Venteuolo at 401-261-3032.

Editor's Note: Send submissions to rorys@rhodybeat.com. Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and non-profit events. Email today and see your news in our column in the Johnston Sun Rise. Please include a daytime telephone number in case we require any further information.

LEGAL NOTICES

JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA Thursday, August 25th, 2022 at 6:30 PM Johnston Senior Center 1291 Hartford Avenue

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its monthly meeting on August 25th, 2022 at 6:30 pm, at Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue. All persons interested in the following proposals are requested to be present at this time. The assembly facilities are accessible to the handicapped. Persons requiring special accommodations shall call the Zoning Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (401)

231-4000 ext 4117. Persons utilizing TDD equipment may contact the Town through "Relay Rhode Island" at 1-800-745-6675. The agenda for the evening will be as follows, subject to change:

New Business

File 2022-14 – Petition of Maria & Paul Evangelista, Owner/Applicant for 131 Bishop Hill Rd, AP 43 Lot 378, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Dimensional Variance 340 Article III Table of Dimensional Regulations for a Detached Garage.

File 2022-15 – Petition of PCM Home Rental LLC, Owner/Applicant for Fountain Ave, AP 28 Lot 9,

zoned R-20. The petitioner is seeking a Dimensional Variance Table of Dimensional Regulations seeking a New Single Family Dwelling.

File 2022-16 – Petition of John Rosa, Owner/Applicant for 98 Greenville Ave, AP 16 Lot 353, zoned B-2. The petitioner is seeking a use variance for Commercial Storage of Vehicles- Dump Truck and Pickup Trucks.

NOTE: If a Case has not been called for a hearing by 10:30 p.m., the Board, at its discretion, may continue the Case to a subsequent or a special meeting. The Agenda and Minutes are available for review at ClerkBase on the

Town's web page or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Building Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.

Per order of the Zoning Board of Review
Thomas Lopardo, Chairman

8/11, 8/18, 8/25/22

PLANNING BOARD MEETING Tuesday September 6th, 2022; 6:00 P.M.

Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston, RI 02919

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

III. OLD BUSINESS

PB 20-44 – Mill Street Apartments – Public Meeting on a proposed conversion of a mill building to a 16-unit residential building. Located at 64 Mill Street AP 4 Lot 311 – Property is zoned – PD. Applicant: Geranskye Real Estate, LLC.

PB 22-18 – Advisory Opinion to the Town Council and Master Plan Review on the request for a Zone Change from R-40 to Planned District located at 198 Shun Pike AP 33 Lot 63. Applicant: Trinity Properties of RI, LLC – Contact Planning Dept prior to meeting as application may be continued

PB 22-21 – Balletto Condominiums – Public Meeting on a Preliminary Plan for a proposed 13 residential unit Major Land Development. Public Hearing was closed on May 3rd, 2022. Located at 280-282 Simmonsville Avenue AP 25 Lot 5 - Zoned: Planned Development. Applicant: Gary Balletto. - Contact Planning Dept prior to meeting as application may be continued

IV. NEW BUSINESS

PB 22-43 – Advisory Opinion – Ordinance 2022-10 – Solar Energy Systems –Amendment to Zoning Ordinance Use Table

PB 22-46 – Bootstrap Fertilizer – Public Hearing on a Site Plan Review for the leasing of 4,500 square foot building for manufacturing fertilizer located at 6 Sunnyside Avenue AP 13 Lot 401. Zoned I. Applicant: Bootstrap Compost, Inc.

PB 22-47 –Advisory Opinion to the Town Council on the Petition to purchase portion of land. AP 46/2 Lot 56. Applicant: Mohamad & Rhonda Sasa.

PB 22-48 – Meadowbrook Estates Phase III – Public Hearing on a proposed Master/Preliminary Plan for an 11 lot Major Subdivision located on Central Pike AP 43/4 Lot 90 (sublots 7-17). Zoned R40. Applicant: Meadowbrook Development.

PB 22-51 – Viti Plat – 7 Elmgrove Ave – Public Meeting on a proposed Final Plan for a 2 lot Minor Subdivision located at 7 Elmgrove Avenue AP 51 Lot 3. Zoned R40. Applicant: Alexandria Realty.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- The Planning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at ClerkBase on the Town's web page or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Planning Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.
- Items not heard by 9:30 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or a special meeting at the discretion of the Board.
- Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

8/18, 8/25, 9/1/22

Office of the Town Clerk
Town of Johnston
1385 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island 02919
(401) 351-6618

Notice is given pursuant to Rhode Island General Law § 3-5-17 that the Johnston Town Council, sitting as the Liquor Licensing Commission under Title 3 Chapter 5 of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended, shall hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, September 12th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Municipal Court Building, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the following application for a liquor license.

Applicant: Chansamone Choummaly
Business Name: Choummaly, LLC
d/b/a Bangkok Republik Sengduang, LLC
Transfer From: 1369 Hartford Avenue Johnston, RI 02919
Location: Class BV Full - Liquor License- Transfer

Remonstrants are entitled to be heard before the granting of the license.

Per Order:
Johnston Town Council
Robert V. Russo, Council President

Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two hours in advance of the meeting date.

8/18, 8/25/22



Request for Proposals Town of Johnston

Stair Tread Covering Johnston Police Department-Re-Bid

Town of Johnston is requesting bids for Stair Tread Covering- Police Department-Re-Bid. Bid specifications are available at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office located at 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 beginning August 18th, 2022 weekdays between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Specs are also available on the Town's website at www.townofjohnstonri.com. A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for **August 24th, 2022 at 11:00 am** at the Johnston Police Department located at 1651 Atwood Avenue, Johnston RI 02919. Sealed bids will be accepted until **10:00 am, August 31st, 2022** at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office at the above address and will be opened publicly at that time. The Town of Johnston reserves the right to reject any or all responses or parts thereof, to waive any informality in them, or accept any bid deemed in the best interest of the Town. The Town of Johnston will offer interpreters for the hearing impaired provided the request is at least three (3) days prior to scheduled bid opening by calling (401)553-8830.

Joseph Chiodo, CPA
Finance Director



Legal Notice Town of Johnston Adopted Ordinances

At a recent meeting of The Johnston Town Council, the Council did adopt the following Ordinance effective immediately:

Ordinance 2022-11: An Ordinance amending Article XVII, Chapter 220, Section 90 of the Town Code of Ordinances entitled "Through Trucking" Said Ordinance prohibits Through Trucking on Tabor Drive, Teakwood Drive and Milton Street

Ordinance 2022-13: An Ordinance ordering the annual assessment and collection of property tax on the ratable real estate, tangible personal property and excise tax on registered motor vehicles and trailers.

Ordinance 2022-14: An Ordinance authorizing the Town to issue, not to exceed \$215,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Notes and Other Evidences of Indebtedness to finance the Construction, Additions, Renovation, Improvement, Alteration, Repair, Furnishing and Equipping of Schools and School Facilities throughout the Town

Said Ordinance is on file and available for review in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Johnston Town Council
Robert V. Russo
President

Attest:
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.
Town Clerk

8/18/22

8/18/22

Power

(Continued from page 1)

electricity supply increase by about \$52 per month. This is based on an average use of 500 kWh of electricity per month. For many customers, however, electric use decreases in the colder months when air conditioners are not being used to cool their homes or businesses."

RIDPUC Associate Administrator Thomas F. Kogut identified a trend throughout the region.

"The winter rates proposed are in line — and actually a bit less in some cases — than what we are seeing in the rest of New England," Kogut said last week. "The driving factor is the price of natural gas which is far and away the largest electric generation source in the region."

On Aug. 19, RI Energy faces a "deadline to serve discovery," and the public has until Aug. 29 to respond to their winter rate increase case. A RIDPUC decision is expected in late September, following public comment at hearings on Sept. 16 and 19.

"When prices went down to one of their lowest levels in years this spring, the winter forecasts did not look good," said Dave Bonenberger, president of Rhode Island Energy. "Unfortunately, those forecasts were accurate and the price of electricity this winter is something we have never seen before. Now that we know the full impacts, we all need to lookout for one another, help each other save on our energy consumption, and educate more people about the programs that can help assist their neighbors."

Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee attended a Warwick Rotary Club luncheon last Thursday, and responded to a question from an organization member regarding soaring winter electric rates and potential state aid for the average middle class Ocean State ratepayer.

What will Rhode Island lawmak-

ers do to help all state residents tackle record winter electric bills (on top of also surging home heating costs)?

"We are doing," McKee replied, shifting the conversation first to vehicle fuel. "Let's talk about the gas prices right now ... How can we have gas prices in this state at \$4.60 at one station, at \$3.99 or \$3.89 at another station? There is something going on here. The supply chain ... the supply thing excuse is overdone."

Employment numbers are booming across the state and nation.

"And that's one of the things we need to expose on this," McKee told the Rotary Club. "We have people back in the workforce, and yet the prices, we're still saying that these prices are being caused by lack of workforce. We need to take a look at the gasoline prices in the state of Rhode Island right now. And I'm ready to bring all the mayors together, and all the municipal leaders to actually take a look at that spread. I think it's very important to look at that."

McKee pivoted back to the question asked.

"But we have done already," he said. "We announced (a plan for direct rate relief) to help about 39,000 (low income) families."

McKee and the Office of Energy Resources (OER) issued a press release last month, proposing lawmakers allocate \$3.8 million from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) fund "to provide direct rate relief to low-income Rhode Island residents who are most at risk of not being able to afford their electricity bills this winter."

OER proposed the RGGI Allocation Plan draft for a 30-day public comment period.

"Rhode Island Energy, the State's primary utility, recently announced that it is requesting a significant winter rate increase, effective Oct. 1, due to an unprecedented surge in energy costs this winter season," ac-

ording to McKee's July press release. "The utility is prohibited by law from profiting from the sale of energy and passes the costs of energy directly to ratepayers."

Last week, McKee informed the Rotary Club that he was intervening, once again, on behalf of the ratepayer.

"We have put a letter into the PUC ... I have intervened on rate cases more than once as Lt. Gov. and I've saved ratepayers in this state well over \$50 million," McKee claimed. "So, we're doing the same thing again. We're making sure we're keeping them honest on what they secured."

McKee has submitted a letter "urging the Public Utilities Commission to take specific action to provide relief to all Rhode Islanders in response to Rhode Island Energy's request for a rate increase."

The governor has proposed taking two primary proactive steps in anticipation of inevitable winter supply increases.

"I've already talked to (lawmakers), about potentially a LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) expansion into different income categories," McKee said last Thursday. "They're working on a bi-partisan strategy right now. And also we did propose to the General Assembly, on the heating side, as much as the electric side, to eliminate a 4 percent ... fee that's on every bill, both on gas and electric, to eliminate that for six months."

The governor's office has followed through, recommending the suspension of the "customer charge on residential electric bills until next summer when electricity prices are projected to decline significantly" and "distributing the \$32.5 million in Rhode Island Energy electric ratepayer bill credits from the State's settlement with PPL Corporation back to ratepayers over a six-month period that coincides with this coming winter when electric rates will be elevated."


McKee also hopes to moderate the impact on ratepayers by spreading the higher rates over a twelve-month period.

"This surge in electricity costs this winter is going to impact all Rhode Islanders," McKee said in the press release. "Our most vulnerable residents do not have the means to absorb this rate increase. We have a responsibility to do everything possible to protect them. That's why we're proposing to use \$3.8 million from our RGGI funds to provide direct rate relief to low-income utility customers who are most at risk this winter. This will help ease the burden of higher-than-average electricity prices and continue our commitment to provide relief to Rhode Islanders in the face of rising prices and inflation."

The public hearings are also an important part of the process. McKee outlined his strategy for helping ratepayers cope with higher rates during the Rotary lunch.

"One is keeping everybody honest on the pricing," McKee said. "And then two, we need to go out and do as much flexibility as we can provide into both the utility bills and the oil bills as well. And we're doing that. We'll see what kind of unfold over the next few weeks. But we are looking at taking down the electric bill strategy. Let's all remember too, as you hear the media go out and kind of make this sound worse than it is; but it's not good, but compare winter prices with winter prices. Don't compare spring price to the winter price. Those change every six months. Spring prices are always lower. Winter prices are always higher. Compare the winter price last year to this year, it's about a \$36 per family, on an average electric bill; not \$50. And I think we've got almost \$20 of that covered right now. And then the LIHEAP program hopefully is going to expand in a way that is going to help people who are heating their homes this winter."

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and though I'm full of sadness
 That you're no longer here,
 Your influence still guides me
 and I still feel you near.

What we shared will never die
 It lives within our heart

Bringing me strength and comfort
 While we are apart.

Love,
 Mom, Dad and Michael

World War II veteran Rebello A. Ferrante turns 99

By PETE FONTAINE

In 15 short days, Sept. 2 to be precise, Rebello A. Ferrante will celebrate his 99th birthday. But that's just one of the many facts about a marvelous milestone man, a living legend in fact, a war hero who recently received a huge honor and special award from Hospice Continuum Care of Rhode Island that read: "In honor of your years of service and sacrifice to our great nation the United States of America in this year 2022 we thank you for serving in the United States Army and protecting our country and defending our freedom. Today we honor and appreciate you."

That certificate was presented by Hospice officials Mike Del Vecchio, Elise Larsson and Justin Machamer under a sparkling sunshine outside The Preserve, the most recent and pristine property on Akshay Talwar's ever expanding Briarcliffe Campus in Johnston. Amid applause and guitar music, Ferrante sat smiling in his wheelchair proudly holding an American flag and accepting the well-deserved citation. He was surrounded by friends and Briarcliffe officials as well as his best buddy Sal Disanto.

"Rebello and Sal have been friends since they moved in here," Talwar said after the presentation. "Just look at their smiles; this some of the magic that happens here at The Preserve."

However, that was a fraction of what may rank as the greatest day in the now one-year-old assisted and supportive independent living communities' tenure.

The ceremony included short speeches and stories, some about when Ferrante told his parents — who immigrated from Italy in the early 1900s — "I gotta go fight for our country."

And fight for the USA he did while serving under the famous U.S. General George Patton while being stationed in Morocco, Africa and later Italy. Ferrante survived two bouts of Malaria and received two Purple Hearts for injuries sustained in combat (he was hit by shrapnel during fighting) and he also received two assorted medals, including one for Good Conduct.

Rebello was born on Sept. 2, 1923, and was the oldest of five children. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in December, 1941, and along with one of his brothers was stationed in the Pacific after the Pearl Harbor attack. He served in the U.S. Army throughout World War II, from 1941 to 1945.

During the heart-warming ceremony, Rebello's daughter Maria Bermann — who lives in Boulton, Massachusetts, and is extremely proud of dear ol' dad's awesome achievement — she was asked to show the impressively framed collection of his 11 distinguished medals and dog tags.

She also offered an outline of when Rebello came home from the war and returned to Providence then used his GI benefits to enroll at the University of Rhode Island where he majored in mechanical engineering. He received his BS degree and began working at the former Narragansett Electric Company — which was acquired by National Grid and then bought recently by PPL (the Ocean State's power company is now called Rhode Island Energy) — and his job involved designing equipment for coal power stations.

He married his wife Mary Bertha in May, 1954, and together they built their home in Lincoln, from the ground up.

"My Dad's father was also a talented stone mason," Bermann, who was born in May 1954, related. "He actually helped my father build the physical structure of this home."

Ferrante, as Bermann proudly noted, lived in his home from 1956 to 2022 — 66 years — and continued his career at National Grid for 63 years before retiring in 2013 at age 90."

As Bermann explained: "Due to health reasons, Dad was no longer able to live at home safely and moved to The Preserve in March 2022."

However, that hasn't stopped Rebello Ferrante or Sal DiSanto — or other residents who now call The Preserve home — from forming new and impressively inseparable friendships.



PRESERVE PALS: Akshay Talwar (left) owner of The Preserve at Briarcliffe, Maria Bermann, along with Hospice Officials surround legendary U.S. Army veteran Rebello Ferrante during a recent ceremony honoring the 98-year-old for his service to the country and successful working career.

FANTASTIC FRIENDS: Rebello Ferrante (front), who will turn 99 on Sept. 2, is backed by his best buddy Sal DiSanto during the recent ceremony honoring the U.S. Army veteran for his extraordinary service in the US Army. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



DISTINGUISHED DISPLAY: This is the framed collection of the 11 war medals Rebello Ferrante received during his 4-year career in the U.S. Army during World War II.



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Music Man Jr. comes to Park Theatre this weekend

Johnston's Mary Hutto will take the stage

By EMMA BARTLETT

With just two weeks of prep time and 30 campers, Rhode Island Youth Theatre (RIYT) is ready to perform "Music Man Jr." at the Historic Park Theatre and Event Center this Friday and Saturday.

Johnston's Mary Hutto, 7, will play one of the band members in the upcoming production.

The show is based on Meredith Willson's Broadway classic and filled with wit, warmth and romance. The storyline follows master showman Harold Hill — a fast-talking traveling salesman — who cons people into buying instruments and costumes for a boys' band he says he'll organize. He plans to skip town, but his plans are foiled after falling in love with Marian, the town librarian. Massachusetts' Turo Rigdon will play Harold Hill and Narragansett's Ruby Costa will play Marian Paroo.

The Music Man Jr. is RIYT's third show of the summer and includes kids ages seven to 16 in the performance. Founder and Executive Director Ann O'Grady said this summer RIYT has had 250 campers take part in the organization's summer programming.

On the first day of camp, kids did short auditions and, by Tuesday, were cast in their roles. During the two weeks, kids learn their parts, practice vocal work, choreography and take part in scene blocking. The costumes are made by Kristine Szrom and O'Grady's mother, and Camp Manager Norma Malachowski said RIYT has also located great finds at Savers.

Cranston's Holden Butler, 9, will play Winthrop in the show. His character is not confident in the beginning of the musical but develops that skill as the story progresses. Butler has been in a number of RIYT plays including "Frozen," "Annie," "Pinocchio," "Alice in Wonderland" and a make your own play; his favorite so far has been "Music Man Jr." and his favorite part about his character is Winthrop's lisp. When it came to learning his lines, Butler said it only took two nights. What he enjoys most about camp is the people.

RIYT came to life in 1987 through a culmination of circumstances. At the time, O'Grady was searching for a drama program for her daughter who was interested in theatre and was an avid dancer. This was before Broadway Jr. programs which came with orchestra tracks for kids to sing and dance to; if you wanted to hold a musical, you needed an actual orchestra. O'Grady located a school in Wakefield that had a well-run school drama program and signed her daughter up. When O'Grady attended one of the school's PTA meetings, she discovered that the program wouldn't be running that year. She spoke with the school who appointed her to head the program. O'Grady said from there, her life changed.

Additionally, O'Grady was in graduate school at the University of Connecticut for talent development, and ideas for RIYT came from a paper she wrote during that period. She wanted to create a program that wasn't being offered in schools and took off with the endeavor in 1987 with a two-week summer camp run by student directors and professional mentors; she also held a magic camp that year for her son. Since then, the organization has put on countless shows with 20,000 participants.

The organization has had program graduates go on to Broadway, national tours, summer stock theaters and schools. O'Grady said the point of RIYT is more than getting on Broadway; it's about lasting friendships, working together, creating in collaborative ways and supporting one another. She said the RIYT staff is great and they are an ensemble cast where everyone is critical to the success of the play.

On top of the staff directors, RIYT has five interns from the Skills for Rhode Island's Future program who paint the sets and help during the shows — most have an interest in graphic design or the entertainment industry. Individuals apply in their junior year and work with the company through a six week grant.

In addition to RIYT's summer season, the organization holds after-school theatre programs at schools, theatre school workshops and musicals during school vacation, and a Young PlayRIYTs program where teens create original works. The organization, now celebrating its 35th year, looks to extend a helping hand to everyone and rents its sets and props to partners and youth groups at an affordable price. O'Grady added that a unique aspect of RIYT is its Community Outreach Program which provides individuals with scholarships to children with financial need and blocks of free show tickets which local agencies distribute to at-risk families. They solicit big groups for a reduced fee and Malachowski said for a recent show they had roughly 250 individuals in the audience for the community outreach preview. Funds for this program come from donors, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and the Providence Performing Arts Center which donates one scholarship.

RIYT doesn't have its own home, so the organization subleases various venues across the state, which allows them to perform at many theatres that give kids the experience of what a professional theatre feels like.

"Doing a show in a professional theatre is special,"



ON THE DRUMS: Johnston's Mary Hutto, 7, stars in Rhode Island Youth Theatre's Music Man Jr. at the Park Theatre. (Submitted photo)

said O'Grady.

The experiences at camp are memorable and reflected through the fact that parents who attended RIYT as children are now sending their own kids.

Park Theatre's Artistic Director Rebecca Donald said it's exciting to hear kids' voices in the building and that it makes the staff excited for the future of theatre.

"Music Man Jr." is an hour and 10 minutes long with an intermission during the evening shows. The Commu-

nity Outreach preview will take place at 10 a.m. on Aug. 19 and tickets cost \$12. There will also be a 7 p.m. show Aug. 19 and Aug. 20 with a \$14 general admission cost. There is no fee for children ages three and younger.

Following the "Music Man Jr.," RIYT will go to North Kingstown for its last summer musical called the "Rock Show." Visit riyt.ticketleap.com for tickets to the "Music Man Jr.," and find out more information about RIYT at the organization's website: <https://www.riyt.org/>.

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In memory of a lost friend

‘For a person who bore such a heavy burden, he seemed to not have a personal care in the world’

By RORY SCHULER

He was the driving force. The inspiration. The ultimate friend. In an effort to repay the favor, a small crew of devoted volunteers will once again pull off the annual Matt and Grace Golf Tournament, named in honor of Johnston native Matthew DiIorio.

The event raises money for the Friedreich’s Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA), and every penny will be used to help fight the disease that claimed Matthew’s life last Fourth of July. “When I think of Matt my first thoughts are joyous,” recalled friend and tournament organizer Dave Interlini. “Despite facing physical challenges most of us can’t fathom he never let FA change who he was as a person. He blessed us with so many gifts: his infectious smile and laugh, his incredible love of life, family, and friends, his limitless strength and bravery, and his genuine happiness for others. Personally, I was always in awe of how happy he was for me when I was doing things every boy dreams of: playing basketball, learning to drive, getting married, and raising a family. Despite these being things I know he would’ve loved to do, he never let envy or bitterness affect him. For all he did for me the golf tournament is an expression of gratitude and an opportunity to give thanks to Matt for the joy and impact he brought to all of our lives. He was truly a blessing from God.”

There are still spots open in the Fifth Annual Race for Matt and Grace Golf Tournament, scheduled for Friday, Aug. 19, at the Connecticut National Golf Course. The tournament will start at noon with registration and lunch, and a 1 p.m. shotgun.

While enjoying the links, participants will have the tournament’s namesake on their mind.

“On the other side of the coin there is pain,” Interlini said. “We cannot ignore the heartache associated with losing Matt and his prolonged battle with FA. Matt and I were together for so much: from making our first communion, to playing Little League, to attending Mount Saint Charles then returning to Johnston High School, to being in my wedding party. Watching Matt’s health deteriorate and the sacrifices his family had to make through the years was a harsh reality of the cruelty of FA. With this golf tournament it is our hope that the funds raised will help advance research and eventually lead to a cure so one day no other family will have to go through the same hurt as DiIorios. Despite our agonizing loss we continue to move forward and remain optimistic.”

Ryan Sukaskas looked back on the past half-decade. This year will be the fifth Race for Matt & Grace Golf Tournament.

“The initial driving force for adding a Golf Event to The Race for Matt and Grace (RFMG) fundraising efforts was Matt’s pure enjoyment of the game,” Sukaskas recalled. “He loved to play as a child and in recent years became a fan and friend of a PGA Golfer. Matt religiously watched all his matches and even attended his tour events on occasion. We simply loved the idea of having Matt back in a golf cart, riding around greeting people with his massive smile and contagious optimism. For a person who bore such a heavy burden, he seemed to not have a personal care in the world.”

Sukaskas said Matt’s friends, the event organizers, would like “future RFMG Tournaments to serve a dual purpose.”

“Fundraising to help Fredrich’s Ataxia Research, but more importantly, to provide a mechanism for Matt’s friends and family to come together to celebrate the life of a very special person,” Sukaskas said. “Whether you just met Matt, or he was a constant fixture in your life, he made a lasting impact on you. Matt was a Superhero. His ability to smile in the face of devastation and be a beacon of light, knowing there was darkness ahead, were just some of his superpowers. Matt has always done more for all of us than we ever did for him. He taught us that people and the relationships you foster are the most important things in life. He taught us that ‘our problems’ are not really problems, and we need to just enjoy life a little. Most importantly, to always keep smiling.”

Family friend and fellow tournament organizer Steve Placella offered “a tribute first to Matthew DiIorio, next to his parents and finally to his friends ... the result of observations over many, many years, from sometimes up close and from other times afar.”

“Matthew DiIorio was born in 1981,” Placella recounted. “Some time in the second decade of his life he was diagnosed with a genetic neurological disease called Friedreich’s Ataxia, which is severely debilitating and ultimately fatal. There is no present cure for this disease. Matthew passed away on July 4, 2021. Many of us called him Matt D. Apparently in 1981, there were too many Matthews born and living in Johnston, so we had to identify them all with a last name initial.”

“As a young boy, he was filled with spunk, vigor, a great sense of humor and a spark that drew others to him,” Placella wrote in his tribute. “He participated in a host of youth sports such as soccer, little league baseball and hockey, to name a few. Matthew’s parents, Jack and Sallyann, were always in constant motion schlepping him to and from ball fields and hockey rinks.”

“Matt, while playing various sports, also had room in his life to root on his favorite professional teams like the New York Yankees and the New York Football Giants,” Placella continues. “One game or another was always on a television at the DiIorio home and it could get pretty raucous there during the Giant football games on a Sunday afternoon. Matt’s friends were always at the house for these games to share Matt’s friendship and Sallyann’s pizza and spinach pies. It would not be uncommon for the remote control to go flying from Matt’s hand after a particularly poor Giant play. Nor would it be uncommon for Sallyann, while in the kitchen, to just call out the word, ‘Language!’ after a poor Giant play had riled up Matt and the boys. This display of loyal friendship, camaraderie and love continued for years and years and years.”

“As Matt’s condition worsened in his teenage years, it was necessary for him to use a wheelchair in order to get around,” Placella wrote. “This obstacle didn’t impede him. He was at every high school game and social function. When a physical obstacle got in the way, his friends or family would literally carry Matt up, over or around it. He participated in every event possible and his high school years were busy and memorable. He graduated from Johnston High School in 1999. College? No problem. Matt graduated in 4 and a half years from Bryant University with a liberal arts degree in communications. Many of us parents would pray that our kids would graduate in that time frame.”

“Matt also began to disc jockey various functions and events,” Placella recalled. “In most cases, his dad, Jack, was responsible for transporting him and helping to set up the equipment. At other times, his friends would pitch in to help. For years, nothing seemed to slow Matt down. He was at sporting events, social events, charity game dinners and many other events. You name it and he was there. Over the years, many friends had remained a constant in Matt’s life. With other friends, life’s turns took them in different directions or to different places. But each were made better by Matt and he by them. The constant theme here is that the mention of Matt D.’s name brings a smile to the face of each and every one of them. A chance meeting with Matt’s parents always brings a hug or a kiss and always a smile. There is nothing better.”

Why raise money?

“In 2010, Matt, some of his friends, his parents and others decided to raise funds for



AN INSPIRATION: During last year’s tournament, golfer Alex Fielding pointed to a photo of Matt DiIorio. (Sun Rise FILE photos)

(FARA), a charitable organization created to ultimately find a cure for this disease,” Placella explained. “They all jumped into this endeavor at warped speed. They, along with others, sponsored (and still do) an annual race/walk, a multitude of fun social events and more recently, a charitable golf tournament. Since that time, they have raised well over a million dollars for this organization and it continues. Please let that roll off your tongue for a minute ... Over a million dollars!”

“So, to Matt D.,” Placella concludes. “Once a young boy, then a young man and finally a full grown adult; your spark and perseverance has forever enriched our lives and continues to do so. To Matt D.’s friends, I know that Matt’s spark has enlightened your lives as you have enlightened his. Your demonstrated dedication, loyalty and love are things to behold. To Matt D.’s parents, Jack and Sallyann, your love for Matt showed us all how truly great parents should be. Somehow this should be bottled and distributed to all future parents.”

Last year’s tournament raised approximately \$16,000 (after expenses) for the fight against FA. Men’s, women’s and co-ed divisions cost \$140 per player. Memorial Tee Signs cost \$65, and Tee Sponsor signs cost \$85. Your organization can become a Major Sponsor for \$500. Visit www.RFMGGolf.com to register for golf, become a sponsor, purchase tee signs or make a donation.

You can still participate. Email RFMGGolf@gmail.com for more information or with questions.

All funds raised will benefit FARA. More information on FA can be found at www.curefa.org/rfmg (checks to FARA may be mailed to 533 W. Uwchlan Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335; reference RFMG).

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DAN'S DUTY: Dan Parrillo (center) and his son Mitchell (right) and Julius DiSanto are taking a huge cooler out of storage that will be used for food items during this weekend's St. Rocco's Feast and Festival that opens Thursday evening in Johnston. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

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Feast

(Continued from page 1)

Society, Women's Guild and Legion of Mary as well as the proud parishioners at St. Rocco's, also wanted it known that "Don DePetrillo and his team work hard to provide us with nearly a ton fresh dough. We'll also have his famous pizza chips."

Likewise, the second so-called signature item is the sausage and pepper sandwich served on fresh rolls baked every day especially for the feast.

"Our menu will also include meatballs and macaroni, eggplant and special arancini — also known as rice balls," the dedicated co-chair added. "We're looking forward to a great weekend of fun featuring our fine foods."

Moreover, Montella said Lisa's Bakery will be open offering what he called "Sweet Treats for All" and there will be a bar area offering ice cold beers and wines.

Yet another tradition of the St. Rocco's Feast is the Straw Draw Booth operated by the Women's Guild that Montella said "is hoping to set a new record and surpass last year's total sales of more than 100,000 straws. Arlene Troia and her team are more than up to the challenge."

Festival and Feast-goers will also be able to purchase a variety of religious items as well as talk with Sister Donna, one of the three popular nuns at St. Rocco's.

Meanwhile, Sisters Mary Antoinette and Sister Daisy will perform a number of duties

that always lead to the event's overall success.

"Harold Fera," who Montella noted is another member of the St. Rocco's parish, "will have fun for all the families — most especially their children — with his famous carnival rides and game booths of his Rockwell Amusements that were set up earlier this week."

No St. Rocco's Feast would be complete without entertainment, which will begin Thursday at 6 p.m. when Christiana Rod Caprarelli and Derek Capobianco set up in the stage area underneath the huge "Big Top" — a.k.a. the 120-foot long by 90-foot-wide cathedral tent, where all events are held except the carnival rides.

Montella also announced that DJ Eddie the Fixer will have Friday night's entertainment followed by Gemini's performance Saturday. Sunday, Starzz Entertainment featuring Steve "Elvis" Querini, and the R&J Review of Richard and Jack Martone will perform in the afternoon, with Ambrosiani closing out the schedule at night.

"Sunday is always our busiest schedule," Montella noted. "We'll celebrate our patron Saint Rocco at the 11 a.m. mass followed by a procession led by the RI Veterans Marching Band at noon. The Feast and Festival will begin at one o'clock and remain open until 10 p.m. when (Rev.) Father Angelo Carusi will pull the winning tickets for cash prizes of \$5,000, \$1,500 and \$1,100."

Admission is, as always, free and feast and festival hours are 6 to 10 p.m. tonight, tomorrow and Saturday, and 1 to 10 p.m. Sunday.

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spotlight ON BUSINESS

Dreamland Learning Center

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By JENNIFER COATES

Dreamland Learning Center, a creative and cheerful childcare center in Johnston, is a bright and welcoming place where learning is fun and where every space was designed to enrich the growing minds of the many children who come here. This learning center was opened in 2015 and has been evolving and expanding ever since to meet the needs of today's modern family ~ even, and especially, as we have weathered some challenging days.

The mission of this early learning community is to "provide quality care that will enable each child to explore and discover the infinite possibilities available to them through the power of learning. Our environment was created to enhance a child's natural curiosity and desire to learn.

At our center, situations are designed to help children prepare to make the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical adjustments they will need in life. We believe children learn best from their own experiences. In a positive learning environment, we help promote self-awareness, perceptual motor skills through planned activities and give children the hands-on experience they need for total growth and development."

Every space in this center is thoughtfully planned and designed to be developmentally appropriate and intentional. Child-size furniture makes each room look comfortable and adapted to the needs of pint-sized early learners, while shelves are filled with toys and walls are strewn with art projects. Centers are set up for imaginary play, arts & crafts, building, science, music and story time. The outside playgrounds provide the perfect place for youngsters to run off all that childhood energy. The playgrounds are even divided for children of different age groups. The after-school room is replete with long



Come tour Dreamland Learning Center on Hartford Avenue to see where all the magic happens in castles just like this ~ and so much more! Enrollment forms for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years old are available on their website at www.dreamlandlearningcenter.com.

tables for homework time. This space serves as an organized area to work for those who need a designated area to study.

The curriculum and staff-to-child ratio requirements here meet the strict standards of the state while all staff are licensed and CPR certified. The staff here work as a team with one goal in mind and that is to enrich the lives of the children over whom they have been given this special stewardship. In fact, the whole facility is Bright Star® rated for excellence.

The team at Dreamland continue to be vigilant in their efforts to stave off all illnesses. You can be assured that your child is in a safe, secure, and happy place!

If you are looking for childcare this fall then come visit this constantly growing and evolving learning center.

Dreamland Learning Center is now accepting enrollment for children ages 6 weeks through age 12 years of age (enrollment forms can be found online). The center is located at 1253 Hartford Avenue. To answer your questions or concerns, call 401-280-1400 or visit their informative website at www.dreamlandlearningcenter.com. Hours are 7:00am to 5:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Be sure to check out the other Dreamland Learning Centers in West Warwick (401-828-8200) and Pawtucket (401-655-1000).

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Sports



BREAKING IT DOWN: Johnston head coach Joe Acciaro addresses the team. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Young Panthers ready to compete in DIII

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**

The Johnston football team got back to work this week at practice and is looking to return to the playoffs once again.

The Panthers reached the Division III Super Bowl in the spring of 2021 and then would advance to the semifinals last fall. Now, Johnston will have a few holes to fill as it has since graduated quarterback Hunter Remington, receiver Joey Acciaro and linebacker Ryan Schino.

As for the quarterback position, head coach Joe Ac-

ciardo has left it an open competition this summer and is looking forward to seeing which youngsters step up as the roster only includes seven seniors.

"We are in no rush to make that determination because they have made such great strides. The more they compete, the better off they are," said Coach Acciaro. "We are going to expect a lot out of Steve (Finegan), we need to get back to running the ball and he runs with speed and he runs with power. Dylan Martins is a guy that we can rely on at the receiver spot, NeAri Vasquez is another receiver that is super athletic."

■ **PANTHERS - PAGE 16**

First high school football thoughts

It's the most wonderful time of the year ... high school football season.

Teams got things underway at practice this week and in a few more weeks we will be kicking off the regular season. There is still a ways to go before kickoff so a few things need to shake out before I make my official predictions for our six clubs, but I will set the table here for what to consider as we inch our way closer to the gridiron.

Let's get into it.

Bishop Hendricken

The defending champs had a thrilling year last fall and won another state championship. The team was not quite as deep as years past and got off to a slow start, not to mention the rival La Salle Rams were the odds-on favorite to take home the title.

Well, the Hawks stepped up in the big game once again and secured a win in what was the highest-scoring state championship in Rhode Island history.

Where do they stand now?

First off, the Hawks will be looking for answers at quarterback. David Lynch graduated after one year as the team's starter. The Hawks also graduated the state's best defensive player in Brandyn Durand. Big shoes to fill.

On offense, Oscar Weah broke out toward the end of the season and is returning. He was a nice little spark plug that should see a bigger workload. The team is also returning Cam Chinn, as well as many of the same linemen on both the offensive and defensive fronts.

My pitch



by
ALEX SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
ALEX@RHODYBEAT.COM

I mean, are we really going to have any concerns regarding Hendricken? They churn out good quarterbacks every year, they built some depth with the young guys last year, have some young guys that will step up. It is what it is and they are who they are.

Pilgrim

Pilgrim had a bounce-back fall last year after a disappointing spring season in 2021. The Pats rebounded to go 6-3 and reach the semifinals. They too, will be searching for a new quarterback after Connor Widmer graduated. The team also lost bell cow running back Danny Halliwell and do-it-all playmaker Marcus Pascual, Brandon Whitman as well.

Alex Pinheiro will be a huge piece for this team. He began to flash last year and became one of the most electric returners in the division. Now, as a senior, he will have to make a huge impact on offense and carry much of the load. The team will also need to figure out who will be running the ball. Halliwell ate up a ton of carries last season and was a force on the goal line. Pilgrim will need to

■ **PITCH - PAGE 17**

Gershkoff falls in legion playoffs

By **RYAN D. MURRAY**

Gershkoff Auto Body was ousted from the R.I. American Senior Legion Baseball tournament last Wednesday, after falling to R & R Construction by a final score of 4-3 at McCarthy Field.

R & R Construction was topped by Chris Bulk, a catcher, who hit a 3-run triple, and right fielder Caleb Banks, who added a single, a double, plus an RBI.

Second baseman Dylan Martins led Gershkoff with a walk, and a 2-run triple, while Mike Bogasian contributed an RBI single.

Cam Ruggieri was the starting pitcher for R & R Construction and he tossed five innings and gave up two runs (one earned), on two hits and six walks, with four strikeouts.

Nick Masse took the ball for Gershkoff and the south-paw matched Ruggieri, with five innings of work, and yielded four earned runs, on seven hits and three walks,



ON THE BUMP: Gershkoff's Nick Masse delivers a pitch in the playoffs. (Photos by Ryan D. Murray)

■ **LEGION - PAGE 17**



BACK AT IT: Johnston's Noah Lavergne (left) and Dean Paris at practice earlier this week.

■ Panthers

(Continued from page 15)

"I'm really excited. We've been a passing offense in the last two seasons so I'm really looking forward to getting able to run it more," said Finegan, who enjoyed a breakout year last fall as the team's lead back. "(Having younger guys stepping up) benefits us as well because we

get more breaks. We were out there all the time, offense, defense, special teams, but having a break once in a while is good for the team."

Noah Lavergne is set to lead the way on defense and is also looking forward to the opportunity to make an impact and help guide the team on a playoff push.

"You lose seniors every year but fortunately we have a lot of depth this year

which we are looking forward to. We just need people to know their assignments," Lavergne said. "We want to keep that up and get back to the playoffs, we want to do that every year. We want to set an example for the young kids so when it is their time, they'll be ready to go."

As Johnston continues to fill out its lineup, Coach Acciaro will continue to set the bar high for the young players

and hopes that the past two seasons will motivate the returners.

"We want to keep the competition up. We want those guys that are not starters to be fired up, and you always need back ups," Coach Acciaro said. "If you're a junior or a senior, you want to get back. You felt that electricity and you want to get back to that stuff. It's good for the program, the numbers are getting back up."

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■ Pitch

(Continued from page 15)

find someone to make up for the projected loss of production. Pilgrim shouldn't fall off much, if at all, but there are some questions to be answered.

Toll Gate

Toll Gate had a rough season in 2021 after being bumped up to Division III. The team won just one game and had some pretty ugly losses. It also reportedly walked away from the annual Thanksgiving game against Pilgrim due to lack of players willing to suit up.

Now, the Titans return with a new coach in local legend Jim Miceli and are looking to take a step forward.

There were too many issues to count last season. The team was coming off of losing former three-year starter Greyson Pasquina at quarterback, which affected the entire offense. They were young up front, young on defense, they were just simply outmatched most games.

I usually refrain from putting the load on the coach, but this is a situation where

it is absolutely on Miceli and his staff to turn things around. The Titans are young and are coming off a really down season. There are holes to be filled, guys need to be coached up, this program needs a total facelift if it is going to be competitive.

I am very interested in seeing how things go and to see Miceli's influence.

Cranston East

The Thunderbolts were in a year of transition in 2021 with a new coach in Isaiah McDaniel and a rebuilding roster. East had the division's youngest roster in the spring and still had a very young unit in the fall.

The Bolts made some strides as the year wore on and became much more competitive, even if the wins did not come. This is a big year for the team because now, inexperience is not an issue. Many of these kids have been playing since their freshmen year and they've rebuilt some of their depth. The schedule is obviously a buzzsaw, so I'm not sure how many wins they'll get, but the Bolts should be aiming for a .500 season if you ask me. Of their eight overall losses, four were one-score contests.

Between returners Naz Milien, Romeo

Cordero, A'driahn Foreman, Da'qwon Foster, the offense should be in good shape. All of those guys racked up some serious minutes last year and some the year before. We will see how the defense shapes up, but this is a team that should be on the rise.

Cranston West

Cranston West is one of the teams that were dropped to Division II after the RIIL made the realignment, making it a four-team Division I. With so many teams being dropped down, the outlook for the Falcons should not be affected much.

West was, in a way, like East in that it showed some nice flashes but the wins didn't come. The Falcons had a tight battle against North Kingstown, nearly beat Burrillville, they were a tough team regardless of what the record said.

But now, it's time for the near misses to turn into hits. Matt DeFusco will be back under center and will have the help of Marcus Chung, who I believe is one of the most underrated players in the state. Dimitri Leblanc and Domenic Schiavulli will return as well.

This is a team that has enough pieces

to be a factor in Division II, it's now going to just be about the returners taking that step forward.

Johnston

The Panthers reached the Division III Super Bowl in the spring but got off to a slow start in the fall. Not sure if it was a Super Bowl hangover, but something was off for the first half of the season.

But in the second half, the Panthers caught fire and went on a tear to reassert themselves as a contender, reaching the semifinals and then beating Pilgrim on Thanksgiving.

I think people forget how young Johnston has been the past few years. The Panthers will be losing two big pieces in Joey Acciardo and Ryan Schino, arguably their top offensive and defensive players, but so much is coming back.

Quarterback Hunter Remington is one of the best in the Division III and will be entering his third season as starter, running back Steven Finegan is back after a breakout campaign, same with Aiden Lariviere.

Johnston will be right toward the top of the standings again, and I do not think people realize it.



PLAYOFF BASEBALL: Gershkoff's Dylan Martins in the playoffs.

■ Legion

(Continued from page 15)

with five strikeouts.

All four of R & R Construction's runs came in the second inning where they jumped out to a 4-0 advantage.

"Masse was a fighter," Gershkoff manager David Schiappa said. "He had a great night with just one tough inning. He's been great all year and a stud for us on the mound. And the same goes for (Caleb) Maytum."

Maytum came on in relief of Masse in the bottom of the sixth frame and the right hander pitched one scoreless inning and got all three batters he faced to ground out.

Gershkoff cut the lead in half at 4-2 in the top of the sixth when Martins smashed his triple to right field and drove in two runs.

"Dylan Martins showed me he could play multiple positions and he came up big for us at that time," Schiappa said.

Next, Bogasian drove home Martins with a single to center field and got

Gershkoff within 4-3.

But with two outs and the bases jammed, R & R Construction relief pitcher Marcus Botelho struck out Gershkoff third baseman Chris Torres for the last out of the inning.

Schiappa was satisfied with his team's effort despite the early exit in the post-season.

"I'm proud of all these players," Schiappa said. "They were all part of our success and as a coach for life I wish all my graduates the best."

"I thought our team did a very good job this summer bouncing back from several key injuries," Schiappa said. "We lost two pitchers in (Caleb) Harris and (Jay) Patalano in the first week of the season. Other guys all stepped up including Maytum and (Nate) Poshkus, as well as Masse, (Matt) Winn, and Torres on the mound."

Upper Deck Post 14 went on to win the tournament, which marked its second straight state title. Upper Deck went undefeated throughout the tourney and blanked R & R Construction 4-0 on Friday night during the championship game.

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LEADERS OF THE PACK: Fifty kayakers and canoeists paddled from Pawtucket to Providence Sunday to celebrate past and future efforts to clean and reclaim the Blackstone (Seekonk) River. (Submitted photo)

Blackstone River paddle big success

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

"We're making a second shuttle trip to pick up paddlers. We have about fifty participating, that's a lot more than expected," said Stephanie Covino, program manager for the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative.

The four mile paddle Sunday started at Festival Pier, Pawtucket (across the River from the new Soccer Stadium development) and ended at the Gano Street boat ramp in Providence. It was the final leg, of a 60-mile paddle, with a smaller group, that started in Worcester, Massachusetts. The public was invited to join this last four mile leg.

"The aim of the paddle (and events that took place during the four day paddle) was to bring attention to the work that has been done to improve the Blackstone River (called the Seekonk River as it passes through Pawtucket and Providence) and the work that still needs to be done," said Covino.

Greg Vespe, executive director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, and I volunteered our vessels to escort the group of kayakers and canoeists on the last leg of the trip. Kayakers included Terrence Gray, Director of the Department of Environmental Management, and his wife.

My boat radio crackled with Vespe's enthusiastic voice, "I'm not sure what kind of bait I am seeing (on the sonar), but there is a lot of it, along with fish. This is a treasure, I am amazed at how few residential communities are on the River."

I totally agree... lot of bait, a lot of fish and a River that is a treasure, ready to be reclaimed by the community, from past industrial uses.

Hats off to the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative and Stephanie Covino for a job well done.

Angler input sought on National Recreational Fishing Policy

NOAA Fisheries is asking the recreational fishing community for their guidance to revise the 2015 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy between August 1 and December 31, 2022. With the perspectives shared during the 2022 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit, NOAA Fisheries requests your input on revising the Policy.

The agency plans to announce informational webinars and input

meetings but anglers can also make comments online. Visit their website to provide feedback on any changes or updates you would like to suggest for the Policy. The URL address is www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-fisheries-invites-comments-update-recreational-fisheries-policy.

The purpose of the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy is to provide guidance for Agency consideration in its deliberations pertaining to development and maintenance of enduring and sustainable high quality saltwater recreational fisheries. With climate impacts on fishing, stock movement, multiuses of our oceans the new policy is needed to guide NOAA Fisheries.

Watch the policy website for webinar and meeting dates and this column for important issues being discussed by anglers.

Public comments sought on new cod and haddock regulations

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is holding a public hearing on proposed recreational fishing limits for Gulf of Maine cod and haddock and Southern New England Georges Bank cod. The proposed Massachusetts regulations have been developed to be consistent with proposed Federal rules.

An online public hearing to discuss proposed regulations will be held Tuesday, September 13 at 8 a.m. Register for the online hearing at: <https://bit.ly/3bFmGV0>.

Written public comment can be sent through 5 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 12, 2022 via email to Director Daniel McKierman at marine.fish@mass.gov or mail to 251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston MA 02114. For more information visit www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.

Proposed regulations can be found at DMF Public Hearing Notices | Mass.gov.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass and bluefish. Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, said, "The bass bite has been really good all-around Newport with anglers catching fish up to 40 pounds on eels. Frigate mackerel, small bonito and bluefish are chasing small peanut bunker (immature Atlantic menhaden) around Newport too."

Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box,

Warwick, said, "The bluefish bite is good and some are still catching striped bass in the Bay at night with eels."

John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, Riverside, said, "The bass bite is in the lower Bay and out in front, but the bluefish are plentiful with anglers catching them in deep water (40 to 60 feet of water) rather than on the surface."

Summer flounder (fluke), black sea bass and scup. "Anglers are catching fluke but they are working for them picking through ten or so shorts to catch a keeper (18-inch minimum size)," said Sullivan. The fluke bite remains very spotty with anglers catching them off the coastal shore from the Sakonnet River to Watch Hill but the bite is OK one day and way off other days. The Block Island bite is much the same with the East Fishing Grounds hot one day and not the next. "Scup are not as large as they were but the bite is still very good," said Giddings of the Tackle Box.

The squid are in. Vespe, of Tiverton, executive director of the RI Saltwater Anglers Association, said, "The squid bite this week was very good around Newport." Littlefield of Archie's said, "Customers spotted large bait balls off Jamestown and dropped jigs down to identify them. They were squid in large school. All were good size."

Bluefin and yellowfin tuna, chub maceral, Wahoo and bonito. Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, said, "The bluefin bite has slowed a bit because of the full moon but should kick right back up in a week." "Off-shore reports continue to improve with yellowfin, bluefin, mahi and even a few wahoo caught recently. Trick is getting out early and finding life," said Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle.

Freshwater fishing remains spotty with an enhance bite this weekend. Giddings of the Tackle Box, said, "In Warwick, Gorton's Pond is producing some nice largemouth bass for customers."

Dave Monti holds a captain's master license and charter fishing license. He serves on a variety of boards and commissions and has a consulting business focusing on clean oceans, habitat preservation, conservation, renewable energy, and fisheries related issues and clients. Forward fishing news and photos to dmontifish@verison.net or visit www.nofluekifishing.com.

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By Travis Landry
Auctioneer & Specialist
Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers
Cranston, RI

Since plastic was a new, versatile, and cheap alternative to woods and metals, it was the perfect medium for producing detailed scale models in large quantities. In a further nod to the advancing technology of the time, many of the Imai models included functioning pieces, motors, and remote controls.

Imai Kagaku dabbled in a little bit Manga and Kaiju monsters when it came to model kits but are most well known for their extensive catalog of model ships, military vehicles, and motorcycles. They also produced models influenced by movies and television dominating pop culture of the time, including James Bond, Jerry Anderson's Thunderbirds, and Superman.

On September 17th, Bruneau and Co. Auctioneers is hosting Part I of the Andy Yanchus Collection to which there will be a large selection of unused Imai model kits up for auction. Andy was an avid fan of Gerry Anderson, so you will find the large majority of Imai models to be from the Thunderbirds, Captain Scarlet, Joe 90, and Space:

1999. Do not worry though, there is a plethora of other space and military vehicles, submarines, and rockets. Andy was such an eclectic yet highly curated collector that we haven't even scratched the surface of his collecting story. Stay tuned as we continue to uncover treasure from the Andy Yanchus Collection.

On September 17th, Bruneau and Co. is hosting Part I of the Andy Yanchus collection (if you want to know more about Andy, click here), and some of these popular model kits will be available for auction.

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Bud Lights for Billy



In honor of brother's passing, sisters to hold scholarship fundraiser



By EMMA BARTLETT

As Cranston's Patti Bacon and Johnston's Jackie Paquin tell it, their brother, Billy Landry, had a larger than life personality. He loved his family, was proud of owning PB&J's Restaurant and – on many occasions – captivated the dining room with his stories. He would do anything for anyone.

"We could go on forever," wrote Patti and Jackie in an email interview when asked to describe what their brother was like.

Billy, who loved his customers like family, was diagnosed with bile duct cancer in January and passed away Feb. 12 at age 55. Because of his sudden passing, Patti and Jackie wanted to do something in his honor.

"One of our customers mentioned a scholarship, so we ran with it," the siblings said.

The sisters announced that they would like to support those with aspirations like Billy's by creating a scholarship at Johnson and Wales University. The Billy Landry Memorial Endowed Scholarship will provide financial aid to those pursuing a degree in culinary arts through the College of Food Innovation & Technology. To raise funds for the scholarship, PB&J's Restaurant will hold a Bud Lights event on Aug. 20 at its Warwick location.

Saturday's event will include live music all day by Abby Kilday, Phenix Ave and Mark Flynn on the

PB&J: (From left) Patti, Billy and Jackie opened PB&J's Restaurant in 2019 on West Shore Road in Warwick. The name for the business is based on the first letter in each of their names – in order of oldest to youngest. Patti and Jackie would like to help those with aspirations like Billy's by creating a scholarship at Johnson and Wales University. They will hold a fundraiser on Aug. 20 at their Warwick location and \$1 from each can of Budlight sold will go toward the scholarship. (Submitted photos)

Warren Folks Festival brings local community together

By ROB DUGUAY

Across Narragansett Bay in the little town of Warren, there's a unique creative nucleus. This intriguing ambience within this relatively small place has sparked a lot of interesting things. There's a great restaurant community with establishments like The Square Peg, Amaral's Fish & Chips, The Revival Craft Kitchen & Bar and Chomp Kitchen & Drinks serving up culinary delights. In Your Ear Records is a prime spot to pick up vinyl & CDs, there's 75orLess Records being the premiere record label in Rhode Island working with a wide variety of bands & musicians and there's the Galactic Theatre having live music grace their stage on a regular basis. There are numerous consignment shops and art galleries as well with The Collaborative being a great example of the latter along with being an arts nonprofit. In celebration of this town's artistic vibe, the sixth annual Warren Folks Festival will be bringing people from all over The Ocean State and beyond to 30 Cutler Street on Aug. 20.

The festival is a free all-day event that serves as a fundraiser for The Collaborative, who is also presenting the entire event. There will be live music, food, art and vendors while encompassing a fun and engaging atmosphere.

"Folks Fest is The Collaborative's biggest fundraiser," says The Collaborative's Executive Director and Founder, Uriah Donnelly. "The funds raised help us operate throughout the rest of the year, so it's important to our organiza-



tion but mostly it's an excuse to throw a big party with all our friends who do cool things."

Over 40 local artists and makers will have gifts, goods and crafted objects for sale. Chomp will be one of the many restaurants having food available for purchase along with Balasco's Pizzeria, Hunky Dory, Bywater Restaurant, Chelsea's Creamery, Dip's Dips, Basil & Bunny, Farm to Sandwich, Lumpia Bros, Mooseman's Kettle Corn and Rhody Roots. Narragansett Beer is curating the beer garden with 100% of the sales of brews from it going directly to The Col-

laborative. Along with beer there will be libations from Anchor & Hope wine, Cannon & Anchor hard seltzer, Cruisin' Cocktails and nonalcoholic beverages from Granny Squibb's Organic Iced Tea and Kristie's Kraft Mocktails.

"This is huge," Donnelly exclaims. "The partnership we have created with Narragansett is very important to us. They are incredibly generous and have been big supporters of The Collaborative for a long time. We couldn't do this without them."

Rounding out the lineup for live music on the main stage consists of local gothic

folk entity Vudu Sister, soul-prog dynamos Bocek, hip hop artist Joe Bruce who'll be with some friends of his and folk act Honeysuckle Hill as well as Brooklyn singer-songwriter Mary-Elaine Jenkins and spoken word poet Ernest Edwards. Simultaneously there will be a second stage featuring singer-songwriters Anthony Loffredio and Rafay Rashid, who grew up in Warwick, and indie rock acts Beauquet and American Echoes.

"I've been going to the festival ever since it started so I'm glad to be a part of it," Loffredio says about the Folks Fest. "I'll get to play in front of people who would not normally hear my music."

Warren is a unique town and the Folks Fest only helps to add to that uniqueness. There's a lot of different kinds of music on the main stage, so I feel like there's something for everyone."

"We're freaking psyched!" Ava Callery, who is the vocalist and guitarist for Beauquet, adds. "We are excited to represent the East Bay, especially with our drummer Joe Krapf and I being Bristol natives. I'm excited to play alongside our friends like Rafay Rashid and Bocek will put on a great set too. Great music, great local art, and great hangs will be pursued!"

While the event is free and open to everyone, donations to The Collaborative at the entrance are encouraged. For all the information and more about this year's Warren Folks Festival, either email The Collaborative at info@thecollaborative02885.org or log onto their website at thecollaborative02885.org.

WARWICK SHOWCASE

BULLET TRAIN

*** 1/2

(Wacky, Violent, Convoluted)

This wacky, violent, convoluted action movie is filled with out-of-control characters, and even a snake-on-a-train.

Brad Pitt plays a hired assassin on a modern bullet train speeding through Japan, running into a bevy of bad people who want to hurt him badly as he attempts to locate a briefcase and escape with it.

If you can follow the plot, which includes flashbacks and characters and scenes that eventually connect, you are as sharp as Joyce, who had to explain a few things to me.

The British "twins" accents made it harder.

Watch closely and you'll catch a couple of uncredited cameos.

Too many coincidences turn the movie into one big farce, but there is plenty of action to keep you involved, right up until the wild and crazy conclusion.

Pitt is always fun to watch, as his reactions to what is going on around him and to him is hilarious.

If you can stand the blood and guts spilled all over the train, you'll have a good time.

BODIES, BODIES, BODIES

*** 1/2

(Twisted Plot Mystery)

It was a dark and stormy night. Eight wealthy young adults gather at David's parents' mansion for a night of fun and games. Sophie brings her new girlfriend, Bee.

The group mingles, talks about old times, drinks and does drugs and eventually gets around to playing their favorite game, "Bodies, Bodies, Bodies", where they slap the person next to them, drink a shot and fake a

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Brad Pitt in Bullet Train.

murder. Then they must determine who the supposed killer might be.

At this point, I'm cursing Joyce for making the right decision to skip this one.

Then the movie takes a sudden twist. David is found to be quite dead, his throat slashed.

Whodunnit?

The group searches for clues, accuses each other, brings up past indiscretions, argues and fights, as more of them die in mysterious ways.

The film can be viewed on two levels. First, the pretensions of the young rich brats, and second, a clever game of making sense out of the murders and how they are connected.

The ending will surely catch you by surprise, as the remaining participants discover what happened. There is one obscure clue that you probably won't catch but will provide a big aha moment.

The final line in the movie is also a winner.

"Bodies, Bodies, Bodies" is like nothing I've seen before, with an ending that will satisfy you.

WARWICK SHOWCASE AND AVON

EMILY THE CRIMINAL

** 1/2

(Modern white-collar crime tale)

Emily can't pay her bills. She

dropped out of college and had a minor blip on her record which prevented her from getting a good job,

She worked at a catering service but needed more money to get out of debt.

She is enticed to become a "Dummy Shopper," buying big ticket items with fake credit cards with stolen numbers and getting paid part of the profits.

Emily becomes involved with Youcef, who runs the scam, and gets involved deeper and deeper until she finds herself living in fear and danger.

When things turn bad, Emily looks for a way to escape.

The ending may surprise you, as

this slow-paced indie film shows that crime may pay.

NETFLIX

THE AGE OF ADALINE

(Fantasy Love Story)

If you can accept the outlandish premise, this Netflix movie is an interesting love story with a surprise twist.

Adaline is involved in a deadly car crash that includes lightning stopping and starting her heart. The result is that she doesn't age. This becomes an embarrassment at first and a problem as she grows older and still looks the same.

To avoid problems, she moves and takes a new identity every 10 years. Her only steady contact is her daughter, who over the years looks like her mother (Ellen Buryston).

Bue don't you know it. She is relentlessly pursued by a handsome young man and falls in love with him. What to do?

He takes her home to meet his parents (Harrison Ford and Kathy Baker). Won't tell you the rest, but you are in for one of the most bizarre endings ever.

DAY SHIFT

**

(Vampire Movie)

Jamie Foxx plays a non-union vampire killer who is in serious debt and separated from his wife and daughter.

He has help from Snoop Dog (brief appearance) getting back in the union, with a condition that a nerdy office employee follow him around, and he only works the lesser-paid day shift.

Lots of running around, heads chopped off, vampire blood everywhere.

Forget it.

An older old friend

While at our tiny house in New Hampshire this weekend, Hubby noticed that an old friend of mine was playing a gig nearby at the Wildcat Tavern, along with Dave Mallett. (Dave is a somewhat famous singer/songwriter, best known for the "Garden Song", which was recorded by John Denver oh so many years ago. He is well known in New England, and continues to perform along with my friend, Mike, who plays the bass).

Upon entering the tavern, I could not help but glance across the room and see Mike. Standing as tall as his bass at at least six feet, he looked just the same as when we had met more than fifty years ago when we were teenagers. We hugged and started to reminisce. Our families became friends when camping at the same campground in Maine in the late 1960s. Mike and I went on biking adventures, me with my measly five speed bike and him with a well-worn ten speed. We became pen pals, way before the age of computers, and corresponded with envelopes and stamps.

Life Matters



with LINDA PETERSEN

When in college, I drove up to Maine to see him in my bright orange MG Midget, top down, enjoying the long drive on the back roads with nary a red light in sight. At another point, I drove up to visit him in his "house", which in reality was a large, rustic shed, sans electricity or water. That evening I experienced my first, and only, "hippy" get together, friendly neighbors living in somewhat of a commune, sharing a meal of a variety of dishes prepared by the participants.

Real life, for me, provided an alternate reality...college and marriage with the cook from Newport Creamery where I had waitressed. We purchased a house, had children, established careers, and life carried on.

And so it was when I met Mike again at the Wildcat Tavern.

He looked the same as he did so many years ago. The same tall, lanky frame, which matched my tall, lanky frame when I was younger before the added poundage turned "lanky" into "overweight", which he was kind enough not to mention, telling me I looked the same also. Somehow his lankiness had become regal in his older age. He wore the same John Lennon style eyeglasses, and his long hair was tied back in a ponytail, the only difference being his hair was now gray. We easily bantered back and forth about our families, with Mike jokingly asking if I had adopted a dozen children by now. I promised to send him a copy of my book documenting the lives of our five children and a few of the important foster children we had planned to adopt but lost out on as distant relatives came forward to claim them, my legacy as a mom. He talked about his work with adult education, for which he continues to be passionate, especially in

this technological day and age. He has a lovely wife and a great home now, no longer roughing it without electricity and plumbing.

The conversation took a deeper turn as we discussed some of the challenges we have had in our lives. His son was in a serious accident several years ago and remains in a rehabilitation facility in the west. Mike's eyes glowed as he talked about how his son sometimes seemed to remember everything, and could carry on a conversation with ease, but his eyes darkened as he talked about the other times when he was non-verbal and unresponsive. Becoming contemplative, he indicated the whole COVID situation these past couple of years has taught him to be more accepting and appreciative of life.

It was with that sentiment that we parted ways, content with where we are in life, appreciative of the memories on which this life has been built and looking forward to the possibilities the future still holds in store. I am appreciative of the role this older, old friend has played in my life.

Billy

(Continued from page 21)

restaurant's outdoor patio area. Additionally, PB&J's Restaurant will sell Bud Lights - Billy's favorite beer. With each beer sold, a \$1 donation will go toward the scholarship. The sisters said area businesses have donated gift cards, customers have donated baskets and vendors have also been generous as well. The restaurant will raffle off these items

and have a 50/50 raffle.

Patti and Jackie said JWU was chosen because of Billy's love for cooking, which he dabbled in on and off throughout his life. The siblings' goal is to raise \$50,000 since that is the amount needed to have a perpetual scholarship; JWU will handle the details of disbursement. They said the restaurant will continue holding events until it reaches its goal.

Billy, Patti and Jackie grew up in Woonsocket, and the idea for starting a restaurant began when

the siblings' mother was diagnosed with cancer. When their mom went to live with Billy and his wife in Woonsocket, every Sunday the whole family would get together for dinner. At the time, Billy had been laid off from his job and he, Patti and Jackie started talking about opening their own restaurant. In September 2019, PB&J's Restaurant opened on West Shore Road. Six months later, the pandemic hit.

"Being new owners of a restaurant at this time we had to think outside the box," the sisters said.

The three siblings took family recipes and began making chicken, beef, turkey pot pies and - after their French heritage - French meat pies from their grandmother's recipe. Luckily, their restaurant had a drive-thru window, which they utilized while the dining room was closed to the public. As the weather improved, they created outside dining.

Patti, 58, worked the front of the house, dining area and office management, Billy was the back of the house, Chef and Jackie, 54, was the "voice of reason" and helped wherever needed.

After a successful run during the pandemic, the three opened their Cranston location in 2021 - today they have a staff of 20. As for how the restaurant got its name, it's pretty clever; the business is actually named after the three siblings, in birth order.

"We did not realize this until we needed to come up with a name for the restaurant and that is how P(Patti), B(Billy) & J(Jackie) PB&J's came about," said the sisters.

PB&J's Restaurants are located at 2298 West Shore Road, Warwick, and 877 Dyer Ave., Cranston. The Bud Lights for Billy event will take place at the West Shore Road location Aug. 20 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information about Saturday's event, visit pbandjsri.com/budlightsforbilly. Donations to the scholarship fund can also be made at giving.jwu.edu/donate/billy-landry-scholarship?fbclid=IwAR2SZ7Q0z-Ttpi1K-4L Nj1eD1s5x-PqB1aftcJsYapuRTanUR_hln_DLhs.



FAMILY: The idea to start a restaurant began when Patti, Billy and Jackie's mother was diagnosed with cancer. Their mom went to live with Billy in Woonsocket, and every Sunday the whole family would get together for dinner. (Submitted photo)

'A Christmas Carol' children's auditions to be held September 10

Auditions for children ages 8-12 for Trinity Rep's annual production

Trinity Repertory Company announces that children's auditions for this year's production of A Christmas Carol will be held Saturday, September 10 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at the South Attleboro location of Cardi's Furniture & Mattresses. Advance registration is required and is available at trinityrep.com/kidsauditions.

Auditions are open to children ages 8 - 12 who will be 12 years or younger through the entire run of the show. Children should come prepared to sing a holiday song of their choice, and will also read from a section of the script as part of their audition. This year, we are looking to cast children who are bilingual in English and Spanish in select roles, although this is not a requirement for auditioning or casting. All auditionees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by the time rehearsals start in October.

Trinity Rep's 2022-23 Season is sponsored in part by the Rhode Island State Council on The Arts (RISCA). 110 Grill is Trinity Rep's Opening Night Sponsor, and Southwest Airlines is the Official Airline of Trinity Rep.

The 2022-23 Season launches in September and runs through June 2023. It includes productions of The Inheritance Parts 1 and 2, A Christmas Carol, By The Queen, The Inferior Sex, and Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. For more information, visit Trinity Rep's website at www.TrinityRep.com.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Tracy Kardys

Eve

Eve has the cutest smile and it matches her huge heart! She is only two years old, has a beautiful silver and white coat with eyes that sparkle with love. She was found chained outside neglected and emaciated. Now she hopes that someone out there will fall in love with her and give her a life filled with all love that she so deserves! Eve is available for adoption at Rhode Home Rescue. If you'd like to meet her please visit their website for more information at www.rhodehomerescue.org Eve is hoping that you'll open your heart and home to her, she will be grateful forever!

If you have been looking to adopt or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at animaltalk1920@gmail.com





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RHODYBEAT.COM

Backyard Bird Feeding

A Family Tradition



I never thought that it would become grandfather-grandchild tradition; but that's exactly what has happened over the last 15 years or so. It all began simply enough when I hung a few bird feeders on farmers hooks in our yard. My backyard bird watching was enhanced by gifts of a book that identified the type of birds that were likely to visit the feeders and binoculars to observe my newfound winged friends at a distance so as not to scare them off. In addition to the standard wild bird food blend, I also purchased a special feeder and seed to attract goldfinches. My last chore was to devise a defensive strategy to keep those ever-pesky neighborhood squirrels from climbing the poles to raid the feeders. Periodic applications of a non-stick kitchen spray or Vaseline to the poles worked well. Feeders stocked with food, and armed with a full color illustrated guide of the local avian population, I was ready to enjoy my new hobby.

Over the years, I have spotted locally popular species such as blue jays, cardinals, wrens, sparrows, crows, chickadees, nuthatches, starlings, orioles, robins, and even a few finches at the feasting on site. Often, The wail of mourning doves and the rat-tat-tat of woodpeckers could be heard outside my bedroom window. With limited success, my wife has tried to lure hummingbirds to her flower garden feeders.

When my twin granddaughters Kailyn and Sophia were about three, (Now college sophomores as a write this column), they saw me filling the bird feeders. Of course, they offered to "help." Who can refuse a request of a youngster with curiosity in their eyes, enthusiasm in their hearts, and a sincere desire to "help?" I knew that I couldn't. That was the beginning of a new family tradition.

I tried to teach to teach the twins how to fill the feeders without pouring too much seed on the ground. Despite some success, but I'm sure that the lazier or more clever winged scavengers quickly discovered that it was easier to pluck seeds from the ground than to fight for a spot on the feeders. The spilled feed also proved to be an effective deterrent to squirrels who might otherwise try to climb the feeder poles. Many times,



MY SIDE OF THINGS

by LARRY GRIMALDI

between us that cannot be described. I still revel in those memories.

the squirrels preferred the bounty on the ground rather than attempting to climb the poles. Feeding the birds became a ritual when the twins came to visit and it cultivated a bond between us that still brings a smile to my face.

A few years later, the next link in the bird feeder tradition was passed onto the twins' brother Nicholas when he reached the age of about three. His initial efforts at filling the feeding stations mirrored those of his sisters. But after a few tries, he became more skilled and began to look forward to the task on his visits to our house.

On a recent visit from New Jersey, Benjamin Jr., now age four, offered to help feed the birds. While he did prove to be a bit more accurate at the task, spilling less seed on the ground than his three predecessors, Benjamin, Jr. still managed to leave a generous food supply under the feeders. The squirrels and the less ambitious avian populations were no doubt grateful for their bounty.

Benjamin's sister Lorelai has yet to join the crowd. However, she is just a year old and not quite ready to join the feeding brigade. I have no doubt that when she reaches age three or so, Lorelai will be tutored in the art of bird banqueting by her brother and older cousins.

Like most families, our traditions are celebrated at holidays, birthdays, graduations and other events. Some of our traditions, like gathering together for Sunday dinner when we have the chance, are rooted in our cultural background. I believe that family traditions are a bridge from the past to the present. Still others create new bridges. In many cases, the opportunities to create traditions are right under our nose, but we don't see them because they are so simple and obvious. Gratefully, feeding the birds with my grandchildren was a joyous opportunity to create a new tradition that I didn't miss.

Larry Grimaldi is a freelance writer from North Providence. Comments can be e-mailed to lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com.

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Recipes and More on Tombstones

A *NY Times* article covered a fairly new trend: people having their favorite family recipes engraved on tombstones. The author came across one accidentally when looking for a relative's grave. That led her to search the cemetery for other examples and she found quite a few. It turns out folks have written books and e-zines with recipes found on memorials.

I don't have a single recipe that would merit being engraved in granite. My mother was a fabulous baker; dozens of her recipes are tombstone worthy. She's buried in a family plot and her personal marker is a small flat stone with barely enough room for her name and dates. My husband and I plan to be cremated and have yet to decide what instructions to leave for the disposition of our ashes. So I really don't have a need for a recipe for posterity.

Needless to say, that didn't stop me from pondering what I might want to appear above my remains, were I interred in a cemetery under a large stone marker. The first thing that came to mind was a limerick, some clever little rhyming ditty. I'd normally write something bawdy, but that would limit where it could go. Absent my usual snark, dark humor or blue language, I doubt anything I wrote would cut the mustard against a good recipe. Then again...

Here lie the remains of a lass

Who opted to turn them to ash.

She was incensed to learn that an oversized urn

*Would be needed to hold her broad a**.*

I'd love to have a clever cartoon mark my finally resting place. Maybe I could hire Gary Larsen to draw a Far Side style one that would showcase my humor. He's so



RETIREMENT SPARKS

by ELAINE M. DECKER

clever and I've always admired his use of language. He started creating cartoons again about two years ago. He's five years younger than I am, but it might be wise to contract for my cartoon before I've moved on to the Rainbow Bridge.

I'd love to include all the cats I've adopted over the years in my final plans. I've had each of them cremated and my intention is to comingle their ashes with mine. My husband will also have his cremains in the mix, but we've never worked out the logistics. If I last at least five more years, I'll probably have ten feline children with me. Counting me and Jagdish, that would be a dozen names to memorialize. I could commission an elaborate Indian mandala to incorporate them. I'll bet that would attract a lot of attention in a cemetery.

Here's another idea that's more personal. I could list my favorite themes for tree trimming parties I've held. They might inspire graveyard wanderers. I made special invitations each year. The invite for my Potpourri Trim included small sachets that I filled with pine scented dried flowers. There was the Teddy Bears' Trim, with the invitation based on their picnic song. Tulip and Daisy, my cats at the time, were jealous. So the next year I had a Cats' Trim.

Eventually, I co-owned a house with a man who had an awesome collection of vintage model trains. When he set up his elaborate layout, we celebrated with the C M and E Railroad trim, using our initials and our version of the Pufferbellies song. "Down in the basement early in the morning, see the little pufferbellies all in a row. See the station master turn a little handle. Puff puff, toot toot, off they go."

One of my last trims held in Providence had a Cozy Slippers theme. A few of our guests actually wore their slippers, which I really appreciated. Most came in their street shoes. That was disappointing. It's not like I asked them to wear pajamas, after all, although that could have been a fun theme, too. I had dozens of trims over the years, but those I mentioned here are the ones that I feel are tombstone worthy.

Somewhere in this essay could be an idea that you'll find helpful the next time you have to decide what to put on a gravesite marker. It's never too soon to plan for the inevitable. Why not get creative about what you'll leave for posterity?

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Elaine M. Decker's books include Retirement Downsizing—A Humorous Guide, Retirement Sparks, Retirement Sparks Again, Retirement Sparks Redux and CANCER: A Coping Guide. Her essays appear in the anthologies: 80 Things To Do When You Turn 80 and 70 Things To Do When You Turn 70. All are available on Amazon.com. Contact her at: emdecker@ix.netcom.com

Sharing Duties In Senior Years



ACCORDING TO DON

by DON FOWLER

I grew up in a traditional working-class family. Dad was the breadwinner, leaving for his milkman job before the sun came up. Mom was a "housewife" taking care of the house, my older sister, and me.

Joyce's parents followed a similar path. Married at a young age, Joyce and I had two children. I worked nine to five, plus many nights and weekends as a Boy Scout Executive. Twenty-four/seven during the summer, directing a Boy Scout Camp.

I was the breadwinner/Joyce was the housewife. Then one day, we were in the sixties, and the times they were a-changing.

The kids were in school. Joyce went back to work nights. I worked days and many evenings. We adjusted to sharing some of the household and parental duties.

There were conflicts, adjustment problems, and the usual situations in a family with both parents working full time.

As I look back, our upbringing defined male and female roles quite narrowly.

As the kids left the nest and attitudes and lifestyles started changing, we followed our generation in rebelling against the norms of gender roles.

Joyce became the Mrs. Fixit when something broke down.

I discovered what a vacuum cleaner was.

Roles reversed, changed and were eliminated.

Suddenly, We Are in Our Eighties
Now in our eighties, we are completely rehabilitated. There are no specific roles.

When one of us is sick or has a health problem, the other comes to the rescue.

Joyce lays out our weekly pills.

I do the bills.

Joyce vacuums. I take out the trash.

Joyce changes the beds.

I do the wash.

Whoever is better at a particular task takes on that responsibility without consideration of gender.

I do breakfast and lunch.

Dinner offers three choices: Dine out, take out, or eat in. You can guess which two are the most popular.

As we move further into our eighties, some tasks need to be taken over by others.

My neighbors plow our driveway.

The young man next door cuts our lawn.

Our daughter helps with certain tasks.

We have a housekeeper who helps with the heavier tasks

There are no more gender roles in this family, as it should be in every family, regardless of age.

We've come a long way, baby!

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Summer Freedom

My parents built a summer house in Bonnet Shores in Narragansett in 1959 and we began spending our summers there when I was six years old. My aunt, uncle, and cousins bought a house nearby - within biking distance - and through the years many of my parents' friends either bought or rented, and spent their summers with us at the beach. My cousins and my two brothers and I grew up with the children of our parents' friends - there was always a summer crowd to hang with.

At that time, the men worked "in the city" during the week, meaning Providence, or, as was the case with my father, traveled during the week for their jobs. The women and children were left alone in our summer beach houses Monday through Friday and the men would return on weekends. And then Monday morning would arrive and my mother had the entire week free again - free to enjoy with her friends.

The routine was housework in the mornings - vacuuming, laundry, mopping, dusting, and general tidying up. Then we'd eat lunch, pack up, and go to the beach.

My mother would lead us to our usual spot, under the clock, and I would squint in the sun to see if anyone was there yet, and sure enough, we were rarely the first. I'd see my Aunt Lil sitting in her beach chair chatting with my mother's friends - usually Martha and Clem, and Anna and Clara. And then there was Betty and sometimes Vi.

The women would sit in a circle and chat and laugh the afternoon away while the kids - a group of at least eight or nine of us - swam, collected seashells, walked the beach, and had our own adventures during those long, sunny, summer afternoons at the shore.

As the day waned, our mothers would begin talking about what they had planned for supper. Often two or three or more of them would decide to combine their dinner plans and we would end up eating at one house or another, or we'd be hosting at our house. This was always very exciting for us kids, as it meant the day simply continued into the evening, and then into the night, as our mothers ended up playing cards or Scrabble under the summer stars as the crickets and the other night insects chirped. It meant late summer nights and eventually falling asleep to the sound of the surf after a full day of sunshine, fun, and friends.

As fun as those communal suppers were, what was truly exciting was when we heard the words "Little Beach" mentioned in the conversation of our mothers during their afternoon beach chats. The Little Beach was the rocky shore on the opposite end of Bonnet Shores - the side facing the Jamestown Bridge. It wasn't a beach for swimming - there was no sand - just rocks ranging in size from small stones to big boulders - and moorings for small boats.

MEMOIRS
by SUSAN DEAN



"Little Beach!" we'd whisper excitedly to each other. "We're going to eat at the Little Beach tonight!"

When our afternoon at the beach was done, we'd all go home and change, and gather pots, pans, dishes, and whatever we had in the refrigerator. We'd meet my aunt and my mother's friends and all of the kids at the Little Beach.

My mother usually brought homemade chowder, and Aunt Lil might bring hot dogs to roast. Anna and Clara brought potato or macaroni salad, and Martha and Vi would add baked beans or corn on the cob. Betty and Clem might bring a green salad or dessert. We'd pick a spot to gather on the shore, walk precariously across the rocks balancing the food, pots, and dishes, and set up amongst the boulders. Somehow our mothers would start a campfire and we'd cook our feast together.

The twilight sun cast red and golden shadows on the lapping waves and the boats bobbed up and down at their moorings as we sat on the rocks and ate our combined communal meal. As the sun set and the stars gradually appeared in the darkening sky, the marshmallows were readied for toasting on the dying embers.

There was something special, something divine and meaningful about these suppers on the rocks that has seared itself into my memory. I remember the aroma of sizzling hot dogs, the crispiness of grilled corn, and the oozy squishiness of the hot marshmallows. I remember sitting on the rocks with my brothers, my cousins, and our friends and this group of women - our mothers - and listening to their never-ending conversation and laughter. I remember the sparkle of waning sunlight on the water and the sound of the gentle waves. And

the coolness of the air as the sun disappeared.

When it was full dark we'd douse the fire, pack up our dishes, and head home under the stars, full of good food and happily tired from our long, lovely day.

The men would return on Friday nights and the focus on the weekends would then shift to family time. And although their weekends were full in a different way, perhaps our mothers looked forward to their weekday afternoons and evenings when they could talk and share and be alone with each other, forging friendships that lasted a lifetime. They still had responsibilities - their household chores and children to take care of, but I wonder if they felt a sense of true freedom during those Monday to Friday summer weeks. Days when they could simply be themselves, just women enjoying their time together, and creating moments and memories - like shared suppers over a campfire on the rocks by the ocean under the setting sun.

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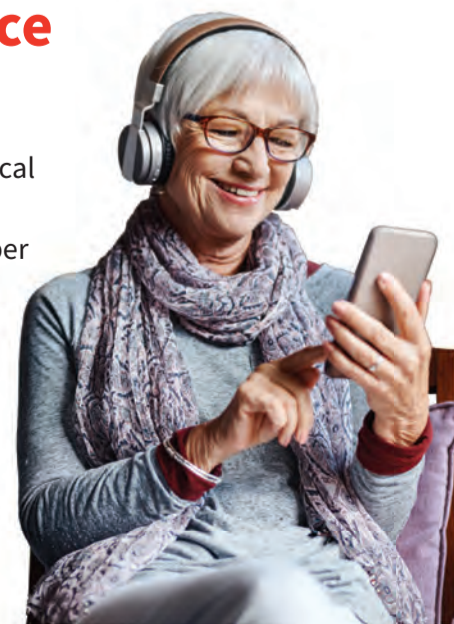
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by MEG CHEVALIER

**Taxpayer Advocate Service:
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The Taxpayer Advocate Service is an *independent* organization within the Internal Revenue Service. TAS protects taxpayers' rights by striving to ensure that all taxpayers are treated fairly and know and understand their rights under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.

Here's what all taxpayers should know about their rights and the role of the Taxpayer Advocate Service.

What is the Taxpayer Bill of Rights?

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights describes ten basic rights that all taxpayers have when dealing with the IRS. The TAS taxpayer rights webpage can help taxpayers understand what these rights mean to them and how they apply. All taxpayers should know these rights.

The TAS website can help taxpayers with common tax issues and situations. These include what to do if a taxpayer made a mistake on their tax return, if they got a notice from the IRS, or they're thinking about hiring a tax return preparer.

What can the Taxpayer Advocate Service do for taxpayers?

TAS can help taxpayers resolve problems that they haven't been able to resolve with the IRS on their own. The service is free. TAS helps all taxpayers and their representatives, including individuals, businesses, and exempt organizations. If taxpayers qualify for TAS help, an advocate will be with them at every turn and do everything possible to assist throughout the process.

Taxpayers may be eligible for TAS help if:

- Their IRS problem is causing financial difficulty.
- They've tried and been unable to resolve their issue with the IRS.
- They believe an IRS system, process, or procedure just isn't working as it should.

TAS also handles large-scale problems that affect many taxpayers. Those know about these broad issues, please report them using the Systemic Advocacy Management System on IRS.gov. Taxpayers should not include any personal tax information when reporting these issues.

How to contact a local Taxpayer Advocate Service office

TAS has offices in every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. There are several ways taxpayers can find their local TAS office phone number.

- Visit the contact us section of the TAS website
- Download Publication 1546, Taxpayer Advocate Service - We Are Here to Help You
- Call the IRS toll-free at 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676) and ask for a copy of Publication 1546
- Check their local directory
- Call TAS toll-free at 877-777-4778.

The Taxpayer Advocate Service is the taxpayer's voice at the IRS. For more information taxpayers should, visit the TAS website

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4 Tips to Master *the Grill*

FAMILY FEATURES

The end result of perfectly cooked chicken is a mouthwatering meal that smells just as good as it tastes and beckons loved ones to the patio. To achieve that juicy, tender flavor that brings family and friends together, it's important to keep a few safety and grilling tips in mind.

Fire up your grill, season poultry to perfection and serve a safely cooked meal at your next backyard barbecue with this advice from the experts at Perdue Farms.

Maximize Your Budget

For a flavorful meal without breaking the bank, consider less-expensive cuts of meat like bone-in thighs or drumsticks, or cook a whole chicken that can last for several meals. In addition to the savings at the grocery store, these cuts can also withstand hotter temperatures on the grill for juicy and tender results.

Save a Little Time

One easy way to maximize your time around the grill while cutting down on prep and mess is using a pre-cut option like Perdue Fresh Cuts Diced Chicken Breast, a perfect solution for kebabs. Recipe ready in an easy-peel package, the chickens are hatched and harvested in the United States with an all-vegetarian diet and no antibiotics, hormones or steroids.

Add Favorite Seasonings

Because seasonings can sometimes come off on the grill, try seasoning both before and after grilling for a better-tasting final result. If you're planning to marinate, be careful to avoid over-marinating as acid-based marinades can start breaking down meat fibers. Remember before and while seasoning raw meat to keep proper safety practices in mind. Wash your hands, cutting boards, knives, scissors, the sink and all work surfaces for 20 seconds with hot, soapy water, and don't allow raw meat or its juices to touch other foods.

Trust the Thermometer

Once your grill reaches the desired heat, put chicken on the grates with confidence by trusting a meat thermometer to measure doneness. This Easy Kona Pineapple Chicken Kebabs recipe, for example, calls for 10-12 minutes on the grill, but it's important to check for an internal temperature of 165 F rather than simply relying on recommended cook times. Be sure to serve using a clean platter and utensils, never ones touched by raw meat. Refrigerate any leftover chicken immediately and use within 3-5 days.

For more grilling tips, visit perdue.com/how-to/grilling.



Easy Kona Pineapple Chicken Kebabs

Prep time: 45 minutes

Cook time: 15 minutes

Servings: 4

- 1 can (6 ounces) pineapple juice
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 lime, zest and juice only
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 piece (1 inch) fresh ginger, grated
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 package Perdue Fresh Cuts Diced Chicken Breast
- 1/2 fresh pineapple, cut into 16 chunks
- 1 large red bell pepper, seeded and cut into 16 (1-inch) chunks
- 4 metal skewers or 8 wooden skewers (12 inches) soaked in water 30 minutes

In bowl, whisk pineapple juice, vegetable oil, lime juice and zest, sugar, ginger and red pepper flakes until sugar dissolves. Add diced chicken breast, cover and marinate in refrigerator 30 minutes.

Thread alternating pieces of chicken, pineapple and red bell pepper onto skewers. Discard remaining marinade.

Heat lightly greased grill or grill pan to medium-high heat. Grill kebabs 10-12 minutes, turning every 3-4 minutes until chicken feels firm to touch and a meat thermometer inserted in the center reaches 165 F.

Remove kebabs from grill, rest 2-3 minutes and serve.

Tip: If using wooden skewers, soak in water 30 minutes to keep skewers from burning on grill. If using metal skewers, remember chicken will cook faster because metal will conduct heat and cook chicken cubes from inside along with grill heat cooking chicken from outside.

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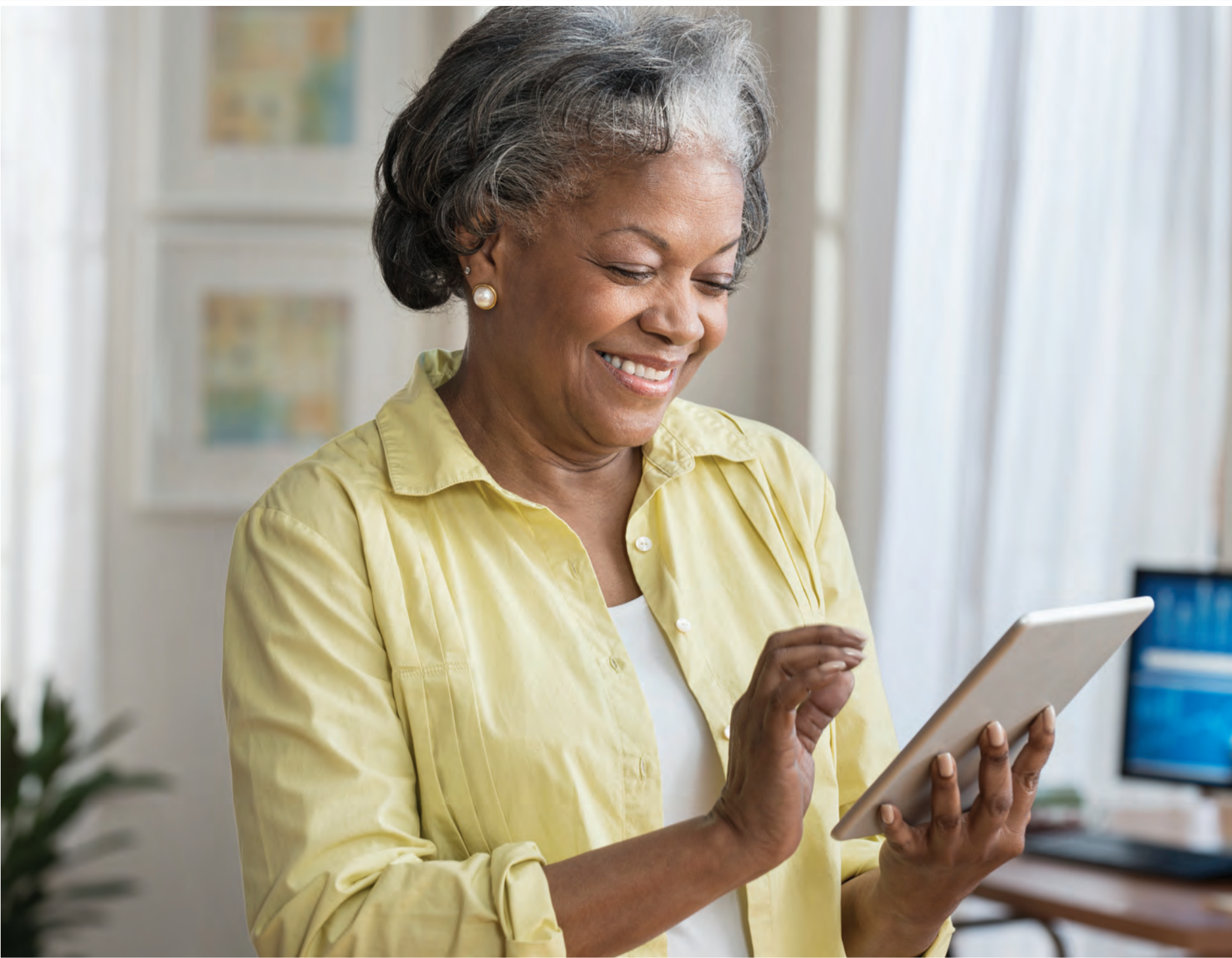
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Photos courtesy of Getty Images

Smart Choices for Your Health

Resources for selecting a provider

FAMILY FEATURES

Getting health care for yourself or a loved one is a big responsibility, especially if you're just getting started with Medicare or have changes in your life, such as a new diagnosis of a condition or disease. It can be overwhelming if you need services like nursing home care, have to find a new doctor or get home health care.

Using online tools like "Find Care Providers" on Medicare.gov can make it easier to make comparisons and help choose doctors, hospitals, nursing homes and more for you or the person you are helping provide care to. Consider these benefits of using the comparison tools to narrow your options.

A Resource for Research

The website provides a simple search and compare experience that allows you to find providers near you. Simply put in a ZIP code and the type of provider to receive a list of providers, their contact information and a map of locations. The information even includes "star ratings" and services provided. The tool can be used to find all sorts of providers, including doctors, hospitals, home health care agencies, skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation providers, hospice and dialysis facilities.

For example, two sisters needed to find a nursing home that was right for their father. This proved to be a difficult, emotional decision. They didn't know what nursing homes were in the area where he lives, so they entered his ZIP code and searched for nursing homes. They then received a list of each one in his area, complete with ratings as well as staffing data and inspection reports.

Using a laptop, desktop, tablet or mobile device, you can see how patients rate their care experiences at the hospitals in your area and find home health agencies that offer the services you might need, like nursing care, physical therapy and occupational therapy.

Contact information for local inpatient rehabilitation facilities or long-term care hospitals is available, as well as hospice quality care ratings and specific care details, such as which dialysis facilities offer home dialysis training.

Finding Health Care Services

Many factors influence who you trust with your health care. In some cases, family, caregivers or friends may offer referrals to a doctor or medical

facility based on their own experiences, and that can be a helpful guide.

Whether you have referrals or are starting from scratch, you can compare health care providers near you using the Medicare.gov tool, pinpointing which category of services you need, whether it's doctors and clinicians, hospitals, hospice and home health agencies, dialysis facilities, inpatient rehabilitation centers or nursing homes.

In addition to searching by your location using your address or a combination of city, state or ZIP code, you can search by provider type and keyword to generate a list of providers that could fit your needs.

Finding a Doctor Who Fits

When you're looking for a new doctor and not sure where to start, the tool makes it quick and easy to find and compare doctors in your area. You can find contact information, practice locations, specialty and hospital affiliation as well as hospital ratings.

Selecting the "compare" button allows you to compare up to three different health care providers at once. When you're ready to schedule a visit with a new provider, be sure to take time during your scheduling call to verify general information, like the office location, whether the office is accepting new patients with Medicare and whether you need a referral to be treated.

Comparing Nursing Homes

Whether you're planning ahead or need to make an unexpected decision, there's a lot to think about when choosing the right nursing home for you or someone else. Many family members and caregivers prioritize location so they're able to check in and visit frequently, but there are many other important factors you may want to consider, too.

The comparison tool at Medicare.gov provides filtering options that allow you to personalize your results by sifting through the criteria that matter most to you, such as inspection results, number of beds, staffing data and more.

You'll be able to check out the nursing home's overall "star ratings." The information can serve as a guide of a provider's track record to help assist you with finding a home that best suits the person's needs.

Visit Medicare.gov/care-compare to access the tool and find health care providers and services in your area that fit your needs.



Caregiver Guide

Making decisions as a caregiver can be challenging but taking advantage of available resources can help you feel more confident in your choices.

For example, Medicare.gov allows you to find information about health care providers, hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, home health agencies, dialysis facilities, inpatient rehab and long-term care hospitals near you. The website also provides quality ratings, so you can see the provider or facility's history of service, among other details that help you make the most informed decision on behalf of the person you're helping.

SOCIAL SECURITY

by CHERYL TUDINO
SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Apply for Social Security benefits online

Did you know, you can do much of your business online with Social Security? This means no need to call or visit a local Social Security office. You can take your time completing our online applications and even save your progress to return to later. You can apply online for:

- **Retirement or Spouse's Benefits** – You can apply up to four months before you want your retirement benefits to start. You must be at least age 62 for the entire month to be eligible to receive benefits. If you were born on the first or second day of the month, you meet this requirement in the month of your 62nd birthday. If you were born on any other day of the month, you do not meet this requirement until the following month. When you're ready, apply at www.ssa.gov/retireonline.
- **Disability Benefits** – You can use our online application, available at www.ssa.gov/disabilityonline, to apply for disability benefits if you:
 - Are age 18 or older;
 - Are not currently receiving benefits on your own Social Security record;
 - Are unable to work because of a medical condition expected to last at least 12 months or result in death; and
 - Have not been denied disability benefits in the last 60 days. If your application was recently denied, our online appeal application is a starting point to request a review of the determination we made. Please visit www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html.
- **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** – SSI provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness who have income and resources below specific financial limits. SSI also makes payments to people who are age 65 and older without disabilities who meet the financial qualifications. If you plan to apply for SSI, you can tell us you want to apply and we will make an appointment to help you complete the application. Or you can complete a large part of your application online at www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi.
- **Medicare** – Medicare is a federal health insurance program for people age 65 or older, some people younger than 65 who have disabilities, and people with end-stage renal disease. If you are not already receiving Social Security benefits, and are not working, you should apply for Medicare three months before turning age 65 at www.ssa.gov/medicare.
- **Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Costs** – Some people with limited resources and income may be able to get *Extra Help* paying their monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments related to a Medicare prescription drug plan. People who need assistance with the cost of medications can apply for *Extra Help* at www.ssa.gov/i1020.



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Building Livable Communities Across Rhode Island



AARP - RHODE ISLAND
by CATHERINE TAYLOR

AARP Rhode Island encourages and supports the development of age-friendly and truly livable communities, working in partnership with local leaders, organizations and dedicated residents to help make that vision a reality. As part of that effort, AARP recently announced the largest investment of grant dollars to date through the *Community Challenge* grant program. More than \$3.4 million in quick-action grants are being distributed to 260 organizations across all 50 states, Washington D.C, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The *Community Challenge* funds innovative projects that inspire change in areas such as transportation; public spaces; housing; diversity, equity, and inclusion; civic engagement; and more.

This year, with additional funding support from Toyota Motor North America, the program is also increasing its investment in projects that improve mobility innovation and transportation options.

AARP Rhode Island is incredibly proud to have four grantees right here in our state. Our goal is to support their efforts to create great places for people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities. As local leaders seek to better their communities for the future, this becomes even more critical. Here in the Ocean State, these exciting and diverse projects were funded:

Groundwork Rhode Island - \$14,000 – Central Falls

This project will help transform an underutilized green space that currently serves high school youth into a place for residents of all generations to enjoy, through the installation of amenities such as seating and tables for dominos and chess.

Downtown Woonsocket Collaborative - \$10,278 - Woonsocket

This project will transform an outside location at the Aging Well senior center into a safe, inviting space for outdoor exercise as well as a gathering place for Woonsocket’s large over-55 community, making it visually appealing for improved physical and mental health opportunities.

Providence Streets Coalition – \$12,574 – Providence

This project will bring neighbors together to collectively transform a parking lane into a temporary urban trail to assess safety, build community support, and inform the design for a permanent Green and Complete Streets redesign of Hope Street.

Southside Community Land Trust – \$8,000 – Providence

SCLT youth staff will continue to beautify outdoor spaces and cultivate herbs and vegetables for older adults in Providence to enjoy. They will also work with an artist to create a second cook-book that will preserve seniors’ traditional recipes and stories.

Watch in the coming months for a series of videos on Facebook and on www.aarp.org/RIlivable that showcase each of these projects.

The *Community Challenge* is part of AARP’s nationwide work on livable communities, which supports the efforts of neighborhoods, towns, cities and counties across the country to become great places for all residents. We believe that communities should provide safe, walkable streets; affordable and accessible housing and transportation options; access to needed services; and opportunities for residents to participate in community life.

Another way AARP Rhode Island supports livable communities is via our series of popular webinars. I invite you to watch *Walk, Run, Ride, Roll: Building Complete Streets For A Thriving Community*. The event took place on August 9, but the recording can be found at www.aarp.org/RIReplays. National and local experts showcased the successful implementation of Complete Streets projects across the country and in Rhode Island and how communities benefit as a result.

Planning, designing, and building roads that meet the needs of all users are essential to building a truly livable community. Complete Streets design allows everyone to share the road and get their own safe piece of the street. Learn how cities and towns consider and incorporate these design principles and how can you get involved in your community.

Early Voting Starts Soon

Are you ready to vote in the September 13th primary election? Early voting begins August 24, so it’s time to be sure you are registered and confident you know how and where to vote.

AARP Rhode Island has collected all the most up-to-date election information to make sure that the voices of voters 50+ are heard. Visit www.aarp.org/RIVotes for important dates and deadlines as well as a summary of safe and secure voting options included in the AARP Rhode Island-backed Let RI Vote Act signed into law in June.

In mid-August, AARP Rhode Island will launch our 2022 Video Voter Guide. Candidates running for the 2nd Congressional District, RI Governor and Providence Mayor will be addressing key issues of interest to voters 50+. Make informed voting decisions! Watch for the videos on Facebook or find them at www.aarp.org/RI.



Know the when, where, and how. Then vote.

EARLY VOTING FOR THE SEPTEMBER PRIMARY STARTS

AUGUST 24! Voting gives you the power to decide what our future looks like. But you have to be in the know to vote. AARP Rhode Island is here to help. We’ve collected the most up-to-date election information, including key dates and deadlines, to make sure that the voices of voters 50-plus are heard. Make sure you’re prepared to vote and know the safe and secure voting options included in the new, AARP Rhode Island-backed Let RI Vote Act. In mid-August, you can also find our Video Voter Guide posted along with all the latest election information at aarp.org/RIvotes.

