

## Changing Johnston's Town Charter

By RORY SCHULER

Will Johnston's governing document change drastically? Will voters lose the right to elect a School Committee?

Johnston's Charter Review Commission (JCRC) has convened twice, and plans to meet again Thursday evening, Dec. 7. Will the JCRC ultimately ask voters to surrender their democratically elected School Committee in lieu of an appointed board?

"The school committee doesn't have the ability to raise revenue," replied Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr., when asked earlier this week if he had "communicated (to any JCRC members), in any way beyond social media, (his) hopes/plans to change the (School Committee) from an elected to an appointed body."

"The current process is the town funds the school department with no say on how the funds are spent," Polisena answered without offering a "yes" or "no" to the question.

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## When RI police use deadly force, the AG investigates



Ocean State's top law enforcement official refuses to release number of open officer-involved shooting cases

By RORY SCHULER

James Harrison's story does not stir sympathy. The Johnston man was accused of peeping through a young neighbor's window in May. The next morning he allegedly killed his mother and a neighbor and shot a child before fleeing, threatening police and ultimately dying in a blaze of law enforcement gunfire.

Harrison's May 24 shooting was captured on multiple police-worn body cameras. Despite the video evidence, six months later, a police-involved shooting investigation by Rhode Island Attorney General Peter F. Neronha's office remains open.

"Since taking office, Attorney General Neronha has brought uniformity, accountability, and experience, to

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**DEADLY FORCE:** Above, police from multiple departments converged on a shooting suspect's car along Plainfield Pike, on the Johnston/Cranston border, on May 24. The suspect was shot dead, and soon after, Cranston Police released body-worn camera footage from the deadly force incident. (Screenshot via publicly released Cranston Police body-worn camera footage)

### GENEROUS EMERGENCY

## Fire apparatus packed with Toys for Tots

By PETE FONTAINE

Johnston firefighter Chris DelFino was ecstatic, as was Local 1950 executive Board Member Don Roberts and E-Board Chair Sal Martira.

The same held true for dozens upon dozens of people who, as DelFino emphasized, "wanted to make sure countless children will not be without toys for Christmas."

For the 13th time in as many years, the Johnston Police and Fire Departments and their respective Local Unions — 1050 and 307 — held their annual Toys for Tots Drive at Strings Bar & Grille on George Waterman Road. The event was overflowing with people who came bearing a myriad of toys, games and bicycles that reached an all-time high.

"This is a giant success," Delfino offered while announcing that the night's collection was so amazing, "we needed four pieces of fire and police apparatus that were filled from the floor to the ceiling — overflowing with toys — that will be given to the Toys for Tots program."

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**SANTA & THE CHIEFS:** JFD Chief David Iannuccilli, Santa (Paul Paon), Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. and JPD Chief Mark Vieira were among the many town leaders who helped make Toys for Tots 13 an overwhelming success. (Photo courtesy Jonathan Pistacchio)



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# With \$10M in grants, 93 nonprofits invest in critical service & support for RI

The Champlin Foundation recently announced \$10 million in capital funding to 93 Rhode Island based nonprofit organizations, for a 2023 funding total of nearly \$18 million. From Woonsocket to Peace Dale to Newport, 24 communities statewide will be served with these grants, which will be used to restore historic properties, expand facilities, improve safety, and enhance outreach capabilities.

Organizations awarded funding include Johnston's African Alliance of RI, the Cranston League for Cranston's Future and Cranston's Narragansett Council Boy Scouts of America.

The African Alliance of RI will receive a \$41,200 grant to fund an electric and water supply project.

While longtime grantees like Girl Scouts and YMCAs statewide continue to put Champlin funding to good use, the Foundation also provides support to a robust group of small nonprofits that make an outsized difference in the communities they serve.

"Rhode Island nonprofits are incredibly creative when it comes to doing more with less and providing excellent service and support despite having very limited staff or, in some cases, an entirely volunteer-led operation," said Nina Stack, executive director of The Champlin Foundation. "It is always impressive to see how many of these small teams are doing essential work, serving the urgent needs and addressing the wellbeing of Rhode Islanders in innovative and impactful ways."

Champlin's nine areas of focus are arts and culture, conservation and parks, education, healthcare, historic preservation and heritage, libraries, social services, welfare of animals, and youth services. Examples of nonprofits that are small but strong can be found in nearly every category, including Rhode Island Black Storytellers in arts and culture, Rhode Island Women in the Trades in education, and the MS Dream Center in social services.

Rhode Island Black Storytellers (RIBS), which operates out of the Southside Cultural Center in Providence, is a first-time Champlin applicant whose ranks of 35+ storytellers have reached more than 120,000 students across the state. Their \$21,872 grant will be used to purchase video production and online streaming equipment.

"At a moment when Black history and Black culture is at risk of being erased from our schools and history books, we must lift up the stories of Black people and communities in a way that empowers young people of color and builds connections with the broader community," said Executive Director Valerie Tutson. "Through a culturally based storytelling training program, we are developing the next generation of Black storytellers and sending them out across Rhode Island to enhance cultural awareness and increase empathy, respect, and appreciation through performance, history, arts, and education. With this funding, we will enhance our video recording and streaming capability so we can bring Black stories and storytellers into more homes, schools, and communities, via our annual FUNDA FEST: A Celebration of Black Storytelling, which will take place Jan 19-Feb 3, 2024, and into the future. It is a wonderful way to mix the most ancient ways of telling stories with modern technology to reach a wider 'village'."

Rhode Island Women in the Trades, which leases space at the Joslin Recreation Center and John Hope Settlement House in Providence, is another first-time applicant. They provide pre-apprenticeship training through workshops and projects leading to opportunities for women and girls to enter the construction industry. They will purchase tools for training with a \$24,071 grant.

"Construction is facing a critical workforce shortage. The industry will only survive and evolve if we foster a more diverse talent pipeline into the profession and make construction a more welcoming and inclusive place for women and underrepresented groups," said CEO Anita Bruno. "Construction offers good paying jobs and meaningful career pathways, and through rigorous training and hands-on support, we are opening the door for more women to consider a future in the industry."

The dedicated team at the MS Dream Center, based in Warwick, provides a place of connection and support for people with multiple sclerosis and their families, and offers a wide range of programs, free of charge, from fitness and reiki to classes on art, brain development, and meditation. The Center, which recently moved to a new location, will receive \$17,360 toward space upgrades including plumbing and electrical needs.

"What started as a labor of love for me and my family has grown into a much bigger family—a community of neighbors affected by multiple sclerosis that provides comfort, support, and understanding as we battle this disease together," said Executive Director Marie Perna, who was diagnosed with MS in 1998. "I am so grateful for the members and volunteers who make our space so vibrant and inclusive, and our members throughout the United States and Canada that we're blessed to know and provide services to through our virtual programming. I look forward to our continued growth in meeting the physical, mental, and social-emotional needs of those around the world with multiple sclerosis."

Eleven of the organizations receiving funding in this cycle are first-time Champlin grantees, at a time when the Foundation continues to increase outreach and seeks to make its processes more streamlined and accessible. In the past two years, Champlin successfully transitioned to an online application portal and shifted to a twice-a-year grant distribution cycle—meaningful organizational changes made possible with the support of the Distribution Committee.

The Foundation's Distribution Committee has had a change this year with Linda Newton stepping down and Marie Ghazal stepping in. Ghazal recently retired as the CEO of the Rhode Island Free Clinic.

"With wisdom and passion, Linda helped us to see the world differently. She helped guide The Champlin Foundation to recognize how it can better serve the people of our state—all the people of our state," said Stack. "Linda's departure is certainly a loss, but we feel quite fortunate to have Marie joining the Committee, bringing her years of healthcare experience to our work."

The Committee also elected a new slate of officers for 2024. Ted Wetherill will step down as Chair after three terms. Dione Kenyon will serve as Chair, Judge Edward Clifton as Vice Chair, and Dr. Jose Polanco as Secretary.

In addition to the Distribution Committee changes, the Foundation also recognized the retirement of longtime Director of Grant Administration Tim Gorham, who has been with the Foundation for 24 years. Stack stated "Tim and his family's connection to George Champlin and the Foundation spans a century. Throughout his time, Tim's contribution to the work of Champlin is truly unprecedented, having considered untold numbers of grant requests, making thousands of visits to hundreds of organizations, and distributing funding across Rhode Island. It is quite remarkable."

Since 1932, The Champlin Foundation has awarded more than \$665 million to fund capital projects for Rhode Island nonprofit organizations. Its nine areas of focus cover Arts & Culture, Conservation & Parks, Education, Healthcare, Historic Preservation & Heritage, Libraries, Social Services, Welfare of Animals, and Youth Services. For more information visit [ChamplinFoundation.org](http://ChamplinFoundation.org).



**STARTS HER DAY AT THE JSC:** The Johnston Senior Center Spotlight this week shines on Ann Marie Matarese, 23-year Johnston resident who joined the JSC about 12 years ago. (Photo courtesy Richard DelFino Jr.)

# Senior 'Spotlite'

# Consider adding the JSC to your morning constitution

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

The Johnston Senior Center Spotlight this week shines on Ann Marie Matarese.

If anyone pondered who the "typical" Johnston Senior Center member might resemble, Ann Marie would certainly fit the bill.

Ann Marie, who has lived in Johnston the past 23 years, moved here from the "Silver Lake" section of Providence. She began visiting the JSC and joined about 12 years ago.

She had spent about 41 years in the banking industry. After the bank began downsizing, she faced the reality of having been laid off at the age of 57.

Now facing a real life-changing reality, Ann Marie looked for work and found a new career in retail, working at Rite Aide, for a period of six years. For many, the workplace becomes the focus of relationship building and social interaction. Ann Marie hoped joining the JSC would re-establish new found friendships where she could meet people who might share similar interests.

And that she did. Ann Marie joins her "good friends" for morning exercise, and then coffee and conversation. She enjoys taking day trips with the Center, especially those involving breakfast and lunch, and entertainment.

Many of her friends will spend time enjoying lunch here at the Center, and look forward to the "fun" events being planned through this Christmas season and beyond. Ann Marie "loves" coming to the Center, and would recommend to all to stop by and see what the Center can offer you.

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

# Johnston Senior Center Highlights

**From the staff ...**

The Johnston Senior Center strives to provide older adults with so many options for healthy aging.

Besides providing lunch daily at noon, there are daily regularly scheduled activities like Arts and Crafts on Mondays, Hi-Lo Jack on Mondays and Wednesdays, Quilting on Tuesdays, Poker on Wednesdays, Mar Jong on Thursdays, and Bingo on Thursdays and Fridays.

In addition, various exercise programs are offered throughout the week.

This week our Book Club met and discussed a re-

cent visiting authors book. Members also enjoyed a Mystery Lunch and the Newport Playhouse visits.

Recently a lucky member won our "Fall into Cash" 50/50 raffle. Many more activities are planned for the upcoming Holiday Season. Come by and visit and find out all the wonderful activities here at your Johnston Senior Center.

**Weekly Events**

- Monday — Arts and Crafts
- Monday & Wednesday — Hi Lo Jack
- Tuesday — Quilting

- Wednesday — Poker
- Thursday — Mar Jong
- Thursday & Friday — Bingo

**Senior Center Trips**

On Monday, Dec. 11, take a trip to LaSalette, for a beautiful night to enjoy all the wonderful decorations to put you in the holiday spirit.

The Senior Center will also have a trip to Cracker Barrel next week, for lunch and the gift shop.

Mystery Lunch will resume in January, along many more trip options.



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At the traffic circle, take the 1st exit onto Toll Gate Rd  
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# SUN RISE SCOOPS

## SCOOP OF THE WEEK

### Dec. 9

## Pictures with Santa

**S**anta Claus is coming to Johnston! On Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to noon, Santa is expected to visit the Johnston Senior Center, at 1291 Hartford Ave. Bring your own camera. Pastries and refreshments will be available for attendees. The event is free to the public. Go to the Johnston Recreation Department website ([www.johnstonrec.com](http://www.johnstonrec.com)) for more details.

### Sun Rise Staff Reports

#### Now! Operation Santa Paws

Morgan Rehab supports animal shelters with "Operation Santa Paws." Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center in Johnston, where residents often benefit from animal-assisted therapy visits, recently launched "Operation Santa Paws" to collect pet supplies and donate them to a local animal shelter.

Through Dec. 22, the skilled nursing facility at 80 Morgan Ave. welcomes donated items such as blankets and towels, dog and cat beds, unopened pet food/treats, pet toys, grooming products, collars and leashes, and food/water bowls.

Therapy animals play a vital role in long-term care residents' lives, particularly those living with dementia and Alzheimer's. Benefits of animal therapy for seniors include emotional uplift, increased self-esteem, improved social skills, and reduced risk of depression and anxiety. For more information, visit [MorganRehab.com](http://MorganRehab.com).

#### Dec. 7 through Dec. 10 "Oh? What Fun!"

This concert will be performed by the Rhode Island Gay Men's Chorus on Thurs., Dec. 7, Fri. Dec. 8, Sat. Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. at Beneficent Congregational Church, 300 Weybosset St., Providence. Combining traditional holiday favorites, the chorus is proud to be honoring the diverse heritages of choral members with songs of the French, Italian, Portuguese, Jewish, Czech, Irish, Latina, East Asian ethnicities. Join them in their celebration of each other's unique qualities. This is sure to be a sparkling concert filled with music of the season. Tickets are on sale now: Adults \$30, Seniors \$25 and Students \$20. To purchase tickets, please visit: [rigmc.org](http://rigmc.org).

#### Dec. 7 - 14

#### Online Holiday Auction Benefitting Special Olympics Rhode Island

An on-line event is taking place during this holiday season with Special Olympics Rhode Island's annual Holiday Auction allowing shoppers to find the perfect gifts from the comfort of their home while making a meaningful impact! The auction runs from Thurs., Dec. 7, starting at 9 a.m., through Thurs., Dec. 14, at 9 a.m. Bid on diverse items such as Boston Red Sox tickets, an autographed Boston Bruins jersey, tickets to Ballet RI's "The Nutcracker," a two-night getaway to Margaritaville Resort Times Square, restaurant experi-

ences and more. Bids will support the transformative programs offered by Special Olympics Rhode Island. To participate in the auction, visit <https://bforg.com/sori> starting December 7 - the go-live date. For those interested in donating items or gift certificates, please call Special Olympics Rhode Island at (401) 349-4900.

#### Dec. 9 St. Lucia Fest

The St. Lucia Fest, sponsored by the RI Swedish Heritage Association, will be held on Sat., Dec. 9, at 4 p.m., at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 99 Peirce St., East Greenwich. Adults: \$12, Ages 5-14: \$5, Under 5 - Free Reception following with Swedish refreshments. Questions or information: contact Astrid at 401-350-9688 or [astrid.m.drew@gmail.com](mailto:astrid.m.drew@gmail.com) or Merlene Mayette at 401-783-2242 or [merleneinri@verizon.net](mailto:merleneinri@verizon.net).

#### Dec. 9 The Hope Historical Society Annual Christmas Meeting

The meeting is to be held on Sat., Dec. 9, at 2 p.m. The event will take place at the Howland Barn located at 35 Ryefield Road in Hope. Join members of the Hope Historical Society as they make merry with some old-fashioned fun, refreshments, special games, caroling, and maybe a special visitor to celebrate the holiday season. Members and guests are invited to bring a special Christmas food item to share and offer the story behind what makes their Christmas food item special. Unique gifts that celebrate the history of the Hope area will be available for purchase.

#### Jan. 1 48th Annual Penguin Plunge for Special Olympics Rhode Island

Registration is Open for New Year's Day event, the longest running New Year's Day Plunge in Rhode Island. Embrace the invigorating spirit of the New Year by taking the plunge, quite literally, into Special Olympics Rhode Island's 48th annual Penguin Plunge at Roger Wheeler State Beach in Narragansett! Join the fun on New Year's Day, Mon., Jan. 1, to make a splash for a cause that truly warms the heart - supporting the athletes of Special Olympics Rhode Island. The main plunge kicks off at 12 noon and a family-friendly plunge at 12:30 p.m. Your participation or donation will not only kick off 2024 with a memorable experience but also contribute to a brighter future for these athletes, empowering them to achieve their dreams.

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# Charter

(Continued from page 1)

"Moreover, if the school department is dissatisfied with the amount of money given, they can file a legal action against their own town and force the town to raise property taxes," Polisena continued. "It doesn't work that way for any other town service such as police, fire or public works."

### Target: School Takeover

Earlier this year, Polisena set his sights on a financial takeover of the town's school system. The town hired former Cranston mayor and unsuccessful Rhode Island gubernatorial candidate attorney Allan W. Fung, a partner with Johnston firm Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O'Gara, for \$275 an hour.

Fung has also been named "joint spokesperson" and "attorney" for the JCRC. He attended the first two meetings on Nov. 15 and Nov. 27. Fung said his "rate for this engagement is \$225 per hour."

"Therefore, either the General Assembly gives school committees their own taxing authority and they're removed from the town budget entirely," Polisena argued. "Or they continue to remain as half of the municipal budget and (the) town has at least some representation on the school committee, the entity it funds."

Town Councilman Robert J. Civetti said he trusts the 13 members of the JCRC will act in the town's best interests.

"The Charter Review Committee is made up of 13 Johnston residents that have resided in the Town for years and have the best interest of the Town at heart," Civetti said. "I am optimistic that this committee will do a thorough job and present recommendations of significance that will then be subject to the final review and approval of the taxpayers."

The JCRC members were appointed by Town Council, the mayor's office and the School Committee. It now includes Chairman Richard DeFino Jr., Vice-Chairman Fredrick Iafrate, Nicole Corbin, Steven Mandarelli, (Zoning Board member) Charles I. Ainabe, (School Committee member) Susan Mansolillo, Joseph Andriole, Robert Piscione, Ronald Bianchi, Taylor Russo, Karen Clark, Randy Urena and Arnold Vecchione.

"I hope that the Committee will review the Charter in detail and make recommendations to update things that need to be updated due to the passage of time etc.," Civetti said. "I am optimistic that this committee will make recommendations that increase transparency and accountability in government."

### Rumor or Inevitable?

The Johnston Sun Rise asked the same questions of all the major players involved in the JCRC.

"I have answered this honestly before," said Mansolillo. "I have heard the same rumor."

The notion's not necessarily a rumor, since the mayor has not denied endorsement of the idea (and instead, has offered reasonably thought-out arguments for an appointed School Committee over an elected board). And in an online post last summer, Polisena voiced his support for the idea.

On Aug. 8, following a journalist's link to a story about Pawtucket's consideration of scrapping its elected school committee (the story's headline asked whether the move could be considered "political retribution"), Polisena posed a question: "How is it political retribution if voters approve changes?"

"Schools get majority funding from local municipalities, yet munis have no say in how it's spent," Polisena posted on Twitter (now known as "X"). "Schools can also go over budget and municipalities are forced to pick up the debt. I've seen it firsthand."

"Elected school committee members represent the people from the district," Mansolillo said in June after a school committee meeting. "Appointed school committee members do the mayor's bidding. That's just how I feel. We're here to represent the people and do what's best for the children."

The town's at-large member, Vecchione, also supported the idea in an online post.

"School Committees have zero financial responsibility, how many Town departments can over spend every year any continue to exist without consequences?" Vecchione replied to the mayor's post on Aug. 9.

Over the summer the Sun Rise asked Polisena if he supported a major switch in Johnston's process of school governance.

"I don't have the power to propose or institute this, it must be approved by the voters," Polisena wrote. "However, I think every municipality needs to have some say in their own school districts, as the municipality provides the school department the majority of its funding with municipal property taxes."

### Seeking Financial Transparency

Civetti has asked Polisena's administration to adhere to the current Town Charter's requirements for financial disclosure and public discussion. He hopes the financial rules are ultimately strengthened by the JCRC.

"The Charter currently requires financial information and budget information to be presented to the Town Council on a set time table," Civetti explained. "Unfortunately the past two administrations have ignored these Charter requirements and therefore the Council is

pressured into approving a budget that has not been properly (vetted) in public workshops."

Polisena has rejected the budget schedule dictated by the Town Charter, calling it outdated.

"I hope that these provisions will not be changed rather they will be reinforced so that the Town Council, School Committee, and the general public will have an opportunity to review and discuss the proposed budgets with department directors and the administration," Civetti said. "I also look forward to having the Town's Finance Director present financial statements (budget vs actual comparisons) to the Town Council on a periodic basis."

As the town scrutinizes school finances, Civetti has called for a closer examination of the town budget.

"We recently heard from the PFM consultants who stated that the School Committee should be getting financial information monthly so they can be kept up to date and able to make informed decisions," Civetti said. "Well in my seven years on the Town Council we have never received a budget vs actual comparison statement from the Finance Director during the fiscal year."

Public updates on town finances have become increasingly rare, according to Civetti.

"Financial information simply is not provide(d) to the Town Council and for the past two years the auditors have not even presented the annual audit to the Town Council," Civetti said. "For as far back as I can remember the annual audited financial statements and management comments and recommendation letter were always presented to the Town Council by the auditors and approved/accepted by the Council vote. This did not take place for the fiscal 2021 or fiscal 2022 audits. The financial information of the Town is becoming less and less transparent."

### School Committee Support?

Only sitting school committee members, namely Mansolillo and Chairman Robert LaFazia, have spoken out against changing to an appointed, rather than elected, board.

"I sit on the Charter Review Commission," Mansolillo insists. "I would oppose this and I don't believe the townspeople would want to see this change. The meetings are open to the public ... I can't speak for my colleagues but they might feel the same as I do."

It remains to be seen whether anyone else on the JCRC, besides Mansolillo, supports maintaining an elected school committee.

The public has yet to weigh in on the process. The meetings have been quick and quiet, though the JCRC meeting minutes have been uploaded to the town's website promptly following meetings.

Mansolillo will not be attending this Thursday's meeting. The commission plans to review Articles 1 and 2 of Johnston's Town Charter.

On Nov. 27, the JCRC named a pair of spokesmen as "point(s) of contact for inquiries received by the board in order to keep communications orderly." DeFino and Fung were unanimously named "spokespeople."

DeFino, the former chairman of the Johnston Democratic Town Committee and current Executive Director of the Johnston Senior Center, said he begins the process with a clear conscience and an open mind.

"No directives from the Mayor to me other than to provide a completely transparent, inclusive process and the goal would be to get the recommendations to the Council for their consideration, so that recommendations could be presented to the voters next November," DeFino wrote via email, when asked if he had received any JCRC goals or instructions from the mayor. "No discussion regarding the School Committee."

One thing's certain regarding DeFino's appointment: he knows how to get out the vote. Nearly three-quarters of Johnston's registered voters turned out for Polisena Jr. in 2022 (DeFino's last election as JDTC chairman and Polisena's first mayoral bid to succeed his father who held the office for 16 years).

On Election Night, Mayor-elect Polisena Jr. declared his 68.9% vote-share a "mandate." More than a year later, Polisena argued his influence on the JCRC will be visible throughout the process.

"I have one appointment to the commission and any recommendations I have, I will give to her," Polisena wrote. He appointed Taylor Russo to the JCRC.

Will the commission take an appointed School Committee to Johnston's voters "next November"?

"I'm not sure what the commission is going to propose," Polisena replied. "I don't know about the timeline. You would have to ask the commission that question."

Fung also replied to a list of questions regarding the potential move away from an elected school committee and the mayor's potential influence on the process.

"The mayor, as well as all other public officials, will be invited to speak at each respective meeting on the charter provisions that the members will be reviewing on that agenda," according to Fung. "To date, the commission has not received anything from the mayor or any other elected officials."

So far, the school committee switch has yet to surface during the meetings, according to the minutes, Fung and DeFino.

Following a request for comment, Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. seemed to support maintaining an elected board.

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## ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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James A. Diossa  
Rhode Island General Treasurer

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CollegeBound Saver is a program of the office of Rhode Island General Treasurer, James A. Diossa.

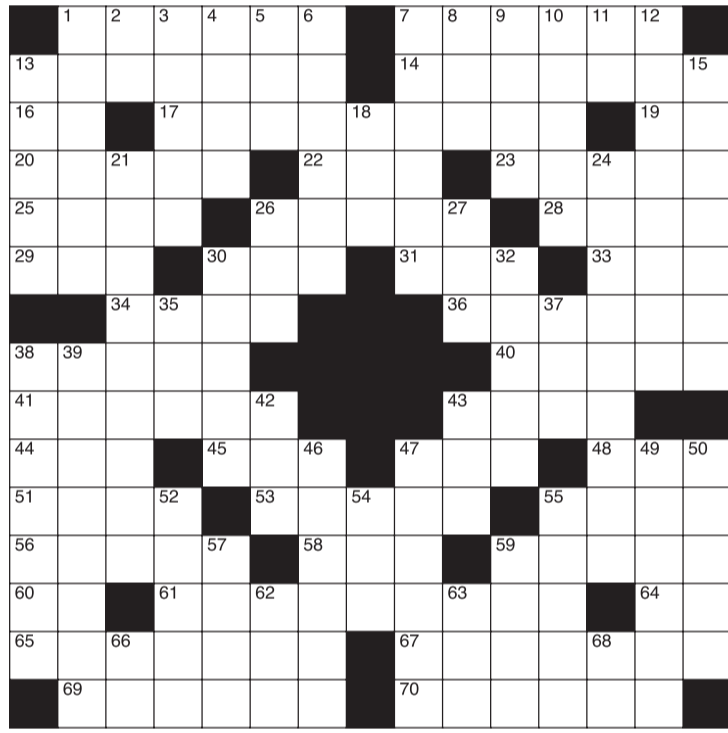
**BETTER THAN THE BOOK JACKET:**  
The Johnston Senior Center Book Club recently met Pulitzer Prize nominated author David J. Aiello, a Johnston native. (Photos courtesy Richard J. Delfino Jr.)



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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. Salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. It begins with them
17. A way to compare
19. Government lawyer
20. Back parts
22. 8th month (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. \_\_\_ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. Quebec river
29. A doctrine
30. Popular pickup truck
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. German founder of psychology
41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. A "place" to avoid
45. Cigarette (slang)
47. Canadian politician Josephine
48. French ballet/acting dynasty

### CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Craft supply
4. Storage units
5. Investment vehicle
6. Colorado Heisman winner
7. In a way, sank
8. Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. The opposite of yes
12. Caused to be loved
13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology
15. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Belonging to the bottom
55. Sound
56. Yankees' slugger Judge
58. Dickens character
59. More wise
60. Flash memory card
61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
64. Atomic #79
65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary assessment of patients
15. Showing since conviction
18. Not safe
21. The number above the line in a fraction
24. Yard invader
26. Pouch
27. Swedish krona
30. Start anew
32. While white or yellow flower
35. Fourteen
37. Graphical user interface
38. Up-to-date on the news
39. Campaigns
42. Touch softly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Anxiety
50. Body fluid
52. Phony person
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. City in central Japan
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. Man
68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)

# Senior Center Book Club meets the author

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

The Johnston Senior Center Book Club was treated to a special presentation here at the Center, when David J. Aiello, a Pulitzer Prize nominated Author, and Johnston native, delivered to the group a number of signed copies of

his latest best sellers.

Aiello, who graduated from Johnston High School in 1971 and Rhode Island College in 1976, went on to teach English Literature and Creative Writing. He also worked as an investigative reporter for several newspapers and magazines.

BOOK - PAGE 12

## Charter

(Continued from page 5)

"Since the school committee represents the residents and their children, I believe that they should have a say in who represents them through their vote," DiLullo replied when asked his opinion on the potential shift.

Civetti backs school committee elections, but echoed some of the mayor's concerns regarding tax assessments for education funding.

"Regarding changing the school committee from an elected position to an appointed position, I am all in favor of maintaining our current system of having the School Committee Elected by the taxpayers," Civetti explained. "However, I would also like to see legislative changes across the state that would make school committees responsible for assessing

their own taxes. The cities and towns could continue to conduct the duties of tax collector and tax assessor. However, the School Committee would be responsible for setting the tax rate to support the School Department and the budgets which they approve and oversee."

Civetti recalled discussing "control over ... school department budgets and expenditures" with various municipal mayors, administrators, and town managers over his 34-year career working in public accounting.

"Although the city or town sets the tax rate and appropriates the funding to the school department, the city and town has no say in how those funds are spent," Civetti said. "If the school committee sets their own tax rate there may be an increased level of accountability to the taxpayers. Although, I do recognize that when a local community level-funds a school department for a number of years, then it is very difficult for the school committee and school officials to make ends meet while still providing the best education for our children."

### The Next Meeting

The public and town officials have been invited to join the process.

"The past two commission meetings have focused on election of officers and discussions of rules/procedures for the

orderly receipt of comments from the public," according to Fung. "The commission has not had any discussions about switching to an appointed school committee or any other substantive discussions about the various charter provisions."

Johnston Town Clerk Vincent P. Baccari Jr. distributed a mass email to the town's elected officials.

"Hello, the charter review process has begun," Baccari wrote. "As you all may be aware, The Commission has been appointed and tasked with holding meetings and accepting comment from public officials and the general public to send amendment recommendations to the Town Council for consideration of placing proposed amendments before the voters of the Town for approval."

JCRC agendas and minutes can be found at <https://townofjohnston-ri.com/charter-review>.

"The Commission welcomes everyone to attend the meetings in person or submit written comments/recommendations regarding edits to the charter to the Commission for discussion," Baccari wrote. "Any written requests or comments can be directed to me at this e-mail address (vbaccari@johnston-ri.us). All meetings of the commission are open to the public."

The next JCRC meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7, at the Johnston Senior Center.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that PODS ENTERPRISES, LLC, located at 185 Compass Circle, North Kingstown, RI 02852, will sell or otherwise dispose of the contents of containers belonging to certain customers that owe PODS rent if payment is not received by December 31, 2023. Auction will be held online at [www.StorageTreasures.com](http://www.StorageTreasures.com) starting on January 17, 2024 and ending at 10 AM on January 24, 2024. The following individuals and the respective amounts owed are as follows: Jolon Oconnor & \$1,805.55.

# Opinion

EDITORIAL

## An organization built on giving

During this season where the gifts we receive and provide to others contributes towards a feeling of general gratitude and merriment, it seems appropriate to cast a light on an organization working within our communities who continuously strive to improve life for those around them by the donation of money to causes that most often, in turn, return that favor in many additional ways.

As of their 2022 Annual Report, the Champlin Foundation has given over \$665 million since 1933, and as of recent times contributes around 200 total grants to a vast array of worthy causes, from historic preservation and environmental conservation, to public libraries, after-

school programs, the arts, and everything in between.

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

It seems nearly every month there is at least one story within our pages

where an organization is doing something, building something, updating something, launching a new program, or improving their existing operations — and it was only made possible following the receipt of a Champlin Grant.

The kind of giving that is facilitated by the existence of Champlin is special because it expands outward exponentially.

A grant given to a local theater to rebuild their stage enables that theater to expand their youth program, possibly changing the arc of a young Rhode Islander who discovers their love of the arts. A local library is able to avoid a time-consuming fundraising campaign after a Champlin Grant enables them to fix their leaky roof, saving them time and enabling them to focus on serving their community. Thousands of Rhode Islanders are able to enjoy a new piece of public property along a beautiful piece of shoreline thanks to a Champlin Grant enabling a local conservancy group to purchase it and keep it safe from development.

The list can go on and on, and indeed it does go on, each and every year — a \$50,000 grant here, a \$15,000 grant there, from Woonsocket to Westerly and all places between.

These grants have added up to the neighborhood of around \$20 million for the past few years, according to their annual reports. That may not seem like a ton, considering the scope of who they provide these grants to. But through their thoughtful selection process, the awards make a significantly greater impact by unlocking the potential of local community organizations throughout Rhode Island who can take that money and go even farther with it.

During this season of giving and receiving gratitude, we are grateful for the Champlin Foundation's continued support of Rhode Islanders, and the people who make Rhode Island great.



Charlie Hall

LETTERS

## Dear Johnston Neighbors,

We urge you to attend the upcoming Zoning Board Meeting on Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Johnston Senior Center (1291 Hartford Ave.), where there will be discussion and public hearing on a large for-profit solar power production facility. This solar facility is planned to be situated in the area known as Winsor Farm, which is boarded by residents who live on Winsor Avenue, Rollingwood Drive, and Hopkins Avenue. Solar on Winsor Farm will not be specifically powering Johnston. It will not help reduce your energy bills. It will require dozens of acres of old-growth trees to be cleared. It will change the way water runs out of the area. It will scar the landscape for decades to come.

This parcel of land comprises about 158 acres. It is home to a historic farmhouse, which will likely be demolished (unless someone else wants to move it), an accompanying historic cemetery, and an abundance of wildlife, which will get pushed into the Winsor, Rollingwood, and Hopkins neighborhoods. Winsor Farm is not the only parcel of land in question. The same developer had four other projects considered last April, about 162 additional acres, all on the Western side of Johnston. If this one project gets approved, we expect the other four to show up on the Board's agenda soon.

Many communities in Rhode Island have enacted codes to protect residential communities from all of a sudden living next to a production facility. We average citizens have most of our worth tied up in our house and the property it is on. A decrease of our property value by about 5% (per the 2020 URI study "Property Value Impacts of Commercial-Scale Solar Energy in Massachusetts and Rhode Island") because the surrounding area is now used for manufacturing, and not residential use (as it is zoned), is a lot to us. Why do we have to take the hit? There are plenty of areas in Johnston, and in Rhode Island more broadly, that could be sited with solar. For example, areas already zoned for industrial or commercial use, rooftops, and brown sites are good locations for solar facilities. Johnston District 5 Town Council Member, Robert Civetti, proposed an update to the town code that would protect residential properties from solar production. The other four council members would not even discuss the proposed code (which was essentially identical to the ordinance adopted for wind turbines in 2021).

There has been incredible turnout the prior two meetings, with over 150 concerned residents each time. Keep it up! If the residents stick together, we are a force to be reckoned with!

For information on the project, potential impacts of solar, and more please visit the website via the included QR code. Thank you - we look forward to hearing from you next week.

Stop Johnston Solar



**Editor's Note:** Stop Johnston Solar is a group of Johnston residents formed in opposition to a proposed industrial-scale solar field planned for a wooded neighborhood currently zoned for residential development. The group is looking for more members. Contact the organization at StopJohnstonSolar@gmail.com.

## To all the fine people of Johnston,

We are approaching the eleventh hour so to speak.

Most of you have been made aware of an industrial size solar array which has been proposed for the last large parcel of residential space in the town. The initial proposal came about in April 2022 and was denied by the Zoning Board.

The developer has taken the town to court as they were not pleased with the decision. The case has been languishing in the court for a year and a half. In the meantime the developer decided to slightly change the proposal and try to convince the powers that be it was significant enough to be brought before the board before the two year waiting period was over.

It was presented to the Town Planner who approved to move the application and put it before the Zoning Board once again. Two meetings ensued, one in September and one in November, with close to 170 residents attending.

They all thought they would get a chance to be heard. The attorney for the developer used up all of the time allowed in the first meeting and a good portion of the second.

Finally, the attorney representing the abutting landowners presented his their case. His witnesses were spot on. They, each in their turn, explained why this was not a good fit

for the town. It is against every aspect of our Comprehensive Plan.

When it was time for the developer's attorney to question the second witness, he stated that he was "Not going to do this now," took his papers and left. The meeting was still in session; it had not been adjourned. He left.

Robert's Rules of Procedure, which is the guideline to all public hearings, clearly states that no participating party may leave until the meeting is adjourned.

He left anyway. Had this been a court hearing, he may have found himself in contempt. Before the Nov. 2 meeting I made an appointment to see our Mayor. Lynne Grissom and I went to his office, where we were greeted by the Deputy Chief of Staff.

The Town Planner was in attendance and we started simply by saying that we needed to speak on behalf of the residents. While you might think this only affects the west end, everything that happens affects every tax paying resident.

An industrial facility of any kind does not belong in a residential neighborhood. It negates property values. When asked for his help the Mayor stated in part that he could not stand up for the residents because the developer would think he was siding with the residents.

He opted not to act. I, for one, can-

not wrap my head around that statement, as the residents gave him his job. He is a public servant. We are the public. He also stated that he would like to see a 60/40 split in Johnston. I asked if that meant 60 percent residential and 40 percent commercial and industrial. He said no, 60 percent commercial and industrial and 40 percent residential.

The residents bear a large portion of the tax burden in any city or town and Johnston is no exception. While we have heard no new taxes over and over again, I cannot help but wonder when that bill will be coming due.

You do not pay the same for anything that you did five years ago. New single family homes bring new people and tax revenue to the town. Not Citizens Bank, not the landfill, not the big empty Amazon building. It's the people who make Johnston a good place. And it's the people who pay when all is said and done.

This is a call to everyone to attend the next zoning meeting on Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Johnston Senior Center. It is our turn to be heard. We must let them know that we cannot stand by and then pick up the tab. I, and so many others, hope to see you all there.

Karen Cappelli Chadwick,  
of Johnston



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# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local  Adoptable  Loveable



## Marbles

Photo credit: Ten Lives Cat Rescue

Meet Marbles! She is a five year old stunning silver Tabby. Marbles is in search of a loving forever home and she would love a home that has another friendly cat, she'd love to have a friend! She is a little shy when you first meet her but warms up quickly. Some of her favorite activities include playing, yummy treats, being brushed and hanging out on her cat tree by the window! If you'd like to meet Marbles to see if she's a purr-fect fit for you, please contact Ten Lives Cat Rescue. You can email [hello@tenlivescatrescue.org](mailto:hello@tenlivescatrescue.org) and you can also visit their website for more information at <http://www.tenlivescatrescue.org> Marbles is waiting to roll right into your heart and home!

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



## Hazel



Photo credit: Harrison Photography

Say hello to Hazel! She aims to please, she's super smart, athletic and a true beauty inside and out! The unique color in her coat is Catahoula mixed breed, it's a coat of many colors indeed. Hazel loves to go for walks and would love a fenced in yard to run around in too. She is three years old and is best suited for a pet free, adult only home. Hazel also comes with continued free training with Real World K-9. Visit Hazel at the Charlestown Animal Shelter 50 Sand Hill Road Charlestown, RI Once you get to know her, you will truly fall in love! Feel free to call 401-364-1211 and set up your visit today.

## ■ Scoops

(Continued from page 4)

Registration is \$25 and additional fundraising is encouraged. Those who pre-register and raise a minimum of \$50 will receive a fun, official t-shirt. To participate in the Penguin Plunge or support a daring individual or team, visit <https://give.specialolympicsri.org/ge/2024pp>.

### NAMI-RI Offers Family Support Groups

The RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-RI) offers free support groups for families and friends of loved ones who are struggling with their mental health. The groups are led by trained facilitators who also have lived experience as family members themselves. The group meetings last about 1.5 hours, and everyone who participates in the meeting gets a chance to share. The other members of the group try to offer help and resources, when appropriate, based on their own experiences. More information and full schedule can be found at [namirhodeisland.org](http://namirhodeisland.org) or call 401-331-3060. No pre-registration for these monthly groups is necessary.

First Thursday at 6 p.m. In-person only at the Rochambeau Library in the Community Room, Rochambeau Library, 708 Hope Street, Providence (NEW-starts Aug.)

Second Tuesday at 5 p.m. In-person only at the Middletown Public Library in the Community Room, Middletown Library, 700 West Main Road, Middletown.

Third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Meets via Zoom only. Please call 401-331-3060 or email [info@namirhodeisland.org](mailto:info@namirhodeisland.org) for the Zoom link.

Fourth Wednesday at 6 p.m. In-person only at the Hope Valley Grange, 71116 Main St., Hope Valley.

### Volunteer with NAMI-RI

The RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-RI) is currently seeking volunteers to facilitate our family programs in 2024. Free training is required and available for interested persons who have a loved one struggling with mental health issues. Together with our grassroots volunteers, we work every day to provide help and hope to millions of Americans. Volunteers are essential to the work that we do at NAMI Rhode Island, and we are always seeking enthusiastic people to help us achieve our mission. For more information about our family programs and volunteer training, email [beth@namirhodeisland.org](mailto:beth@namirhodeisland.org), call the NAMI-RI office 401-331-3060 or visit our website at [namirhodeisland.org](http://namirhodeisland.org).

### Help OSDRI restock their pantry!

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island needs your help. Their food pantry needs a major restocking. See a list of needed nonperishable items in the photo.

Like many people, OSDRI's clients have been faced with some real obstacles these past couple of years. With your help, they pledge to always be there to give a hand up for veterans and their families in need.

Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at OSDRI's main office, 1010 Hartford Ave., Johnston. If you have any questions or would like more information, call the OSDRI office at 401-383-4730.

### Elks Lodge Essay Contest

The Smithfield Elks Lodge No. 2359 announced its annual Elks Americanism essay contest for fifth through eighth grade students. This year's theme is "What the Bill of Rights Means to Me."

The essay should not exceed 300 words, and must be typed or written legibly in ink. Students residing in Smithfield, Foster, Glocester, Scituate, Johnston or North Providence are encouraged to apply. The entrant must submit the essay for later than Dec. 15, 2023 to the Smithfield Lodge of Elks No. 2359, 326 Farnum Pike, Smithfield, or it can be emailed to the Lodge American-

ism Chairperson.

Essays will be judged in originality, development of theme, mechanics, and neatness.

There are four divisions for judging essays: Division I – 5th grade; Division II – 6th grade; Division III – 7th grade; and Division IV – 8th grade. First, second, and third place winners in each division will move onto the district competition in January, and those winners will move onto the state competition in February. State winners will be sent to the Elks Grand Lodge in March. The first, second, and third place national winners will be selected and announced in July, 2024.

All entrants are required to submit a cover sheet which must be attached to the essay. More information and cover sheets can be obtained by contacting the Lodge Americanism Chairperson, Kristin Sullivan at [kristin\\_sullivan@me.com](mailto:kristin_sullivan@me.com).

## More at Mohr Library

Mohr Library is offering extended programs for elementary-age kids after-school.

Preschool Yoga with Ms. Pauline will be held Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m. Please register at [mohrlibrary.org/forchildren.php](http://mohrlibrary.org/forchildren.php) or by calling 231-4980. Children will be guided into gentle movement exercises using the power of their imagination. They will also learn breathing techniques that calm and center them. It will be a time of joy, wonder and movement. Ms. Pauline is a certified yoga teacher practicing since she was 17 years old. A former school teacher, she began programs to bring yoga to children and teachers in schools throughout Rhode Island.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) is an opportunity for children ages 6 to 9 to experiment, explore and build with Ms. Melyssa, on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 5 p.m. (no program on Thanksgiving, Nov. 23).

Art Smart for ages 8 to 12 will be held Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 4-5:30 p.m. Art Smart for ages 5 to 7 will be Saturday, Dec. 16 from 2-3 p.m. Registration is required and begins Nov. 6. See the library's website at [mohrlibrary.org](http://mohrlibrary.org) or call 401-231-4980.

Preschool Story Time started in October, on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and includes stories, songs and crafts. For kids 3-5 accompanied by a caregiver.

Registration is ongoing for a variety of programs and events at the Mohr Library, 1 Memorial Ave, Johnston.

The Library offers help with technology, information, and finding books and media. They have fax service, self-service copying and public computers, and a Notary Public most evenings (call ahead to confirm). You can reserve quiet rooms and meeting space.

Drawing for adults will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursdays.

The Knitting and Crochet Group meets Fridays at 10 a.m.

Activities for middle-school and high-school age kids will be offered many afternoons. Kids should talk with our Young Adult Librarian, Marissa, for more information.

There is an ongoing book sale in the lower level, whenever we are open.

The Children's Library always has drop-in, self-directed activities for kids and families like crafts and scavenger hunts.

The Library is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and beginning Sept. 9, Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Editor's Note:** Send submissions to Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler at [rorys@rhodybeat.com](mailto:rorys@rhodybeat.com) or Front Desk Coordinator Ida Zecco at [idadz@rhodybeat.com](mailto:idadz@rhodybeat.com). Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and non-profit events. Email today and see your news in our column in the Johnston Sun Rise. Please include a daytime telephone number in case we require any further information.





**HEAVY POLICE PRESENCE:**

Police from multiple departments converged on a shooting suspect's car along Plainfield Pike, on the Johnston/Cranston border, early Wednesday morning, May 24, 2023. (Sun Rise file photo by Rory Schuler)



**SUSPECT DEAD:** Police shot and killed James Harrison, 52, of 4 Ligian Court, Johnston, following a triple shooting (double homicide), on May 24, 2023. (Sun Rise file photo)

■ **AG**  
(Continued from page 1)

investigations of officer-related incidents," AG spokesman Brian Hodge wrote a response via email to a request for comment. "In 2020, the Attorney General issued updated protocols concerning how the Office would review use of force incidents by law enforcement ... Before this update, the protocol had not been updated since 2007."

Neronha was elected AG in 2018. American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Rhode Island Executive Director Steven Brown called for patience and clear communication with the public.

"Police shootings can be factually complicated and sometimes require the convening of a grand jury, and so we don't believe any specific time frame should be established for requiring such an important investigation to wrap up," Brown said. "At the same time, transparency is key. The public should be informed as to the reasons that any particular investigation of a police shooting is taking an inordinate amount of time, as unexplained delays can only promote distrust."

**How Many?**

The Sun Rise asked Hodge how many police-involved Ocean State shooting investigations were pending in the AG's office.

"With regards to how many police-involved incidents this office is currently investigating, while there has been some public reporting on this topic, it is generally not our policy to confirm or deny the existence of investigations publicly," Hodge replied.

Hodge instead provided a link to the section of the AG's website where finalized "police use of force cases and investigations" are posted.

The section includes 14 concluded investigations dating back to 2019. According to the AG's website, 12 of the 14 investigations (or 85%) resulted in "no criminal charges filed" against the officers involved.

Those cases in which no charges were filed include the following (in chronological order):

- Investigation into an incident involving the discharge of a firearm by a Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's (DEM) Division of Law Enforcement officer at the Big River Management Area in West Greenwich on Nov. 9, 2019.
- Investigation into the death of a suspect who was being held in the Providence Police cell-block on March 28-29, 2020.
- Investigation into a custodial death incident in Exeter involving RISP on April 21, 2020.
- Investigation into an incident involving an officer involved shooting by a Cumberland police officer in the parking lot of Cumberland High School on May 9, 2020.
- Investigation into use of less than lethal munition, resulting in serious bodily injury, by a Providence Police officer on June 2, 2020.
- Motor vehicle crash in Providence involving the Providence Police Department and moped operator Jhamal Gonsalves on Oct. 18, 2020.
- Investigation into an officer-involved shooting by Warwick Police officers at the Warwick Police Department on Jan. 14, 2022.
- Investigation into custodial death incident involving the Providence Police on May 7, 2021.
- The Grand Jury declined to charge Rhode Island State Police (RISP) Trooper Domingo Diaz with simple assault, following an alleged use of force incident involving the arrest of three juveniles on July 9, 2021.
- Investigation into an officer-involved shooting by a Bristol Police officer on Sept. 2, 2021.
- Investigation into an officer-involved shooting by a Warwick Police officer at the Lockwood Condominiums on Nov. 22, 2021.
- Investigation into officer-involved shooting in-

cident involving the Providence Police Department and RISP on Feb. 10, 2022.

Two investigations did result in charges against police:

- Providence Police Officer Joseph Hanley was found guilty in District Court on March 18, 2021. He had been charged with one count of simple assault, "based on his alleged use of excessive force against Mr. Rishod Gore" on April 19, 2020 in Providence. Hanley has appealed to Superior Court, "where the case is currently pending," according to the AG's website.
- Cranston Police Officer Andrew Leonard was found guilty in District Court on May 6, 2021. He was charged with simple assault after an alleged "use of excessive force" against an individual" on March 5, 2020. On Sept. 26, 2022, Leonard entered a plea of nolo contendere ("no contest").

Hodge also provided links to four news stories about Rhode Island police charged with crimes by the AG's Office: "Furthermore, since instituting this protocol, the office has brought several cases that have resulted in the charging of law enforcement officers when there is probable cause that a crime has been committed."

- Off-duty Pawtucket Police Officer Daniel Dolan, who was charged but cleared by a jury, in the shooting of Dominic Vincent in West Greenwich in 2021.
- Providence Police Officer Jeann Lugo of Warwick, who was charged with assault following a fistfight with a political opponent, but acquitted by a judge.
- Hanley's conviction for assaulting a handcuffed man in custody.
- Warwick police Sgt. Britton Kelly, 55, who was charged with misdemeanor simple assault for allegedly kicking and striking a man handcuffed in the rear of a police cruiser in July.

Cranston Police promptly released body camera footage from the police-involved shooting of Harrison, 52, of 4 Ligian Court, Johnston. The incident was captured from multiple angles by multiple body-worn cameras. Witnesses reported hearing at least 50 gunshots from police (the camera footage confirms a barrage of gunfire).

**How Long's Too Long?**

"In addition, we continue to believe that police body worn camera footage of such incidents should be released to the public expeditiously, and no later than 30 days after a shooting," Brown said earlier this week. "That is why the ACLU has opposed Attorney General regulations that allow such footage to be withheld for longer periods if an investigation is not 'substantially complete.' The public's right to know is paramount in such cases."

How long is too long for an investigation into police-involved shootings?

The investigation into the January 2022 Warwick Police Department shooting took the AG's office nearly 17 months to conclude (the report was released in May 2023).

The Sun Rise asked Hodge if "the AG's office (was) where police-involved shooting investigations go to die?"

"Contrary to how you've phrased your question, the Office does everything it can to investigate, bring charges where appropriate, and in instances where charges are not brought, share publicly, when possible, the results of its investigations into officer involved incidents," Hodge replied. "The Office, has for years, posted reports from these investigations on our website and updates accordingly. This is something that was not done under prior administrations."

Hodge further elaborated on the fairly recent AG police-shooting protocol.

"Under the updated protocol, Rhode Island law enforcement agencies are required to immediately report these incidents to the Attorney General, who,

along with the State Police and local law enforcement agency, leads a review of the incident and makes charging decisions where appropriate, and is applicable to all Rhode Island state and municipal law enforcement agencies," Hodge explained.

Rhode Island's top legal official has received an influx of fresh funding from the state, enabling his creation of a cold case unit and the filling of at least a dozen other new positions in the AG's civil and criminal divisions.

"While the office received additional resources it was not specifically for this work (police-use-of-force investigations)," Hodge said. "This work requires experienced prosecutors to review evidence and work with state and local law enforcement to investigate."

"Investigations begin promptly following these incidents, and oftentimes involve a number of other agencies and organizations, including various law enforcement organizations, medical examiners offices, and other forensic laboratories, to say nothing of the thorough gathering and subsequent review of all evidence," Hodge explained. "It can sometimes take months to obtain the medical examiner and forensic services unit analysis report. This isn't to point fingers at anyone but there are significant caseloads facing all of those agencies as well as us, which contributes to the length of time to review."

"Each investigation is unique, but each requires the proper attention to ensure a just and fulsome decision is reached," Hodge argued. "This takes time. The office does not adhere to a specific timeline in completing its investigations but focuses on accuracy and completeness over expediency."

**The Case Lingers**

No one disputes police likely shot and killed the right man following the May 24 Johnston double murder. And no one has disputed the use of force displayed by police.

"The investigation regarding the incident is ongoing," Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira said in June. "I have no new information to disclose at this time regarding the open investigation."

At press-time, Vieira had yet to respond to a new request for an update on the case.

In May, Vieira told the public that Johnston police had responded to 2 Ligian Court "in reference to a report of suspicious activity" around midnight hours before the shooting started.

Thomas May, 44, called police to report hearing "banging noises ... on the exterior of his residence by his daughter's bedroom window," according to Vieira. Johnston Police arrived and looked in vain for Harrison.

The next morning, around 7:30 a.m., shots rang out on Ligian Court. A Johnston Police Officer returned to the scene, "in another attempt to make contact with Harrison to investigate and issue him the trespass notice," and discovered "a 15-year-old juvenile female lying on the front lawn of the residence with apparent gunshot wounds and stopped to render aid."

Eventually, after additional officers arrived on the scene, police found May, a Johnston Little League coach, dead in the garage, "from a fatal gunshot wound to his head," according to police.

"The juvenile identified Harrison as the shooter," Vieira told reporters. "Officers were unable to locate Harrison and a BOLO (Be On the Lookout) was issued to surrounding law enforcement agencies regarding Harrison and the vehicle he was operating."

Police entered Harrison's home at 4 Ligian Court and found a third victim, whom police identified as the suspect's mother, Janet Harrison, 83, "also deceased from a fatal gunshot wound to the head."

Harrison's Buick Encore was eventually spotted by police and led to a crash and fatal shooting of the suspect on Plainfield Pike near the Johnston/Cranston border, underneath the Interstate 295 overpass.

Cranston Police Chief Col. Michael J. Winquist told reporters that both Cranston and Providence police officers "fired shots at the suspect."



**SUPER STUDENTS:** Members of Johnston High School's National Honor society were among the many different vendors at Saturday's PTSO Holly Fair. (Photos courtesy PTSO President Lance Niles)

**GRAND GUEST:** In keeping with tradition, Santa Claus made a special visit to the Johnston PTSO Holly Fair and is joined by students Connor Niles (left) and Deakin Reyes.



# They took a jolly tear through the PTSO Holly Fair

By PETE FONTAINE

Whether it's a social, school or athletic event, the Town of Johnston has always had a reputation for its unmatched community support.

That theory again held true Saturday for the 12th annual Johnston Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) Holly Fair that attracted people of all ages who filled the school cafeteria for fun, food and Christmas shopping.

"The 2023 Holly Fair has come and gone," PTSO President Lance Niles began. "And one thing is abundantly clear; the Johnston community really comes together to support each other and Saturday was no different."

Niles said Johnston Fire Chief David Iannuccilli, who doubles as the JHS girls' fast-pitch softball team coach, "helped make it a wonderful day."

Iannuccilli, you see, purchased tickets for the traditional 50/50 raffle and wound up having the winning ducat. The fire chief donated that portion back to the PTSO, which supports all students at JHS.

There were 38 vendors who set up shop and made the 12th annual Holly Fair a financial and social success.

Many JHS student groups — the boys' and girls' basketball teams, Student Council, National Honor Society Chapter — volunteered to help orchestrate the event. Members of the Johnston Police Department's award-winning Explorers Post, under the leadership of Major Tom Dolan, provided valuable assistance throughout the six-hour event.

Moreover, Niles was impressed that the Johnston Boy Scout Troop 20 were on hand and added to the day's overall operation.

Meanwhile, countless people were impressed with the shopping opportunities and that was one reason

why traffic was much heavier than normal going and coming to the JHS entrance off Atwood Avenue.

"They have some beautiful jewelry here today," Johnston Town Councilwoman Linda Folcarelli said while showing some friends her silver bracelet. "There is some great merchandise here ..."

To which her Council counterpart Lauren Garzone observed: "This is always a great event; it's impressive that there are a lot of community partners here."

That list, as Niles said prior to greeting Santa Claus, included special supporters like The Original Italian Bakery, This Guy's Pizza and Dunkin Donuts on Atwood Avenue.

"We want to thank every vendor, the students at Johnston High School and people who came and supported the Holly Fair in so many ways," Niles said. "We thank you for your support today — and previous years — and look forward to seeing you next year at Holly Fair 13."



**STUDENT SHOP:** Johnston High School's Class of 2025 had some tasty baked food at their booth during Saturday's Holly Fair.

**SPECIAL SUPPORTERS:** Johnston Police Major Tom Dolan and members of the award-winning Explorers Post 405 provided valuable assistance for shoppers at Saturday's Holly Fair.



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**GENEROUS GIVERS:** Johnston Town Council members Al Carnevale and Lauren Garzone join Santa Claus along with Local 1950 President Keith Calci, Town Council President Robert Russo, Johnston state Rep. Deb Fellela and School Committee Vice President Joe Rotella stand in front of the amazing collection of toys, etc. at last week's party. (Photo courtesy Jonathan Pistacchio)

**■ Toys**

(Continued from page 1)

As Roberts, Martira and many police and fire personnel concurred, the night was special because the turnout of support came from all over town — from patrons of Strings to elected town officials. It was a reminder that Johnston's public safety departments don't just protect and serve also make a difference and give back to the community.

To which Jon Pistacchio, a JFD lieutenant who has chaired and worked on all 12 previous events, added: "Just like every other year, every single member of both unions dug deep in their pockets to help purchase toys prior to this event. Tonight was a special success."

Pistacchio paused then added: "We couldn't have done this without the support of Mayor Joseph Polisenia Jr., JFD Chief David Iannuccilli and JPD

Chief Mark Vieira."

The night also included what DelFino called "an amazing and delicious Italian buffet" prepared by Strings Executive Chef Allen Forte and sponsored by Town Council President Robert Russo.

DelFino also heaped words of praise upon Strings owner Stephanie Harris and her hard-working staff Jen Lewis, Donna Lopes, Angela Celani and Keith Chabot, who made sure every patron was served.

"Let's not forget our best Santa ever," Pistacchio said while thanking Paul Pagon, who he said has shown up "year after year spreading joy to everyone at this event."

As DelFino and many people agreed, Toys for Tots 13 was filled with generosity as well as plenty of holiday cheer, so much so that even the Grinch made an appearance to thank both locals and departments for what they do and continue to do in town.



**STRINGS STAFF:** Strings Bar & Grille owner Stephanie Harris (left) and Angela Celani enjoy a special moment with Santa Claus at last week's Toys for Tots party. (Photo courtesy Jonathan Pistacchio)

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| Brigido's Scituate IGA | Jacavone Garden Center | Speedway                   |
| Buono's Bakery         | Jain's Laundry         | Stop 'n' Go                |
| Citgo Food Mart        | Johnston Fine Wine     | Stop & Shop                |
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| DePetrillo's Bakery    | La Nuova               | Tri Town Wine & Spirits    |
| Dollar Store           | Lighthouse Restaurant  | Trinity Assembly of God    |
| Emmily's Restaurant    | Marian J Mohr Library  | Tri-Town Health Center     |
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| Espresso Pizza         | Mega Liquor            | Walgreens                  |
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# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Sometimes, even conscientious reporters get it wrong! Please note the corrected prices of the washing machines and wash/dry/fold services. Still some of the best prices in town!

## Jain's Laundry

Important corrections ~ Please make note

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Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am-9pm; Sat. & Sun. 7am-9pm

By JENNIFER COATES

The busy holiday season is upon us, and as usual, time is the one thing we need the most of, and yet have the least of. As your "to-do" list grows, so do the piles of laundry accumulating in your hampers. With time fleeting and lists growing, it is more important than ever to enlist the help of Jain's Laundry in Johnston. Why spend the little time you DO have this time of year laboring over a pile of laundry when you have the able, efficient and willing hands of Kaushal Jain to help you carry the load?

For an incredible **.89/pound**, you can have your laundry washed, softened, dried, and even folded at Jain's Laundry. What an incredible time-saver! Besides the convenience of this great service, this incredible price also covers the cost of the softener, bleach, soap and hangers! When life is already so full and free time

is such a rarity, there are few reasons why NOT to take advantage of this amazing, same-day service.

Jain's Laundry, conveniently located at 39 Putnam Pike in Johnston, is a full-service Laundromat. For the most competitive prices in the area, you will find here both the wash-fold, same-day service offered by Kaushal as well as a room full of coin-operated washers and dryers for the "do-it-yourselfers". Don't have enough quarters? No worries, the Jain's have got you covered. A change machine (accepts up to a \$20.00 bill) is available on the premises.

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 **\$2.25 per load**. Vending machines are on-site if you need to re-stock your supply of detergent, softener or laundry bags.

This family-owned and operated business had been offering these convenient services for its 30th year this year. There is plenty of parking and a friendly, helpful staff here, ready to meet the needs of all their residential and commercial customers. You can stay in their clean waiting area between cycles or leave and return between loads. There is always someone there to keep an eye on your clothes or help you as needed.

Jain's Laundry is found in the Plaza 44 shopping plaza on 39 Putnam Pike. It is handicap accessible, and open seven days each week - from 8 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday, and 7 am to 8 pm on Saturday and Sunday. For more information about the services that are available, call 401-231-7019.



**LITERARY VISIT:** The Johnston Senior Center Book Club recently met Pulitzer Prize nominated author David J. Aiello, a Johnston native. (Photos courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)

### ■ Book

(Continued from page 6)

Aiello is a member of the Association of RI Authors. Among his published books are "Twilight's Last Gleaming," a 2017 candidate for the Pulitzer Prize in fiction, "Bonded Vault," based upon the true story of the brazen robbery of a secret "mob vault," "Solitaire is the Only Game in Town," "The Last Resort," and "Willful Blindness." He is currently working on a fictional piece, "I'm Just the Messenger."

Aiello engaged the group for almost two hours. "It's not often you get to hear directly from the author who can fill in all the details and questions you may have," said one of the members. "It's so enjoyable to meet the Author."

Aiello passed out plenty of copies of the various titles, and promised to be back soon to offer insight into the many intricacies of his characters.

A book reviewer said of David's work, "he invents characters that are complex, multi-faceted, and maybe even a bit unsettling. He weaves facts and fiction so masterfully that the reader will have to determine what is real and what isn't."

One member of the club said, "I wish he could come back every month."

If you enjoy reading, consider joining the Johnston Senior Center Book Club, where you might just get the opportunity to meet the author and get all the answers to all your questions answered, enjoy complimentary coffee and baked goods, and meet new friends who enjoy the solitude of a good book.

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

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# Holiday Bazaars, Festivals & Craft Shows

**Dec. 8, North Scituate Baptist Church Winter Farmer's Market** will be held on Fri., Dec. 8, from 4 to 9 p.m. at The North Scituate Baptist Church, 619 West Greenville Road. Shared sponsorship during the Christmas in the Village Festival of Trees Event. There will be baked goods, beverages and a "Holiday Treasures Table."

**Dec. 9. The Strolling Rolling Apponaug Winter Festival** will be held on Sat., Dec. 9, in Apponaug Square, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Holiday parade will step off at 10 a.m. vendors, food trucks, live music, horse and carriage rides, balloon art, face painting, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and many more family-friendly activities, including a scavenger hunt! Stay tuned for more details about parade route. There will also be hourly giveaways for people who enter their name that day or register online. The first 500 people to register will receive a holiday magnetic picture frame – perfect for your Santa photo, which you can have taken right at the Santa Station at the festival! Also, by registering you automatically are entered for a chance to WIN a Winter Getaway, which includes a two-night stay in Warwick with \$100 shopping gift card and \$100 card for Apponaug Brewery. Rain date will be Dec. 10, with no parade.

**Dec. 9, St. Lucia Fest sponsored by the RI Swedish Heritage Assoc.** will be held on Sat., Dec. 9, at 4 p.m., at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 99 Peirce St., East Greenwich. Adults: \$12, Ages 5-14: \$5, Under 5 – Free. Reception following with Swedish refreshments. Questions or information: Astrid at 401-350-9688 or astrid.m.drew@gmail.com or Merlene Mayette at 401-783-2242 or merleneinri@verizon.net.

**Dec. 9, Winter Celebration**, will be held at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 550 Fair Street Warwick (Gaspee area, just off Narragansett Pkwy) on Sat., Dec. 9, at 4:30 p.m. Winter Celebration! For Kids and adults! Crafting, songs, and cider to celebrate winter season in a cheerful way!

**Dec. 10, 44th Annual Christmas Festival in Pawtuxet Village** will be held on Sun., Dec. 10: Service at Trinity Episcopal Church, Ocean Avenue, Cranston, at 4 p.m. Procession down Broad Street in Pawtuxet Village led by the Pawtuxet Rangers to Pawtuxet Park at 4:45 p.m. Lighting of the Village Christmas Tree in Pawtuxet Park, Warwick at 5:00 p.m. Join the Rangers and your neighbors for the tree lighting, and firing of the cannon! Bring your lanterns or flashlights and singing voices.

**Dec. 16, Holiday Story Time Crafts and Visit with Santa** at the Pontiac Free Library, 101 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, on Sat., Dec. 16 at noon. Refreshments will be served. Registration is requested. For information/reservations please contact 401-737-3292 or info@pontiacfreelibrary.com.



Greystone Lofts residences (Photo by Marc Belanger)

## Prank turns deadly for Johnston mill worker

The Greystone Mill, located on Cranston Avenue, was built in 1904, part of the facility lying on the Providence side and the other in Johnston. The textile mill grounds covered almost 13 acres and included three large brick structures, a weave shed, finishing building, pump house, boiler house, heater and oil houses, a stable with attached manure bin, water tanks and covered coal shed.

The main mill was flat-roofed, measured 694 feet long and was comprised of five stories. One area of the mill was for wool sorting, washing and drying. Inside the dye house, one side was utilized for dyeing cloth and yarn and the other for drying and pressing materials. A concrete-walled water pit in the dye house collected the waste matter of manufacturing. The weave shed housed several rows of looms and the finishing building was where completed goods were stored and readied for shipping out.

A footbridge over the Woonasquatucket River connected the Providence

### Back in the Day



by KELLY SULLIVAN

side of the mill to the Johnston side. Two towers jutted up from the north and south sides of the main building, one of them bearing a large clock. Two freight elevators moved up and down throughout the day, carrying goods from one floor to the next.

Eighteen-year-old Pasquale Pezzulo was a bobbin-setter in the mill's spinning department. A native of New York and the son of Giuseppe and Carmela, he lived with his family in Johnston. His father, who came to America from Italy, was a wool comber.

Just before 3:30 p.m. on Aug. 14, 1923, Pasquale and a co-worker, 15-year-old Ralph Conca, who resided on Waterman Road in Johnston, were taking a short break. Large wicker

baskets affixed to rollers were used at the mill to transport yarn from floor to floor via the elevator and the two boys sat down inside one to chat.

The basket was stationed at the top of the third floor landing, next to the elevator. The elevator car was presently up on the fifth floor, therefore the large double doors between the spinning department and the elevator's lift entrance were closed.

Sixteen-year-old Henry Guosuldo, who resided with his family on Manton Road, sighted his friends sitting inside the basket and decided to play a little joke by creeping up behind them, giving the basket a shove and dashing away unseen.

Unexpectedly, the impact of the basket against the doors pushed the right side open and the basket catapulted down several floors into the elevator pit. Landing upside down, both boys were pinned beneath it on the cement floor.

The elevator operator, John Green, heard the crash from the fifth floor and raced down to the pit to see

what had happened. Both of the boys had sustained head injuries and were unconscious.

Green summoned Edmund Jagder, the overseer of the spinning department and together they carried the boys into the office of Henry Smith, manager of the yarn department, and called for an ambulance. Within 20 minutes, medical help had arrived and they were transported to Rhode Island Hospital in critical condition. Pasquale died later that day and Ralph was not expected to survive. It was the mill's first fatality.

As the result of an innocent prank gone wrong, Pasquale was laid to rest in Saint Ann Cemetery in Cranston. Miraculously, Ralph survived. He went on to serve in World War II and died in 1951. He then joined his former co-worker, in eternal rest, within the grounds of Saint Ann's.

The mill has since been renovated into residences – Greystone Lofts.

Kelly Sullivan is a Rhode Island columnist, lecturer and author.

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**HARMONY WITH HERITAGE:** Founded in 2001, the Southern New England chapter of Harmony, Inc., also known as the Harmony Heritage chorus, brings four-part a cappella harmony to the local community through regular performances and educational events. The chorus consists of women representing a wide range of musical backgrounds, from novice to trained professionals, and performs under the direction of Bob O'Connell. Harmony Heritage rehearses at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 50 Park Place, Pawtucket, RI. For more information, visit [www.harmonyheritage.org](http://www.harmonyheritage.org), or contact Barbara-Ann MacIntosh at 401-560-0073 or [joyhi@cox.net](mailto:joyhi@cox.net). (Submitted photo)

# Barbershop harmony chorus to perform 'Holiday Magic' Dec. 10

Harmony Heritage, a local chapter of Harmony, Incorporated, an international organization of female a cappella singers specializing in the barbershop harmony style, will welcome its sister chorus, NoteAble Blend, to perform "Holiday Magic," an a cappella harmony celebration. The performance will begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 10th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 50 Park Place, Paw-

tucket and is open to the public. Parking is on the street and in the municipal lot on Park Place. A goodwill donation at the door will benefit St. Paul's Church.

We always look forward to bringing barbershop harmony to the community," says Anne Diggle, Harmony Heritage chapter president, "and this year we are especially excited to be singing again with our sister chapter NoteAble

Blend for the first time in 4 years! The choruses will perform a wide range of selections during this performance, and there's something that's sure to suit musical tastes of all kinds. We also have the pleasure and privilege to have a group of women who answered the call to be a part of our Christmas Chorus. They have spent eight weeks learning the music and are thrilled to be showcasing their talents with us."

Featured guest quartets at the event will be Second Nature and Trade Secret, both award-winning men's quartets

from the Narragansett Bay Men's Chorus (NBC) and the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS).

Both the choruses and quartets sing in the barbershop harmony style, which traces its musical roots back to the turn of the 20th century. Today, barbershop harmony singers not only celebrate the classics, but also put their own spin on contemporary songs as well.

For more information about upcoming performances, visit [www.harmonyheritage.org](http://www.harmonyheritage.org) or contact Barbara-Ann MacIntosh at [joyhi@cox.net](mailto:joyhi@cox.net) or 401-560-0073.

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## 3.5 million lights make for holiday spectacular at Roger Williams Zoo

By **DON FOWLER**

Over three and a half million Christmas lights!

Can you imagine?

I can't wait for the Holiday Lights Spectacular every Christmas season at the Roger Williams Park Zoo.

I follow the brightly lit trail where all around me pumpkins were lit up only a month ago.

I love to watch the children marveling at the reindeer and snowmen and, of course, Santa Claus.

Speaking of the jolly old man, he will be there to greet the kids every Thursday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The festival is larger than life and

grows bigger every year. If by any chance we get snow before the end of the year, the park takes on a different atmosphere.

The 40 acres of pathways are smooth and flat, making it easy for wheelchairs, canes and wagons to maneuver, with places to stop and rest. There are booths with food, drink, and souvenirs.

Tickets must be purchased online at [rwpzoo.org/holidaylights](http://rwpzoo.org/holidaylights). You must specify a time of arrival, assuring that you will have plenty of time to enjoy your visit without the area being overcrowded.

The exhibit runs from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. through December 31. It is closed Christmas Eve and Christmas day.



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# Sports

## Panthers ready to defend title

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The defending Division II champion Johnston boys basketball team is back in action and gearing up to defend its title this winter season.

The Panthers return some key players from last year's championship roster while looking to replace a few roles. Johnston enjoyed a strong preseason and is tipping off its season this Friday night.

"It's going to be about finding leaders this year and for them to step up. They've done a great job. They know they have big shoes to fill and right now they're exceeding expectations. It's good to start this week off on the right foot. I think we're still the team to beat in Division II. The vibe has been great so far," said coach Mike Bedrosian.

The team's elder statesman in the starting lineup will be forward Neari Vasquez, who is hoping to use last year's title run to help lead the way.

"The leadership has been great. Mikey (Carlino), Cam (Walker), Branden (Testa) all spent time in the starting lineup or were sixth men last year and they have pushed me to be a better leader in practice. Last year we learned about dealing with adversity and dealing with it as a team. After (a few) losses, we never kept our heads down and kept working. We learned that we had to keep our foot on the gas at game time," said Vasquez.

The team said bye to starting guards Derek Salvatore and Anthony Corsinetti, who were All-Division and were perhaps the division's best back court.

Carlino will be called on to fill those minutes and he is confident in himself and the returning players.

"From last year to this year, there are a ton of roles to fill. But no one in the divi-



SET TO DEFEND: Returning senior Michael Carlino in a game last season. (Sun Rise file photo)

PANTHERS - PAGE 19

**FANTASTIC FUNDRAISERS:** Among the JMCE members who took part in last week's check presentation to Hasbro Children's Hospital are John Graham, Judi Graham, Dewey Uriati, Ernie DeAngelis, Michele Brannigan, Debbie Johnson, Michele Capraro, Linda LaFazia, Vin LaFazia and Phyllis Gelsomino. (Submitted photos)



## JMCE raises \$35k for Hasbro

By PETE FONTAINE

When it comes to sharing and caring, no non-profit does it better than the Johnston Memorial Cancer Events.

Last week, for example, the JMCE – which is made up of a small group of friends who lost loved ones to battles of cancer and started many years ago with a special campfire event – reached yet another milestone and set the stage for 2024.

The JMCE held another extraordinary check presentation and then announced the first of many fundraising events that will benefit the highly acclaimed Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence.

"We are gearing up for our annual New Year's Day

JMCE - PAGE 17

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**JMCE**

(Continued from page 16)

Polar Golf Tournament," Vin LaFazia, long-standing chairman of the JMCE said. "This will be the first of many events we'll host in the coming year."

Like the JMCE, the Polar Golf Tournament is unique in that people pay a \$25 fee to play just three holes at famed Glocester Country Club and are only allowed to use three clubs. Moreover, each participant as LaFazia mused "must play in shorts and tee shirts even though it's New Year's morning."

That announcement was made inside the GCC clubhouse following the JMCE family presenting Hasbro Children's Hospital with a check for \$35,000.

To which Michele Brannigan, Senior Philanthropy Officer & Campaign Manager at Hasbro Children's Hospital exclaimed: "Johnston Memorial Center Events holds a very special place within our Hasbro Children's Hospital Community. The JMCE team puts their heart and soul into every event they sponsor, and we share their gratitude for everyone who comes to support them."

After pausing, Brannigan emphasized: "Their commitment to helping children with cancer now extends to support for our expanding work in pediatric cancer research. This research leads to promising new treatments and Johnston Memorial Cancer Events shares our hope that through research we will help find a cure for childhood cancers."

With heart-felt emotion ringing in her voice, Brannigan concluded: "Hasbro Children's Hospital and the families we serve are enormously grateful to have Johnston Memorial Cancer Events by our side in this promising endeavor."

In addition to the Polar Golf Tournament, the JMCE is part of the Ricky Salzillo Memorial Game Dinner and hosts its annual granddaddy golf tourney at Connecticut National Golf Club in Putnam, Ct. in May. Then, there's the Co-Ed Memorial Tournament in September that receives a special boost as host Glocester Country Club waves all fees and has designated Hasbro Children's Hospital as its charity.

Anyone who'd like to play in the New Year's Day Polar Golf Tournament should all Judi Graham at 497-2964 or email Judi@graham-builders.com.



**MILESTONE MOMENT:** Michele Brannigan, Senior Philanthropy Officer & Campaign Manager for Hasbro Children's Hospital is all smiles as she accepts a check from Phyllis Gelsomino and the Johnston Memorial Cancer Events. Also taking part is Michele Capraro, Ernie DeAngelis and Debbie Johnson.



*Holly Hoopsters*

Members of the Johnston High School boys and girls basketball teams were among the many students who helped make Saturday's 12th Annual PTSO Holly Fair a huge success. A total of 38 vendors set up shop in the school cafeteria and offered everything from crafts to food items, jewelry and more. The Panther players proved to be a valuable addition and received praise from PTSO President Lance Niles. (Submitted photos)



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# Hats off to Whitehouse for another great Leaders Day

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Hats off to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and his staff for putting together the Energy, Environment and Oceans Leaders Day, Friday, Dec. 1 at the Rhode Island Convention Center. This is the 14th year the Senator has run the event.

About 200 invited guests gathered for the day to exchange information and learn about initiatives to protect the environment and humans.

Topics discussed included the impacts of greenhouse gases, methane use and leak detection, to the impacts of climate change on habitat, fish, our environment and humans.

## Here are some highlights of the day

Climate change impacts. Dr. Kim Cobb, Director, Institute at Brown for Environment and Society, reminded us of the devastating impacts climate change is having on the earth. Highlights included, 2023 being the warmest year ever so far, and the way things are going it could be the coolest year we will experience for the rest of our lives.

Other impacts this year include Vermont flooding (with over nine inches of rain in 48 hours in some towns in July this year), more intense fires, warming ocean temperatures fueling more severe hurricanes, a reduced snow fall and coral reef destruction intensifying. Dr. Cobb said, "Climate change is now costing us 100's of billions of dollars every year. It is a public health, economic and national security threat."

Dr. Cobb highlighted the work of Dr. Timmons Rogers from the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society. I have experienced his work firsthand as he and his team have pushed forward information to the public to debunk the misinformation, false science, and half-truths regarding climate impacts and offshore wind energy in our region.

Holding fossil fuel companies accountable for knowing about the harmful impacts of fossil fuels on the environment and then trying to cover up these impacts through misinformation like climate change denial campaigns. The effort may lead to the court room, where plaintiffs file suit against the fossil fuel industry, much like the tobacco company coverups and settlement.

Representative Jamie Raskin of



**VIPS:** Speakers at the Stephen Medeiros Fishing Area dedication included Jason McNamee, Deputy Director of Natural Resources for DEM; Congressman Seth Magaziner; Scott Travers, RISAA Executive Director; Audra Medeiros; Rich Hittinger, RISAA 1st Vice President; and John Torgan, State Director of The Nature Conservancy. (Submitted photos)

Maryland, ranking member of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, said, "Many believe that forty years ago the oil and gas industry knew the consequences of burning fossil fuels." He added that if they came forward with this information to help solve the challenge, we would be in a much different place today.

Environmental justice, or as I learned Friday, some refer to it as environmental racism, has been going on for hundreds of years. Speakers on this panel highlighted how people of color simply have not had access to the environment. The question was asked, "How many in this room have taken a hike, have been camping; or know how to swim...

well many people of color have never had the opportunity or access to do these things."

Darrell Brown, the RI Vice President of the Conservation Law Foundation, took exception about recent objections from some on Aquidneck Island relating offshore wind farms will disrupt their view (as wind farms will sit fifteen miles off the coast). Mr. Brown said, "They put a greater value on their view than the value of human lives impacted negatively by the burning of fossil fuels."

NOAA moving forward with climate ready fisheries research and responsible offshore wind energy. The closing presentation at Leaders Day was made by Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator for the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration and Chief of NOAA Fisheries. Two key points included the agency's charge to responsibly site and build offshore wind farms to help create a renewable energy resource for the nation and an initiative to deploy the climate research funding NOAA now has throughout the agency and its regional fishing councils to work towards climate ready fisheries to avoid stock crashes.

"Climate impacts on habitat and fish have been devastating like the crash of salmon stocks and the crab industry on the west coast," said Janet Coit. "We need to enhance climate research on species distribution in the country and world. We have frightening changes occurring in the environment such as the impact of greenhouse gases so we must scale up and have to make sure the siting and construction of large wind farms are done in a way that maintains a healthy environment."

Assistant Administrator Coit pointed to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) NOAA did this year with BOEM on healthy oceans and wind farms. "We have six wind farm projects developing now, there are still a lot of questions, but it is imperative to move forward," said Assistant Administrator Coit.

## Tribute to a great fishing community leader

Whenever I am faced with too much to do I think of Steve Me-

deiros, founding President and Executive Director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA). Rich Hittinger, 1st vice president of the Association said, "We now have four people doing the job that Steve use to do on his own."

Hittinger made the comment Saturday, Dec. 2 at a ceremony to honor Steve Medeiros who passed in 2021, during a dedication ceremony at the Stephen J. Medeiros Fishing Area at Black Point, Narragansett.

Scott Travers, Executive Director of RISAA, said, "Steve had an unmatched vision for how recreational saltwater anglers could band together and make a positive change. Steve made this vision a reality by founding the Association that grew to become The Voice of Southern New England Fishermen."

In addition to naming the fishing area after Medeiros, two large fish identification boards will be displayed along the waterfront and a third board honoring Steve in the parking area.

## Where's the bite?

Tautog fishing and cod fishing. Call ahead to make a party boat reservation, vessels generally sail between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. and return in the afternoon. Visit [www.islandcurrent.com](http://www.islandcurrent.com), [www.francesfleet.com](http://www.francesfleet.com) and [www.sevenbs.com](http://www.sevenbs.com). Full day rates for vessels are generally \$130 to \$135 per adult and around \$80 for those under 12 years old.

Freshwater fishing. For a complete list of trout stocked ponds in Massachusetts visit Mass Wildlife at Trout stocking report | [Mass.gov](http://Mass.gov) and in Rhode Island visit [www.dem.ri.gov/fishing](http://www.dem.ri.gov/fishing), or call 401-789-0281 or 401-539-0019 for more information on trout stocking.

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

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 12/9 vs. E. Providence (home) 7pm

**Regular Season Begins**  
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 12/14 vs. Mt. Hope (home) 7pm  
 12/18 @ Shea 7pm  
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 1/8 vs. Tiverton (home) 7pm  
 1/9 @ Hope 7pm  
 1/13 vs. S. Kingstown (home) 7pm  
 1/16 @ Middletown 7pm  
 1/18 vs. Toll Gate (home) 7pm  
 1/22 @ Lincoln  
 1/24 vs. St. Rays (home) 7pm  
 1/26 @ Tolman 7pm  
 2/1 vs. Rogers (home) 7pm  
 2/2 vs. Cranston West (home) 7pm  
 2/5 @ Burrillville 6:30pm  
 2/7 vs. Pilgrim (home, Senior night) 7pm  
 2/9 @ Charho 6:30pm



**TIPPING OFF:** Johnston starters this season will include Neari Vasquez (above) and Brenden Testa (below).



## ■ Panthers

(Continued from page 16)

...ion has as much experience as our starting five. We all played at a high level last year and competed in the biggest games of our lives. No one has more experience than us," said Carlino, who learned a thing or two from playing behind Salvatore. "(Salvatore) made sure that everyone got involved and made sure everyone was on the same page at all times."

The last major void to replace is in in the front court after the graduation of Camani Batista. Cam Walker is a leading candidate to replace the Batista role.

"Without Camani, I feel that I have to take a way bigger role this year and practicing with him last year made me a better player. Same with NeAri, I think we'll do well," said Walker.

Brothers Branden and Jayden Testa will round out the lineup and project to be key offensive weapons, according to Bedrosian. Branden was in and out of the starting lineup last season while Jayden

was lost for the year from a leg break. He is back on the court and at 100 percent heading into the season.

"I'm 100 percent now and have been playing since the spring. It really was a bummer to not get to play last season," said Jayden.

Branden added: "I'm looking forward to it because we have been playing together for our entire lives. Everyone can see that we play together so it's going to be fun."

Bedrosian is excited to see the impact the duo will make.

"(Jayden's) hungry. He replaces the scoring that we lost from last year, Branden, too. They're going to be two of the best scorers in the division. Jayden is hungry and this is the first time they'll be on the floor together as brothers. Last year we expected them to take that big role but it didn't work out. We're looking forward to having them both out there."

The Panthers will tip off their season this Friday night when they travel to Smithfield, then will host East Providence on Saturday.

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6 Thompson Dr	Fluette, Raymond and Meade, Dolores M	Pappas, Troy J	11/17	\$448,750
9 Valiant Dr	Hometown Amer Mgmt LLC	Yakes, Donald and Yakes, Dawn	11/15	\$279,900
10 Howard Ave	A Rose LLC	Velez, Justin C	11/15	\$460,000
11 Torch Ln	Garlow, Sandra A	Toevs, Kenneth and Rosa, Sandra	11/17	\$150,000
12 Red Maple Rd	Rainone, Sandra	Buskirk, Bradley C and Buskirk, Cameron H	11/15	\$499,000
13 Myra Rd	Nancy P Jones T and Damiano, Roy W	Fakhoury, Andy and Fakhoury, Heather	11/13	\$329,900
13 Woodmist Cir	Granda, Lisa A and Granda, German E	Mcdonald, Charles	11/16	\$550,000
19 Black Walnut Dr	Corey, Thomas R	Pinto, Paul and Pinto, Rita	11/15	\$395,000
19 Ginger Trl	Windrow, Brett D and Windrow, Joyce N	Lachapelle, Andrew L and Depietro, Marissa L	11/16	\$595,000
34 Mohawk St	Nese, Mario A and Nese, Gabrielle N	Kigas, Zachary and Thornber, Shane	11/17	\$447,777
40 Edward St	Matteson Margaret Est and Mccarthy, Marguerite E	Oneppo, Derek and Oneppo, Denise	11/13	\$260,000
46 Knotty Oak Shrs	Duquette, Paul G and Duquette, Maria F	Walsh, Abigail R	11/9	\$310,000
47 Mapledale St	Prignano, Jeremy	West Bay Hm Solutions LLC	11/9	\$265,000
52 Hornbeam Rd	Dabrosca, Christopher	Zisk Jr, Derek and Amaral, Kayla E	11/14	\$209,365
57 Breezy Lake Dr	Achey, Janet A and Achey, Dennis N	Achey, Barbara and Achey, Matthew	11/9	\$250,000
85 Mohawk St	Catelli, Edward J	Calise, Steven J and Calise, Donna T	11/15	\$412,500
102 Macarthur Blvd	Bourgault, Michael R	Brouillard, Robert M	11/8	\$285,000
174 Shippee Cove Rd	Shippee, Ralph and Broussard, Patricia	Shippee, Ralph and Shippee, Mary	11/16	\$70,000
195 Hopkins Hill Rd	Romjue, Steven V and Romjue, Kimberly L	Mota, Isidro N	11/17	\$320,000
204 Hill St	Enos, Michael A	Degraide, Benjamin and Degraide, Ashley	11/9	\$330,000
222 Togue Ave	Elizabeth M Moore T and Moore, Richard E	Domenech, Christian J and Diaz, Nilda	11/9	\$345,000

## Cranston

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
1 Sweet Corn Dr Lot 5	Edward S Eranosian Ft and Eranosian, Craig E	Isabella, Donna M	11/14	\$242,500
6 Ashley St Lot 23-30	Ruscito Irene Est and Silva, Theresa R	Lapatin, Jenna and Lapatin, David	11/15	\$360,000
6 Ashley St Lot 25-30	Ruscito Irene Est and Silva, Theresa R	Lapatin, Jenna and Lapatin, David	11/15	\$360,000
6 Ashley St Lot 24-30	Ruscito Irene Est and Silva, Theresa R	Lapatin, Jenna and Lapatin, David	11/15	\$360,000
7 Whipple Ave	Pineda, Evaristo	Lastor, Mario G	11/13	\$483,000
10 Cottage St	Alriche, Tholorme	Serafina, Belkis and Garcia, Paulino	11/15	\$300,000
17 Hampshire Rd	Shanker, Justin L and Shanker, Natalie K	Sosa, Aracelis	11/13	\$375,000
39 Normandy Dr	Manzi Firt and Manzi, Ralph G	Concilio, Brett J and Concilio, Kaitlin M	11/14	\$435,000
50 Sycamore Dr	Durante Derek L Est and Durante, Jolene	Desmond, Adam and Desmond, Chiho	11/15	\$478,000
55 Crescent Ave Lot 332	Chofay, Robert	Mcdonald, Courtney B	11/13	\$399,900
55 Crescent Ave Lot 331	Chofay, Robert	Mcdonald, Courtney B	11/13	\$399,900
123 Hillwood St	Ribera, Carmine and Deleon, Ronlad	Pierre, Gerald J	11/13	\$355,000
138 Garden St	Greenwood Garden Prop LLC	Leis Prop LLC	11/13	\$320,000
206 Council Rock Rd	Shelhart, Diane M	Lombardi, Courtney L and Lombardi, Jason D	11/15	\$610,000
236 Pawtuxet Ave	Maggiacomo, Matthew J and Fairweather, Lauren A	Moss Home Solutions LLC	11/13	\$315,000

## Exeter

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
41 Chappel Place Ln	Lei, Yan L	Mckinnon, Christopher M and Machon, Lauren	11/17	\$650,000
133 Whispering Pine Way Lot 133	Cucino, Raymond D and Mello, Gregory J	Szkwarz, Marino J and Szkwarz, Deena M	11/16	\$605,000
133 Whispering Pine Way Lot 133	Chagnon Realty Tti and Chagnon, Michael E	Cucino, Raymond D and Mello, Gregory J	11/16	\$415,000

## Johnston

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
3 Blueberry Ln	Martin, Jake J	Badger, Jennifer R and Blaisdell, Ryan A	11/17	\$410,000
13 Harris Ave	Harbert, Brett and Harbert, Emely	Vandal, James R	11/15	\$350,000
16 S Williams St	Appolonia Jr, Camine and Freedom Mortgage Corp	Marchetti, Melanie	11/17	\$265,000
31 Regina Dr	Debolt, Shawna R	Capital -T Properties LLC	11/16	\$245,000
43 Argonne St	Pingitore, David	Pingitore, Francine R	11/16	\$200,000
50 Scenery Ln Lot 50	Deaugustinis, Frederick and Deaugustinis, Arlene	Moreira, Patricia	11/16	\$270,000
100 Walnut St	Franklin, Cheryl A and Duffy, Kerri L	Patel, Suwila	11/15	\$370,000
260 George Waterman Rd Lot 103	Tutalo, Joseph P and Tutalo, Donna M	Santilli, Randi	11/16	\$134,000
1150 Hartford Ave Lot 1150	Botelho, Jennifer N	Schmeltz, Laura M	11/15	\$265,000

## Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
20 Custer St Lot 3	Denoncour, William J and Denoncour, Sherri-Anne M	Baringer Jr, John	11/15	\$335,000
20 Custer St Lot 1	Denoncour, William J and Denoncour, Sherri-Anne M	Baringer Jr, John	11/15	\$335,000
20 Custer St Lot 2	Denoncour, William J and Denoncour, Sherri-Anne M	Baringer Jr, John	11/15	\$335,000
52 Uncas St	Medeiros, Matthew	Mcvay, Tammy	11/13	\$325,000
108 Rome Ave	Ellinwood, Norman K and Johnson, Cheryl	Roldan, Francis Z	10/13	\$310,000
122 Spring Green Rd	Petrone, Gina A	Mcleod, Christopher W and Mcleod, Katelyn	11/14	\$390,000
130 Keeley Ave Lot 106	Langello Anthony J Jr Est and Dantonio, Toni	Garcia Chonay, Selvin R	11/15	\$360,000
130 Keeley Ave Lot 107	Langello Anthony J Jr Est and Dantonio, Toni	Garcia Chonay, Selvin R	11/15	\$360,000
160 Suburban Pkwy	Ahn, Michael	Frey-Kipyego, Starla	11/14	\$228,000
294 Lake Shore Dr	Mortgage Assets Mgmt Seri and Bank Of Ny Mellon T	Alpha Hldg LLC	10/25	\$281,000

## West Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
20 Oakland Dr	Colardo, Francine I and Colardo, Claudette	Dias, Sofia E and Croce, Alexander T	11/16	\$340,000
25 Hillcrest Dr	West Bay Hm Solutions LLC	Meade, Dolores M and Fluette, Raymond	11/17	\$350,000
32 Old Carriage Rd	Folco, Dean E and Folco, Deanna	Reynold Jr, Clinton M	11/17	\$409,000
41 Silver Cup Cir Lot 41	Sullivan, Daniel F	Manzi Income-Only Ft and Manzi, Ralph G	11/17	\$387,000
100 Shippee Ave	Gonzalez, Andrew	Mendez, Ramon A	11/17	\$450,000
100 Shippee Ave	Gonzalez, Andrew	Mendez, Ramon A	11/17	\$450,000
650 E Greenwich Ave Lot 108	Laliberte Jr Edward G Est and Carpenter, Maureen	Colardo, Francine I and Colardo, Claudette A	11/17	\$270,000
1588 Main St Lot 25	Buitta, Nikole A	Wallitsch, Cassidy	11/17	\$190,000

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## The Best of Holiday Blow Molds



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

**M**y wife and I, probably like most of you, spent the last week decorating for the holiday season. While cruising the aisles of the hardware and home goods stores with her and Polly (our pup!), I noticed blow mold Christmas decorations have made a major comeback. For a few decades there, blow up lawn decorations were the popular choice – but not so much anymore! Wonder why?

Just like with the collectability and popularity of toys rising and falling with generational interest, so too do blow molds. The average middle-aged person decorating their homes today likely remembers blow mold lawn decorations in every yard and holiday display of their childhood. Why wouldn't they? They're brightly colored, warm, fun, and life size for a kid. They brought their favorite characters like Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph, and of course, Santa, to life... and that translates to big time nostalgia for the average consumer. Admit it, deep down,

we all want to recreate a bit of the holiday magic we experienced as kids for ourselves!

If, of course, you want to recreate the true Christmas experience of yesteryear for yourselves, you are not going to want any of these modern day blow molds. You probably want authentic vintage blow molds, just like the ones you grew up with. If you're serious about collecting them, there are a few things to watch for while shopping around and hitting the flea markets.

1. Check for Markings: The underside of the blow molds will have markings. The older ones are embossed, and some even include the year. Pro tip: You don't want any made in China!
2. Check for Repairs: Because they were prone to fading and cracking, some people painted over their blow molds or patched them up. This can affect their appearance. Pro tip: Use a flashlight to spot shoddy restorations!
3. Check the Electrics: Older electrical plugs have a different appearance than modern plugs and are a tip off its vintage. Pro tip: Wiring may be upgraded, so do more research and double check those markings!
4. Check for Barcodes: After 1974 barcodes were included on blow molds, so if a blow



mold is sans barcode, it might be an original. Pro tip: Barcodes can be removed, so do more research and double check the markings!

At this point, you might be wondering how long holiday blow molds have been around, to which the answer is the 1950s. They were created at a time when plastics manufacturing came into full swing, by blowing molten plastic into a mold where it cools and hardens. Some major companies that were famous for festive blow molds were Union Products, Empire Plastic Corp., and General Foam Plastic.

If you happen to have any authentic vintage holiday blow molds, take care of them! Keep them away from heat sources where they can melt and get them out of the sun as soon as

the holidays are over. Also, if you want to clean them, don't use harsh chemicals on that old paint – a baby wipe will do! Finally, before making any major repairs to them, remember value often relies on condition – collectors expect well loved vintage blow molds to have some wear and tear! If you've got a collection of vintage blow molds you're ready to part with in 2024, give us a call! We'll be happy to re-home them to collectors who will appreciate them for the art pieces they are!

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# RhodyHealth

## Navigating the Holidays



## Embracing Hospice Philosophy in the Face of Loss

The holiday season, a time traditionally associated with joy, warmth, and togetherness, can become a touching reminder of the fact that loved ones are declining, and this may be the last holiday we have with them, or we may feel the empty spaces left behind by the loss of a recent loved one. During such challenging times, the principles of hospice philosophy offer a guiding light, providing solace and support for those grappling with grief.

While some think that admission to hospice care means the patient has just a few days to live, VNA of Care New England hospice patients receive hospice care for an average of three months before passing on.

Hospice care is a collaboration bringing together a team of people with special skills — among them nurses, doctors, spiritual care advisors, social workers, home health aides, and trained volunteers. These team members work together with the person who is dying (terminally ill with less than six months to live), the caregiver, and/or the family to provide the medical, emotional, and spiritual support needed.

President Jimmy Carter, the longest-lived U.S. president, announced in February that after several brief hospital stays, he would forgo further medical intervention and spend the remainder of his life at home in hospice care.

The hospice care teams at the VNA of Care New England are working toward achieving a dignified, pain-free end to terminal illness.

Research shows that pain increases in the last two years of life, often becoming the most intense in the last four months. Uncontrolled pain can lead to other issues includ-

### Staying Healthy



DEBRA ROBERTS, MD  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR, CARE NEW ENGLAND HOSPICE

&

REV. BURTON BAGBY-GROSE  
HOSPICE BEREAVEMENT & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR  
VNA OF CARE NEW ENGLAND



ing shortness of breath, restlessness, and anxiety. This uncontrolled pain can also prolong the grieving process for loved ones. If you notice an increase in pain or other difficult symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, trouble swallowing, or pressure ulcers that don't improve with treatment, hospice care may help.

When your loved ones wait to enter hospice care until their final days and weeks of life, they miss out on the full benefit of hospice services.

The VNA of Care New England Hospice program provides services mostly in private homes, but also in skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and hospitals. We provide medical equipment and supplies, symptom management, and spiritual support with a chaplain who meets people where they are, without judgment. We also provide assistance with daily living activities like bathing from a hospice aide, which allows family members to focus on quality time with their loved one.

Our social workers/support counselors provide emo-

tional support and community resource information and referrals. Our trained volunteers help with simple household tasks but mainly provide extensive emotional support through companionship and caregiver respite.

The VNA of Care New England has a comprehensive bereavement counseling (grief support) program to help loved ones process grief through monthly grief support mailings, one-on-one support sessions, and weekly 90-minute grief support group sessions at accessible community locations.

When you think it may be time to start the hospice conversation, be sure you understand the options. Learn as much as you can about end-of-life care options such as hospice so that you can answer questions and offer support to your aging parents or loved one.

The loss of loved ones during the holidays is a poignant experience that many face. Embracing hospice philosophy can serve as a guiding light, offering a framework for understanding, acceptance, and healing. Through open communication, shared experiences, and a supportive community, we can honor the memory of our departed loved ones and find solace during the holiday season.

Call the VNA of Care New England Hospice today for more information about hospice care at 401-737-6050.

*December's CNE Staying Healthy column was written by Deb Roberts, MD, Medical Director, of Care New England Hospice, and Reverend Burton Bagby-Grose, Hospice Bereavement & Volunteer Coordinator, VNA of Care New England. The article is titled, Navigating the Holidays: Embracing Hospice Philosophy in the Face of Loss.*

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