

Now, Amazon's a done deal

Mega online retailer will pay about 60 percent of its tax obligation over 20 years

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston has a new biggest taxpayer. The Johnston Town Council voted unanimously Wednesday night to approve a Tax Stabilization Agreement with Amazon.

"This agreement if approved by you this evening will solidify the financial stability for the town of Johnston for the next 20 years," said Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena. "It will ensure and guarantee payments for the next 20 years to support the following programs ... education, town infrastructure, public safety, our elderly population, our youth, our youth sports programs, financial stability in the form of higher bond ratings, stabilization

of taxes and of course jobs for Johnston residents."

The deal will multiply the tax yield of a mostly vacant section of land along Hartford Avenue, which currently generates \$60,084 in annual tax revenue, by 92 times (an estimated 12,000 percent increase).

Amazon is expected to cover 8 percent "of total town tax levy" after the facility is built and operational.

"This will be probably the biggest project the state and the town has ever seen, no doubt about it," Polisena said. "This will be the largest and highest taxpayer in our town."

AMAZON - PAGE 10



DEAL DONE: Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena makes his case for a TSA between Amazon and the town. (Sun Rise photo by John Howell)

'Prayer for Peace'

St. Rocco School remembers those lost on Sept. 11, 2001

By RORY SCHULER

Matthew Newell was playing on the St. Rocco School playground on the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001.

The carefree 9-year-old heard a teacher calling his name. The fourth-grader, wearing his school uniform, was summoned to the principal's office.

The principal told him his father was there to pick him up early.

He was excited, but the day wouldn't turn out the way he hoped. That beautiful, tragic late summer day didn't turn out how any American had hoped.

Twenty years later, Newell, now nearly 30, stood at a podium outside the same school, on Atwood Avenue in Johnston.

On Friday morning, Sept. 10, his elementary alma mater held a "Prayer for Peace and Healing on the 20th Anniversary of 9/11."

Newell kept his comments short. He thanked those who gathered outside the school to remember the victims of 9/11, a list of nearly 3,000 that included Matthew Newell's mother.

Renee Lucille Newell was a passenger on American Airlines Flight 11.

An American Airlines employee, Renee Newell departed from Logan Airport in Boston, destined for Las Vegas, Nevada, for a planned work conference and short vacation.

9/11 - PAGE 12



PRAYERS FOR THE LOST: St. Rocco School students read prayers and sang "God Bless America" in honor of the nearly 3,000 killed on Sept. 11, 20 years ago. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

New and 'like new' schools pitched

By RORY SCHULER

The taxpayers of Johnston will eventually decide whether to fund \$215 million in new school building projects.

The district hopes to build a new Early Childhood Center, a new Elementary School for all students in grades 1 through 4, and make major renovations at the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School and Johnston High School.

The new Johnston Early Childhood Center (ECC) has been pitched for construction at the current site of the Sarah E. Barnes Elementary School, and will be built to educate approximately 359 pre-K through Kindergarten students.

The new ECC will cost an estimated \$28,600,000, and is tentatively slated to open in the summer of 2024.

SCHOOLS - PAGE 11

Johnston's Winsor Hill School closed Tuesday after COVID-19 outbreak

By RORY SCHULER

Approximately 19 cases of COVID-19 have been reported at one Johnston elementary school.

The district's top administrator shut the school down for the day, but the Winsor Hill School reopened Wednesday.

"The pandemic has hit our schools," Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. declared at Tuesday night's School Committee meeting.

DiLullo was informed late

Monday night that two staff members at the school had tested positive for the virus.

By midday Tuesday, school officials confirmed that around a dozen children had also tested positive at Winsor Hill since the school opened on Sept. 1, according to a conversation DiLullo had with the Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH).

That number climbed to 17 students testing positive for COVID-19 by Tuesday evening's School Committee meet-

ing, according to DiLullo.

Parent Joyce Teaway pulled up to the Winsor Hill Elementary School around 9:05 a.m. Tuesday, her back seat full of laundry.

A few cars were parked along the curb. The tiny campus was far less busy than usual at that time, for a school day.

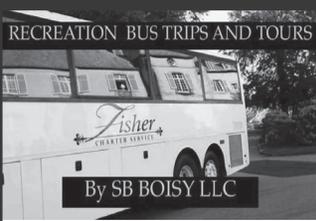
No school employees stood outside. No signs were visible on the door.

COVID - PAGE 11



Winsor Hill Elementary School

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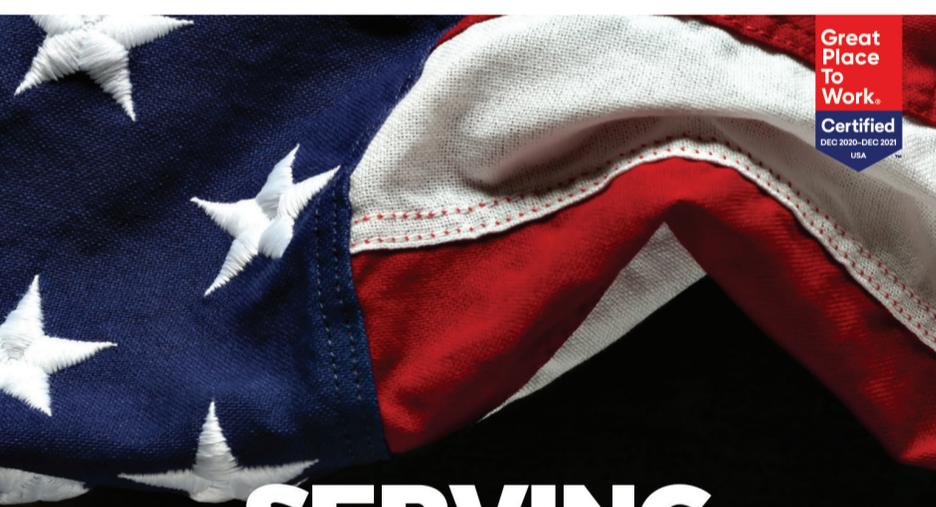
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LEADING THE WAY: Gov. Dan McKee makes a statement at Johnston High School on Wednesday. (Sun Rise photos by Alex Sponseller)

McKee, mayor make vaccine pitch for student-athletes

By ALEX SPONSELLER

Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee, along with Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos, made the trip to Johnston High School to provide the state with its weekly COVID-19 update on Wednesday afternoon.

In collaboration with Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisenia and the Rhode Island Interscholastic League, the governor also touched on the importance of the Rhode Island sports community to be vaccinated, while the school later held a vaccination clinic during the girls soccer game against Central High.

"We are here in Johnston to talk about teamwork. As we know, our student-athletes are very competitive. We want to challenge them to help us in our efforts to get shots in the arms," McKee said. "We are doing our part to make vaccines as accessible as possible. The more vaccinations we get, the safer we are."

During the update, McKee stated that Rhode Island is now one of only



JOHNSTON STRONG: Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisenia addresses the crowd.

four U.S. states to hit the 85 percent vaccination rate among eligible adults, as it currently sits at 86 percent. There are still 145,000 Rhode Island residents that remain unvaccinated.

"You are there for each other through the wins and losses. The big moments and the small ones. As a team, you work together. One key piece of being a team player is caring for your teammates. All of us here, your coaches, your friends, want to be able to continue to practice together, play together,

and work hard, celebrate all season long, and be ready for basketball and hockey seasons that are right around the corner," said McKee.

Polisenia added: "Close your eyes and think of somebody that you really, really love. Do you really want them getting sick because of themselves, you as a student, or someone else was not vaccinated? If you haven't been vaccinated, especially for our youth, it's very important because we want to beat this darn pandemic. We can, we are Johnston-strong."



RALLYING TOGETHER: The Johnston girls soccer team looks on at the press conference.

SUN RISE SCOOPS

By **MERI R. KENNEDY**

Church seeking vendors for Holiday Bazaar

Our Lady of Grace Church, located at 4 Lafayette St. in Johnston, would like invite vendors to participate in its Holiday Bazaar on Oct. 17. There will be crafters, vendors, a penny social, food and more. For information, contact Pat Leon at (401) 529-7592.

Saturday crafts at the library

This week, the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library will resume Saturday hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Do some crafts in the library or take some home. They are located at 1 Memorial Ave. in Johnston.

Beer Garden each week in Garden City

Join Garden City Center and Avvio Ristorante for a summer sendoff you won't want to miss.

Outside at the Gazebo every weekend this September, there will be a rotating lineup of local breweries – including Grey Sail Brewing, Narragansett Beer, Newport Craft Brewing and Whalers Brewing Company – taking part in the Beer Garden.

The upcoming schedule is Sept. 17-19, Newport Craft Brewing; and Sept. 24-26, Whalers Brewing Company.

Hours are Fridays from 4 to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 1 to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 7 p.m.

The Beer Garden is open to the public and there is no cover charge. Seating is available on a first come, first served basis and operating hours will be weather permitting. Customers must show a valid ID in order to purchase an alcoholic beverage.

Optimism Walk set for Sept. 18

The American Parkinson Disease Association's (APDA) Rhode Island Chapter will host its Optimism Walk on Saturday, Sept. 18, at Goddard State Park in East Greenwich. This annual event is part of a nationwide series of Optimism Walks intended to raise funds and awareness to support for people with Parkinson's disease, their care partners, and families through research, education, and support services. Participants from all over Rhode Island, and beyond, will come together for the special event.

Registration opens at 9 a.m. and the Optimism Walk begins at 11 a.m. Online registration is strongly encouraged. It is easy to create or join a team, begin fundraising, or make a generous donation.

Water, snacks and sweet treats, surprising gift raffles, and fun activities are

planned. For Walk details and online registration, visit apdaparkinson.org/RI.

Registration now open for NAMI Family-to-Family course

NAMI Rhode Island, the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, will offer a Family-to-Family course beginning Oct. 19 at 6 p.m.

This is a free and virtual eight-session educational program for family members, significant others and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program. This means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition.

NAMI Family-to-Family is taught by trained family members who have "been there" and includes presentations, discussions and interactive exercises.

For more information and to register for this evidence-based program, visit namirhodeisland.org, call (401) 331-3060 or email beth@namirhodeisland.org.

Rock & Rhodes Music Fest

On Oct. 3, the group Hey 19 from Rhode Island, The Midnight Callers from New York City, and Soul Box and

The Deluxtones from Boston will join in for a Rock & Roll Music Fest to benefit children in treatment at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston. Tickets cost \$20 per person. The event will be held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, located at 60 Rhodes Place in Cranston. For tickets and more information, follow the event's Facebook page or visit eventbrite.com.

NAMI supports back-to-school wellness

As we head into a difficult back-to-school season, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) wants to share some new youth content that may be helpful to you, your families and loved ones.

NAMI has completely overhauled the Kids, Teens and Young Adults section on its website, nami.org/youth. There are sections written for caregivers of children and others written for teen and young adult audiences. Topics include when/how to ask for help and how to get it, what to do in crisis situations, how to talk about mental health, mental health and school, and so much more.

For more information on local resources, visit the Rhode Island chapter of NAMI online at namirhodeisland.org, call (401) 331-3060 or email info@namirhodeisland.org.

Accessibility is Beautiful Festival

Everyone is invited to attend the inaugural Accessibility is Beautiful Festival on Saturday, Sept. 18, in Providence. The event seeks to educate local businesses about building and adapting infrastructure to allow for the inclusion of people of all abilities. With affordable solutions, we know that both commerce and the community will benefit and thrive.

Hosted by RAMP (Real Access Motivates Progress) and held at The Steel Yard at 27 Sims Ave. in Providence, the event will feature tours of the accessibility adaptations The Steel Yard recently completed at its historic industrial arts studio. It will be held from 3 to 8 p.m.

Business participants will feature their incorporation of accessibility modifications recommended by RAMP. Entertainment will include disabled and full-bodied performers.

'An Evening To Remember'

On Saturday, Sept. 25, from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Crown Plaza in Warwick, the MS Dream Center will hold "An Evening To Remember" to raise much needed funding for the center and its programs and services.

Come and enjoy a multi-course sit-down dinner

provided by some of Rhode Island's most well-known restaurants and accompanied with a selection of wines and beers. Entertainment will be provided by Steven Palumbo.

The donation for attendees is \$100 per person and reservations are being taken. For more information or to reserve seats or a table, visit msdreamcenter.org/an-evening-to-remember-event.

Did you know?

Sept. 11, 2001, changed the shape of the world forever. It was on this fateful day that the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil happened when four commercial airliners were hijacked. Two of the planes were flown straight into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, and another was crashed into the Pentagon. The fourth plane crash-landed into a field in Pennsylvania after the passengers of the flight attempted to regain control of the plane from the terrorists. (Source: September 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.

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Kevin Sprague – Warwick, R.I.

“I don't know how we could have done this without you”
Dave Gervais – Cranston, R.I.

“It's not too good to be true, Thank God”
Debbie Mariotti – Johnston, R.I.

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Brian Bouthillier – North Kingstown, R.I.

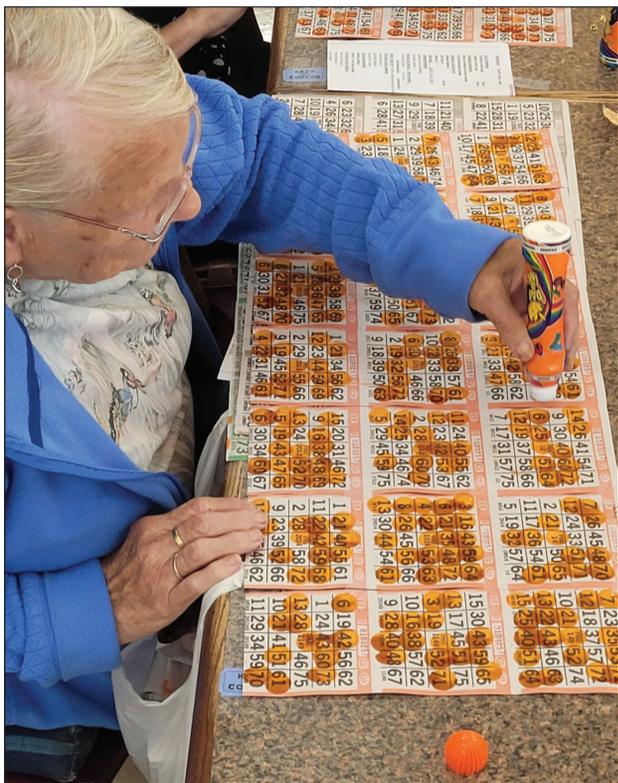
Call the Hotline at 401-954-9012 for your free roof assessment or go to www.roofassistancehotline.com

BINGO!

Bingo games have returned to the Johnston Senior Center. At 2 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, Johnston Senior Center members can try their luck on the Bingo cards again. During the pandemic, the games had ceased, and were badly missed. Last week, a successful Dress-Down fundraiser resulted in free Del's Lemonade for participants.



BINGO BALLS: The balls were fluttering during last Friday's BINGO game at the Johnston Senior Center. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



MORE CHANCES TO WIN: Some participants played an entire table top full of BINGO cards at one time.



SHOT CALLER: John Sousa called the numbers during Friday's games.



From the library: Our nation's founding document

By JON ANDERSON
Special to the Sun Rise

Holidays are sometimes a day off work, and sometimes they are a day for special kinds of effort. Some holidays are for spiritual work, or cooking. On September 17th, Constitution Day, many schools are required to try to educate students about our nation's founding document. The U.S. Constitution is not

long, and was designed to be understood by most everyone. According to one writer, it was unique in the history of the world, even among the first democracies, in proposing not only to act according to the will of a broad electorate, but in asking the electorate's consent for a national government to be born. A few people got tarred and feathered in an earlier process, but things were different after

the revolution. There was still a less definite threat to states that considered being outliers, such as Rhode Island, in that they might find themselves short of political capital, but there were tremendous efforts to bring people willingly aboard, such as printing the constitution in newspapers all along the coast, and extending the vote in some states beyond the landowning class.

Though you could read the Constitution inside an hour, you could spend a lifetime reading the documents and the experiences that informed its makers, the story of its evolution, and the centuries of case law that grew from the Constitution and its Amendments. Some of this history is colorful, and some of it drives to the heart of what it means to be human, and to what is most aspiring in political life.

Because of the words that began "We the people," there were some great thoughts and deeds. The Constitution itself was a deed by those who voted. These words and the things written about them are worth our time to study and reflect.

Editor's Note: Jon Anderson serves as the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library Director. Watch for his column weekly in the Johnston Sun Rise.

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SENIOR BOOT CAMP: Roberta Prezosi (front, center), a Certified Personal Trainer, will be leading new programs at the JSC, including Aerobics, Boot Camp and Chair Yoga. (Submitted photos)

New programs offered at the Johnston Senior Center

By JSC STAFF
Special to the Sun Rise

The Johnston Senior Center (JSC) has come a long way since opening its doors back in June of this year. The members have been very excited to arrive back at the center; 2020 was a very long year!

They are participating in many of the fitness activities, enjoying lunch in the dining room, and of course the Bingo games. Visiting with friends they haven't seen has definitely boosted everyone's mood and brought back a new energy.

This month the JSC has begun three new fitness classes with Roberta Prezosi who is a Certified Personal Trainer. The new programs being offered are Aerobics and Boot Camp on Mondays. The Aerobic class offers a cardio workout, while the Boot Camp focuses on strength training. On Thursdays the

new class is Chair Yoga.

We are happy to add these classes to our current fitness program that has been instructed by Fran Golombiewski. Fran has been teaching ZUMBA, Line Dancing, along with her new FIT & Strong class which is has now doubled in size and being offered at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

If interested in any of the fitness classes please call the center at 401-944-3343.

We also have begun new computer classes. Pat Strezo who is the instructor, has been with the center for several years. She has assisted many of our community seniors with learning new computer skills.

We are now offering a Beginner Class: Understanding the Keyboard and what the Operational Keys Use.

Understanding the Monitor and numerous Icons and Understanding

the Various Programs.

The Advanced Class consists of: Understanding the various tools using MS Word — to create various types of documents; and Understanding the Advanced Skills of EMAIL and Attachments.

The LEGACY CLASS consists of: SESSION I – RESEARCH AND BEGINNING YOUR FAMILY TREE

1) Researching the computer for your previous generations

2) Writing family stories for future generations

3) Working with old pictures, sorting, scanning and creating pages for the future.

The classes will be held on Tuesdays, Sept. 14 through Oct. 18, from 10-11 a.m.

If interested in the computer classes call 585-4053 and ask to speak to Pat Strezo. If no one answers, leave a message, and your call will be returned.



ALL CAPS: A new slate of computer classes is now available at the Senior Center.

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By JENNIFER COATES

Question. What do you get when you take six soiled socks, five damp towels, four sweaty Zumba T's, three grass-stained soccer jerseys and two pairs of dirty, post-pizza-party jeans?? You get ONE BIG LAUNDRY PILE! With time so fleeting and after-school activities beginning to pull you in one hundred different directions, there is only ONE way to tackle that laundry pile ~ and that is to let Kaushal Jain help you carry the load.

You will find Kaushal Jain at her family-owned and operated laundromat, Jain's Laundry, just off Rte. 44 in Johnston. This wash-fold, same-day service is the perfect answer to the never-ending drudgery of laundry, and it is waiting for you with its doors wide open. Why spend another moment wrestling with your laundry pile? Come to Jain's Laundry today.

At Jain's Laundry, the rates for wash-fold service are unbeatable. For an incredible .69/pound, Kaushal will wash, soften, dry, and even fold your laundry - all in one day. Besides the convenience of this great service, this recession-busting price also covers the cost of the softener, bleach, soap and hangers! The math is simple enough - ten pounds of dirty clothes, dropped off in the morning and ready to go by day's end - all for \$6.90. In our cost-conscious world, these prices are unmatched.

If you are more the "do-it-yourself" type of person, you will also find a room full of coin-operated washers and dryers as well as vending machines with extra supplies. There are large capacity machines available for all size loads, from 25 pounds to 65 pounds. The top loading machines are available here for only \$2.00 per load compared to \$2.50 in most other places.



Meet Kaushal Jain, owner of Jain's Laundry - she will help you tackle your never-ending piles of wash this fall.

Jain's Laundry also has the most efficient dryers on the market. Each dryer (including four large capacity ones that hold up to 50 pounds) utilizes a new technology where they spin both clockwise and counter-clockwise, thus allowing for more even and efficient drying. This prevents items from getting bunched up in the middle and, for larger items such as comforters and blankets, stops them from getting tangled up and twisted. The machines are also much more effective at preventing wrinkles.

Though these upgraded dryers were a big investment, the price of doing laundry here at this neighborhood

Laundromat has remained unchanged - still the best bang for your buck in Johnston!

Vending machines are also on-site if you need to restock your supply of detergent, softener or laundry bags. There is never a need to wait because there are rows and rows of machines ready to go at any given time. Everything you need is right here at Jain's Laundry.

Jain's Laundry is found in the Plaza 44 shopping plaza on Route 44. It is open seven days a week - from 8:00am to 9:00pm, Monday through Friday, and 7:00am to 8:00pm on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 231-7019.

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THE TERM PAPER
by Local Author STEVEN GAREAU

Sam Garrison wrote "The Term Paper" during his four year commitment to the USAF. His written radical views at that time exposed the two party system in the United States.

Sam finds himself and his friends being tracked down by government officials 20 years after writing what he thought was a benign yet radical term paper exposing flaws in the structure of a government. Suddenly connected to 4 students with a similar theory Sam finds himself faced with an individual that will silence him at any cost.

Twists & turns in this exciting thriller will leave you on the edge of your seat and wanting to turn to the next page.

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CLASSIC COOKS: These are some of the many dedicated and proud parishioners who performed different kitchen duties during last week's feast and festival in Johnston. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

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Our Lady of Grace celebrates 101st Feast

By PETE FONTAINE

Our Lady of Grace Church's annual feast and festival, which is named in honor of La Madonna della DiFesa, was a fun and food-filled event that featured many MVPs (Most Valuable Parishioners) over a four-day stretch last weekend at jam-packed Festival Field in Johnston.

Moreover, as Rev. Peter J. Gower best described it: "It was a true celebration of faith, celebration of family, a celebration of friendship."

The Roman Catholic Church's 101st feast and festival ran over four successive nights and as Chairperson Joanne Burley and her tireless team of volunteers will attest, the 2021 edition featured family fun, fine food and wonderful weather for people of all ages.

Father Gower, who has created a special sense of community during his tenure, wanted it known: "I am truly blessed to be their spirit leader, and I am amazed how they rally in support of everything I challenge this team to do."

The popular pastor, who also performed a number of duties in addition to welcoming proud parishioners to guests, went on: "This was a celebration of faith; we gathered in church as we honored Our Protectorate Madonna della DiFesa and proudly carried her through the streets of Johnston as we bore witness to our faith in to so many who gathered to watch the procession."

Also, as Father Gower noted: "This was a celebration of family; every member of this family of faith gathered together to make this spectacular event happen. We had over 140 volunteers, children, adults and elderly working for four days because of their devotion to the OLG family."

Gower concluded saying: "It was a celebration of friendship; this feast fosters lasting friendships as we all work together for months planning, cooking, advertising then setting up festival field for our count-



SPECIAL SCRAMBLE: Andrea Aiello (left) and Olivia Miele enjoy a brief stop during this ride in Rockwell Amusements famed Scrambler.

less and valued supporters who visit us from all over the state to enjoy our fine foods and friendliness!"

There were many examples of the many duties parishioners of all ages perform, one being folks like Phyllis Gelsomino and Joe Grasso working in the kitchen year-after-year to help cook and fill the many orders for macaroni and meatballs to Lasagna.

Likewise, it doesn't matter if your title is volunteer or chairperson, for Burley and Team OLG it's roll-up-the-sleeves and do whatever duties necessary that will result in pleasing people's palates and pocketbooks.

In keeping with tradition, rides and gamers of chance — which featured prizes ranging from large stuffed animals to inflated life-like creatures — every aspect of Harold Fera's famous Rockwell Amusements added to the fun and family festivities."

All proceeds from the four-day fun and food fest benefit the overall operation of 100-year-old-plus Our Lady of Grace Church, which is located at 15 Lafayette St. in Johnston.

When asked what's next on OLG's always-active social schedule, Father Gower replied: "Our golf tournament on Oct. 5."

That event, which has become a classic in recent years, will again be played at Rhode Island Country Club in Barrington and people who'd like to enter should call OLG at 401-131-2220.



GOLDEN GOODIES: One of OLG's signature foods is the doughboy, which countless people enjoyed during the four-day fun and food fest.



KEVIN'S KOW: Kevin Gorkin is accompanied by Dinna Gorkin and Tyler Archambault and shows off this oversized stuffed cow he won while playing a Rockwell Amusements game at last weekend's OLG feast and festival.

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UNICORN HORN: Geneva Breault, 3 years old, makes sand art while her mother Carol looks on at this year's Apple Fest at Memorial Park in Johnston last Saturday. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



Thousands took a bite out of this year's Apple Festival



GNOME SWEET GNOME: Nancy Howlett designs "Fashion Wraps" and sold a variety of gnomes just inside the entrance to the Apple Festival.



APPLE HEADS: Boston Wood posed with Katelin Fasciano, poking their heads through a cutout for photos at the Apple Festival last Saturday.



SCARY COMMITMENT: Franki Arcuri makes Halloween masks and decorations, and had his work on display at the festival.



PUMPKIN SPICE: Pumpkins outnumbered apples at this year's festival. Fall was certainly in the air.

OBITUARY

Mary L. Humes

Mary L. (Zoglio) Humes, whose birth name was Mary Luella Zoglio but known to her family as Mary Lou, 75, of Winter Haven, Florida, passed away on May 9, 2021 after a short illness.



She was born in Providence, Rhode Island on August 25, 1945 and lived in Foster, RI, graduating in 1963 from Ponaganset High School. While she was the only child of William G. Zoglio and Clara (Place) Zoglio, Mary enjoyed the company of beloved "Grandma Zoglio" and her large Zoglio family contingent of aunts, uncles, and cousins. She was also very proud of her mother Clara's deep "Swamp Yankee" roots, which she discovered in her devoted genealogical research of both sides of her parents' family history. Mary was proud to recently learn that her mother was a direct descendant of Thomas Olney, a contemporary of Roger Williams, and who was banished from Massachusetts behind Roger in pursuit of religious liberty. Olney had also pastored at the First Baptist Church of America in Providence, RI.

In 2001 Mary retired from the State of Rhode Island Department of Human Services after 37 years of state service as an eligibility specialist, and later becoming a social caseworker. Between 2005-2012 she subsequently came out of retirement and took a new, Federal position at the VA Hospital in Providence RI, as an eligibility clerk where she was most happy explaining the myriad VA benefits to her appreciative clients. After leaving that position, she relocated to Marlboro, Massachusetts in 2012, and in 2015 moved to Winter Haven, Florida where she enjoyed the rest of her life.

In her youth, Mary enjoyed participating in church work. In later life and in addition to her love of genealogical research, Mary became a gifted seamstress and her leisure time was spent lovingly providing her family and friends with an array of beautifully handcrafted baby clothes, blankets, quilts and miscellany.

Mary was married to Robert G. Humes Sr. on July 15, 1982. Sadly, Bob passed away in 1990. Mary is survived by her loving cousins and her dearest and closest friend Jennie, also of Winter Haven.

The private funeral and burial arrangements were handled by the Steeles Family Funeral Services in Winter Haven, Florida. Mary was buried alongside her husband, Bob, at the Westfield Cemetery in Danielson, Connecticut.

If you would like to make a memorial donation in Mary's name, one of her favorite causes was Animal Welfare, therefore a donation to any animal welfare organization agency would be appreciated.

Notes of condolences may be sent to steelesfamilyfuneralservices.com.

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Because God knew your work was o'er,
 Your children taught, and grown,
 He called you both to come and dwell,
 Where no more work is done;
 Where the golden sun doth never set,
 And the sky's forever blue;
 It's there, we hope in God's good time,
 Dear parents, to be with you.

LOVED AND MISSED,
 SON BOBBY AND ROBERT JR. & STEPHEN,
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To place an obituary:

Email
SueH@RhodyBeat.com
 or call 732-3100

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Youth provide us with needed hope

It's a common cliché to say that "only the youth can save us." In some ways, such a statement is an oversimplification of the challenges that we face in everyday life.

While they will be the most affected by problems such as global climate change, wealth inequality and the lack of forward thinking when it comes to our country's faltering infrastructure, the youth of our world will not (and should not) be the ones responsible for trying to solve these problems now.

The youth have large problems of their own to deal with in the present day, some of which have been caused by forces out of their control but some of which also stem from their own interactions with the world they will

• WHERE TO WRITE:
1944 Warwick Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889
RoryS@RhodyBeat.com

one day inherit and run. Social media and an unhealthy proliferation of screen time dominating their attention and shortening their attention span provides a good example of that sort of issue. Young people must learn how to manage a rapidly digital world while not losing sight of the importance of things like getting outside into nature and engaging politically in their local communities.

But one service that the youth can always provide to the world – and to those of us whose youthful days are largely behind us – is to provide as an inspiration of hope, and an example of how hard work and determination is still a ticket to accomplishing incredible feats, regardless of the odds against them.

You can see it in many different ways, from the kids and young adults that populate our schools and universities to those venturing out into the professional world in a variety of industries. They are inventors, investors, out of the box thinkers and innovators. They see the world from a different perspective to those who have been in the world for a long time, which is crucial to our continuing growth as a society.

Even in something as seemingly inconsequential as sports, the young people of this world can provide a large dose of inspiration. Look to the NFL, where 23-year-old Mac Jones started for the New England Patriots and put on an encouragingly professional performance in his first game at the pro level after beating out established veteran, and former MVP, Cam Newton during the offseason.

Look to the U.S. Open in tennis, where an 18-year-old Emma Raducanu beat 19-year-old Leylah Fernandez to win a world title in just her second Grand Slam appearance. These are teenagers performing at the highest level in their field, and they're excelling.

From the fields of innovative technologies, biotech labs and environmental sciences, to the football field and beyond, the young people of our newest generations provide hope that no matter what type of world we leave them, and whether or not they can ultimately save us, they will be game to rise to challenge and give it their best shot.



Treasurer Seth Magaziner jumps into the governor's race

OP-ED

Emerging from the shadow of endless war

By NANCY HOUSTON

As my husband and I were taking our daily walk in Roger Williams Park the other day, our route took us past the statue of Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski, founder of the U.S. Cavalry. He cut a heroic figure with one arm outstretched, brandishing a sword, eyes raised facing resolutely forward, astride a handsome horse and it occurred to me that our nation glorifies war.

We put up statues to war heroes, we include the military in our parades, we have multiple national holidays to celebrate members of our military living and dead, past and present: Memorial Day, Armed Services Day, Veterans Day. We use metaphors of war to address such disparate problems as poverty and drug abuse when we speak of the war on poverty or the war on drugs. We spend billions each year to support our military. And we do all of this to our detriment.

Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against the brave men and women who risk their lives to serve. My own father was a WWII Navy veteran. My grandfather served as an army medic on the front in France during WWI. Further back my ancestors served in the Union Army and the Revolutionary War. Rather, my displeasure is with the politicians who repeatedly get us embroiled in overseas conflicts which are doomed to fail (Vietnam and now Afghanistan) and who authorize spending on wars they neglect to oversee as the Constitution requires of them. It is we, ordinary Americans, who pay the physical and economic price. It is we who fail to hold those politicians accountable. It is we who do not speak up for alternatives to military engagement.

Non-military interventions exist. We could invest in enhanced diplomacy and country-led development aid for a fraction of what it costs us to support the military-industrial complex President Eisen-

hower warned against. We could work with other nations and use the International Criminal Court. We could engage in cultural exchanges, expand the Peace Corps, etc. One thing is clear, war is not the way to put an end to war.

Our founding fathers had the wisdom to deliberately put the power to declare and oversee war in the hands of Congress, not the hands of the President. They felt that committing our troops to combat was too grave a power to be placed in the hands of any single individual. But for decades members of Congress have been MIA. They have shirked their responsibility by passing open ended authorizations for the use of military force thereby abdicating Congress' war making powers to the Executive.

As a result, our own communities are becoming more militarized as personnel and equipment passes from the military to local police forces. It is no surprise that much policing in this country now follows a warrior rather than guardian model of policing. And the billions spent on the military? Brown University's Cost of War project estimates that approximately half our defense budget, which is over half of our discretionary spending, goes to defense contractors and weapons manufacturers who have more lobbyists than there are members of Congress. Think about that: they are paid with our tax dollars and use some of those same tax dollars to lobby for yet more military spending. They also donate to the campaigns of those same congressmen who will decide how to allocate our money.

Imagine if our definition of defense included defending against the negative impacts of climate change so recently brought to our attention by Hurricane Ida, floods in the middle of the country and the fires out west; or if it included defending us against disease and pandemics like COVID-19. Imagine if instead of buying more hideously expensive weapons systems

that same money was spent on improving our roads and bridges or invested in education, new technology and research to prepare for and counter the next pandemic.

As President Eisenhower so presciently said:

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children... This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense." (From his "Chance for Peace" address delivered before the American Society of Newspaper Editors, April 16, 1953)

And: "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together." (From his farewell address to the nation)

Imagine, and then speak up. Call on Congress to reduce military spending, repeal the authorizations for military force, take back their Constitutional responsibilities, and have the courage to debate each and every time the members of our armed forces are sent into conflict before another generation grows up in the shadow of endless war.

Nancy Houston, a resident of Cranston, is a member of the Providence Area FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) Advocacy Team.



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■ Amazon

(Continued from page 1)

Johnston will now receive more than \$170 million in tax dollars and additional benefits over two decades from the proposed Amazon facility.

The resolutions include a 20-year Tax Stabilization Agreement, and a list of other appropriations, to be spread throughout the town.

The Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council (RIBCTC) also announced its support for the construction of the six-story, 3,864,972 square-foot "new, state-of-the-art Amazon Robotics Sortable Fulfillment Center."

The organization — a federation of 16 local trade unions — swarmed into Wednesday night's meeting, wearing fluorescent T-shirts. Two trucks bedazzled by flashing electric signs were parked outside the Johnston High School.

The signs declared: "Local jobs for highly skilled union tradespeople" and "Economic development = Good local union jobs."

Although Amazon is notoriously anti-union when it comes to its own in-house workforce, local unions hope the company will use union labor to construct the facility.

"Given the fact that the union sector is the only entity capable of constructing a project of this size and magnitude, the 16 unions of the RIBCTC will construct this project as if it were being constructed under a building trade community workforce agreement," according to a RIBCTC press release.

"This will ensure that the Amazon project is built with local union tradespeople earning family-supporting wages," said Johnston resident Michael F. Sabitoni, RIBCTC President. "It will also ensure that this project is built safely, on time, and within budget."

Polisena also urged Town Council to vote in favor of the agreement, both for the benefits the project is expected to pay toward the town, and union trade workers.

"This will put obviously members of the trade unions to work," Polisena said. "Real Rhode Islanders, by the way. Several hundred Johnston residents, as a matter of fact, belong to the trade unions that are here this evening."

Despite what many have labeled a recent nationwide labor shortage following the pandemic, new jobs were a major factor in the deal.

"They'll build this state-of-the-art facility; it will be 1,500 direct construction jobs, and another 1,500 permanent jobs to follow," Polisena said. "The building will be nestled in trees, and will be aesthetic for all those who enter the property and see. This will provide benefits to our state as well as our town."

Amazon estimates it will hire

1,350 full-time associates, starting at \$18 hourly wages, plus healthcare, dental and 401K benefits.

The company also estimates it will hire 10 managerial, technical and operational oversight jobs with estimated \$60,000 annual managerial salaries.

The new employees' compensation should total around \$57,000,000 in "new annual payroll created."

"Rhode Island, as we know, has been hit with a pandemic, and many have lost their jobs, especially in the hospitality industry, as well as other small businesses," Polisena said. "And these lost jobs will never come back."

Now that the company has secured a tax agreement with the town, they will be expected to make a series of 20 annual tax payments averaging more than \$7.2 million each year for the next two decades.

The company will receive a significant savings on tangible taxes, but pledges to make stable annual payments, starting with a potential \$5.7 million the first year, with a fixed annual 2.5 percent increase, raising the annual payment to more than \$9 million by the 20th year.

But how much will Johnston leave on the table following the tax agreement?

Amazon will save significantly by avoiding taxation of its tangible assets. The project is projected to cost around \$290 million to build.

Town Council Vice-President Joseph Polisena Jr. discussed the issue with Johnston's legal counsel.

"Just spoke with the solicitor," Polisena Jr. wrote Wednesday, via text message. "He believes based on rough estimates they'll be paying around 60% of their total obligation."

Amazon will make the stabilized annual payments "in lieu of any and all other real and personal property taxes and assessments," according to the tax agreement.

"This agreement represents an average tax revenue of \$7,280,227.42 over the 20-year term of this agreement, representing a \$7,220,143.42 or 12.016% average increase in tax revenue over the current tax revenue for the property," according to the tax agreement.

Once Amazon starts making tax payments, the company is expected to cover around 8 percent of Johnston's total tax levy, eclipsing the town's five current annual high taxpayers: National Grid Electric (\$4,553,143), Rhode Island Resource Recovery (\$4,361,210), Rhode Island State Energy L.P. (\$3,247,296), National Grid Gas (\$1,274,573) and FM Global (\$1,160,183).

Both Rhode Island Resource Recovery (the landfill) and Rhode Island State Energy L.P. have previously signed TSA's with Johnston.

"In approximately 15-17 years the landfill will be closing ... and



SHOW OF SUPPORT: Members of the Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council (RIBCTC), wearing fluorescent T-shirts, were on hand Wednesday in support of the planned six-story, 3,864,972 square-foot "Amazon Robotics Sortable Fulfillment Center." The organization is a federation of 16 local trade unions. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

our town will lose approximately \$6.5 to 7 million per year and whoever's in charge of our town then will have no choice but to go to the taxpayers," Polisena warned.

Town officials hope Amazon will help fill the hole caused by eventual closure of the landfill.

"Over the next 20 years, between the one-time payments, added up it comes to \$164,634,548," Polisena told the crowd; he estimated annual payments should total \$8,231,727.

The agreement also lists about a dozen promised allocations to Johnston for community improvements.

A proposed Construction Funding Agreement, ratified Wednesday night, promises funding for "certain off-site roadway improvements to the surrounding roadways, such improvements being identified by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation as being necessary prior to the proposal for the Project."

Many residents have expressed concern regarding a major influx of tractor-trailer and commuter traffic in the already congested sector of Johnston.

Polisena argues the project, and subsequent road improvements, "will make Hartford Avenue, Route 6, much safer."

Hartford Avenue is also Route 6, a state highway plagued by safety concerns, and infamous for difficult left turns, fatal crashes and treacherous hills during snowstorms.

"There will be a \$9 million investment in Hartford Avenue," Polisena told the crowd gathered in the Johnston High School auditorium. "Nine million dollars, that's a lot of money for such a short distance."

A new Amazon facility means the addition of 1,500 commuters and hundreds of facility-bound

tractor-trailers.

In an effort to offset commuter congestion, "Amazon shall encourage its employees and visitors of the Facility to carpool, and use public transportation and car sharing services," according to the Community Partnership Agreement approved by Town Council Wednesday.

Amazon has pledged to spend up to \$90,000 annually to purchase RIPTA bus passes for employees of the facility (based on actual employee demand) during the first 10 years of operation, for commuters from the Ocean State's urban centers: Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence and Woonsocket.

One to three years following the opening of the facility, Amazon will contribute "up to \$100,000 for a traffic mitigation study to measure volumes and levels of service at peak periods (taking into account peak seasonal patterns) to determine any traffic and transit improvements that may be warranted to mitigate the Facility's impacts on area roadways, and to enhance access to the Facility and the quality of traffic circulation for residents and other businesses."

Within one year after completion of the traffic study, Amazon has agreed to contribute up to \$1,000,000 for "post construction traffic mitigation equipment and improvements."

The CPA also stipulates Johnston will be the first community to host a job fair, one of at least three hiring events to promote job openings.

Over the 20-year life of the tax agreement, Amazon will contribute \$582,500 annually toward funding a "Johnston High School Pathway Program, including, but not limited to a P-Tech career pathway program for Johnston High

School students."

P-Tech refers to Pathways in Technology Early College High School.

Amazon will make a \$400,000 one-time payment to cover the program's initiation costs.

The program is expected to focus on preparing Johnston students for careers in the business and health care fields.

The company will also promise to make five annual payments of \$250,000 (totaling \$1,250,000) toward Rhode Island Municipal Education and Training Initiatives.

Public safety budgets will receive 10 annual \$538,000 payments to the town's "public safety operations."

Some of that money will go toward bolstering a nearby Hartford Avenue fire station, funding the addition of at least one more firefighter to each shift covering the west-end fire station.

Johnston youth sports will receive a \$50,000 payment; the Johnston Senior Center will receive \$100,000; the Johnston Municipal Land Trust, \$250,000; and Johnston Memorial Park, \$100,000.

Amazon has also pledged \$2,750,000 (payable in \$550,000 annual installments) toward Rhode Island's Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP), the state's primary small business assistance program.

An existing solar field on the site will remain in operation, and more solar panels are planned for the facility's roof.

The company estimates it will pay more than \$1 million in building department fees, and will pay \$250,000 toward a new Providence Water pump station "to support new building and other buildings in the area," and a \$2 million estimated sewer connection fee.

LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF JOHNSTON
OFFICE OF THE
TAX COLLECTOR

**COLLECTOR'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE FOR
TAXES DUE AND
UNPAID**

Johnston Municipal Court
1600 Atwood Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919
October 7, 2021

The undersigned, Finance Director/Collector of the Town of Johnston, hereby gives notice that he will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at the Johnston Municipal Court, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, Rhode Island 02919, on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., the various parcels of real estate or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the taxes which constitute a lien thereon set forth in the original advertisement of September 10, 2021 in THE SUNRISE of that date to which reference is hereby made

Property upon which taxes have been paid since the advertisement first appeared, will not, of course, be included in the sale.

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 44-9-19, if the real estate in which you have a substantial interest is purchased by the Town of Johnston and has not been assigned, you may redeem the real estate by paying or tendering to the Treasurer of the Town of Johnston the sum for which the real estate was purchased, plus a ten percent (10%) penalty of the purchase price if redeemed within six (6) months after the date of the sale. Beginning with the seventh (7th) month forward, an additional one percent (1%) of the purchase price for each succeeding month will be added, together will all charges lawfully added for intervening taxes plus interest thereon at a rate of one percent (1%) per month and expenses assessed after the Collector's Sale.

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 44-9-21, if the

real estate in which you have a substantial interest is purchased by someone other than the Town of Johnston, you may redeem the real estate by paying or tendering to the purchaser or his or her legal representatives, assigns or to the person or persons to whom assignment of the tax title has been made by the Town of Johnston, or the Treasurer, the original sum and any intervening taxes having been paid to the municipality plus interest thereon at a rate of one percent (1%) per month and costs, plus a penalty as provided in Rhode Island General Laws Section 44-9-19, or in the case of an assignee of a tax title from the Town of Johnston, the amount stated in the instrument of assignment, plus the above-mentioned penalty.

The right of redemption may be exercised only by those entitled to notice of the Sale pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 44-9-10 and Section 44-9-11, and may be exercised at any time prior to the entry of Final Judgment in an action to foreclose the right of redemption

filed pursuant to Rhode Island General Law Section 44-9-25. You are encouraged to review Rhode Island General Laws pertaining to tax sales and/or consult with an attorney concerning your rights.

Joseph Chiodo
Finance Collector/Director

9/17, 9/24, 10/1/21

**JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD
MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, September 30th, 2021
at 6:30 PM
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Avenue**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its monthly meeting on September 30, 2021 at 6:30 pm, at Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue. All persons interested in the following proposals are requested to be present at this time. The assembly facilities are accessible to

the handicapped. Persons requiring special accommodations shall call the Zoning Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (401) 231-4000 ext 4117. Persons utilizing TDD equipment may contact the Town through "Relay Rhode Island" at 1-800-745-6675. The agenda for the evening will be as follows, subject to change:

New Business

File 2021-35 – Petition of Parkside Holdings, LLC/Lyft, Inc., Owner/Applicant for 1530 Hartford Avenue, AP 44 Lot 84, zoned B-2. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit 340-75 for a proposed Vehicle Rental Agency.

File 2021-36 – Petition of Gary & Laura Young, Owner/Applicant for 192 Scituate Avenue, AP 28 Lots 211, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Use Variance 340-24-1 Accessory Dwelling. Proposed In-Law Addition.

Prior to adjournment the board shall convene as the Board of Appeals and hear the following matter:

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

9/10, 9/17, 9/24/21

Schools

(Continued from page 1)

Architectural firm, the SLAM Collaborative, delivered a “visual presentation” of the proposed new school projects at a special School Committee meeting held prior to Wednesday night’s Johnston Town Council public hearing and special meeting to vote on a tax deal with Amazon.

With the Tax Stabilization Agreement in place, the town is expecting millions more in annual tax revenue over the next 20 years, creating an environment ripe for new school building projects.

The school building proposal calls for closing, and then demolishing or selling, all of the town’s current elementary schools.

If approved, the Barnes Elementary School will be demolished to build the new Early Childhood Center.

The Graniteville ECC Annex, Brown Avenue, Thornton and Winsor Hill elementary schools will all be vacated, and could eventually be sold by the town.

The proposal calls for building the new Johnston Elementary School on town property just north of the Johnston High School. The large consolidated, new elementary school will be built to educate 1,100 students in grades 1-4.

The elementary school will cost an estimated \$84,350,000, and is tentatively scheduled to open in late summer 2024.

SLAM has proposed more than \$39 million in renovations to the Ferri Middle School and a \$57 million facelift at the high school.

Planners hope to unveil the new middle school in late summer of 2025, and the modernized high school in late summer of 2024.

The middle school will be built to accommodate 1,066 students in grades 5-8. The high school will cover approximately 799 students in grades 9-12.



DiLullo

The plans call for new heating, air conditioning, ventilation, science labs and more at both schools.

Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. said the current early childhood center, attached to the middle school, will become a fifth grade academy, for the district’s transitional-age students.

The state is currently reimbursing school building projects at around 37 cents on the dollar, but up to 57 cents on the dollar.

“Because of the state incentives, the town could receive between 50 and 60 percent reimbursement,” DiLullo said last week.

The four major school renovation projects would be the largest education facility renovation plan in the town’s history.

“This is really a phenomenal feat that we’re about to embark on,” DiLullo said. “Essentially the school will have four like new educational facilities.”

The town has been spending capital on decaying old buildings. A swelling school budget was mostly to blame for

this year’s tax increase, according to Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena.

“Now is the time to stop spending resources on buildings that served their purpose,” DiLullo said. “To fully take advantage of these reimbursements we must act now.”

Voters will have to approve at least one bond issue to fund the schools.

Polisena stood to speak during Wednesday night’s School Committee meeting in the Johnston High School auditorium. He said he wanted to address rumors regarding charter schools becoming new tenants at the old, soon-to-be-vacated school buildings.

“That ain’t happening while I’m mayor,” Polisena told the crowd.

The plans for the district’s new buildings and renovations came together quickly.

School Committee member David Santilli raised concerns during Tuesday night’s regularly scheduled meeting.

“This is the first I’m dealing with any of this,” he said. “It should have been laid out before the School Committee. Don’t get me wrong, I love the idea.”

Santilli also noted the project’s increasing price tag, which has swollen from \$190 million just last week, to this week’s \$215 million price tag.

“I expect it to go to a bond issue, and I expect it to pass,” Santilli said after Tuesday’s meeting.

Several current school employees stood to voice support for the project after Wednesday night’s presentation.

Winsor Hill teacher Sandra Farone, a 31-year Johnston educator, who teaches at the school she once attended, said the district badly needs new facilities.

“We are in dyer need of upgrades at our schools,” she told the crowd. “The time to act is now while the money is out there.”

Editor’s Note: In next week’s edition, the Sun Rise will break down each school building proposal in detail and weigh support and concerns over project scope and funding.

ANSWER TO THIS WEEK’S PUZZLE:



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

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First available in 1991 when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved fluoride as a cavity varnish, there are now dozens of fluoride products available to dental professionals.

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COVID

(Continued from page 1)

Teaway leaned over to talk to her daughter, Abigail, a second-grader, who was sitting in the passenger seat.

“No school today?” she asked.

Teaway pulled out her cell phone and checked her voicemail.

She switched a message to speakerphone. She and her daughter listened to DiLullo’s voice.

“I missed the call,” she said.

DiLullo could be heard in the background, his message distributed via the district’s All-call School Messenger System.

Winsor Hill Elementary was closed for the day due to a COVID-19 outbreak at the school.

Seven-year-old Abigail wore a mask, but her eyes flashed with anger and annoyance. She crossed her arms.

Still parked outside the school around 9:15 a.m., Teaway turned to Abigail.

“I guess you’re helping me do laundry,” Teaway said.

Her daughter’s eyes rolled and she slid back in her seat with a sigh.

In addition to the recorded phone message, DiLullo also distributed an email to parents.

“When I send a call out, I do an email blast as well,” DiLullo said. “The email blast comes with a Spanish translation.”

Children were due to start entering the school at

9:05; classes typically begin at 9:10 for Johnston’s elementary schools.

Previous to the start of the 2021-22 school year, the Winsor School had 372 students enrolled, and only reported 30-34 cases among students (10 to 14 among staff), since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, according to the DOH.

The school has now reached 35 percent of the previous total, in just the first two weeks back.

“There have been approximately 14 confirmed cases,” DiLullo said around noon Tuesday. Then at the School Committee meeting, DiLullo announced the case-count had increased to 17 students and two staff members testing positive.

The Winsor Hill and Brown Avenue Schools reported the highest virus totals district-wide last year, with infection rates hovering around 9 percent of the student body.

Statewide, and at many of the district’s other school buildings, the average infection rate was around 4 percent, according to DOH data.

The school principal, Amy Burns, and school nursing staff worked feverishly on contact tracing, DiLullo said.

Students and staff who were deemed having had “close contact” with those who tested positive — spending time within three feet, typically without a mask, either at lunch or in a recess setting — have been

instructed to quarantine for 10 days.

After 10 days, “close contacts” can return to school with a district-specified negative COVID-19 test result.

“Our plan is to reopen Wednesday,” DiLullo said. “They did a nice job in terms of tracking down who was in close contact.”

DiLullo said he could not provide the number of students and staff who were in “close contact” with the infected individuals.

“I don’t have that number just yet,” DiLullo said. “A lot of these cases were not transmitted in the school. Often, families or family members test positive, and then children test positive after they’ve come to school.”

The rest of the town’s schools have been faring much better so far this year.

“The other schools seem to be doing OK,” DiLullo said. “One or two cases popping up here and there; but not a high number.”

DiLullo gave the School Committee an update on reported COVID-19 cases in the district’s other schools at Tuesday’s meeting: Johnston High School has had four cases of COVID-19 so far this year; Ferri Middle School, four cases; Sarah Dyer Barnes School, one case; Brown Avenue Elementary School, two cases; Thornton Elementary School, three cases; Early Childhood Center, two cases;

Graniteville Pre-School, two cases.

Since the district was informed of the two confirmed adult cases late Monday night, DiLullo said all of the Winsor School’s teachers didn’t have the opportunity to send students home with laptops.

“Typically, teachers are sending kids home with their laptops,” he explained. “That did not happen because (we were informed) late last night.”

Teachers assembled paper work packets for the children who will be quarantining for the next week.

“What typically happens is parents pick them up at the school,” DiLullo said. “So far, it has only been ‘close contacts’ who have been instructed to pick up the packets.”

The School Committee had voted over the summer to make masks optional in schools. The decision was overridden by a statewide mask mandate for schools, put in place several weeks later.

“I’m grateful that there was an implementation of masking,” School Committee Member Susan Mansolillo said at Tuesday’s meeting. “Because we don’t know what would have happened if there hadn’t been.”

She also urged parents to keep children home when they’re sick.

“Parents, when your children are not feeling well, please keep them home,” she said. “Because this is the result.”

CHARLIE HALL DOREEN COLLINS

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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local ♡ Adoptable ♡ Loveable



Valerie



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

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



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FLAGS PLACED: St. Rocco School students placed flags along the perimeter of the school, in memory of those lost on Sept. 11, 2001, 20 years ago. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

9/11

(Continued from page 1)

The 37-year-old Cranston woman, a customer-service agent for American Airlines, was traveling with her friend Carol Bouchard, 43, of Warwick, an emergency-services secretary at Kent County Memorial Hospital.

Their plane was hijacked by terrorists and flown into the North Tower of the World Trade Center, igniting the attacks that changed America forever.

"Today we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attack of 9/11, a tragic day that resulted in 2,977 deaths, tremendous grieving, and increased concern over the fragility of life," St. Rocco School Principal Gina Hand told the crowd gathered outside the school.

The weather was almost exactly the same as that fateful day 20 years earlier. Warm sun. Cool breeze.

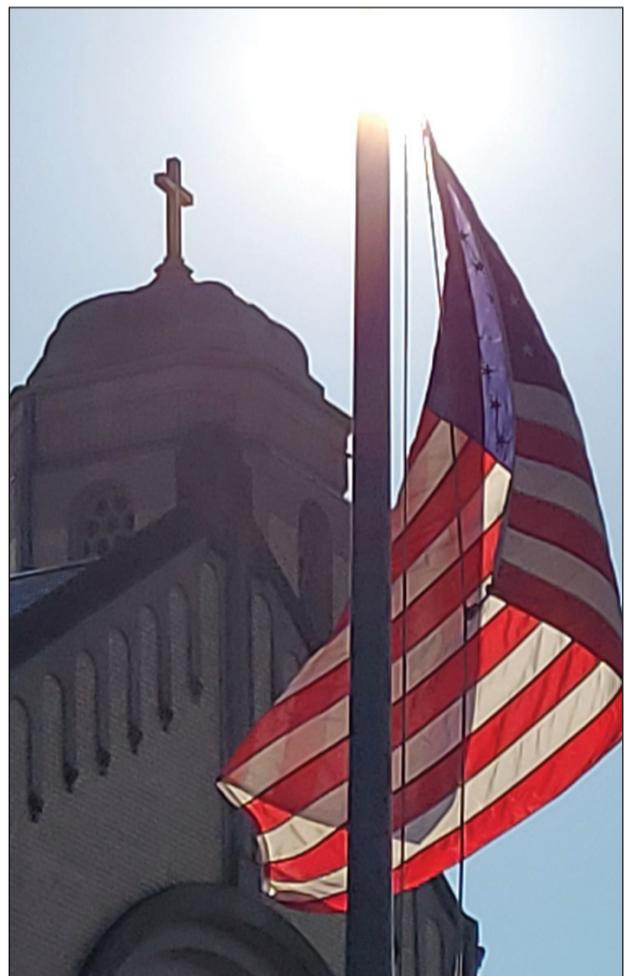
The audience at the ceremony stood in the shadow of the school. Students Adrian Perez and Alex Diaz Negron raised an American flag high above all those gathered. The banner flapped hard in the wind.

Rev. Angelo N. Carusi, pastor at St. Rocco's, offered an opening prayer.

The children sang "God Bless America."

Sister Mary Antoinette followed with another prayer.

"God of love we place in



LOOMING SYMBOLS: The American flag flapped high above the crowd gathered outside St. Rocco School for last Friday's "Prayer for Peace and Healing on the 20th Anniversary of 9/11."

your loving arms the thousands of innocent lives that were lost on that unforgettable morning of Sept. 11, 2001," she told the public gathered on the sidewalk, and the children standing in the shadow of the school. "We also remember the courage of the countless

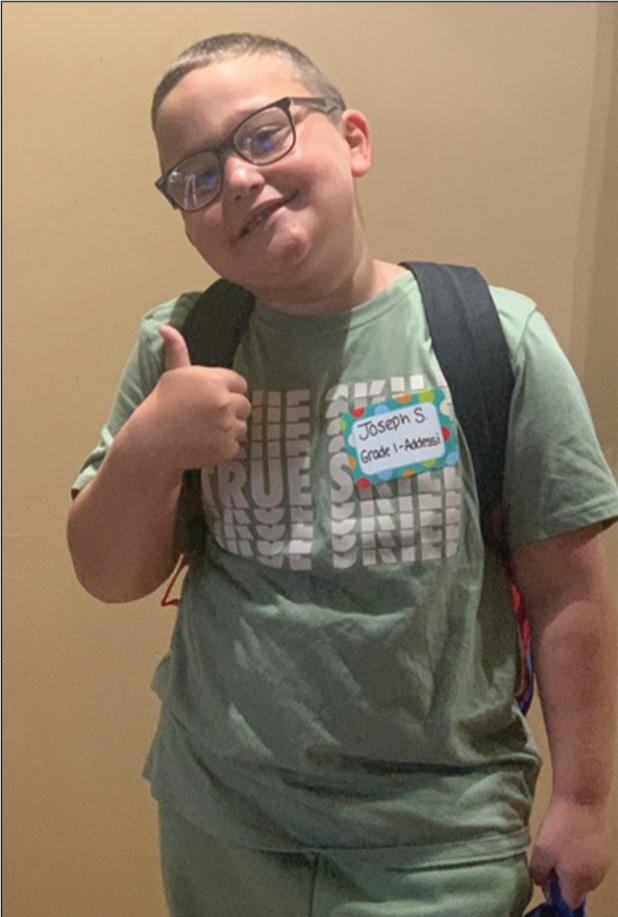
men and women who put their lives at risk in order to rescue, alleviate and bring solace to the afflicted. Help us to continue to work for a world free from every form of hatred, violence and ignorance. May terrorism — in all its forms — disappear from the face of the earth."



NEVER FORGET: Matthew Newell lost his mother Renee on Sept. 11, 2001. He thanked the crowd gathered outside St. Rocco School last Friday, for gathering to remember her life, and the nearly 3,000 others who died that day.

EDITOR'S NOTE: On Wednesday, Sept. 1, Johnston's kids returned to school. That same morning, the Johnston Sun Rise asked the parents of Johnston to send us back to school photos. So many of you responded that we've been overwhelmed with submissions. At last count, we received more than 90 photographs. So we're trying to get them all published. You'll find around 40 more in this week's edition. We'll aim to get the few remaining images in next week's paper. Thank you so much for your outstanding response. It's been a tough couple years, and we hope these pages help pour a little sunlight through the clouds. In the meantime, check our website, www.johnstonsunrise.net, for a huge photo gallery. And if you didn't get your child's First Day Photo to us yet, there's still time. Email submissions to the editor at rorys@rhodybeat.com.

Back TO SCHOOL



Joey Spitznagel, First Grade, wants to be a doctor when he grows up.



John Ford Jr., 11th Grade



Jonah Chapman, Eighth Grade



Joseph Lopez Tavares, Ninth Grade



Juliana Lautieri, Third Grade



Julianna and Jacob Stonis, Fifth Grade

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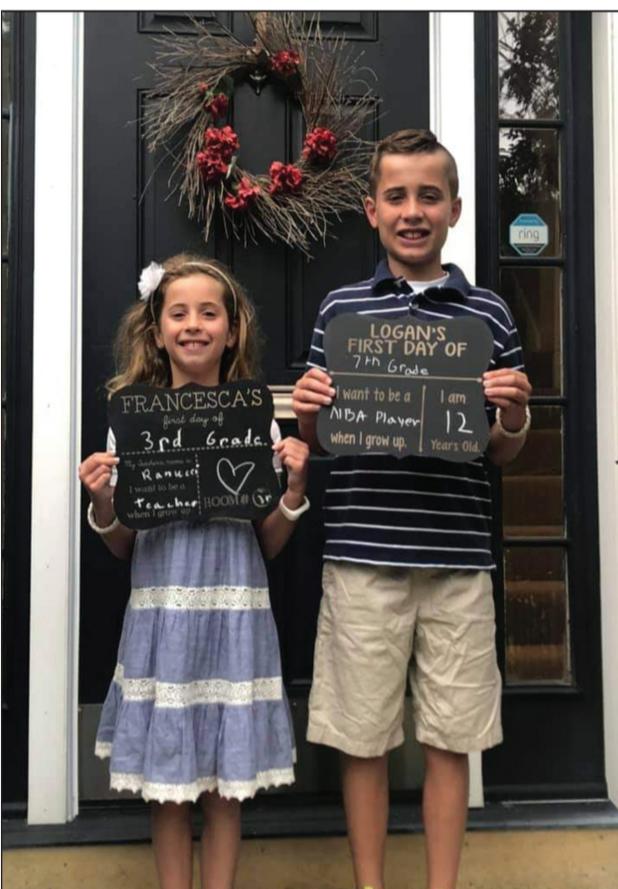
Julianna Casey, Fourth Grade



Kaylee Poole, Tenth Grade



Kristopher Stetson, Fifth Grade



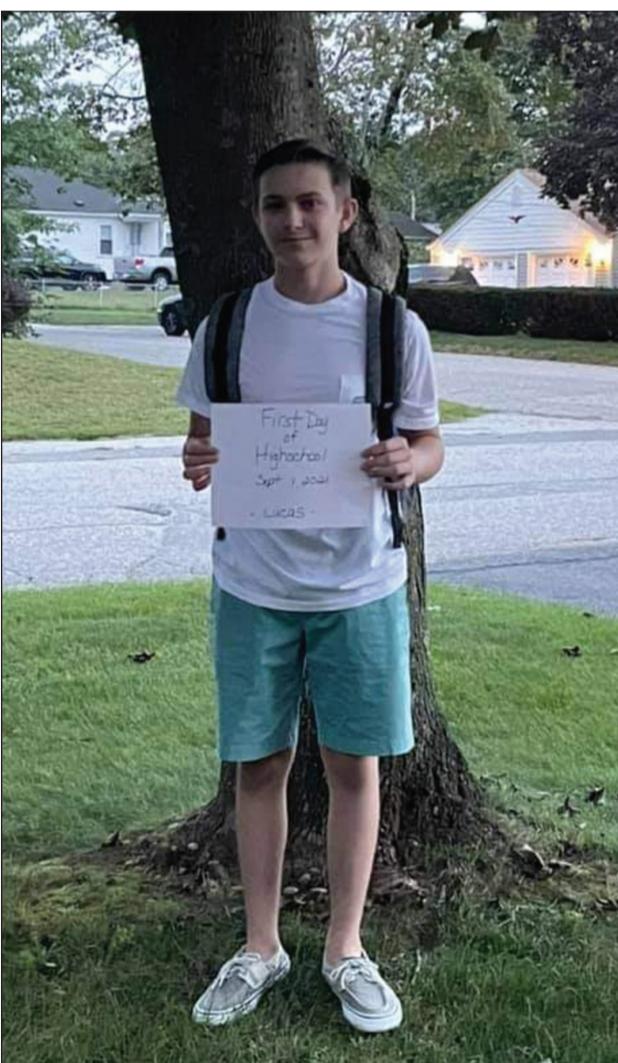
Francesca and Logan Finelli, Third and Seventh Grades



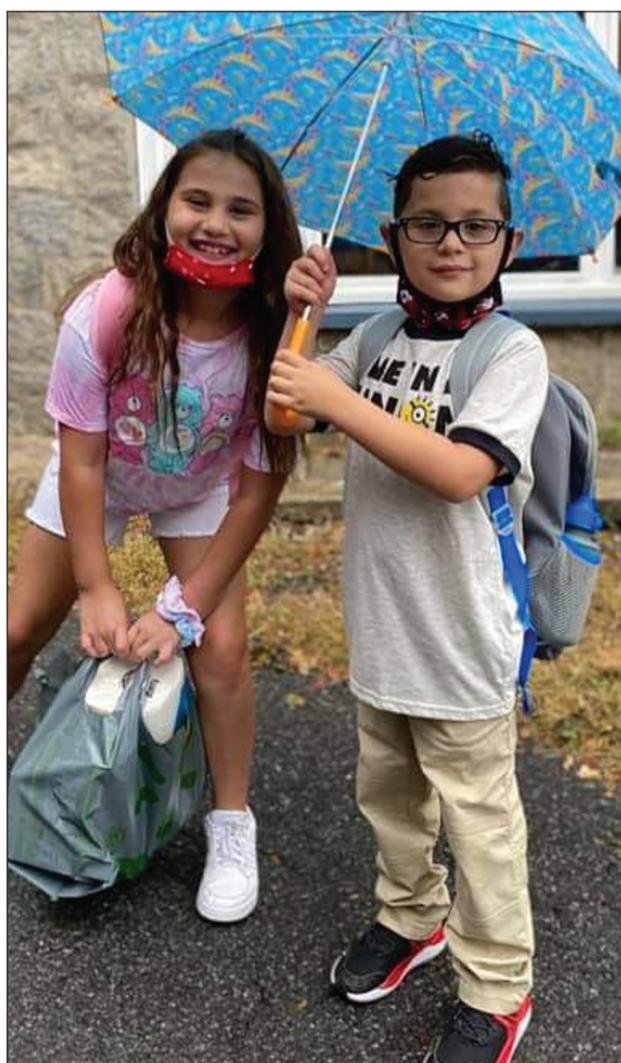
Elliot (Third Grade), Lorelai and Madelyn Sarli (7th Grade)



Lucas and Noah Macartney, Second and Fourth Grade



Lucas Anderson, Ninth Grade



Talia and Marcus Berardis, Third and First Grades



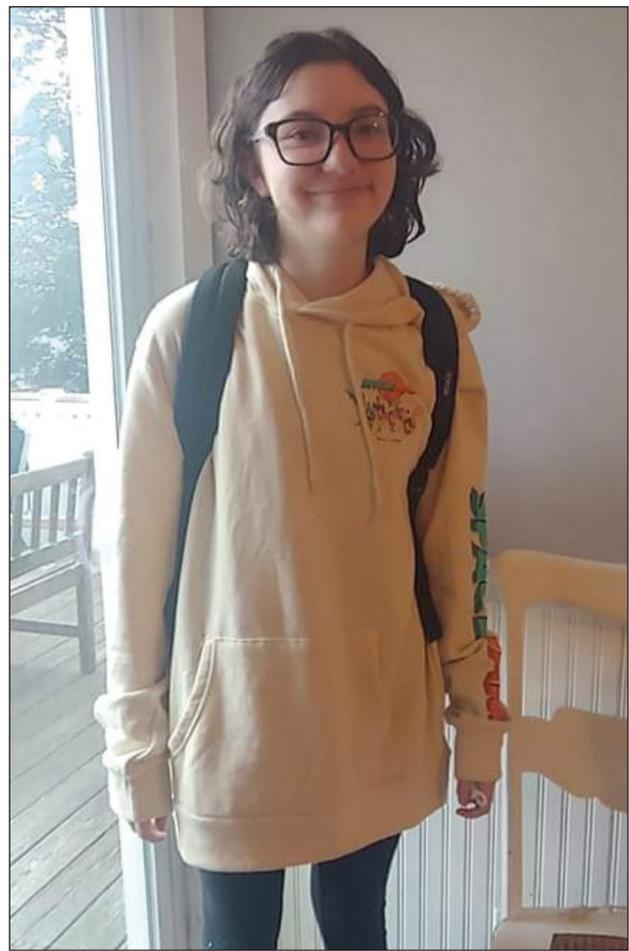
Matisol DiSarro, First Grade



Matthew Almeida, Second Grade



Michael DeAngelis, Fifth Grade



Morgan Johnson, Seventh Grade



Nayrah & Nina Salgado, Fourth Grade



Nevaeh & Nelson Salgado, Eighth & Sixth Grades



Nicholas and Alana Smith, Sixth and Seventh Grades



Nicholas Williams, Ninth Grade



Roman (Seventh Grade), Sienna (Third Grade) and Andre Amato (Seventh Grade)



Ryan and Mia Audino, Tenth and Eighth Grades



Sofia Cucinotta, Third Grade



Sofia Williams, Seventh Grade



Susan Gerzevitz and Alana Domingos, Third Grade



Violet Storey, Kindergarten



Zane and Enzo Pistacchio, Second and Sixth Grades



Nova on his first day of home school, all by himself (Mrs. Mommy's Class)

Sports

Comeback win



BIG TACKLE: Johnston's Steven Finegan celebrates after getting a stop last week.

Late surge sends Panthers past Lincoln

The Johnston football team pulled off a 22-18 comeback win over Lincoln last week in the regular season opener at home. Hunter Remington and Joey Acciardo each rushed for scores, while Remington connected with Steven Finegan for another score. For more photos, see page 20. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)



AT THE NET: Johnston's Talia LaFlamme looks to make a block. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Lady Panthers sweep Titans

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston volleyball team rolled past visiting Toll Gate in three sets last week to bounce back from a tough opening day loss. The Panthers won by scores of 25-15, 25-15 and 25-17.

Johnston fell to Exeter-West Greenwich 3-1 in the season opener but turned things around early in the home opener.

"It was good. We lost the first game because we just didn't play well. It was the nerves. There was nothing there, they were just nervous," said Johnston coach Greta Lalli, who's roster is still a work in progress early on this fall season. "We have no seniors on the court, we have a new setter, there have been a lot of changes so we have been rolling with the punches. We lost so many great

players, it is a fluid lineup. Right now, they're just doing their job. This was a really good day. We always say that the first games are really telling."

Another factor in both games has been the crowd noise, as schools are allowed to host fully-attended games unlike the 2020 season.

"We had absolute silence last year, we didn't have anyone. Now, we have people cheering, even cheering on serves. That was something that they had to work through last game and now we will have it here, it's a different mindset," said Johnston assistant coach Margaret Guilmette.

One of Johnston's key pieces this fall will be junior Jaylen Molina, who

■ PANTHERS- PAGE 18

JYF picks up win

SPECIAL TO THE SUN RISE

This past Sunday the Johnston Panthers Varsity Youth Football team played against the Cumberland Jr. Clippers at Mayor Joseph Polisena Stadium in a game that turned out to be well worth the watch.

Cumberland started out with the first possession of the game and quickly gave the ball up on downs after being stuffed by veteran leaders Nathan DellaMorte and Jason Schino. The defensive stop set the tone for the game for the Panthers defense, giving



■ JYF- PAGE 19 **GETTING THE WIN:** The Johnston Youth Football Panthers after winning last weekend. (Submitted photo)

■ Panthers

(Continued from page 17)

will be stepping up into the libero position.

"She will do anything and everything, she's amazing. She's our libero this year, she's been everywhere. She has no issues, no fear and she's a strong backbone. I have been coaching her since she was in the seventh grade. She's amazing, she's one to watch," said Lalli.

Johnston moved on to take on Rogers on Wednesday. Moving forward, Lalli hopes the team will focus on its own game.

"We just want to go in there playing our game," Lalli said. "We don't care who we're playing, we just need to be better than the last point and that's what we keep telling them."

Toll Gate fell to Rogers in the season opener, 3-0. The Lady Titans fell to 0-2 with the loss to Johnston and next faced Exeter-West Greenwich on Tuesday. Cailin Tainsh leads Toll Gate in kills and service points.



RETURN FIRE: Johnston's Makayla Scuncio and Michelina Irons (right) return Toll Gate shots last week.

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FRIENDLY FUNDRAISERS: Steve Jason, Don Simpson, Vin LaFazia and Tom Morra in last year's JMCE golf tournament. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

JMCE golf dates set

By PETE FONTAINE

Two of Rhode Island's most successful and popular golf events are on the horizon and in keeping with their terrific tradition will continue to support the Oncology-Hematology Department at Hasbro Children's Hospital.

The popularity of both events, which are scheduled for Sept. 26 at Gloucester Country Club and Oct. 3 at Connecticut National Golf Club in Putnam, Ct. that only two playing spots remain open.

"We can take two more foursomes for our Oct. 3 tournament," Chairman Vin LaFazia announced this week. "We will have two flights at the morning session is sold out but we have two openings in the afternoon."

Entrance fee is \$130 per golfer and includes a pre-tourney lunch, food on the course, post-golf dinner and a chance to win valuable prizes in the event's mega-prize raffle.

Likewise, the JMCE's granddaddy golf go-round is still seeking memorial and business signs that are priced at \$50 and \$75 respectively.

"While every aspect of our tournament helps and benefits children who are battling cancer, the signs really help boost our annual donation to Hasbro Children's Hospital," LaFazia went on. "In years past, people that purchased a sign in either

or both categories have been impressed with the attention the signs have brought to their family or business."

Any golfer, business owner or family member who'd like to purchase a sign should make all checks payable to the JMCE and mail them to Linda LaFazia, 75 Orchard Meadows Drive, Smithfield, R.I. Anyone looking for information can mail to lindafazi54@gmail.com or call (401) 233-2564.

The JMCE's highly-popular Co-Ed Tournament is completely sold out yet many people closely connect with Gloucester Country club and the unique non-profit have stepped up and purchased memorial and business signs that will be placed on the 9-hole layout that borders Waterman Lake in Chepachet.

Signs are priced at \$60 each and to reserve people can send a check to Chairperson Judi Graham at 97 Pine Ledge Road in Gloucester, RI 02829.

Also, if someone would like more information they're asked to call (401) 497-2954

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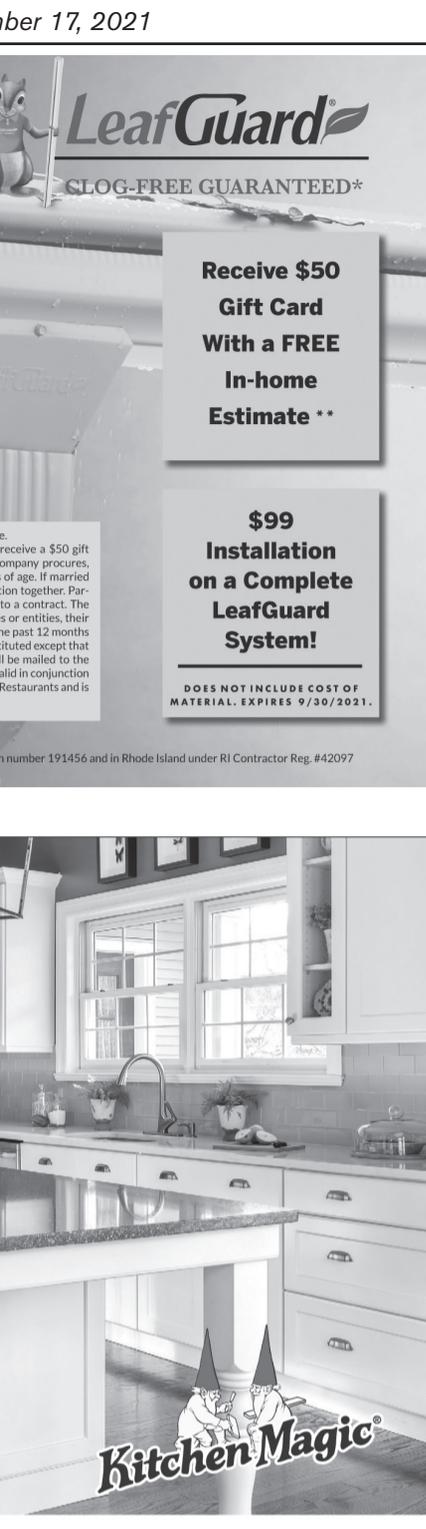
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In images and words, Brescia's 'The Year the World Stood Still' captures Rhode Islanders' pain, resilience during pandemic

By ALEX MALM

Art has long been a major part of Susan Brescia's life, on both personal and professional levels.

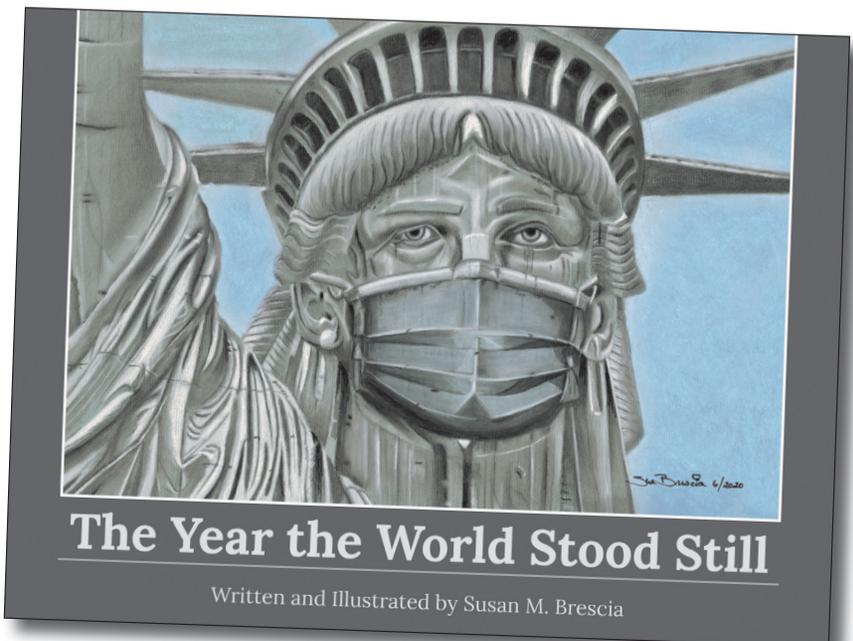
A self-taught musician since her youth, she plays guitar, ukulele, piano, mandolin and djembe. In college, she studied commercial art and music. Over the years, she's performed on stage in musicals and cabarets.

For 25 years, she held a job as a creative director. Then, in March 2020, she was one of many people across the state and country who lost their jobs at the beginning of the pandemic.

"I had no idea that they didn't plan on hiring me back," she said.

Brescia was only four years away from retiring from the company, which made it even more devastating for her. Since being unemployed, she has tried to find work in her field.

After a while, she began to draw. And then, one day, she thought to herself, why not just publish a book to memorialize the events that happened during the pandemic and to feature several Rhode Islanders?



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Design ideas to give your home a farmhouse feel

Farmhouse style homes are having a moment. A 2020 survey from Homes.com asked more than 5,000 adults across the United States about their favorite house style from a list that included bohemian craftsman, mid-century modern ranch, French chateau, and Tudor, among others. Modern farmhouse was the runaway winner, as participants in 42 of the 50 states indicated this simple, cozy style was their favorite.

Home renovation projects can help homeowners put their own unique stamp on their homes, and such projects can be both aesthetic and functional in nature. The following are some farmhouse design elements homeowners can

consider as they look to transform their home interiors with this popular style in mind.

- **Exposed beams:** Exposed beams instantly evoke images of a farmhouse. The home improvement experts at BobVila.com note that this rustic renovation project can utilize real wood or faux beams that look like the real thing. Decorative beams that have nothing to do with a home's structural integrity can be installed by skilled do-it-yourselfers. However, even faux beams are heavy, and BobVila.com recommends homeowners have an engineer assess their existing structure prior to installation.
- **Distressed wood finishes:** Distressing is designed to make something look less

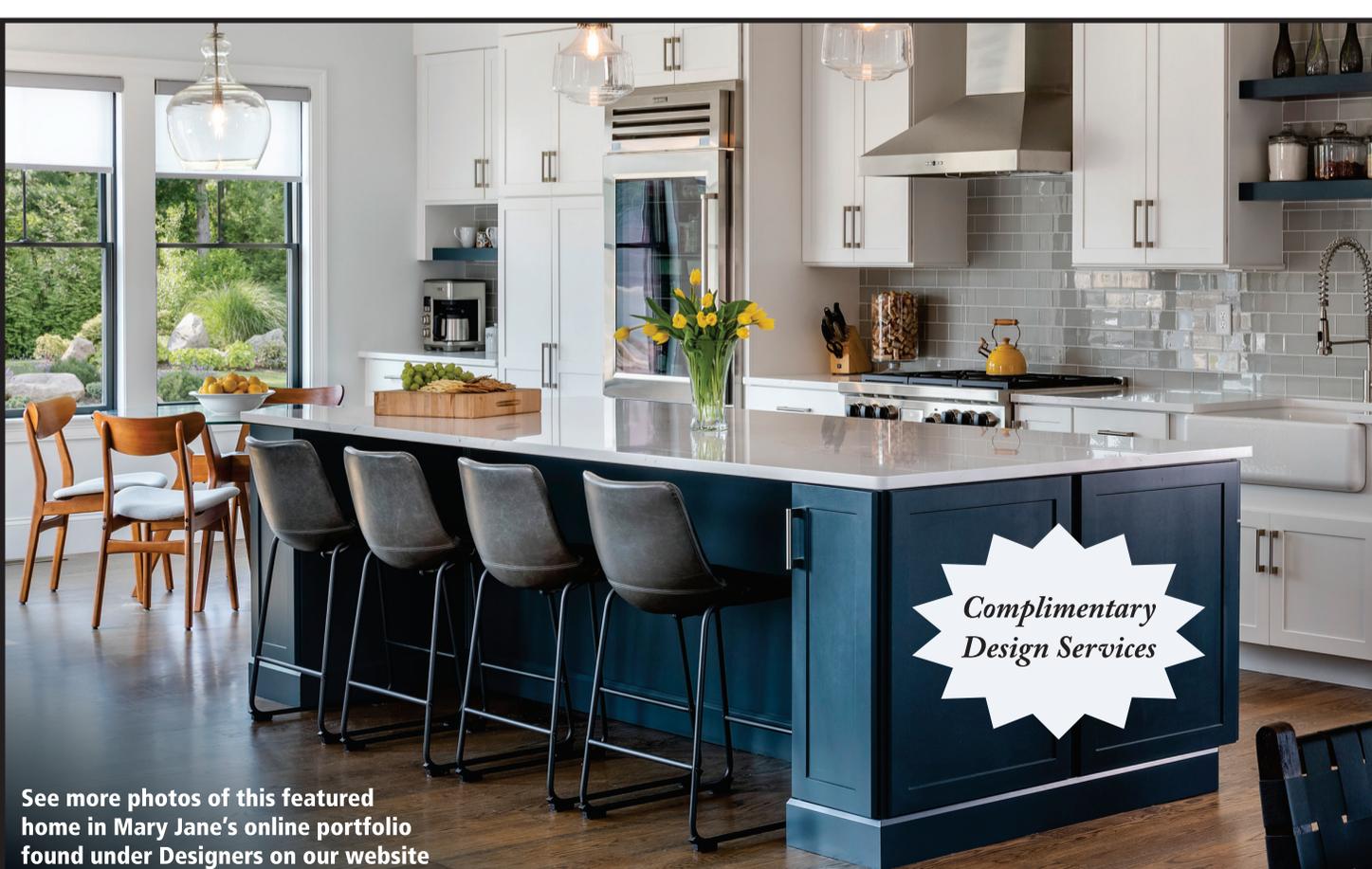
than perfect. Distressed wood finishes can be found throughout many farmhouse style homes. Furniture and picture frames can provide the distressed look farmhouse fans are looking for. This is a relatively inexpensive project that many homeowners can tackle on their own after watching some online tutorials that recommend the right tools and techniques to get the job done right.

- **Kitchen sink:** Many components combine to create a truly classic farmhouse kitchen. But perhaps no component is more essential than the classic farmhouse sink. The renovation experts at HGTV note that a classic farmhouse sink features a deep, wide basin. Farmhouse sinks are large enough to handle all

the dishes that come after a big family meal. Old-fashioned porcelain sinks are worth consideration by homeowners who want their kitchen sinks to evoke a traditional farmhouse feel.

- **Countertops:** HGTV recommends butcher block countertops for homeowners who favor European farmhouse style. Homeowners overhauling their kitchens to create a farmhouse feel should consider installing a large island with a walnut butcher block countertop for an authentic farmhouse feel.

Farmhouse style homes are wildly popular. Some simple renovations can help homeowners with a fondness for farmhouse style bring this classic look into their homes.



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As Summer winds down and we begin preparing for Fall, cooler weather, and hurricane season, we can begin our ongoing maintenance routine by taking a walk around the exterior and interior of your property and make a to-do list, thinking about potential wind, water and ice conditions that may cause problems.

Prioritize the list and determine what you can do yourself safely and what areas are best done by a professional. Many contractors are extremely busy and experiencing an unusual lack of help, resulting in longer lead times.

It is convenient to take on some tasks while the weather is pleasant, and the work can be enjoyable while productive.

Cleaning gutters and extending downspouts can help avoid damaging water intrusion into the home that can cause mold, wood rot and draw pests that love moisture. If you are not able to get on that ladder safely, hire someone to clean them. The cost will be less than repairing the damage, like mold remediation that can also be the cause of health problems.

Trimming branches away from the home and removing unhealthy trees can help eliminate damage from windstorms. Although tree removal can be expensive and inconvenient, an unhealthy tree falling on your home is far more damaging to the property and can potentially hurt someone as well.

Prolonging the life of your roof can be done by periodic inspections. If moss is visible, soft washing can extend the life of the roof. I recommend a professional for this one as you can do more harm than

Donna DeLauro
 Senior Real Estate Specialist
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good to roof shingles if not done properly.

Keeping street drains clear of leaves and debris will allow proper drainage and prevent water and ice accumulating at the driveway and sidewalk. The mail carrier and delivery folks will appreciate that!

Remove yard décor that can become projectiles and get lost in high wind conditions.

Heading inside...

Window and door seals can dry out over time. This can cause water to intrude as well as allow heat to escape. Resealing is an easy and inexpensive task we can take on ourselves and will be well worth the effort.

Changing of the season is a good reminder to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon detectors. The Fire Marshal's guidelines for replacing a smoke detector is ten years and carbon detectors seven years. Replace old units as needed. Call or look up your area fire department on line placement advice. They usually have a section for fire prevention with specific guidelines.

Before using the fireplace have it inspected and cleaned. A chimney sweeper will be sure the fireplace is safe to use.

The basement is the heart of the home and regular inspections of mechanics, plumbing, electric and foundation are important.

Water heaters typically have a seven year warranty, although they can last longer depending on the quality of the product. Signs of your water heater is ending its useful life are discolored water from your faucet, and rust at the bottom of the tank. If in doubt have a professional

inspect it and advise.

Regular boiler cleaning will extend the life of your unit and allow a clean and safe environment for those living in the home. Contact an HVAC professional to service the unit.

Take a look at plumbing pipes to be sure there are no leaks or have corrosion build up. Plumbing Joint seals can wear and begin to seep. If not repaired this can become a bigger problem. Check the ceiling above toilets. The wax O ring under the toilet can dry out and crumble causing leaking which can damage the floor around the area if not replaced right away. That wax O ring is an inexpensive fix but replacing the floor is a much bigger job.

Remove the front of the electric panel box and examine the condition. While I do not recommend messing around with electricity, if you see water and/or rust inside the panel box, this will need to be addressed by a licensed electrician. An easy preventive measure for this issue we can take as the homeowner, is to be sure the seal where the service entry line at the meter coming into the home is not dried out and crumbling allowing water to intrude into the box causing this safety issue. A simple reseal with exterior silicone caulk will do the job. Once the water has entered the box, you may need the entire panel box changed by a licensed electrician.

Although I am not an expert in these fields, I am present at all my buyers and sellers home inspections and listen to the advice of the professionals who service the properties. While you can make some repairs, it is always a good idea to seek advice of a professional to determine if it is safe for you to do the job. Using a little common sense and taking pride in your property also goes a long way in maintaining a clean and safe home to enjoy while preserving the value of your investment.

Have a safe and happy Fall!!

■ **Book** (Continued from page 21)

That's exactly what she did when she published a 100-page hardcover book, titled "The Year the World Stood Still," this summer.

Brescia wanted to highlight the stories of different Rhode Islanders during the pandemic through words and illustrations.

Brescia explained she learned some stories from people she knew and picked others up from Facebook. From there, she would contact the people to see if they were interested in being included in her book.

"I really want this book to be inspirational, and the message is that through the most difficult times, including a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, that if we pull together as a community, we can overcome anything," she said.

One of the people illustrated in the book is Rhode Island State Police Capt. Kenneth Jones, who was one of those who helped to hand out food to those in need during the pandemic.

"For months now, in cities and towns stretching across America, cars lined up for miles, as far as the eyes could see, waiting their turn to pick up a box of canned goods, produce, bread, pasta, and cereal. Similar to breadlines in the 1930's, the lines were endless," Brescia writes.

"Due to the economic crisis caused by COVID-19, millions of people still found themselves out of work. Community food banks around the nation continued to strain under the pressure and couldn't keep up with the demand. People who never before relied on assistance, or were food bank donors themselves pre-pandemic, now found themselves on the receiving end."

While she wanted to have stories of Rhode Islanders in the book, she thinks that they represented what was happening across the country.

"They are the faces of everybody. Even though there are many Rhode Islanders in there they are really representing the faces of us all," Brescia said.

Former Gov. Gina Raimondo is pictured in the book but she represents what all governors have been dealing with during the pandemic, says Brescia. In the drawing, Raimondo - now secretary of the U.S. Commerce Department - has an expression that conveys both the calm she sought to project during the crisis and the magnitude of the circumstances Rhode Island was facing.

Other illustrations capture the human toll of the pandemic, and the pain felt by those who lost someone close to them but couldn't properly say goodbye. In one, "Prayers for Healing," an emotional woman bows her head and joins her hands as she prays. In another, "Whispers of Comfort," a nurse comforts a patient on a ventilator. One drawing, "Holding Each Other Up," features a doctor, respiratory

therapist and nurse in an emotional embrace after a lengthy, draining shift.

"For those who lost their lives, many took their last breath alone. They said goodbye to their families, with only a nurse by their side, via phone or digital device ... compounding the unbearable level of sorrow," the book reads.

In addition to telling stories about what people dealt with during the pandemic, Brescia includes the COVID-19 statistics for each month in Rhode Island, the country and around the world. Once it became available, she also began to include the vaccine data.

While losing her job at the height of the pandemic was what led Brescia to write the book, it wasn't the only time that she turned to art during a dark time in her life as a way of healing.

When she was in her late 20s she was diagnosed with a rare smooth muscle cancer called Leiomyosarcoma. She decided to write songs to help cope with the difficult time in her life.

"It's a way of me expressing myself," she said.

Brescia explained that she thinks being able to use art in any form as a way of healing is important. Eventually she hopes to do a lecture series on using creativity to get through adversity or dealing with trauma.

"It's an outlet, it's an expression, it's something that I think is really important," she said.

Brescia said people don't need to be professional artists to use art as a way of healing.

"It's the process itself that's healing. It's not the end result, it's always the process," she said.

Brescia began writing the book in May of 2020. It hit the printers this past July. Throughout the process she did everything from writing the stories, and drawing the illustrations, finding a printing company and putting up part of her life savings to help fund it.

She plans to have an official launch and book signing on Oct. 9 at the Association of Rhode Island Authors Meet and Greet, which will take place at the Scituate Art Festival. It will be located in the parking lot behind the North Scituate Library.

In closing, Brescia writes, "Though COVID-19 has not been vanquished, vaccination efforts continue to lead us closer towards normality. Restrictions in mask wearing and social distancing are gradually being lifted. I suspect the world will need to learn to live with COVID-19 and its variants and certainly, perhaps not in my lifetime, this won't be the last global pandemic. And so, I hope this book serves as a reminder of who we are, the moral obligation we share with one another, the fortitude of the human spirit, and the sense of hope that will always shine through the darkest of times. I encourage you to Draw On, pull from within and express yourself through whatever creative methods give you a sense of freedom and joy. Thank you for allowing me into your lives."

Copies of the book, selling for \$34.99, are available at the offices of Beacon Communications, 1944 Warwick Ave., Warwick and at Twice Told Tales in Pawtucket.

Additional information is available at suebrescia.com



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New York Art Week



By Travis Landry
Auctioneer & Specialist
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I will start by saying I hope nobody is bored by this week's column. Instead of the normal industry trends and collector minded tips I feel like giving you a peek into Ashle (my fiancé) and I's personal collecting obsession. This past week we ventured down into Manhattan for three days of craziness which is New York Art Week. We had 72 hours jam packed of studio visits, galleries, and art fairs. The main event being Armory which was held in the Javits Center followed by the Independent Art Fair, Future Fair, and SPRING/BREAK Art Show. The sensory overload was unreal, more artists, artworks, and styles than our brains could possibly compute! What I did find interesting compared to years past was a large resurgence of traditional subject matter. For being at a near weeklong event dedicated to contemporary art I saw more figurative, still life, and landscape painting than I anticipated.

While the art itself was amazing, it was also a liberating feeling to be back at a global scale event. It had been almost two years since we had gone

to an opening or gallery, and getting to hang with friends and colleagues in the flesh was incredible. Not to mention being in Manhattan we grabbed some amazingly delicious Mediterranean food the first night followed by Italian. Plus, to top it off we grabbed a baker's dozen of bagels on the morning ride out of the city. All in all, an extremely successful weekend getaway.

I highly recommend to anybody get on down into the city, walk through Chelsea, SoHo, Tribeca, or Midtown and do some gallery hoping. Who knows, you might actually find something you like.



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