

Still no vote on solar Zoning Board public hearing conclusion pushed to 2024

Editor's Note: This is the fifth installment of a series looking at the newest iteration of the proposed Winsor Avenue solar farm. The public hearing is expected to continue in January, with a likely vote on a special-use permit to build an industrial-scale 19 megawatt (MW) solar field, with nearly 50,000 solar panels at 118 Winsor Ave. in northwest Johnston. Watch for more coverage leading up to and following the expected continuation of this hearing on Jan. 25.

By RORY SCHULER

The crowd looked up from the Zoning Board to the Bingo Board, as a former judge and local attorney issued a challenge.

"I'm going to be very brief," said former Johnston Chief Municipal Court Judge and lawyer Jacqueline M. Grasso. "I listened to everybody. And everybody has the same opinion. We don't want this. And I find it very interesting that there's all men on this board."

She pointed to the words printed on the giant illuminated Bingo sign hanging in the Johnston Senior Center ballroom, at the front of the room above the long Zoning Board table.



TOTAL BALLS: Former Johnston Chief Municipal Court Judge and lawyer Jacqueline M. Grasso issued a challenge to the town's zoning board. She told them to look at the two words over their heads and grow a pair, as the Bingo board suggests.

SOLAR - PAGE 9

JHS WINTER CONCERT

Giving chills



GRINGRAS' GROUP: In keeping with tradition, the 123-member Concert Chorus treated a near full-house audience to their special sounds during last week's dynamic performance. For the story and more photos, turn to Page 11. (Photo courtesy Steve Turten)



THE JCRC: Johnston's Charter Review Commission (JCRC) has convened three times now, after meeting on Thursday evening, Dec. 7 (shown here).

Editor's Note: This is the latest story in a series looking at the process of revising Johnston's Town Charter via the Johnston Charter Review Commission (JCRC).

By RORY SCHULER

If asked whether Town Council terms should double, from two years to four, how would you vote?

That significant change proposal was made briefly, and out of order at the Dec. 7 Johnston Charter Review Commission (JCRC) meeting by Vice-Chairman Fred Iafrate.

He was informed it was too early in the process; the evening's agenda only covered Articles 1 and 2 of the charter (Basic Provisions and Elections).

Very few alterations were made that night. A motion and unanimous vote supported "gender neutral" language to be amended throughout the town charter.

CHARTER - PAGE 9

JHS Panther of the Week

POTW: This week's Panther of the Week is Alexis Rivera. Alexis is a sophomore at Johnston High School and was nominated by Ms. Sandy Nardolillo. Ms. Nardolillo said, "Alexis demonstrates amazing team spirit and endless support." Alexis is one of the stars on Johnston High's Unified Volleyball and Basketball team. She is also a member of the Johnston High band, playing the trumpet. After high school, Alexis would like to be a hairdresser. (Photo submitted by Matt Velino, Johnston High School Principal)

Editor's Note: This is the newest installment of an ongoing weekly series highlighting Johnston's amazing students. Staff at Johnston High School will be nominating students and submitting a caption and a photo for publication. You'll find each week's winning Panther within the pages of the Johnston Sun Rise.



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BLANKET POLICY Patchwork approach works perfectly for Giving Quilt Club

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

The Johnston Senior Center "Spotlite" this week shines on a group of dedicated members of the JSC Giving Quilt Group.

Quietly, tucked away in the Center Craft Room, these talented members have been meeting weekly since 2009.

The beautiful quilts are used as bed covers, wrap arounds, wall hangings, and just about anything else imaginative.

The quilts are made "with friendship and love, and provide much warmth and many memories." The Giving Quilt Group, which keeps impeccable records, has provided more than 500 handmade quilts, which they've donated to group homes, veterans, churches, orphanages, and nursing homes.

This week, over 50 of these beautiful pieces of artwork will warm the hearts of children involved with the Children Friend Family Preservation Program. Caseworkers will distribute the quilts in time for Christmas to children whose families are involved with the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

If sewing is of interest to you, consider joining this group, whose members are patient and eager to teach you the art of quilting. Quilts are passed down through generations and are so meaningful and enjoyable.

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.



THEY GIVE QUILTS: The Giving Quilt Club members get together every week to make quilts for disadvantaged children. From left to right, members of the Giving Quilt Group, Marie Lanzi, Fran Zanni, Evelyn Cedron and Sue Franzen, pose with some of this year's quilting crop. (Photos courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)

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AWESOME ALUMS: These are the ladies who came from different parts of the state last week and enjoyed the JHS "Girls Club" Luncheon and Christmas Party at Atwood Grille in Johnston.

Out to lunch with the girls

By PETE FONTAINE

It may be the most unique "girls" club in Johnston. For the past 15 years, different representatives from at least four graduating classes from Johnston High School have enjoyed lunch — and good old fashioned "chit chat" — on the second Tuesday of each month at Atwood Grille.

Last week, around 30 JHS grads met for their annual Christmas Party and as Gina Mollo Pistacchio, who served as Library Club President for the Class of 1965, said: "What a turnout it was; over 30 of us from the classes of 1963, 64, 65, 66 etc."

The luncheon highlight came when June Castellese Albanese received a lovely and personalized bracelet and Christmas poinsettia from the group for all her efforts and as Pistacchio emphasized "started this wonderful tradition 15 years ago."

The event has become so popular, each month a different group of ladies come from all parts of the state to enjoy reminiscing about the good ol' days at Johnston High School.

While some ladies now live in South County, Cranston, Scituate and North Providence, "but most of us still reside here in Johnston and we raised our families in Johnston after marrying other Johnston High School alumni. We just love our little town!"

Among the ladies who attended last week's luncheon-Christmas Party were Nandine Gravel Skovron, who was the cheerleading captain from the Class of 1965; Dottie Repono Whelan, Class of '65 secretary and Marie Ferra Lisi, social Committee chairman who graduated from JHS in 1966.

"We all owe the success of our reunion luncheons to June," Pistacchio said with sincerity ringing in her voice. "She initiated this gathering over 15 years ago she still calls each and every one of us every month to remind us of the impending dinners."



FAITHFL FOUNDER: June Castellese Albanese, a 1965 Johnston High School graduate who founded the unique "Girls Club" that has been meeting for the past 15 years, was honored with a personalized bracelet and Christmas poinsettia at last week's party.

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A Christmas party for the history books

AT THE ROADHOUSE: More than 100 people attended last week's Christmas Party for the Johnston Historical Society at Shang Bailey's Roadhouse, hosted by Anthony J. Ursillo and Timothy Kee. Ursillo, on the right, poses for a photo with and Brendan Kirby (local celebrity guest from the Rhode Show). Miss Sherrie Claus and Santa Scott made an appearance (above). The party was packed with fun, food and music. (Photos courtesy Anthony Ursillo)



Republican Committees stand together in tribute at Wreaths Across America

According to a state GOP press release, 20 Republican committees representing cities and towns took part in the Wreaths Across America ceremony this past weekend.

On Saturday, volunteers gathered at the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery to lay wreaths on veterans' graves as a heartfelt tribute. Volunteers, young and old, joined forces to honor the memory of our fallen heroes, each wreath symbolizing a heartfelt thank you for their service.

"I want to say a big thank you to all the committee chairs, volunteers, and everyone who took part in making this year's Wreaths Across America event special," said Republican Party of Rhode Island Chairman Joe Powers. "Your help and support made a real difference. Every wreath placed and every person involved showed how much we honor and appreciate our veterans. Thanks again for making this event unforgettable."

The following Republican Committees participated in laying and/or donating wreaths:

- Barrington Republican Town Committee
- Charlestown Republican Town Committee
- Cranston Republican City Town Committee
- East Greenwich Republican Town Committee
- East Providence Republican City Committee
- Exeter Republican Town Committee
- Glocester Republican Town Committee
- Jamestown Republican Town Committee
- Johnston Republican Town Committee
- Lincoln Republican Town Committee
- Little Compton Republican Town Committee
- Narragansett Republican Town Committee
- North Kingstown Republican Town Committee
- Pawtucket Republican City Committee
- Portsmouth Republican Town Committee
- Richmond Republican Town Committee
- Tiverton Republican Town Committee
- Warwick Republican City Committee
- West Greenwich Republican Town Committee
- West Warwick Republican Town Committee



IN TRIBUTE: Members of Johnston's Republican Town Committee were among those gathered recently for Wreaths Across America. (Courtesy photo)

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Auction
Legal Notice

To: Julia Ball 127 Betsey Williams Cranston, RI public auction will be held at 100 South st Johnston RI on December 30, 2023 at 900 am. The vehicle a 2010 Nissan 1C4RJFD-J9EC169627 belonging to the above. The auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage fees

12/21/23

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ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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A	M	A	H	C	R	A	P	E	A	R	I	
P	I	L	I	D	A	L	E	Y	G	A	D	S
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S	T	O	A	S	M	A	C	S	A	B	E	R
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POLICE LOG

WARRANT ARREST

Around 1:20 p.m., Nov. 12, Johnston Police Patrolman Matthew A. Lonardo was patrolling on Killingly Street when he spotted a gold Subaru with heavy window tint traveling south.

He did a registration check and discovered it expired in May. Police identified the driver as Jesus A. Gutierrez, 35, of 43 Fruit Hill Ave., Second Floor, Providence.

Further "procedural checks" revealed Gutierrez had a warrant out of Providence Police Department for two counts of Domestic Simple Assault.

After the warrants were confirmed, Gutierrez was arrested. A Providence Police officer responded to the scene to take custody of Gutierrez, who will also be cited for Driving with an Expired Registration and Unlawful Install of Windshield and Window Sunscreen Film.

HABITUAL SHOPLIFTING

Around 4:15 p.m., Oct. 12, Johnston Police Patrolman

Matthew D. Levesque responded to a store in town following a shoplifting complaint. He spoke to store employees who reported a man enter the store, proceed to the cosmetic aisle, and place multiple items totaling \$1,185.31 into a cart and proceed out the door passing all points of sale.

The employee didn't make contact with the man; instead the employee checked security camera footage. The store provided police with a still image of the suspect entering the store.

Levesque forwarded the case to the Johnston Police Detective Division for a follow-up investigation.

Police eventually identified the suspect and issued a warrant for Felony Shoplifting and Habitual Offender Shoplifting.

Around 6:30 p.m., Nov. 8, Johnston Police responded to the North Providence Police Station to take custody of the suspect, identified by police as Marcus B. Diggs, 58, of 450 Wonnasquatucket Ave., Apt. 1,

North Providence.

Johnston Police transported Diggs to Johnston Police Headquarters. On Nov. 8 he was arraigned by J.P. Daniel Connors on the charges, issued \$5,000 surety bail but was held without bail by the Attorney General's office due to his status as a probation violator, according to police.

LARCENY

Around 9:30 p.m., Nov. 23, Johnston Police responded to a report of larceny from a motor vehicle in progress. After arriving on scene, Johnston Police Patrolman Matthew D. Levesque was flagged down by the caller who said a man just climbed into a silver Toyota Corolla driven by a woman and drove west.

The victim gave police the vehicle's registration and a description of the man — a Hispanic male, around 5'8" with curly long hair, a scruffy beard, wearing no shoes, and sweat pants and a hooded sweatshirt, according to the incident re-

port.

Police found the car at an intersection, but the man was not in the vehicle.

The man was later spotted running in the street. The suspect was apprehended and identified by police as Josue Laboy Feliciano, 27 of 565 High St., Central Falls.

"As Mr. Laboy was being taken into custody, he was acting very disorderly and belligerent by repeatedly screaming aloud, causing numerous homeowners in the area to come outside," Levesque wrote. "Mr. Laboy also repeatedly banged his head against the building (redacted by police) the pavement numerous times."

The suspect was accused of taking a backpack from a vehicle when he was chased by a neighbor, through multiple yards, until he reached the Toyota.

Police noted damage on one of the vehicles that showed its drivers side door jamb appeared to be tampered with, as

though someone had attempted to pry it open.

The backpack was described by the victim as a black Steve Madden bag worth about \$200. Another neighbor told police that her purse was taken from her residence by the suspect. The purse was described as "black with lips and fangs which included \$1,000 cash and her passport inside," according to the incident report.

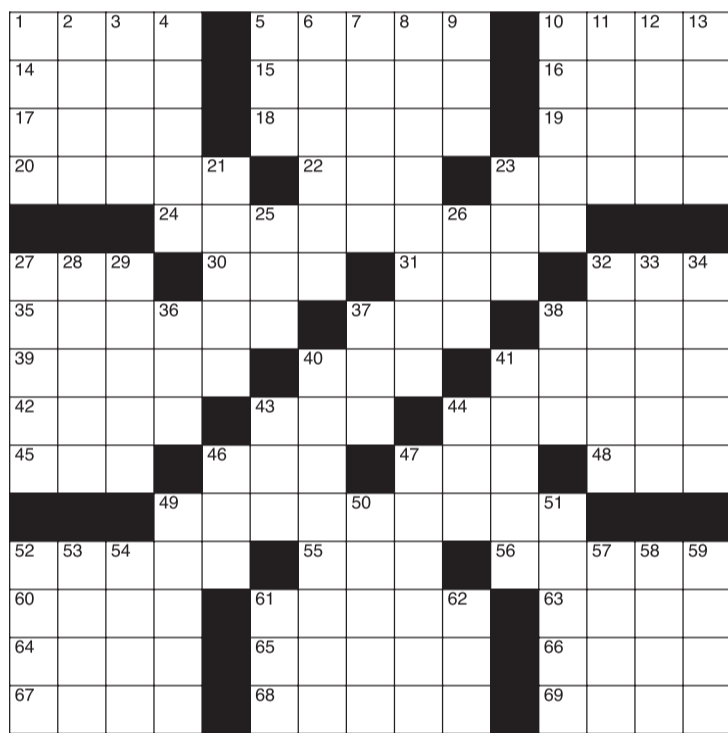
Laboy was charged with five misdemeanor counts — two counts Larceny Under \$1,500, Attempted Larceny under \$1,500, Resisting Legal or Illegal Arrest and Disorderly Conduct.

DRUG POSSESSION

Around 12:49 p.m., Nov. 16, Johnston Police Sgt. David Galligan spotted a vehicle with expired registration plates operating on Plainfield Street. He initiated a motor vehicle stop near 1182 Plainfield St.

"While positioned behind the vehicle in my police cruiser

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Droops
- 5. Subatomic particle
- 10. Not in danger
- 14. Nursemaid
- 15. Black band worn in mourning
- 16. Long song in opera
- 17. Edible seed of a Philippine tree
- 18. Chicago political family
- 19. Pursues pleasure from one place to another
- 20. Appetizer
- 22. Hill (Celtic)
- 23. Simple shoe
- 24. Songs to one you love
- 27. Secret activities
- 30. Upset
- 31. Popular hot drink
- 32. Body art (slang)
- 35. Fired
- 37. Blood relation
- 38. Identical
- 39. Porticos
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. Type of sword
- 42. Enough (archaic)
- 43. Surface layer of ground
- 44. Cotton fabric woven like satin
- 45. Choose for a post
- 46. Father
- 47. Tell on

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Exhausts
- 2. Genus of fish related to gars
- 3. Impudent behavior
- 4. Adherents to Islam
- 5. They come after A
- 6. Spoke
- 7. Room to receive guests
- 8. About opera
- 9. End-blown flute
- 10. Heroic tales
- 11. Member of a Semitic people
- 12. Dog's name
- 13. Opposite of west
- 21. Political divisions in ancient Greece

- 23. Ocean
- 25. Cool!
- 26. Young woman about to enter society
- 27. One from central Caucasus
- 28. Indian city
- 29. A way to serve ice cream
- 32. Emaciation
- 33. Escort aircraft carrier
- 34. Italian city
- 36. Mythical settler of Kansas
- 37. Unhappy
- 38. High schoolers' test
- 40. Measured in pace
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. Gullible person
- 44. Enclosed space
- 46. Substance used to color something
- 47. Shirt type
- 49. Discover by investigation
- 50. ___-Castell, makers of pens
- 51. Semitic Sun god
- 52. Grads wear one
- 53. French river
- 54. Part of a cap
- 57. Digestive fluid
- 58. Metrical foot
- 59. Body part
- 61. Very fast airplane
- 62. Supplement with difficulty

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Tac

Photo credit: Donna Normand

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Things we're wishing for this Christmas season

For those who celebrate Christmas, you already know that unless you come from a particularly affluent family, many items on your wish list will remain wishes even after Santa makes his worldwide tour on Dec. 24. As the famed lyrics go, "You can't always get what you want."

But at the same time, you never know what you might get unless you ask. And so this year, as Christmas approaches a Rhode Island whose eastern portion is currently crippled by a beleaguered bridge (thank goodness Santa can fly), we thought it would be nice to assemble a list of wishes likely being made by some of our local leaders and prominent people this season; all in good, holiday fun of course.

On the bridge topic, one wish seems to have, miraculously, already come true. While Peter Alviti won't be getting a brand new west-bound portion of the Washington Bridge in time for Christmas, to many peoples' amazement, the DOT did manage to quickly assemble a bypass that has functioned remarkably well less than a week after the initial closure of the bridge. They may be ruining what they wished for, however, as people may wonder in the New Year — if DOT is capable of such staggering efficiency, will we see that kind of quick work on projects elsewhere?

In Warwick, we're betting Mayor Frank Picozzi would love nothing more than to see bids come in at a decently close mark to his \$8 million estimate for the city's planned outdoor skating rink; but we would argue he might want to wish for the weather to consistently drop below 40 degrees during December and January instead.

We know that the Rhode Island Airport Corporation and Iftikhar Ahmad are hoping to find a nonstop flight to London from T.F. Green under the tree this year, but he may have to settle for hosting Taylor Swift's private jet in the meantime.

In Cranston, Mayor Ken Hopkins is hoping for lots of business at Top Golf, maybe a groundbreaking for Costco, and for people to get behind his vision for Bud-long Pool. As a stocking stuffer, he's also probably hoping that Rep. Barbara Ann Fenton-Fung doesn't challenge his seat in 2024 (cue The Rolling Stones).


In Johnston, Mayor Polisenia is hoping a peaceful year with Christopher Columbus and an occupied Amazon building.

Speaker Shekarchi is wishing for his ambitious plan for creating more housing in the state to brilliantly succeed and overshadow the torch-carrying members of local zoning boards and historic district committees who say the state's new laws will trample local authority on policing new developments — but a gift certificate for a free breakfast at Gel's Kitchen is never a bad get either.

Here at Beacon Communications, we're a simple bunch. We wish that artificial intelligence doesn't take our jobs too quickly, that people continue to find value in strong, persistent local reporting, and that in an age of decaying civility in public discourse, we can continue to find ways to reach compromise and understanding with people who think differently; and that freedom of speech, the press, and all of the other rights we so often take for granted are protected in the coming years.

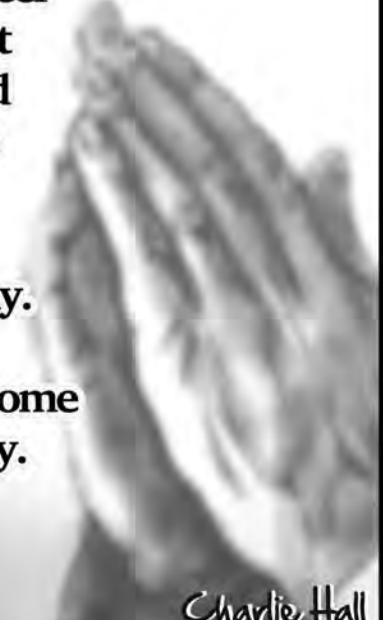
Happy holidays, and a Merry Christmas, to all!





Rhode Island's beloved TV Judge
FRANK CAPRIO
announces that he's battling cancer and that he would appreciate any prayers that might come his way.

Let's send some his way.



Charlie Hall



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Charter

(Continued from page 1)

Commission members bounced ideas and procedure off former Cranston mayor and attorney Allan W. Fung, the JCRC's legal counsel and joint spokesperson. Fung was hired to represent the JCRC and confirmed his "rate for this engagement is \$225 per hour."

The 'Mayor's Mayor'

Members of the fledgling board call Fung "mayor" when they address him in public session. It's an Ocean State honorific, since he's no longer mayor of Cranston (serving from 2009 to 2021) and Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. was not in attendance, but is expected to be at the next JCRC meeting, Jan. 4, when his office will be on the agenda. "I was asked by the Mayor (Polisena) to act as counsel for the Johnston Charter Review Commission given my experience with municipal charters and going through two charter reviews in Cranston," Fung replied last week via email to several questions regarding his hiring and representation of the recently formed JCRC.

Fung was also hired (for \$275 an hour) to represent the town in ongoing efforts launched by Polisena to potentially take over Johnston Public School finances.

Attorney William J. Conley Jr. usually represents both Town Council and the School Committee as solicitor. Since the school finance struggle may lead to litigation (between the town and the schools), a potential conflict of interest arose.

The JCRC may make changes to the Town Charter that affect both Town Council and the School Committee (one possible switch may be to change the School Committee from an elected to an appointed board).

When asked why that situation did

not pose a potential conflict of interest, Fung, who has also been named "joint spokesperson" for the JCRC, said "this representation is totally different from the engagement on the school deficit matter where there were adverse parties and the potential for litigation."

"For attorneys, legal conflicts are governed by Rule 1.7 which outlines our obligations to our clients and who we can and cannot represent," Fung explained. "In the school matter, Mr. Conley was the solicitor for the town and legal counsel for the Johnston Public Schools. Because of the potential for litigation and the adversarial position of the parties, an attorney cannot ethically represent one client that will be directly adverse to another. That is why I was engaged by the Town, based upon my experience with school deficits, and Mary Ann Carroll was engaged by the schools."

Fung dismissed the potential for conflict, once the JCRC eventually tackles the section of the charter that governs the formation of the School Committee.

"Here, my client is the Town of Johnston and the Charter Review Commission, which is a board/commission of the town," Fung wrote. "I represent them and not the Johnston Public Schools. Just because the Commission will discuss the charter provision dealing with the schools in Section 15 doesn't mean that there is a conflict, whether actual or potential. I have never represented the Johnston Public Schools or the School Committee."

Fung attended the first three meetings of the JCRC.

Town Council Terms

Reached for comment following the meeting, Polisena said he had "no idea if the commission will end up recommending" a change from two to four years in Town Council members' terms.

"The switch was made in 2014 to give four-year terms to the mayor," Polisena explained. "The school committee also

has four-year terms as well, so it seems fair the municipal legislative body has the same standard."

When the town switched to longer mayoral terms, they also added a term limit of 16 years (four terms). The current mayor's father, Joseph M. Polisena, served all four terms and was replaced at the ballot box by his son and namesake.

"I don't support term limits for the council," Polisena said. "They aren't in Congress. They're regular people who work regular jobs and they should stay in their position until either they or the voters decide otherwise, same as the school committee."

The mayor has voiced some support for a switch from elected School Committee members to an appointed board.

Town Council President Robert V. Russo didn't attend the Dec. 7 JCRC workshop meeting, but weighed in after.

"I was not at the charter review workshop, however I personally prefer the two-year term," Russo said last week. "I think regardless of whether it's a 2- or 4-year term, elected officials should and typically are accountable to their constituents. The term length is not determinative of accountability. The town has done well over the years with a 2-year council term, and I rather focus on other provision of the charter that need to be brought to modern times."

Russo also does not support term limits.

"I am not a proponent of term limits," Russo said. "I think the voter determines individually on whether to term an elected official out or not."

Russo was the only Town Council member who responded to requests for comment on the potential change.

Out of School

The JCRC members were appointed by Town Council, Polisena and the School Committee. The commission includes Chairman Richard DelFino 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.

To conclude the meeting, the JCRC's second-in-command issued a warning for members.

"I'm gonna bring this up tonight. I was deeply disturbed," Iafrate said. "I read an article in the Sun Rise. And one of our members made statements to the Sun Rise — no disrespect to you, Rory. I know you've got a job to do. A week ago, we all voted that any statements from this commission would go through the chair and/or our attorney. I don't think that was right, what was done. And I would hope that it would not be done in the future by any of our members. Again, I know you got a job, Rory, but we got bylaws and rules. We all voted unanimous ..."

The JCRC's lawyer stepped in.

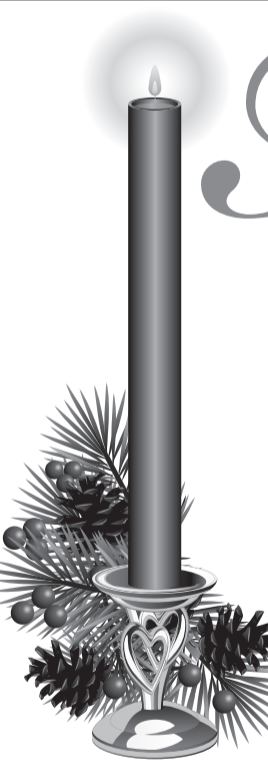
"I would just ... cautionary, because of the Open Meetings Act, we should not be going back and forth on that ... because it's not on the agenda," Fung advised Iafrate.

Iafrate nodded in understanding and the meeting was adjourned.

He was referring to comments made by Mansolillo, in a story headlined "Johnston's Town Charter under review," from the Dec. 7 edition of the Johnston Sun Rise. Mansolillo is also an elected School Committee member.

The JCRC will meet again at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 4 at the Johnston Senior Center. According to the agenda, the commission will discuss articles III and IV of the Town Charter — "Town Council" and "Mayor."

Editor's Note: Watch for more coverage of Johnston's Charter Review process in future editions of the Johnston Sun Rise. Next up, the Sun Rise will examine the enforcement mechanisms in place to ensure the town Charter is enforced.



Holiday REMEMBRANCES

For A Special Husband at Christmas
PASQUALE GALLUCCI



It's been a year on this sad day, since God has taken you away.

Although a day has not gone by that I think of you, and sometimes cry.

You were so kind and so generous and thoughtful.

You were the best anyone could ask for.

God took you home. It was his will, but broke my heart because I love you still.

Love you always,
Your Wife

For A Special Dad at Christmas
PASQUALE GALLUCCI



Remembering the happiness And the feelings of good cheer When we celebrated Christmas In the days when you were here.

At special times like this one, Almost everything we do Seems to bring back precious memories Of those moments spent with you.

But your smile lives on forever And your voice we often hear, And on Christmas day, as always We will shed a silent tear.

And we'll think of all those good times And the special bond we had, For we never will forget you - Our devoted, dearest Dad.

Love, Paula, Carol,
Anthony and Donna

Loving Memories of a special Daughter at Christmas
MARYANN VITA



To lose someone so special Is really hard to bear. It hardly seems believable That you're no longer there.

You left us far too early Before your time, it seems, And now you'll never have the chance To fulfill all those dreams.

However hard it is though, We'll take comfort in the thought Of all the memories we have And the happiness you brought.

You always lived life to the fullest But ours won't be the same Until the day when we can see Your smiling face again.

Love ~ Mom & Dad
and Michael

Christmas Remembrance
DILLON VIENS



Missing you on this Christmas

Love,
Mom, Dad and Rocky
Grammy and Papa

Christmas Remembrance
PETER LOMBARDI III



It has been 15 years since We've seen you. Missing you at this blessed Time of year and always.

Love,
Dad, Susan, Joshua,
Lauren, Adriana, &
Roman Peter

Rick Zarrella

Missing you a little more this time of year.

In my heart always and forever.

xxx Donna ooo



Anniversary December 24 and Christmas Remembrance
Tommy Caramante Jr.



Forever Loved,
Forever Missed

LOVE, MOM & DAD,
JOEY & KELLY,
MICHAEL & KRISTEN,
MASON & MADISON
XXX OOO

Solar

(Continued from page 1)

"And with that being said, I want you to look at those two words above your head," Grasso said, steering the crowd's eyes to two words, in all capital letters — "TOTAL BALLS."

The crowd laughed first — it was a release following an evening full of tense discourse and debate over a massive proposed solar farm pitched for nearly 160 wooded acres in the town's west end. The laughter was loud and therapeutic.

The zoning board members slowly turned around and looked up at the sign behind them. They couldn't help but smile as they read the words. Grasso was daring them to be brave, to unite with their neighbors rather than the applicant, to risk being removed from the board if they displease the political forces opponents argue have been pushing the solar project behind-the-scenes.

"My hope is that you use those two words, and instead of 'turtle sweeping' or 'turtle swapping' you ... stop this project please," Grasso concluded. "Thank you."

No Vote

The board ended the hearing on Thursday evening, Dec. 14, without a vote. Their legal counsel, Joseph Ballirano, suddenly left the meeting early with no announcement. The board members said they didn't know where he went. After the meeting, Zoning Board Chairman Thomas Lopardo said Ballirano "might not have been feeling well."

He was called out directly several times by those who rose to speak from the public. One man in the audience chastised the lawyer for using his cell phone throughout the night's testimony, rarely looking at those speaking from the lectern.

Ballirano left the meeting multiple times throughout the evening, for up to 15 minutes at a time.

Last month, Green Development's attorney John O. Mancini stormed out of the Johnston Senior Center before adjournment, effectively terminating the hearing.

"We got toward the end of the meeting, and as a resident of the town, I felt insulted," Rollingwood Drive resident Raymond Arruda testified Thursday. "Not only for myself, for the rest of the people that are here tonight, for all of you, that the attorney for the applicant thought that it was his meeting ... I was a little disappointed with the way he handled it. I hope tonight, and in any future meeting that he's here representing the current applicant, that he acts a little bit more professional and doesn't walk out on us like that."

The audience offered applause to punctuate Arruda's complaint. The resident then took aim at the town's newly promoted, formerly part-time planner Thomas Deller, who gave the solar array application his blessing and clearing it for a series of lengthy public hearings.

According to Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr., Deller was promoted earlier this year to full-time employment with the town and now serves as both Town Planner and Director of the town's Development & Public Services Department. His new annual salary is \$95,000.

No Planner

Deller did not attend Thursday night's meeting. The zoning board members said they had no idea why he wasn't in attendance.

"We were told that we couldn't talk for those first two meetings," Arruda said. "And the person, Mr. Deller, who sat here for two meetings, is not here. And it baffles me that the person, I'm not sure if he's our zoning official, our public works director, I'm not sure if he's the mayor, but it really is baffling that Tom Deller is not here, sitting here so I can direct questions directly to him. I don't expect you to all be experts. But representing our town, I would expect that he would be ... Unless he has a family member that is very ill, or he's ill himself, there is no reason ... He should be ashamed of himself that he's not here today."

The residents said they wanted to make their case directly to the individual who helped clear the way for Green Development's application. Deller allowed the applicant to re-apply less than two years after a larger-scale solar farm was pitched by the same company, for the same residentially-zoned woodland.

Arruda told the board he had one query he wanted answered.

"My only question, really, is: Where is the hardship?" Arruda asked. "You come to zoning with a hardship. There is a request for a special-use permit to allow ... under R-40, it is not a permitted use. If it was, none of us would be here for the last two years. This company, the applicant, is a for-profit company. They're trying to buy an empty piece of land, and they're trying to make money. Again, where is the hardship? There isn't one."

Arruda's backyard borders the proposed solar farm. Despite a likely buffer, he'll have a prime view of more than 46,000 solar panels, if the zoning board grants a special-use permit to Green Development.

"They come here ... they insult us with hypotheticals," Arruda said. "They tell us if we don't, they're going to cut the trees down anyway. We're going to put something else there. They try to sell you and us on the

fact that it will profit the town, versus homes. And again, it means nothing. It's hypotheticals. If this was a good business endeavor for the town, why are we stopping at a solar farm? Why is Steere Farm not selling and us putting (in) a nuclear power plant? Why are we not putting (in) another dump? We could make some serious money if the town is trying to make money."

Arruda urged town officials to listen to his neighbors.

"This is not a business endeavor," he scolded. "The mayor seems to think the town of Johnston is a business. It's not a business. If it were a business, and the business was running well, guess what. Taxes would go down. They're not going down. I've been here my whole life and taxes are not coming down. Johnston is a rural community, with families, people, and I almost forgot, homes. The land is approved for residential, and that, in my opinion, is what it should be used for."

In April 2022, the Johnston Zoning Board narrowly voted down a very similar, though larger proposal by Green Development. If the current proposal is approved, it may set a precedent, and applications for the rest of the previously pitched project may follow.

The Neighbors Object

Smithfield's Town Manager Randy R. Rossi wrote and signed a letter, dated Nov. 21, to Johnston's Zoning Board and Building Official Edward Civito in objection to the proposal.

"I am writing on behalf of the citizens of Smithfield who may be affected by the proposed solar project on Winsor Avenue," Rossi wrote (he also copied Polisena and members of Smithfield Town Council on the correspondence). "As you might imagine, we have heard from many concerned residents in Smithfield and the northern part of Johnston about the potential impacts from this large solar project. While the Town has no jurisdiction over the approval of this project, we feel that we should express concern on behalf of our residents especially since a large portion of this project appears to be in the watershed of Slacks Reservoir which straddles the line between Johnston and Smithfield."

Smithfield's letter echoed concerns voiced by residents at Thursday's hearing (and in 2022).

"Given the existing water quality concerns in Slacks Reservoir, it is essential that the wetlands on this property are protected and continue its function as a natural water quality filter for stormwater," Rossi wrote. "It is also essential that design plans and all stormwater treatment systems are carefully reviewed and that peer review of all reports and designs are conducted on behalf of the Town."

A project like that proposed for Winsor Avenue wouldn't have a shot in neighboring Smithfield.

"In step with many other communities in the State, Smithfield has prohibited all large-scale solar projects in residential zones and will be focusing on directing solar development on brownfield sites and roof tops where possible," Rossi explained. "We trust that all appropriate measures will be taken to thoroughly review the project and receive input from abutting residents."

Mancini suggested the zoning board take more time, have the stenographer's minutes transcribed, and allow the applicant to produce rebuttal witnesses to the night's citizen testimony.

"Just to respond briefly to what Mr. Mancini's suggestion was, to take time to have the transcripts provided, for three-four hearings, 20-plus hours of testimony — it's going to take weeks," said Stop Johnston Solar attorney Matthew Landry. "With all due respect to the court (reporter) it's going to take a long, long time, and we'll be lucky if we have another hearing by March."

The residents shouted for a vote.

"It's only going to prolong things, and I have never seen a proceeding where an applicant asks to have all the transcripts provided so they can provide more written testimony to the board so they can make the decision," Landry argued. "More than enough testimony has come before this board. I think you've had ample time to consider it and ponder it. I have no objection to Mr. Mancini responding to the comments of the public; that's well within procedure ... But in terms of this business of waiting weeks to get the transcripts, and providing findings of facts and conclusions of law ... it's going to prolong things months. I don't think it's necessary."

The crowd backed Landry's argument with more applause.

The Johnston Zoning Board might have looked to their legal counsel for advice, though he had already left the building.

"I do want the opportunity to present rebuttal witnesses and I will file findings ..." Mancini started, arguing for yet more time to present his applicant's case, beyond the three four-hour hearings held already this year (and the epic 2022 meeting that drug on until 2 a.m.).

The crowd shouted Mancini down with cries of "no." "I'm trying to avoid a procedural error," Mancini told the zoning board.

"You're a walking procedural error," one man yelled from the crowd.

"He walked out like he was the boss, and it wasn't even over yet," another man shouted. "And he wants to call the shots now. Don't let him do it guys."

Zoning Board member Richard Fascia made a motion to end the public comment portion of the meeting, and continue the proceedings to the board's regular meeting on Jan. 25.



ANOTHER PACKED HOUSE: The Johnston Senior Center was packed with vocal opponents of a solar field pitched for one of the town's residential neighborhoods. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Obituaries

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

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

— Thank you



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By JENNIFER COATES

An early-winter sun is streaming through the windows, casting a soft glow on a room full of infants ~ some of whom are napping blissfully in a crib designated just for them while others sway gently in a cozy swing nearby. Meanwhile, a determined baby is pushing up in a pre-crawl stance, ready to take that next step in her development.

This is a dynamic scene that plays out every day in Johnston's Dreamland Learning Center on Hartford Avenue. Here, attentive caregivers are tending to a room of infants while elsewhere, toddlers are toddling, preschoolers are exploring, and rooms await the busy before & after-school crowd which arrives here every day. Each day at this sparkling clean and whimsically decorated center is filled with activity, learning, discovering and yes, even dreaming!

Dreamland Learning Center, which accepts children from ages 6 weeks through age 12, is a bright, welcoming, and progressive center that was designed with every developmental milestone in mind. The infant room is warm and bathed in soft colors, while the

preschool and toddler rooms are decked with bold and stimulating colors. There is even a life-size medieval castle in one room!

Child-size furniture makes each room look comfortable and adapted to the needs of pint-sized early learners, while shelves are filled with toys and walls are strewn with art projects. Centers are set up for imaginary play, arts & crafts, building, science, music, and story time.

The after-school room is complete with long tables for homework time and everything that one would want for their child when they can't be home. Every space in this center is thoughtfully planned and designed to be developmentally appropriate and purposeful. The curriculum also includes ample time for outside play, exercise and healthy recreation. The outside playgrounds, divided for children of different age groups, make one feel like they are at an amusement park

The curriculum and staff-to-child ratio requirements here meet the strict guidelines of the RI Early Learning & Development Standards while all staff are licensed; many are also CPR certified. The staff work as a team with one goal in mind, to enrich the lives of the children over whom they have been given this very special stewardship.

If you are looking for childcare for your child, come take a tour of this busy learning center. The center is open all year round, Monday through Friday. The day begins at 7:00am and ends at 5:30pm. For your peace of mind, every room in the center is equipped with security cameras.

The Dreamland Learning Center is located at 1253 Hartford Avenue. For more information, call them today at 401-280-1400 or visit their website at www.dreamlandlearningcenter.com. Accepting RI state subsidies!

There are two other Dreamland Learning Centers in the area, one in West Warwick (call 401-828-8200) and its newest installation in Pawtucket on Newport Avenue (call 401-655-1000).

Police

(Continued from page 6)

I observed the operator making furtive movements to include reaching towards his waistband, then reaching above his visor and then bending at the waist and reaching downward between the front driver's and passenger's seat," Galligan wrote in the arrest report. "As I approached the vehicle, I observed the male party again make a furtive movement and reach toward the top of the dashboard and then bend at the waist and reach between the front driver and passenger seat."

He identified the driver as Edward Frank DiLorenzo, 65, of 622 Union Ave., Providence.

DiLorenzo allegedly "appeared extremely nervous," according to the report.

"I observed an anomaly on the top of the dashboard where Mr. DiLorenzo was reaching which consisted of a plastic portion partially unclipped revealing a natural void inside of the dashboard," Galligan wrote. "This void was consistent with being used as a hide for illegal narcotics or weapons that I immediately identified through my training and experience."

DiLorenzo was asked to exit the vehicle. When he complied, Galligan noticed a "bulge in his front right pocket and he had already removed his wallet which led me to believe he may be concealing a weapon."

The driver was patted down and Galligan discovered the bulge was

caused by an Altoid container. DiLorenzo said it contained "oxy's" meaning Oxycodone. Inside, police found several small cut pieces of a blue pill. DiLorenzo could not provide a prescription.

Inside the car, following a search, police reported finding a bag containing four white pills also identified as Oxycodone. A canine officer was called to the scene, but nothing else was found.

DiLorenzo was arrested and charged with two misdemeanor counts of Possession of Schedule II.

Back at Johnston Police Headquarters, police tested the blue pills. According to police they tested positive for Fentanyl.

BENCH WARRANT

Around 6:05 p.m., Dec. 5, Johnston Police Patrolman Patrick Gendreau spotted a black Dodge Challenger pass through the intersection of Traver and Hedley avenues without stopping at the stop sign.

Gendreau initiated a traffic stop in a private parking lot at 993 Manton Ave.

The driver was identified as Nadine J. Follett, 53, of 60 Terrace St., Apt. 2, Providence.

A Rhode Island DMV search revealed Follett didn't have an active driver's license and had a bench warrant for failing to appear in court for a previous arrest.

She was arrested, searched and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters. Follett was cited for Driving Without a License (second offense) and Obedience to Stop Signs.

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GRAND GUEST: Santa Claus was a welcome sight at last week's JHS Winter Concert and he joins Director Ron Lamoureux and senior members of the Concert Band. (Photo courtesy Janis Blondin)

JHS WINTER CONCERT Cherry Hill topped with talent

By PETE FONTAINE

More than 400 people showed up at last Thursday night's annual Johnston High School Music Department Winter Concert. It was a memorable night and classic display of the many talented musicians and vocalists on Cherry Hill.

The entertaining evening began when JHS' Matt Gingras-directed 123-member Concert Chorus took the stage and continued until Music Department Director Ron Lamoureux led the Concert Band with the old-time favorite Christmas song "Winter Wonderland."

Even Santa Claus made a grand entrance to help draw the raffle winners and he even stayed well after the concert for anyone who wanted to take photos. Santa's decision was met with approval as people lined up in the foyer for those keepsake memories.

Likewise, Lamoureux issued a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone in attendance including many JHS faculty members as well as the new administration team that was in attendance, including Principal Matt Velino, Dr. John Mendelsohn, Rachel Salvatore and Brittany Smith.

Lamoureux also thanked the Johnston School Music Association, a.k.a. booster club, and its officers, President Melisa Loffler, Vice President Sheila Haley, Secretary Evan LaPlante and Treasurer Dave Banno, as well as members-at-large Heather Anicelli and Bethany Littlefield.

Moreover, the talented students who make up the Tri-M Music Honor Society all played important roles during the "special show" that entertained what Lamoureux said "was the largest audience we've had in recent years."

The Tri-M officers include soprano and senior President Eliyanha Negron; soprano and senior Vice President Trinity Blondin; pianist and secretary senior David Pagliarini; percussionist and treasurer senior Johathan Guilmette; alto and historian senior Shylah Soto; and junior soprano Katelyn Loffer and sophomore percussionist Lucas James Simpson.

The concert included inspiring performances by the Select Choir and Concert Chorus led by Gingras and accompanist David D'Amico; 39-member Concert Band led by Lamoureux that featured 20 JHS students who recently received the prestigious honor of being named All-State Musicians.

"Christmas at the Movies," "The Syncopated Clock," "Away in a Manger" and "Winter Wonderland" were the four prolific pieces the Concert Band performed, and following each, the ovations were impressive.

Gingras' Concert Chorus sang "Gloria," a favorite by Antonio Vivaldi, the traditional song "Shalom Chaverim," "Glow" by Eric Whitacre and "All I Want for Christmas Is You" by Walter Afanasieff and Mariah Carey.

The Select Choir did two powerful numbers — "Zigeunerleben" by Robert Schumann and "Oh Come All Ye Faithful."

"We are thrilled to have you here as we gather to celebrate the joy of music and the festive spirit of the season," Lamoureux told the audience. "We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the parents who have joined us; your unwavering support for your children's musical pursuits is truly commendable. Whether you've been chauffeuring them to rehearsals, helping them practice at home or simply cheering them on, your encouragement plays a crucial role in their musical journey."

Lamoureux, who has developed the JHS Music Department into a local, regional and national award-winning program, closed saying: "to everyone present tonight, we wish you a warm and joyous holiday season filled with love, laughter and beautiful music. Thank you for being part of this wonderful celebration and may the melodies of the season resonate in your hearts."

PROUD PERFORMERS:

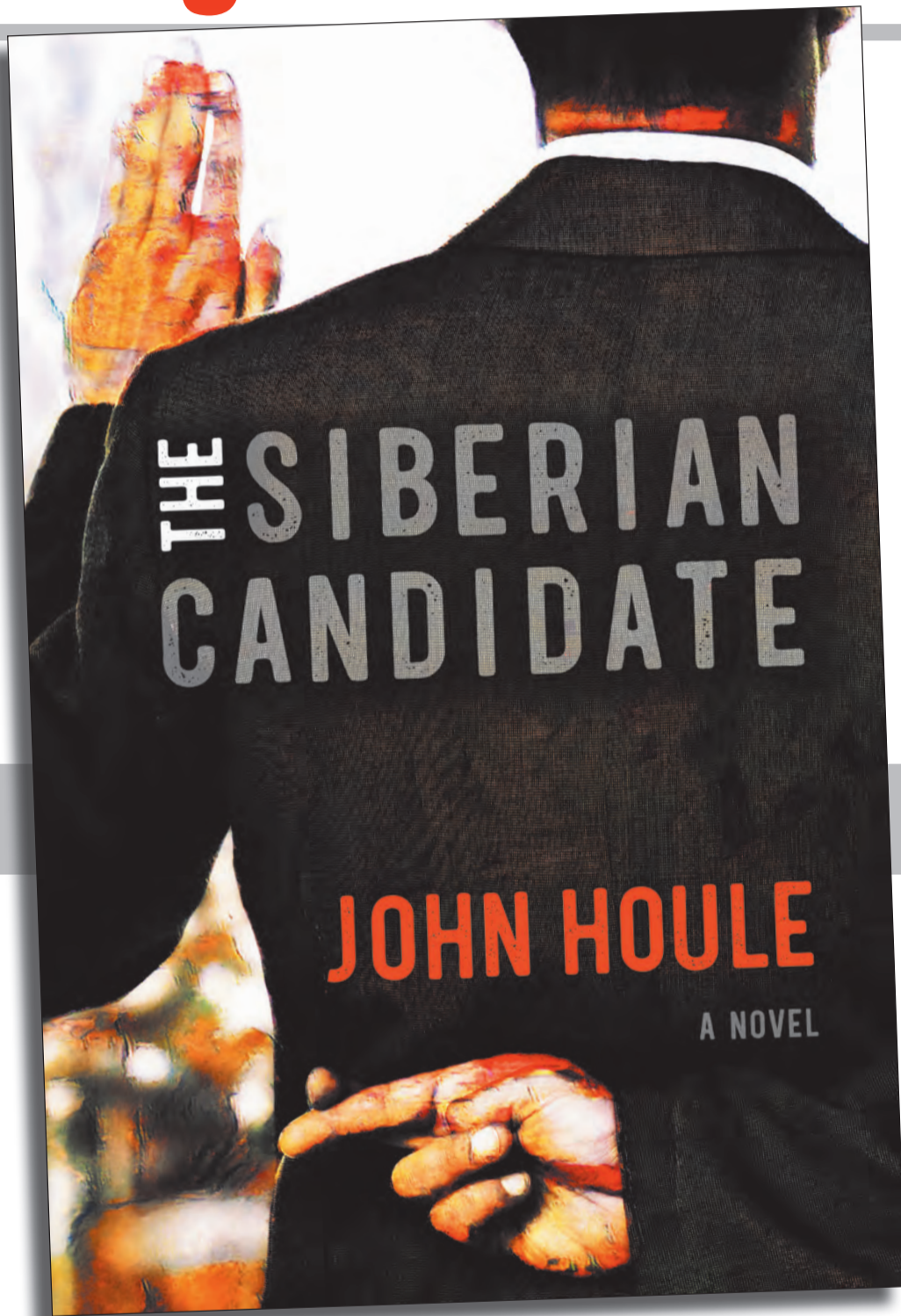
Timothy Lang, Jonathan Prata and Zachary Hanna enjoy a lighter moment before performing in last Thursday's JHS Winter Concert. (Photo courtesy Angie Prata)



RhodyLife

RHODYBEAT.COM

Might the Russians 'buy' a RI congressman...and even worse?



Houle's latest novel takes readers on a fast-paced ride into political intrigue



By JOHN HOWELL

It all seems so plausible.

Rhode Island is a small state geographically and in terms of its population. For years the Ocean State has been the testing ground for new products and with a once dominant newspaper and limited number of television stations, it's been easy and cost effective to spread the word.

As the founder of a public relations and marketing firm, JH Communications, which he has rebranded Main Street Media, John Houle knows that. Having actively worked on campaigns, he understands a race for governor or congress in Rhode Island is short money compared to California, Texas or even nearby Connecticut.

Looking at foreign interference in the last presidential campaign, Houle thought it perfectly possible that the Russians would try to "buy" a Rhode Island congressional seat and if they were attempting to do it here, they would likely be doing it elsewhere.

Houle thinks of such schemes when he's at his computer at 4 a.m. before his wife and kids are up or the first stream of business emails hits. Their beagle, Harley, joins him for those early morning bursts of creativity when a world of foreign intrigue, local politics and scummy and principled characters come to life chapter by chapter. What's fun for Rhode Island readers is that while the names are different, based on some of the episodes, they are remarkably real. Further enhancing the reality are the names of Rhode Island businesses and locations and references to events such as the war in Ukraine and a special election for a congressional seat.

If you have read his first novel King Makers of Providence, many of the characters are recognizable in The Siberian Candidate that was released on Dec. 5. In the first novel, protagonist Henry Mercucio makes his mark in politics as the strategist winning the campaign of a candi-

date who's up against a corrupt incumbent mayor and his followers who want to keep their hold on city hall. The story involves Swiss bank accounts, a touch of foreign intrigue, some rough guys, seedy locations and Henry falling in love and marrying the daughter of an upright, well connected and highly successful businessman, Reggie Sinclair.

In an interview with Mike Levesque published in January of this year in these papers prior to the release of The King Makers of Providence, Houle was asked about the similarities in the book to people we know.

"Obviously, there are things taken or inspired about what I read and lived about Mayor Cianci, but his character is just a composite of things I heard. Things I read. He is a tragic hero. Someone who had great ideas and great potential that went astray. He squandered it."

Christmas joy remembered

Christmas brings such warm memories to my heart. When I was a child, all holidays were celebrated with minimal fanfare, and we didn't make a big deal out of Christmas, either. It was still such an exciting time! "Santa" came Christmas Eve while my brother and I hid our eyes in our bedrooms. My dad would bang on a glass to simulate the bells on the reindeers and voila! Our presents would be under the tree! This long held tradition disappeared that Christmas Eve that my dad got a little rambunctious banging on the glass, the glass broke, and we had to make our way to the Emergency Room to get stitches. That was the year I found out there was no Santa!

When I married Hubby, his whole family came with the deal for the holidays. They had the fun tradition of purchasing a huge, 6-foot-long sandwich from Subway and serving it with various side dishes. As Hubby's family grew, so did the sandwich. His brothers and sister got married, had children, and then their children and ours started having children of their own. We still all get together on New Year's Day to celebrate Christmas, and affectionately call this holiday "Big Sandwich Day". It is funny that my adult son, Steven, thought it was an actual holiday, and has been known to ask his friends what they were doing for "Big Sandwich Day" only to be met

Life Matters



with LINDA PETERSEN

with blank stares.

One Christmas Eve more than 30 years ago still elicits joy in my heart. That was the year that we found out that our new 2-month-old baby from Guatemala, Dinora, was profoundly deaf. When she was in her crib and I walked in her room, it would startle her when she saw me, seemingly to not have heard my heavy footsteps. The final clue was when she was sitting on the floor in her infant seat next to me doing dishes in the kitchen. I had been washing a huge lobster pot, and it slipped from my hands, clanging loudly on the floor. Dinora did not blink. She just sat there, non-plussed. Realizing she had not heard the sound, I rushed her to the pediatrician, and then to Rhode Island Hospital Hearing and Speech.

A multitude of hearing tests were done, including a Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potential and an MRI, which determined she was profoundly deaf due to severe pre-natal malnutrition, formally diagnosed the day be-

fore Christmas Eve. That evening we had promised Francis, age 2 1/2, that we would go see the lights at La Salette Shrine, which we did even though I was grieving and in no mood to go

Once there, we went right over to the area where the prayer candles are lit. Francis excitedly bounced up and down from foot to foot, getting so close to the candles he almost burnt his nose. I helped him light a candle, after which he started to sing Happy Birthday to Jesus. I lit a candle and crabbily thought "THANKS, God. I have a son who is blind and now I have a daughter who is deaf!" I was not very appreciative of all the other blessings I had.

The next morning, the dog barked, and it seemed to wake Dinora up. I went clambering into her bedroom and she turned to look at me, as though she had heard my footsteps. I started to talk to her, and a big smile came over her face. She had HEARD me! We had such a joyous Christmas celebration that year! When I took her back to R I Hospital to demonstrate that she could hear, the doctor was stunned. I have a written report from him that states that there is no medical explanation for what happened, other than it was a "Christmas miracle from above".

This Christmas miracle has lived in my heart, reinforcing the joys of Christmas.

REMEMBER THE REASON FOR THE SEASON



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Deacon Joseph P. Tumminelli
Rev. John LaPointe, Pastor Emeritus
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401-232-5600
srbp1804@aol.com
strobertsparish.org

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24
Vigil Mass - 4:30 p.m.
Mass - 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25
Mass - 10 a.m.

New Year Service, Monday, January 1
Mass - 10 a.m.

St. Paul/Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Hayley Bang
389 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI
401-737-6758
office@stpaulwarwick.org

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24
4th Sunday in Advent Service - 9:30 a.m.
Candlelight Service - 5 p.m.

Saturday, December 30
Saturday Eve Service - 5 p.m.

New Years Eve, Sunday, December 31
Lessons and Carols Service - 9:30 a.m.

St. Rocco Church

927 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919
401-942-5203
churchofstrocco@gmail.com

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24
Christmas Mass Vigil - 5 p.m.
Christmas Carols - 11:30 p.m.
Midnight Mass - 12 Midnight

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25
Christmas Worship - 8 a.m.
(Bilingual Italian/English) - 11 a.m.

New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31
Vigil Mass - 5 p.m.

New Year's Day, Monday, January 1
Feast of Mary, Mother of God - 8 & 10 a.m., 12 p.m.



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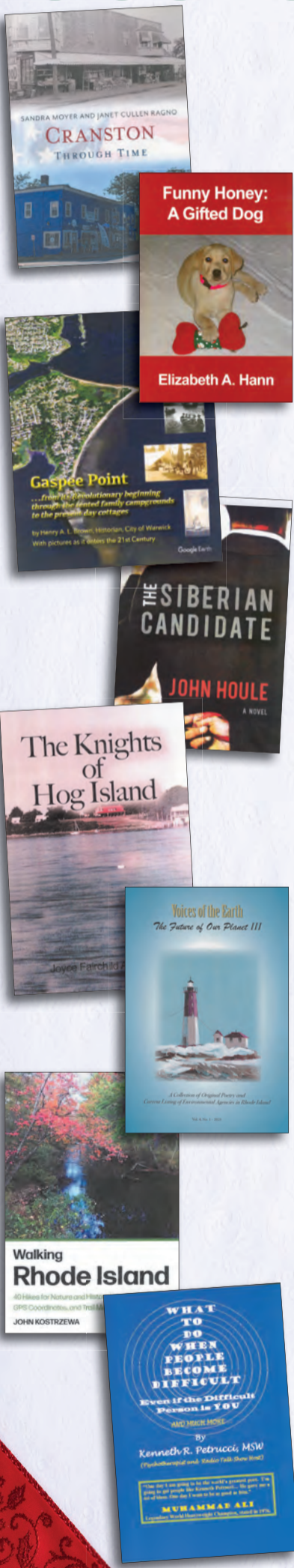
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Last-minute Gift ideas from local authors



HIS NEWEST BOOK: John Houle of Cranston talks about his latest novel, *The Siberian Candidate*, during a recent visit to Beacon Communications offices. Behind him is a painting of the B-17 bomber flown by the late former Governor Bruce Sundlund as it was about to be shot down by German fighters over France during WWII. Sundlund parachuted before the plane crashed and with the help of the French Resistance rejoined allied forces. (Beacon Communications photo)



CRANSTON THROUGH TIME **\$24**
 by Sandra Moyer and Janet Cullen Ragno (Cranston).....
Two authors from the Cranston Historical Society hope people who remember Cranston from their youth, will all enjoy the "then and now" photographs in this book. All proceeds from sales of this book will be donated to the Cranston Historical Society to help in its mission to protect, preserve and promote this city's history.

FUNNY HONEY: A GIFTED DOG **\$20**
 by Elizabeth A. Hann (Warwick)
This humorous, heartwarming memoir chronicles the story of Betty and Lou as they set out with positive resolve and absolute determination to find a puppy, raise it, train it and to have the dog of their dreams.

GASPEE POINT **\$20**
 by Henry A. L. Brown (Warwick).....
From the earliest times, this point of land extending into Narragansett Bay has had historic significance and brought recreational joy to Rhode Islanders. From the burning of the HMS Gaspee in 1772 to the tented campgrounds of the 20th century and the cottages of the 21st century, Warwick historian, Brown digs into his treasure trove of memorabilia telling the saga of Gaspee point in words and pictures.

THE KING-MAKERS OF PROVIDENCE (Henry Mercucio 1) **\$30**
 by John Houle (Cranston)
Lawyer and campaign wizard Henry Mercucio meets Councilman John Campagna at his father's funeral amid a veritable who's-who of Providence, RI politics. As Henry questions the wisdom of his career choice, little does he know that this one meeting will lead to the greatest test of his life. The King-Makers of Providence is a tour de force in five acts through campaign craft and all-out political war, a fast-paced novel for our time that answers one looming question: When you only play to win, how do you keep from becoming your worst enemy?

THE SIBERIAN CANDIDATE (Henry Mercucio 2) **\$30**
 by John Houle (Cranston)
For former political fixer Henry Mercucio, business has always been personal. Now at the helm of his father-in-law's legal empire, Henry is playing by a new set of rules—his own. With his state's political future in jeopardy, Henry must bootstrap it again to deliver the only candidate that could prevent his state and country from falling to dark forces. To teach their enemies an ultimate lesson, Henry will organize his biggest plot yet.

THE KNIGHTS OF HOG ISLAND **\$12**
 by Joyce Fairchild Almeida (Warwick)
Step into another world and a different time to discover the origins of Hog Island, off the coast of Rhode Island, the families who live there and the community that grew from its founding.

VOICES OF THE EARTH: The Future of Our Planet III **\$15**
 a collection of original poetry by local poets and writers from Rhode Island and throughout New England.
"The poems included in this publication remind us how powerfully words create awareness. These stories inspire us to engage with our surroundings, protect our planet and respect the voices of others..."
 ~ Wanda Hopkins: Narragansett Tribal Elder Leader and Member of the Native American Advisory Council at URI

WALKING RHODE ISLAND **\$20**
 by John Kostrzewa (Cranston)
A guide to 40 of the most scenic, natural and historic trails in the state. Casual to experienced walkers can pick from easy, moderate and challenging hikes. Each trail has descriptions of the geological features, wildlife vegetation and historical landmarks, directions to trailheads and trail tips. Includes pictures, GPS coordinates and trail maps.

WHAT TO DO WHEN PEOPLE BECOME DIFFICULT **\$10**
 by Kenneth R. Petrucci, MSW (Cranston).....
...even if the difficult person is you. This book is a new, interactive self-study, self-realization, self-improvement, self-discovery and life-changing book. Petrucci's insight and knowledge has helped countless people determine the true causes of harmful human behavior including weight gain, anxiety, financial issues, gambling, smoking, compulsive shopping and alcohol or substance abuse.

■ **Book**
 (Continued from page 12)

"People will think Henry is me. There are some similarities, but I didn't go to Georgetown Law...but I did go to BC (Boston College) and I did confide in the Jesuit priests like in the book."

"My intention was to show how it (a political campaign) really is. If it takes a weekend or a week to read it, I want people to be informed and entertained, but also take something away. My concern is that people might think it is negative but it's not. It's about the connections among people."

The *Siberian Candidate* picks up with Henry at the helm of his father-in-law's business where he is putting together an acquisition deal that gets torpedoed by his wife's brother in-law. Meanwhile, Henry can't escape his reputation as a campaign strategist. This time he discovers in place of dealing with petty thugs he's onto a scheme to subvert the electoral process.

Houle started writing the *King Makers* on a three week visit to Prague more than 20 years ago. He returned to Rhode Island after running out of money. He went back to writing the book off and on, finally completing the *King Makers*, which was released in March 2023. By then he was already half way into the *Siberian Candidate* and now he's 150 pages into a third novel and planning a fourth.

In the process, he's employed his business acumen to promote his own novels, doing interviews, speaking engagements and appearances. Selling books, he says, "takes time, it might be the hardest business." He estimates he's sold 1,000 books. The venture led him to working with the Providence Center Pro Mail, which packages and mails his book orders.

Might the books spawn a movie or a series? Houle has been asked the question before. He has linked up with Kris Meyer who has worked as a creative production manager with the Farrelly Brothers. With Meyer's help, Houle wrote a pilot, known as a "bible" in the industry, to a first season TV show. The 60-page "bible" boils the story down to the basics of the plot and the characters without the description of the settings that are carried by film. He's not pinning a lot of hopes on it going places, but it wouldn't be all that surprising if the world of entertainment finds a place in another book. He's already toying with where AI might take Henry Mercucio.

But for the present Henry is busy with the Russians and at the urging of his father-in-law Sinclair's connections to the CIA put him on a path to St. Petersburg to return the "favor."

The story is a fast read. Purposely, Houle writes 8 to 10 page chapters which make it easy to pick up if you're short on time or about to turn off the light and go to bed.

As for the characters that seem to be straight out of Rhode Island, Houle will say there are some similarities, but they're fictional with one exception, his trusty early morning writing companion, Harley, who plays a role in the story.

Houle, who grew up in Warwick, attended Pilgrim High School and is a graduate of Boston College, was a Warwick Beacon reporter for a stint. After his own role in the 2002 special election Providence mayoral campaign, Houle went on to run several successful private and political campaigns through his firm, Houle has also been active in the Chamber of Commerce and was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce in 2022. He was also appointed by Governor Gina Raimondo to serve as member of the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island. He lives in Cranston with his wife, Susan, who teaches at Hoxsie School. They are the parents of two children. As with Houle's first novel, *The Siberian Candidate* is published by BookPress Publishing and is available for purchase wherever books are sold. Copies of both books are available at the Warwick Beacon, 1944 Warwick Ave., Warwick. Soft cover copies are \$20 and hard covers are \$30.

Books available at
Beacon Communications
 1944 Warwick Ave. • Warwick, RI
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Sports

Panthers finding answers early

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston boys basketball team improved to 2-0 last week when it rolled to a 78-43 win over Mt. Hope at home.

The Panthers dominated from start to finish and saw three players reach double figures prior to the halftime break to make a statement in Division II.

Point guard Michael Carlino finished with 18 points while Branden and Jayden Testa each added 14.

With four starters graduating from last year's championship roster, the Panthers have been looking to find answers in its lineup and establish a new identity. The Testas have been key in the early success as Branden has built off of last year's minutes while Jayden has fit right in after coming back from injury.

"It feels great to be back out there with the team."



AT THE LINE: Jayden Testa takes a free throw. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

■ PANTHERS - PAGE 16

How to value loyalty

If you've followed New England Patriots football this season, or the NFL in general, you know that perhaps the hottest topic has been the future of head coach Bill Belichick with the team.

After 20 years of dominance, we have seen a shocking decline in the four years since Tom Brady left town. Of course, a decline and rebuild was predictable, but it has been a total free fall and most issues can be directly traced back to Belichick.

This year has been a disaster and many people are calling for his removal from the team and some anonymous sources have claimed that owner Robert Kraft has already made the decision to part ways at the end of the season behind closed doors.

The topic has been fascinating and the debate is ongoing. Is Belichick's sterling resume from 2001-2019 enough to grandfather him in as head coach until he decides to walk away? Or are the Krafts obligated to shake things up, even if it means walking away from a coach that has been so important in helping the Patriots achieve NFL glory six times over?

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

ALEX@
RHODYBEAT.COM

The bottom line, the ultimate question is, how much should we value loyalty?

If we are talking high school coaches, that loyalty should be everlasting once you find the right leader. At that level, it is about much more than just winning.

Teaching the game, enforcing sportsmanship and superior classroom performance, being a positive role model. Those are the things that are important.

I have covered plenty of coaches whose teams have lost, but are still elite coaches. If I am a high school athletic director, my goal is not "What can you do for me now?" The goal is what can you provide long-term and can

■ PITCH - PAGE 16

Elks honor Cookie by giving back

By PETE FONTAINE

There was a Classic "Cookie" Celebration last week inside the Tri-City Elks Lodge No. 14 at 1915 West Shore Road in Warwick.

There were two check presentations of \$5,000 each to Operation Stand Down and Rhode Island Community Food Bank that were raised during the recent 3rd Annual Albert "Cookie" DeLory Memorial Golf Tournament.

There were three special awards presented to Lori Amoros, Deb and Noel Peticse and Jim Turner of EW Gardner Golf Cars "for their most outstanding contributions and generosity that resulted in the nine-hole tournament being a social and financial success."

Those three special awards included a personalized Rhode Island House of Representatives proclamation presented by Warwick resident and veteran State Rep. Joseph Solomon, who is also a long-time friend of the Tri-City Elks and a tournament sponsor.

There was also a surprise announcement made by Kelly Seigh, Director of Corporate and Community Relations for



MIGHTY MATCH: Kelly Seigh, Director of Corporate/Community Relations for the RI Food Bank, holds a mock check with Golf Tourney Co-Chairman Bob Hartington for \$5,000 that will mushroom into \$10,000 by way of a matching grant. (Photos by Bruce Caldwell)

■ ELKS - PAGE 16

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■ Panthers

(Continued from page 15)

I'm 100 percent now, so I'm just ready to go," said Jayden.

Branden added: "We're still trying to find our identity and I think tonight helped. We're a team that needs to run the floor and push it and I think we're getting closer and closer to that every day. We're taking it game by game."

The Testa brothers have been consistent scorers for the Panthers, and as brothers, their built-in chemistry has been apparent.

"It's really nice to see Jayden and Branden flow together. When things are rolling, they're a big part of it," said coach Mike Bedrosian, who has seen some differences in their games despite them being identical twins. "From our perspective as coaches, and the kids agree, Branden gets to the basketball better. He's a first step guy, he's got a great first step. Anytime we have a mismatch in man to man, we usually go to Branden. Jayden is a more consistent shooter, he is great at midrange, so we try to get him open."

Another big piece of the puzzle has been Carlino at the point guard spot, as he takes over for Derek Salvatore. Carlino has been perhaps the team's most consistent player to this point and Bedrosian has been



POINT GUARD: Michael Carlino last week.

excited to see his emergence as a leader.

"He's exceeding our expectations right now, we couldn't be more proud of him. He played with some swag tonight and he's confident. He's confident and that's what we need, he's our quarterback," Bedrosian said. "He was taking the ball

up the court, getting to the paint, kicking, making good decisions. When you have the ball 80 percent of the time, mistakes are going to happen. Every mistake that he's made, and there haven't been many, he has learned from. That's how he is developing as our point guard."

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■ Elks

(Continued from page 15)

the Rhode Island Community Food Bank who said, "because of a matching food bank grant the \$5,000 donation will be for \$10,000 as the result of the End Hunger Matching Gifts Challenge."

"That's outstanding!" exclaimed Richard DeLory, son of the late Cookie DeLory and tournament co-chairman. "It's heart-warming to know that we can help people put food on their tables as the result of the money we raised and especially since its being matched."

DeLory also made the \$5,000 presentation to Brian Sullivan, an official from Operation Stand Down Rhode Island and told the audience "My father loved helping veterans and we are proud to make this donation in his memory."

To which Sullivan added: "We can't thank you for this wonderful donation.

Veterans are always in need and this generous gift will go a long way in helping our daily mission."

Sullivan then received a mock check, produced by Meaghen Foster of Bori Graphics, that Operation Stand down will display at their headquarters in Johnston.

Bob Hartington, a Past Exalted Ruler at Lodge 14 and tourney co-chairman, presented a mock check to Seigh along with the \$5,000 check.

The 3rd Annual Albert "Cookie" Memorial Golf Tournament raised over \$16,000 of which \$3,000 - \$1,500 each - will be used for scholarships to a boy and girl who will attend either a trade or business school.

"This was such a special memorial for Cookie," said Carol DeLory, the late DeLory's widow. "It was so heart-warming to see such an outpouring of support again this year for one of our absent members whose memory lives on."

■ Pitch

(Continued from page 15)

you be a stable, consistent leader? If the team wins, great. If not, that is not necessarily an issue if the kids are having fun, excelling in the classroom and improving as each season wears on.

The same goes for college as well. Every year there is roster turnover. There are ebbs and flows that come and go in high school and college so it is difficult for any coach to produce a winning team each and every year. That is also why these coaches deserve loyalty and patience once they are established.

Going back to Belichick, though, I am afraid to say that I have shifted toward waving goodbye at season's end.

In professional sports, where these coaches and athletes are being paid millions, where fans are spending hundreds, sometimes thousands for tickets, winning is truly the bottom line. Perhaps not on an annual basis, but over the course of a contract, the wins are what matter.

Sure, Belichick is a future hall of famer and absolutely earned a long leash once the Brady era ended. At this point, though, we have seen enough and this team needs a new voice.

The argument made in favor of retaining Belichick is, "Which coach would be a better option anyway?" Well, I agree that Belichick can coach the game better than just about anyone, even at his age.

However, there are just times in pro sports where things go stale and the message just doesn't resonate. That is

what we have seen here this season. Not to mention the fact that Belichick's grip on how modern rosters are assembled is off base, he is behind the times and this season it has all caught up to him. This is a team built for the 1980's, not the 2020's.

Kraft mentioned in an interview at the Army-Navy game that he values loyalty and is proud that his organization has retained much of the same staff for two decades. Was that his way of letting the viewers know that Belichick isn't going anywhere? Or was that way of letting us know that he has been loyal for long enough, and next year is when it runs out?

If this was college or high school, then there would be no doubt in my mind that Belichick should return. He still coaches the right way and demands the best from his team on a daily basis. No coach works harder or sets a better example for his players than he does.

This is professional football. The roster does not just get reset each year, it's not like he has a crop of juniors that will be seniors next year. Although some of these problems can be addressed through free agency, trade and the draft, the core of this terrible roster will be intact next season, so something significant will have to change for the Pats to return to relevance. That significant change has to come from Belichick. This team needs a new decision maker and a fresh perspective.

In pro sports, loyalty is only good for so long. In this case, it is good for four years.

COP from the top

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

The 28th United Nation's Conference of the Parties (COP) on climate change ended last week. At the bipartisan international climate conference nations agreed to transition away from fossil fuels. This does not seem to be a big thing for climate change advocates.

However, in an advisory this week Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, said, "...for COP participants that have not previously recognized this inevitability and necessity, this amounts to a step forward, and unanimity matters in international agreements. It's not nothing."

This now means for COP28 to have lasting significance, the nations of the world must now legislate and enforce their laws consistent with the strong commitment to transition away from fossil fuels and toward a clean economy.

Senator Whitehouse, said, "What will work are strong carbon pricing and border tariffs, real methane leak enforcement, and widely applied 'social cost of carbon' rules, and rapid energy transition, and real political transparency. And—not or. We have no time to waste."

Narragansett Surfcasters Annual Surf Day

The Narragansett Surfcasters will hold its Annual Surf Day on Saturday, January 13, 2023 at the Narragansett Community Center, 53 Mumford Road, Narragansett, RI.

The event will feature over thirty tables of used and new fishing equipment for sale, including rods, reels, plugs and tackle.

Some of the region's best lure builders will be on hand for you to meet along with plenty of great food.

The \$8 contribution at the door will be used to support the Club's community and charitable events. For information contact Bruce Bain at brucebain123@hotmail.com.

Trees for trout... trees and volunteers needed

The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Division of Fish and Wildlife is once again partnering with Trout Unlimited Rhode Island Chapter on a habitat restoration program called "Trees for Trout."

This project uses recycled Christmas trees to improve habitat for wild trout and other aquatic organisms. Strategic placement of the trees helps restore streams and rivers that have become wide and shallow due to flooding and storms, provide refuge habitat, and stabilize stream banks. Known as "conifer revetments," the trees trap sediment and decompose to gradually become part of the banks themselves. The tree branches along the edges in the water offer protection for small trout and other aquatic animals seeking a place to hide from predators.

The collection day is Saturday, January 7, 2023; between 10 a.m. -2 p.m., at the Arcadia Check Station located in Arcadia Management Area where Route 165/Ten Rod Road intersects with the Wood River (look for signs).

Please only drop off real trees, not fake ones or trees sprayed with fire-retardant chemicals. All decorations and lights, as well as the stand, must be removed before the tree is dropped off. Only whole conifers accepted, please do not bring tree trimmings.

Trout Unlimited is seeking volunteers to help accept Christmas trees. Please email if you would like to volunteer, contact Maddie Proulx at Madison.Proulx.INT@dem.ri.gov or John Genovesi at rhodyflyangler@gmail.com.

Candidates sought for Membership on Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council

The Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC) makes recreational and commercial fishing regulation recommendations to the Department of Environmental Management Director. The Director takes their decisions, public comments and input from the Marine Affairs Division into consideration when establishing fishing catch limits and regulations. About 90 percent of RIMFC decisions are made State fishing law by the director.

The RIMFC is composed of eight individuals and the DEM Director or their designee. Council members are chosen from among those with skill, knowledge, and experience in the commercial fishing industry, the recreational (private and for-hire) industry, and in the conservation and management of fisheries resources and/or marine biology. Members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Rhode Island Senate.

Members are appointed to four-year terms, are expected to attend up to eight meetings per year, and serve without compensation. Additional background information on the Council can be found on the DEM Division of Marine Fisheries website: <https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/marine-fisheries/about-council>.

Candidates are currently being sought for the following positions on the Council: Conservation, management, and/or marine biological expertise; recreational fishing industry; and from the commercial fishing industry.

Anyone interested in serving on the Council is invited to submit a letter of interest and resume to: Molly Ogren, Chief of Program Development, DEM, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908; at Molly.Ogren@dem.ri.gov or call her with questions at 401.222.2771, ext. 2774402.

In your letter, please indicate which seat(s) you are applying for. The deadline for submittals is January 15, 2024. All candidates will be forwarded to DEM Director Gray and Governor McKee for review and consideration.

Where's the bite?

Tautog, cod and black sea bass are being caught by anglers anchored up to tautog fish with crabs. Call ahead to make a party boat reservation for tautog and cod fishing, vessels generally sail between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. and return in the afternoon. Visit www.islandcurrent.com, www.francesfleet.com and 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 in stocked ponds for trout and salmon is pretty good with a fairly decent largemouth bass bite. For a complete list of trout stocked ponds in Massachusetts visit Mass Wildlife at Trout stocking report | Mass.gov and in Rhode Island visit 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 or visit www.noflukefishing.com.



TREES FOR TROUT: Trout Unlimited and RI DEM team up to help control water flow in rivers and erosion through the strategic placement of Christmas trees. (Submitted photo)

Business Card DIRECTORY

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Santa brings holiday cheer to Johnston

By PETE FONTAINE

It's a rite of December unlike any other.

But this time around was extra special, beginning with the Johnston Fire Department that made sure Santa Claus arrived in style for his annual visit to town.

Instead of using his sleigh – and having Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer work overtime especially with Christmas Eve right around the corner – Jolly ol' Saint Nick rode into Johnston aboard a Johnston Fire Department Ladder Truck and was accompanied by two firefighters.

For some two hours on a recent Saturday morning, the Johnston Recreation Department held its annual "Visit with Santa" inside the national award-winning Senior Center where young and old alike enjoyed everything from free pastries and desserts to taking pictures of family members with Jolly Old Saint Nick.

"Everybody loves Santa Claus," said Nicole Cournoyer, Johnston's popular Assistant Recreation Director who again organized the fun-filled holiday tradition. "He even visited with Johnston Town Council members Lauren Garzone, Linda Folcarelli and Al Carnevale."

Santa – a.k.a. Jordan Bruno – received a myriad of compliments and as Cournoyer emphasized "he's doing a super job in addition to passing out candy canes to his many visitors."

"This is one of our favorite events," Cournoyer went on. "Santa listened to what all of the excited children wanted for Christmas, and he told many of the youngsters he checked his list before leaving the North Pole and they were all on the nice list."

After visits with Santa, children and their parents were invited to play some reindeer games then enjoy a variety of pastries, juice and even hot chocolate.



CLAUS' COUNCIL: Johnston Town Council members Lauren Garzone, Al Carnevale and Linda Folcarelli were among the many people who welcomed Santa Claus to town on a recent Saturday morning.



NICO'S NICHE: Lou Prata, a former staff member with the Johnston Recreation Department brought his grandson Nico to visit Santa Claus and tell Jolly Ol' Saint Nick what he wanted for Christmas.



WARM WELCOME: Santa Claus – a.k.a. Jordan Bruno – enjoyed a ride into Johnston aboard a JFD ladder truck.

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Real Estate Transactions

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ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
8 Cypress Rd	Belanger T and Belanger, Deborah	Pine, Joseph and Pine, Jennifer	11/27	\$383,000
8 Idlewild Ct	Thomson, Faith D	Donna Calderbank T and Calderbank, Donna	11/28	\$122,500
10 Daisy Ln Lot 10	Medeiros, Marc J and Medeiros, Engrid	Lang Jr, George J and Lang, Lori A	11/28	\$470,000
17 Greene St	Fontaine Jr Lionel O Est	Mandeville, George	11/28	\$251,000
22 Reservoir Rd	Kiff, Maria R	Elevator Properties Inc	12/1	\$240,000
69 Wright Way	Arabian, James	Oberg, Patricia L and Plante, Nathan	11/30	\$165,000
76 Arnold Rd	Louis A Couture Iii T and Couture 3rd, Louis A	Anderson, Ian R and Anderson, Christina C	12/1	\$336,000
107 Maple Valley Rd	Guillemette, Louis E and Guillemette, Diane	Maple Vly Partners LLC	12/1	\$425,000
195 Lakehurst Dr	Moulton, Keith F	Quiles, Rick M	11/28	\$605,000
1296 Hill Farm Rd	Derobio Development LLC	Medeiros, Erik	11/30	\$359,900

Cranston

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
10 East St Lot 309	Gilbane Pontiac Ave LLC	Gardella, Angeline M	11/30	\$255,000
15 Case Ave	Ramieri, William M	Hargrave, Holly and Hargrave, Christina	11/30	\$362,000
15 Haddon Hill Rd	Fortune, Ralph H	Vilardo, Jeffrey S and Bernal, Marissa P	11/28	\$320,000
21 Rosewood Ave	Doris Duquette Reit and Duquette, Richard P	Lagasse, Amy L and Maguire, Michael P	11/30	\$470,000
27 Midland Dr	Culbert, Susan L	White, Nicholas and White, Danielle	11/30	\$382,000
31 Cedar St	Bulger, Elizabeth H and Bulger, Peter	Ratnam, Ramesh and Cilamkoti, Suhasini	11/29	\$380,000
34 Kneeland St Lot 20	Restante, Joann M	Beatrice, Holly L	11/27	\$411,000
34 Kneeland St Lot 22	Restante, Joann M	Beatrice, Holly L	11/27	\$411,000
36 Tophill Dr	Mccusker 3rd, Daniel and Mccusker, Kathleen	Johnson, Elizabeth A	11/30	\$400,000
50 Imperial Ave Lot 87	Imperial & Florida LLC	Gonzalez, Diego E and Carlino, Brianna M	11/27	\$450,000
50 Imperial Ave Lot 86	Imperial & Florida LLC	Gonzalez, Diego E and Carlino, Brianna M	11/27	\$450,000
53 Mount View Dr	Buote, Gerard H and Buote, Virginia M	Cicchelli, Linda J and Barclay, Betsy A	11/28	\$38,000
75 Chestnut Ave Lot 324	Prior, Daniel T	Kelley 3rd, Paul W	11/27	\$365,000
75 Chestnut Ave Lot 323	Prior, Daniel T	Kelley 3rd, Paul W	11/27	\$365,000
95 2nd Ave Lot 142	Mercado, Jorge	Greenberg, Mark and Garcia Garcia, Jessica I	11/30	\$340,000
95 2nd Ave Lot 141	Mercado, Jorge	Greenberg, Mark and Garcia Garcia, Jessica I	11/30	\$340,000
110 Fairfield Rd	Falcon, Michael and Falcon, Christina	Delricci, Joseph A and Kibbe, Kaitlyn M	11/30	\$442,800
119 Hilltop Dr	Knollwood Const & Remodel	Lawton, Christopher A	12/1	\$430,000
165 Bartlett Ave Lot 165	Ribeiro, Antonio and Blanco, Rafael	Villella, Samani K and Villella Jr, John J	11/30	\$415,000
165 Bartlett Ave Lot 164	Ribeiro, Antonio and Blanco, Rafael	Villella, Samani K and Villella Jr, John J	11/30	\$415,000
234 Orchard St	Moss Home Solutions LLC	Clifton, Kelly C and Wilder, Kieran H	11/30	\$430,000
440 Park Ave Lot 4	Santana, Hector J	Zimmerman, Jessica A and Zimmerman, Reginald M	12/1	\$430,000
440 Park Ave Lot 5	Santana, Hector J	Zimmerman, Jessica A and Zimmerman, Reginald M	12/1	\$430,000
948 Cranston St	Cunningham, Ian	Ayala Portillo, F S	11/27	\$560,000
1519 Hope Rd	Twin Lake Dev LLC	Camara, Emma K and Pomfret, Benjamin L	11/28	\$375,000
2100 Cranston St Lot 330	Albro, Paula L and Albro, Duane	Soares, Joshua A and Laiter, Victoria	12/1	\$425,000
2100 Cranston St Lot 329	Albro, Paula L and Albro, Duane	Soares, Joshua A and Laiter, Victoria	12/1	\$425,000

East Greenwich

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
55 Crickett Cir Lot 55	Hutchison, Jessica M	Alexandra R Marcus T and Marcus, Alexandra R	12/1	\$750,000

Exeter

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
65 Whispering Pine Way Lot 65	Touchette, Joseph T and Touchette, Carolyn J	Lynch, Mary	12/5	\$579,000
233 Bell Schoolhouse Rd	Lyman, Joseph J and Lyman, Beth R	Chiarello Jr, James E	12/4	\$875,000

Johnston

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
12 Edna St	Arusso, Angelina G	Mollicone, Sabrina and Lemoir Jr, Phillip L	11/29	\$268,000
15 Oakland Ave	Ford Jr, Ernest H	Ayala, Jesus	12/5	\$240,000
15 W Scenic View Dr	Reverence Investments LLC	Iannuccill, Jenna M	12/1	\$420,000
29 Peck Hill Rd	Cicchelli, Raymond and Kamphaus, Maureen	Powers, Shawn	11/29	\$381,000
47 N Olney St	Palumbo, Kaila and Dwyer, Kevin P	Snyder, Kaitlyn L	11/29	\$365,000
55 Walnut St	Rosati, Pauline A and Conte, Albino F	Baffoni, John	12/1	\$250,000
75 Pine Hill Ave	Northup 3rd William C Est and Northup, Heather	Martin, Jake J and Martin, Joseph M	11/29	\$339,000
99 Springfield Ave	Perreault, Shawn T	Roberts, Amanda H and Roberts, Benjamin	12/4	\$334,900



Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
1 Staples Ave Lot 105	Murphy Satsuko Est and Murphy, John	Laplanche Estates LLC	11/28	\$380,000
1 Staples Ave Lot 104	Murphy Satsuko Est and Murphy, John	Laplanche Estates LLC	11/28	\$380,000
38 Landon Rd	Greenberg, Peter D and Greenberg, Kim E	Morra, Joan and Morra, Martin	11/28	\$450,000
42 Brayton Ave Lot 12	Flint, Helen	Soares, Cynthia L	12/1	\$247,140
42 Brayton Ave Lot 11	Flint, Helen	Soares, Cynthia L	12/1	\$247,140
43 Proctor Ave Lot 34	Council Giants LLC	Oweidat, Mohammad N	11/28	\$345,000
43 Proctor Ave Lot 35	Council Giants LLC	Oweidat, Mohammad N	11/28	\$345,000
44 Taplow St Lot 53	Kazanjan Steven S Est and Kazanjan, Steven P	Grover, Walter and Semple, Ronald	12/1	\$495,100
44 Taplow St Lot 52	Kazanjan Steven S Est and Kazanjan, Steven P	Grover, Walter and Semple, Ronald	12/1	\$495,100
44 Taplow St Lot 51	Kazanjan Steven S Est and Kazanjan, Steven P	Grover, Walter and Semple, Ronald	12/1	\$495,100
52 George Arden Ave	Breen, Gretchen L	Amaral, Zachary D and Amaral, Victor E	11/28	\$330,000
55 Bancroft Ave Lot 141	Vest, Jason E	Isgro, Anthony	11/30	\$505,000
55 Bancroft Ave Lot 144	Vest, Jason E	Isgro, Anthony	11/30	\$505,000
55 Bancroft Ave Lot 145	Vest, Jason E	Isgro, Anthony	11/30	\$505,000
55 Bancroft Ave Lot 143	Vest, Jason E	Isgro, Anthony	11/30	\$505,000
55 Bancroft Ave Lot 140	Vest, Jason E	Isgro, Anthony	11/30	\$505,000
55 Bancroft Ave Lot 142	Vest, Jason E	Isgro, Anthony	11/30	\$505,000
55 Sawyer Ave	Marquis, Brenda	Petreccia, Carolyn S	11/30	\$575,000
83 Maywood Ave	Ulbin Wayne D Est and Ulbin, Michael J	Desantis, Alex D and Fontaine, Haley N	11/27	\$480,000
85 Puritan Dr	Leonard, Merlyn P	Schwartz, Zoe A and Turnquist, Carl A	12/1	\$445,125
89 Naples Ave Lot 16	Tariq, Qudrat U	Bisiak, Pawel and Bisiak, Sarah	11/28	\$385,000
89 Naples Ave Lot 19	Tariq, Qudrat U	Bisiak, Pawel and Bisiak, Sarah	11/28	\$385,000
89 Naples Ave Lot 18	Tariq, Qudrat U	Bisiak, Pawel and Bisiak, Sarah	11/28	\$385,000
89 Naples Ave Lot 17	Tariq, Qudrat U	Bisiak, Pawel and Bisiak, Sarah	11/28	\$385,000
90 Tampa Ave	Riess, Eric T	Anthony Jr, Matthew and Avedisian, Kristopher	11/27	\$45,500
99 Pleasant St Lot 113	Hutsell, Desiree and Estacio, Joseph	West, Russell C	12/1	\$367,000
99 Pleasant St Lot 112	Hutsell, Desiree and Estacio, Joseph	West, Russell C	12/1	\$367,000
123 Harmony Ct	Champagne, Michael J	Soares, Courtney and Soares, Victor	11/30	\$379,900
125 Wayne St Lot 81	Cabral, Ramon A and Cabral, Ana C	Brache Lieber, Tomas E	12/1	\$390,000
125 Wayne St Lot 80	Cabral, Ramon A and Cabral, Ana C	Brache Lieber, Tomas E	12/1	\$390,000
125 Wayne St Lot 82	Cabral, Ramon A and Cabral, Ana C	Brache Lieber, Tomas E	12/1	\$390,000
142 Canonchet Ave	Chen, Xioalei and El Jamal, Sieman	Grimo, Christopher J	12/1	\$578,000
148 Asylum Rd	Jendzejec Marian Est and Warburton, Kate W	Celtic Roman Grp LLC	11/27	\$264,555
317 Inez Ave	L G C Home Improvements & Mateo, Melissa	Faber, Alan	12/1	\$475,000
447 Elm St	Keller, Michael J and Keller, Kim J	Mcguigan, Robin E	11/30	\$395,000
510 Ives Rd	Keller, Michael J and Keller, Kim J	Belanger, Debra A	11/30	\$465,000
612 Warwick Neck Ave	Brown Reit and Michals-Brown, Jeffrey D	Harrington Const Inc	12/1	\$400,000
652 Oakland Beach Ave	Stackhouse, Elizabeth	Szczepanski Jr, John A	11/29	\$365,000
671 Narragansett Pkwy	Fournier, Ronald J and Fournier, Elizabeth A	Arias Gonzalez, Angel A and Brea, Angel A	12/1	\$465,000
826 Williamsburg Cir Lot 826	Curtis, Mark P	Capato Jr, Gina	11/30	\$347,000
846 Narragansett Pkwy	Richard J Stubiarec Lt and Quinn, Mary A	Hermanowski, Stanley and Hermanowski, Katelyn	11/30	\$425,000
852 Warwick Ave	Mattiace Frelt and Mattiace, Mario	Bates, David and Bates, Edward	11/30	\$334,900
2197 W Shore Rd	Dubuque, Michael E	Watkins, Robert E	12/1	\$246,000
2855 Post Rd	Olson, Dylan T	Steinman, Seth	11/30	\$400,000
3372 W Shore Rd	Malone, Dennis A	Jean-Baptiste, Phredrick	11/29	\$328,000

West Greenwich

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
22 Pine Tree Ln	Pettigrew, Julie	Augusto, Rui and Augusto, Ana M	11/27	\$85,000
70 Carrs Pond Rd	Kyle, Keith B	Joseph, Louis G and Hillman, Karen D	11/30	\$575,000

West Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
9 Acorn Ln	Norma A Pitts RET and Pitts, Norma A	Family First Re LLC	12/1	\$350,000
10 Kings Forest Ln	Prisco, Jeffrey C	Anderson, Thomas D and Anderson, Janet	12/1	\$407,500
10 Mill St	Monaco Investments LLC	Vargas, Diego S	11/29	\$400,000
11 Seth Dr	Breton, Nicholas E and Breton, Robert	Armando, Laurie A and Armando, Albert	11/29	\$419,900
18 Fairmont St	Matias, Jayson J	Cortez, Sergio I and Mullen, Kayleigh A	12/5	\$307,500
22 Spring St	Saif, Esse and Pishadian, Hamed	Susi, Matthew	11/29	\$369,000
30-32 Border St	Reservoir Adventures LLC	Gosselin, Christopher and Gosselin, Gladys	12/5	\$1
31 Silverwood Ln	Cannon, Robert C and Cannon, Sandra L	Prisco, Jeffrey C	12/1	\$534,000
32 Trellis Dr Lot 32	Symons, Jilly	Maynard, Gwen G and Oreagan, Robert C	12/1	\$305,000
33 Grandview Dr	Sylvester, Dillia L	Burbo, William H	12/5	\$308,500
57 W Warwick Ave	Carter, Ethan J and Quicksall, Harley L	Martins, Kelvia	12/5	\$425,000
76 Lenox Ave	West Warwick Town Of	Holmes, Brenda M and Conley, Thomas B	11/29	\$2,260
87 Tanglewood Dr	Motta Christopher S Est and Motta, Stephen J	Jencks, Valerie L and Jencks Jr, Robert	12/4	\$380,000
98 New London Ave	Lapham, W D	Lord, Wendell G	11/30	\$450,000
141 Harding St	Valletta, Thomas J and Ribeiro, Janice	Atchison, Heather E	12/4	\$338,500
219 Legris Ave	Walter King Ent LLC	Noble, Brittany F	12/4	\$225,000
219 Legris Ave	Keenan, Gladys B and Blue Castle Ltd	Walter King Ent LLC	12/4	\$210,000
1545 Main St	Dias, Arlindo	Moretti, Kimberly	11/30	\$408,000

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A Long Island Journey



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



Last month, I took a journey along with Steve, my righthand man in the Pop Culture department at Bruneau and Co, to visit Dr. Mego on Long Island.

Now, Dr. Mego is not an M.D. like you might be thinking. Dr. Mego is the title bestowed on Paul Clarke by the collector community for his unwavering passion and love for Mego toys. His affinity for Mego has been there for as long as the company was creating its iconic 8" action figures, beginning in 1972. His passion for these toys is what inspired him to track down the original molds and manufacture reproduction replacement parts for collectors to restore their beloved figures – thus the title Dr. Mego!

But While Mr. Clarke had a passion for toys, he had an almost equal love for comic books. While he enjoyed his collection immensely, he felt now was the time for them to find new homes. When Steve and I walked into his home we were floored by his collection and display. At first, he had a small but mighty pile of books on his kitchen table including Fantastic Four #1, Amazing Spider-Man #1, and Batman #10 - just to name a few. But that was just a taste! He then introduced us to the

seventy-plus untouched long boxes in his basement. Steve and I were in heaven. It was a long day sorting and picking books for Dr. Mego to sell, but the fruit of our labor will certainly be worth it come auction day!

On February 24th I can't wait to offer the collection of Dr. Mego at Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers in our Winter Pop Culture sale. As mind blowing as the collection is to us, what it will realize in today's market is more mind boggling to the Doctor. Prior to us seeing the collection, he had a goal of \$10,000 to \$20,000 in terms

of sale value. He was happy to hear that, even before processing the collection, we could comfortably tell he should expect double that! It will certainly be an awesome start to 2024 for Dr. Mego!

If you have a collection of comics at home you've been staring at and are wondering what they are worth, I am here to help! With comic books, a collection needs to be properly managed to get the most cash value out of it. Key books need to be pressed and graded and runs organized. You do not want to be

stuck wondering if you left money on the table by selling your collection outright; working with an auction house on consignment is a team effort where everyone is working for the same goal!

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Tips For Solving Holiday Home Decorating Dilemmas



By Jennifer Cosgrove O'Leary

Whether you are thinking of selling your home during or after the holidays, or planning to stay in your home forever, home decorating during the holidays can be stressful. As an interior designer, mother, wife, and owner of a real estate brokerage, I know first-hand how the holidays can be crazy busy. The following are some ideas I've used prepping my home for entertaining, and some advice and solutions to holiday decorating dilemmas and objections that I often hear from client's who are getting their homes ready to sell during the holiday season:



1. "Where can I hang the stockings when I don't have a mantle?" No mantle, no problem! Hang stockings on a decorative ladder (look for pictures of a blanket ladder online and you'll see what I'm referring to).
2. "Help, I am running out of time!" Use festive pillows...a few pillows in almost any room of the house takes almost no time and are easy to put away after the holidays. Swap out those everyday pillows with some more festive pillows to bring the holiday spirit into your family, living and even bedrooms. A red plaid pillow, a pillow with a tree on it, even fun quotes like, "Baby, It's Cold Outside" look great on a pillow. Check out your local Home Goods or Target for some pillow inspiration!

3. "How can I decorate if my home is too small to store holiday décor off season?" Add a Bow! The best part of decorating with bows is that they're inexpensive, very versatile, and can easily be incorporated into your daily décor without having to move around any furniture or remove and decor. Add them to lamps, picture frames candle sticks, etc.
4. "What can I do to get myself in the holiday spirit?" If you are feeling overwhelmed by the holidays and the thought of decorating your home is just another item on your to do list...start by going to your local hardware store and picking up some poinsettias. Flowers can considerably improve people's moods, evoking positive memories such as anniversaries, weddings, birthdays, etc. Studies have also shown that the color from flowers has a powerful calming effect on people, and who doesn't need that during the holidays?



5. "My house is for sale, can I decorate?" Contrary to popular belief, you CAN sell your home over the holidays. It can be a daunting task, but the good news is buyers looking during this time are more serious and ready to find a home. Decorating for the holidays while your home is on the market can make your house more attractive to potential buyers. Keep the decorations simple and neutral so you don't cover large parts of your home and be sure to keep it non-religious. A festive feel is just right for all parties involved so decorate and show it off!

The most important tip I can give you for the holidays is to remember that the time you spend with family and friends will be what is remembered. So try and enjoy!

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Jennifer Cosgrove O'Leary is one of the top 10 Realtors® (as certified by Real Trends) in the state of Rhode Island and the Co-Owner/Broker of Greenwich Bay Brokers. She is the only Certified Divorce Real Estate agent in the state, and is also a Senior Real Estate Specialist. Jennifer leverages her years of interior design experience, as well as her degree in occupational therapy to provide guidance on the critical aesthetic and ease of use elements that are part of the home buying and selling process.

Organizational tips for bathrooms and laundry spaces



METRO
 No two homes are exactly alike. While homes typically feature certain common amenities, even in planned communities homeowners do their best to set their homes apart from others in the development.
 Certain areas of a home may initially garner less attention than others. This often is the case with small washrooms, sometimes called powder rooms or guest bathrooms, as well as laundry areas. Despite their utilitarian nature, bathrooms and laundry rooms can often benefit from some better organization. The following are some ways to maximize storage and function in these spaces.

Bathroom

Apart from a vanity and possibly a medicine cabinet, many bathroom layouts tend to be pretty sparse in terms of storage. So it is up to homeowners to introduce more storage and organizational function.

- **Over-toilet shelving:** Freestanding units are available from many different retailers, but they may lack aesthetic appeal. Homeowners can install open shelves above the toilet that coordinate with the style of the home. Use them to store extra towels or display decorative items.

- **Streamlined containers:** Invest in coordinating storage containers (clear are preferable) so that all items can be uniformly put away. First sort through all items to determine which size containers are necessary and how many are required.
- **Conceal toilet paper:** Homeowners want to have bath tissue on hand, but simply placing it near the toilet can look cluttered or unsightly. Use decorative baskets to house one or two extra rolls and place on shelving or on the toilet tank itself.
- **Freestanding cabinet:** Those lucky enough to have linen closets in their bathrooms can keep everything behind closed doors. In small bathrooms this may not be possible. However, a freestanding cabinet, similar to a kitchen pantry cabinet, can be used if there is space for it. Store all of the linens and other items inside.

Laundry

Laundry rooms can be very organized or a catch-all space for objects that simply do not fit in other rooms in the home. Perfecting laundry room organization can take some effort.

- **Folding station:** A laundry room is more useful with a folding station. It can be a separate counter over cabinetry,

- or innovative homeowners build a counter over front-loading washing machines and dryers.
 - **Utilize wall space:** Use hooks and shelving to get items off the floor or counters. Use them to hold brooms, mops, ironing boards, detergent, and much more.
 - **Invest in a pedestal storage drawer:** Laundry pedestal storage drawers can be used to keep dryer sheets, laundry pods and additional supplies out of view.
 - **Use space-saving cabinetry:** Pull out drawers and cabinets can be used to hold hampers, ironing boards, and other frequently used items without cluttering up the room.
- Organizing bathrooms and wash rooms can give these spaces a cleaner, more impressive look. HI23B445

Tips to avoid the buildup of clutter

METRO
 Clutter has a way of taking over a home. As time goes by, items that are not stored or discarded when they've lost their utility can gradually take over a space, creating a claustrophobic, cluttered feeling that can affect how people feel in their homes.
 Clutter is not something to be taken lightly. A 2010 study published in the journal Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin found that women who characterized their living spaces as cluttered or marked by unfinished projects were more likely to experience fatigue and depression than women who described their homes as restful and restorative. Though clutter is often discussed in terms of removing it, there's also many ways to prevent it in the first place.
 • **Schedule weekly cleaning sessions.** Cleaning is a chore few look forward to, and that reluctance may be a byproduct of infrequent cleanings. The less a home is cleaned, the longer cleaning sessions take when

individuals get around to it. Weekly cleaning sessions can help prevent items from stockpiling and creating a cluttered look.
 • **Discard items when they're no longer used.** Holding on to items you no longer use will eventually contribute to the buildup of clutter. That's a lesson parents know well, as kids outgrow toys, which can then pile up and contribute to overcrowded toy chests and play rooms. Adults also have a hard time discarding their own toys, including old devices. As kids outgrow toys, let them choose which ones to discard before they're replaced with new items. The same goes for adults, who can wipe old devices like tablets, smartphones and laptops clean and discard them once they've purchased replacements.
 • **Make it easy to find stored items.** Even the most well-organized person can fall victim to clutter if stored items prove difficult to find. When revamping storage systems, choose clear, stackable drawers so you won't make a mess as you look for stored

items you can't find. Clear, stackable plastic bins and drawers make it easier to find what you're looking for, reducing the likelihood that items will end up on the floor or strewn about. If you don't want to replace existing storage bins, label them if they're not clear to make it easier to identify what's inside.
 • **Donate clothing.** Much like kids' toys and adults devices should be discarded when they're no longer used, old clothes can be donated to create more storage space and prevent the buildup of clutter. Clutter is often described as something visible to the naked eye, but clutter can also build up in dresser drawers and behind closet doors. Periodically go through closets and dressers and remove items you no longer wear, donating them if they're still in good shape and discarding them if they're not.
 Clutter can quickly take over a home. A proactive approach that emphasizes clutter prevention can make for a more relaxing and restful home. TF23C525

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