

# 'Another layer of transparency'

*Within two years, Johnston police will be equipped with body-worn cameras*

By RORY SCHULER

If a new state program is successful, within two years every frontline police officer in the Ocean State will be equipped with a body-worn camera.

Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza welcomes the technol-

ogy and looks forward to the program's implementation.

"I think it will improve our interactions with the public," Razza said Monday in his office at Johnston Police Headquarters. "I've talked to many officers here, and I think they will be very accepting. Body cam-

eras can only promote public trust, increase an overall level of transparency and improve interactions with the public."

In June, Rhode Island legislative and law enforcement leaders announced an innovative statewide program to put body-worn cameras on every

frontline police officer and supervisor.

The program, introduced at the request of Rhode Island Attorney General Peter F. Neronha and sponsored by state Sen. Jonathon Acosta (D-Dist. 16, Central Falls, Pawtucket) and state Rep. José Batista (D-Dist.

12, Providence), aims to equip around 1,700 uniformed patrol officers, in every Rhode Island municipal police department and the State Police, with body-worn cameras over the next 12-18 months.

■ CAMERAS - PAGE 16

## Talking, and counting, turkey

By RORY SCHULER

The turkey hen skipped past the Johnston Police Department.

Threading between traffic, the bird hustled across Atwood Avenue onto a grassy patch behind the sign for the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School.

The turkey took flight for a few feet at a time, just slightly frazzled by traffic noise.

Eventually, the lone creature waddled her way toward the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library. It stopped to take a peek inside, peering through the windowed walls.

The game bird caught a glimpse of its reflection in the library window.

She paused again, moving her head up and down, as though she was searching for a specific volume of fiction, possibly a copy of "Turkey Trouble" or "A Plump and Perky Turkey."

Giving up on the window-shopping, the hen sprinted left, scurried behind the school and disappeared out of sight.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is asking the public to report sightings of wild turkeys.

■ TURKEY - PAGE 6



**TURKEY TALES:** An adult female turkey peered through the window at the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library. (*Sun Rise* photo by Rory Schuler)

## Council OKs settlement in opioids suit

By RORY SCHULER

Four members of the Johnston Town Council held an executive session Monday night to discuss opioid litigation.

According to Town Council Vice President Joseph Polisena Jr. and Assistant Town Solicitor Dylan Conley, Town Council voted to approve acceptance of a settlement related to the proposed Purdue Pharma Bankruptcy Plan.

"This is the Purdue Pharma bankruptcy, related to a national class action lawsuit," Conley said Tuesday night.

Attorney Dylan Conley did not attend the meeting. However, his father, Town Solicitor William J. Conley Jr., attended the meeting and briefed councilors in a closed-door session.

When Town Council returned to their regular session, they made no mention of the vote.

According to Johnston Town Clerk Vincent P. Baccari Jr., Town Council voted 4-0 to agree to accept a settlement.

■ SUIT - PAGE 9

## GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY

### Historic Cemetery No. 7 a model for volunteer maintenance

By RORY SCHULER

The face of many tombstones in Cemetery No. 7 are rough, the inscriptions noticeably hand-carved. They're made of concrete rather than marble or granite.

"Many of these people were poor, and likely worked in the nearby mills," said Stephen Merolla, vice-president of the Johnston Historical Society. "Just down the street stood a big stone mill called the Center Mill; later called the Centerdale Mill. It was built in 1812 as a cotton mill and burned down in 1972."

Johnston Cemetery No. 7, near the intersection of George Waterman Road and Route 44, is one of the town's largest old burial grounds.

Merolla, who also serves as head of the Historical Society's cemetery committee, has studied Johnston's nearly 100 historic burial grounds.



**CLIPPER TRIM:** Johnston Historical Society Cemetery Committee volunteer Doug Stephens has stepped up to help maintain Cemetery No. 7. (*Sun Rise* photo by Rory Schuler)

■ GRAVE - PAGE 15

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# Dilorio, FA advocate, lost at age 40

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston has lost a fighter and a compassionate advocate.

"The Johnston community experienced a loss as Matthew Dilorio passed away on July Fourth at age 40," said Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. on Tuesday night, as he wrapped up his year-end annual report.

"Matthew is an alumni of Johnston Schools and was a major supporter of research for Friedreich's ataxia (FA), a debilitating neurodegenerative disorder, that claimed Matthew's life," DiLullo announced. "Matthew was the son of Jack and Sallyann Dilorio, who cared for and supported Matthew so well throughout his life. His mother, Sallyann has taught as a substitute teacher in the Johnston Public Schools for many years."

On Monday, men and women dressed in black lined George Waterman Road, outside Our Lady of Grace Church, to celebrate the life of Matthew Dilorio. A Johnston Police officer helped people cross the busy road.

"Matthew's funeral was held yesterday at Our Lady of Grace Church," DiLullo informed the School Committee. "The funeral was attended by so many family, friends and supporters that all couldn't fit into the church. This was quite a tribute to a brave, positive and dynamic young man who touched so many lives throughout his life. Our condolences to his fine family."

Friedreich's ataxia (FA) is a neuro-muscular, genetic disorder that affects one in roughly 50,000 people in the United States.

The disease is debilitating, progressive and has no cure.

"Throughout his life, Matthew J. Di Iorio was a powerful inspiration and source of hope for those who knew him," according to his obituary. "Even though he needed support in almost every aspect of life, he had a community of people who loved him unconditionally because of who he was. In the midst of great suffering and hardship, he showed others how to live joyously. His positive, can-do attitude did not allow pity to become part of his world. Matt gave us all a sense of purpose and connection."

Matt Dilorio, a Johnston native, was diagnosed with the illness in 1994.

"Diagnosed at age 13, Friedreich's ataxia (FA) began to manifest itself in a significant way about four years later," according to his obituary. "Despite the symptoms that tried to slow him down, Matt's life became more exciting and adventurous as the years continued. His love of travel took him coast to coast for sports tournaments, golf vacations, and to Las Vegas multiple times. Matt especially enjoyed the summer weekends spent on the water in Warwick and Narragansett."

A lifelong resident of Rhode Island, Matt Dilorio was a Johnston High and Bryant University graduate.

"Some of his proudest moments took place while managing the men's basket-



**FA-MILY:** Matt Dilorio (at front), his family and friends believed connecting with the FA community made a major difference in their lives. Pictured, back from left, are Michael Crawley, Sally Ann Dilorio and Jack Dilorio.

ball team at both schools," according to his obituary. "In college, he was a member of the Delta Chi fraternity while completing a bachelor's degree in communications."

Despite the challenges presented by FA, Matt Dilorio refused to surrender.

"At 40 years old Matt passed away on the Fourth of July, 2021 due to complications from FA," according to his obituary. "True to form, he died as he lived, spending time on vacation with his family in Sun Valley, Idaho."

His family expressed gratitude to those who helped make life a little bit easier.

"The Dilorio Family appreciates the people who supported Matt with countless acts of kindness and love throughout his life," according to his obituary. "The family also extends their heartfelt gratitude to the medical professionals who treated and cared for him."

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m. Monday, July 12, at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church.

A private burial followed at St. Ann's Cemetery in Cranston.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Matt's memory to FARA in support of the Race for Matt and Grace.

More information can be found at [www.curefa.org/rfmg](http://www.curefa.org/rfmg) (checks to FARA may be mailed to 533 W. Uwchlan Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335; reference RFMG).

Cranston's Woodlawn-Gattone-Remington Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

Memories and condolences can be shared at [WoodlawnGattone.com](http://WoodlawnGattone.com), and details regarding tree-plantings in Matt Dilorio's memory can also be found online.

To begin Matt Dilorio's obituary, his family asked a pair of questions. The answers, for most of us, cast a shining light on the legacy Dilorio will undoubtedly leave behind.

"How many of your friends would carry you up a flight of stairs or onto an airplane?" His obituary asks. "When was the last time you were judged not by your appearance, but by your character?"

The Johnston School Committee adjourned Tuesday night's meeting in honor of Matt Dilorio.

# Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School announces final 2020-21 honor roll

**High Honor Roll**

- Giada Achille
- Melissa Aguilar
- Vincent Allen
- Skyla Almeida
- Alexander Amaral
- Andre Amato
- Lucas Anderson
- Matthew Andrews
- Ella Annicelli
- Samaya Anzivino
- Kaitlyn Barbosa
- Kelly Barrenechea
- Colin Bishop
- Haley Boudreau
- Isabella Boudreau
- I'daizha Brown
- Tyler Buote
- Juliana Buscemi
- Ryan Capraro
- Madisyn Card
- Autumn Cartwright
- Alyssa Cimino
- Matthew Clements
- Sierra Colavita
- Cody Cook
- Domenic Corona
- Albion Cortesi
- Nicholas Cote
- Giuseppe Cucinotta
- Santino Cucinotta
- Arianna Dandy
- Dominic DeGrazia
- Jacob DeLeon
- Anthony Delgado
- Gianna Desmarais
- Emily Fashjian
- Hunter Feinstein
- Gianna Ferranti
- William Ferrara
- Logan Finelli
- Lucas Frisella
- Annabella Gesualdi
- Amanda Giron Caballero

- Aiden Grace
- Brooke Houle
- Maddox Johnson
- Hannah Klein
- Elizabeth Kue
- Dario La Terra Bellina
- Derek LaFazia
- Brenton Lang
- Arianna Leonesio
- Angelica Maddaline
- Nino Marrocco
- Isabela Martinez
- Logan Martins
- Bennett McClish
- Caroline McCormack
- Molly McCrillis
- Ava Mello
- Arthur Men
- Hayden Morin
- Janelle Nunez
- Daniel Ordonez-Flores
- Gianna Orozco
- Aubree Padula
- Anthony Pannone
- Brendan Parsons
- Loren Pastore
- Janvi Patel
- Nicole Patenaude
- Noelle Patenaude
- Jacob Pettit
- Genesis Pineda
- Matthew Ponte
- Catherine Privitera
- Fallon Provoyer
- Valeria Ramos
- Isabelle Ricci
- Adriana Rossi
- Gabriella Russillo
- Isabella Salazar
- Ella Salera
- Averi Senecal
- James Senno
- Robert Simmons
- Lucas Simpson

Aiden Soto  
Ariana Stoepker  
Alexander Subirana  
Jack Tabla  
Karina Tabla  
Emma Taglianetti  
Luke Taglianetti  
Abraham Tillett  
Emily Vang  
Cameron Veitch  
Ryan Waterman  
Sofia Williams  
Thomas Xoydara

Total High Honor Roll: 100

**Honor Roll**

- Logan Hayden Akins
- Saad Alam
- Selena Albanese
- Makenzie Albuquerque
- Katlyn Allen
- Roman Amato
- Blake Angel
- Marco Aucone
- Elianna Baptista
- Marlice Baptista
- Gabriella Barata
- Nicholas Benoit
- Madilyn Bolton
- Kara Bonetti
- Ethan Bracey
- Juan Brache
- Griffin Bruno
- Olivia Bryant
- Jonathan Burgos
- Dionis Calcagno
- Ricardo Camarena
- Abner Cambranes
- Madison Campano
- Andrew Cardullo
- Michael Castro
- Dylan Cerio
- Morgan Cerullo

- Edwin Chen
- Javier Colon
- Shemorie Constant
- Dante Corbo
- Santino Corbo
- Elliot Cortesi
- Evelyn Cotton
- Ra'Shaun Crespo
- Aidan Cross
- Michael Cucca
- Samson D'Uva
- Cristiano DaSilva
- Anthony Daya
- Stiles Dean
- Emilia Deanseris
- Gino DeSimone
- Nicholas Desmarais
- Alexa Diaz
- Adrianna Dinucci
- Tyler Diodati
- Jada DiRaimo
- Tenniyah Disla
- Lauren Dixon
- Christopher Espinal
- Fiona Fairbanks
- Zoe Fairbanks
- Hailey Feliciano
- Mason Fenaux
- Christopher Gasbarro
- Jesse Geyer
- Ian Gobeille
- Sofya Gonsalves
- Isabella Grimshaw
- Abigail Grullon
- Carlos Gutierrez Deleon
- Isabella Halliwell
- Zachary Hanna
- Jasmine Hill
- Kennedy Hilton
- Walter Homenick IV
- Mia Hopp
- Olivia Iafrate
- Vanessa Javery
- Lana Jencks

Zerek Johnson  
Matthew Jones  
Alyssa Kleinberg  
Sadie Klumpers  
Thomas L'Europa  
Cloey Laflamme  
Thadea Leomensah  
Thaden Leomensah  
Macy Leone  
Isabella Liang  
Timothy Liang  
Sebastiana Lux Hernandez  
Jordan Maggiacomo  
Analese Marcano  
Matthew Marchesi  
Balla Marone  
Analeah Martins  
Julia McLellan  
Rachael Mendoza  
Ernesto Mercado Anez  
Jonah Metts  
Ezekiel Montoya  
Jordy Morales  
Karissa Morales  
Max Mousseau  
Alexandra Musa  
Neriah Nhar-Matko  
Connor Niles  
Isabella Nunes  
Evelyn Pagliarini  
Aiden Pannone  
Nicholas Paquin  
Bricen Parris  
Gabriella Pascale  
Jeel Patel  
Isabella Paulson  
Caroline Pesenecker  
Michael Pezza  
Brea Pezzullo  
Madison Picchi  
Owen Polofsky  
Jonathan Prata  
Skyla Prata  
Sydney Raposo

Hannah Regan  
Giana Rendina  
Gianna Ricci  
Isabella Ricci  
Jordan Rivera  
Sophie Roda  
Brissya Rodriguez  
David Roland  
Alex Salamone  
Leah Sanchez Perez  
Antonio Sanchez  
Selina Santanelli  
Jesse Santillan  
Tyler Santilli-Pace  
Lorelai Sarli  
Madelyn Sarli  
Gianna Sauro  
Jason Schino  
Nicholas Scuncio  
Hailey Segee  
Lily Senecal  
Madison Slavick  
Nixon Soto  
Skyley Soto  
Aidan Sou  
Brandon Souza  
Christopher Spagnole  
Alex Toledo Hinojosa  
Josie Torti  
Kyle Urban  
Anthony Vendetti  
Victoria Villafane  
Arrico Vinagro  
Morgan Visnicky  
Austin Wheeler  
Nathaniel Wiggins  
Nicholas Williams  
Madison Winsor  
Matthew Winsor  
Timothy Xoydara  
Clark Znoj

Total Honor Roll: 156

## Giving the 'Gift of Life': National Honor Society hosts annual summer blood drive

By GLORIANNA CRICHLLOW  
Special to the Sun Rise

On July 27, the Johnston Senior High School National Honor Society will be holding its annual summer blood drive.

In previous years, Johnston community members and students have shown support by donating blood.

This year, the United States is experiencing a severe blood shortage. In fact, every 2 seconds, someone in America needs blood.

The situation is worsening because trauma and emergency cases increased during the pandemic, leading to a depleted

shortage in blood.

Hospitals are now being forced to push off elective surgeries and triage medical care. Now, more than ever, we need blood donors to help the people that need it the most.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, blood drives have undergone change after change to keep donors and workers safe.

For the most part, these restrictions have been lifted. However, donors still need to make an appointment to be able to give, with walk-ins only accepted if spacing permits.

The Blood Drive will be held at the Johnston Senior Center from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

To make an appointment, go to the website [www.ribc.org/drives/](http://www.ribc.org/drives/). The sponsor code is 0441.

Donors aged 16 years old need to fill out a permission slip that can be found at [ribc.org/drives/](http://ribc.org/drives/).

Spots are filling up quick, so make sure to schedule an appointment as soon as you can!

For any questions, you can contact the NHS president, Glorianna Crichlow at [2022gcrichlow@johnston-schools.org](mailto:2022gcrichlow@johnston-schools.org) or 401-403-4421.

**Editor's Note:** Glorianna Crichlow is Johnston Senior High School's National Honor Society president.

**Johnston Senior High School @ Johnston Senior Center**

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**SHOW OF CLASS:** A sign greets Johnston High School seniors during last month's graduation parade. (Sun Rise file photo)

## Superintendent delivers End-of-Year School Report

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. delivered his End-of-Year Report at Tuesday night's School Committee meeting.

"School began on Sept. 14, 2020 and ended on June 25, 2021," DiLullo told the Committee and members of the audience. "School Administrators, this School Committee, nurses, teachers and support staff came together to have a solid opening plan."

The COVID pandemic made the typically routine school opening perhaps more challenging than ever. The previous year was chaotic, in-person classes shifted to at-home learning, and the 2020-21 school year promised to provide a host of obstacles.

"Facilities were maintained and provided clean and safe environments," DiLullo continued. "Most classrooms in the district have been repainted. Additional facilities equipment and a van were obtained through COVID funds. All rooms have air purifiers in place. Nursing offices have been updated or expanded to provide safe zones for students and staff. Ongoing meetings have occurred to gather information on new and updated facility planning."

### Bullying

DiLullo also submitted a School Behavior Report detail-

ing incidents of bullying at each school.

"Four incidents of bullying reported at the ECC (Early Childhood Center)," DiLullo read to the School Committee. "Two students were suspended as a result of the Principal's investigation."

"Three incidents of Cyberbullying through the use of computers, personal cell phones or social media at Barnes Elementary School were identified," DiLullo continued. "The incidents were investigated and students were suspended and/or moved to remote learning. Reports were given to the Johnston Police."

"Two reported cases of bullying at Ferri Middle School," DiLullo said. "One was unfounded and one was supported as a result of the Principal's investigation. Scheduling adjustments were recommended and no contact offered between the students."

"Three bullying reports were filed at Winsor Hills," DiLullo said. "Through investigation, the Principal determined that none of the instances were bullying. Consequences were given to several students this year for harassment (verbal and cyber) as well as physical altercations that were not associated with the bullying reports."

### Johnston High School

DiLullo delivered a report on Johnston High School, informing the School Committee that

"200 seniors were enrolled this year; 183 graduated in June and 17 seniors are attending summer school with an August graduation possibility."

"Staff and students worked as a team at the high school to keep everyone safe," DiLullo said. "The high school moved many of their celebrations and information to virtual formats this year."

Athletics and extracurricular events, through team effort, resembled normalcy this year.

"All sports teams were able to compete and did well this year," DiLullo said. "The Mock Trial Team placed second in the state competition. The Academic Decathlon Team placed third in the state and won 18 medals."

Other projects were worth mentioning as well, according to DiLullo's report.

"A video tour and program description was produced to give 8th graders information on our high school," he said. "They also participated in an in person tour."

Standardized testing also proceeded as usual.

"Over 90 percent of the Junior Class and 92 percent of the sophomore class participated in state testing SAT," DiLullo said. "The high school is offering summer school to 83 students for credit."

### Ferri Middle School

"The principal reports that the teachers did an exceptional job as they were flexible and

worked hard to meet the needs of our students," DiLullo told the committee. "The administrative team is working to plan for next year as some of the protocols of COVID worked well such as some schedule changes and offering virtual meetings to parents."

"The Middle school is also offering summer school over the last three weeks and so far it has been met with success."

### Elementary Schools

Reflecting the times, "virtual open houses and parent teacher conferences were held at the beginning and middle of the year," DiLullo told the School Committee. "Elementary students came to school for four days a week, if they were in-person until May, when the schools returned to five days of in-person learning."

"PTOs also held virtual events such as book fairs, story hours, virtual dances, and paint nights."

"Our Social Emotional Learning teams at all schools were very busy as they supported both in-school learners and virtual learners with regular check-ins and interventions," DiLullo said.

He added that, "All administrators worked seven days a week to complete contact tracing based on notifications of positive cases from the Rhode Island Department of Health."

"Many of our schools adjust-

ed parent drop-off and pick-up as well as bus transportation to keep all students and staff safe," DiLullo said. "New high quality curriculum in reading, writing and math is being introduced in our school. The district received a \$1 million grant to support the required implementation of the reading and writing program."

Throughout the pandemic, many of the town's families needed help.

"Many of our schools continued to support our neediest families through food and clothing drives and donations or Christmas presents at holiday time," DiLullo reported. "Luckily at the end of the year, many of our celebrations were in-person."

### Thank You

"On a final note, I thank all of you on the school committee, our administrative team, teachers support staff, teachers' aids, families and students for working together to make this year as successful as possible," DiLullo said. "Without the cooperation of all, it wouldn't have been possible."

Hopefully, better, more normal times await on the horizon.

"As Mrs. Denham wrote in her annual school summary, 'all learning is best done in-person,' and that sentiment is shared by all in our community," DiLullo said. "That's the plan for this coming September for all students to be in school full-time and in-person."

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## BACKYARD SPACE

### The Monkey Head Nebula

By Lucas Maguire  
Special to the Sun Rise

Located roughly 6,400 light-years away in the constellation Orion, lies NGC 2174, The Monkey Head Nebula. It's a Hydrogen-II emission nebula that may have been formed by the gravitational collapse of interstellar dust that form stars by a hierarchical collapse.

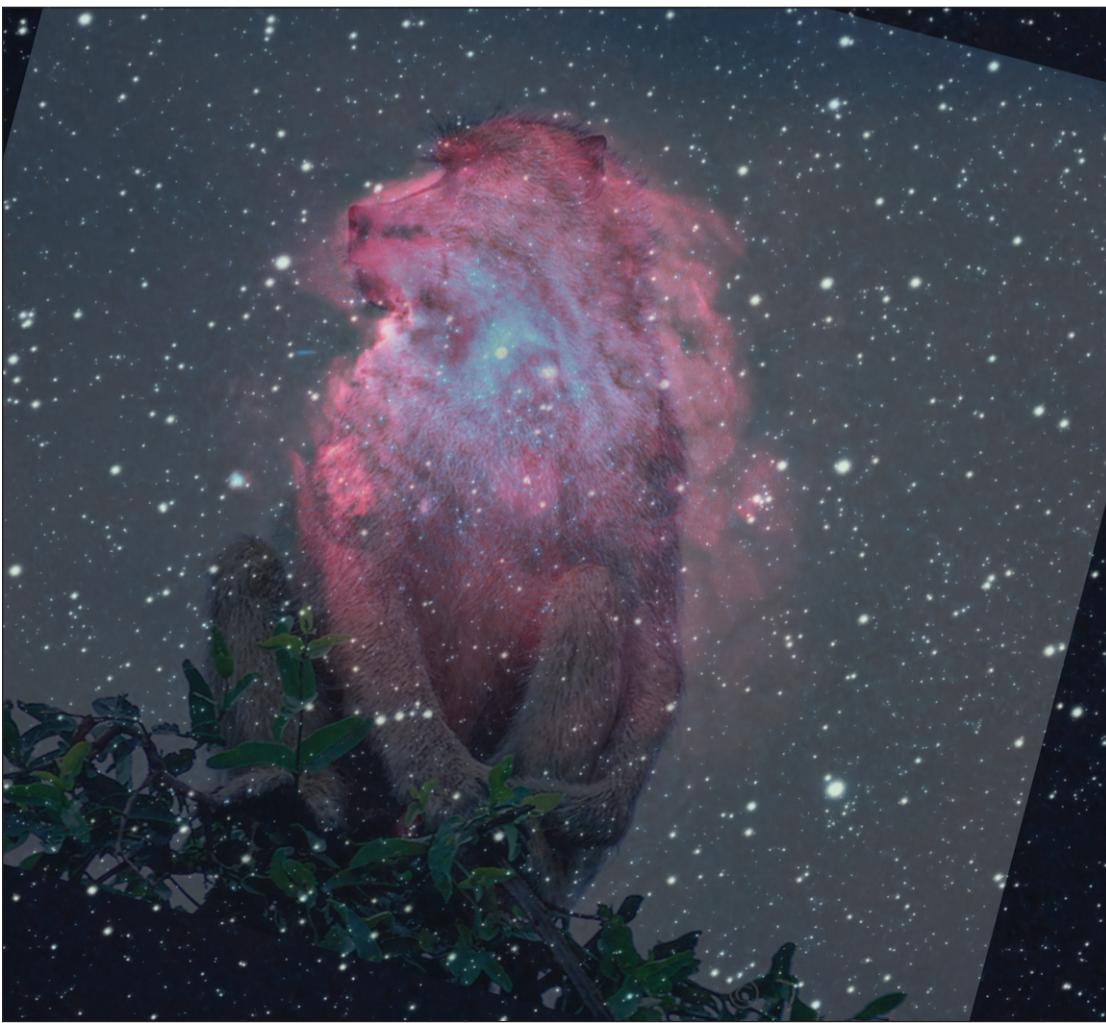
The Nebula gets its name due to its shape, but it can be difficult to spot. To put this target into perspective, It's bigger than the full moon in the night sky!

On a chilly dark night in February, I set sights on a winter target in the constellation of Orion.

I used a one-shot color astrophotography camera and a dual pass narrowband filter to block out all other unwanted wavelengths of light and light pollution. I collected 91 frames each with 180 seconds of exposure time, stacked and processed them using an astronomical editing software to bring out the gas clouds and nebulosity.

This image was taken from my backyard in Johnston.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Lucas "Luc" Maguire captured this image from his backyard in Johnston. He will be submitting his deep space images to the Sun Rise for publication each week. Maguire's photography can also be found at his Instagram account @oceantstateastro and his Twitter feed @OceanStateAstro.

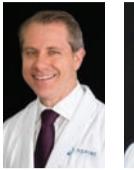


**SPOT THE MONKEY:**  
This image created by Luc Maguire superimposes a picture of a monkey over the Monkey Head Nebula to help explain its name.



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## ■ Turkey

(Continued from page 1)

They'd like to hear about any hens — both with broods of babies and without — and tom turkeys as well, to help with research efforts.

The information gathered from the public will help the agency determine the number of young birds that survive the species' common causes of mortality, like predators, adverse weather and vehicles.

According to Jennifer Kilburn, principal biologist for the state's Game Bird Program, turkeys may thrive in Johnston, due to a strict firearms ordinance, which makes it difficult to hunt the birds within town limits.

DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife conducts annual brood surveys, gobbler call count surveys and hunter harvest surveys "to get a better understanding of how Rhode Island's turkey population changes from year to year and to better guide management decisions with the goal of ensuring a healthy stable population for years to come," Kilburn said.

"To align DEM's survey methods with those developed by the National Wild Turkey Federation, the survey has been modified from previous years," according to the agency. "The survey window runs now through Aug. 31 and includes observations of tom turkeys to get an idea of the male to female ratio in Rhode Island's turkey population. This survey traditionally provides the division with hundreds of brood reports annually and could not be completed without the help of citizen scientists."

To participate in this year's survey, the public can submit reports via Survey123, an online survey platform.

The platform allows the public to download the Survey123 app on a smartphone and record observations on the go. Reports can also be filled out via computer.

"If residents do not have access to a computer or smartphone, observations can be recorded on a datasheet provided by

Town of Harvest	Number of Birds 2020	Number of Birds 2019
Bristol	3	0
Burrillville	29	28
Charlestown	12	8
Coventry	21	19
Cranston	1	1
Cumberland	4	5
E. Greenwich	1	4
E. Providence	0	0
Exeter	23	18
Foster	21	22
Glocester	23	13
Hopkinton	5	13
Johnston	0	1
Little Compton	6	7
Lincoln	0	0
Middletown	4	1
Narragansett	0	3
N. Kingstown	12	5
N. Smithfield	8	15
Portsmouth	1	1
Richmond	12	18
Scituate	18	25
Smithfield	13	11
S. Kingstown	19	14
Tiverton	18	21
Warren	1	0
W. Greenwich	9	6
Westerly	4	7
Woonsocket	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>270</b>

**NO SHOOTING:** Wild turkey harvest by town during the 2020 and 2019 spring season in Rhode Island. (Graphic courtesy the Rhode Island DEM)

DEM Fish and Wildlife," according to the agency. "We ask that participants using the datasheet return them to DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife at 277 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, RI 02892 by Sept. 15."

DEM works actively to protect and enhance wildlife habitat in Rhode Island forests and management areas to ensure healthier, more diverse, and abundant wildlife populations, according to the agency.

"DEM's turkey restoration program, which ran from 1980 to 1996, resulted in increased opportunities for the public to see and hunt wild turkeys,"

the agency said in a press release. "The restoration project released wild trapped birds that established new turkey flocks in Exeter, Burrillville, Little Compton, West Greenwich, Foster, Scituate, and Tiverton. Restoration of the wild turkey was funded by state hunting license fees and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program."

In Johnston, last year, no turkeys were harvested during the turkey-hunting season. In 2019, only one harvested bird was reported.

"I imagine that the following town ordinance may contribute to low harvest in Johnston," Kilburn said, providing the text of town ordinance 169-1, relating to the "Discharge of firearms and other weapons generally prohibited."

"No person, not being at the time under police or military duty, shall discharge any rifle, gun, musket, pistol, air gun, spring gun, or other small arms, or any contrivance armed to discharge shot, bullets, arrows, darts or other missiles in the Town," states the ordinance, which is subject, however, to a long list of exceptions.

As more woodland space in town is developed, fewer places exist within town limits, where hunters can safely and legally hunt.

So, with fewer shotguns pointed their way, the turkey population starts to spill out onto roadways, parks and around the public library.



**LIFTOFF:** A turkey hen takes flight outside Ferri Middle School on Monday. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

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# FM Global appoints Roberts as president

FM Global, one of the world's largest commercial property insurers, has announced that Executive Vice President Malcolm C. Roberts has been appointed president and elected to the company's board of directors, effective Aug. 1.

He will succeed Thomas A. Lawson as chief executive officer, effective Jan. 1, 2022.

Roberts joined the mutual insurance company in 1995 as a loss prevention consultant in London after working as a chemical engineer. He has held a variety of management roles within the company across the globe and was appointed to his current position in 2018.

As president, he will be responsible for the strategic and operational direction of the company, which insures nearly \$10.2 trillion in business property in more than 130 countries.

Lawson will retire on Dec. 31, 2021, after 42 years with the company and will remain chairman of FM Global's board of directors. He became CEO in 2015. Since that time, Lawson has helped the company grow from \$5.6



**THE RIGHT BALANCE:** Executive Vice President Malcolm C. Roberts has been appointed president and elected to the FM Global's board of directors. (Courtesy photo)

billion to \$7.4 billion in annual revenue and from \$11 billion to \$18.4 billion in

policyholders' surplus.

"This is an exciting step in the future direction of

the company," Lawson said. "Malcolm has the right balance of leadership skills and vision, intrinsic understanding of our corporate culture, comprehensive insight into our clients' complex needs as well as extensive industry knowledge and experience. That, combined with FM Global's enduring business model solely focused on property risk management and the resilience of our policyholders, will ensure the continued success we share with our client-owners."

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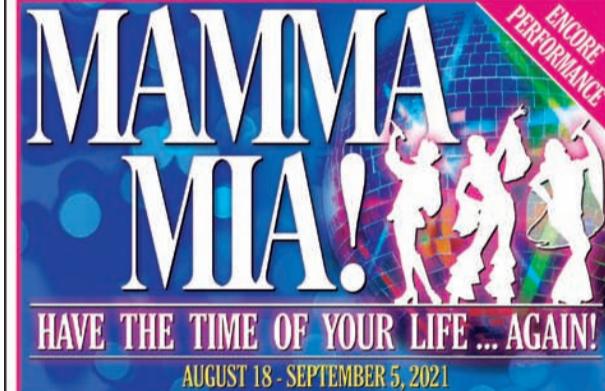
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## Rising Sun Jiu Jitsu nominated as D'Angelo's Neighborhood \$10K Giveaway partner organization

D'Angelo Grilled Sandwiches is excited to announce the official launch of its Neighborhood \$10K Giveaway program, in which one lucky community organization will receive a donation of \$10,000 from their favorite neighborhood sandwich shop!

One of the organizations participating in the program is the Rising Sun Jui Jitsu, located in Johnston.

"Our valued guests throughout New England can now cast their votes in support of an organization or cause that is important to their community for the chance to make an immediate impact," said Deena McKinley, CMO of D'Angelo Grilled Sandwiches. "What's so exciting about this program is that we leave it to our guests and Team Members to decide where these funds will be used in their neighborhoods, and we can't wait to see which D'Angelo wins and which organization receives the \$10,000 donation."

D'Angelo Grilled Sandwiches has long had a passion for community engagement and many restaurant teams through-

out New England have formed strong relationships with guests and local organizations.

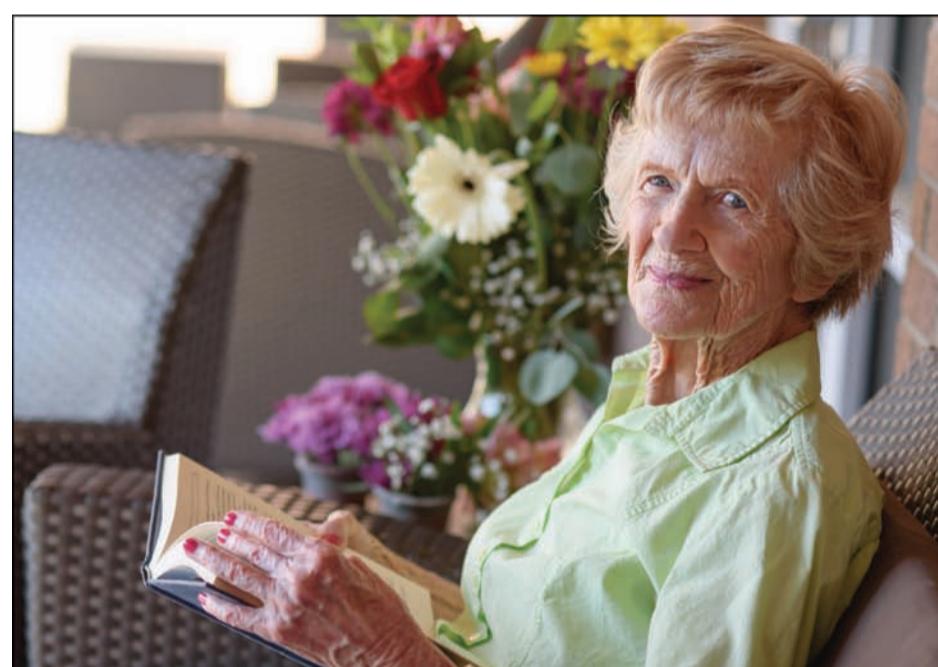
"Something we've always been proud of at D'Angelo has been our passion for working closely with the people in our restaurant communities," said Jim Croteau, Senior Vice President of D'Angelo Grilled Sandwiches. "Our restaurant teams have formed such strong relationships in their communities, and we're excited to connect them with a program that will give them a chance to deliver a \$10,000 donation! I know we will all have fun promoting it and getting people to vote, because it's something we are all very passionate about."

Building on this passion and framework of local connections, each participating D'Angelo restaurant was tasked with identifying an organization in their community to partner with for the program. Partner organizations include food pantries, youth sports leagues, schools, community centers, pet shelters, and so many more. A full list of participating

restaurants and organizations can be found on the voting page at: Dangeli.com/10kgiveaway

Voting began June 28 and will run through August 8. The D'Angelo restaurant that receives the highest number of votes during the voting period will be deemed the contest winner and will then deliver the \$10,000 donation to their partner organization. Supporters of the program can cast their vote for their favorite D'Angelo restaurant and their partnered organization at the link above, as well as through scanning QR codes at each participating restaurant. Participants can submit a maximum of one vote per day.

D'Angelo Grilled Sandwiches has always been a neighborhood sandwich shop, and we are grateful for the opportunity to give back to our local communities through these worthy organizations participating in our program," said Tom Sterrett, CEO of D'Angelo Grilled Sandwiches. "Our teams are ready and excited for a great competition, and we hope our guests get out there and vote!"



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**WATERY WELCOME:** Frontier's inaugural flight from Atlanta was greeted Monday afternoon with a water cannon salute. (Warwick Beacon photos)

# Frontier adds Atlanta, Philadelphia to airport's galaxy of destinations

By JOHN HOWELL

The Rhode Island Airport Corporation's newest fire trucks, each less than a year old, were at the ready Monday afternoon. There wasn't an emergency, and at Gate 2, passengers waiting to take Frontier Airlines inaugural flight to Atlanta were being treated to a luncheon spread of sandwiches and cookies.

This was a celebration.

With Frontier flight's landing lights visible on the distant clouded horizon, the fire trucks took their positions on either side of taxiway Charlie. The Air Bus 280 with 140 passengers, a whale painted on its tail, made a smooth landing and when it reached the fire trucks they rendered a water cannon salute — a welcome for inaugural arrivals that is going to happen again in the weeks to come.

Frontier launched a sec-

ond route to Philadelphia on Tuesday to give the airline six destinations from the newly named Rhode Island International Green Airport. The addition of Rhode Island and international to the name is seen as improving the marketability of the airport.

To celebrate the new services, Frontier is offering introductory fares starting at \$29 for its Philadelphia flight and \$44 to Atlanta. The flights are offered three times weekly at this time.

Frontier's Jennifer de la Cruz, director of corporate communications, welcomed passengers before they boarded and conducted a raffle where passengers could win one of 10 swag bags that included a \$250 voucher to fly Frontier.

In an interview, she said the airline is providing a lot of capacity to meet a pent-up demand to travel now that pandemic restric-

tions are being lifted. She said that thus far, the airline is seeing family travelers, people looking to reconnect with loved ones, and tourists.

While she said Frontier is not a large carrier of business travelers, although "we are seeing some business."

With the additional Frontier and Breeze Airways flights to Charlestown, Norfolk and Pittsburgh this summer, the airport will have 11 airlines serving 25 destinations. Breeze launches its Charleston flight on July 22. The airport is seeing a return of traffic, although it is still down from what it was in 2019. Currently weekly departures are down 33 percent from 2019 but significantly up from 2020. The 2020 departures for the period were down 61 percent from the year before.

Frontier is focused on more than low fares. The

carrier offers customers the ability to customize travel to their needs and budget. For example, customers can purchase options a la carte or in one low-priced bundle called the WORKS. This bundle includes refundability, a carry-on bag, a checked bag, the best available seat, waived change fees, and priority boarding.

The airline's frequent flyer program, FRONTIER Miles, lets members enjoy many benefits as well as the ability to attain Elite status. Like the airline, FRONTIER Miles is family friendly and the program makes it easy for families to enjoy the rewards together, including family pooling of miles. FRONTIER Miles is aptly named because you earn one mile for every mile flown — no funny formulas at Frontier. Whether customers travel a little or a lot, they will find FRONTIER Miles rewarding.



**LUNCH IS ON US:** Those passengers boarding Frontier Airlines' first flight to Atlanta from Rhode Island were given a spread including sandwiches, fruit and cookies.



**Johnston Town Hall**

## ■ Suit

(Continued from page 1)

Town Council President Robert Russo did not attend the meeting.

Both Polisena and Dylan Conley said they could not disclose settlement details because the litigation is still ongoing.

The settlement relates to partial resolution of ongoing National Opioid Litigation, according to that night's Town Council agenda.

Council members also received a general update on "opioid litigation status," according to the agenda.

"We voted to accept the opioid settlement," Joseph Polisena Jr. said Tuesday. "I can't get into the specifics of the situation because it was in executive session. Litigation is still ongoing and it's still in the court. The town is involved in a class action lawsuit."

Dylan Conley compared the litigation "as a national phenomena" similar to the class action lawsuits brought against Volkswagen approximately five years ago and "the lead lawsuits and the cigarette lawsuits" of decades past.

"They're similar in how governments received funds," Conley said. "Just at a scale more equivalent to cigarettes and lead."

It could be a while before the settlement funds hit the town coffers.

"We will receive a series of different settlements from a series of different lawsuits, because the lawsuits are against a series of different corporations that participated in the distribution in the opioid market," Conley explained.

Claimants and creditors were required to vote on Purdue Pharma's proposed bankruptcy plan of reorganization by July 14.

Conley said his firm is representing several Rhode Island municipalities in this case, including Johnston and Westerly.

"After the voting period, the Bankruptcy Court will hold a Confirmation Hearing for the Bankruptcy Court to consider whether to approve the plan," according to a website set up for claimants to respond to the case.

The Confirmation Hear-

ing is scheduled for Aug. 9. "If the plan is confirmed, anyone with an actual or potential claim against Purdue Pharma L.P. or any of its affiliated debtors, or with an actual or potential claim against Sackler family members, and certain other individuals and related entities, relating to Purdue Pharma L.P. and its affiliated debtors (including Purdue prescription opioids, like OxyContin®, or other prescription opioids manufactured, marketed, or sold by Purdue), will be bound by the terms of the plan, including the releases and injunctions contained therein," according to the website. "In return for providing the releases, claimants who timely filed a claim will be eligible to participate in the trust distribution process. By following the trust distribution procedures, claimants may be eligible to receive recoveries from the applicable trust established pursuant to the plan. For example, holders of personal injury claims, including holders of NAS personal injury claims, are eligible to receive recoveries from the Personal Injury ("PI") Trust."

The courts will eventually dissolve the Purdue corporation.

"After emergence from Chapter 11, its operating assets will be transferred to a newly formed company with a public-minded mission of addressing the opioid crisis," according to the website, [www.purduepharmaclaims.com](http://www.purduepharmaclaims.com).

"The new company will be held to the highest standards of conduct, including a prohibition restricting the promotion of opioid products to healthcare professionals," according to the website.

"The new company will ultimately be owned by a new National Opioid Abatement Trust established for the benefit of the American people. State and local governments will neither own, nor operate the new company."

The former owners of Purdue Pharma, the Sackler families, "currently have no role in Purdue Pharma, and will have no involvement in the new

company," according to the website.

"The Sackler families will sell nearly all of their interests in their foreign pharmaceutical businesses, and members of the Sackler families will be prohibited from future active participation in the business of making and selling opioids. Under the proposed plan, the Sackler families have agreed to pay \$4.275 billion over nine years, in addition to the \$225 million previously paid to the United States to resolve civil claims, for a total settlement of \$4.5 billion."

The proposed plan limits liability of the company's founders and former owners.

And if approved, "the plan includes releases of any actual or potential claims against Sackler family members, the owners of Purdue Pharma, and certain other individuals and related entities, relating to Purdue Pharma L.P. and its affiliated debtors (including Purdue prescription opioids, like OxyContin®, or other prescription opioids manufactured, marketed, or sold by Purdue)," according to the website. "In addition, certain claims against Sackler family members may be asserted only against trusts established under the plan. If the plan is approved, creditors will be bound by these provisions, regardless of whether they filed a claim or voted to accept or reject the plan."

On Tuesday, Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena said he had not been briefed on Monday's executive session.

"If we do get any settlement money, we're going to use it for education," he said. "Council and I have spoken on this before."

Mayor Polisena described the litigation as "kind of a win-win situation" for the town.

"We went into this with our eyes wide open," he said. "Unfortunately for the people who have been subject to opioid abuse, this is not a win-win for them."

The mayor said settlement money will likely help fund "longstanding programs for opiate abuse" and "education on drug use."

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

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The Keto diet can be great for oral health because it is low in sugar and simple carbohydrates (which become sugar when they are digested). Everyone knows that sugar is not good for teeth since it can cause cavities and loss of enamel. It also leads to more bacteria developing on the teeth and gums. Unfortunately, the Keto diet can also result in a problem called "keto breath," which is bad breath caused by the new abundance of ketones being produced by the liver. Luckily, this is only temporary, and as the body adjusts and acclimates to this new wealth of ketones, the "dragon breath" should begin to subside. This usually happens within a month of starting the keto diet.

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# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

## Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Meaghan Susi

## Scarlett

Fun, excitement, smiles and kisses all wrapped up into one amazing girl named Scarlett! She is young, only a year and half old and looking for adventure. She loves the beach, taking hikes and snuggles too! Scarlett is a Lab mix with a beautiful coco brown and white coat adorned by a huge smile. When she meets new people it takes her a little time to warm up but once she feels comfortable she'll be your best friend. If you are active, she's your girl! Please contact EGAPL The Heart of RI Animal Rescue League at 401-467-3670 or stop by 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI on Wednesday 3:00-7:00, Thursday or Friday 12:00-2:00 or Saturday 10:00-2:00. Scarlett deserves to be out of the shelter and in a loving home!

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# JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

### STOLEN VEHICLE

On June 21, around 5:30 p.m., several Johnston Police officers responded to the Valero gas station at 135 Putnam Ave. for a report of an erratic driver.

Police were informed that a man was erratically driving a gray Toyota Highlander.

Upon arrival, Johnston Police Officer Michael A. Schiappa observed a Highlander bearing New York plates parked in the parking lot of the BMC Mart.

The vehicle was occupied by four black males with the vehicle running, but stopped between gas pumps.

Schiappa notified dispatch and reported the license plate number. Dispatch told him that the vehicle was reported stolen out of New York on June 17.

Schiappa made contact with the driver of the vehicle, later identified as Christopher Williams, of 2924 Snyder Ave., Apt. 2, Brooklyn, N.Y.

While speaking to Williams, three more Johnston police officers arrived on the scene.

At this time, Schiappa removed Williams from the vehicle without incident.

Another officer removed the individual sitting in the passenger seat, at which time he located a BB gun in plain view in the passenger door pocket.

Five more Johnston police officers arrived on the scene.

Schiappa detained Williams in hand restraints. He told police that he took the vehicle from a woman in Brooklyn that day, with her permission, according to the police report.

Williams told police that he then picked up two of his friends in New York, prior to driving to Rhode Island to pick up his cousin.

Williams told Schiappa, "I'm the one that took the car. These guys had nothing to do with it," according to the police report.

The vehicle was searched and towed from the scene.

Williams was placed under arrest for felony charge of Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle, first offense. He was held pending arraignment.

### DISORDERLY CONDUCT

On June 21, around 10:44 p.m., Johnston police responded to a home for a report of a subject attempting to enter a residence.

Upon arrival, an officer began speaking to the reporting caller.

Johnston Police Officer Kevin Brady spoke to a man standing in the rear parking lot of Our Lady of Grace Church.

The man, later identified as Christopher M. Desousa, of 2 Patricia Drive, Johnston, was extremely argumentative and wouldn't answer questions, according to the police report.

The caller identified Desousa as the man who was banging and yelling at the door.

Police were told Desousa did not attempt to make entry, but the victim and her family were very shaken up due to the incident.

Desousa heard this, and became enraged and began to yell, police said.

As police tried to calm him down, he yelled expletives at the victim, according to the police report.

Desousa started to try to entice an officer to fight him at the scene, telling him to "take your gun and badge off, I'll (expletive deleted) you up."

Brady walked closer to Desousa in order to calm him down and keep him quiet, but he took a fighting stance and clenched his fists, according to the police report.

Desousa continued to yell he was going to "(expletive deleted) him up," and once Brady got close to him, he lunged at Brady, appearing he was about to strike the officer, according to the police report.

Brady then used both hands to push Desousa to the ground where he was quickly placed in hand restraints and taken into custody.

Desousa was transported to headquarters and charged with Disorderly Conduct. He was later released with a court summons to appear on Sept. 13.

## Town-based agency awarded contract to help locals with rent and utilities

As part of a statewide effort to prevent homelessness once the eviction moratorium is lifted in July, Tri-County Community Action Agency, located on Hartford Avenue, Johnston, has been award-

ed a contract from Rhode Island Housing to provide application assistance to residents seeking funds for rent and utilities.

An estimated \$200 million is available statewide to pay for past due rent, past due utilities, or future rent for any Rhode Island renter who was affected financially by the COVID pandemic and shutdown.

The Program is called RI Rent Relief and it provides up to 15 months of past utilities and/or past rent.

Families who are homeless or in need of new housing may also apply for a security deposit and up to 12 months of future rent.

There is no requirement to owe past rent in order to receive utility assistance. Landlords may apply also for funding for any tenant who has past due rent.

Households must have a loss of income or financial hardship that is related to the COVID pandemic and meet income requirements. Household earnings must be less than 80% of Area Median Income, which means that a family of four in most areas can earn up to \$69,200 and still qualify.

A family of four in Westerly, Hopkinton, and New Shoreham can earn up to \$75,050.

"We are excited to work with Rhode Island Housing to bring this program to the families in Tri-County's service area who are desperately in need of this type of assistance," said Joseph R. DeSantis, President and CEO of Tri-County.

"The families we serve have suffered enough during COVID-19 and we are committed to ensuring that every eligible family gets the assis-

tance they need to keep a roof over their head and to help their children and loved ones get back to normal."

Tri-County has Housing Specialists available to provide application assistance in a number of convenient locations throughout their service delivery area, which spans 16 municipalities across the state.

Washington County residents can apply in Westerly, North Kingstown, and South Kingstown. Residents from other towns can apply in North Providence, Johnston and Burrillville. Applications can also be completed over the phone or through virtual meetings.

For more information, contact Tri-County's Housing Department at 401-583-0075 or email them at [housing@tricountyri.org](mailto:housing@tricountyri.org).

## Federal stimulus grants to support arts, culture, humanities nonprofits

RI State Council on the Arts (RISCA) and the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (Humanities Council) have announced a collaborative partnership to distribute federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to arts, culture and humanities nonprofits.

This funding, from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), totals \$968,000.

Applications are open to all eligible nonprofits regardless of whether they have received federal funding in the past. Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)-centered organizations and nonprofits with annual budgets under \$500,000 will be prioritized in this grant.

program, in keeping with federal agencies' emphasis to focus on equity, inclusion, access and pandemic resilience.

The recovery grants, called the RI Culture, Humanities and Arts Recovery Grants (RI CHARG), are designed to assist nonprofits with general operating support to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from hardships suffered due to the pandemic.

The Arts and Humanities Councils are encouraging first-time applicants. They will be offering joint virtual workshops on July 16 and July 21; for more information and to register, visit [eventbrite.com/e/ri-charg-information-sessions-tickets-161954473189](https://eventbrite.com/e/ri-charg-information-sessions-tickets-161954473189).

In addition, one-on-one virtual support sessions; open drop-in hours via Zoom; and other resources geared toward those new to the granting process will also be available. Visit either council's website for more details – RISCA at [arts.ri.gov](http://arts.ri.gov), and the Council for the Humanities at [rihumanities.org](http://rihumanities.org).

For more information, nonprofits are encouraged to reach out to Julia Renaud, associate director of grants and strategic initiatives at the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, at [juliarenaud@rihumanities.org](mailto:juliarenaud@rihumanities.org), or Todd Trebour, program director at the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, at [todd.trebour@arts.ri.gov](mailto:todd.trebour@arts.ri.gov).

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# Opinion

## EDITORIAL

### Hate the rain? Thank climate change

**N**othing says summer in Rhode Island like a beautiful, sunny day with a steady, cool breeze keeping the temperature bearable and perfect for enjoying some time in the great outdoors – whether in your backyard, a hiking trail or at a beach near you.

But we don't seem destined for that kind of ideal summer this year. Maybe we should have seen it coming when

Memorial Day welcomed the season in with a dreary, miserably cold and rainy weekend – or when most

of July Fourth Weekend was spent inside rather than by the pool. In fact, what we've gotten thus far is one of the雨iest summers in recorded history. This was preceded by one of the hottest months of June in recent memory as well.

The historic heat and ongoing historic wetness is already taking its toll on farmers' crop yields and will certainly be a hit to Rhode Island's tourism budget. After all, who would buy an expensive beach pass for a summer where it seems every weekend is besieged by constant clouds and rain?

Of course, there's not much the average person can do. We assume if you're reading this you've already tried raising your clenched and shaking fist at the sky and yelled menacingly. No, unfortunately it didn't work when we tried it either.

From our perspective, however, these types of odd and, in some cases dangerous, weather patterns – whether it's extended periods of suffocating heat and drought that has plagued the West Coast and teed up another season of horrific wildfires, or the ongoing slog of rain, flooding and tropical storms we find ourselves in here along the Atlantic – provides a great chance for a learning opportunity.

Hate the rain? Thank climate change

Although it may not feel like it due to the temperature outside right now – this is what the advancing state of manmade climate change looks like. This is what it feels like. And it's not going to get better without widespread, decisive action throughout the world.

We're aware that this may be a controversial opinion to some reading this right now. But it is not controversial among those whose entire careers are based upon the objective study and analysis of worldwide weather patterns. It is also not controversial for anyone who cares to take 15 minutes of their time to look up this readily available data on their own.

Data shows that, since 1970, the world is getting consistently hotter and wetter – with more anomalous instances of record-breaking heatwaves and annual precipitation happening each decade. According to the EPA, 2011-2020 was the warmest decade in recorded history – with 2016 and 2020 being the warmest and second warmest years ever recorded, respectively.

"What does higher temperatures have to do with more rain?" you might be asking. It's a great question, and one that isn't given enough attention when discussing the impact of increasing global temperature on Earth. The simple explanation is that increasing surface temperatures increases the amount of evaporation from lakes, ponds and the ocean – and anyone who remembers their elementary school water cycle lesson will be able to fill in the blanks of what happens as a result of more evaporation.

It is no surprise, then, that the annual amount of precipitation has increased in 14 of the 20 years (70 percent) since 2000, and has increased in every year (except for 2012) since 2010. Rising temperature and increased precipitation are inherently connected, even if the concept of "global warming" only seems relevant when it is abnormally hot outside.

The lesson to be learned is that there is no avoiding the consequences of manmade climate change. It can be ignored – as it has been for the past few decades – but no political ideology can protect you from the weather. Wildfires, hurricanes, droughts, unrelenting rainfall and other abnormal weather patterns will continue to increase in frequency unless serious action is taken at high levels of government – not just in the United States, but across the developed and developing world.

We can accept this lesson as a matter of fact, or we can kiss our beloved summers as we once knew them goodbye.

### MEANWHILE IN COVENTRY...

Up 2 feet, down 2 feet.  
Up a foot and a half,  
down 16 inches...



### OP-ED

### Restoring hope in our communities

By CARLOS E. TOBON

As the state representative from District 58, it is an honor and privilege to represent my hard-working neighbors from Pawtucket. Like many other districts in the urban core, my district is majority-minority and my neighbors and constituents are working paycheck to paycheck and struggling to make ends meet. Every day when I go to the State House I carry their stories, their dreams and their hope with me. "Hope" is the most important word there – we all know it's the Rhode Island motto, but to people who have very little, some day's hope is the only thing that keeps them going.

As a lawmaker, I go to the State House to represent my constituents and I am also there to protect their interests. In recent years, and particularly this session, I have needed to protect their dignity from those who think that a handout is the answer to every problem and their hope from those that believe that they don't deserve to live their dream of owning their own small business.

I was born in the United States to Colombian immigrants who had to walk across Mexico to make their way to this country. I was raised understanding that this country was a place where hard work unlocks opportunity and that the best rewards were reserved for those who were willing to take risks

and dedicate themselves to their goals and dreams.

One thing that many activists fail to realize when pushing for certain proposals, like the minimum wage, is that local small businesses, like the corner mom-and-pop restaurant or bodega, are also struggling right now. To say that they do not deserve to own their own small business if they are unable to pay certain wages is not only a gross mischaracterization of their morals, it fundamentally fails to acknowledge the struggles and sacrifices made by these hard-working individuals, many of them immigrants themselves, in order to realize their own "American Dream." These are not greedy or heartless people looking to take advantage of others for their own financial gain. Nor are they undeserving of enjoying the fruits of their hard work to establish their businesses, often after years or even decades of barely getting by trying to establish themselves. I

find such comments ignorant to the true reality of our communities and they often originate from well-funded out-of-state elites who think they have the right to tell everyone else how to best their lives.

After the past year we have had, everyone is in need of a little more hope these days. But, this hope will be unattainable if we continue to pit our neighbors, communities and businesses against each other. There will be no hope for anyone if we con-

tinued down this troubling path. Small businesses in District 58 should not be treated the same as Walmart, nor are the arguments against Walmart's business practices applicable to the corner restaurant in Pawtucket. These small businesses and their hard-working owners are integral parts of our community and economy, not the enemy.

It is time we restore hope in Rhode Island. It's time that we bring this hope not only to workers, but also small business owners. Until we realize that we are all in this together, I fear that the "American Dream" that my parents

trekked across a Mexican desert to attain is in jeopardy, only to be replaced by divisive system where we have forgotten what unites us all and what it means to be an American in charge of one's own destiny through dedication and hard work.

Remember, a higher minimum wage means nothing if an employee's workplace closes their doors and this is a scary reality for many of the small businesses, often immigrant owned, in District 58.

Rep. Carlos E. Tobon, a Democrat, represents District 58 in Pawtucket.

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# Battle may not be over to site medical waste plant

By JOHN HOWELL

At 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) announced it has denied the Medrecycler-RI Inc. application to build a medical waste-to-energy plant at 1600 Division Road in West Warwick – 90 days after a three-hour online hearing where testimony focused on the unproven consequences of the proposed pyrolysis technology to dispose of the waste.

At 4:51, a leader in the fight against the operation across the street from New England Institute of Technology, a golf course and next door to a daycare center sent a three-word email with a copy of the DEM release.

Denise Lopez wrote, "We did it."

But as of Wednesday, it could

not be determined whether this is the end of the battle.

Nicholas Campanella, chairman and CEO of Sun Pacific Holding Corp., the parent company of Medrecycler, issued the following statement: "This decision makes it perfectly clear why Rhode Island's business climate was ranked 46th out of the 50 states earlier today. The company will consider all of its legal options, of which there are many."

Playing a key role going forward is legislation Gov. Dan McKee signed into law Friday that makes it illegal for a high-heat medical waste disposal plant to operate within 2,000 feet of a school, residential areas, parks, open space and waters.

In its release, DEM said the law was influential in its decision.

"The Department believes

that regardless of the deficiencies in the application outlined above, this law would prohibit the Department from issuing or granting a permit or license for this proposed facility," reads the release.

In a July 2 letter to DEM, attorney Michael Kelly argues on behalf of Medrecycler that the legislation should not be considered as it unconstitutionally targets Medrecycler and that the company "has spent millions of dollars in reliance on the law as it existed at the time of the application."

In addition to citing the law, DEM found the proposal to use pyrolysis, a process of using intense heat without the introduction of oxygen to break down medical waste into gas that would be used to generate energy. The Medrecycler application

called for the processing of 70 tons of medical waste daily that it argued would save space from disposal at the state landfill.

According to the release, DEM sided with many of those opposed to the plant.

It reads, "The proposal did not include adequate details about testing protocols, necessary for public review, as part of the permit review process for a medical waste treatment plant.

"The proposal's contingency and response plans – what happens in the event of an emergency? – are incomplete. Many of the 400+ members of the public who commented during the application's comment period cited concerns about the proposal's lack of strong environmental monitoring and safety plans. DEM shares these concerns.

"Related, DEM found the pro-

posal's lack of clarity about how much and where medical waste would be safely stored to be a critical deficiency in the application. This impacts the proposed operation, monitoring requirements, contingency planning, and closure assurances.

"The facility is proposed in a densely populated area close to residential neighborhoods, making the public review of the contingency plans and testing protocols even more relevant. There is no buffer between the proposed facility and other tenants located at that address and little buffer between the facility and surrounding community.

"Uncertainty over the impacts of the proposed facility's innovative technology. This proposed system has not previously been used on medical waste."

## RIDOH reports case of rare tick-borne disease Powassan

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) is reporting a confirmed case of the tick-borne Powassan virus disease (Powassan) detected in a Rhode Island resident.

Laboratory testing confirming the diagnosis was conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The case involves a previously

healthy male over the age of 70 from Providence County, who developed neurological symptoms and is now recovering.

Powassan is a tick-borne disease that is

found mostly in the Northeast and the Great Lakes regions of the U.S. and in eastern Canada.

More than 166 cases of Powassan have been reported in the United

States in the past 10 years. Powassan cases are rare, but the reported number of cases has increased in recent years.

Between 2010 and 2019, there were 56 cases of Po-

wassan reported in New England – 31 cases in Massachusetts, eight cases in Connecticut, eight cases in Maine, five cases in New Hampshire, and four cases in Rhode Island.

## LEGAL NOTICES

**PLANNING BOARD MEETING**  
Tuesday July 20th, 2021;  
6:00 P.M.  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
Johnston Senior Center,  
1291 Hartford Ave.,  
Johnston, RI 02919

A Special Meeting of the Johnston Planning Board will be held July 20th at 6:00 PM at the Johnston Senior Center 1291 Hartford Avenue. In addition, the meeting will be on ZOOM so that those unable to attend the meeting in person may participate electronically. Please connect to the meeting in one of the following ways:

**Via Computer:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87030281331>

**One tap mobile:**  
+13017158597 then enter Meeting ID and Passcode

**Via Telephone:**  
+1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128 or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) or 888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free)

**Meeting ID:** 870 3028 1331

**Passcode:** 164020

**NOTE:** Please check out the "ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS for meetings held via Zoom" on the Town's web page under Meetings & Events. <https://www.townofjohnstonri.com/>

### AGENDA

#### I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

#### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### III. OLD BUSINESS

PB 21-03 - Proposed Retail Distribution Facility - Preliminary Plan and Public Hearing of a Major Land Development with Unified Development Review - Located at 2120 Hartford Avenue AP 54 Lots 39, 40, 42, 54, 61, 75, 89, 90 and 93 - Zoned B-3 - Applicant: Blue-water Property Group - Engineer: DiPrete Engineering.

A public hearing on the Major Land Development and Unified Development Review application to develop a six-story retail distribution facility with a ground floor area of approximately 823,522 square feet, and a total area of approximately 3,864,972 square feet. The applicant is seeking approval of the major land development Preliminary Plan and the granting of and reaffirmation of dimensional variances from certain provisions of the Zoning Ordinance pursuant to Unified Development Review. The applicant is also requesting waivers from certain requirements of the Land Development & Subdivision Review Regulations and is requesting that the Final Review be delegated to staff.

#### IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

Bishop Heights Subdivision - Call of the Improvement Guarantee

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

7/9, 7/16/21

### JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, July 29th, 2021

at 6:30 PM

In Person at the  
Johnston Senior Center  
1291 Hartford Avenue  
And  
Via Video Conference

Via Computer:  
<https://zoom.us/j/93980114415>

Via Telephone: +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 939 8011 4415  
Passcode: 552420

Please check out the "ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS for meetings held via Zoom" on the Town's web page under Meetings & Events. <https://www.townofjohnstonri.com/>

#### Old Business

Case to be heard at 6:35 PM - File 2021-9 – Petition of Mohamad Yaser & Rhonda Sasa, Owner/Applicant for 1056 Atwood Avenue, AP 24 Lots 9, zoned R-15. The petitioner is seeking a Dimensional variance to create 2 lots that do not conform to lot requirements and a Use Variance to Construct a Two-Family Dwelling on one of the newly created Lots.

#### New Business

Case to be heard at 6:45 PM - File 2021-18 – Petition of Leevan Sano/Xavier Investments, Owner/Applicant for 577 Killingly Street, AP 13 Lot 170, zoned B-2. The petitioner is seeking a Special User Permit 340-75 for a proposal of scooter rentals

and sales of associated items.

Case to be heard at 6:55 PM - File 2021-19 – Petition of Melanie Cerullo, Owner/Applicant for 115 Brown Avenue, AP 60 Lot 102, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a dimensional variance from Section 340 Side Yard Setbacks for a proposed addition.

Case to be heard at 7:05 PM - File 2021-15 – Petition of Paul Giarrusso, Owner/Applicant for 41 Tartaglia Street, AP 27 Lots 60, zoned R-20. The petitioner is seeking a Special use Permit 340-75, Dimensional Variance 340-74 and 340-63 for proposed restoration of second lot.

The Board convened as the Board of Appeals:

File 2021-15 National Development Group, Inc, Owner/Applicant; 1357 Hartford Avenue; AP 20 Lot 25; B-2 Zone; Appellants petition to the Building Officials violation notice.

File 2021-20 Peter Delponte Owner; 115 Winsor Avenue; AP 59 Lot 123; R-40 Zone; Appellants petition to the Building Officials violation notice.

NOTE: If a Case has not been called for a hearing by 10:30 p.m., the Board, at its discretion, may continue the Case to a subsequent or a special meeting. The Agenda and Minutes are available for review at ClerkBase on the Town's web page or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Building Office, 100 Irons

Avenue, Johnston.

Per order of the Zoning Board of Review

Thomas Lopardo, Chairman

7/16, 7/23/21

### PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Tuesday August 3rd, 2021;

6:00 P.M.

**IN PERSON & VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Johnston Senior Center

1291 Hartford Ave.

Johnston, RI 02919

In addition, the meeting will be on ZOOM so that those unable to attend the meeting in person may participate. To participate in the meeting electronically, please connect to the meeting in one of the following ways:

Via Computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82999832115>

Passcode: 300057

**iPhone one-tap:** +13017158592

then enter Meeting ID and Passcode

Via Telephone: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128 or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) or 888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free)

Meeting ID: 829 9983 2115

Passcode: 300057

**NOTE:** Please check out the "ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS for meetings held via Zoom" on the Town's web page under Meetings & Events. <https://www.townofjohnstonri.com/>

**Item 4 – Scheduled for 7:00PM**

PB 21-25 – Vel-Tree Scituate Ave Subdivision – Preliminary Plan and Public Meeting of Private Road Minor Subdivision. Located adjacent to and behind 137 Scituate Avenue. AP 44 Lot 18 – Zoned R-40. Applicant Nicholas Veltri. A Public Meeting on a proposed 4 lot minor subdivision where all lots will be accessed off of a Town Road.

One lot is the site of the previously approved GD Johnston-Scituate solar field. The three remaining lots are to be developed as single-family housing.

**Item 5 – Scheduled for 7:20PM**

PB 21-27 – Central Pike Subdivision – Public Meeting on a proposed Master Plan for a Minor Subdivision. Located at 125 Central Pike. AP 43 Lot 96 – Zoned R-40. Applicant - A.G. Construction. A Public Meeting on a proposed 4 lot minor subdivision where all lots will be accessed off of a Private Road.

**Item 6 – Scheduled for 7:40PM**

PB 20-22 – Deer Run Rd & Orchard Ave - Preliminary Plan and Public Hearing on a Major Subdivision. Located west of Orchard Avenue between Winsor Ave and the Smithfield town line. AP 59 Lots 8 & 268 - Zoned R-40. Applicant – Mark Cavanagh. A Public hearing on a proposed 10 lot subdivision where most lots will be accessed off of a Town Road with the remainder to have access off of a private road. Plans may be modified prior to the public hearing as a result of more detailed engineering.

**Item 7 – Scheduled for 8:00PM**

PB 20-23 – Taylor Rd Development – Public Meeting on a proposed Master Plan for a Major Subdivision. Located at 34 Taylor Road. AP 30 Lot 16 – Zoned R-40. A Public Meeting on a proposed 6 lot subdivision with open space. The purpose of the meeting is to review the petitioner's proposal and give direction on how the project should proceed.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS**

1. Comprehensive Plan Update

**NOTE:** The Full Plan set is available for review in the Planning Office 100 Irons Avenue Monday through Friday, 8AM to noon and 1PM to 3PM.

## Legal Notice Town of Johnston Adopted Ordinances

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

### Ordinance 2021-5

An Ordinance appropriating \$116,712,069 for the support and adoption of the town governmental budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, adopting the budget, including tax levy, personnel classification and salary plan for fiscal year 2021-2022.

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

Johnston Town Council

Robert V. Russo

President

7/16/21

Attest:

Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.

Town Clerk

7/16/21

## Legal Notice Town of Johnston Adopted Ordinances

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

### Ordinance 2021-6: An Ordinance ordering the annual assessment and collection of property tax on the ratable real estate, tangible personal property and excise tax on registered motor vehicles and trailers.

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

Johnston Town Council

Robert V. Russo

President

7/16/21

Attest:

Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.

# Sun Rise Scoops

By MERI R. KENNEDY

## Memorial Park playground reserved for campers

The playground at Johnston Memorial Park will be reserved for day camp children only from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The playground will be closed to the public during this time Monday-Friday until the end of camp.

Also, the basketball courts will be closed to the public on Wednesday nights, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. beginning July 7, while a youth basketball clinic is held.

## Johnston Senior Center back in action

The dining room at the Johnston Senior Center is now open daily, Monday to Friday, at noon. For reservations, call Brenda at 944-3343, ext. 109.

A trip to Myrtle Beach is planned for six days and five nights, Sept. 12-17, at the price of \$998 per person (double occupancy) and \$1,287 for single occupancy. Contact Ellen at 944-3343 for further information.

On a weekly basis, the center offers the following activities.

Mondays: Walk away the pounds from 9-9:30 a.m. and crafts at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesdays: Bocce from 9:30-11 a.m. and Tai Chi at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays: Quilting at 9:30 a.m., bocce at 9:30 a.m., Zumba from 10-10:45 a.m. and Chair Strong & Fit at 11 a.m.

Thursdays: Walk away the pounds at 9:30 a.m., bocce from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Fridays: Line Dancing from 10-10:45 a.m. and Zumba from 11-11:45 a.m.

## Summer hours and programs at the Library

The Library is now open to the public Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., except for holidays on Aug. 9, and Sept. 6.

Saturday hours resume in September after Labor Day.

Sign up for Summer Reading programs and prizes for adults, teens, or children.

Small quiet rooms are open and the Meeting Room is available as of July 15.

## Animals to arrive in Garden City Center

Join educators from Roger Williams Park Zoo at Garden City Center to learn more about the wild world of animals.

Programs will offer opportunities for adult/child pairs to make discoveries together and will include a lesson, activity and a meet-and-greet with one of the zoo's ambassador animals.

Sessions are hosted at the Garden City Center Gazebo and are 45 minutes long.

One ticket – which costs \$10 – includes admission for one child and their parent or guardian. If you have multiple children attending this event, please purchase another ticket for each child.

Spots are limited and registration is required.

Upcoming dates are July 21 and 28 and Aug. 4 and 11. All times are 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

To register, visit [eventbrite.com/e/animal-encounters-with-roger-williams-zoo-tickets-161249161583](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/animal-encounters-with-roger-williams-zoo-tickets-161249161583).

## Help the Historical Society

The Find on 6, located at 2953 Hartford Ave., is now accepting consignment items on behalf of the Johnston Historical Society. That means you can donate some gently used white elephant items and, if they sell, the society gets 60 percent of the proceeds! Each person may bring two boxes of goods at a time, Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Appropriate items include antiques, collectibles, vintage clothing or handbags (in good condition), jewelry, kitchenware, furniture, etc. Nothing broken or soiled.

## Update on Garden City Concert Series

Your favorite summer tradition is back at Garden City Center. Join in on Wednesday nights in July and August for good tunes, family fun, and memories that will last well beyond the dog days of summer.

On July 21 will be Funk Night featuring XS Band, providing a high-energy dance party with soul, funk, disco and more. Hang out in our glow-park pre-show and dance the night away.

On July 28 will be Tropical Night featuring the Copacetics. Enjoy a day on the beach with a playlist full of high-energy ska and reggae, with dashes of soul, blues, doo wop and jazz. Enjoy hula dancing performances and tutorials – no plane ticket necessary!

On Aug. 4, the night will feature Elton John vs. Billy Joel, which is a good old fashioned night on the boardwalk, with midway games, fun food and a dueling piano show with songs from two legends of music.

Aug. 11 will bring '80s Night featuring Fast Times. Get the out the hairspray and neon clothes – they are taking it back to the 1980s with your favorite jams, vintage games pre-show and more.

The pre-show entertainment begins at 5 p.m. Showtime is at 6:30 p.m. Swing by early to experience this night out you won't want to miss.

All Garden City Center Summer Concerts are free to attend. General admission seating is located south of the Gazebo. Pack a picnic, grab your family and enjoy the show.

Looking for the VIP concert experience? Purchase a VIP ticket and receive select seating located in the Gazebo parking lot (closest to Newport Creamery – no need to bring your own chair!) with complimentary appetizers, non-alcoholic beverages, and a special gift from Garden City Center. VIP tickets are \$15 and benefit the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. Purchase your

VIP ticket by contacting the Garden City Center. Visit [gardencitycenter.com](http://gardencitycenter.com) for more information.

In the event of inclement weather, the concert for the week will be moved to Thursday.

Audi Warwick is excited to be a part of Garden City Center's favorite summer tradition.

## Garden City SWEAT

Every Saturday, Garden City Center will present its new fitness series, Garden City SWEAT. Each week, they will be bringing you outdoor group workout classes led by instructors from local fitness community, including CORE Studios and Haven Fitness. They mix it up with different styles and intensities, so there's something for yogis, HIIT-lovers and everything in between.

Plus, a lucky participant in each class will win a \$50 gift card to either lululemon or Athleta. Spots are limited. Register and learn more at [gardencitycenter.com/sweat](http://gardencitycenter.com/sweat).

## Friends of the Mohr Public Library

Friends of the Mohr Public Library is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to Mohr Library.

Members of the Friends plan and run book sales and carry out other fundraising activities to allow Mohr Library to increase services and programs.

The Friends welcome new members who are willing to provide support through donations, membership dues, or volunteering their time.

To find out more, contact the library director at 231-4980 (press 7).

## Mental health education

Anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorder, borderline personality disorder, post traumatic stress, suicide – all are topics many people prefer not to discuss, so the heartbreak and stigma continue.

If you have a loved family member or a friend who is struggling with a mental health issue, then the Rhode Island chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness can help. NAMI-RI ([namirhodeisland.org](http://namirhodeisland.org)) provides free and virtual education, support and resources. It is currently accepting registrations for its upcoming Family-to-Family course.

For more information, call (401) 331-3060 or mail [beth@namirhodeisland.org](mailto:beth@namirhodeisland.org).

## CCAP Chip for Charity golf tournament

Save the date – CCAP has announced plans to hold its 2021 Chip for Charity golf tournament on Wednesday, Sept. 15, at Harbor Light Golf Club in Warwick. Sponsorships and foursomes are available. For more details, contact CCAP's Lee Beliveau at (401) 562-8353 or

[lbeliveau@comcap.org](mailto:lbeliveau@comcap.org).

As a nonprofit community action program, CCAP needs to raise funds to assist families it serves. A large number of families CCAP serves have lost their jobs, suffered an illness, or experienced a different type of crisis, usually through no fault of their own. Last year, CCAP touched the lives of more than 40,000 people and provided over \$1.2 million in uncompensated services.

Chip for Charity, presented by Neighborhood Health and Mutual of America, is CCAP's largest fundraiser during the year to benefit its programs and services.

## Over 65 Golf League

Attention all golfers 65 and older – if you are interested in golfing in a mixed league, the Over 65 Golf League, on Mondays at Harbor Lights, 150 Gray St., Warwick, please contact Carol Desforges at [Desac63@gmail.com](mailto:Desac63@gmail.com). Please indicate your name, phone number and email in your message.

To be a member or a spare (sub) in the league, you pay dues which include season play (May- Sept. 13, 2021), playoffs (Sept. 20- Oct. 4), scramble tournament (Oct. 13) and a banquet with distribution of prizes (Oct. 13). The membership dues are \$55, or \$30 for spares not attending the banquet.

## Be Kind RI

Be Kind RI is a new program that connects volunteers to their neighbors across Rhode Island through text alerts to coordinate food deliveries from grocery stores and food pantries. To sign up, go to [BeKindRI.org](http://BeKindRI.org). Volunteers must be 18 or older and undergo our background check. Be Kind RI is open to those in Rhode Island experiencing COVID-19 risk factors, including seniors 65 and older, anyone with underlying health conditions, those in quarantine or isolation, anyone experiencing a lack of childcare, and those who would otherwise experience difficulty in obtaining food. For assistance signing up, call 877-958-8785.

## Craft and activity kits

Free craft and activity kits for children are available at the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library. Stop by the library to pick up one, or e-mail Ms. Meri [meri@mohrlibrary.org](mailto:meri@mohrlibrary.org) or call 231-4980 to make a reservation.

## Johnston Senior Center offers services

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

## Johnston Community Library Book Club

Kids ages 8 to 10 can meet online, by invitation, Thurs-

days at 3 p.m. to hear readings and discuss books with library trustee and volunteer Denese Carpenter.

Interested in other times or want to suggest a book for discussion? Let them know.

Parents can learn more about sign-up procedures by contacting Library Director Jon Anderson. Email [info@mohrlibrary.org](mailto:info@mohrlibrary.org) or call 401-231-4980, ext. 7.

## Help make a house a home

The Furniture Bank of RI, a nonprofit corporation, needs bureaus, complete twin or double beds, kitchen sets, mattresses, and other household furniture that you no longer need. To help a less fortunate family through your charitable donation of good used furniture, call 831-5511 to arrange for pick up. All donated articles must be in good condition.

## Nature-inspired 'creatures' hidden on land trust trails as part of RIWalks Challenge

The RIWalks Challenge, coordinated by the Rhode Island Land Trust Council, has officially begun.

The Challenge is designed to entice people to get outside and explore nature while enjoying land trust trails, the perfect way to reduce stress and anxiety and improve health.

The Land Trust Council, along with land trust partners, have installed 30 different woodland "creatures" on trails around the state. The creatures are inspired by the plant life found in nature. From the Sweetgum seed pod to the Chanterelle mushroom, each has a QR code to snap to get more information about the creature, the trail, and the land trust.

"The idea came from a desire to attract people to take walks outdoors and help them connect with nature," said Rupert Friday, executive director. "Now that summer is here, it's a great time to explore new trails with your family and friends and – when you find one of the creatures – share a photo on social media to inspire others."

The Challenge is part of the Council's RIWalks program that encourages people to set walking goals and challenge themselves. A newly designed web page for RIWalks – [riwalks.org/challenge.php](http://riwalks.org/challenge.php) – will help

## Did you know?

July's full Moon, the full Buck Moon, occurs on Friday, July 23. It reaches peak illumination at 10:37 p.m. that evening, rising above the horizon just after sunset. The full Moon in July is called the Buck Moon because the antlers of male deer (bucks) are in full-growth mode at this time. Bucks shed and regrow their antlers each year, producing a larger and more impressive set as the years go by. (Source: July Fun Facts)

*SunriseScoops@aol.com. Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and nonprofit events as well as virtual events. Email today and see your news in our column in the Johnston Sun Rise. Please include a daytime telephone number in case we require any further information.*

walkers track the creatures they find. Walkers can find a list of trails with creatures and download a checklist with pictures to track when and where they find each creature.

"Our goal in the design was to elicit a sense of wonder, surprise, and mystery," said Greg Rebis, who designed the creatures. "The resulting designs are whimsical characters – an anthropomorphization that dances between fantasy and reality – to appeal to the imagination and let people relate to our native flora while out in nature."

The Council partnered with The Steel Yard, a nonprofit industrial art center in Providence, to bring the whimsical creatures to life.

Rob Bower, Chair of the Scituate Land Trust, is looking forward to exploring all the different Land Trust properties in the state.

RIWalks Challenge was made possible by a generous grant from van Beuren Charitable Foundation.

"We've worked hard to get people outdoors during the pandemic," Bower said. "It's wonderful to have people discover nature and this is a great way to do it in a game-like approach. They did a great job with the leaf designs it's fun to discover the characters out in the woods."

## 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 Sue Howarth at (401) 732-3100 or email [sueh@rhodybeat.com](mailto:sueh@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.

# spotlight ON BUSINESS

## Dreamland Learning Center

Check out their summer camps at [www.dreamlandlearningcenter.com](http://www.dreamlandlearningcenter.com)

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6 Weeks - 12 Years Old

By JENNIFER COATES

one child at a time.

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

The after-school room is replete with long tables for summer study time.

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

rated for excellence.

Parents and children who come to this busy and nurturing learning center on Hartford Avenue will find that the changes that were implemented to protect the health and safety of its students in the days of the pandemic are still in place. At the same time, the daily programming for the children who attend Dreamland is still packed with fun, activity, friendships, and play.

If you are looking for child-care this summer or are just interested in giving your child a fun place to spend time with friends, it is not too late to check out the Summer Camps at Dreamland. At these day camps, children enjoy hours of play (including lots of wet water play), outdoor games and of course, lots of learning and socialization. Call or visit their website to learn more!

Dreamland Learning Center is now accepting enrollment for children ages 6 weeks through age 12. It is located at 1253 Hartford Avenue. For more information, call 401-280-1400 or visit their website at [www.dreamlandlearningcenter.com](http://www.dreamlandlearningcenter.com).

Be sure to check out the other members of the Dreamland family of child-care centers in West Warwick (401-828-8200) and Pawtucket (401-655-1000).



*The playgrounds at Dreamland Learning Center in Johnston offer the perfect place for children to run off all their child-like energy and to enjoy the fun and carefree days of summer!*

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## ■ Grave

(Continued from page 1)

He and a small band of volunteers are on a mission to pay respect to the town's forbearers by maintaining Johnston's historic cemeteries.

"This is one of the largest cemeteries in town, often called the Cedar Lot," Merolla explained.

He and his fellow history loving volunteers have spent countless hours with buzzing weed cutters, lawnmowers and gloved hands, in an effort to save the cemetery from choking weedy overgrowth.

"Why is it called the Cedar Lot?" Merolla asked. "We're not sure. The area is surrounded by lots of pine trees. We've theorized that may be the reason."

Some of the family plots in Cemetery No. 7 have been disinterred, the caskets removed and placed elsewhere.

Like most historical cemeteries, several headstones have cracked or toppled.

"About 95 percent of the old cemeteries in town are small family lots," Merolla said. "This, however, was a community cemetery. It seems it came into use during the mid-1850s."

The cemetery's life follows the rise and decline of the nearby mill, which eventually evolved into a chemical company called Metro Atlantic, around the time of World War II.

A North Providence senior high-rise complex now stands in the mill's fading footprint, which was eventually designated a superfund site.

"Many of the people buried here come from the North Providence side," Merolla said. "A lot of the names are not the regular Johnston family names."

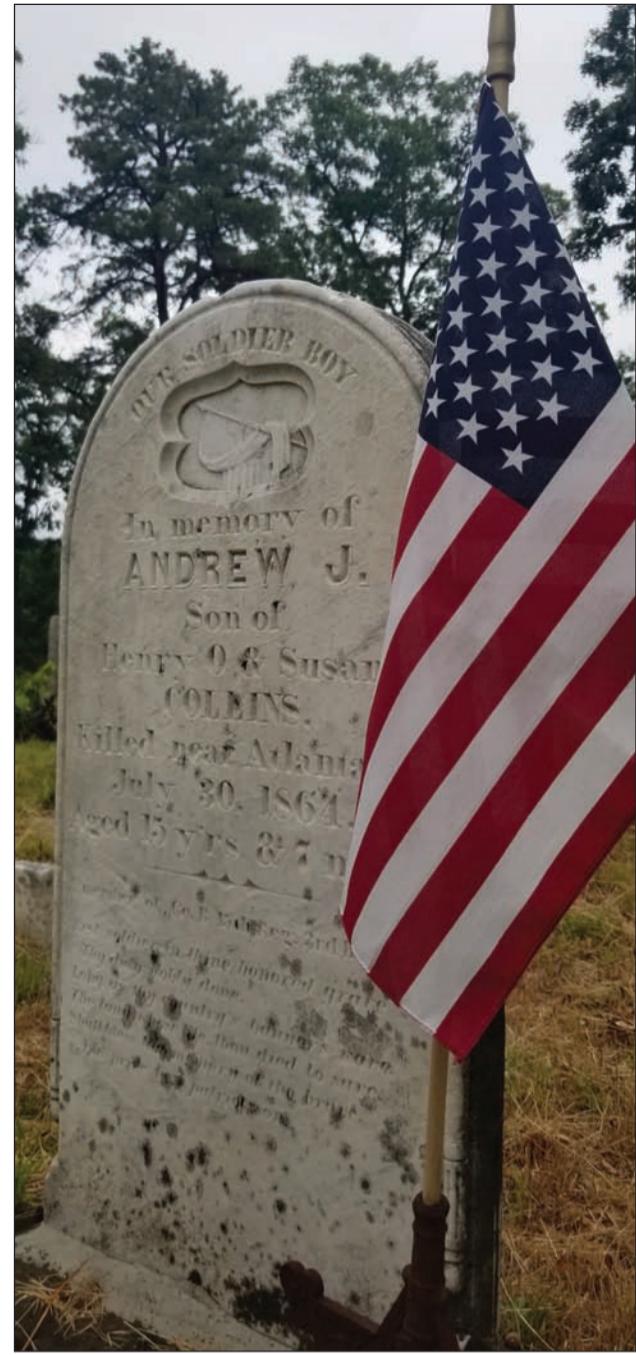
The Greystone Mill also operated just a few blocks east.

Merolla has traced the cemetery land back to a former owner named Dennis Stppard.

"He had land fronting on Route 44, and actually owned the cemetery," Merolla said. "People purchased plots from Stppard."

In the center of the cemetery, a stone monument stands in memory of Thomas Fish, a North Providence man.

"We have a record he bought a burial plot from Stppard measuring 16 1/2 feet by 16 1/2 feet," Merolla said. "For the time, this was very, very unusual. This cemetery operated more like a modern commercial



**NOT TOO YOUNG TO DIE:** 'Our Soldier Boy' marks the grave of a 15-year-old Union soldier who was killed fighting in the Civil War. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

cemetery."

Merolla dates most of the stones to the mid-19th Century to the early 20th Century.

"It's full of strange stones," he said. "They're mostly made of concrete, more than likely for poorer families who could not afford marble or granite headstones."

Merolla recently led his team of historical landscapers - Doug Stephens, Historical Society President Elise Carlson, Carl Johnson, Marie Thierfelder and George Picotte - armed with weed whackers and gardening tools.

The cemetery has been transformed over the past decade.

Not long ago, the graves inside were practically unreachable, completely covered with brambles and trees and painful thorny bushes.

"This cemetery was a terrible mess," Merolla said. "Probably the worst cemetery in town. It was a mass of brambles, dense under-

growth and thorns."

A local Civil War re-enactor would climb through the treacherous growth to plant flags on the graves of Civil War veterans buried in Cemetery No. 7. He'd emerge scratched and bloody, but undeterred.

Eventually, a group from Citizens Bank did a lot of the initial heavy lifting, clearing out the worst of the overgrowth. That group performed a community service, and helped maintain Cemetery No. 7 until the beginning of the COVID pandemic last year.

"They did a really fantastic job for a while," Merolla said. "They cleaned it up and were maintaining it. They did 80 percent of the work. They even planted flowers; perennials that still pop up."

Now that they've ceased regular volunteer maintenance of the burial ground, Merolla and his cemetery committee have attempted to take over.

Merolla walked toward the section bordering Route

44, where stone pillars and some rusted metal railings define several lots, each about the size of a box truck.

"Obviously some families were moved other places," Merolla said. "Some families moved the graves of their relatives, which at the time, was not uncommon."

The Historical Society theorizes many were the families of itinerant workers, when their time working at the nearby mills ceased, eventually moved away, taking their departed family members with them to new locales.

"It's not rare," Merolla said. "It does happen. Some possibly moved to other states. And some were probably taken out and moved to more commercial cemeteries with more consistent upkeep, with perpetual care."

A large tomb, its door bolted shut, can be seen along the street. The contents of the tomb are a bit of a mystery to Merolla and his cemetery committee. He guesses it was a holding crypt for men and women who died during the winter, but couldn't be buried in the frozen ground.

The Historical Society is hoping local men and women will step up to help maintain these important plots of Johnston history.

Merolla said the society needs more help, like they have received at the town's Historical Cemetery No. 21 (along Hartford Avenue), where Dan Parrillo and his son Mitchell take lawnmowers and cut the grass about once per month.

"Dan is a Johnston Historical Society member and one of the finest guys you'd ever want to meet," Merolla said, wishing he had more volunteers like the Parrillo family.

Merolla also sent thanks to the town's Department of Public Works, which has helped especially during windy weather, when large trees have toppled in the town's historic burial grounds.

"We contacted public works and they did a fantastic job," Merolla said. "I can't say enough for the work they did."

DPW workers dissected the fallen trees and pulled them from the cemeteries without damaging headstones.

Town workers also help maintain the grounds surrounding the Historical Society Putnam Pike headquarters.

Although the historical cemeteries are on town

owned land, few taxpayer resources are expended on cemetery upkeep.

Merolla and the Historical Society have worked hard to bridge the maintenance gap. They've purchased equipment to help fulfill their mission, but still need able bodies to wield the tools.

"In the past the town used to take care of some, but they've cut back," Merolla said. "We use our machines, and our gasoline. But we're getting older now too, and we could use some more volunteers."

The dead can't rise up and say "thank you."

However, for Merolla and his fellow volunteers, the sight of uncluttered resting places for the town's community founders is thanks enough.

Near the cemetery center, a plain white monument stands in memory to "Our Soldier Boy," marking the grave of Andrew J. Collins, son of Henry and Susan.

Collins, a 15-year-old Union child soldier, was killed in battle near Atlanta, Georgia on July 30, 1864.

According to the inscription, young Andrew J. Collins was a member of Company B, 15th Regiment, 3rd Battery, USA.

"This was during Gen. William T. Sherman's march through the south," Merolla said. "The fighting in Atlanta didn't start until a few days later, but there

was fighting outside of Atlanta, and they were skirmishing all over the place."

According to the US Army Center of Military History, Collins's battalion fought on Kenesaw Mountain from June 23-30, and marched their way to a battle at Neil Dow Station on July 3 and 4, 1864.

By the end of July, when Collins lost his life, Company B was preparing to fight the Battle of Utoy Creek, which raged from Aug. 4-7. His company had been attacking Confederate railroad lines encircling Atlanta, under Sherman's command. A week later, the Union took the key southern city.

A flag stands next to Collins's grave. Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated few, nobody was forced to shed blood to plant the flag this past Memorial Day.

And appreciative townsfolk can now visit the eternal resting place of a 15-year-old boy who gave his life for his country.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the second story of a weekly series looking into the conditions and history of the town's nearly 100 historic cemeteries. The Johnston Historical Society needs help. Anybody interested in volunteering to help maintain an old cemetery in town, by mowing the grass and/or clearing weeds and debris, is urged to contact the Society by calling 401-231-3380.



**CEMENTED HISTORY:** Many of the headstones standing in Johnston's Historic Cemetery No. 7 were made of concrete, the inscriptions hand-carved, a sign of working class internment.

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## ■ Cameras

(Continued from page 1)

"I'm all for it," Razza said. "The biggest hurdle has been the funding."

The 2021-22 state budget details funding potential for the program.

According to McKee's Press Secretary Alana O'Hare, the budget "signed by the Governor last week ... provides \$15 million over five years for the program."

Essentially, the state plans to foot the bill to get every Rhode Island police department wired for video.

"Today, Rhode Island takes an important step forward in strengthening trust, accountability and transparency between our police officers and the people they protect and serve," Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee said in June. "I am proud to be part of a collaborative initiative that will help foster strong, positive community-police relations throughout the state."

The governor's office expects the program may equip around 40 Johnston police officers with body-worn cameras, covering all of the department's frontline patrolmen and supervisors.

"Hopefully sooner than later," Razza said. "We're hoping it will cover everybody in the patrol division."

touted the program as the first of its kind in the nation.

"For over two decades, every criminal case I have evaluated for potential prosecution as a state or federal prosecutor has come down to two critical questions: What happened, and how do I prove what happened?" Neronha said. "If we cannot answer those questions, justice remains elusive, for everyone. Body-worn cameras thus can be a powerful tool in our efforts to deliver justice. They show us what happened. They promote accountability for police. They provide compelling evidence where prosecution of a member of the public is warranted. They build community trust."

Razza expects the program may equip around 40 Johnston police officers with body-worn cameras, covering all of the department's frontline patrolmen and supervisors.

"Hopefully sooner than later," Razza said. "We're hoping it will cover everybody in the patrol division."

The statewide program "grew out of a year of intensive research, planning and testing of body-worn cameras by the Rhode Island State Police, the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association and the Attorney General's Office," according to a press release from the governor's office. "The program's comprehensive approach aims to equip all uniformed patrol officers in the state, provides multi-year funding to all Rhode Island police departments to purchase and operate the cameras, and requires the development of statewide policies to ensure the effective use of the cameras."

Although the cameras are relatively inexpensive, averaging around \$300-400 each, video storage technology can be cost-prohibitive, Razza said.

"It will depend on funding," Razza said. "It's not clear what each department will receive. It should be that everyone in traffic and community policing gets their own camera, uploads the video at the end of each



**EVERY DEPARTMENT:** Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza referred to a collection of patches from every department in the Ocean State as he discussed a new program aimed at equipping all of Rhode Island's front-line police officers with body-worn cameras.

shift, and charges the camera between shifts."

A diverse set of advocacy groups, from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association, have endorsed the plan.

"Footage from body worn cameras is a powerful tool that will be used to ensure accountability in policing and, as a result, work to build public confidence in law enforcement," said Jim Vincent, President of the Providence branch of the NAACP. "Our elected and community leaders should be working (toward) bridging historic feelings of distrust between communities of color and police. This program works toward achieving that goal."

Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association Executive Director Sid Wordell and President Richard Ramsay released a joint statement lauding the program launch.

"To be clear, the police chiefs of Rhode Island support the immediate, broad and long-term implementation of a body-worn camera program," Wordell and Ramsay said in their statement. "It is the right thing to do, and we are grateful to our elected leaders for their support. Cameras should be the new, permanent, normal."

Ramsay also serves as Chief of the West Greenwich Police Department.

"Our chiefs have served on a body-worn camera committee with the Attorney General's Office and the Rhode Island State Police for the past several months and we are in support of implementing a statewide body-worn camera program," Ramsay said.

"The benefits of a body worn camera program are well established in improving accountability, transparency and professionalism. The Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association looks forward to working with our partners in the State on making sure this program is equitable, impactful and sustainable."

"This isn't a mandatory program," Razza said. "But I don't see why any police chiefs wouldn't (opt in)."

The state's Attorney General expects body-worn cameras will help prosecute law-breakers, even those who may be wearing badges.

"We'll get better results – results in which the public can have confidence – when we can evaluate every police/community encounter from a place of objective knowledge," Neronha said. "The statewide body-worn camera program ... gives us an opportunity to do just that."

Johnston town officials have, so far, been unanimous in their support for the program.

"Obviously this adds another layer of transparency to the public servants who serve and protect our residents," said Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena. "Obviously I trust our police officers. They're out there everyday. They don't have an easy job. They leave their house every day and don't know if they'll come home at night."

Polisena credited state legislators for their efforts to fund the program, rather than passing an "unfunded mandate."

"Five years gives us a little breathing room," Polisena said. "When the time comes that cities and towns need to take up the expense, they'll be ready for it. One year wouldn't help us. But five years gives us a chance to maintain the cameras and maintain the system. Once the police have them, it will be very difficult not to have them."

Polisena is optimistic a five-year launch for the program will give cities and towns the time they need to maintain it over the long run.

"Now it will be up to us to look for alternative funding sources," he said. "We have five years to do it. We can start putting money away."

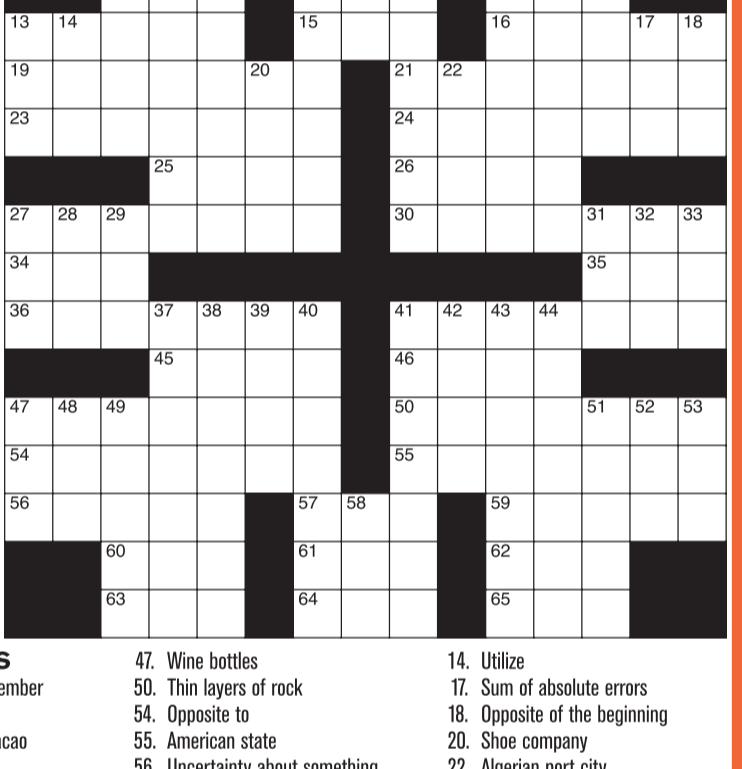
Access to the footage from body-worn cameras, however, may be a future source of contention between the public, the media, and the police.

"There will be times when they can release stuff and times when they can't release stuff," Polisena said. "I think it's good the state took the initiative. I think it will be great. I think they'll store it in the cloud, and it will be done for us. I trust my chief and deputy chief that they'll put policies and procedures in place. (The program) definitely adds that layer of transparency to the public. It will be beneficial for both the men and women of the police department and the people they serve."

When he first heard of the body-worn camera program, Polisena went to his department command staff and the town's frontline officers, to seek their opinions.

"I didn't get one negative comment from my officers, chief or deputy chief," Polisena said. "With cameras (on each officer), when an interaction is made with people, it's going to be the facts; not he said, she said, we said."

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



## CLUES ACROSS

- Sr. enlisted Army member
- Payroll firm
- Monetary unit of Macao
- Cooking vessel
- Cow sound
- Hairpiece
- Spoon-shaped surgical instrument
- Mother
- Remove from record
- Foolish
- Mailman
- Unit of data size
- Stirred
- Deceptive movement
- We all have one
- Direct from pasture beef animal
- A person's own self
- Helps little firms
- Deep, red-brown sea bream
- Tumbler
- A short section of a musical composition
- Young woman (French)
- Wings

## CLUES DOWN

- Small stem bearing leaves
- Female Bacchanalians
- Mediterranean city
- Measures electric current
- Arrived extinct
- Edible butterfish
- Causing wonder or astonishment
- Behaviors showing high moral standards
- Ancient Irish alphabets
- Footballer Newton
- Utilize
- Sum of absolute errors
- Opposite of the beginning
- Shoe company
- Algerian port city
- Girls organization (abbr.)
- Type of cell (abbr.)
- Swiss river
- When you hope to get there
- Fall behind
- Expresses distaste, disapproval
- Volume containing several novels
- Less sharp
- Food for the poor
- Having made a valid will
- Royal estates
- Relating to wings
- Japanese three-stringed lute
- Taking something through force
- Angry
- Before the present
- Showy ornaments
- Norway
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Consume
- Founder of Babism

# CHERRY HILL SCRAMBLE

## WORD OF THE WEEK:

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# Sports



**ALL-STARS:** The Johnston 12 year old All-Star team last week in Cranston. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

## All-Stars in action

The Johnston Little League 12 year old All-Star team was in action last week but fell in two games to be eliminated from the District I Tournament. Despite the loss, players and coaches had a blast returning to the summer tournament for the first time since 2019. Members of the team included: Luca Schroer, Joseph DiSano, Alexander Amaral, Jacob Rankin, Cody Cook, Ryan Waterman, William Ferrara, Antonio Morales, Jordan Caparrelli, Juan Brache, Giovanni Celani, Alex Salamone, Owen Polofsky. For more shots of the action, check out page 18.



**THE THROW TO FIRST:** Johnston's Will Ferrara makes a play to first base last week against Cranston East.

## The best level of baseball

### My pitch



by  
ALEX  
SPONSELLER  
SPORTS EDITOR  
  
ALEXS@  
RHODYBEAT.COM

lengthy, with average game times exceeding three hours.

With 162 games on the schedule, it is just about impossible for someone to devote that many hours each season. Even for diehard fans, you can't expect someone to devote three hours a night to a game, and that's assuming it lasts the typical length.

Then in terms of the on the field product, baseball can be incredible to watch. There are the obvious situations that can electrify a ballpark. Whether it be a close extra inning affair, a grand slam, all those flashy plays.

But on the other end, watching a low-scoring match is almost like watching a chess game. There is so much nuance and situational awareness that is required before the actual gameplay. It can be one of the most fascinating sports to watch.

So, why has professional baseball taken such a hit recently? For a few reasons.

First off, the games at the pro level are just too

PITCH- PAGE 19

## Town Champs

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Johnston Little League Northeast Autobody Red Sox won the 2021 Johnston Little League Town Championship. They had the best record in the league at 13-2 and went a perfect 3-0 in the playoffs. The Red Sox beat the Expos 4-1 in the championship game.

In the championship game, the Red Sox scored all four of their runs in the first inning. Corey Ogden tripled in his first at bat to score Gio Celani and Luca Ricci.

Gio Celani went 3-for-3 to lead the Sox and Ryan Waterman went 2-for-2 with an RBI. Jordan Caparelli also had an RBI for



**TOWN CHAMPS:** The Johnston Little League Town Champion Northeast Autobody Red Sox pictured are, from left to right, Liam Shields, Jordan Caparelli, Eric Ferrara, Logan Poole (front row); Lucca Ricci, Jordan D'Elia, Ryan Waterman, Alex Salamone, Gio Celani, Corey Ogden, Fotopoulos (middle row); coaches Jamie Ricci, Harry Ogden (manager), Mark Waterman, Mark D'Elia (back row). (Submitted photo)

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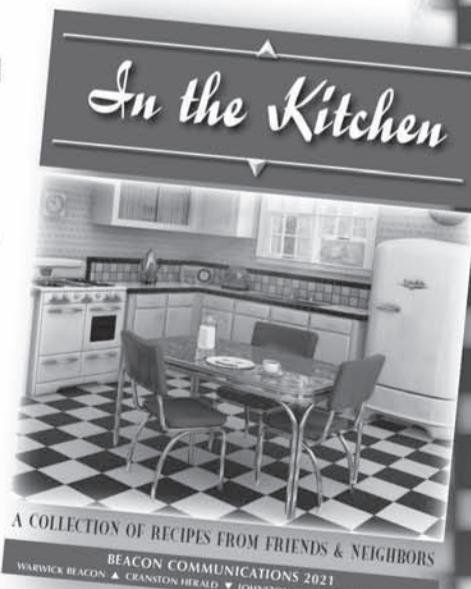
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SUMMER BASEBALL: Johnston's Owen Polofsky makes a play.



PLAYING THE FIELD: Johnston's Alex Amaral last week in Cranston.

# RIC volleyball wraps up season

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Head Coach Sherri Heard's (career record: 25-32; .439) women's volleyball team wrapped up the 2020-21 season with a 1-4 overall record and a 1-4 (fifth place) in the Little East.

Senior right side hitter Eden Anthony (Cranston, R.I.) played 19 sets in five matches. She hit .109 (28-18-92) with 28 kills (1.47/ set), 14 digs (0.74/set) and five blocks (0.26/set). Anthony recorded eight kills and a pair of digs in a 3-0 loss to Eastern Connecticut on April 1. She registered seven kills and two digs in a 3-2 win over Castleton on April 25.

Junior setter Wynter Conlon (East Walpole, Mass.) played 19 sets in five matches. She hit .182 (9-3-33) with nine kills (.47/set), 110 assists (5.79/set), six service aces (0.32/set) and 51 digs (2.68/

set). Conlon recorded double-digit assists in all five matches on the season and registered a season-high 36 assists in a 3-2 victory over Castleton on April 25. She recorded three double-doubles (assists-digs) on three occasions.

Freshman defensive specialist/libero Nicole Normandin (Blackstone, Mass.) played 12 sets in three matches. She hit .500 (1-0-2) with one kill (0.08/set), three service aces (0.25/set) and 14 digs (1.17/set). Freshman middle hitter/right side hitter Megan Philbrick (Johnston, R.I.) played 16 sets in four matches. She hit .194 (11-4-36) with 11 kills (0.69/set), two digs (0.12/set) and 10 blocks (0.62/set). Philbrick recorded five kills, four blocks and a pair of digs in a 3-2 win over Castleton on April 25. She registered three kills and one service ace in a 3-1 setback to Plymouth State on March 28.

## Pitch

(Continued from page 17)

play here is player egos. The players nowadays come from a different environment than former players. They have been softened by youth programs and travel leagues and have been pampered every step of the way.

Thanks to that, these players have no interest in changing their ways for the sake of the product. They don't want pitch clocks, they don't want a reduction of innings played, they don't want rules involving speeding up at bats. Every idea the league has considered has been resisted by the players and it is because they are selfish and set in their ways.

Just look at the ongoing issue with the use of foreign substances for pitchers. The league is simply asking pitchers to stop doctoring the balls and it has created a frenzy. Pitchers have been struggling and whining every step of the way.

The game won't slow down until the players make adjustments ... but their egos will absolutely not allow that to happen.

The last issue is the emergence of other sports. This one does not require as much of an explanation. Ultimately, kids and young adults are more interested in other sports and it is a direct response to game length and the quality of play. Each passing season the sport is losing more and more ground.

So what is my point exactly?

My point is that baseball is one of the greatest sports on earth and it is a shame to see its highest organization failing.

My solution is simple: Follow the Little League model.

The local Little League All-Star tournaments are being played so I was able to watch some action last week. One thing is for sure, watching these games is the most enjoyable form of the sport there is.

Even at the high school level, games can drag on and be a little too ticky tack.

At the youth level though? The total opposite. Pitchers pitch the ball, batters hit the ball, and fielders field the ball. No nonsense, no on-field rituals, no over-thinking, they just go out there and play the game.

Little League baseball at this point is the anti Major League Baseball. The games never drag on, get dull, and have you clock watching. Players are not old enough yet to have fully formed egos, so they do not think about each play the way that pros do. They just want to have fun and play the game.

The product is a fast-paced, high-scoring event that is genuinely exciting and unpredictable.

That is another point for me to add on here. In professional baseball, once a team falls behind three or four points, the game is effectively over.

Not at the youth level though ... seems like every team is capable of putting up three or four runs in any given inning.

I know that this idea is a little out there, but I really do think Major League Baseball should look at what works for Little League when trying to come up with solutions. I wouldn't be opposed to the league trimming games from nine innings to seven and trimming the schedule from 162 to maybe 142. It also needs to be heavy handed in enforcing new ways of speeding the game up, regardless of what the players' gripes are.

Little League baseball, especially during All-Star time, is one of the best sports to watch because of all of the aforementioned items. It's just a great community tradition with some fun games to watch and that are unpredictable.

As a lifelong MLB fan, it truly saddens me to see the game continue to work its way backwards and to even see myself laboring to make it through a single contest. Having said that, Little League baseball is one of the few things keeping my love of the game intact and should be recognized as the best level of baseball there is ... because that's the truth.

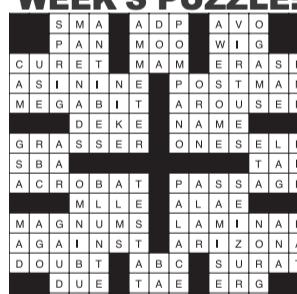
## Champs

(Cont. from page 17)

the Sox. Fabian Aleman pitched for the Expos and threw a complete game. He held the Sox offense, which averaged 12 runs a game, to just four runs and struck out five batters over five innings.

Antonio Morales and Mikey Orsini had the two Expos hits. In the fourth inning, Orsini doubled to drive home Mike Iafrate for the lone Expos run. Foti Fotopoulos started on the mound for the Sox, going three shutout innings allowing no hits and striking out five. Ogden relieved him in the fourth, allowing a run and striking out two in his one inning of work. Celani closed the game with two scoreless innings of relief, allowing just one hit and striking out four.

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# Fluke bite mixed, some tips to enhance your catch

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

The summer flounder (fluke) bite has been mixed this season with some nice fish being caught off Block Island on the south side and a monster fish 15.24 pounds caught off Newport by angler Greg Vespe. But overall the bite has been sluggish.

Anglers catching fluke are working for them fishing edges to find the fish that are there. Last week we went to ten different spots to find the fish. All of these spots were pre-selected based on wind and tide moving in the same direction and the fact that we would be fishing edges. By edges we mean the base of a jetty or bridge pylon, the edge of a reef, an uphill or downhill slope underwater, etc.

So when fluke fishing is off, you have to work for them. Plan where you will fish first, second, third, etc. the night before based on recent wind forecast and tide. Hopefully you will be rewarded with some nice fish, even in difficult times, to take home and in the process catch some nice eating black sea bass.

The minimum size for summer flounder is 19 inches with a six fish/person/day bag limit with the fluke season running until December 31. Here are ten fluke fishing tips I like to remind myself of when planning a trip.

- Wind and tide should be in line as you want to drag (or drift) over the front of the fish so it sees your bait, drift over the back of the fish and it may never see your bait.

- Fish low/high/low bottom... this means fishing channel breaks, edges of structure, etc. My largest fluke have been caught on edges.

- Match the hatch tipping with squid, blue fish, bass, silversides, mummies, minnows. Often times whatever we catch (or seem to be in the water where we are fishing) I will cut up and strip for the fluke rigs.

- Trailer teasers work, my largest fish have been caught

with the trailer stinger bucktail

- Find the fish, repeat pattern ... noting both location and depth

- Power drift (putting boat in and out of gear to go slow) for movement at slack tide
- Both jigs and traditional fluke rigs work
- Fluke face into current to feed, drag bait over front of fluke from boat or shore
- Power drift or troll perpendicular when wind and tide not ideal

Personal favorite is big bait... Capt. Monti's fluke cocktail ... squid rig tipped with squid, fluke belly and horizontal minnow, believe that big baits catch big fish, you will catch fewer fish with a big bait arrangement but they will be larger.

## Register this week for the Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament, July 24 and 25

The Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament starts Saturday, July 24, 5:33 a.m. and ends Sunday, July 25, 12 noon. There will be an 'After Party' at Capt. Nick's Rock & Roll Bar, Block Island from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. with a brief Tournament awards ceremony.

Capt. Chris Willi of Block Island Fishworks, tournament host, said, "This is a length only tournament with entries made electronically on a smartphone application. You never have to land on the Island to win but you might want to attend the 'After Party'. Winners will be posted online."

Tournament entry fees are \$100 per boat for up to four anglers, \$25/person for additional anglers; and \$25/shore angler. Capt. Willi said, "Thanks to the Block Island Wind Farm and Ørsted Tournament sponsorship we are able to donate 100 percent of Tournament entry fees to the Block Island Fire Department and Rescue."

Tournament highlights include over \$10,000 in VISA card prizes, swag and tackle shop gift certificates. Fish fluke, black sea bass, striped bass and bluefish with boat, shore, youth,

team and photo divisions. For information and to register visit [www.sandypointco.com/bi-inshore-tourney](http://www.sandypointco.com/bi-inshore-tourney).

## Where's the bite?

**Striped bass and bluefish.** Brendon Roden of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "Striper fishing from the beach has been slow with some shorts being caught at night. However, it has been lights out for striped bass fishing at Block Island. Overall things slowed with the storm at the beginning of the week but started to pick up once the weather cleared." John Littlefield of Archie's Bait and Tackle, Riverside said, "The striped bass fishing in the upper Bay has slowed down a lot with some fish being caught at Providence Point and Kettle Point." "Striper fishing in the Conimicut Point, Rocky Point and Warwick Neck area has been very good. Anglers are catching slot fish (28 inches to less than 35 inches) trolling tube & worm as well as live lining and fishing with chucks of Atlantic menhaden (poggies). And, they are using eels at night with success," said Mark Passarelli of the Tackle Box, Warwick.

**Fluke fishing** at Block Island has been very good while fishing along the southern coastal shore has been slow. When you find them it is a steady pick of shorts with some keepers mixed in," said Brendon Roden of Breachway Bait & Tackle. Mark Passarelli of the Tackle Box said, "Customers are catching fluke off the beach side of Conimicut Point with some doing well at Warwick Light." John Littlefield of Archie's said, "The fluke bite has not been outstanding. One customer fishing the Newport bridge area with some pretty good drifts caught 17 short fish and no keepers on Sunday. They were using squid and mummies. Some customers are catching fluke at Warwick Light but it is a slow pick most days and other days there are no fish there at all."



**GETTING READY:** Fluke and black sea bass caught at the Block Island Wind Farm. Anglers are preparing for the July 24 and 25 Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament. (Submitted photo)

na and Colt State Park continue to produce scup for anglers."

**Freshwater** fishing softened a bit with the warm water last week but continues to be consistent. "Anglers are still catching trout at stocked ponds with a decent largemouth bite on days that are not too hot," said Mark Passarelli of the Tackle Box. "Ponds producing for customers include Sandy and Gorton Pond in Warwick, Carbuncle Pond in Coventry; and Silver Spring in North Kingstown."

Dave Monti holds a captain's master license and charter fishing license. He serves on a variety of boards and commissions and has a consulting business focusing on clean oceans, habitat preservation, conservation, renewable energy, and fisheries related issues and clients. Forward fishing news and photos to [dmontifish@verizon.net](mailto:dmontifish@verizon.net) or visit [www.noflukefishing.com](http://www.noflukefishing.com).

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# RhodyLife

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## Preserving a lost art

Library exhibit highlights decorative stenciling from RI's 18th century 'building boom'


**ARTIST AND HISTORIAN:**

Ann Eckert Brown has been working on preserving the lost art of wall stenciling for the last 60 years. Her exhibit, "Painted Rooms of Rhode Island," is now on display at the Warwick Public Library. (Beacon Communications photo)

**By ARDEN BASTIA**

After being postponed a year, local historian Ann Eckert Brown has finally opened her exhibit at the Warwick Public Library, sharing the history and techniques of wall stenciling as a form of interior decoration.

The exhibit, "Painted Rooms of Rhode Island," has been in the works since Brown first began researching the subject back in the 1960s.

"I've been teaching early American and doing early American decorative painting, all kinds of early American decorative painting, and wall stenciling is just one of them," she explained in an interview on Friday.

During the Colonial and Federal eras, roughly 1790 to 1840, the state saw rapid economic and population growth. It was during this "building boom," as Brown calls it, that Rhode Islanders embraced the wall stenciling techniques of interior design.

In her third and latest book, also titled "Painted Rooms of Rhode Island," Brown writes that the rise of painted interiors reflected the "unbridled optimism that was rampant among the citizenry of a new state, especially those of the middling class, who were at last able to upward socially and economically."

Brown's research took her all over the state, where she visited houses and historical sites, like taverns and churches, to view the painting techniques firsthand.

"A lot of it was very deteriorated. I thought, 'Ah, when these houses disappear, so will every evidence of the stenciling.' And I thought it would be good to record it, which I have done" she shared.

Brown recalled hearing stories of young homeowners who were unaware of the history on their walls, and painted or wallpapered right over one-of-a-kind stenciled designs.

Brown replicated the designs by tracing shapes and patterns she found on walls throughout Rhode Island as she completed research for her three books on early American architectural decorative painting.



# RhodyMoney

## My biggest fear is not having enough income to last as long as I do!



**Jeffrey H. Massey**  
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Massey and Associates

That is the number one comment we hear when meeting with prospective clients. Survey after survey confirm that sentiment and have for many years. So, how do you go about determining when you might be ready to retire? Well, let's look at it from another perspective, signs that indicate that you are not ready to retire!

One of my early questions to someone telling me that they are thinking about retirement is not about money. I ask, "What will you do to fill up the time that you are currently devoting to your work?" I do get some funny looks! Those that can answer with multiple activities, be it hobbies, travel, crafts or volunteering seem to be the most likely to have a successful retirement from an enjoyment perspective. Those that have trouble answering the activity question seem to struggle more often than not when it comes to

enjoying their retirement.

Another simple issue is debt level. If you are still making minimum payments on your credit cards, chances are that you are not in a position to retire comfortably. Credit cards should be used for convenience or to get points for rewards and should be paid off entirely each month. The interest rates on credit cards are still outrageous, even in this historically low-interest rate environment. Don't get caught up in that trap. Also, having too high of a mortgage payment will strain your finances in retirement leading to the same conclusion, you may not be ready to retire.

Another issue that might show that you are not ready to retire is if you absolutely love your job! Obviously, not everyone does, so, if you do (like me!) then you are fortunate indeed! Perhaps you could consider slowing down and working fewer hours and ease yourself into your full retirement.

Now, back to the first issue above, having enough money to retire comfortably. First, we believe that the financial industry advertisements in various media that throw out the \$1 million-dollar golden retirement sav-

ings figure is doing a huge disservice to the public. Setting such a lofty retirement savings figure/amount/goal may simply turn people off from saving for retirement as the \$1 million figure seems so insurmountable to them or they tell themselves and us in our meetings that they will never retire or stop working because they can't afford to retire.

However, the true or real answer to the question is simply a function of math and is solely reliant on each individual's or a couple's particular financial circumstances. In other words, the answer is most heavily reliant or dependent on what your annual lifestyle expenses are. Then the second part of the equation is to determine the total amount of retirement income that is available from all sources and seeing if there is a shortfall or surplus. If there is a shortfall, then we simply total up all available assets and determine how much annual income can be generated from these assets annually to help cover the shortfall.

In our practice we use a simple method to calculate if a client is in the ballpark of their retirement goal. This is just a quick estimate based on the dollar amount invested and their lifestyle expense. Of course, we use a financial software to do the "heavy lifting" of income calculation for retirement, this is just a simple way to determine if they are close.

Let's use a figure of \$30,000 that must come from their assets, in addition to their Social Security income and or pensions, if any. Multiply \$30,000 times 25, which is \$750,000. If they are near that number, we feel as though we can help them retire comfortably. The

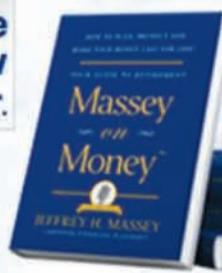
\$750,000 could generate \$30,000 of income by generating 4% growth on the investments. Right now, this is considered a low average rate of return over time for money invested in the stock market, so, if that 4% will cover their initial income needs at the outset, then a portfolio can be constructed that will provide income for life using specialized insurance products and the opportunity for growth of the portfolio invested in the market to account for future inflation.

If there is a surplus after subtracting all sources of annual income from annual lifestyle expenses then this is generally a good indicator or sign that you have enough income to retire and are ready to retire successfully.

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# Smart Ways to Keep Travel Spending in Check

FAMILY FEATURES

**W**ith more people getting vaccinated, many are looking forward to reuniting with loved ones and making up for lost vacation time. However, budget is often a primary concern when planning a trip.

To help make your money go further, consider these tips from the travel experts at Vrbo.

**Explore a new destination:** With pent up travel demand, many popular travel destinations have already been booked months in advance. Instead of visiting traditionally popular locales, consider an under-the-radar destination like Cherry Log, Georgia; Bella Vista, Arkansas; or Slade, Kentucky, which all offer scenic views and outdoor adventures. Before booking, check for any travel advisories or restrictions for your destination.

**Be flexible with dates:** Rather than selecting your dates first and finding a destination that works for your selected date range, choose a destination then see what accommodations are available. For example, doing an undated search through a vacation rental company like Vrbo can yield a wider selection for a particular destination, including some budget-friendly options. After selecting your lodging, check the dates to determine when it's available or most affordable and plan your trip accordingly.

**Fly on off-peak days or times:** If flying to your destination is necessary and you're not on a tight schedule, being flexible with the time of day you fly, the number of stops or having a longer layover can translate to a more affordable price. Generally, flying earlier in the week or later in the day is less expensive than flying closer to the weekend or taking the first flight out.

**Book now, pay later:** When securing lodging and other amenities like rental cars, you can often book your reservations without paying the full amount up front. Whether you simply place a deposit at the time of booking and pay the rest upon arrival or split the total cost into monthly payments, this type



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

of option can provide an added level of flexibility when budgeting for and planning your trip.

**Book accommodations that offer length-of-stay discounts:** These days, remote work and school allows for flexibility while traveling, and there are discounts to be found if you choose to stay for longer than just a few nights. In fact, some vacation rental hosts offer discounts for new listings or week- or month-long stays. Vacation rental companies like Vrbo allows travelers to use filters to find discounted properties when searching for a place to stay.

**Look for free activities:** If you research your destination before departing, you'll likely be able to find free or low-cost activities that interest you. Check community calendars to find events while you'll be in town and consider options like museums, art galleries or national parks, which are often

free to the public or offer discounted admission on certain days or at specific times each day.

**Take advantage of public transportation:** One of the best ways to get to know a city is to walk everywhere, but that isn't feasible in all cities and locations. Rather than renting a car or using ride-sharing services, look for

public transportation options such as buses or subways that are more cost-effective when possible. Also consider a frequent-travel card if you'll be traversing your destination more than once or twice.

Visit Vrbo.com more resources and information to save money on your next adventure.

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## ■ Art (Continued from page 21)

For the book's accompanying exhibit, facsimiles were created on large, framed 31-by-41-inch panels to resemble the original stenciling in colorations, spacing and layout. Aging and damage was not incorporated, as Brown wanted to preserve the art and artist's original intent.

In "Painted Rooms of Rhode Island," Brown shares over 50 examples of these wall stencil designs from all parts of the state. Each chapter of her book is dedicated to a different Rhode Island county, exploring the historic sites that are known for their wall decorations.

In her book, Brown takes readers through the history of 17th-century interior designs with illustrations and photographs.

She writes that paint-decorated rooms "were fairly plentiful" during the Colonial period, "especially in mansion-like homes built by wealthy merchants attracted to the area by the vibrant, unfettered business atmosphere and religious

freedom."

According to her research, "the shelters of the first Rhode Islanders were sparsely decorated, and their overall appearance could be described as drab," she writes in her book.

The "Spartan aesthetic" gave way as the colony grew more prosperous and commercial building supplies began more widely available, including paint materials such as linseed oil, pigments, and turpentine.

Brown did point out that it was very easy for artists to borrow inspiration from other artists. "There were so many artists, and they traveled with cut stencils. And they applied them to walls in a different manner and different arrangement. And they did, I must say, copy from each other. Because when you're staying in a tavern and your bedroom is covered with this kind of stuff, it's very easy to trace and then put in the next place that you stay."

While the artistic plagiarism was evident, Brown said there weren't conflicts between artists, as "they didn't get to-

gether much, and there were no copyrights or lawsuits over designs."

Some of the influential artists that Brown has noted include J. Gleason, Rufus Porter, D. Bartling, and William Gibbs.

Gleason was known for signing the walls that he painted, one of which Brown has recreated in her exhibit.

"A lot of the houses in northwest Rhode Island can be assigned to him because they share motifs. They may not have the signature, signatures disappear or get painted over, but we have one in Rhode Island that's very important," she said.

The wall that Gleason painted and signed can be found in the Deacon Daniel Hopkins House in Foster.

Wall stenciling can still be seen at local historic sites like the Christopher Rhodes House in Pawtuxet Village, the Thomas Arnold House in Apponaug, and the Peter Greene House at 1124 West Shore Road.

According to Brown, it's "debated" whether the stenciling techniques fell

out of fashion with the rise of wallpaper. Displayed in the exhibit with the stencils are newspaper advertisements selling wallpaper. "Whether or not the wallpaper influenced the stencils, or vice versa," she said. "We don't know. They used similar kinds of designs."

Wall stenciling was such a prolific art that it established the state as "a true microcosm of American interior architectural painting."

Brown's goal is to share "the knowledge to help people know what this is and to preserve the history," she said at the exhibit's opening last Friday. "This is all about preservation."

Brown hopes to bring her exhibit to Bristol, displaying it on the East Bay side of the state.

"This is a part of our history," she said. "We really must save it."

For more information about Brown's work, visit anneckertbrown.com. The "Painted Rooms of Rhode Island" exhibit will be on display during Warwick Public Library hours through the end of August.



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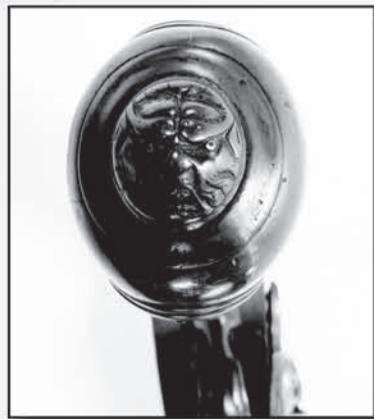
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**By Joel Bohy**  
Historic Arms & Militaria  
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When I think of trophies brought back from World War II I think of flags, helmets, daggers, swords and insignia from the defeated Axis forces. I have seen thousands of veteran "bring back" items in my years of collecting and selling arms and militaria. But recently I received one that I didn't really expect.

After the German army capitulated on May 7, 1945, all arms had to be turned in. I have seen photos of piles of Mauser rifles and machine guns that were surrendered to allied forces. Not just military weapons but sporting rifles of all types came in, including one type I see quite commonly, the drilling or combination guns with two or three barrels. But it wasn't just modern guns that were turned in. There were also historic arms such as early wheellocks and flintlocks that ended up in these piles of weapons.

The gun that came to me is a beautifully made flintlock pistol. At first glance it is clearly Germanic in form with a walnut stock, a brass escutcheon plate on the wrist with foliate patterns, a brass

butt cap with a small grotesque mask on the bottom, engraved brass straps that run up each side of the grip, and a brass trigger guard with a face and foliate designs on the bow. It has a two-stage barrel that is octagonal at the breech and then round with a silver front sight that now

has a nice uncleaned black patina. The lock plate is ornately engraved with incised lines, a face on the tail, foliate designs and a banner marked "Io. ULRICH. MANTZ."

Some research showed the maker to be Johan Ulrich Mantz of BraunschWeig, Germany. He was working between 1712 and 1755 and was the gunmaker to the Court of Brunswick. After looking at some of his other guns online, many are more ornately carved and decorated than the wonderful one I have. Like many of the European makers of the day, he also made guns for the Ottoman trade that was so lucrative during that period.

After looking at this gun, I can see why the young G.I. picked this gun out of the pile and brought it back as his trophy after defeating the Nazi's. So many times we see these types of guns and wonder what their story is and how they got to this country. I'm glad that the family of the deceased veteran passed along his story of how he ended up with it so the next owner can keep the history together with the gun.



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