

INSIDE: At the Knickerbocker, the winter blues are a welcome sight.

free

SOUTH COUNTY

Life

MAGAZINE

HOLIDAY 2023



GIFT OF A LIFETIME

It's the holiday season in South County and that means it's time to get creative and find the perfect present for your loved ones. Don't worry. We've got you covered.



the **Best** orthopedic
care **Anywhere** is
Right Here



**UNIVERSITY
ORTHOPEDECS**

12 Convenient Locations in Rhode Island and Massachusetts

We have more than 60 world-class physicians and the only orthopedic surgeons on the faculty of the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.



401.457.1500 | universityorthopedics.com



Build Your Dream Retirement Home on the New Golf Course!

South Shore Village is Rhode Island's Premier 55+ community.



- A brand new nine-hole golf course, custom designed for golfers of all skill levels
- State-of-the-art driving range, community center, and premium golf carts
- Completely customizable, detached, single level homes on premium lots abutting the course
- Premium location in a coastal forest setting, yet only minutes to premier restaurants and Rhode Island's best beaches
- Landscaping, snow removal, trash pickup and more – Association provided!

Call now to set up an appointment and tour the property! 401.601.0074
Four furnished model homes are open daily 10 am to 4 pm

southshorevillageri.com

Follow us on Facebook 

South  Shore
Village

5 Birdie Court
South Kingstown, RI
401-601-0074

editor's welcome

The most wonderful time

Some people dread winter. While the cold and snow make for tough goings in and around Southern Rhode Island, anyone who has been brave enough to step outside during this time of year knows there's a lot of beauty to be seen.

Why? Well, because it's the holiday season of course!

After an unforgettable year of making memories with unique looks at the people and places that make South County special, we're excited to put a bow on 2023 and usher in the most wonderful time of the year by decking the halls with boughs of holly and jingling every single bell we see.

But first, let's show you how to really make this holiday season a special one you'll never forget.

In this month's cover story, we venture out to the local art scene to show why Southern Rhode Island's most creative minds are the ones you should turn to when planning your holiday shopping.

In the appropriately titled "Think Outside The Box," reporter Bill Seymour asks some of the area's best artists to share why they believe there's no gift quite like the gift of local art and we believe them.

Of course, finding the right gift for that special someone isn't the only task on your checklist this season, is it?

No, we get it. The holidays are the busiest and most stressful time of year for lots of families so let us help you find the places you should go to get in the holiday spirit and stay there.

In "Season's Greetings," reporter Liz Boardman shines a spotlight on the 12 events we think you can't miss this season.

The list won't be a strange one for anyone who has spent a lot of time in South County during the holidays but, let's be honest, the entire purpose of this time of year is to partake in timeless traditions ... whether they're old or new.

Which brings us to one of our favorite stories this month. In "Santa's Helpers," reporter Rachel Philpson takes a look at the University of Rhode Island Music Department's upcoming Holiday Extravaganza Concerts, a first-of-its-kind celebration of the season featuring more than 150 students and community members, across six musical ensembles, all sharing the stage at the same time.

The event is sure to become a new must-see tradition locally and maybe in 100 years or so, future readers of this magazine will learn all about its roots the same way we hope you learn about two of our favorite long-standing pillars of the holidays.

In "Cut Above The Rest," reporter Mara Hagen explores the world of local Christmas tree farms and, if you're a fan of real trees in your home each year, you probably already know there's nothing like buying local.

And if you don't? Well, now is the perfect time to start because, for these local farmers, growing the perfect tree for South County families is a year-round focus.

Rounding out this month's issue, we'd be remiss if we didn't start thinking past the holidays ... and that means winter. Thankfully, just because it's cold outside doesn't mean you can't find some red hot bands in the local music scene.

In "Still Alive & Kicking," Philpson takes a deep dive in 90 years of history for the Knickerbocker Cafe in Westerly and shows why, even as the venue enters its ninth decade, it's never been a more hip or relevant place to see the best in live music.

Thanks for picking up the holiday edition of our magazine and for supporting us through another year and incredible stories and must-see events. We hope you've enjoyed 2023 as much as we have and we can't wait to see what 2024 has in store for the little place we call home.

SOUTH COUNTY *life*

MAGAZINE

Vol. 11 No. 8

from the publisher of
The Independent

P.O. Box 232
Wakefield, RI 02880
401.789.9744

editorial@independentri.com
© Southern Rhode Island Newspapers

PUBLISHER

Jody Boucher

EDITORIAL

Managing Editor

Seth Bromley

editorial@independentri.com

ADVERTISING

Advertising Director

Jody Boucher

jboucher@ricentral.com

Sales Representatives

Carol Palmer

cpalmer@independentri.com

ART

Press Manager

Nonea McFarlane

Graphic Design

Paul J. Spetrini

Photography

Michael Derr

photos@independentri.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Vincent Gallo, Michael Derr, Liz Boardman,
Rachel Philpson, Mara Hagen, Bill Seymour.

South County Life magazine is distributed for free, eight times per year (March, May, June, July, August, September, October, November) by The Independent / Southern Rhode Island Newspapers, P.O. Box 232, Wakefield, RI 02880. For editorial or advertising guidelines, visit SouthCountyLifeMagazine.com, call 401-789-9744, or email sclife@independentri.com

All content remains the copyright of *South County Life* magazine. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the publisher. *South County Life* magazine welcomes submissions relevant to our content but we cannot be held responsible for their care or return.

Distribution by Special Delivery

contents

5 Local Catch

Check out some of the upcoming events that you won't want to miss.

6 Season's Greetings

There's so much to see and so much to do this holiday season but, before you fill out your calendar, check out 12 events we think are worth your time.

12 Think Outside The Box

Finding the best holiday gift requires thought and effort. See why buying local art shows you care.

19 Santa's Helpers

The University of Rhode Island Music Department is getting into the holiday spirit in a big way this winter.

22 Cut Above The Rest

Creating the perfect Christmas tree is a year-round effort for these local farmers.

27 Still Alive & Kicking

For 90 years, the Knickerbocker Cafe has delivered amazing music to fans across RI and the best is yet to come.

| local catch |

SILVER BELLS

Shady Lea Mill set to host 25th annual Holiday Open Studios

This month, Shady Lea Mill will hold its 25th Annual Holiday Open Studios – where patrons can browse unique works of art, created by local artists and artisans and buy ahead of the holidays.

The event will be held on Dec. 2 and 3, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the mill, located on 215 Shady Lea Rd.

“Years ago – there’s hundreds of them now – everyone’s got all kinds of art shows and things like that,” Mill Manager Lynn Krim said. “But there was nothing like that when we started. And it started as a party to invite the neighbors into the mill so they could meet the artists and get to know them and feel more comfortable... Before you knew it, people were asking if they could buy something. And so every year it grew.”

Those who stop by can choose from artworks ranging from jewelry, rugs, blown glass, woodworking, pottery, paintings, photography – a wealth of options compiled from the mind and hands of over 40 participating artists.

“We have weavers (and) we have a pottery – it’s not a school but it’s opened to people who are potters but don’t have a place to go,” Krim said. “They can rent time and space and... work there.”

The holiday shopping is tax-free, with free admission and free parking. The money goes to the artists, Krim said. Those who attend are asked to bring donations for the North Kingstown Food Pantry, which will be accepted at the door.

“It’s become very well-known,” Krim said. “...It’s a very unique place where it’s become a very special artist community where they do support one another (and) they share their works.”

The Shady Lea sits along the Mattatuxet



Artist Karen Houston works on a cold wax painting in her studio at The Mill at Shady Lea ahead of last year’s Holiday Open Studios tour. This year’s event, the Mill’s 25th annual, takes place Dec. 2 and 3.

River and is meant to serve as a historical landmark left from the mill economy of the early United States. The mill’s eastern portion was built in the late 1820s to manufacture fabric. The fabric was a cross between burlap and dungaree. The eastern part of the mill was built by Esbon Sanford, an early figure of the textile industry.

From the time it was built, up until 1871, when it was bought by Rodman Manufacturing, the mill was known as the Springdale Factory. The mill during the Civil War was used to make wool blankets for the Union Army.

Krim’s family purchased the mill via an auction during the mid-1950s.

“My father was a bootleg staple maker. He made staples for all the machines. And he sold his business, but not the mill,” Krim said.

Not knowing what to do with it, Krim’s father initially thought to create senior living space.

“One day a couple carpenters, who had done work for him in the past came and asked him if they could store the equipment in there,” Krim said. “And he said, ‘sure, just keep the

place from falling down.’ So, they did. And one day they got a visitor, Luke Randall, who as a well-known painter in Rhode Island ... and he said, ‘well I’d love to have a studio and a place like this.’”

Donlee Thompson, a participating artist with the mill, watched it form into the “artist colony” it is today.

“Myself and a pottery partner put our names on the list for a small studio,” Thompson said. “And when it came up, we jumped on it.”

Thompson primarily creates ceramics. She has been a potter for almost 30 years.


“It’s a medium that’s always fascinated me,” Thompson said. “I like the malleability and the flexibility of it. And it’s like a blank canvas every time you sit in front of a big ball of clay.”

Thompson said, the purpose of Holiday Open Studio is to not only sell art, but to also provide community education surrounding the venue.

“It was a way to bring the public to the art community, without having to travel to Providence.”

-Vincent Gallo

SEASON'S GREETINGS



Plum Beach Garden Club helped deck the halls at the North Kingstown Police and Fire Station last year with the purchase of a holiday wreath from local Scout USA Troop 152. Every December the Club donates, decorates and delivers a wreath to shine a holiday spotlight on North Kingstown's finest. It's just one of the many holiday traditions that make Christmas in South County special.



Christmas comes but once a year and that's why, this holiday season, we want you to experience all South County has to offer. But where should you start? What should you see? That's simple. In Southern Rhode Island, the classics never go out of style.

Story by Liz Boardman



Santa's arrival by boat is a long standing tradition in Wickford Village with hundreds lining the dock to welcome him. This year's Wickford Festival of Lights runs from Dec. 1-4 and features a variety of events for children of all ages.

Have you been counting down to Christmas since September? Or maybe you're feeling a little Scroogy this year? Whichever, South County's busy calendar of holiday events are a chance to experience wonder, and bring some joy and peace to you and yours.

Here are 12 of our favorites that may just become part of your annual traditions:

Wickford Festival of Lights

Spend time with Santa (who arrives by boat), join the Elf Parade, take a horse-drawn hayride, and check out the live music, and the Ladies of the Rolling Pin. Don't forget to shop, and enjoy the lights and decorations in the Village of Wickford.

Dec. 1-4, hours vary, free | Village of Wickford | nkartscouncil.org/wickford-village-festival-of-lights/

Christmas at the Castle

Smith's Castle is decked out for the holidays in colonial fashion, and celebrates the season with live entertainment, crafts for kids and visits with Father Christmas.

Dec. 2-3, noon to 4 p.m., free | North

Kingstown | smithscastle.org

Kingston Village Holiday Fair

Take another step back in time at the Kingston Village Holiday Fair. Shop three church fairs, South County Art Association and Fayerweather Guild's annual holiday sales for gifts for everyone on your list. Enjoy the carolers strolling the village, or stop into the Kingston Free Library for crafts.

Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., free | Kingston | kingstonvillagefair.org

Breakfast with Santa

Santa is a busy, busy man and getting some one-on-one time with the big man during the holiday season isn't easy. Luckily, South County Commons is bringing St. Nick directly to local families on December 2 for its annual Breakfast With Santa event hosted by Applebee's.

Breakfast is served on a "first come, first served" basis, for just \$4, beginning at 8 a.m. and the event will feature pancakes, music, caroling, prizes and more.

After breakfast, Santa will be making his way down Main Street in the Commons by fire truck and children of all ages are

welcome to come by All South County Luxury Cinemas for fire truck tours, a photo booth, a raffle event, face painting, a caricature artist, balloon twisting, music and more. In addition, many other free events will be taking place around the Commons until 11 a.m.

At noon, the cinema will screen the Polar Express film after the event. Tickets are \$3.00 and can be purchased in advance on their website.

Dec. 2, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. | South County Commons | South Kingstown | southcountyccommons.com

Lafayette Band Holiday Concert

Nothing says it's the holiday season like a night of music and tradition and, in North Kingstown, it's simply not the most wonderful time of year without the Lafayette Band. This year, the band will perform its annual Holiday Concert on Friday, December 1 in the First Baptist Church, located at 44 Main St. in Wickford at 7:15 p.m. Admission is free for all ages. Music Director Chuck Johnson will conduct a festive program of traditional and popular holiday music, including a

Continued on page 10



A horse-drawn carriage makes its way around South County Commons during the "Breakfast with Santa" event last year.



The Lafayette Band, shown here performing at First Baptist Church in Wickford last December, will hold its annual Holiday Concert on December 1. Admission is free for all ages.

Continued from page 8

sing-along. Vocalist Richard Johnson will join the performance. Patrons are advised to arrive early, as seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The concert is funded by a grant from the North Kingstown Arts Council.

Dec. 1, 7:15 p.m., free | North Kingstown | lafayettebandri.org

Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge - Contemporary Theater Company

Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge is Contemporary Theater Company's holiday gift to South County. The Christopher Durang script sends up Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" with sprinkles of "It's a Wonderful Life" and disco dancers." It's brought hilariously to life by CTC, and is sure to become a favorite family tradition.

Dec. 1-23, times and ticket prices vary | Contemporary Theater Company | Wakefield | contemporarytheatercompany.com/season

Riverside Christmas Tree Farm

Make family memories by heading to Riverside Christmas Tree Farm or one of the other Christmas tree farms in South County. Fire and drought in the West and



The Contemporary Theater Company says it is "all set to jingle some bells and deck the halls with a quirky twist on a beloved classic" as the Wakefield theater's production of "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge" by Christopher Durang begins this month with previews set for December 1-3 and the show running from Dec. 7-23.

Midwest in recent years have created a shortage of saplings, so supply may be limited. Your best bet is to visit at the start of the season (mid-November) to tag a tree, and go back a few weeks later to cut it and take it home. Don't forget a wreath and greenery, too!

Opens in November, prices vary | Riverside Christmas Tree Farm | Charlestown

| riversidetreefarm.com

26th Annual Holiday Stroll & Luminaria

Merchants in downtown Westerly, RI and Pawcatuck, Conn., line their sidewalks with luminaria to light the way toward an evening of fun. Shops are open late, and complementary hot chocolate and cookies

Photos: Seth Jacobson Photography (CTC), Submitted Art (Above and at right)

will warm you up as you check out the merchandise.

Dec. 6, 5-9 p.m., free | downtown Westerly and Pawcatuck | oceanchamber.org

Holiday Street Faire - Narragansett

Stroll a European-style Christmas marketplace stocked with crafts and gifts for the holidays and enjoy live music, seasonal bakes, holiday drinks, and more.

Dec. 2, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., free | Narragansett | narragansettcoc.com/event/2023-holiday-street-faire

Starry Nights - Artists' Cooperative Gallery of Westerly

This fine arts gallery is operated by the artists who exhibit here. They will feature a holiday show, "Starry Nights" in December. Everyone is welcome to browse, but you may find a piece you want to take home for you, or as a gift for someone on your list.

Nov. 29-Dec. 24, times vary, free | Westerly

Miracle on 34th Street - Granite Theatre

Make theater a holiday tradition with a visit to the Granite Theatre for a



The Narragansett Chamber of Commerce will host its third annual Holiday Street Faire on Saturday, December 2 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation grounds at 170 Clarke Road.

performance of "Miracle on 34th Street." Based on the classic holiday film, this heart-warming musical tells the story of a man named Kris Kringle who takes a job as Santa at Macy's department store, then has to prove he's the real deal.

Dec. 1-23, times and ticket prices vary | Granite Theatre | Westerly | granitetheatre.org

miracle-on-34th-street.org

Festival of Lights - Narragansett

Enjoy the community tree lighting, fireworks, music and other family fun in Gazebo Park.

Dec. 3, free | Narragansett | narragansetttri.gov/333/Upcoming-Events

OPEN STUDIO

THE MILL AT SHADY LEA
215 SHADY LEA RD, NORTH KINGSTOWN

FREE ADMISSION

DEC 2ND • 3RD, 2023 10AM-4PM
INSTA: THEMILLATSHADYLEA



THE SEASONS ASSISTED LIVING

A Premier Non-Profit Residence




Traditional & Memory Care Neighborhoods Available
PROGRAMS FOR QUALIFIED VETERANS &
SHORT-TERM STAYS

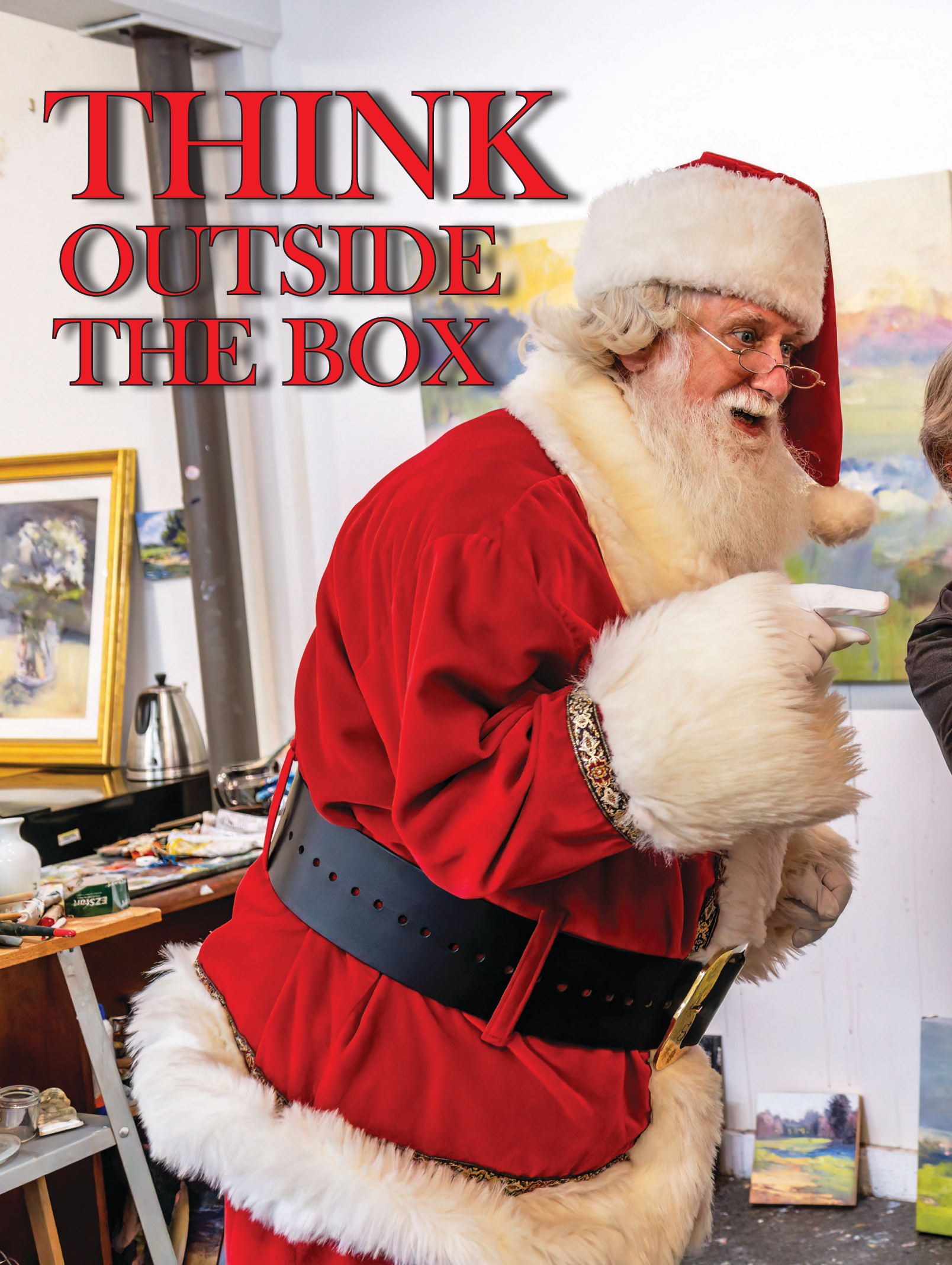
Celebrate Life With Us!



Five Saint Elizabeth Way
East Greenwich, RI
401.884.9099
www.theseasons.org

A joint venture of The Scandinavian Communities and Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX



The holiday season is a time to show your loved ones you care. This year, forget about the gift cards and make your presents that much more personal by giving the gift of art.

Story by Bill Seymour, Photography by Michael Derr



Artist Trish Hurley paints a portrait of Santa (aka Jim Clarke) in her studio located in The Mill at Shady Lea. While it's much easier to give your friends and family members a gift card to a restaurant or website, taking the time to find the perfect piece of locally-made art can turn your holiday presents into something that lasts a lifetime.



Photographer John Nanian shows Santa (aka Jim Clarke) a vintage camera from his collection in his studio which is located in The Mill at Shady Lea. South County's art scene is tough to match and the holiday season is no exception as there are a long list of events you can attend to find the perfect gift for the hard-to-shop for person on your list.

Art doesn't have to match the sofa.

In its various forms and designs, art can make an excellent holiday gift, particularly for those who are hard to please or have a refined taste for paintings, glass works, ceramics, metals, mixed media, and other handcrafted items.

Using that adage in the title of a 2020 book "Art Doesn't Have to Match Your Sofa," American artist and interior designer Kelly Schaub urges people to buy original and local, forget décor from big-box stores.

South County for the holiday season offers an abundance of annual opportunity for the community wanting to follow her advice.

"When buying a work of art, you are giving the recipient something handmade by an artist or craftsman," said Peg Corcoran of Bosgraaf Stained Glass Studio in Peace

Dale.

"Art is a personal gift to give, and you have found a gift that you know will make the recipient feel special. I think those gifts tend to become the most treasured," she said.

When choosing art as a gift, she advises, "Trust your first instinct. If you see something that immediately makes you think of the recipient, you most likely have made the right choice."

Bosgraaf Stained Glass Studio will have over 70 student artists participating in its 8th Annual Holiday Sale on December 2 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and December 3 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. It is located at 1214 Kingstown Road, Peace Dale.

"We have hundreds of unique, handcrafted stained glass panels and suncatchers, fused glass pieces, both decorative and functional," she said, noting that a large part of the interest goes to its

stained glass ornaments.

"We have a wide variety, ranging from traditional holiday themes to more personalized styles and various local landmarks. You're sure to find an ornament for that special person on your holiday list. Prices for ornaments range from \$12 to \$40," she said.

Finding Something Unique

If you're interested in unique glass works, Anchor Bend Glassworks at the Shady Lea Mill in North Kingstown and studios in Newport also has plenty to offer.

Hand-blown glass is its specialty, said Mike Richardson, a co-owner. "We incorporate a range of traditional and original techniques in sculpture, vases, tableware, lighting, and more," he added.

Continued on page 17



Santa (aka Jim Clarke) surprises weaver Suzi Ballenger in her studio located in The Mill at Shady Lea on a recent afternoon.



South County Art Association

52nd Annual
Holiday Pottery & Art Sale

November 24 – December 17
 Wednesday – Sunday 10am – 6pm

Handcrafted gifts by local artists
 pottery, paintings, prints, jewelry, woodwork,
 ornaments, stocking stuffers.

southcountyart.org • 2587 Kingstown Rd, Kingston, RI

THE COURTHOUSE

Spot On Concert Series

CENTER FOR THE ARTS



SAT, NOV 25 • 7:30 PM
BLUSHING BRIDES
ROLLING STONES

TUE, NOV 28 • 6:30
ROLAND COMTOIS
SPIRIT MEDIUM

FRI, DEC 1 • 7:30 PM
ROCK STEADY
BAD COMPANY

SAT, DEC 2 • 8 PM
RADIO FLASHBACK
70, 80 ROCK FAVORITES

WED, DEC 6 • 5 PM
ALL INCLUSIVE FREE
DANCE & PIZZA PARTY
JUST DANCE

SAT, DEC 9 • 7:30 PM
A NASHVILLE XMAS
ROCK & ROLL

THU, DEC 14 • 1:30PM
CHRISTMAS
50'S & 60'S FAVORITES

FRI, DEC 15 • 7:30 PM
ROBERT BLACK
ELVIS CHRISTMAS SHOW

SAT, DEC 16 • 7 PM
AGING DISGRACEFULLY
AT CHRISTMAS
COMEDY

SUN, DEC 31 • 8:30PM
NEAL & THE VIPERS
NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

VOTED BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE →

Tickets: CourthouseArts.org
 3481 Kingstown Rd.
 West Kingston, RI • 401-782-1018

Strengthening minds through our 501C3 nonprofit by providing
 free children's inclusion programs in music, the arts and much more



SCAN FOR SCHEDULE



Continued from page 14

Holiday gifts are often chosen for others, but they can also be a treat for yourself.

"I sell a variety of paintings from four-inch square to even larger than six-foot long," said Trish Hurley, a painter at the Shady Lea artists' colony in the former mill on Shady Lea Road in North Kingstown.

Shady Lea's Open Studio runs Dec. 2 and 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Over 70 artists display and sell their different kinds of work during the holiday season, especially at the open house.

"The small ones would make great special gifts, but very often I have people buy something special for themselves, whether it's a tiny landscape painting for a grouping, a bright fun floral piece for a special spot, to something large for over the couch or mantle," Hurley said.

Robert Kalaidjian, a painter and sculptor in Newport, draws inspiration primarily from the Rhode Island coastline.

"I also make driftwood assemblages, lamps, mirrors and frames w/ unique

locally sourced materials that are customized to clients' tastes and budget," he said, noting that prices range from \$200 to \$2,000 depending on the work.

"My clients and collectors often collaborate in the creative process behind the fabrication of an object, which results in a uniquely, personal gift," he said.

Art in many varieties and for nearly every taste can be found at the South County Art Association at 2587 Kingstown Road in historic Kingstown Village, near the University of Rhode Island.

"Giving a unique, one-of-a-kind artwork is a present that no one else would ever receive. Each piece is handcrafted with an artist's unique style that is unreproducible," said Jen Ferry, executive director.

Its annual Holiday Pottery & Art Sale opened last month on "Black Friday" (November 24) and runs until December 17. The sale is open Wednesdays through Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and features work by over 100 members.

The artists represent a range from talented hobbyists to seasoned

professionals and come from all over Rhode Island. Thousands of visitors attend the sale annually.

The holiday sale includes handmade pottery, cards, small framed prints, paintings, jewelry, ornaments, stocking stuffers, woodwork, and a famous mug wall with different kinds of coffee mugs.

Fayerweather Craft Guild's shop, also in Kingstown, offers various gifts created by over 40 local artisan members.

"There's something for everyone on your gift list, from the youngest to the oldest! Prices range from a \$3 child's barrette to over \$300 for a handcrafted quilt. Also, there is no sales tax on our handcrafted items, with the exception of candles, candy, and soap," said Sallie Sirhal.

The gift shop is located in Fayerweather House at 1859 Mooresfield Road (Rte. 138 at 108), Kingstown. It is open Tuesday - Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The shop closes for the season on Christmas Eve at 2 p.m.

Continued on page 18

the GLASS STATION studio and gallery
Wakefield, RI

Holiday Open House

Friday, December 8th, 5-8 p.m.
Blow Your Own Ornament!

JUST \$50
Ages 10 and up
First Come
First Served

Hand Blown Glass

- Gifts • Decorations
- Glassware
- Fine Jewelry



446 Main St. Wakefield • 401-788-2500
Shop online at www.theglassstationstudio.com

O'Neil's Package Store



**Best Selection
Competitive Prices**

**Mon - Sat: 8am - 10pm
Sun: 10am - 6pm**

**366 South Pier Road
Narragansett, RI 02882
(401) 783-3272**

Continued from page 17

Shop Local

Another holiday sale can be found at the Wickford Art Association in North Kingstown. Maria Masse, executive director of the association at 36 Beach St., emphasized the “shop local” aspect of finding art as a gift, especially when it’s Rhode Island-made.

That cachet can evoke warm sentiments in someone receiving it, especially for the state, according to many artists.

“A small piece of fine art is a unique gift and will be cherished by the person receiving the gift,” she added.

She offered some thoughts on how to choose the perfect gift.

Ideally, knowing the person’s preferred colors or the colors used in their home, as well as taking note of other art pieces they have, will ensure that the gift is a smashing success, Masse said.

“Is your present for a gardener — then maybe choosing a botanical oil painting might be of interest. How about a sailor — then perhaps an acrylic seascape is more in

line,” she said.

Wickford Art Association’s annual Holiday Small Works Cash and Carry Art Show runs from November 10 through December 22 at the Beach Street gallery.

Small artworks that are all affordably priced range from \$30 to \$300, Masse said.

Framing galleries are often good places to find art. Ashley Berry owns Picture This, Framing Center and Gallery, located at Quo Vadis Plaza, 552 Kingstown Road in Wakefield.

She has seen a lot of art, both personal and for gifts, come through her center for preparation.

“Generally you will pay more for original handcrafted art and craft, but you get what you pay for,” she said, and her gallery is open Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

“I often tell buyers that they are paying for the years the artist has spent honing their craft, not the hours it took to make one item. Some artists work quickly because they have spent a lifetime working on their craft. That dedication is worth something,” Berry said.

Her frame shop offers original art and prints by local artists, as well as rare framed

maps of South County towns and New England. It has three experienced framers who specialize in designing custom framing and matting.

A selection of prints on sale starts at \$75, and original art begins at \$250 and goes higher, she said.

Debra Walland, owner of Seaside Rug Hooking Company at the Shady Lea Mill, offered this general advice when delving into the personal realm of selecting art as a holiday gift.

“It should make the room just a bit nicer. Whether that can be done by filling a space to make it cozy or, oppositely, an element can be added to enlarge the feeling of a room by pulling colors or textures from other rooms,” she said.

“There is an adage among artists that ‘art doesn’t have to match the couch.’ I agree, but it should look appropriate in the room,” she added, noting that buying local makes it easier to return items and find something more suitable.

Write to Bill Seymour, a freelance writer covering news and feature stories, at independent.southcountylife@gmail.com.

11TH ANNUAL SOUTH COUNTY *life*

PHOTO CHALLENGE

ARE YOU AN AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER?

We want to see how you live your South County life - whether it's a festive event, seasonal shot, landscape or anything else in South County that inspires you, show us your life through your lens. Winning photos will be announced and published in the Spring 2024 issue.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED
Jan 1 - Feb 9, 2024

Visit www.independentri.com/southcountylifemagazine/ for entry form and rules.




CHARLESTOWN MINI-SUPER *Full Service Grocery*

Quality Meats Cut to Order
Full Seafood & Bakery
Local & Out-of-Town Newspapers
401-364-6600
4071 Old Post Road, Charlestown • Located Between Charlestown Beach Exits
LOTTERY & KENO • OPEN 7 DAYS 7AM-8PM



Delicacies for the serious gourmet

Chef-a-Roni
Fancy Foods
Rhode Island's Largest Selection of Holiday Foods

December Hours: Daily 9-5 • Sunday 9-2
Call for Tuesday Hours in Dec
2832 South County Trail • East Greenwich, RI
www.chefaroni.com • 401-884-8798

The Best of Charcuterie Essentials





The University of Rhode Island's vocal jazz group "In the Pocket" performs during last year's Holiday Concert. This year, URI's Music Department is going all out for the season with its first ever Holiday Extravaganza Concerts, set to take place December 2 and 3.

SANTA'S HELPERS

The University of Rhode Island Music Department looks to bring good tidings for you (and your kin) with its inaugural Holiday Extravaganza Concert. Figgy pudding or no figgy pudding, you won't want to miss this first-of-its-kind event.

Story by Rachel Philipson

Nothing says the holiday season like beautiful music. The University of Rhode Island Music Department is gearing up to celebrate the holiday season early this year with its first ever Holiday Extravaganza Concerts. The two concerts will feature more than 150 students and community members, all sharing the stage at the same time.

David Gilliland, URI associate teaching professor of collaborative piano, said this is the first time the University of Rhode Island

(URI) Music Department has had six musical ensembles in a singular performance. The Holiday Extravaganza Concerts will showcase the instrumental groups of the Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra and Jazz Band, as well as the vocal groups of the University Choir, Concert Choir and In the Pocket (a vocal ensemble specializing in jazz and rhythm and blues.)

The Holiday Extravaganza Concerts will take place on Saturday, December 2, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 3 p.m. at the URI Fine Arts Center Concert Hall. Since joining the department five years

ago, a big scale performance is something Gilliland has been envisioning of and he said he is thrilled that the 2023 Holiday Extravaganza Concerts will be the first of hopefully many large concerts like this.

"For me, I am just excited about the spectacle of bringing all of the groups together," Gilliland said. "I like big scale things. This is our opportunity to put every single music major and minor in the department on stage at the same time and that is incredibly exciting to me. The sheer

Continued on page 20



BENEFITNESS
PILATES STUDIO
& TRAINING CENTER



Train with the Trainer who Trains the Trainers!

- Group And Private Sessions Available On Zoom or In Studio
 - RI's only STOTT PILATES Certification Center
- Easy Scheduling And Payment Available On The MindBody App

HOURS AND CLASSES BY APPOINTMENT

You can call (401) 886-5661 or email us at info@ripilates.com
816 Middle Road, Unit 7, East Greenwich, RI 02818
(401) 886-5661 • ripilates.com

Continued from page 19

number of people and all of our talents blending together in our concert will be really a phenomenal performance."

In addition to celebrating the best of the holiday season, the concert is a fundraiser event to raise funds for the Department of Music. Gilliland said the goal is to generate money for department scholarship funds and the current URI Fine Arts Center construction project. (The project is now in its second phase with half of the previous building being removed, which is making way for a new 82,000-square foot academic building.)

Gilliland said the money raised from the Holiday Extravaganza Concerts should help bring "momentum and extra energy" to the URI Music Department.

"We had done some collab concerts but we had never had an opportunity to put all of our ensembles on the stage at the same time," Gilliland said. "This was an opportunity to do that as well as celebrate the holidays and be a fundraiser for the department. We are in the middle of a construction project for our building and this is another way for us to supplement some funds to help support all of the programs and activities for the music department."

The program for the Holiday Extravaganza Concerts was created with inclusivity in mind, highlighting the holiday season — not just one holiday, Gilliland said. The concerts (both performances will have the same program) will be a mixture of classic and contemporary holiday themed pieces, ranging from the iconic Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride performed by the URI Wind Ensemble to new pieces, including Stephen Yarbrough's Alleluias for Orchestra performed by the URI Symphony Orchestra.

If the Holiday Extravaganza Concerts become an annual URI Music Department tradition, he said he would like to broaden the program to feature more cultures and musical ensembles, such as the URI African Drumming Ensemble.

Beyond each of the six ensembles performing two pieces, there will be a Christmas Carol-Along. All of the ensembles will perform in the sing-along and encourage the audience members to

George's
OF GALILEE

EAT FISH! LOVE LIFE!



OPEN DAILY • PORT OF GALILEE • NARRANGANSETT • 401-783-2306
GEORGESOFGALILEE.COM

Photo Courtesy: The University of Rhode Island/Marian R. Goldsmith

join in. The Carol-Along is a melody of standard Christmas tunes with all of the lyrics available in the program to make it easier to follow along, Gilliland said.

Instead of having the six ensembles process on and off the stage in between their pieces, Gilliland said all of the ensembles will be seated on or around the stage for the entirety of the performance, meaning all students and community members will be present throughout the whole concert. The concept is that the lights will come up on different parts of the stage to highlight the performing ensemble.

Gilliland said he is responsible for determining how to best seat students who are in multiple ensembles and will be performing in multiple pieces. He said it may be a “tight fit,” but it will all come together.

“It is my challenge to figure out and I am excited to get into the details of that,” Gilliland said.

Gilliland said the Holiday Extravaganza Concerts are sure to have holiday cheer and URI Music Department pride. Both performances are general admission, so he encourages audience members to come early



David Gilliland, URI associate teaching professor of collaborative piano, said this year’s Holiday Extravaganza Concerts will be the first time the University of Rhode Island (URI) Music Department has had six musical ensembles in a singular performance. Pictured above, the University’s jazz band performs during last year’s Holiday Concert.

to get a good seat.

“The arts are important, and needed now more than ever,” Gilliland said. “Our talented students and faculty are working hard to present a blockbuster show and spread holiday cheer with everyone who can come. You won’t want to miss it — it’s a

harbinger of new and exciting things to come at the URI Music Department.”

Tickets for the Holiday Extravaganza concerts and all other URI Music events can be purchased through Eventbrite or one hour prior to the performance at the Box Office.

Photo Courtesy: The University of Rhode Island/Marian R. Goldsmith



David Weidman, an employee at The Farmer's Daughter in South Kingstown, prepares to cut a tree at the business's tree farm, which opened last month and offers customers all the tools necessary to cut the perfect tree for their holiday season, with offerings ranging from 2-15 feet tall in a wide variety of species.



CUT ABOVE THE REST

Nothing brings the smell of Christmas alive in your home quite like a real tree but, before you hit the big box stores this season, know there's a reason you're better off buying local.

Story by Mara Hagen, Photography by Michael Derr

The sky is a ceiling of slate gray over the pale green field. A flurry or two of snow floats briefly in the chill, quiet air. A young child in a red coat has

wandered away from his family, from the throngs of people drinking hot cocoa, the yelping dogs and the laughing grandchildren. He meanders slowly through the field of Christmas trees, fingering the long needles of the white pine, sticking his face in the fragrant scent of the balsam fir. He stares in awe down the rows and rows of delicately trimmed trees, until he sees it. It is small, squat, perfectly proportioned for lights, trinkets, presents; a tree meant for Christmas! He can barely contain his excitement as he runs back to tell his family he has found the perfect Christmas tree.

Big John Leyden's Tree Farm in West Greenwich prides itself on having more than 100,000 trees and has been serving generations of Rhode Island Christmas tree shoppers. "Little" John Leyden, owner of Big John Leyden's Tree Farm, took over when "Big" John, his father, and the originator of the farm, passed away in 2018. Little John tells of his father as "always having a passion for owning a piece of land. He always wanted to sell Christmas trees."

Running out on a brisk fall day to pick out a tree is considered a fun, weekend activity, but John's fun starts way before the weekend. They begin fertilizing, lining, and planting their seedlings throughout the springtime. Then, depending on the weather, they're pruning the trees from May till the end of August. "The reason why you prune a tree is because it gets a beautiful shape, it's called a wind-ling if it's not pruned. That's what's in the wild, it would be very bare and sparse. It wouldn't have the great shape that a Christmas tree has." John is out there, bracing the heat, delicately pruning each tree so that it's ready for a holiday months away.

While John Leyden, with sap covered hands, is examining his upcoming harvest, Jane Durning is busy arranging a collection of porch pots for her latest customer request. Jane Durning and her



Riverside Christmas Tree Farm in Charlestown has nine acres of trees in a variety of species and has been the place where generations of local families have found their perfect holiday tree since 1905.

husband run Riverside Christmas Tree Farm, a 9-acre farm in Charlestown. Jane's family has had the farm since 1905, and she and her husband took over running in 1980 as a retirement plan. But it became a lot more than that, "I love to hear people say they love to come here, that they've been coming since they were a kid. Now their kids are grown and they're bringing their grandchildren now."

The Durnings hand prune each tree to capture each tree's individual potential. "We try to make them look different. Some places use mechanical cutters, so all their trees look the same," Jane Durning laughs, "my husband, as he trims every tree, says 'ok, this is what you're going to look like,' tall; small; skinny; fat; those wonky trees that nobody likes to look at, we have those."

Owning a Christmas tree farm is more



Jane Durning, co-owner of Riverside Christmas Tree Farm in Charlestown, makes garland with white pine branches. She and her husband run the nine-acre farm that has been in the family for over a century.

than just a career for these two farmers, it is a sustainable no-brainer. By owning and keeping farmland in Rhode Island, these farms provide a wildlife refuge and are contributing to cleaner air by continuing to plant and grow trees. Durning is passionate about this aspect of her farm, “it’s really great that people get out and cut a tree from the farm. The more trees we plant, the more oxygen gets produced. The smaller trees give off more oxygen than the bigger ones, because they’re growing.” She urges, “Buy locally. RI is losing farmland by 1000s of acres, so coming out and supporting local farms is the best people can do; please go out and support local.”

Leyden’s farm acts as a wildlife refuge, versus a landfill full of plastic trees. A plastic tree will be thrown out in 2-3 years, while his farm supports bobcats, rabbits, birds, eagles, and many other

critters for years. “If you have that much land, you’re giving back to nature. It’s carbon free. Just being outside is what it’s all about.”

For South County locals who don’t want to travel as far north as West Greenwich or as far south as Charlestown, the Farmer’s Daughter is a great third option for finding the right

tree for your home.

The local farm opened its Christmas Tree Farm at 1650 Broad Rock Road in Wakefield late last month for anyone who wanted to put their tree up prior to Thanksgiving and has been on its regular hours since the day after the holiday.

Continued on page 26



SOUTH COUNTY WALK-IN & PRIMARY CARE

M-F 9-5 / SAT 9-2
open most holidays
Monica L. Gross, MD, MPH
Maria A. Como, APRN, CNP

t (401) 789-1086 • f (401) 789-5344
Narragansett Medical Building
360 Kingstown Road, Suite 104
Narragansett, RI 02882
@ the Narragansett Rotary

Continued from page 25

The Farmer's Daughter offers an "extensive selection of tree varieties including Frasier Fir, Canaan Fir, Concolor Fir, Blue and White Spruces as well as other unique species."

The location provides all the tools necessary to measure and cut your own tree and provides complimentary tree shaking and bailing.

Some tips and tricks from the pros for buying and removing a Christmas tree?

Leyden is adamant about buying local. He advises against buying from a box store because you don't know when the

tree was cut; if you're buying locally, you know it's fresh and isn't dry. The "rule of thumb" for buying a Christmas tree is the longer the needle, the longer the needle retention. So, if you want a tree that will stay fuller, longer, opt for a white pine.

When asked what the biggest mistake they've seen from customers when buying a Christmas tree, both Leyden and Durning quickly answered "buying a tree too big for their house!" So when you're shopping, be modest.

To dispose of the tree, Durning offers a lovely alternative to trashing it. "Put it outside on the stand, hang some bird

feeders on it and let the birds and animals enjoy it all winter. String some popcorn around it, or peanut butter toast for the squirrels. You can still enjoy your tree, watching that tree feed nature."

Even though Christmas is crunch time for these farmers, they still love it. What does Christmas mean to them? Leyden thoughtfully paused, "it's all about the spirit, the giving, and being kind to one another." Durning chuckled, "Santa. I think Santa fits that whole happy-joy time of your life. That's what it means to me, the happiness and being together with your family, being joyful."

Search Wakefield Village Association on FaceBook for Upcoming Events!



THE INTERNATIONAL
MUSEUM
OF
WORLD
WAR II

Open Tuesday-Saturday 10-5
344 Main St., Wakefield, RI 02879
401-862-3030
www.wiifoundation.org

SOUTH COUNTY *life*
MAGAZINE

Local

SOUTH COUNTY PEOPLE, PLACES &
THINGS IN EVERY ISSUE!

southcountylifemagazine.com

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

INSTAGRAM @SouthCountyLifeRI
TWITTER @SCLife_Magazine

SWEENOR'S
CHOCOLATES

4TH GENERATION CONFECTIONERS

Give the Gift of Sweenor's Chocolate!

Three Ways to Shop:

- In-store
- Online for In-store Pickup
- Online for Shipping

- Candy Trays
- Gift Baskets
- Turtles
- Gourmet Truffles
- Sugar-Free Candies
- Cream & Butter Fudges
- Hand Dipped Chocolates
- Chocolate Lollipops & More!

We ship anywhere in the USA

WAKEFIELD • 783-4433
GARDEN CITY • 942-2720

sweenorschocolates.com



Sugar Ray and the Bluetones perform at the Knickerbocker Cafe in Westerly on a recent Saturday night. The Knickerbocker Cafe is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year and is a must-see venue for fans of live music in Southern Rhode Island.

STILL ALIVE & KICKING

For 90 years, Westerly's Historical Blues Institution The Knickerbocker Music Center has been a haven for the country's best musicians. And it's just getting started.

Story by Rachel Philipson

Since its beginnings, Westerly's Knickerbocker Music Center has never once waived from its ultimate mission: cultivating and celebrating live music, with a special emphasis on the blues.

The Knickerbocker Music Center (or perhaps better known as its nickname "The

Knick") has hosted legendary local and nationally touring musicians over the years, such as Stevie Ray Vaughn, Buddy Guy and Deer Tick, among many others.

In honor of The Knick's 90th anniversary, Mark Connolly, the Knickerbocker Music Center executive director, reflects on the end of the milestone year, ranging from the

institution's humble start, monumental rebuilding, and expansion to musical education.

"The building looks the same as it does from the outside as it does now," Connolly said. "When it got rebuilt, [the plan was] to make

Continued on page 28



People dance to the music of Sugar Ray and the Bluetones at the Knickerbocker Cafe in Westerly. While some live music venues in the region shut their doors for the year once tourists leave at the end of summer, the Knickerbocker keeps the good times going all year round.

Continued from page 27

sure it looked the same as it was because the place is steeped in history and that's part of what made it famous and allowed it to continue through hard times, even through something like COVID-19, we got through that as well. We are still alive and kicking."

The Past: Hitting the Right Notes

At the end of Prohibition, brothers Albert and Paul Vitterito decided to close their ice cream shop and create a storied music night club and cafe in Westerly, opening its doors in 1933. They named their new music venue the "The Knickerbocker Café" after the Knickerbocker Express, a well-known train that passed through the Westerly train station. The Knick can still be seen from the train tracks today.

Their location was key, Connolly noted, as musicians in the 1930s and 1940s typically didn't have their own cars, and would take the train going from gigs between Boston and New York, conveniently stopping at The Knick to

play in between.

Over time, The Knick grew its fanbase of performers and return patrons. One of the most notable groups was Roomful of Blues, a jump blues and swing band born in Westerly when guitarist Duke Robillard and pianist Al Copley started a band that played Chicago-styled blues in 1967.

Connolly said he originally heard the story about Roomful of Blues from Paul Vitterito's son, Paul Vitterito Jr. (previous owners of The Knick.) The story goes that Roomful of Blues approached The Knick, asking to play. Paul Vitterito said the band wasn't big enough to play on the busier Friday or Saturday nights, and gave them Sunday nights to see if they could drum up more business. When Roomful of Blues made The Knick their home club, they would pack the house every time they performed.

"Within a few weeks, Roomful of Blues had people down the sidewalk waiting to get in and the place would sell out every Sunday night," Connolly said. "That became a big part of the

Knickerbocker lore.

By the early 2000s, The Knick was losing its momentum and business was slowing. In 2003, the West Warwick nightclub and hard rock music venue The Station had a fire caused by a mishap with a pyrotechnic display and fire code violations, resulting in 100 deaths and injuring 230 others. In the aftermath, local venues with capacities over 100 people were forced to update to the latest safety standard, but Paul Vitterito Jr. couldn't afford the needed restorations and had to close the place down.

However, this wouldn't be the end of The Knick. In 2009, a group of passionate music lovers from Westerly and Watch Hill formed Westerly Blues, LLC, and raised \$1.5 million dollars to buy the venue and renovate/rebuild it. After the initial renovation, Westerly Blues, LLC asked Connolly and his business partner Jon Kodama (who left in 2014) to come on board to run The Knick and rejuvenate the new business in 2011. (Connolly would become Executive Director in 2014 when The Knick officially became a nonprofit



Sugar Ray Norcia, front, and Michael "Mudcat" Ward perform with Sugar Ray and the Bluetones at the Knickerbocker Cafe in Westerly. The band is one of the mainstays at the Knickerbocker, which features a large roster of regularly-performing acts and once-in-a-lifetime artists that grace the venue's stage.

organization.)

Both had been in the Mystic, Connecticut restaurant business for years. Connolly said working at a music venue was an amazing new journey for him. His vision was to get the community more involved with The Knick by becoming a nonprofit organization focusing on music education. He wanted a space that encouraged a new young audience and returning fans alike.

"I wanted the place to become a musical community center," Connolly said. "When I got there, it really wasn't that. A lot of people had come when it was really big in the late 70's and into the 80's but, they this time they were my age in their sixties, and they didn't want to go out that much and they didn't want to stay out late and they didn't want to spend that much money. When you are a venue, you can't really stay alive with that type of clientele, so we needed to get younger people in there and we needed more of the community involved."

The Present: Swinging Away the Blues

Nowadays, Connolly's goal of becoming a

nonprofit music educational organization has become a reality. The Knick is now sister organizations with the United Theatre and the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra and Music School as a multi-venue regional campus for the arts and arts education. The United and The Knick provide an educational learning center for over 300 weekly lessons to students of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra and Music School. Together, they have worked with more than 5,000 students in the Westerly & Charlestown school districts.

"By becoming a nonprofit and really reaching out to younger musicians in the area, and finding what they had to offer, what the young people wanted to hear, we have gained considerably," Connolly said.

The Knick provides space for students to have lessons during the week and performance opportunities, such as the performance series "Youth On-the-Mic" for sixth to twelfth grade musicians. The collective is always looking for new ways to best benefit the young musicians, leading to a recent development of a new direct pathway between The Knick and the United

Theatre, thanks to the Westerly YMCA for giving permission, Connolly said.

"This path is kind of like the first part of physically showing we can get the two students to go to and from the two venues much quicker," Connolly said.

Additionally, The Knick had some additional renovations to target a younger audience, such as transforming the space known as the Tap Room a "cool, small vibe club," Connolly said.

"That's another reason we are in better shape with younger people," Connolly said.

The Knick also works with local nonprofit organizations in the area, giving them a venue for charity events. Connolly said this is a win-win partnership as these events showcase The Knick's new look, brings new people into the space and raises funds for valuable causes.

"As long as they are local and I believe in their cause, we would bend over backwards to help them out," Connolly said.

Continued on page 30

Continued from page 29

The Future: Building to The Knick's Crescendo

2023 has been a busy year for The Knick, Connolly said. While it has been successful, he said there is much more to come. One of The Knick's main goals is to expand its involvement with the United Theatre and the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra and Music School to become one entity under a big umbrella, instead of being sister organizations, to become even more successful within the community.

"I can see us gaining on our dream and our goals even on a day-to-day basis," Connolly said.

Connolly said he also hopes to make more connections with local and national artists and bring them into The Knick, a nod to the organization's early roots. He credits previous collaborations, including Grammy award-winning musician and bandleader Jon Batiste and Newport Folk Festival performers (in The Knick's performance series called "On the Road to Newport") as memorable and impactful experiences.

"The more people you can work with, the more you can have as partners, the bigger [you can get,]" Connolly said. "We want to keep



While the world around the Knickerbocker may have changed over its 90 years, one thing that remains the same is strong community support in both Westerly and the rest of Southern Rhode Island.

working on that. We want a lot of people involved. We want people to know this is where you go when you want to hear great music or have a great play or anything like that. Westerly has a lot to offer and we want to be part of it."

There will always be an audience for blues music, but it takes embracing change and building new connections, Connolly said. He said there aren't many places similar to The Knick that have been around for 90 years and

one can feel that history as soon as they walk into the venue.

He adds that The Knick has plenty of stories to tell, but even more stories to create.

"We are there for musicians and they see that," Connolly said. "We get musicians coming through and they say they are going to tell their managers that we were treated really well here and the vibe of the place is great and that we want to come back. To me, that makes my day."

BOSGRAAF STAINED GLASS STUDIO

Holiday Sale!

Glass Art by 60+ Students!

December 2 & 3 • Open 10am

HOT CHOCOLATE BAR • PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT SARI'S SANCTUARY

BosgraafStudio.com • 1214 Kingstown Road • Peace Dale, RI

AUTOMATED BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Your Partners in Productivity


- Office Equipment Solutions
- Managed Network Services
- Managed Print Services
- VoIP Solutions

Proudly serving New England since 1992

Visit us at absne.com

800-832-2729

Follow us on socials!



There's nothing more joyous than welcoming a new baby to the world. We should know—we do it more than 400 times a year.

- Private suites and peaceful, home-like environment, supported by the latest technology
- Board-certified physicians and nurse midwife, part of **Newport Women's Health**
- Baby-Friendly® designation, for outstanding support of breastfeeding mothers and infants
- Magnet® hospital, nursing's highest honor for excellence

The Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center
newporthospital.org/baby

Delivering Joy, Daily



Newport Hospital

Lifespan. Delivering health with care.®

Spreading holiday cheer from the tips of your toes.



the purple cow co.



Wakefield, RI 401-789-2389