

## Solar project back on the agenda

By RORY SCHULER

As legal challenges to last year's rejection of a large solar farm project in Johnston linger in court, Johnston's Zoning Board expects to hear a new, yet familiar proposal on July 27.

A group of Johnston homeowners, a former candidate for mayor and a sitting Town Councilor have all joined the

chorus of concerns as a portion of the project submitted and voted down last year seems to be slated to appear for re-consideration next week.

Under the "New Business" portion of the July 27 Zoning Board meeting agenda, a "Petition of Johnston Winsor III, LLC: Applicant, The Steere Family Trust, Owner for 112 Winsor Ave. (AP 59 Lot 15, zoned R40)" appears.

The "applicant seeks a special use variance to propose a ground-mounted solar array and associated improvements."

Johnston residents packed the Johnston Senior Center on Thursday night, April 28, 2022, for a marathon Zoning Board meeting that lasted until 2 a.m. the next morning. Ultimately, the concerned residents scored a victory as the board denied proposals from Cranston-based

Green Development to build five new solar fields in residential neighborhoods in western Johnston.

"The town's Zoning Board once again hearing an application on Winsor III Solar Farm Proposal that will consume a large forested Area in District 5," said Town Council member representing District 5 Robert Civetti. "People need to know that only one year of time has

passed since our Marathon Zoning meeting which lasted over eight hours and was attended by over 100 angry residents, the Zoning Board and Green Development is bringing this project back to the table."

Civetti cried foul, saying it's too soon for the project to re-appear for consideration.

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## Station owner pledges to dock yacht elsewhere

### Following resident complaints, Johnston gas proprietor cleans up property

By RORY SCHULER

A yacht has been docked at a Johnston service station for years.

"Gas stations don't have yachts," said Tara Street homeowner Donna A. Ricci. "And gas stations don't have Winnebagos."

A Johnston gas station owner's public hearing has been continued to a third month following neighborhood efforts to convince him to clean up his Hartford Avenue property.

Neighbors want the yacht removed from the business property at the corner of Tara Street and Hartford Avenue. The owner says he needs at least one more week.

Tara Street residents also wanted a beaten up recreational vehicle (RV) moved from the property. Johnston Gas owner Joseph Nham complied with that request last week. Next month, for the

third time, Town Council will continue a show-cause hearing in which Nham's business license is at stake.

"He has removed some of the debris that was in the back of the yard, so in my estimation this is an ongoing situation," Johnston Building Official Ed Civito said during the first hearing on June 12. "I'm not going to remove all the violations at this juncture. We're just going to monitor it. Stay on him. And periodically make sure he's cleaning up. It's housekeeping more than anything ... If he structured all his cars and put them in line."

The fire department needs clear access to the property, should an emergency erupt.

"Fire needs to be able to maneuver around that parking lot, in case there's any kind of a fire or something like that," Civito explained. "So I think some of the

■ YACHT - PAGE 10



**THE BEFORE PHOTO:** A large yacht and an RV sit amid a sea of cracked up cars around Johnston Gas, a business that has drawn the attention of the Johnston Town Council, who have demanded the site be cleaned up or the owner's business license may be in jeopardy.



**THE OWNER:** Johnston Gas owner Joseph Nham promises he'll remove a large yacht from his business at the corner of Hartford Avenue and Tara Street. He removed an old RV from the site recently, following neighborhood complaints. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



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# 'Senior Spotlight'



**DOUBLE DUTY:** Jean LaFazia and Judy Santilli, identical twins and life-long Johnston residents, have been volunteering continually for the last seven years at the Johnston Senior Center. (Photo courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)

## Twin volunteers, both lifelong Johnston residents, deliver double the devotion

By **RICHARD J. DELFINO JR.**  
Special to the Sun Rise

This week the Johnston "Senior Spotlight" shines on two sisters, identical twins and life-long Johnston residents, who have been volunteering continually for the last seven years here at the Johnston Senior Center.

Jean LaFazia and Judy Santilli can be seen working the Bingo, serving lunches and generally doing all that is asked of them here at the center.

As members here, they also enjoy taking classes, going on trips, and participating in many other activities.

In some of our lighter moments here, a visitor or new member will remark, "I can't believe, (either Jean or Judy) can be in two places at one time," until they actually realize there are two sisters.

Judy, who worked for many years with Johnston Senior housing, says many seniors "need only a kind word to help them through their day."

Well here at the center, staff and members can be assured of a friendly service, a smiling greeting, and a kind word (times two) from Jean and Judy.

**Editor's Note:** Richard J. DelFino Jr. serves as Executive Director of the Johnston Senior Center, at 1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston. The Johnston Sun Rise regularly publishes a senior profile, called "Senior Spotlight," submitted by the senior center.

Say you saw it in the  
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# Plaque added to Memorial Park Military Honor Roll

By PETE FONTAINE

**R**obert Arrico, who serves as commander of the Giovanni Folcarelli DAV Chapter I, recently performed an extraordinary mission inside sun-covered Johnston War Memorial Park.

Joined by members of the highly respected and long-standing DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Chapter which is based at the Kelley-Gazzerro VFW Post 1912 on Plainfield Pike located on the Johnston-Cranston line, Arrico held a brief dedication ceremony for an important addition to the park's prestigious Military Honor Roll.

It was in honor and remembrance of the late former Lt. Governor Giovanni Folcarelli, who compiled a long laundry list of accomplishments and achievements during his shortened life of 56 years despite periods of illness and hospitalization because of his service-connected disability.

He was a member of the Rhode Island U.S. District Court and U.S. Court of Appeals, Standing Master in Chancery of the Supreme Court and a Justice of the Peace. He was also a member of the American Arbitration Association Panel as an arbitrator of disputes.

Likewise, he was a graduate of Boston College, who became Special Counsel to the RI Attorney General and headed numerous commissions and boards.

Perhaps one of his life's greatest honors came when the one-time Providence DAV Chapter I changed its name in honor of the late Scituate resident's name.

Which is why Arrico and his fellow members Richard Michaud, Rodney Leighton, and Kenneth DiLeone put a plaque on the already prestigious Military Honor Roll Wall.

Giovanni's son Joseph Folcarelli, his wife Ann Marie Folcarelli, son David Folcarelli and daughter Amanda Folcarelli also took part in the ceremony as did his nieces Donna Folcarelli and Johnston Town Councilwoman Linda Folcarelli.

It was the sisters Folcarelli whose late father Louis T. Folcarelli — Giovanni's brother — who proposed the DAV Chapter name change which met with unanimous approval for the 1982 Veteran of the Year.

"Everyone loved our uncle," said Linda Folcarelli, who explained that he contracted amoebic dysentery during WWII which developed into chronic colitis and loss of body organs. "Through it all he (made) memorable contributions to many people, especially his friends of the DAV Chapter."



**DESERVING DEDICATION:** Among the people who took part in the recent plaque dedication in honor of the late Giovanni Folcarelli are Kenneth DiLeone, Linda Folcarelli, Donna Folcarelli, DAV Commander Robert Arrico, Richard Michaud and Rodney Leighton. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

**FIRST FAMILY:**

Joseph Folcarelli, son of the late Giovanni Folcarelli, is joined by his cousins Donna and Linda Folcarelli, his one David and daughter Amanda and wife Ann Marie Folcarelli during the recent plaque dedication in War Memorial Park.



# Our Lady of Grace Church sets Italian Feast & Festival dates

By PETE FONTAINE

As far as Rev. Peter J. Gower and the proud parishioners at Our Lady of Grace Church in Johnston is concerned, it's never too early to begin preparations for its storied rite of September.

That's why there was a flurry of activity at famed Festival Field located off Sheridan Street — across from the Roman Catholic Church — last week, which featured Father Gower using a power washer inside several festival food areas that will once again serve countless guests during the annual Italian Feast and Festival 2023 in honor of La Madonna Della DiFesa.

"There will be rides, games, food, fun and fellowship," said Father Gower, as he announced the 2023 festival will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 6 with a 6 p.m. mass followed by a candlelight procession and rosary. He said the carnival rides on Rockwell Amusement's Midway along with games and all food booths will open Thursday, Sept. 7 at 5 p.m.

Known as one of Rhode Island's most popular summertime events the Italian Feast and Festival will continue through Sunday, Sept. 10, with a grand raffle drawing for \$7,000 in prizes.

"Admission is always free," Father Gower wanted it known. "We're bringing back the Big Top and all events will be held rain or shine."

When asked for a preview of the menu, the always smiling priest mused: "We will again be serving our famous signature foods like sausage and pepper sandwiches and (OLG's famous) famous lasagna."

While the 2023 food menu will again be filled with traditional and nightly features, Father Gower added "and of course we'll be making our famous doughboys every night."

Also, the 2023 Fest and Festival will have a first on

Sunday, Sept. 10, when The Most Rev. Richard D. Henning, D.D., S.T.D., Bishop of Providence, will be the main celebrant and homilist at the 10:30 a.m. mass with Father Gower serving as Celebrant.

The official list of entertainment as well as the complete menu of food will be announced soon, and as always, Father Gower said "admission is free, we'll be open rain or shine ... mangia, mangia!"

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# They walked with cops & got new shirts to prove it

By PETE FONTAINE

Johnston Police Captain Mike Babbitt came to War Memorial Park last Wednesday morning armed with two 5-gallon coffee carriers and several oversized cardboard boxes.

He placed the coffee containers on top of a table draped with a banner that read "Johnston Police Department Walk with Cops."

Soon thereafter, coordinator and Johnston District I Councilwoman Linda Folcarelli, her sister Donna and five volunteers helped fill cups with coffee, cream and/or sugar. They served senior citizens who arrived by bus from the town's respective resident living centers.

As for the boxes, they were filled with what has been a storied tradition for more than a quarter century.

Once every summer during the Walk with Cops season, the JPD not only serves its weekly coffee and donuts but also gives a colored T-shirt to attendees.

This year, the color as Babbitt noted, was ancient Irish green a la Boston Celtics style. Each shirt was screen-printed in black letters that read "Walk with Cops," "Johnston Police RI" and the department's famed eagle and torch.

There were two examples of how much people value T-shirts and pack them away to preserve them from season to season.

One example was the blue T-shirts — Mike Storti, Marsha Cotter and Anne and Bob Jacques. And there was also a white tee, featuring black screen printing that long-time walk participant Cliff Esposito received from former JPD Chief William Taco many moons ago.

"This day is always special!" Esposito exclaimed while sampling the morning coffee. "Everyone here really appreciates the shirts and hospitality."

Of course, no Walk with Cops would be complete without the different flavor donuts and weekly walk around the always well-maintained War Memorial Park with assistance from a number of Johnston's finest.

"This is yet another special day for Walk with Cops," said Linda Folcarelli, the JPD's Community Policing coordinator who has been part of the program for the last seven years. "We all love coming here and volunteering; it gives everyone a great sense of pride in our community."

Likewise, the Johnston Police really enjoy interacting — and walking around the park — with many of the town's valued senior citizens.



**PROUD PRESENTATION:** Joan Stanzione, activities director at The Bridge at Cherry Hill, holds the JPD's Walk with Cops 2023 T-shirt with Sgt. Luca Lancellotti and Officer Brooke Ardito. The shirts were given to attendees at last week's walk around the park.

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**BLUE BUDDIES:** Mike Storti, Marsha Cotter, Anne and Bob Jones came to last week's Walk with Cops wearing their classic blue T-shirts, which was another example of the care people take in preserving their JPD apparel. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



**CAPTAIN'S CORNER:** JPD Captain Mike Babbitt is joined by the valuable volunteers who help make Walk with Cops an ongoing success. They are Pat Giardina, Linda Holly, Christine DeSimone, Donna Folcarelli, Livia Mastrogiuseppe, Linda Folcarelli and Kathy Ruggiero.



# Opinion

LETTERS

## 'If you have never attended a public hearing this would be a perfect first'

To the residents of the Town of Johnston,  
There is a very important meeting scheduled before the zoning board for the town on July 27 at the Johnston Senior Center. Green Energy is back at it.

While the first solar farm proposal is making it's way through the court system, Green submitted a new plan abutting the Rollingwood Estates, Hopkins Avenue and Winsor Avenue properties. It is the largest solar array of the their initial proposal. This property is zoned residential, R40.

In the eleventh hour of a hotly contested hearing last year, the zoning board voted "no" to this truly awful proposal. The residents who fought this were relieved, but in no way were they thinking this was over. And it is not.

I had the pleasure of a question and answer interview with our new Mayor on Nov. 1, 2022. One of the questions pertained to this large solar development. I have always believed residential should be for residents.

I suggested brown spaces for such development — industrial areas. The residents took it upon themselves to hire a land use attorney, presented expert witnesses and one-by-one residents spoke what was in their minds and hearts.

Mayor Polisen stated, "I think that the abutting residents and the residents within the surrounding area should have the final say as to what happened with the specific case being talked about about ... the residents in that area didn't want that and I respect their decision."

Only landowners within 200 feet of the proposed solar array have been notified of this upcoming public hearing, as is required by law. Green Energy and its representatives are hoping that no one attends; that no one asks questions or that no one will bother because it is summer.

If you have never attended a public hearing this would be a perfect first. People have asked me why it's a bad idea, why am I concerned, its not in my backyard. I believe that everything that happens in this town directly affects ever single taxpaying citizen.

I have heard time and time again that folks want to know what is going on. The only way to truly understand is to attend this meeting. I am not against alternative energy. I am against taking residential property and turning it into a wasteland of solar panels. Residential should remain for residents. We are the majority of the tax base in this town.

Remember your sixth grade science class? Photosynthesis? Where oxygen comes from? Trees.

We have so much development going on and acres and acres of green space is disappearing. Some have said that solar will give them cheaper electricity. Once the solar array is constructed, and oh, you cannot imagine the noise, dirt and dust it creates, RI Energy will be the purchaser of the generated electricity and they can sell it to whomever they please.

Most people move into residential areas, expecting to have human neighbors. Not those big shiny panels. Do not be fooled by the rhetoric of "it's better than houses, it won't tax the schools or services."

How can that possibly be presented when in the past two years there have been housing developments all along Bishop Hill Road and Central Avenue? They are beautiful homes, family homes. When brought before the boards they were in conformity with the residential zoning. Please attend, please speak out, please help. Do not let them pull the wool over your eyes. See you on Thursday, July 27

**Karen Cappelli Chadwick**  
Johnston

(Editor's Note: The July 27 meeting is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. at the Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Ave.).

## 'How can a community thrive when its governing body turns a deaf ear to its own people?'

BY TAMRA MORETTI

As a concerned constituent, I attended the Town Council meeting on Monday, July 10, where I presented valid questions, heartfelt concerns, and thoughtful considerations regarding the controversial Columbus statue in Johnston Memorial Park. Unfortunately, my concerns were met with an alarming air of indifference. How can a community thrive when its governing body turns a deaf ear to its own people?

Below is a transcript of my speech during the Johnston Town Committee meeting on Monday night.

Questions, concerns, and considerations for the Columbus statue:

'We cannot run away from history; the Christopher Columbus statue is a symbol of Italian culture.' - Quote by Joseph Paulino Jr., former 33rd Mayor of Providence.

My name is Tamra Moretti, and both sides of my father's lineage are 100% Italian descendant. My family comes from the regions of Monticello and Abruzzi. It is the Italian passion within me that led me to speak here today, even though other parts of me are really nervous!

Last year, when I shared with my father that I was working with a legislator to pass a bill in Rhode Island for the beauty industry, he was immensely proud. He told me that my activism came from both sides of our Italian relatives. Today, I stand before you with questions, concerns, and considerations for the Columbus statue.

The intent behind my questions and concerns is primarily focused on public safety, fiscal responsibility, and the accountability of the Town Council to serve the people of Johnston.

**1st question:** What will it cost the town to honor the special condition stated in the sale from the Board of Contract and Supply City of Providence (RI)? The special condition states that the statue must be well preserved, protected, and not damaged, altered, manipulated, or melted down in any way. When can the people of the Town expect to see these plans?

**2nd question:** In the event of vandalism to the statue, what are the consequences or punishment for the responsible person or minor? Are the charges or consequences the same for someone who vandalizes the statue with, say, a balloon filled with red paint versus egging it? When can the people of the Town expect answers to these questions? Moreover, in the event of constant missed attacks, does it have any impact on the wildlife or environment if paint balloons filled with red paint are hurled at the statue or if a drone drops paint on it?

**Concerns:** The reason Providence removed the statue was due to the inability to afford continuous police presence around it. I spoke to the Johnston Police, and they assured me that they are trained for riot and protest

situations, as all police should be at this moment, especially after the events following George Floyd's death in the United States. However, they couldn't answer who would bear the cost when the police department needs extra protection or presence around the statue, or if vandalism becomes repetitive. What is the difference in funding between a town charter and the funding for the capital city of RI?

I regularly visit the park with my 8-year-old son. Just last night, there was a women's circle sitting in the middle of the island, connecting with each other as women who attend the same church. I've been told that one of the measures being considered is to demolish the bridge as a preventative measure.

(Editor's Note: Asked earlier this week, if he was considering removing the bridge in Memorial Park, Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisen Jr. insisted it was not a consideration. "There was never even a thought about removing it," Polisen wrote via email on Monday, July 17.)

However, the women sitting on the island had no idea that the statue was being placed in the park, or that the island may no longer be accessible to the living human beings who currently enjoy the park. I've asked many people in the park, on multiple occasions, if they knew that the Christopher Columbus statue removed from Providence was set to be placed in our park on Columbus Day. From personal experience, I can assure you that anyone I've spoken to in the park had no idea the statue was coming, let alone that it might require shutting off parts of the park they enjoy.

Has the Town considered posting this information inside the park in advance to give people a chance to express their opinions on the controversial statue and the legally binding special conditions for its display?

**Considerations:** When I spoke to my councilman on Monday night, June 28, I called my father right after because I had a birthday present for him. He asked what was new, and I shared everything I discussed here today. He quickly became defensive, and our conversation ended with him hanging up on me. He disowned me as his daughter, stating that I no longer belonged to him. My first thought after he hung up was, "In order to think you have the right to disown me, you would have had to think you owned me." No human being has the right to own another living human being.

In 2017, two years after I moved to Johnston, a woman named Anne Grant wrote a journal titled "Beware the Mammonni, my search to understand domestic violence in Italian culture and RI's Family Court." At that time, she was the Executive Director of the larg-

est shelter in Rhode Island for battered women and their children.

Polisen Jr. was quoted saying that Johnston is home to the state's most dense Italian American community.

Two significant events occurred the year after Roe v. Wade became the law of the land. In 1974, women could get a credit card without their husband's permission for the first time, and the Women's Center of RI was founded by Italian American women. This group of women in Rhode Island endured the most abuse at that time. I humbly ask this committee to consider dedicating the statue to the Women's Center founded in 1974 by Italian American women. Additionally, I propose having an event in the park every year around Columbus Day to raise awareness about domestic violence and educate people on how to heal from generational abuse.

"You can take away the statue, you can move the statue, but that is not the reason it's being defaced. History is history. But you can learn from it. If you're not going to learn from your past, you're doomed to repeat it." — Statements by Darren Waldron, Head of the RI Indian Council.

During an interview at the time when Providence was deciding where to place the statue, he mentioned that until the real reason for the vandalism is addressed, there will always be a risk for vandalism.

Thank you for your time today. The statements made by each Town Council member and the lawyer representing the Town were appalling. They went on for over 10 minutes after I had sat down. The decision to relocate a bronze sculpture resembling Christopher Columbus is factually unrelated to Columbus himself, as he has been deceased for centuries.

In the absence of any answers or guidance from the Town Council Committee regarding the display of this object in Johnston Memorial War Park, I learned that Mayor Joseph Polisen Jr. is the only person capable of addressing my questions, concerns, and considerations regarding the item. Unfortunately, neither he nor anyone from his office attended the meeting, even though a constituent was granted permission to speak. It is known that Mayor Polisen Jr. alone holds the authority to answer my questions, address my concerns, and approve the dedication of the statue to the Women's Center of RI. The decision to exhibit this controversial item lies solely with him, making him responsible and accountable for responding to any questions or concerns raised by Town constituents.

If you like myself have any inquiries or concerns, please feel free to contact the Mayor directly at Jpolisenajr@johnston-ri.us.

**Tamra Moretti**  
Johnston Italian constituent,  
mother and fierce protector of others



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## MAYOR POLISENA: 'We now acknowledge irrational people rather than ignore them'

**Editor's Note:** The Johnston Sun Rise reached out to Mayor Polisen for comment regarding Johnston resident Tamra Moretti's concerns regarding the planned placement of Providence's former Christopher Columbus statue in Johnston's War Memorial Park. The mayor replied with the following:

One of the problems with our society as a whole is we now acknowledge irrational people rather than ignore them. I choose to ignore the loud minority, particularly in this case, from one individual bringing up drone attacks and bridge remov-

al, which rises to conspiracy theorist level.

I will continue to represent what I believe to be the silent, sane and normal majority of people. I've said it before and I'll say it again: I believe the majority of people are either for the statue or simply have

more important things going on in their lives and don't care one way or another. Rest assured, as long as I'm Mayor Johnston residents don't have to be an "activist" to feel like they have a voice in Johnston.

**Johnston Mayor**  
**Joseph Polisen Jr.**



# JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

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### IDENTITY FRAUD

An alleged identity fraud case, attempted \$50,000 theft and multi-state conspiracy was cracked by Johnston Police responding to a local bank earlier this month.

On July 1, around 12:30 p.m., Johnston Police were dispatched to a bank in town after receiving a report of a possible fraud. The manager told police that a woman was attempting to withdraw \$50,000 from a savings account, but was possibly using a fake ID for the transaction.

The woman had completed a withdraw slip for the amount and approached the teller window. She presented a Massachusetts driver's license. Bank employees suspected the signature used did not match the signature on file and advised police. They also attempted to send the customer a verification code via phone, but the woman told them she did not have her cell phone.

The woman was requesting "two bankers checks be written for the amount of \$25,000 each," according to the arrest report.

The woman, later identified as Mistelle D. Hackworth, 48, of 1320 West Wieland Road, Lansing, Wisconsin, handed Johnston Police Patrolman Aaron Blanco her suspect Massachusetts ID.

"Through my training and experience I immediately could tell that the Driver's License was not authentic," Blanco wrote in the arrest report. "I then inquired with her again and she stated that she was actually Mistelle Hackworth from Michigan."

The woman told police that she met a man at a Michigan car wash approximately one week earlier. She said she needed money and the man "offered to give her \$10,000 if she carried out today's crimes."

Hackworth told police that she flew into Newark, New Jersey on Tuesday, June 30 and stayed at a nearby hotel. Then she was driven from New Jersey to Johnston and provided with account numbers and the fake ID, driven to the bank, and dropped off while the driver waited. She provided police with a cell phone number but said she couldn't provide any more information, other than the man was black and around 22 years old and wearing all black.

Hackworth was arrested and transported back to police headquarters. She was charged with Obtaining Money under False Pretense, Identity Fraud and Forgery.

Hackworth was arraigned on July 1 and bail was set in the amount of \$10,000 surety, in which she was unable to post. She was remanded to the women's ACI intake.

The case was forwarded to the Johnston Police Detective Division for further investigation.

### SHOPLIFTING & RESISTING ARREST

On June 26, around 11:40 a.m., Johnston Police were dispatched to a store in town after reports of

a shoplifting in progress. Police were advised that the suspect had fled on foot east toward Atwood Avenue. He was described as a black man wearing a white T-shirt and blue pants.

Officers in a Johnston Police cruiser spotted a suspect matching the description running eastbound into the woods. The patrolmen pursued.

"It should be noted that I gave the suspect multiple commands to stop running and get on the ground," Johnston Police Patrolman Matthew A. Lonardo wrote in the arrest report. "After several loud and clear commands, the male complied. While on the ground, he concealed his arms under his body in an attempt to resist arrest. Following several commands to show his hands, I was able to forcibly free both arms and secured him in hand restraints."

Police identified the suspect as Yonpier Colon, 46, of 14 Hill St., Apt. 1, Smithfield.

While searching Colon, Lonardo found eight unopened packages of Milwaukee Sawzall Blades and two packages of unopened blade three-packs in his pants.

"While attempting to extract the blades from Mr. Colon's pants he made a spontaneous utterance stating 'my girl needed gas and this was the only way for me to get some money.'"

The store estimated the blades, combined, were valued around \$255.70.

Colon was transported to police headquarters and processed. He was charged with Felony Shoplifting, Habitual Shoplifting and Resisting Legal or Illegal Arrest.

"It should also be noted that Mr. Colon is a probation violator," according to police.

### HABITUAL OFFENDER SHOPLIFTING & RECKLESS DRIVING

A shoplifting report led to a car chase, foot pursuit and ultimately, a West Warwick man behind bars.

On June 25, around 8:50 a.m., Johnston Police responded to a store in town following a reported shoplifting. Police were advised the suspect was an adult Hispanic male wearing a blue sweatshirt. He was fleeing the store's parking lot in a red Ford sedan with a rear Rhode Island plate.

The vehicle was spotted traveling east and about to turn onto Atwood Avenue.

"While traveling southbound on Atwood Avenue I observed the suspect vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed northbound on Atwood Avenue with no front registration plate," Johnston Police Patrolman Patrick Gendreau wrote in the arrest report. "As the motor vehicle began to approach the on ramp to Route 6 East it mounted the curb and passed a vehicle on the right side in an attempt to merge onto the highway. I then activated my police cruisers lights and sirens in an attempt to detain the suspect vehicle however the vehicle did not stop."

The car continued onto Rout 6 for about a half-mile, traveling 76 mph in a 55 mph zone, according to police. Eventually, as it approached the Killingly Street exit, the vehicle came to a stop and the driver opened the door as if to exit the vehicle, closed the door and sped off again.

"The motor vehicle then began traveling at a high rate of speed to the right of the interstate onto the grass and into a wooded area," Gendreau wrote. "As the motor vehicle approached the wooded area it then collided with a small wire fence and dense brush as it again came to a complete stop."

Once the car stopped, the man exited the car and ran into the woods. Gendreau pursued on foot. He shouted, "Police! Stop you're under arrest!"

Backup arrived on the scene.

"The suspect had already fled into the dense brush out of my sight," Gendreau wrote. "We began to pursue the suspect in waist high grass, which was matted down with footprints where the suspect had run. I then drew my firearm as I was unaware of where the suspect was hiding in the dense brush and I followed the trail of matted down high grass."

Police followed the tracks for several hundred feet until they faded. Johnston Police contacted Rhode Island State Police to request a K-9 response for tracking purposes. They arrived on scene quickly.

After just a few minutes, the dogs located the suspect in dense brush nearby. He was arrested and identified as Jonathan M. Oconnell, 30, of 32 Saint Mary St., West Warwick.

"It should be noted that a blue sweatshirt as well as a stolen Milwaukee Impact Drill was located in the dense brush where Mr. Oconnell was located," Gendreau wrote.

The car was towed from the scene. Oconnell was transported to Johnston Police Headquarters.

Police determined Oconnell also had a suspended drivers license and the car did not have an active registration. He faces misdemeanor charges for Habitual Offender-Shoplifting, Reckless Driving, Eluding Officer with a Motor Vehicle, Obstructing Officer in Execution of Duty, Resisting Legal or Illegal Arrest and a felony Shoplifting charge. He also received traffic citations for Driving with a Suspended License, Operation of Vehicle When Registration is Canceled, Improper Use of Evidence of Registration, Laned Roadway Violation and Speeding (1-11+ MPH in excess of Posted Limit).

On Sunday, June 25, Oconnell was arraigned and held as a bail violator. He was remanded to the ACI.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following police log information has been taken from police incident and arrest reports, all public record, provided by the Johnston Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies.

Rhode Island Monthly's **best** 2023 WINNER! OF RHODE ISLAND

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Say you saw it in the Johnston Sun Rise



# SUN RISE SCOOPS

## Sun Rise Staff Reports

July 22

### The Prout School Class of '73 Reunion

Saturday, July 22, at 12 p.m., The Prout School Class of 1973 will hold its 50th reunion at The Prout School, 4640 Tower Hill Road in South Kingstown. All 1973 graduates are cordially invited to attend. For further information, 1973 graduate alumni are asked to join the Facebook Group "Prout Class of 1973,"

or contact Mary Paolino at mary.paolino@yahoo.com.

July 30

### Warwick Veterans/TollGate High School Class of '73 Reunion

Sunday, July 30 at 6 p.m., Warwick Veterans Memorial High School/TollGate High School Class of 1973 will hold its 50th Year Reunion at the Valley Country Club, 251 New London Ave, Warwick. Cocktails 6 p.m., Dinner 7 p.m. \$50 per person. Checks payable to "VetsTollGate Class of 1973" can be sent

to Ms. Judy Snow, 29 Oberlin Dr. Warwick. Contact us at ClassOf73VetsTollgate@gmail.com with any questions.

Jan. 1 - June 31

### St. Francis Xavier Academy Scholarship Applications

The St. Francis Xavier Academy Alumnae Association is accepting scholarship applications from Jan. 1, until July 31. Forms are available on their two Facebook pages, by mail at SXA. P.O. Box 20452, Cranston, or contact a board member.

Sept. 11

### The Comedy Course

Monday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m., The Comedy Course is returning for a 6th year, every Monday night for 6 weeks. Three instructors, with over 100 years of combined stage experience, will guide you on a 6-week journey from writing your first joke to performing your debut comedy routine. You will learn the dos and don'ts of standup comedy and have fun doing it. The course is \$200 per person. The place: TBD. Instructors

SCOOPS - PAGE 8

## SCOOP OF THE WEEK

# Rock N Jock for FARA

## Aug. 13

On Sunday, Aug. 13, it's time again for Rock N Jock Charities 23rd annual two-day event at the Crowne Plaza, Warwick.

The organization helps raise money to fight illnesses, including Friedreich's Ataxia, an illness battled by beloved Johnston resident Matthew DiIorio, who's family has pledged to keep up the good fight.

"In his 40 years of living, Matt literally inspired thousands in whatever he was involved but no more so than getting people to participate in raising funds and awareness and making the need to find a treatment and a cure for Friedreich's Ataxia a priority," according to the organizers of the Race for Matt & Grace. "Through each challenge Matt encountered during his 27-year battle with FA, he always managed to find the good in it, and it was Matt's mission to help others with FA experience the benefits of the FARA community, which has converted an FA diagnosis from a lonely place of uncertainty into one full of hope and optimism."

The beloved son of Sallyann and Jack DiIorio and big brother to twins Andrew and Nicholas, Matt passed away on the Fourth of July 2021, due to complications from FA.

Attending the Rock N Jock Charities 23rd annual two-day event is yet another way to show support for Matt's family and the cause he so believed in.

A Golf Tournament has also been scheduled for the following day, Monday, Aug. 14, at Potowomut Golf Course.

"They have been supporting FARA and A Wish Come True for the last few years, last year they were able to give each organization \$14,000," said Matt's father, Jack DiIorio.

For more details or to purchase tickets go to [www.rocknjockcharities.com](http://www.rocknjockcharities.com).

The 2023 Rock N Jock Charities entertainment line up for our 23rd Night of Entertainment is now official. The event will feature Neal & the Vipers, who will return as the show-opener. As always Steve Smith and the NAKEDS will perform. Renowned Latin percussionist Tito Puente Jr. will be joining the lineup.

"We dare anyone to stay in their seat for his performance!" Declares the Rock N Jock organizers. "We are thrilled to announce that Rhode Island's own Billy Gilman has confirmed he will perform for us this year."

Tickets are available now.

There's also an update on the annual Race for Matt & Grace (partially named for Johnston's Matt DiIorio).

The race was started September of 2010 by Katie Hopkins and her brother Patrick in honor of their cousin Grace Hopkins who was diagnosed with FA September of 2008. The race was called "The Race For Grace" with about 70 participants, according to the event's website. At the after party for the race in 2012, Katie and Patrick announced they were changing the name of the race to "The Race for Matt and Grace" to honor the fight of both families.

"We invite you to join the families of FA patients Matt DiIorio, Grace Hopkins, and Alex Fielding on Sept. 23, 2023 at Rhode Island College in Providence for the 13th Annual Race for Matt & Grace," declare's Matt's friends and family. "This daylong event features a 5K, 1.5 Mile Fun Walk and an after-party with food and live entertainment."

You can sign up at their website: [www.give.curefa.org/event/fara-5k-or-race-for-matt-and-grace-2023/e489319](http://www.give.curefa.org/event/fara-5k-or-race-for-matt-and-grace-2023/e489319).

Race registration runs from 8:30-9:30 a.m., followed by a speaking program and the race fires off at 10 a.m.

## A NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT

PRESENTED BY

# ROCK N JOCK CHARITIES

Proceeds to benefit **A Wish Come True & FARA (Friedreichs Ataxia Research Alliance)**

Help end hunger in RI. Bring one nonperishable food item to benefit the

## Sunday, August 13, 2023

**Doors Open 5:30p Entertainment 6:30p**  
**Crowne Plaza, Garden Pavilion, Warwick, RI**  
**All tickets \$35 in advance or at the door**  
[www.rocknjockcharities.com](http://www.rocknjockcharities.com)

# Obituaries

## Obituaries

In your time of need, the *Johnston Sun Rise* will print your loved one's full obituary for a small charge. The paper also places the obituary on our website, [johnstonsunrise.net](http://johnstonsunrise.net).

Should you desire our services, kindly inform your funeral director, or call (401) 732-3100 or email [Obits@rhodybeat.com](mailto:Obits@rhodybeat.com) for additional information. Obituary prices start at \$60. You may include the obituary in any of our other newspapers for half price.

- Thank you

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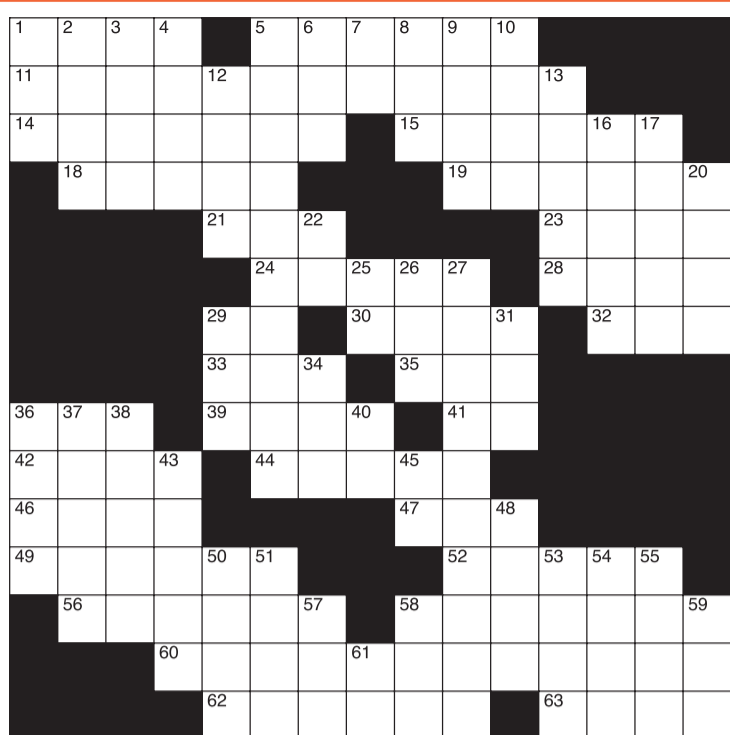
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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Commoner
- 5. Tea leaf
- 11. They save you a table
- 14. Submissions
- 15. Secretly revealed
- 18. Personification of the sea (Norse)
- 19. Unreal
- 21. No seats available
- 23. Bangladeshi currency
- 24. Leaders
- 28. Famed garden
- 29. Denotes past
- 30. Not living
- 32. Midway between south and southeast
- 33. Small island (British)
- 35. Woman (French)
- 36. Wife
- 39. Two-toed sloth
- 41. Blood group
- 42. Soaks
- 44. Biu-Mandara language of Cameroon
- 46. Japanese prefecture

### CLUES DOWN

- 47. Place to be during a rock concert
- 49. Fully grown humans
- 52. Emaciation
- 56. Sparkling
- 58. Fruits you peel
- 60. Derived from a noun
- 62. Popular items to grill
- 63. Port in Yemen
- 1. Before
- 2. Actress Dunham
- 3. This (Spanish)
- 4. Director Peter
- 5. Dominant
- 6. English artists' society (abbr.)
- 7. NY Giants legend
- 8. It's in the ground
- 9. No No No
- 10. Pesky insect
- 12. Danish-American muckraking journalist
- 13. Kids love to do it
- 16. Good Gosh!

- 17. Fakes
- 20. A citizen of Denmark
- 22. Mystic syllable
- 25. Commercial
- 26. Letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 27. Helpers
- 29. Water (French)
- 31. Young woman
- 34. Red-brown sea bream
- 36. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 37. Comprehends
- 38. Walk with confidence
- 40. Home of the Flyers
- 43. Appetizer
- 45. News organization
- 48. Source of the Nile
- 50. A way to march
- 51. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 53. Egyptian bull-god
- 54. Children's author Blyton
- 55. Baseball pitching stat
- 57. Rude young person
- 58. Table napkin
- 59. Monetary unit in Asia
- 61. One-time AL MVP Vaughn

## BankRI Food Drive Now through Aug. 18

With the issue of hunger in Rhode Island on the rise in recent months as a result of the end of pandemic-related emergency benefits and increased costs, BankRI has kicked off a month-long food drive at all 21 of its branches. The collection will continue through Friday, Aug. 18.

In Johnston, the bank's local branch is collecting food to benefit the emergency food program at Tri-County Community Action Agency, which serves residents of Johnston, North Providence, and Smithfield.

According to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, the organization's network of member food pantries served 80,000 people per month in March, April, and May, compared to 66,000 people in February — an increase of 21 percent.

"While we've moved further from the challenges of the past few years, many of our neighbors are still feeling the effects, especially families with children," said Will Tsonos, President and CEO of BankRI. "When you combine the high price of food with the loss of the breakfast and lunch meals kids receive at school, you have the perfect storm for rising food insecurity. Every donation we receive will help."

Throughout the BankRI food drive, all branches feature collection bins in their lobbies for donations of nonperishable food items. Among the foods needed most by pantries are soups and stews, pasta, nutritious breakfast cereal, peanut butter, canned fish and meat, tomato products, and canned fruits and vegetables. The Food Bank and its network also seek culturally relevant foods like jasmine, yellow, and basmati rice, dried black, kidney, and fava beans, and items such as sofrito, fish sauce, coconut milk, and adobo. Any donations of sauces or spices must be in plastic bottles or cans only — no glass.

All BankRI branches have partnered with a pantry that serves its community to ensure the food it collects stays local to feed area residents. In total, 14 pantries are benefiting from the Bank's food drive, and all are members of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank's network.

"We're so grateful for BankRI's partnership and support," said Andrew Schiff, Food Bank CEO. "The need for food assistance today is greater than even during the height of the pandemic. Food drives like these are critical to our ability to put as much food as possible on the tables of those who need it."

## FOOD DRIVE



HELP ENSURE NO ONE GOES HUNGRY

### Most Needed Items

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Canned Fish &amp; Meats</b>             | <b>Rice &amp; Pasta</b>            |
| <b>Canned or Dried Beans &amp; Lentils</b> | <b>Boxed Macaroni &amp; Cheese</b> |
| <b>Canned Soups &amp; Stews</b>            | <b>Breakfast Cereals</b>           |
| <b>Canned Fruits &amp; Vegetables</b>      | <b>Nut &amp; Seed Butters</b>      |
| <b>Canned Tomato Products</b>              | <b>Spices &amp; Condiments</b>     |

### ■ Scoops

(Continued from page 7)

include: Joe Hebert, Coleen Galvin and John Perrotta. Class size is limited. Call John Perrotta at 401-639-7726 to reserve your seat, now. Payment options are available.

#### Sept. 19 The Ocean State Toastmasters Open House

On Tuesday, September 19, from 6 – 8 p.m., The Ocean State Toastmasters will hold an open house at the Proclamation Brewery, 298 Kilvert Street, Warwick. Come and find out why the Ocean State Toastmaster's Club (OSTM) is a place to learn, grow, have fun and practice leadership, problem solving, storytelling and public speaking skills. RSVP - Please. For more information call 401-359-3197, go to [oceanstate.toastmastersclubs.org](http://oceanstate.toastmastersclubs.org) or email [oceanstatetm.20@gmail.com](mailto:oceanstatetm.20@gmail.com).

The Warwick-based Ocean State Toastmasters, 99 James P. Murphy Industrial Highway, Warwick, meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 – 7 p.m. there is informal network-

ing and from 7 – 8:30 p.m., the Toastmaster meeting begins which includes testimonials, presentations, conflict resolution, blog post.

#### Sept. 30 Pilgrim High School Class of '83 Reunion

Saturday, Sept. 30, Pilgrim High School Class of 1983 will hold its 40th Reunion at Quonset Tavern by the Green, 615 Callahan Road, North Kingstown. For more information, please email [pilgrimclass1983@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimclass1983@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page Pilgrim High School Class of 1983. Hold the date!

#### Oct. 15 Central Falls High School Class of '63 Reunion

Sunday, Oct. 15, from 12 – 4 p.m., Central Falls High School Class of 1963, will hold a 60th Class Reunion at Chelo's Banquet Hall, 2225 Post Road, Warwick. Tickets: \$60 for buffet and dancing. Please send checks to: Patricia (Guillette) Mannix, 111 Col. John Gardner Rd., Narragansett. Please include maiden name and phone number on

# be kind anyway.



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## BEACON COMMUNICATIONS

# Advertising Deadlines!

### Display Advertising:

- Cranston Herald **Monday noon**
- Johnston SunRise **Monday noon**
- The Reminder **Thursday 10am**
- Warwick Beacon **Tuesday 10am**
- RI Newspaper Group **Thursday 10am**

### Classified Advertising:

- Cranston Herald, Johnston SunRise, Warwick Beacon **Monday 10am**
- The Reminder **Friday 4pm**









# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local  Adoptable  Loveable



**Logan**

Photo credit: Karen Kalunian-Animal Talk

Let's help Logan's 1st birthday wish of a loving forever home come true! His birthday is August 4th and he would love nothing more than to spend it with a family of his very own! He is a mixed breed boy with the best smile and a playful temperament, plus he has the best ears! He will make a loyal, loving companion and fill your heart with lots of love! You can meet Logan at EGAPL Heart of RI located at 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI. They are open on Wednesday 3:00-7:00, Thursday & Friday 12:00-2:00 and Saturday 10:00-2:00. For more information you can call 401-467-3670 or visit <http://www.heartofri.org> Please remember his birthday is coming soon, let's help Logan celebrate in his new home!

If you have been thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at [animaltalk1920@gmail.com](mailto:animaltalk1920@gmail.com)



**Frenchie & Hunter**

Photo credit: Karen Kalunian-Animal Talk

**BONDED PAIR!!** This adorable duo is thought to be Mother & Son or Grandmother & Grandson, either way they are both beautiful! Frenchie (left) female is about 7-8 years young and Hunter (right) male is about 2-3 years young. They are both very shy because they came from a hoarding situation and were never properly socialized. They need lots of love, time and patience! You will need to visit with them multiple times at the shelter to be sure that you are their perfect match. For more information, please contact Warwick Animal Shelter at 401-468-4377. They are hoping that someone sees their photo and falls in love with them also that they will give them a quiet, loving home!

## Yacht

(Continued from page 1)

cars that can be removed should be removed."

Nham says all the cars parked on his property are necessary for business. He injured his back and said big projects, like the yacht motor, have been put off indefinitely.

Town Council has made removal of the RV and the yacht a sticking point during the last two months' public hearings. They heard from a half-dozen town residents, all of whom asked the board to force the owner to clean up the 1209 Hartford Ave. business.

"I have done an inspection there recently, and he has started to clean up the property; the rear portion of the property," Civito said in June. "Let there be no misunderstanding: this is a garage repair shop, gas station. It's not Seasons Market that sells gas. It's not Cumberland Farms that sells gas. It's a garage repair shop. So at any given time, there will be many cars there. Some have plates on them. Some don't. The ones that don't have plates on it, they should be removed if they're considered non-drivable and the owner has made indication that he's going to start moving certain things."

Civito also weighed in on the yacht storage on the property.

"As far as the boat and the RV, it is a business zone," he explained. "In a lot of residential zones, there are storage of boats and RV's ... In my estimation, if the RV isn't used, it should be removed. If the boat isn't being used, it should be removed. However, let's not comingle aesthetics and a violation. Yes, are the aesthetics there a problem? Absolutely. I think everybody would agree about that ... But ... it's a garage repair shop. So there could be

5 cars there, 10 cars there, 15 cars there at one time."

"But if they've been there for a number of years, it's a junkyard," added Town Council President Robert V. Russo.

"Exactly, and that's why we cited the change in use," Civito replied. "Right at this point, the cars that cannot be driven, or considered ... I can't use the words 'junk' because I'm not an expert on ... antique cars. Should the property be more maintained? Yes. And we're monitoring that."

Town Solicitor William J. Conley Jr. said notices have been sent to the business owners on-record, Five Star Management Services LLC, Johnston Gas Inc., doing business as (dba) Johnston Gas, as far back as April 2021. Violation notices have informed the owners of issues spanning "several matters," Conley explained, including change in existing use, sanitation, zoning regulations and maintenance at the property.

"Who has a gas station, in the state of Rhode Island ... that has a yacht in it?" asked Ricci, who attended the last two monthly Town Council meetings and plans to return in August.

"It is an eyesore," Ricci said, begging for help from town officials. "And I think all of you here see it. Just like we do. We live with it. I understand, on a state highway, it's commercial, it's business. Ok. But that's not business. That's been there ..."

"For 10 years plus," interrupted her husband John, who was seated in the audience.

"Rest assured you will see us again," Donna Ricci continues. "It has to be fixed. Somehow, it has to be. I don't know what else to say."

Nham made brief appearances at the June and July Town Council meetings. He's angry with his neighbors' complaints but he has

vowed to clean up the site.

"I do auto repair," he told Town Council. "If I have 50 cars come in I have to take them."

Nham said he has been running his business along Hartford Avenue for 31 years.

"My main complaint is that the Johnston Gas Station, over the years, has been turning into a visual junkyard," Ricci stood to say to start the June 12 hearing. "You enter our lovely manicured residential neighborhood and are presented with a pile of junk upon entering. You have a yacht, a Winnebago, trashy cars without plates and junk hanging around constantly. It decreases the value of our homes here and angers the neighbors when more items appear piled up over the time. And also a visual pollutant to observe daily when we all take pride in where we live, with the homes we own. I've been here for almost 55 years of my life."

The Ricci's own two houses on Tara Street. A real estate agent told them the gas station may adversely affect their property values if they decide to sell.

"It's a mess," Donna Ricci told Town Council. "It's a mess all the time. It really does hurt us in a way that it's mismanaged in this way. Joe has at times kind of cleaned up a little bit, but it's still the same old ... I just wish that something could be done about it for us; if we do decide to sell our home, I'd like to get the best that we can for it. We worked so hard for it."

Ricci presented a petition full of signatures from people who live on Tara Street.

Town Council continued July's show-cause hearing until next month, setting a new deadline for yacht removal. Nham said he should be able to remove the large vessel by next week.

## Solar

(Continued from page 1)

"The Town's zoning Ordinance is clear that a project cannot be heard again until two years has passed unless significant changes have been made to the plan and in that event a 1-year wait period is applied," Civetti argued earlier this week. "I am by no means an expert on the reviewing these plans but there does not appear to be a significant change to these plans since the last time they were presented. The residents need to know that this is back in front of the Zoning Board and that one of the Zoning Board members that voted against this project last time is conveniently no longer a member of this Board."

Civetti tried unsuccessfully to get his fellow Town Council members to approve an ordinance that would have stemmed solar development in town until the town wide Comprehensive Plan could be updated to reflect modern solar projects and their place in town. The ordinance died for lack of a second despite vocal community support.

Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr., a solar power development proponent, did not return a request for comment by press-time.

Last November, in a mayoral forum hosted by the Johnston Sun Rise, Polisena discussed last year's solar farm rejection and future solar development in town.

The forum's second question asked the following: "A large solar development was pitched for Johnston's west end. Residents banded together and have been temporarily successful blocking the industrial solar field. Was that project a good fit for Johnston? How should Johnston treat future solar field proposals?"

"I think you need to look at each individual project on its own merits," Polisena said on Nov. 1, 2022. "And I think that the abutting residents and the residents within the surrounding area should have the final say, as what happened in the specific case you are talking about."

Polisena has accepted thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from Rhode Island solar energy companies, including Green Energy.

"I am a big supporter of renewable energy; in the year 2100, my son will only be in his 70s," Polisena said in November. "I think that's something that we really need to move on. But I will say, and again the residents in that area didn't want that and I respect their decision, but that doesn't mean that residents in

other areas would not prefer solar to increased homes. And one thing that I just would like to address, and I try to have this conversation with people, when they see woods, they think open space. And it's not. Most of it is zoned residential. And the town, nor anyone else has the legal authority to stop any developer or any contractor to build houses — they have to conform within the lot specifications — on that residential property."

Johnston resident Karen Cappelli Chadwick ran, unsuccessfully, against Polisena, in last fall's mayor's race. She plans to attend the July 27 meeting.

"While the first solar farm proposal is making it's way through the court system, Green submitted a new plan abutting the Rollingwood Estates, Hopkins Avenue and Winsor Avenue properties," she warns. "It is the largest solar array of the their initial proposal."

"In the eleventh hour of a hotly contested hearing last year, the zoning board voted 'no' to this truly awful proposal," she wrote. "The residents who fought this were relieved, but in no way were they thinking this was over. And it is not."

The July 27 meeting is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. at the Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Ave.



**PACKED HOUSE:** Johnston residents packed the Johnston Senior Center on Thursday night, April 28, 2022, for a marathon Zoning Board meeting that lasted beyond 2 a.m. Ultimately, the concerned residents scored a victory as the board was unable to approve proposals from Cranston-based Green Development to build five new solar fields in residential western Johnston neighborhoods. (Sun Rise FILE photo)





**BREAKING GROUND:** Six Indigenous veterans dug their shovels into the ground, officially initiating the construction of the Indigenous Veterans Memorial. (Sun Rise photo by Dana Richie)

# Memorializing the service of our Indigenous veterans

By **DANA RICHIE**

With a bulldozer in the background, six shovels stuck out of an uncovered patch of dirt. Six Indigenous veterans sprinkled tobacco where the shovels met the earth. As a flute played, they dug their shovels into the ground and moved pieces of the land.

Less than three months after this event on July 12, an engraved granite monument beneath a stone arch will stand in this same place, accounting for the 42nd memorial on the cemetery grounds.

This ceremony included blessings by Wallace Hazard, a Narragansett reverend, and Andre Gaines, cultural steward for the Nipmuc nation, as well as musical performances by Thawn Harris and Quanah LaRose. The celebration, complete with a crowd of more than 50 supporters, represented the first physical step toward construction of the Indigenous Veterans Memorial at the Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery, a process that has been years in the making.

Charles Smith, Co-Chair of the Honoring Indigenous Veterans of Turtle Island Committee, said that the monument is a “dream of mine.” Five years ago, while working as a Cemetery Specialist, Smith of Warwick noticed that there was not a monument to honor Indigenous veterans. He started conducting his own research to identify the Indigenous people who were laid to rest there, estimating about 122 veterans.

“I walked 40,000 graves myself, personally, to find out every single name and rank” he added.

For Smith, a monument for Indigenous servicemen and women was not only overdue, but it was also personal.

“My parents are both buried here,” he said. “Native American, both sides. I wanted to do something to honor the Indigenous men and women who are here.”

Three years ago, Smith approached Lorén Spears, Executive Director of the Tomaquag Museum, with his idea for a memorial. She jumped on board, serving as the co-chair of the committee. They assembled a team of veterans, educators and advocates who championed this project.

Maija Hill, a member of the Narragansett Tribe and a member of the committee, spoke at the event. She shared that her family has generations of veterans: her father and uncle were laid to rest in this cemetery, she served in the U.S. Army and both her son and daughter served in the military.

“We’re still here,” she added. “What we sacrifice every single day will now forever be memorialized and can’t be erased.”

Candyce Testa, a veteran, member of the committee and member of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, said that the monument symbolizes a “bridge between past, present and future.” She added that it was important to “sow seeds of remembrance” as they broke ground for this memorial.

As an educator, Spears views this monument as an important conversation starter. “Most people don’t know that per capita, Indigenous people have the highest number of U.S. armed service since the inception of this country to today,” she

said. “It’s still a fact.”

“It’s an oversight in the cemetery to not have Indigenous people represented in one of these monuments, and so it’s very exciting to be getting to the groundbreaking,” Spears added.

Spears said that the monument design represents many Indigenous nations. The engraving on the front will recognize the nine nations with interred veterans in the cemetery. Those nations, based on Smith’s research, include Manissean, Narragansett, Nipmuc, Nottoway, Osage, Pequot, Poosapatuck, Shinnecock and Wampanoag. The stone arch is a nod to Narragansett masonry and will be crafted by Craig Spear Jr. of Craig Spears Masonry, a Narragansett business.

“What better way to represent Indigenous community than to have a monument that’s created by Indigenous people?” Spears said.

The monument will also feature two benches in the back so community members can pause and reflect upon the sacrifice and service of Indigenous veterans.

A lot of thought also went into the monument’s location. Smith made a list of his preferences, but the committee encountered some constraints when working with the cemetery’s offerings and regulations. Both Smith and Spears are happy with the visibility of the final location.

“Everybody that comes in here has to drive down this straight away and how wonderful is it to actually have the monument honoring Indigenous people,” Spears said. “As people are coming in and out, they’ll be able to see it.”

When the committee

originally drew up plans for the monument in 2020, the estimated cost was \$50,000. Over the past couple of years, the cost adjusted to around \$80,000. Spears said that they’re only one or two thousand dollars shy of their goal, thanks to community support. For example, Douglas Construction will be donating some of their time to lessen their portion of the expected cost.

Additionally, the committee received a \$25,000 grant from the state legislature. Representative Camille Vella-Wilkinson, a veteran herself and a member of Veterans’ Affairs Committee, spearheaded this grant. “The state is supporting our Indigenous veterans who are part of the fabric of the veterans community,” she said.

At the close of the event, Spears encouraged attendees to return to the same space in early September for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

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By JENNIFER COATES

The pandemic that disrupted our lives for nearly three years was officially declared “over” on May 11th of this year. Despite all the changes that happened during this worldwide health crisis, one thing remained constant ~ Medicaid recipients were able to receive their benefits without interruption. This relief occurred because, during the dark days of the pandemic, Medicaid’s annual eligibility reviews were temporarily suspended.

As of April 1st, with the COVID crisis over, these reviews have resumed. If you are one of the thousands of Medicaid recipients of this often life-saving benefit, now is the time to plan for your Medicaid renewal.

For many people, this process can be daunting and overwhelming. While some recipients will be automatically renewed, others must be prepared to show their ongoing eligibility.

The professionals at Tri-County Community Action Agency are here to tell you, YOU CAN GET HELP! This is how it works:

When it comes time to renew your Medicaid benefits, you will receive an official letter in the mail – it will be a recognizable yellow or green letter. From the time of this letter, you will have only thirty days to provide the State of Rhode Island with important documentation of your economic status (questions may include ones of your income, employment status, health information, etc.) You will be sent two reminder letters, making the total time allotted for action to be 90 days. If you miss this deadline, you risk the loss of your benefits. This is urgent and non-negotiable.

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Meet Marcia and Jim, the professional “Navigators” at Tri-County Community Action Agency ~ they are here to help you navigate your way through the Medicaid renewal process.

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- Scan documents right to your confidential online portal
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- Provide general information about the process and how to respond to your renewal letters.

This process does not have to be complicated. The professionals at Tri-County CAA are standing at the ready to help you bypass endless hours on the phone or wade your way through the web. There is NO cost involved, this is a FREE and accessible service that can be done

in person at the Tri-County CAA office in Johnston or over the phone.

You do not have to wait until you get your letter, call the experts today and they can equip you with invaluable assistance. Furthermore, if you are part of an organization that supports Medicaid recipients, you can schedule a mobile unit to come to your facility.

Help is out there. Contact your “Navigators”, Marcia or Jim, at Tri-County Community Action Agency at 401-519-1959 or 401-330-5575. Tri-County CAA is located at 1126 Hartford Avenue in Johnston. Visit them at [www.TriCountyRI.org](http://www.TriCountyRI.org) today.

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## Rocky Point is alive...



## with the sound of Minions

By CADEN DILLON

Lauren Slocum and Dave Steets know how to put on a show. Since 2015, Slocum and Steets have worked closely on creating what has become a Rocky Point summer tradition: Movies in the Park, an all-ages event that sits next to the beautiful views and refreshing bay breeze on the list of the park's free offerings.

Movie nights are officially organized by the Central Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce (CRICC), where Slocum is president. Steets' company, Entertainment Under the Stars, provides the equipment needed to keep the event running. For Steets, it's not just another job, however. Twelve years ago, he says, he "started with a small front yard party and saw the enjoyment" that it brought, so he started a business. Now, Movies in the Park lets him bring that enjoyment to thousands.

"I work with Lauren and do whatever it takes to make the events a success," said Steets.

For the very first Movies in the Park in 2015, Slocum said the goal was to create "a community event that all ages could go to, that was free of charge." At the same time, she and Steets were helping people to discover Rocky Point in a time when it had only recently been reborn as a state park; Slocum says that even now, many of the people who come to the movie showings, which regularly attract between 1,000 and 2,000, say they are visiting the park for the first time. It's impressive staying power for a seemingly simple event that has, barring a two-year break due to COVID, been around for eight years now.

How does Movies in the Park remain so popular after eight years and the interruption of a global pandemic? The answer may be in its wide appeal and above-and-beyond inclusivity. Handicap parking and viewing areas have been available at the event since its inception, and in 2018, a second screen with closed captions was introduced after a suggestion from the parent of a hearing-impaired child. What's more, the movies played are typically family-friendly, but appeal to more than just kids—in addition to families with children, Slocum says she routinely sees seniors, couples going on dates, and individual adults at the events. Amidst the crowd, the free glow necklaces given out at the event help ensure parents don't lose track of their kids in the dark. "We have more lost adults than lost kids," Slocum laughs.

■ MOVIES - PAGE 18



Lauren Slocum

Dave Steets sets up the inflatable screen.



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# Sports

## JLL All-Stars wrap up summer

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston Little League All-Stars wrapped up their summer seasons last week as the final remaining teams completed their District I tournament runs.

The Junior team fell in the District I Championship 5-1 to Cranston East, who won the title for the second straight season.

Ryan Waterman led JLL with a pair of hits and one run scored, however, the club could not get anything going at the dish beyond that. Waterman pitched six innings for JLL and finished with five strikeouts while Antonio Morales came on in relief and picked up a pair of strikeouts.

The JLL 11's fell to North Providence 13-6 in the losers bracket final. Armani Morales led the team with three RBI in the loss while JJ Splendorio and Gian Negriz also knocked in runs. Negriz, Splendorio, Anden DiLibero and Gio Labbadia combined for two strikeouts on the mound.

The 11's won their previous game in a 6-5 walk off victory over Cranston East.



JUNIOR ACTION: Ryan Waterman delivers a pitch while Jordan Camparrelli snags a ball. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

JLL - PAGE 17



## Hendricken's Clemmey headed to Big Leagues

By ALEX SPONSELLER

Bishop Hendricken standout pitcher Alex Clemmey saw his dream become a reality late Sunday night when the Cleveland Guardians selected him in the second round, 58th overall, of the Major League Baseball Draft.

Clemmey became the state's most dominant pitcher over the past two seasons, boasting a 98 mph fastball and an ascending array of off-speed pitches. Major League scouts were in attendance for every appearance as a senior and got to see his big-time campaign firsthand. Clemmey finished the season allowing just seven singles and had an ERA of 0.42 while 70 percent of his outs came on strikes.

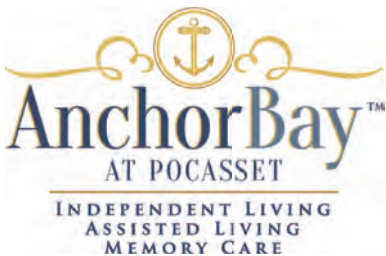
It was the highest that a Rhode Islander had been selected in 15 years when Ryan Westmoreland was draft-

BIG - PAGE 17

CLEVELAND BOUND: Bishop Hendricken pitcher Alex Clemmey winds up to deliver. (Photo by Mike Zawistoski)

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**FLUKEZILLA:** Duke Pasyanos Sr. of Portsmouth with the 12 pound summer flounder he caught off Newport on ArchAngel Charters last week. (Submitted photo)



**FLUKE BITE ON:** Paul Philips of North Kingstown with the nine pound summer flounder he caught in deep water off Newport last week on ArchAngel Charters.

## Still time to register for the Block Island Tournament

By **CAPT. DAVE MONTI**

There is still time to register for the Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament which takes place this weekend within the three mile limit around Block Island. The Tournament starts Saturday, July 22, 5:30 a.m. and ends Sunday, July 23, 12 noon. There will be an "After Party" at Capt. Nick's Rock & Roll Bar, Block Island on Sunday, July 23 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Limited dockage may be available after the tournament for four to five hours in Old Harbor at the Town Dock. Contact the Dockmaster on Ch12.

"This is a length only Tournament. When anglers want to make a Tournament entry, they take a photo of their catch with the tournament smartphone app against the tournament supplied ruler and send their entry in electronically," said tournament sponsor Capt. Chris Willi of Block Island Fish Works. "So, it is not necessary to attend the 'After Party' to receive your Tournament prize. However, those attending the 'after party' will get a chance to win one of twenty-five \$100 tackle shop gift cards."

Capt. Willi said, "Thanks to the Block Island Wind Farm/Orsted and Whalers Brewing Company of Rhode Island, we can donate 100 percent of Tournament entry fees to the Block Island Fire Department and Rescue. And, we have over \$10,000 in gift cards, swag and prizes with fluke, black sea bass, striped bass and bluefish categories with shore, fly fishing, youth, team and photo divisions.

Anglers can pick up participant bags at one of six locations including Block Island Fish Works, Block Island; Ocean State Tackle, Providence; The Saltwater Edge, Middletown; Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown; Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown; and Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly.

Register online at BI Inshore Tourney | bi-FishWorks (sandualypointco.com) or call 401-742-3992.

### Shellfish areas close due to heavy rain

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) announced that several shellfish areas are closed due to excessive rain. Lower Providence River conditional area E, Upper Narragansett Bay areas A and B, Greenwich Bay, Mount Hope Bay, the Kickemuit River, and Point

Judith Pond conditional areas all are closed to shellfish harvest and scheduled to re-open at sunrise on Monday, July 24.

For information on emergency and conditional area water quality related shellfish closures, call DEM's 24-hour shell fishing hotline at 401-222-2900 or visit [www.dem.ri.gov/shellfish](http://www.dem.ri.gov/shellfish).

### Where's the bite?

Tuna. With warming water and continued enhanced bait profiles we have a strong tuna bite. Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence, said, "Anglers are catching yellowfin and bluefin school tuna as well as giant bluefin. Both trolling and jigging with six to eight once jigs are working for customers."

"The tuna bite has improved offshore but reports of an inshore bite with fish between Block Island and Pt. Judith started to surface this weekend," said Ben Dickinson of The Saltwater Edge, Middletown.

Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "Offshore, the tuna bite has been heating up with reports of bluefin and a few yellowfin being caught from areas south of Montauk and Block Island."

Summer flounder (fluke), black sea bass and scup. O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, said, "Fluke fishing continues to produce well for boats drifting along the beaches and out at Block Island. There are a lot of short fluke around with a decent number of keepers mixed in. Fluke are primarily feeding on squid and sand eels. There are tons of scup being caught with a decent number of keeper black sea bass being caught too."

Capt. Mike Littlefield of ArchAngel Charters, Newport, said, "Last week we caught some very large fish. Paul Philips of North Kingstown boated a 9-pound fluke and Duke Pasyanos Sr. off Portsmouth a 12-pound fluke. Most of our larger fish came from 100 to 120 feet of water off Newport." "Customers are catching some very large fluke along the beaches and at Block Island. Some fluke have also been caught from Dutch Island to Austin Hollow in the lower West Passage. The scup bite is both on and off, they are in the Bay and offshore, you just have to find them and black sea bass fishing is improving with keepers being caught more often." said Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle.

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**ON THE MOUND:** Owen Polofsky gets set to deliver. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

**JLL**

(Cont. from page 14)

Santino Paliotta knocked in a run while Michael Orsini and Mason Poole crossed home twice. Michael Iafra, Torin Kalnietis and Morales combined for seven strikeouts on the mound for JLL.

The JLL 12's lost a heartbreaking 4-3 decision to Cranston East in the losers bracket final last week. Jordan Diclo, Luciano Mangiacarpa and Noel Cuascut all knocked in runs while Diclo was solid on the mound, pitching 4 1/3 innings and striking out six batters. Ryder Calabro pitched in relief and added three more strikeouts.



**SWINGING AWAY:** Gio Labbadia at bat.

**Big**

(Continued from page 14)

ed by the Red Sox in 2008. Clemmey was considered a top-50 pick by most scouts and was widely regarded as a top-20 high school prospect.

Clemmey watched his name get called in his Middletown home surrounded by friends, family and coaches.

"It's a dream come true to finally hear my name called in the MLB draft. A lot of work went into it so to hear my name called is a dream come true for me. I've had a great support system around me to help get to this point in my career. There's no better feeling and I am super excited to get to work," said Clemmey.

Although Clemmey was confident that he would be selected in the first night of the draft, the nerves began to creep in as he realized the life-altering moment that was ahead.

"I think there would be something wrong with you if you didn't go into that type of environment with some nerves. It's a life-changing decision once your name is called, you don't know who is go-

ing to be the one calling your name. I had some anxiety but just tried to sit back and relax knowing that the ball was out of my court at that point. I was super excited and it was a great night," said Clemmey.

Clemmey had a tough decision to make as he was committed to play for perennial powerhouse Vanderbilt next season. On Tuesday, Clemmey decided to sign a contract with the Guardians and forego the college level, officially kicking off his professional career.

Cleveland has developed one of the league's most stable pitching staffs and specializes in developing its own arms from the farm system on up. Clemmey recognizes the opportunity ahead and hopes to prove the team right for drafting him.

"One of the things they focus on is developing pitchers. Ten of the pitchers on their roster are home-grown so they are great at developing their own arms. Their pitching development is top notch, they're one of the best organizations to do it. I'm excited to get to work, I think they are a great fit for me and hopefully I can be a great decision for them," Clemmey said.

Clemmey has traveled on numerous occasions over the course of the past year, whether it be travel tournaments and high school showcases

and combines. During that time, he honed in his fastball and networked himself as a high-level prospect.

Clemmey, though, believed that his greatest improvement over the course of the past few months has been his mentality and preparation to compete at the next level in ways that go beyond the mound.

"I've had a great support system especially with the guys that train at Hobbs. They really teach you what it takes to be a professional baseball player. In the past six months my game has really taken off, especially from a maturity standpoint and how I handle my every day life. My life just took a 180 but I am ready for a change and ready to get moving," said Clemmey.

Clemmey is also thankful for those who helped him in Rhode Island, especially those at Hendricken that have been by his side the past four years.

"I think that's what sets us apart at Hendricken. They do a great job of establishing that brotherhood and turning you into mature, respectful men," said Clemmey. "Bishop Hendricken helped me with a lot of the success I had. They've helped me on the academic side and the coaches that I've had, they were always there for me. A lot has happened in the past year."

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Tom Cruise & Rebecca Ferguson in Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning - Part One. (Image courtesy of Skydance/Paramount Pictures)

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MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE-DEAD RECKONING PART ONE

Back in the good old days of black and white TV, "Mission Impossible" was our favorite show. Excitement, intrigue, action, innovative stories, and good guys and bad guys. Here it is 2023, and the basic premises and techniques of the series are still in play. Starting with that unforgettable theme song, the plot takes us from Ethan Hunt listening to his challenging mission on a self-destructing tape recorder, making the challenging decision to accept the mission, being indoctrinated by the secretive higher ups, and then doing the impossible. The two-and-a-half-hour movie immediately grabs our attention as we find ourselves under the Bering Sea where a disaster connected to Artificial Intelligence occurs and we learn that a 2-part key is involved in the mystery. And there's Ethan, running through airports. Or is it Ethan? The old rubber mask trick is still a big part of the franchise and cleverly used throughout the movie. We have read much about Tom Cruise and his passion to do his own stunts, and we watch his every move as we realize how much he is involved in driving those cars and motorcycles, running on top of a 60 mile-per-hour train and driving off a cliff with his cycle and parachute. The stunts are mind-boggling and come at you from out of nowhere. Cruise drives his tiny car down Rome's Spanish Steps, runs across the expansive roof of the Abu Dhabi Airport, gets chased through the narrow alleys of Venice, seldom stopping to catch his breath. Simon Pegg and Ving Rhames are along to provide help and a bit of comic relief. There are arms dealers and assassins galore, as Ethan narrowly escapes their clutches. And then there's the ending, as the runaway trains plunges into obscurity and we realize that Part One has left poor Tom Cruise, and us, hanging. We'll have to wait for Part 2, but we'll hopefully be there to see what other tricks Cruise could possibly have up his sleeve and behind his mask.

Gold in those hills of Warwick, Johnston and RI

Gold in those hills of Warwick, Johnston and RI Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "The desire of gold is not for the gold - it is the means of freedom and benefit." Approximately 300,000 people went searching for freedom and benefit in the hills of California in 1849. About fifty years later, another 100,000 hopefuls trudged toward the Yukon gold rush. Undoubtedly, those who stayed behind saw the insanity of going against all odds, and very few prospectors returned with more than what they'd left with. Just the idea of gold, however, was enough to make those desperate for freedom and benefit rich with blind hope - especially if one didn't have to travel far.

One of the earliest gold mines known to exist in the state of Rhode Island was the Durfee Mine, deep inside a hill within a wooded area on the southeast side of Ponaganset Reservoir in Gloucester. According to legend, a man by the name of Walton first discovered gold at that location in the 1700s. During the next century, two mining companies carried out excavations there on the hill, which stood about 805 feet above sea level. Both gold and molybdenum were unearthed. According to a geological survey, the hilltop was the highest point in all of Rhode Island. Several men had been employed to dig out a 70-foot shaft at the Durfee site, which was reached through a hole in the ground 10 to 12 feet wide. When the riches proved

Back in the Day



by KELLY SULLIVAN

to be less than plentiful, the first company bowed out. The other, the Ponaganset Mining and Smelting Company, refused to believe that a major discovery wasn't in its future. Employing six men, they extended the main shaft to reach 185 feet. Near the shaft's bottom, they found a vein of solid quartz about 14 feet thick. Gold was clearly inside and the company was successful in removing what little there was along with some copper, lead, silver, iron, hornblende crystals and green orthoclase feldspar. The belief that massive riches remained inside this hill was so strong that men from as far away as Canada caught wind of it and came to RI to be a part of it. Around 1900, the mission ended when it became obvious that the hill didn't hold a promise of wealth. The old shaft was eventually filled in and the miners found other jobs. Additional RI gold mines included the Grey Wolf Gold Mine, located on the farm of Gideon Brown and the Snake Den Gold Mine, both in Johnston; the Homestrike Gold Mine in Foster; an unnamed mine in Foster located a little over three miles from Homestrike; the Bald Hill Gold Mine at the foot of the hill in Warwick; Slocumville Gold Mine in North Kingstown; and an unnamed mine in the Riverpoint section of West Warwick which two police officers



discovered in 1896. The Slocumville Mine was discovered after someone found gold on the property of William A. Mott in 1882. Numerous people began traveling to the location which Mott supervised until he disposed of his farm two years later. Willard Durfee of Arctic was happy to take over what he hoped would be the beginnings of a big payout. During this time, many prospecting companies used cyanide to leech the gold from the ore at their mines. The Snake Den Mine was one of those which employed this process in its endeavors. By 1897, the Ponaganset Mine was the only one being actively worked in Rhode Island until Homestrike was discovered and began bringing in heavy equipment in their quest for getting out the gold. The turn of the century and the years that followed found several local men still trying to earn money off the few mines that existed. Edward Freeman, an Irishman of Providence, owned one of the mines. Another was owned by 23-year-old William Pratt of Providence. Local miners included Charles E. Greene, 38, of Providence; Francis Hines, 39, of Cumberland; Charles Feeney, 38, of Providence; Henry Vieth, 62, of Barrington; Sam Turton, 70, of North Smithfield; and Alfred Dubois, 39, of Woonsocket. Daniel Keating, 69, of Providence was employed as a mine engineer and Shuyler S. Moore, 70, of Providence was employed as a gold mine secretary. Around 1946, a local man attempted to locate the old mines and see what he could find. A scoop of mud he brought home from the old Snake Den Mine actually contained a few flakes of gold. The Homestrike and Durfee mines netted him nothing more than copper and iron pyrites. It's likely that the gold of RI was claimed long ago. At the same time, it's possible the mother lode hasn't even been discovered... yet. Kelly Sullivan is a Rhode Island columnist, lecturer and author.

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Movies (Continued from page 13)

Movies in the Park typically encompasses a smattering of Thursdays in June and July, with August rain dates. This year, roll up on July 27 for Minions: The Rise of Gru, an animated action-comedy starring the lovably villainous Minions, and spread a blanket on the grass for the critically-acclaimed Shrek spinoff Puss in Boots: The Last Wish on August 3, a rain date from its original planned showing in June. The screens are big—46 feet and 25 feet, courtesy of Steets—and when you're not watching the Minions' onscreen shenanigans, the park offers a view of Narragansett Bay that can't be beat. Keep an eye on moviesintheparkri.com to double-check if an event has been postponed. But don't let the name fool you—there's more to Movies in the Park than just movies. Each event is attended by an array of food trucks, from Kona Ice and Kay's Ice Cream to Haven Brothers and—new this year—Iggy's. Other attractions include face painting, balloon art, and the aforementioned glow necklaces, all

free of charge, and paid fun and games at booths from the events' sponsors help to fund future Movies in the Park. Sponsors range from Wave Federal Credit Union (this year's "presenting" sponsor), who have been involved since the first Movies in the Park, to BoldrDash, that in past years set up a miniature obstacle course at events. All of this begins at as early as 5:30 p.m. The movies start at sundown. It takes a lot to put on an event like Movies in the Park, especially for free. For Slocum and Steets, that means about a dozen dedicated volunteers, even more sponsors, and working closely with the state and the Department of Environmental Management to make sure everything runs smoothly and safely. Each individual event costs about \$6,000 to run, and even with passionate leaders like Slocum and Steets, Movies in the Park relies on scores of people and organizations alike to continue. Meanwhile, the events regularly draw over a thousand attendees. It's a testament to the power of community that, against all odds, Movies in the Park does more than just survive. After eight years and a pandemic, it thrives.



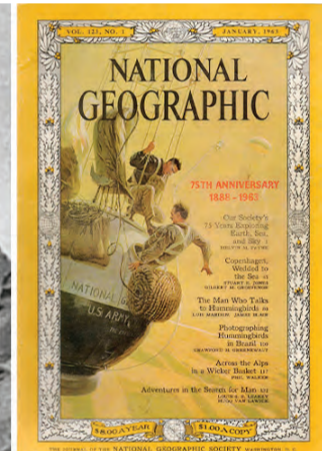
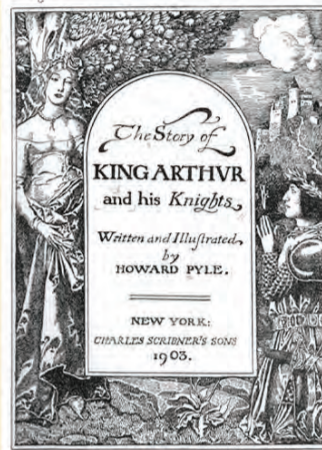
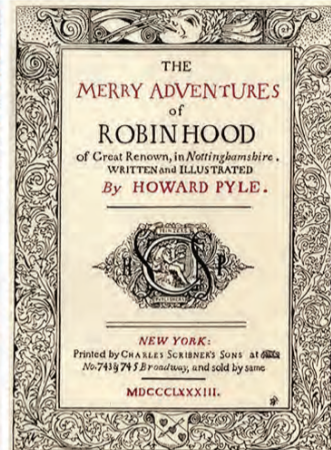
# Rhody TREASURES

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## Americana Illustration Artists



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



July, the month of barbecues and Patriotism, is finally here and thriving at Bruneau & Co! We have acquired an important and extremely impressive collection of paintings and sketches by prolific illustrators of Americana both my Pop Culture and Joel Bohy's Militaria departments are excited to talk about. We've got pieces by big-name artists Tom Lovell, Howard Pyle, and J.C. Leyendecker so I thought I'd take a moment to explain what makes these guys so cool in the world of American illustration art.

First up is Howard Pyle, whose works are dynamic and expressive. He gives each figure in his illustrations their own individual personalities and creates powerful imagery that draws the eye inward. Pyle showed off his talents early on and was fortunate enough to study under Belgian painter F.A. van der Wielen before going to New York to join the Art Students League. By the 1870s, he began doing illustrations for the children's magazine *St. Nicholas* among others, however he is best known for being the author and illustrator of *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood* as well as *The Story of King Arthur and his Knights*.

Likewise, Tom Lovell's works look like they were taken straight from the movies, his works are inviting and have a romanticized quality to them. Lovell was an early advocate for Native Americans and denounced the ill treatment of them by

the United States government and stated as much in his High School valedictorian speech. This laid the groundwork and acted as an early nod to his future works depicting the west. He was a freelance artist associated closely with *Colliers*, *McCalls*, and *National Geographic* as well as being a pulp illustrator associated with "Dime Mystery."

Finally, we have Joseph Christian Leyendecker, an artist who breathes life into his works. His

portraits of people are lifelike and have a photographic quality to them, perfectly capturing a single moment in time. Leyendecker studied with John Vanderpoel at the Chicago Art Institute and later went to Paris to study at the Academie Julian with his brother Francis Xavier. He went on to paint more than four hundred magazine covers for the *Saturday Evening Post* as well as advertising for Kellogg's and fashion brands. In fact, Norman Rockwell used Leyendecker as inspiration early in his career.

If any of these names stuck out to you, make sure to check out our upcoming Historic Illustration Art auction, we have plenty more where these came from!



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## PLANNING FOR THE BEACH

- After Years of Not Going -



RETIREMENT SPARKS  
by ELAINE M. DECKER

Summer is here and many folks are making plans for their visits to the beach. That usually means the seashore. I grew up in a lake community and we lived there all year round. I never developed an attraction for the ocean. All that sticky salt and sand in places I won't mention here. It's been years since I even thought about going to a beach. The older that I got, the less my body seemed to want to be seen in a bathing suit.

Something changed this year. For reasons that I won't take space explaining, I lost at least twenty pounds this Spring. Rest easy; it wasn't because of a major health issue, though I've had several of those. I like the way I look and feel, so I'm continuing with my new lifestyle. I have an entire wardrobe of smaller sizes that had been waiting for me to come to my senses. There was even an old bathing suit in the bottom of one box.

I assume that styles haven't changed much in the past however many decades. The condo community where we live has a pool. Maybe it's time for me to take the plunge—literally. As if the swimming gods were listening, one of my daily electronic newsletters had this hard-to-believe article in it. Panera is launching a line of swimsuits. Yes, Panera. And yes, swimsuits. They're brightly colored, with prints inspired by popular items on their "pick two" menu. As with the menu, you're encouraged to mix and match.

The "beloved Panera menu items" mentioned in the media announcement for the swimwear are the classic Grilled Cheese, Broccoli Cheddar and Tomato Soups and their Chipotle Chicken Avocado Sandwich. Just one salad was listed: the Strawberry Poppysseed. That probably means my swimwear will be adorned

CONTINUED - Beach Page 6



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# Uncle Don - A Life Well Lived

## MEMOIRS

by SUSAN DEAN

Last month, I wrote about running in the Gaspée Days 5K road race. And I wrote about how my aunt and uncle, Don and Helen Mellor, got me started with running up at their summer home in Bridgton, Maine in the 1980s.

Don, at 102 and still living at home - alone since the passing of Helen in 2022 - was scheduled to receive a medal for his Navy service from Senator Sheldon Whitehouse on Friday, June 9th - the day before the race. But the presentation was canceled because the medal hadn't arrived from Washington. The whole family had planned to attend to witness this honor.

So I visited with Uncle Don at his home that day instead. He was sitting in his favorite chair and we chatted about many things. He asked about my family and wanted to know what everyone was doing. He spoke about my mother - who was his sister and older by a year - and talked about their childhood days growing up during the Depression. Don talked about his own children and grandchildren - how proud he was of all of them. And he told me about the things he missed most - golf, woodworking, and driving. Don had voluntarily retired the car keys when he was 99.

Don's conversations were never without a gem of wisdom. He said that there are some things you just have to accept with grace - aging being one - and that along with aging comes the loss of some things. Knowing when to give up the car keys, he told me, was a lesson in acceptance. Even with loss, he said, there is an opportunity to learn and to be grateful if you look for the positives in life. When I told him that I was running in the 5K the next day, he was thrilled for me, and told me that I was making memories that would sustain me when I got to be his age - 102 - and we laughed together over that.

The following day, June 10th, I ran the race, thinking about Don and Helen as I huffed and puffed up the Narragansett Parkway incline. And after the race, I stood with my family on the sidelines watching the parade, still wearing my race number. Senator Whitehouse was walking in the parade with several other dignitaries and as he passed he glanced my way, left the

parade, and came over to me. He pointed to my race number, which was 401, and made a joke about how appropriate it was that I was wearing Rhode Island's area code. We both laughed and he rejoined the parade and continued down the street. I remember thinking how weirdly strange it was that Senator Whitehouse was supposed to have met with Don and our family the previous day, how it hadn't happened, but then he singled me out of the crowd a day later - all very random and unplanned.

Sadly, Don, who seemed perfectly fine that weekend, began to steadily decline a day or two later, and died the following week.

So much has been written about Don lately - his many accomplishments in hockey and his involvement in youth sports, and his many contributions to his community throughout his life. But I have memories of Don as a caring uncle whom I loved dearly. My daughters loved him, too, and I am so very grateful that they grew up with both Uncle Don and Aunt Helen - firm fixtures in their lives.

Don and Helen were always part of my growing up years. We spent holidays and summers together, but also spent time together throughout the year. My brothers and I were close to our six Mellor cousins. We still are. I didn't realize until much later that we were quite lucky in that respect. I have friends who didn't grow up with their cousins, and wouldn't even recognize them if they ran into them today.

My daughters grew up with Don and Helen's grandchildren and are close even now, as adults. A legacy of family, connected through love.

My family moved from Warwick to Syracuse, New York when I was half-way through seventh grade. We moved twice more - at the end of eighth grade and at the end of tenth grade before landing back in Rhode Island at the beginning of my junior year of high school. Even though I understood that these moves were necessary due to my father's job, I was unhappy. I missed my friends and my grandparents and was generally miserable with each successive move.

After the first move, Don and Helen began

inviting me to stay with them during my school vacations. I loved being at the Mellor house - always a buzz of activity from morning till night. I remember the laughter and the love. I remember feeling secure and accepted - comfortably embedded within the brood of the Mellor clan. Don and Helen helped me stay connected with my Rhode Island friends and family, but they also helped me accept the moves. I am forever grateful for their unwavering support and caring during those tough times so long ago.

Don and Helen were with us through the deaths of our parents - our father in 1975 and our mother in 1995. They were present both physically and emotionally - helping my brothers and me navigate those unfamiliar paths.

My daughters, now in their thirties and forties, remember their summers up in Maine. We called Don and Helen's lakehouse "The Mellor Compound".

Rachel and Gretchen remember that Don would hug them and ask how things were going and be genuinely interested in their answers, always giving them his full attention and patiently listening. Rachel remembers the ice cream trips in the back of Don's truck with all the cousins. She remembers the "Heidi House", which Don built on the edge of the property, complete with window boxes and scalloped trim and painted to look like it belonged to the nature fairies. Rachel remembers the excitement of finally being old enough to sleep in it with her cousins - away from the main house. She remembers Don's pure love for Helen, too.

Gretchen said that even into her adulthood, Don remembered the names of her childhood friends - friends she still sees today - and always asked about their well-being. Gretchen said that both Don and Helen created some of her most cherished core childhood memories, and helped to foster the importance of togetherness and family - values that she still carries with her today.

Uncle Don presided over wiffle ball games and swimming races up in Maine, but there were quiet times, too. My daughter, Joy, remembers sitting on the wooden swing that Don had made. She was about nine at the time and Don was sitting with her and they were watching the sun set behind the mountains. Joy asked Don how he had met Helen. He said that they grew up in the same neighborhood but that he had to leave for war. Joy asked him if he was ever scared during the war and he said he was, and that there were times when his friends would go on duty and he'd never see them again. Don didn't shy away from talking about tough subjects. He always told the truth. Joy remembers his kindness and honesty and their quiet conversation in the twilight - an ordinary moment that was really quite extraordinary in its tender and lasting impact.

As Don approached 100 years old, he began visiting schools to talk about his Navy days. But in doing so he also quietly shared jewels of wisdom with young minds. I attended one of his school visits last December. He was able to capture the kids' attention and their respect because he never

preached. Don didn't glorify war - he wanted to impress upon kids the price of freedom. If Don had gone to college he might have become a teacher - and he would have been one of those beloved teachers you never forget. Sometimes the quieter you are, the greater the impact you can have on others. That was true in Don's case.

After his talk, the kids swarmed around Don. They wanted to shake his hand and take "selfies" with him. They wanted to talk about their own family members in the military, or their grandparents, or their lack of grandparents. They asked a million questions and shared their stories with him.

Don began to weaken a few days after I had visited with him. On Wednesday, July 14th, he asked his six children to gather together with him at his home. As the week passed, he was in and out of wakefulness and sleep, but my cousins tell me that he was content and aware when he was awake.

At one point, he raised his hand and said, "Come on, Helen - let's go home."

He followed this with, "Let the games begin!" and "One more minute!" which made everyone chuckle as it seemed to be a nod to his hockey days. He finished this with a slight grin - so typical of his quiet humor and wit. He was peaceful. He knew he was at the end of his amazing run. He was still teaching till the very end - acceptance, gratitude, love.

Uncle Don passed on June 19th - the same day his father, my grandfather, had died in 1981. Perhaps they discussed it - that it would be fitting to share the same transition day.

And speaking of transition, Joy sent me a video she took the day after Don's death. Joy is a clinical nurse manager in a Dallas cardiac hospital. Joy looked out of her office window, which is four stories up, to see a large black butterfly hovering right outside her window, slowly fluttering its wings. She was astounded because she's never seen anything outside her window - no birds, no insects, nothing. Her first thought was that it was Uncle Don waving goodbye.

A butterfly is the sign that the nurses on Joy's unit use when a patient is close to death. They put a butterfly picture on the patient's door to alert the staff that the family is grieving and the end is near.

Butterflies are a spiritual symbol for life after death. Black butterflies signify transformation, passage between life phases, transition, and rebirth and renewal. Maybe it was a reminder from Uncle Don that death is part of life - not an ending, but a new beginning somewhere. We can rejoice in his living and find peace and acceptance in his moving on to his next great adventure.

My daughters and their Mellor cousins are planning a reunion. They're hoping to find a rental in Bridgton, Maine where we can all gather for a weekend with plans to make it an annual event. I'm sure that Don and Helen are smiling their approval - knowing that their legacy of family, love, and togetherness continues and will be celebrated for years to come.

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PRIME TIME



# Just A Few Of Life's Greatest Mysteries



MY SIDE OF THINGS  
by LARRY GRIMALDI

Every now and then, a very simple life event triggers a mystery of great philosophical significance. We are all familiar with the Two-Socks-Go-Into-The-Dyer, But-Only-One-Comes-Out Phenomenon, but there are many more baffling occurrences that materialize at various times. Allow me to explain.

**The Pocket Comb Disappearance:** Where do those combs go when they escape from your back pocket?

**The Resealable Package Challenge:** Why is it so difficult to open those hermetically sealed packages and even harder to reseal them? Is it a cruel joke conjured up by a mad scientist?

**The Milk Carton Challenge:** Who designed the milk carton designed to separate-then-push-up system for opening a carton of milk? Did the "carton engineer" wrestle thousands of times with his own invention, fail repeatedly, finally yield to frustration, and just leave us to figure it out on our own?"

**The Gasoline Price Mystery:** What does the ninth-tenth of a cent mean in the price of a gallon of gas? Can't they round it up to the next penny? Are the political powers-that-be afraid that we will scream in protest over a one-tenth of a cent price hike?

**The Airline Fare Question:** Why do two one-way tickets to the same location sometimes cost less than a round-trip fare? Are the airlines hoping that we will not notice the difference? Are they unaware of consumer websites like Kayak, Priceline, Travelocity, and Orbitz?

**The Truth in Advertising Deception:** Shouldn't the Dollar Store change their name to the Dollar and a Quarter Store?

**Two Did-They-Really-Say-That Encounters:** You will no doubt shake your head when you tell someone that you have lost something. Often, they will ask, "Where did you lose it?" At another time (maybe in the same day), you will be standing in a long line at the local convenience store to check out when a Mensa candidate will inquire, "Is this the line?"

**The Parental Wisdom Syndrome:** "Why do parents get smarter as their children get older?"

And lastly, (courtesy of the late comedian, social commentator, and watermelon smasher Gallagher), "Why do we drive on the parkway and park in the driveway?"

I invite you to submit your own "Few of Life's Greatest Mysteries." I assure you that you will be recognized for your efforts in a future column. In the meantime, Happy Summer!

Larry Grimaldi is a freelance writer from North Providence. Many of his previous PrimeTime columns have been re-issued in the anthology, "50 Shades of Life, Love, and Laughter: Reflections on Gratitude, Joy, Life's Oddities, and a Few Complaints!" available at Amazon.com or Stillwater Books in Pawtucket." Materials published in this book are used with the permission of Beacon Communications. For more information, e-mail lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com



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# Protect Social Security



AARP - RHODE ISLAND  
by CATHERINE TAYLOR

AARP's mission is to empower people to choose how we live as we age. Most choices, however, depend on our ability to make ends meet.

Social Security is an important source of income for most of the 230,000 Rhode Island recipients, including the almost 44,000 for whom it provides 90% or more of their annual family income.

Americans work hard and pay into Social Security, so it's only fair for you to expect to get the money you've earned. It is essential for helping to cover living expenses and pay your bills.

If politicians don't take action to protect and save Social Security in the next 10 years, your Social Security could be cut by 20 percent – an average of \$4,000 a year.

"Strengthening Social Security requires an unprecedented degree of collaboration between our elected officials and the American people," according to AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins. "There is an old saying: 'Nothing about us without us.' After working their whole lives and paying into the program with each paycheck to earn their benefits, older Americans and their families deserve a say in any changes to Social Security. AARP is in the thick of this fight, and we have made our position clear."

This fall, voters in Rhode Island's 1st Congressional District will have the opportunity to choose a new representative in Washington. It will be critical to find out what the candidates plan to do to protect Social Security before voting.

I encourage you to visit AARP's Social Security Resource Center has the answers to important questions, so that you will know how to access what you've earned. For those looking ahead to collecting Social Security, resources include a benefits calculator to help determine the amount of money received at various ages as well answers to common questions to help you understand your Social Security.

It also is a place to take action and tell your elected officials how important Social Security is to you and your family. Let them know Social Security isn't a handout — we've paid into it our entire working lives. It's only fair that politicians protect the money we've earned. You can send a message and tell your lawmakers: People 50+ are the strongest voting bloc, we helped you get elected to office, and we will fight any cuts to our hard-earned Social Security!

In addition to making your voice heard, you will join AARP's online network and will receive urgent news and action alerts about the issues that matter the most to older Americans, as well as information about AARP activities, events, and member benefits.

Visit [www.aarp.org/SocialSecurity](http://www.aarp.org/SocialSecurity) today.

On Tuesday, July 11 AARP Rhode Island hosted for a tele-town hall with Secretary of State Gregg Amore, who will provide essential election information on how, where and when to vote. The replay is available at [www.aarp.org/RIEvents](http://www.aarp.org/RIEvents).

We will conduct a second tele-town hall with the Secretary of State on August 10 at 7 p.m. Learn how to participate at [www.aarp.org/RIEvents](http://www.aarp.org/RIEvents). And you can always get the latest Rhode Island election information at [www.aarp.org/RIVotes](http://www.aarp.org/RIVotes).

Additionally, mark your calendar for AARP Rhode Island Shred Week, July 31-August 4. Stop identity thieves in their tracks by safely disposing of documents containing personal information at any of our five drive-by locations. It's convenient and it's FREE.

- Monday, July 31, Edward King House, Newport
- Tuesday, August 1, Cumberland Senior Center, Cumberland
- Wednesday, August 2, Bristol Community Center, Bristol
- Thursday, August 3, Office of the Attorney General, Cranston
- Friday, August 4, East Providence Senior Center, East Providence

Drop-offs, 9 a.m. to noon; no more than two boxes per person; no businesses, please.

And remember that when it comes to fraud, if you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam. Stay informed with the AARP at [www.aarp.org/FraudwatchNetwork](http://www.aarp.org/FraudwatchNetwork).

Wishing you a safe and happy summer in the Ocean State!



**Fight fraud. Shred it!**

AARP Fraud Watch Network™ can help you protect yourself against identity theft.

Join us for a FREE document-shredding event in your community. Mark your calendar!

**AARP Rhode Island Shred Week**

Monday, July 31, Edward King House, Newport  
Tuesday, August 1, Cumberland Senior Center, Cumberland  
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Thursday, August 3, Office of the Attorney General, Cranston  
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Drop-offs, 9 a.m. to noon; no more than two boxes per person; no businesses, please.

For more information visit [www.aarp.org/RIEvents](http://www.aarp.org/RIEvents)



# Keep *Cool* on the Grill



Grilled Buttermilk Chicken

## Refreshing, dairy-infused dishes for warm days

### FAMILY FEATURES

**K**ee your kitchen cool and comfortable with grilled meals that banish the heat to the outdoors. Crisp, fresh greens and a perfect blend of spices and savory ingredients make each of these refreshing dishes perfect solutions for toasty days.

Featuring ingredients across the food groups, these dairy-fueled recipes from Milk Means More are ideal for well-rounded meals filled with nutritious

flavor. Zesty mustard, spicy Sriracha and rich buttermilk lend a marinated flavor upgrade to traditional grilled chicken, while homemade pesto, fresh corn and ham create a perfect harmony for a cheesy grilled pizza. Or make a salad the star of your dinner table with a simply seasoned sirloin steak, plenty of veggies and a tart twist on a creamy dressing made with yogurt and milk.

Find more refreshing meal solutions at [milkmeansmore.org](http://milkmeansmore.org).

### Grilled Buttermilk Chicken

Recipe courtesy of Lori Yates of Foxes Love Lemons on behalf of Milk Means More

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 16 minutes

Servings: 4

- 1 1/2 cups buttermilk
- 1 tablespoon mustard powder
- 1 tablespoon Sriracha
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- 4 chicken drumsticks, bone in, skin on
- 4 chicken thighs, bone in, skin on
- vegetable oil, for grill
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges (optional)

In medium bowl, whisk buttermilk, mustard powder, Sriracha, garlic and paprika.

Place chicken in large zip-top bag; pour buttermilk mixture over chicken. Seal bag and refrigerate 2 hours or overnight.

Heat outdoor grill for direct grilling over medium heat. Remove chicken from marinade, shaking off excess; discard marinade. Lightly oil grill grates. Transfer chicken to grill and cook, turning occasionally, 16-18 minutes, or until internal temperature reaches 165 F.

Transfer chicken to serving platter. Sprinkle with parsley and serve with lemon wedges, if desired.

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# KIDNEY STONES SUCK... The Life Out of You



ACCORDING TO DON  
by DON FOWLER

I'm sitting in one of those new comfortable reclining chairs at the Warwick Showcase, reviewing "The Flash", when suddenly it hits me.

A sharp pain on my right side below my rib. The pain quickly intensifies, and I double over.

I've been there before. Once at a convention in Philadelphia and another time eating dinner at home.

Others who have been there say that it is the worst pain possible, comparable only to childbirth. Haven't been there, but I sure can empathize.

The goal is to pass the stone, not always the easiest thing in the world to accomplish.

The stone (or stones) has a mind of its own. It moves when it wants to, making its way through the urethra to its only way out, sans surgery.

The plan is to drink water-lots of water-to assist the flow. Meanwhile, you try to deal with the excruciating pain.

I can't take the pain. I leave the Flash and head for the Emergency Room.

I'm not sure which was worse, sitting through nearly three hours of "The Flash" or six hours in the ER waiting room.

Have you been in an ER lately? You are not alone. There are lots of sick people in close proximity. One even had a mask on.

I sign in, with the help of my wife.

First question: Got insurance?

Tell them my pain level is 10. Out of 10.

One hour later, taken for vitals (blood pressure, temperature). Returned to the waiting room.

Given wrist band and told to take a seat. Wait until a seat is available.

Five hours later, taken for blood sample. Can't draw blood. Of course not. I'm dehydrated after sitting without liquids for five hours.

The two items I need-liquids and pain medication are not available to me until I see a doctor and that happens nine hours after I enter the ER.

Finally, the nurse draws a line and pushes 2 mm of morphine into my arm as I prepare for my X-ray. Where are these little suckers hiding?

They wheel me in on a gurney and I'm not feeling any relief from the powerful drugs. They take the picture; wheel me back to the room. Still in dire pain. The pharmacist checks the line. Problem. Drugs never reached me. Order more drugs. Finally!

Send me home. Pain finally gone. Drink, drink, drink. Take meds as needed.

Here I sit, two days later. Waiting for these miniscule objects to make their move.

Maybe tomorrow.

## SENIOR ALERT

# Tickborne Babesiosis Disease on the Rise

## ELDER LAW

by DON DRAKE  
CONNELLY LAW OFFICES, LTD. SPECIALIST

Summer is here and New Englanders are out and about soaking up the sun and the warm temperatures. But people spending more time outside and in wooded and grassy settings are concerned about tick bites and the diseases they carry.

Here in the Northeast, when tick bites are discussed, our first thoughts are Lyme Disease. However, according to the latest report from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), another tickborne disease is on the rise in all New England states. That disease is Babesiosis, and it carries quite a wallop for seniors and, on rare occasions, can be deadly.

### What is Babesiosis

Babesiosis was originally a New England disease, discovered in 1969 on the island of Nantucket. Since then, it has spread throughout the Northeast and into the states of Florida, Pennsylvania, California, Maryland, Virginia, and Wisconsin. According to the CDC report, the most significant increase in cases has been seen in all the New England states.

Babesiosis is carried by black-legged (deer) ticks and is transmitted through bites. And with the increase in the deer population, more ticks are being carried into residential areas.

Many people infected with Babesiosis feel fine and exhibit no symptoms, while others exhibit mild flu-like symptoms such as sweating, headaches, nausea, loss of appetite, fever, and chills. In some cases, it can lead to hemolytic anemia, in which the red blood cells are destroyed. These conditions can last from several days to several months. In severe cases, blood clots, organ failure, unstable blood pressure, and even death can occur. Symptoms of this disease may take one to nine weeks (in some cases even longer) to appear.

In a report issued by Dr. Daniel Cameron (A nationally recognized leader for his expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses), points out that the number of geriatric cases of this disease is also on the rise. He is especially concerned about co-infections of Babesiosis and Lyme disease, citing research pointing out that co-infection patients are apt to experience more persistent symptoms and are in danger of relapsing illness.

### Diagnosis and Treatment

If a tick bite occurs and symptoms appear, a diagnosis is made by a health care provider by looking at a blood sample under a microscope to see if Babesiosis parasites are present in the red blood cells. If so, the sample is then sent to another lab for confirmation.

Most people do not become sick enough to require treatment. However, those who do are usually treated with a combination of the drugs quinine and clindamycin or atovaquone and azithromycin. And as stated earlier, it is possible to have a co-infection of Babesiosis and Lyme disease which requires a specialized treatment regimen.

### Prevention

Know where to expect ticks. Ticks live in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas or even

on animals. Spending time outside walking your dog, camping, gardening, or hunting could bring you in close contact with ticks. Many people get ticks in their yard or neighborhood.

Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin. Permethrin can be used to treat boots, clothing, and camping gear and remain protective through several washings. Alternatively, you can buy permethrin-treated clothing and gear.

Use repellent approved by the EPA containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone. Always follow product instructions. Do not use OLE or PMD products on children under three years old.

Avoid Contact with Ticks. Avoid wooded and brushy areas with tall grass and leaf litter. Walk in the center of the trails.

### After You Come Indoors

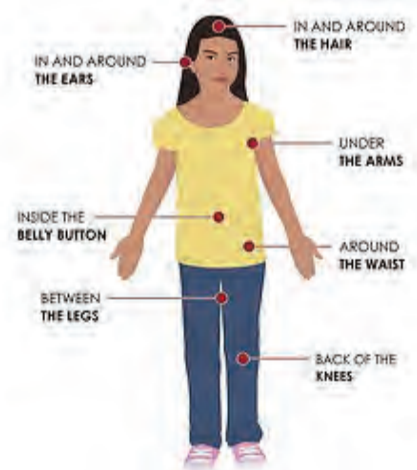
Check your clothing for ticks. Ticks may be carried into the house on clothing. Any ticks that are found should be removed. Tumble dry clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors. If the clothes are damp, additional time may be needed. If the clothes require washing first, hot water is recommended. Cold and medium water temperatures will not kill ticks.

Examine gear and pets. Ticks can be carried into the home on clothing and pets, then attach themselves to a person later, so carefully examine pets, coats, and daypacks.

Shower soon after being outdoors. Showering within two hours of coming indoors has been shown to reduce your risk of getting Lyme disease and may be effective in reducing the risk of other tickborne diseases. Showering may help wash off unattached ticks, which is an excellent opportunity to do a tick check.

Check your body for ticks after being outdoors. Conduct a full body check upon return from potentially tick-infested areas, including your backyard. Use a hand-held or full-length mirror to view all parts of your body.

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# Eligibility for Spousal Benefits

## SOCIAL SECURITY

by CHERYL TUDINO  
SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Social Security helps you secure today and tomorrow with financial benefits, information, and tools that support you throughout life's journey. If you don't have enough Social Security credits to qualify for benefits on your own record, you may be able to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

To qualify for spouse's benefits, you must be one of the following:

- 62 years of age or older.
- Any age and have in your care a child who is younger than age 16 or who has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

If you wait until you reach full retirement age, your full spouse's benefit could be up to one-half the amount your spouse is entitled to receive at their full retirement age. If you choose to receive your spouse's benefits before you reach full retirement age, you will get a permanently reduced benefit. You'll also get a full spouse's benefit before full retirement age if you care for a child who is entitled to receive benefits on your

spouse's record.

If you're eligible to receive retirement benefits on your own record, we will pay that amount first. If your benefits as a spouse are higher than your own retirement benefits, you will get a combination of benefits that equal the higher spouse benefit. For example, Sandy qualifies for a retirement benefit of \$1,000 and a spouse's benefit of \$1,250. At her full retirement age, she will receive her own \$1,000 retirement benefit. We will add \$250 from her spouse's benefit, for a total of \$1,250.

Want to apply for either your or your spouse's benefits? Are you at least 61 years and nine months old? If you answered yes to both, visit [www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement) to get started today.

Are you divorced from a marriage that lasted at least 10 years? You may be able to get benefits on your former spouse's record. For more information, please visit our website at [www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html](http://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html).

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# UV SAFETY

It's time to head to the beach! Enjoy the sun and surf, but keep precautions in mind. Being exposed to the sun in the hot summer months can take its toll, so being aware is important for summer fun.

Awareness of sun safety has greatly improved from the days of 'laying out' for hours covered in baby oil, but it remains an important health concern for all ages. What many sun lovers might not realize is that heat has nothing to do with UV rays and its effect on the skin and eyes. An overcast day can still lead to a painful sunburn.

The harmful rays can come on cloudy days, just as they can during the winter. Skiers can attest that sunlight in the wintertime can be equally damaging, as well as the windburn many athletes experience. Humidity, not heat, is what intensifies the sun's effect on the skin. What's more, sitting in the shade is not always a sure fire solution because sunlight is reflected off dust particles, pavement, boat decks and other reflective surface.

Despite efforts to promote sun safety, skin diseases like melanoma and eye inflammations have been on the rise. More Americans are getting exposed to UV [rays].

There are three cancers directly related to UV rays. Melanoma is the least common but most severe of all skin cancers and any cancers in general. It spreads all over the body if it's not treated properly and finding a cure has proven difficult.

Melanoma is predominantly found in the skin, but also can be in the bowel and the eye. Its seriousness is due to the uncontrolled growth of pigment cells. The primary tumor must be removed quickly. Basal cell cancer is another form linked to UV rays. It is the most common form both of skin cancer and all cancers worldwide. It appears as an open sore or ulcer. It may bleed or crust, but it does not heal. It may also be itchy or painful. After a biopsy, it will heal over five to seven days, but it may return later.

The second most common form of skin cancer is Squamous cell cancer, which occurs in areas exposed to the sun and can generally be treated by excision only. It can also occur in many different organs and can be in the form of a malignant tumor. All of these conditions can be attributed to too much exposure to the sun.

You don't need to avoid the outdoors altogether, however, just use good sun protection. The worst time to be out in the sun is after 10 a.m. and before 3 p.m., when the sun is highest in the sky.

What people call "aging of the skin" in the form of wrinkles and changes in texture is actually sun damage. Regardless of age, this damage can be prevented or minimized with the use of sun block, which should be applied a half hour before going outside and reapplied every two hours during exposure. The higher the SPF the greater the sun protection. The SPF number is not the only consideration for choosing a sun block, however. Consumers need to educate themselves about sun protection before settling on a specific brand or protection factor.

Sunscreen can react with different conditions. If people are on medications that causes them to be sensitive to the sun, it's hard to predict. Skin care advocates, urge everyone to wear sunscreen and sunglasses and to take every skin care precaution necessary to protect from harmful UV rays, year-round and during summer season in particular

For more information on UV safety, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

## RHODE ISLAND BEACHES

We don't call Rhode Island the "Ocean State," for nothing. With more than 400 miles of scenic coastline, Little Rhody has a big beach industry, featuring more than 100 public and private beaches. For more information about saltwater beaches, or for a listing of freshwater swimming locations, visit [www.visitrhodeisland.com](http://www.visitrhodeisland.com).

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**FORT ADAMS STATE PARK**  
Harrison Ave., Newport

**FRED BENSON TOWN BEACH**  
Corn Neck Rd., New Shoreham

**GODDARD STATE PARK**  
Ives Rd., Warwick

**GOOSEBERRY BEACH**  
130 Ocean Drive, Newport

**GRINNELL'S BEACH**  
Main Rd., Tiverton,

continued - BEACH from Page 1

with broccoli, avocados and strawberries. That takes care of the motifs, but it leaves the actual bathing suit shapes.

Lord help me. I have trouble picking two off the Panera menu. Now I'll have to pick two items of swimwear. (Their one-piece will never work for me.) For lunch, I usually wind up with my default chicken Caesar salad. I have no idea what the bathing suit equivalent of that would be, and that will just be the start of what I'll need for a trip to a beach or pool. I'll need pool-appropriate footwear and a beach cover up. And a very large towel and a tote to stuff everything into.

I can't forget sun block; I'll have to research what SPF number is required for my age group. And I'll want a nice bodice ripper paperback to read, the kind you find in airport gift shops, ones with a bare chested hunk on the cover, but not Fabio. And not *Fifty Shades of Gray*. I've read all of those; they were retirement gifts from a female friend. The book could be a project in and of itself.

Then there's the matter of the shave. The big shave. Stopping at the knees will not do for a body in a bathing suit. Not to mention clearing the weeds out from under my armpits. Upper legs and pits are not areas I typically worry about at my age. Come to think of it, there really aren't any body areas that I pay much attention to these days.

I'm beginning to realize why I haven't made any trips to a beach or pool in decades. It will be a miracle if I make it there this summer. I might as well do the appropriate planning, just in case, starting with a new bathing suit. I'm thinking of mixing and matching the Panera shorts with their tank top. A T-shirt would cover my bat wings better, but I didn't see one of those in the Panera collection. It looks like the shorts and tank are offered with broccoli and strawberries motifs. Those should do.

I'll also need to pick up sun block. Whatever I have around the house is undoubtedly past its sell-by date and it might not even be strong enough. Most of the other items on my list can be found at the bottom of a closet somewhere. That still leaves picking out a trashy paperback to take with me. I wonder if Amazon has a category for those. I'm open to suggestions, by the way.

I had no idea that planning for the beach after years of not going would be so stressful. It looks like I'm going to need a nice glass of wine. Or two.

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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](mailto:emdecker@ix.netcom.com)*





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# What are the Benefits of a Stairlift?

## SENIOR SAFETY

by RACHEL MONIZ

OAKLEY HOME ACCESS

One of our most commonly installed items for senior safety is the Stairlift, also referred to as stair glides, stair chairs, chairlifts, or stair elevators. These amazing pieces of equipment have been around for nearly 100 years and are an integral part of the Aging in Place model. Stairways are one of the most dangerous areas of the home, leading to thousands of catastrophic falls in the older adult population. Many people know that stairlifts exist, but often have questions about the lift that may result in their hesitancy to have one installed. In today's blog, we discuss some of the most frequently asked questions in regards to stairlifts. We hope that you find this information helpful, and as always encourage you to reach out with any further questions.



chair, and place your feet on the footrest. At the top of the stairs, the chair seat can be swiveled 90 degrees to place the user safely into the hallway, and away from the stairs. Our team always assesses the top and bottom of the stairs to determine if a grab bar or handrail may assist with the transfer down into or up out of the chair.

### Who Needs a Stairlift?

Stairlift users generally fall into three categories.

People who are completely unable to navigate stairs. Their mobility challenges allow them to ambulate only on flat ground, or with the use of a wheelchair.

Those who are currently able to navigate

the stairs, but may only be able to manage 2 or 3 steps, such as when entering the home. They have more difficulty completing full flights of stairs to get to the second level bedrooms, or to the basement to do laundry. Navigating full flights of stairs becomes dangerous at this point.

The third type of stairlift client is a sporadic user. Their mobility changes day by day and having a stairlift provides them peace of mind that they can access their home, regardless of their mobility abilities that day. Many of these individuals will walk up the stairs, but use the stairlift to send laundry, groceries, and other heavy items up and down the stairs. This is a proactive stairlift client.

### Are Stairlifts Expensive?

Stairlifts are an investment into your health and safety, and should be looked at as preventative medicine. A safe estimate for a straight stairlift would be in the realm of \$3000 – \$4000 regardless of what company you utilize. This may seem like a large upfront cost, but when compared to alternative options it seems much more affordable.

### Will my Stairs be Safe for Everyone Else?

Stairlifts will reduce the available width of your stairs, but still leave plenty of room for those trying to navigate the stairs. A

good rule of thumb is that the track of the chair will protrude out about six inches for the entire length of the stairs. This will not be a problem for those walking up the stairs. In addition, the chair itself will be parked at the top or the bottom of the stairs and in that spot only will protrude about 13 inches. While somebody walking up the stairs does need to be cognizant of the lift, it will not be a hindrance in standard stairwells.

### Will a Stairlift Damage My Stairs?

The connection point between the track and your staircase is a steel plate footing. This footing has four screw holes in it that secure the track to the stairs. Upon lift removal, there will be approximately 3-5 stairs that have screw holes from the footings. These can easily be repaired with wood filler and stain to match in the event of stairlift removal.

### Does My Insurance Cover a Stairlift?

Stairlifts are unfortunately not currently covered by Medicare or commercial insurance policies. However, our company utilizes a variety of resources including the RI Livable Home Modification Program, National Foundations for specific diagnoses, and Long Term Care Policies to help offset some of the cost of the equipment.

[oakleyhomeaccess.com](http://oakleyhomeaccess.com)

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