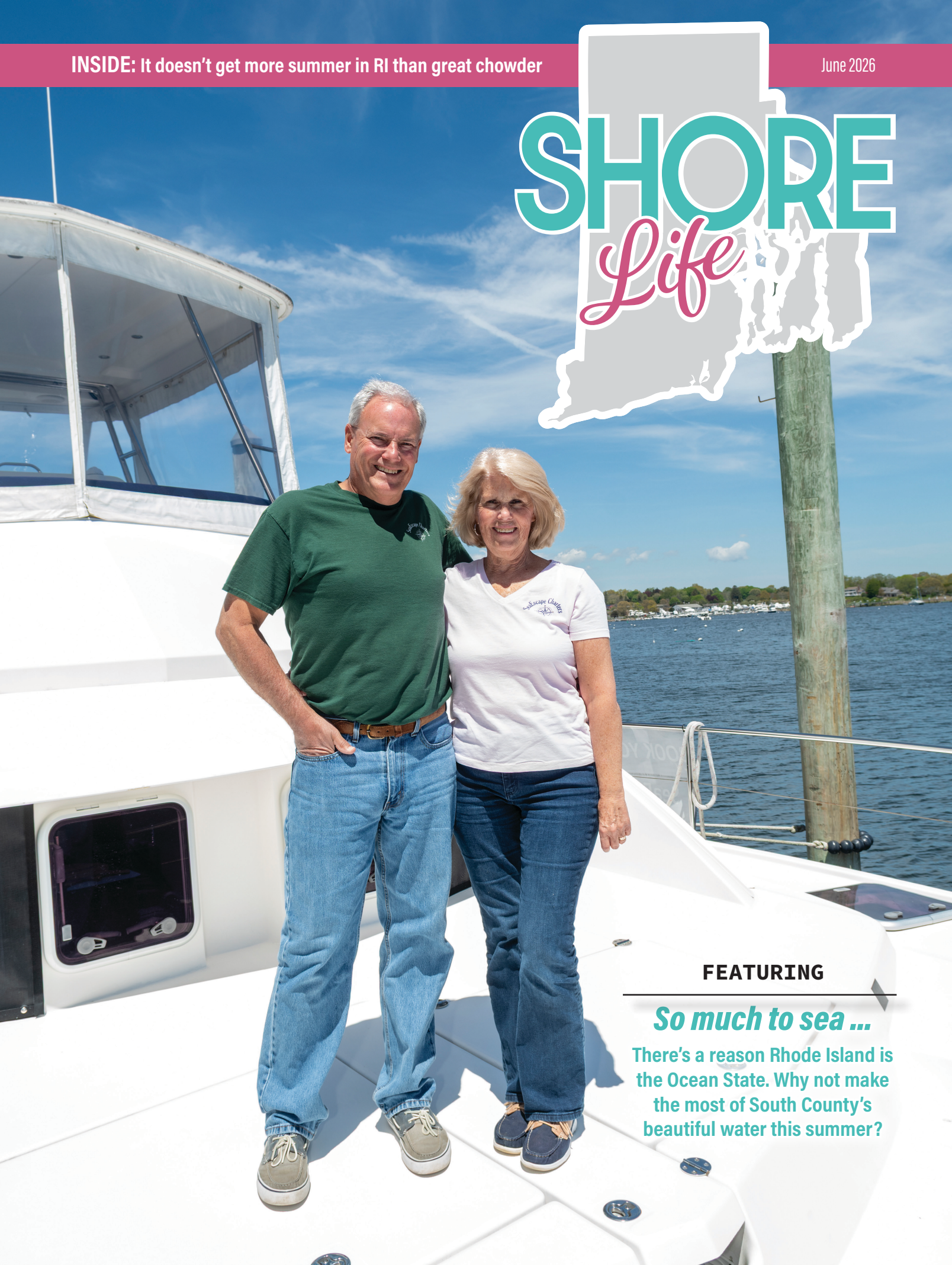
INSIDE: It doesn't get more summer in RI than great chowder

June 2026

# SHORE Life



FEATURING

## So much to sea ...

There's a reason Rhode Island is the Ocean State. Why not make the most of South County's beautiful water this summer?




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Hop on the fast ferry from Rhode Island and arrive in the heart of Martha's Vineyard in only 95-minutes! Our ferry avoids all the Cape Cod traffic and offers convenient dockside parking. Depart from Quonset Point, North Kingstown. You will enjoy scenic views down Narragansett Bay and through Vineyard Sound past the Elizabeth Islands. The ferry arrives in Oak Bluffs, with white sand beaches, numerous gift shops, restaurants and hotels just steps away. With five other towns close by, you can rent a bike, scooter, a car or purchase an advanced sightseeing tour of the entire island. Advance reservations are recommended. Operates May through September.



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Scan QR code for schedule & reservations

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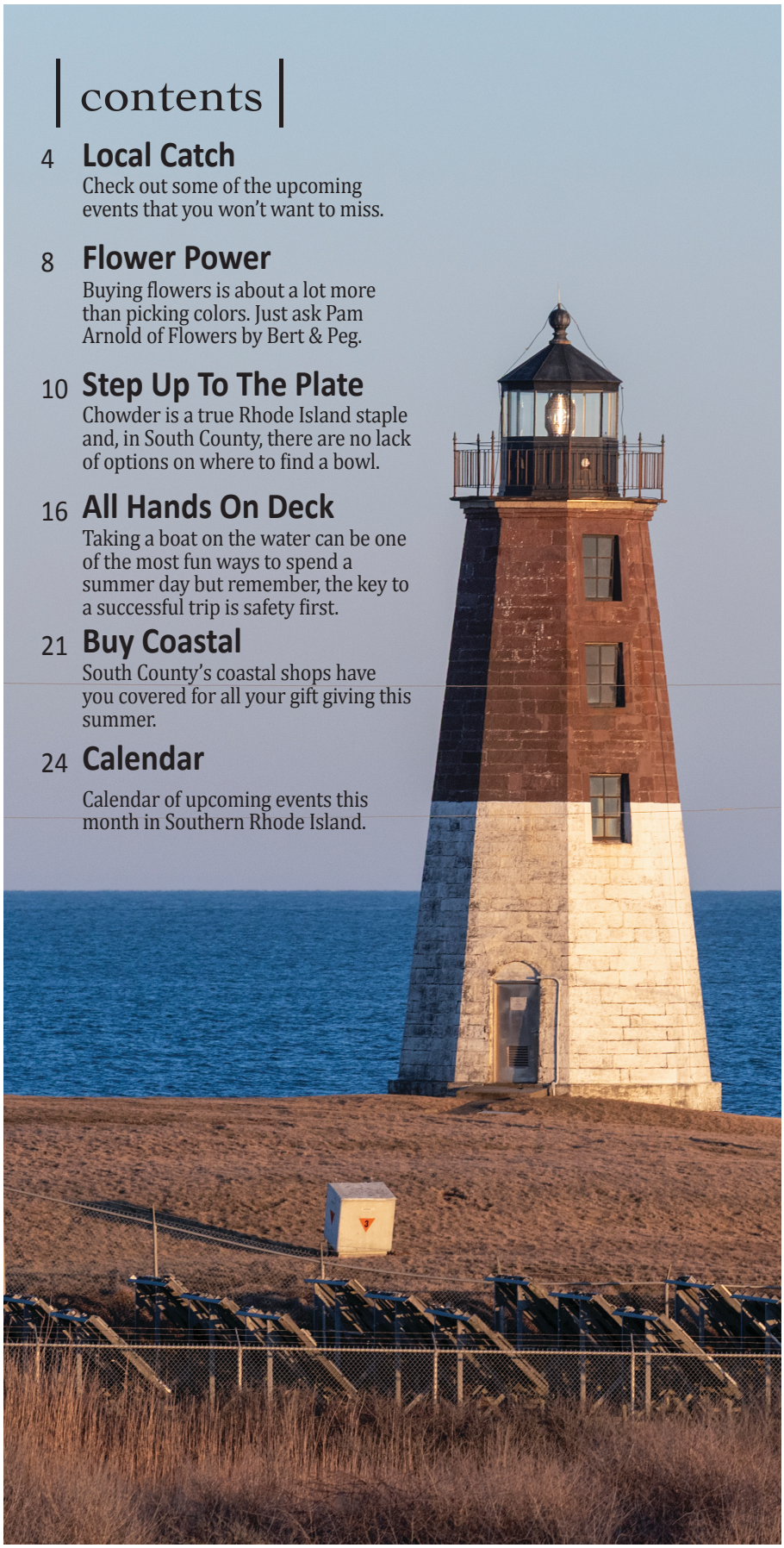
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SHORE Life

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# THE STAGE IS SET



# It's officially showtime at Theatre by the Sea and owner Bill Hanney believes this summer will be one to remember



Bill Hanney, an ever confident soothsayer of success, has cut through hundreds of potential musicals to find four productions that he says are already producing strong season ticket sales.

Theatre By The Sea raised the curtain on its 93-year-old summer stage with the first of four productions beginning May 28 and the rest of the slate stretching through mid-September. It's a season run that Hanney wants — and says — will be stronger than the year before.

"We went on sale last week, and we broke all the records you can break for last season. It looks like people are excited about these shows," he said.

"And I am already feeling, based on our ticket sales, this is going to be better than last season," he added, without disclosing ticket sales in 2025 as well as the purchasing trend that now shows the upward swing.

"I don't know about all past seasons' sales," he said when asked about comparisons. "What I care about is the next season: Is it better than the last season? By knowing this season stands to be better than the season before, we're good," he said.

Hanney has an uncanny intuition for picking shows that a vacationing crowd in the lazy days of summer enjoy, according the various interviews with theatergoers in the past several years. His shows often are packed with only a few empty seats in the old barn theater.

While not every show draws overwhelming approval, those patrons interviewed at intermissions last season said that his choices, including "Always...Patsy Cline," "Waitress," "Hairspray," and "Heartbreak Hotel," were worth the season ticket prices.

The cost for single tickets ranges from $64 per seat for previews to $96 at the preferred level in orchestra and balcony seats. Patrons admit the prices aren't cheap, but neither are the performances, most say, and they are worth the price for an evening of entertainment with friends, solo, or for a date night.

Theatre By The Sea's published 2026 season schedule opens with "Little Shop of Horrors" from May 28 to June 20, "Grease" follows from June 25 to July 18, "Titanic" runs July 23 to August 15, and "You've Still Got a Friend: A Musical Tribute to the Friendship of Carole King and James

Monet Sabel is shown as Carole King in this 2023 file photo from Theatre by the Sea's "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical." The Matunuck theater will offer four shows this summer, including a new musical centered around King titled "You've Still Got A Friend." File Photo: Theatre By The Sea/Mark Turek

Taylor" closes the season from August 20 to September 13, according to the theater's published schedule.

### The Mix of Shows

Hanney said the mix of titles is intentional. "What shows do I want to see? What shows do I hope you want to see? And that's why I pick every single season," he said.

That balance is especially important at Theatre By The Sea, where Hanney said he tries to give audiences four distinctly different productions rather than a season that feels repetitive.

"Little Shop" offers offbeat humor, while "Grease" brings a crowd favorite. "Titanic" gives the season its major dramatic musical, and "You've Still Got a Friend" adds a new title with the appeal of Carole King and James Taylor's music, he said.

Hanney said "You've Still Got a Friend" grew from an idea brought to him by producer Seth Greenleaf. "I never knew this. But when you put their story, their friendship, and their music together, you get kind of a hit."

The new production is the season's biggest surprise, he said, giving the Matunuck venue the chance to introduce the show.

"We almost premiered this in Boston, but the theater at the time didn't work out, so the world premiere is now going to be, instead of Boston, it'll be at Theatre By The Sea. We are actually thinking if it's a big hit, which we hope it is, we can then extend it," he said.

He might be right.

Both artists are pillars of the singer-songwriter tradition, and their collaborations — for example, Taylor's hit version of King's "You've Got a Friend" and joint tours — reinforce a shared fan base that regards them as definitive voices of 1970s soft rock.

YouGov, a large international market research and data-analytics company, ranks Carole King through its polling as the 12th most popular folk music artist among U.S. respondents.

YouGov polling found that 67% of U.S. respondents have heard of James Taylor, and 44% have a positive opinion of him, with only 5% expressing a negative view, ranking him the 10th most popular folk artist.

King and Taylor's friendship took off around 1969–1970 in the Laurel Canyon scene, where they played together at parties and gigs. King has described their first time playing as feeling like, "We were puppies rolling around... We just felt like we knew each other and had played together forever."

King played piano on Taylor's early work, including his breakthrough album "Sweet Baby James," and Taylor in turn recorded King's song "You've Got a Friend," which became a No. 1 hit for him in 1971.

King has said she wrote "You've Got a Friend" with Taylor in mind, partly as an answer to his lyric in "Fire and Rain" ("I've seen lonely times when I could not find a friend"), and Taylor has recalled asking her permission — somewhat sheepishly — after he'd already cut his own version.

She was, by his account, "remarkably generous" in encouraging him to release it.

The two toured together frequently in the 1970s and reunited many times, including on King's 1976 album "Thoroughbred" and on joint tours decades later, most notably the 2010 "Troubadour Reunion" tour, named after the Los Angeles club where they both came to prominence.

Retrospectives describe their relationship as a lifelong friendship and creative partnership built on mutual respect, intertwining careers, and a shared influence on the 1970s singer-songwriter era.

Maybe Hanney is on to something with his unique intuition.

Tickets and information are available online at www.theatrebythesea.com or by calling the box office at (401) 782-8587.

Write to Bill Seymour, a freelance writer, at independent.southcountylife@gmail.com.

## SEASON AT A GLANCE

Are you a Broadway aficionado? A casual viewer of live theater? Maybe you don't know your stage left from stage right. Here's a brief rundown of what to expect from this summer's slate at Theatre by the Sea.

### Little Shop of Horrors

The season will open with Little Shop of Horrors, the hysterically campy and delightfully dark modern classic. This deviously delicious Broadway and Hollywood sci-fi smash musical has devoured the hearts of theatregoers for decades. The story follows hapless floral assistant Seymour Krelborn who pines for his coworker Audrey, a Skid Row girl who's always dreamed of a life that is something more. When he stumbles upon a strange seedling, he nurses it to life, only to find it growing into a carnivorous plant with some devilish intents. Little Shop of Horrors will be produced from May 28 – June 20, 2026.

### Grease

The season continues with Grease, the high-energy, electrifyin' show that will make everyone want to get up and shout, "A-wop-bop- a-loo-bop! A-wop-bam-boom!" Dust off the leather jackets, pull out the poodle skirts, and step back in time to the 1950s to hand-jive the night away. In this all-new production, relive the timeless story of bad boy Danny and new girl Sandy as they fall in love in the original high school musical. Navigating love and friendship amidst the backdrop of Rydell High, this musical adaptation features the irresistible songs, "You're The One That I Want," "Hopelessly Devoted To You," "There Are Worse Things I Could Do," and many more from the hit movie and Broadway musical. Grease is the word this summer in Matunuck and it will be produced from June 25 – July 18.

### Titanic The Broadway Musical

Titanic The Broadway Musical is a stirring and unforgettable account of the first and last days of the "ship of dreams." This epic musical features the real stories of people aboard the most legendary ship in the world — from the Third-Class immigrants dreaming of a better tomorrow to the First-Class passengers living a life of privilege. Winner of five 1997 Tony Awards, Titanic The Broadway Musical is setting sail in a majestic production at Theatre By The Sea that is sure to be the theatrical event of the summer. It will be produced from July 23–August 15.

### You've Still Got a Friend

In mid-April, Theatre By The Sea owner Bill Hanney announced a rare change to the lineup for the Matunuck theater as it was offered "an amazing opportunity to host the debut of a brand-new work" in the World Premiere of "You've Still Got a Friend: A Musical Tribute to the Friendship of Carole King & James Taylor"

Created by Tony Award®-winning producers, this concert event celebrates the music and friendship of Carole King and James Taylor, featuring beloved songs like "Fire and Rain," "Natural Woman," "So Far Away," "Sweet Baby James," "Carolina In My Mind," and "I Feel the Earth Move." Audiences are invited to an evening of iconic songwriting which captures the joy, warmth, and tenderness of these two soul-friends, whose music continues to resonate across generations. It will close out the theater's season with a run from August 20–September 13.

## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

This summer marks a special 250th anniversary milestone for the United States of America and, with it, Rhode Islanders have just a little more reason to celebrate.

Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore and the Rhode Island 250 Commission recently announced the schedule of in-person Declaration of Independence viewings throughout Rhode Island in recognition of America's semiquincentennial.

"As one of the original thirteen colonies, Rhode Island is fortunate to have three remarkable copies of the Declaration of Independence – and as Rhode Islanders, we all have a right to see our history up close and in person," said Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore. "I'm so appreciative of the hard work of the State Archives, the Rhode Island State Police, and our local partners to make these opportunities available to communities throughout our state."

One of Rhode Island's copies of the Declaration of Independence will be available for public viewing at the following locations:

- June 6, 2026 (12 – 2 p.m.): East Greenwich Town Hall (125 Main Street, East Greenwich)
- June 20, 2026 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.): South Kingstown Public Library – Kingston Free (2605 Kingstown Road, South Kingstown, RI)
- June 27, 2026 (1 – 3 p.m.): West Greenwich Town Hall (280 Victory Highway, West Greenwich)
- July 1, 2026 (2– 4 p.m.): Bristol Historical & Preservation Society (48 Court Street, Bristol)
- July 4, 2026 (1 – 3 p.m.): Rhode Island State House (82 Smith Street, Providence)*
- July 8, 2026 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.): Newport Historical Society (82 Touro Street, Newport)
- July 12, 2026 (1 – 3 p.m.): Audrain Auto Museum (222 Bellevue Avenue, Newport)

*The July 4, 2026 viewing at the Rhode Island State House will feature all three of Rhode Island's copies of the Declaration of Independence as part of the RI250 Independence Day event.

## AN OCEAN STATE OF MIND

No scripts. No safety net. No idea what's going to happen next — and that's exactly the point. The Ocean State Improv Festival, now in its 8th wildly entertaining year, returns to The Contemporary Theater Company in Wakefield, Rhode Island June 3–7, bringing together some of the best improvisers in the country for five days of performances, workshops, and the kind of spontaneous magic you simply can't plan for.

Thirty-seven troupes from thirteen states performing and every single moment is made up on the spot.

The Contemporary Theater Company invites comedy lovers, theater enthusiasts, and anyone curious to come experience what happens when incredibly talented performers walk onstage with nothing but each other and their wits.

This year's lineup is stacked with returning fan favorites and exciting newcomers. Juliet & Juliet — a duo who have performed at every single OSIF since the festival launched in 2017 — are back to deliver their jaw-dropping improvised Shakespeare. Magical Lying Hour returns with its delightfully unhinged premise: one actor has a script memorized, and the other is making up every single line. Hell Yeah! from New York City brings their renown improvised musicals, and But of Mind performs their eerie, captivating take on improvised Twilight Zone. New to the festival this year, Trash Can Orchestra from Seattle takes inspiration from STOMP and the Blue Man Group, turning household objects into percussion instruments and pure theatrical joy.

"OSIF is one of my favorite festivals worldwide," says Ross Flores, returning this year with his groups The Manny Rodriguez Show and Create the Sound. "Inclusive community, great performances from all over the country, hilarious mixer/bit shows, engaging workshops, and tasty ice cream across the street — all with the beach nearby. Whether you do improv or not, if you're in the Northeast or have some extra miles to spare: make the trip!"

The fun runs Wednesday through Saturday night, with shows on Wednesday at 7 pm & 9:30 pm, Thursday at 5 pm, 7 pm, and 9:30 pm, Friday at 5 pm, 7 pm, 9:30, and 11 pm, and Saturday at 2 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm, 9:30 pm, and 11 pm.

But if there's one thing not to miss, it's the mixer shows at 9:30 pm Thursday through Saturday — Pirate Improv, Micetro, and Theatresports — where performers who have never shared a stage together are thrown into the deep end and catching lightning in a bottle.

The festival wraps up Sunday afternoon with the free Duo Bracket Challenge on the CTC's outdoor patio at 1:30 pm: 16 brand-new duos go head to head with 2 minutes onstage. The only rule? The two performers cannot have performed together before this festival. It's one part show, one part send-off party, and one hundred percent chaos in the best possible way.

For those who want to do more than watch, the festival offers over a dozen workshops Thursday through Sunday from teachers who really know their stuff. Want to improvise with puppets? Learn to find courage onstage? Make your scenes feel like a big-budget action film? Tap into your deepest emotions? Tackle death and dying with grace? Play an inanimate object with complete sincerity? There's a workshop for all of that and more. Take nine or more hours of workshops and you'll earn a free All-Access Festival Pass — which, frankly, is a great deal and an even better weekend.

The festival is easy to get to from anywhere in the Northeast — 20 minutes off I-95, accessible by Amtrak and commuter rail, and just a half hour from Providence's T.F. Green Airport. Once you're in Wakefield, the beach is nearby, ice cream is across the street, and the company is excellent.

Tickets are available now with flexible pricing so everyone can join the fun. For individual show tickets, you can choose your price from $10 - $45. Day Passes are $40 for Wednesday/Thursday and $60 for Friday/Saturday. All-Access Festival Passes — which include a festival t-shirt and admission to every single show — are $160.

"I've never heard anyone complain that they came to too many shows," says Maggie Cady, General Manager at the theater. "I've only had people tell me how they regret only coming for one show. So I recommend going for it — get some day passes, or better yet a full festival pass, and sit back and enjoy the ride."

For the full schedule, workshop descriptions, ticketing, and travel information, visit www.contemporarytheatercompany.com/ocean-state-improv-festival or call the box office at (401) 218-0282.

# Flower Power

## It takes more than color to create a beautiful bouquet. That's why, at Flowers by Bert and Peg, the perfect arrangement is a labor of love.

Two friends and fellow plants enthusiasts, Bertha (Bert) and Margaret (Peg), first opened Flowers by Bert and Peg in June 1979 as a post-retirement adventure. Now, 47 years later, Peg's daughter, Pam Arnold, owns and operates the full-service South Kingston-based floral shop.

Arnold, who has been involved with the shop since 1984, said the full-service floral shop — meaning that they make arrangements and deliveries — aims to bring high-quality flowers to the greater South County community for all occasions ranging from every day to the "big day." The design style for every arrangement is flowers with simple elegance.

"We are in the business of importing and creating arrangements with flowers from all over the world," Arnold said. "We do [everything from] weddings, funerals, new babies, welcome to your new house, congratulations on your promotion, I love you [to] just because."

The art of selling flowers is deeper than a simple transaction. One of the shop's "roots" is honoring its deep family ties and friendly camaraderie. Arnold works alongside a full-time lead floral designer and four part-time employees. Remarkably, her lead designer has been a close friend since early childhood, mirroring the bond shared by Bert and Peg. Arnold said this multi-generational connection extends beyond the staff to the customer base.

"I have families where I have done the parents' wedding, the daughter's wedding, and now doing [flowers] for the grandchildren. It [makes it] interesting that you have known them," Arnold said. "I stand with them and cry at the counter when they are ordering for funeral flowers. You become family with them."

Good floral arrangements need good flowers. Flowers by Bert and Peg sources their florals from various worldly locations with the assistance of floral brokers, ranging from nearby Rhode Island-based farms to Holland and South America. Over the years, Arnold said one of the biggest changes she has witnessed is the increased accessibility of more exotic flowers.

"Nowadays, the world is a lot smaller and there is a lot more availability. We got better shipping methods," Arnold said. "Any of the more tender flowers get shipped here faster so that they are not stressed sitting in a box for a few days before



Pam Arnold, owner of Flowers By Bert and Peg.



they get here."

An average day at the shop is filled with tasks big and small, including watering plants, processing every flower that comes in, managing deliveries and making arrangements. Another shift Arnold has observed is how customers want their flowers arranged. Nowadays, customers prefer more free-form flowers in vases, instead of tightly grouped arrangements in baskets or acrylic containers.

With the latest customer wants of vases, customers can end up having a plethora of unused vases and the shop has additional costs of buying new ones. The shop came up with a unique win-win solution of a vase recycling program.

From March through November, for every reusable vase, basket, or ceramic pot Flowers by Bert and Peg receives, the shop will donate about $1 monthly to an animal rescue or shelter. The only exception is October, when donations will go to a food pantry. Arnold said she will donate more if she receives a high-end vase.

The total of the 2025 nine-month vase collection was $2,764 with an average of three to 15 vases donated per week. (During December, January and February, Flowers by Bert and Peg still accepts vases, but will store them in a storage unit and will wait to divide them in the spring.)

The shop will then use the recycled vase for various arrangements (excluding special events that require particular vases.)

"People tend to respond when you mention animals..." Arnold said. "It saves [us] a ton of money. It is a really good program."

Every day at Flowers by Bert and Peg is special in its own way. With that being said, holidays do bring an extra dose of tenderness. Valentine's Day may be the single busiest day of the year for the shop, yet Arnold said Mother's Day takes the prize as being the shop's busiest holiday.

"With Mother's Day, everyone has or had a mother or mother-like figure in their life and they want to honor the person they have called mom or thought of as a mom," Arnold said. "Mother's Day is incredibly busy because people will bring things to the cemetery, people will bring things to a favorite aunt who helped raise them or bring something to somebody they call mom because they lost their own mom."

To make the average day feel like a holiday, Flowers by Bert and Peg offers a flower subscription service. The subscription allows people to set up repeating flower deliveries, either for themselves or a loved one. Arnold said the most flower subscriptions are purchased during the holiday season as an end-of-year gift. These holiday subscriptions are typically for six months starting in December.

"They are getting flowers through the cold winter months," Arnold said. "They [will] have something to look at that's beautiful.

Flowers are an inherently emotional gift. Arnold said she enjoys using the shop to bring a smile to someone's face or to symbolize a greater emotion without saying a word, such as lavender for calmness and rosemary for remembrance. Overall, she said there is a lot more behind a flower than pretty petals.

"When Queen Elizabeth died, all you saw every time they showed Buckingham Palace was mounds of flowers," Arnold said. "It's an emotional way to pay tribute to someone — that's why people send sympathy flowers or birthday flowers to let them know 'Hey I'm celebrating you, here, enjoy these.' We sell emotions besides selling flowers."

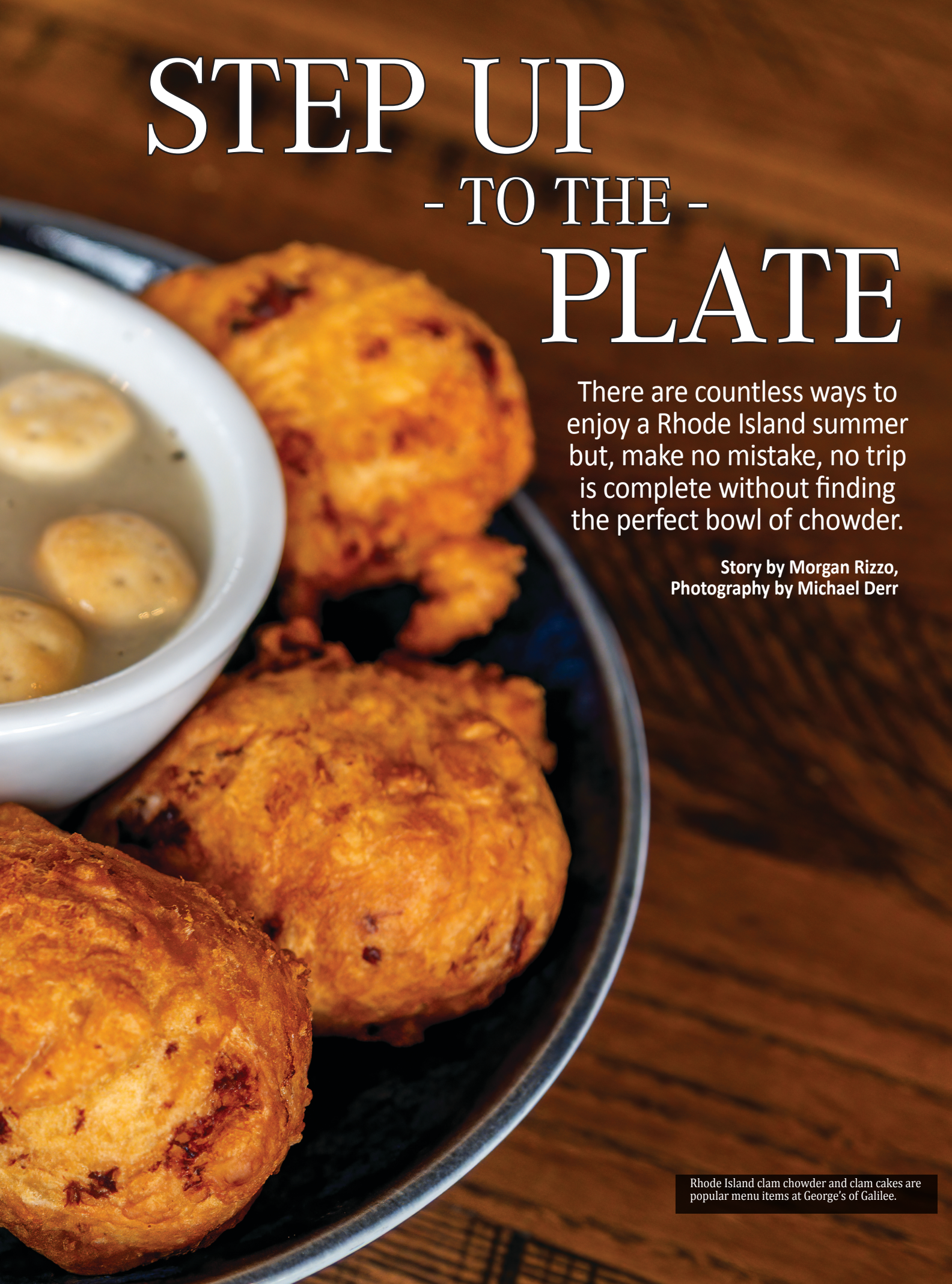
Flowers By Bert & Peg is located at 550 Tower Hill Road in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. For more information, visit flowersbybertandpeg.com.



# STEP UP - TO THE - PLATE

There are countless ways to enjoy a Rhode Island summer but, make no mistake, no trip is complete without finding the perfect bowl of chowder.

**Story by Morgan Rizzo,**
**Photography by Michael Derr**



Rhode Island clam chowder and clam cakes are popular menu items at George's of Galilee.

Aquahogger is knee deep in the Narragansett Bay digging his rake against the rocky shoreline. Pushing back and forth, up through the cloud of sand appears small shells called quahogs, otherwise known as hard clam shells. Ranging in size, they're scooped into a bucket and brought back to shore for a day of shucking.

Clams can be grilled, and stuffed with crispy breadcrumbs, bacon or even vegetables into a delicious clams casino or steamed and dipped into melted butter. Yet, a favorite New England delicacy is a hot cup of clam chowder chock-full of freshly caught clams, chunks of potatoes, onions and occasionally bacon bits.

Now, how one likes their chowder is up to the consumer. The Rhode Island chowder is a clear-brothed chowder with a light base, while the New England chowder is creamy-based and Manhattan chowder is tomato based.

Rhode Island and New England chowder being the most popular in South County can be found at your typical wooden clam shack, fine dining establishment with views of the water or a casual beach restaurant. Wherever the setting, chowder is a summer-time South County staple with various restaurants ladling up their special version of clam chowder.

Here are just a few of the best places in South County to grab a cup of chowder.

### ✣ River Bar

Sitting directly over the Pawcatuck River along the border of Westerly and Pawcatuck, Connecticut, River Bar brings a global, yet coastal styled menu to its guests. Inspired by watching the river change throughout the New England seasons, the team has built a beautiful atmosphere while growing in the community.

Their River Bar Clam Chowder with chopped local clams, potato, salt pork and old bay saltines is a great starter and can be made New England style with the addition of cream for those partial to one or the other. The chowder pairs perfectly with their fish n




Gala Preview Party
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LEFT Dee Combs, co-owner of Monahan's Clam Shack by the Sea, in Narragansett holds a bowl of white chowder. ABOVE George's of Galilee offers New England Clam Chowder, front, and Rhode Island clam chowder in the tomato and plain varieties.

chips – a local beer batter haddock with fries — and of course, their famous selection of oysters.

"We pride ourselves on our local sourcing, and this is exemplified by our classic clam chowder using quahogs from the salt ponds of Rhode Island's coast," says James Wayman, owner of River Bar. "We take satisfaction in our brothy Rhode Island chowder, but add cream as well to make it a New England chowder." 37 Main St, Westerly, RI 02891 • (401) 561-7050 • riverbarwesterly.com/

### Iggy's Doughboys & Chowder House

Iggy's Doughboys & Chowder House is a true Rhode Island staple. Iggy's opened in 1989 and was created by Gaetano Gravino who was entrepreneurially inspired by working as a dough boy on Oakland Beach. Today, his family carries on his legacy with locations in Narragansett and Warwick.

Neighboring the Rhode Island beaches, it's the perfect location for a post beach dinner with the family or a date night before walking along the bay to see the sunset. Fan favorites include of course their award winning chowder, clamcakes and doughboys. Alongside the classics, Iggy's offers a mix of additional seafood choices and sandwiches and salads for those who don't enjoy seafood. 1151 Point Judith Rd, Narragansett, RI 02882 • (401) 783-5608 • iggysri.com/

### George's of Galilee

Hop off the Block Island Ferry and head to George's of Galilee in Narragansett for a bowl of cham chowder rich in history with amazing waterfront views.

Their chowder story begins in the 1600s where Thomas Durfee arrived in Rhode Island from England and befriended the Wampanoag people. He introduced traditional English chowder to King Philip's older brother, Wamsutta, who in turn introduced him to the Wampanoag's staple seafood, the quahog. The two merged the English chowder and Rhode Island clam together creating a generational recipe.

The chowder became the foundation of George's of Galilee when it opened in 1948. "While we serve the classic creamy New England version, our Rhode Island-style quahog chowder stays true to those roots — lighter, broth based and deeply local," says Kevin Durfee, third generation of ownership. Enjoy the family recipe in the generational restaurant in the Port of Galilee allowing fresh and sustainable seafood right on the water.

"Rhode Island chowder is where it all started," says Durfee. "It's simple, local

*Continued on page 14*




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120 minute beginner-friendly drawing class focusing on value and observational skill building
Anyone Can Paint!
120 minute acrylic painting class exploring color, value and form
"Awash" in Watercolor
120 minute beginner watercolor painting class focused on washes and layering
Oil Painting Studio
120 minute oil painting course covering traditional techniques, color mixing and brushwork
3D Room Remix!
120 minute kids 3D interior design and model-making class (ages 12 and up)
RHODY ARTS
140 Boon Street, Studio 11 – 2nd floor
Narragansett, RI 02882 • rhodyarts.com

*Continued from page 13*

and has been a part of our story for generations."250 Sand Hill Cove Rd, Narragansett, RI 02882 • (401) 783-2306 • georgesofgalilee.com/

### ✣ Aunt Carries, Narragansett

Another local Narragansett family establishment, Aunt Carries, serves traditional seafood along the shore. "Aunt Carrie's is celebrating our 107th year in business as a seafood restaurant," explains manager Laura Perron, whose great grandmother was Aunt Carrie. "It's still in the family, and you can find fourth and fifth generations working behind the counters and in the kitchen."

What started as an idea by Carrie and Ulyssess Cooper who realized there was no place in Point Judith to get a cold drink, has now become a South County icon with recipes from Aunt Carrie herself.

With a dine in and take-out menu, there's a seafood dinner for every dinner featuring fresh seafood from local fishermen. Their popular Rhode Island Shore Dinners includes a little bit of everything — bowl of clam chowder, clam cakes, steamed clams, fried local Point Judith Flounder, french fries, slaw and finished with a homemade dessert. The traditional style chowder has a South County original style broth and can also be made creamy. And, it's the perfect dunker for their award winning clam fritters.

After some chowder, make sure to visit their bakery for some of Aunt Carrie's original pie recipe or head to the ice cream shop for a "Beach Bonfire" sundae. 1240 Ocean Rd, Narragansett, RI 02882 • (401) 783-7930 • auntcarriesri.com/

### ✣ Monahan's Clam Shack by the Cove

Driving up towards Narragansett and Newport and need a pit stop for some quick, classic seafood? Stop when you find the red clam hut, Monahan's Clam Shack by the Cove in Charlestown along Route One for a roadside bite to eat. Join the staff at the window and have a seat in the garden and picnic area.

Their clam chowder is available with a clear, red or white broth and can even be combined with clambakes as a special. Their menu offers casual seafood options including hot and cold lobster rolls, whole bellied clam rolls and fish sandwiches all in a relaxed atmosphere.

For a waterside setting, drive a little further east towards their Monaham's Clam Shack in Narragansett offering a beer and wine bar with local brews like Whaler's Brewing Company alongside their Dairy Bar offering fresh scoops of ice cream. 5402 Post Rd, Charlestown, RI 02813 • (401) 409-1023 • monahansri.com



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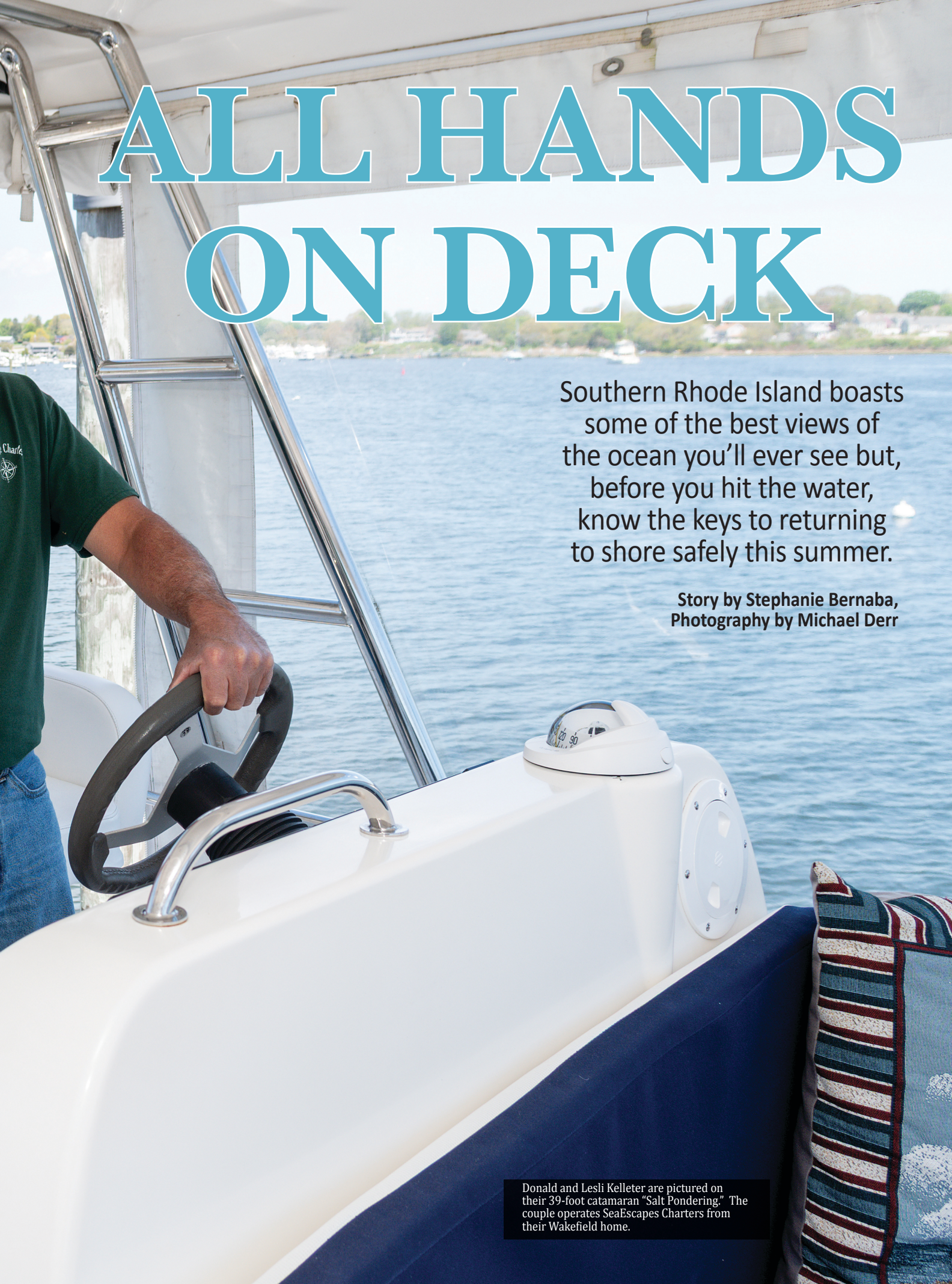
309 Laurel Lane, West Kingston
(401) 783-3844 • LaurelLaneCountryClub.com


Seafscape Charters

# ALL HANDS ON DECK

Southern Rhode Island boasts some of the best views of the ocean you'll ever see but, before you hit the water, know the keys to returning to shore safely this summer.

**Story by Stephanie Bernaba,**
**Photography by Michael Derr**



Donald and Lesli Kelleter are pictured on their 39-foot catamaran "Salt Pondering." The couple operates SeaEscapes Charters from their Wakefield home.

South County, summers aren't just measured in weeks — they're measured in the rhythms of the tide, the hours spent offshore, and the race to get out on the water before the season inevitably fades. The good news? You don't need to own a yacht or know the difference between a bowline and a cleat hitch to join in the fun.

The experts — marina owners, charter captains, sailing instructors, and surf coaches — agree on the golden rule for a great boating season: ensure that everyone gets home safely and looking forward to the next trip.

## Slip Into Something Comfortable

For boaters who own their own vessels, finding a place to keep them is always the first order of business. North Kingstown's Darren Jodoin dove headfirst into marina ownership when he purchased Greenwich Cove Marina in East Greenwich last year.

A power boater for 25 years and a fisherman at heart who is "still chasing the big dream of catching a gigantic tuna," Jodoin runs a boutique operation with 18 slips that can handle anything from a small skiff to a 50-foot boat. The marina is fully booked, with a waiting list, and this season features brand-new docks.

Greenwich Cove is distinguished by its supportive culture. The marina lends life jackets as a courtesy, keeps extra lines and fenders on hand, and actively helps boaters at the docks.

"Safety actually enhances the experience of boating, in my opinion. It doesn't take away from it," Jodoin said. "When everybody's prepared out in the water, you can definitely relax and just fully enjoy your time out there."

Still, even experienced boaters make mistakes.

"The number one mistake everybody makes when they're on a boat is just complacency," Jodoin said. "People get comfortable."

In busy Greenwich Bay, with its high traffic and ever-growing number of new boaters, conditions can change quickly, and respecting the water — and fellow boaters — during each trip is key.

Jodoin's safety-first philosophy is a family affair. His two daughters, ages 20 and 17, have also grown to love boating.

"Since they were born, they have been on the water, and we have just been always showing them the ropes," he said.

They are both skippers, and his youngest recently earned her boater's license.

## Let Someone Else Take the Helm

Of course, not everyone has a boat or slip, but that is no reason to stay ashore. SeaEscape Charters, based in Point Judith, is the perfect entry point for anyone looking for a low-commitment way to test the waters.

Owner Lesli Kelleter and her husband, Captain Donald, a Coast Guard licensed captain, have been running charters for more than 30 years. Their private cruises carry up to six passengers on two- and three-hour trips that wind through Point Judith Pond, past the working waterfront of Galilee, and out toward the Harbor of Refuge and Point Judith Lighthouse. Guests bring their own food and drinks, and the boat comes equipped with a cooler, bottled water, and comfortable bow seating.

The trips are fully customizable, and the couple has hosted a variety of occasions ranging from birthday parties to memorial ash scatterings.

Before every departure, the crew conducts a thorough safety briefing.

"We talk about where the life jackets are, all the trip hazards on the boat, and how to travel back and forth from the back of the boat to the bow," Kelleter said.



What keeps people coming back is the shift in perspective they experience on the water.

"What everyone says to us is that 'I see South County, I see Galilee in a whole different light' when you're looking at it from the water," Kelleter said.

She tells all of their guests to keep an eye out for Bighead, a resident seal who pops up during most of their charters.

## Paddle Your Own Course

A chartered cruise is one way to ease into life on the water, but for those who prefer to journey at their own pace, kayaks or paddleboards allow explorers to choose their own adventures. Since 1995, The Kayak Centre in Wickford has been the premier destination for paddlesports. With its convenient waterfront launch, Wickford Harbor offers kayakers and paddleboarders their own personal recreational area.

Brad Kinckner, who handles retail and marketing, says the business prides itself on leading with safety and teaching proper technique.

"We're really about getting people on the water," he said. "We have classes specifically just to get people comfortable and understanding kayak strokes. A big thing that we see is people using the wrong muscles or doing things not exactly the right way."

Single kayak rentals are an affordable way to explore the Bay, with doubles, standup paddleboards, and pedalboards

ABOVE Kristin Walcott, a licensed U.S. Coast guard commercial captain, is shown sailing in Narragansett Bay. (Submitted Photo)

available as well. For beginners, the Just Strokes class, a half-day morning session, runs multiple sessions each summer. The Kayak Centre also offers guided tours, including moonlight paddles and sunset excursions. For groups looking to make a splash, there is the Fiesta, a four-person pedal-powered raft.

"It's literally a party," Kinckner said.

Children under 13 are typically paired with a parent/guardian in a tandem kayak, based on staff assessment of their size, experience, and the weather. Life jackets are required by Rhode Island law for all kayakers and paddleboarders, and the Kayak Centre reviews safety protocols with every renter before launch.

## Surf's Up (Eventually)

From harbor paddling, it is a very short leap into the open ocean. Narragansett Surf and Skate, located at 74 Narragansett Avenue, teaches year-round and serves roughly 20 students a day at the peak of the summer season. Camps run for kids ages 7 through 15, and private and group lessons welcome all ages.

Options include private lessons, lessons for two, and group lessons for three or more participants. Board rentals are also available for the day. Saturday surf lessons run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. three weekends a month during the spring and on Wednesday evenings.

Manager Tricia Pan said every first lesson begins the same way.

"All of our first lessons start with the safety," she said. "Simple things like where to keep your surfboard, how to cover your head, where to stay in the lineup to be out of the way."

One important note for parents: life preservers are not safe for surfing.

"There's times in surfing where you do have to be able to get under the water, and if you're staying afloat, it's going to make it hard," Pan explained.

Wetsuits, which the shop also rents to learners, offer both warmth and sun protection.

Pan acknowledged that Mother Nature does not always cooperate, but is hoping she will this season. Last summer's waves were the flattest in recent memory. Her father told her it was the worst surf since 1963.

"It can only go up from there," she said with a laugh.

## A Woman's Place Is at the Helm

From surfboards to 45-foot sailboats, a clear theme emerged: the growing presence of women on the water is fundamentally improving boating culture.

Kristin Walcott is a pioneer in the boating world. A licensed U.S. Coast Guard commercial captain and American Sailing Association instructor, Walcott came to sailing 15 years ago when her then-husband, a Rhode Islander, introduced her to racing. When he suffered a stroke and became limited physically, she realized she had to take on a bigger role.

Learning at the Narragansett Sailing School under the guidance of owner Mary Goff proved to be a life-changing experience.

"Being taught by another woman and her wonderful, positive attitude just hooked me," Walcott said.

She now specializes in private sailing lessons on Narragansett Bay, focusing on assisting new boat owners. Her instruction covers handling the vessel, understanding its systems, and docking. She is a member of Edgewood Yacht Club, where women currently hold the commodore and vice commodore positions, and this season she and a fellow female captain will take turns driving the launch.

Walcott believes women bring natural strengths to boating.

"We tend to plan and think ahead," she said. "Before heading into the marina, we're already taking into account where the wind's coming from, what's the traffic like, who's going to be doing what."

*Continued on page 20*




*Continued from page 19*

Her advice for couples who boat together? Both partners need to be competent.

"You never know when you're not going to have that other person to rely on," Walcott said. It is both a safety issue and an empowerment one.

Walcott does not mince words about the broader culture on the water.

"There's a dangerous combination of arrogance and ignorance that seems to be pervasive right now," she said. "When it comes to boating, that can be life or death." She urged boaters to take time to educate themselves, to understand they do not know everything, and to behave respectfully on the water.

Walcott would urge any woman who has ever felt the pull of the ocean but felt intimidated to just go for it.

"You already have what it takes," she said.

## Safe Harbor: Keeping Everyone Afloat

No organization embodies the spirit of preparation more fully than the Better Bay Alliance (dba Safe Boating RI), a nonprofit founded in 2019 after tragedy struck. Dave Lussier, the group's president and a retired software engineering executive, lost a dear friend, Sandra Tartellino, when a powerboat struck her 20-foot sailboat on a clear, sunny day.

"It was just irresponsible piloting by the powerboat, basically," Lussier said.

After a period of grief, a dedicated volunteer board of eight members developed two important free resources. One of these is LiveChart, an interactive Google Map available at betterbayalliance.org, which features over 400 Narragansett Bay events each boating season. Users can select any date and four-hour time window to view color-coded polygons showing exactly where races, festivals, swim events, Navy testing, and fireworks are taking place. New this year, LiveChart integrates the DEM aquaculture farm database, flagging oyster and scallop farms that can ruin an unsuspecting boater's day.

"On any day of the entire boating season, you can call this product up and see what's going on in Narragansett Bay," Lussier said. The tool logged around 2,000 users last year and has earned buy-in from the Coast Guard and DEM, both of which now share data with the Alliance.

The group's second offering is its free, two-hour safety seminars, held at marinas and yacht clubs throughout Rhode Island. The sessions cover rules of the road, navigation aids, and bay-specific hazards. These seminars reached roughly 200 boaters last year.

Lussier uses a dramatic drone video of a near-collision between racing sailboats and a powerboat to drive home the point that right-of-way does not mean the right to ignore danger.

"Clearly these sailors thought, 'I've got right of way because I'm a sailboat,' and they didn't even try to avoid the power," Lussier said. "The bottom line is everybody was wrong."

The seminars also address the post-pandemic surge in paddle craft, a category the Coast Guard has not specifically addressed since 1976. For anyone who began using a kayak during COVID, the free class is time well spent.

## Cast Off

All professionals interviewed, from licensed captains to surfers, stressed that the water is for everyone and getting out on it need not be intimidating. The boating season in Rhode Island is short. Check the weather, share your plan, wear your life jacket, and enjoy your favorite corner of the Bay.

For more information, visit betterbayalliance.org, seaescapecharters.com, kayakcentre.com, and narragansettsurfandskate.com.






Carmela Sammataro, co-owner of Jan's Boutique in Watch Hill, hangs a sweatshirt in her shop, which offers beachwear and accessories. Whether you're a longterm resident or just visiting Southern Rhode Island, it's hard to pass up the unique Rhode Island-inspired gear Southern RI shops offer.

# BUY COASTAL

## Looking for something to remember your South County summer by? These five coastal-inspired boutiques are absolute must-see shops.

**Story by Morgan Rizzo, Photography by Michael Derr**

Walking through a coastal South County town, one will find a rustic clam shack serving up bowls of clam chowder, mile-long strips of sand for a family day at the beach and hotels overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Yet, no South County town can be complete without a shop full of seashell ornaments and hydrangea stitched crewnecks.

Nautical boutiques dot the coastline of Rhode Island with something inspired by the state's rich maritime history, family ties and proximity to the water. Sapphire blue maxi dresses for dinner dates line the clothing racks and make-your-own charm bracelets await their next designer. Looking for centerpieces to decorate a summer outdoor picnic? Find sail boat salt and pepper shakers and a mussel candle holder while browsing the shops.

Whether you're shopping for a souvenir to bring home to your family or a keepsake for yourself to remember the beauty of the waves crashing along the rocks, there's something for every shopper. These are five coastal inspired boutiques worth visiting in South County this summer.

## » Pearls & Plaid

**(119 Bay St, Westerly, RI 02891 • 860-662-9630 • shoppearlsandplaid.com)**

Owner of Pearls & Plaids, Caroline Olson remembers visiting Watch Hill as a family tradition as a child. "I still remember the joy of grabbing the brass ring on the carousel," says Olson. "Growing up on the New England coast is not something you can put into words, but that kind of upbringing stays with you." With locations in Old Saybrook and Niantic, Connecticut, Olson opened her newest storefront in Watch Hill in the late spring of 2025.

Stepping through the doors transports you into a total New England oasis. With coral patterned dresses, to tote beach bags, you can pick from a beach day outfit while transitioning to date night. Little ones can take home a seahorse plush or a cute onesie adorned with red lobsters. Fan favorites are the East Coast and Watch Hill stitched mocknecks perfect for remembering the vacation by the sea.

A staple of Pearls & Plaids, the charm bar will be making its debut in Watch Hill this summer. From charms of an oyster with a shiny pearl to an anchor and a gold seashell, there's a mix of both nautical and simplistic charms to pick from.

"Watch Hill has a distinct smell of salty air and beach roses with a slow pace and simplicity," says Olson. "I try to bottle this feeling up with every piece within Pearls & Plaid."




## » Jan's Boutique

**(2 Fort Rd, Westerly, RI 02891 • 401-348-8306)**

At the end of a Watch Hill weekend vacation full of rides on the iconic Flying Horse Carousel, pictures at Taylor Swift's "Holiday House" and many blackberry chocolate chip ice cream cones, there's only one thing left to do. Go shopping for some Watch Hill apparel.

Romeo and Rosa Grillo took a leap of faith in 2006 to buy Jan's Boutique, a Watch Hill resort wear and souvenir shop that had existed for over 40 years. "My parents had zero retail experience and worked in factories since immigrating from Italy in the late 70's," says Carmela Sammatarto, daughter of the Grillos who now is co-owner of the business with her sister-in law.

The couple worked seven days a week to learn the ins and outs of the business and continued the tradition of providing quality merchandise at reasonable prices. Visitors can find Watch Hill inspired t-shirts, baseball caps, crewnecks and more. Favorite t-shirts including maps of the town and funny fishing slogans bring customers back year after year for a new piece to add to their wardrobe. Next-door, their sister store, Gabrielle's Originals sells children's clothing, books and toys.

"We've changed very little in Jan's Boutique's aesthetics because people love the nostalgia of the little corner Watch Hill sweatshirt shop," says Sammataro. "We carry from infant to 5x, so there's something for everyone."




## » Nauti Girl Boutique

**(22 A Pier Market Pl, Narragansett, RI 02882 • 47 Conanicus Avenue Jamestown, RI 02835 • 401-376-2292 • nautigirlboutique.com)**

Nauti Girl Boutique offers nautical-inspired clothing and jewelry for those looking for a style that stands out. Owner Sandra Metcalfe discovered her passion for fashion at a young age and pursued it through her studies, ultimately bringing her vision to life with two store fronts in Narragansett and Jamestown.

Now approaching its fourth season in Narragansett and its first summer in Jamestown, Nauti Girl Boutique brings bits and pieces of each seaside town to her inventory. From beachy styles or a dress for a night out, each piece reflects a relaxed and stylish coastal lifestyle.

"I love clothing, I love fashion and I love the idea of mixing it up," says Metcalfe. Beyond apparel, the shop features premium denim designed to fit all body types.

ABOVE Sandra Metcalfe, owner of Nauti Girl Boutique, is pictured in her Jamestown shop. She also has a second location in Narragansett.
LEFT Jan's Boutique offers Watch Hill-themed beachwear and accessories.

For little ones, Nauti Girl Boutique carries several clothing lines including Goosies and Paper Cow. Whether you're boating throughout Jamestown or soaking up the sun in Narragansett, Nauti Girl Boutique is a must-stop.

### » OMO Jewels & Gifts

**(5 Watch Hill Rd, Westerly, RI 02891 • (860) 961-4678 • omojewels.com)**

OMO Jewels & Gifts strives to make their customer's day a beautiful one. With inspiration from Watch Hill's surrounding beauty, the boutique shop features a curated collection of elevated casual clothing, artisan jewelry, accessories and clever gifts.

Shoppers can find a knitted sweater stitched with "Fish & Chips" and periwinkle pearl earrings to match. For the home, lemon and orange shaped and smelling candles are perfect as a gift for a host or for oneself, while seashell cocktail stirrers are perfect for guests to take home.

Joanna Papineau-Allen actively showcases sought-after designers like Frank & Eileen, Kinross Cashmere and Mother Denim to add their collections to her shop. "I want to bring together effortless style and timeless quality in one beautiful space," says Joanna Papnieau-Allen. "Whether you're shopping for something special for your home, the perfect gift, or a treat for yourself, OMO Jewels & Gifts is sure to become your go-to destination.

### » Simple Pleasures

**(5000 S County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813 • 401-364-9852 • instagram.com/simplepleasuresri)**

Walking into the 8,000 square foot store, the eye doesn't know where to look first. A table full of white ceramic frames for those saying "I Do" in 2026 is nestled in the corner. Straight ahead, a tomato printed napkins, avocado shaped bowls and a veggie platter are ready for a summer barbecue. A wooden charcuterie board with blue marble handles and a serving platter with a painted beluga whale await the next fine dining dinner party.

Simple Pleasures in Charlestown brings a home decor for every type of occasion, all year long. Make sure to grab a navy blue crew neck sweatshirt with the nautical flags spelling out Charlestown, Quonochontaug and Rhode Island. Not only can you find house decor for the summer season, but the store adds seasonal items celebrating all holidays and an entire room dedicated to greeting cards for any occasion. The store additionally offers complimentary gift wrapping with a purchase.







## ONGOING

**OCEAN STATE IMPROV FESTIVAL** — Live Theater. Various Showtimes through Jun. 7. $12.50–$47.50. Contemporary Theater Company, 327 Main Street, Wakefield. contemporarytheatercompany.com.

**IN THE ZEITGEIST: FRANCOIS POISSON** — Art exhibit. On display through June 13. Jamestown Arts Center, 18 Valley Street, Jamestown. 401-560-0979. jamestownartcenter.org.

**MEMBERS INVITATIONAL** — Art Exhibit. On Display through June 13. South County Art Association, 2587 Kingstown Rd, Kingston. southcountyart.org.

**NEXT** — Art exhibit featuring "the next generation of artists from Jamestown." On display through June 13. Jamestown Arts Center, 18 Valley Street, Jamestown. 401-560-0979. jamestownartcenter.org.

**HOME: A NATIONAL JURIED EXHIBITION** — Art Exhibit. On display through June 20. Hera Gallery, 10 High Street, Wakefield. heragallery.org.

**OUTSIDE THE LINES, ABSTRACT/AVANT-GARDE** — Art Exhibit. On Display Through June 28. Wickford Art Association, 36 Beach Street, North Kingstown. 401-294-6840.

## JUN. 5

**SEA & STUDIO** — Event. 6-8 p.m. The United Theatre Gallery Event Space, 5 Canal Street, Westerly. unitedtheatre.org.

**THE COUNTRY JAMBOREE – CLASSIC COUNTRY MUSIC CELEBRATION** — Concert. 7-9:30 p.m., $25.72–$36.01. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.

**APPLE HILL** — Live Music. 7 p.m., Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**LITTLE LIES (FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE)** — Live Music. 8-11 p.m. $20 Online, $25 at the door. Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 8 p.m. $64–$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**UNITED FOR PRIDE DRAG SHOW-DOLLHAUS TAKEOVER** — Event. 8 p.m. $25. 18+. The United Theatre Black Box Auditorium, 5 Canal Street, Westerly. unitedtheatre.org.

**DEER TICK WITH SPECIAL GUESTS RAINDOGS** — Live Music. 9-11:59 p.m. $57.06 General Admission. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

## JUN. 6

**JUXO & FRANCESCA** — Live Music, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit javamadness.com.

**PRIDE FAMILY DAY** — Event. 12-2 p.m. Free. All Ages. Jamestown Arts Center, 18 Valley Street, Jamestown. 401-560-0979. jamestownartcenter.org.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 2 p.m. $64–$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**GREYHOUND DREAM** — Live Music. 7 p.m., Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**ALLMAN BROTHERS EXPERIENCE – THE BROTHERS PROJECT** — Concert. 7:30-9:30 p.m., $32.92–$43.21. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.

**SOMETHING WONDERFUL TONIGHT** — Live Music. 8-11 p.m. $10 Online, $15 at the door. Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

**BLUEBIRD AT THE UNITED W./ KELLY ARCHER, LEE THOMAS MILLER & WENDELL MOBLEY** — Event. 8 p.m. $52–$62. The United Theatre, 5 Canal Street, Westerly. unitedtheatre.org.

**DUSTBOWL REVIVAL WITH THE STEEL WHEELS** — Concert. 8 p.m., $46-$52. Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich. 401-885-4000. greenwichodeum.com.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 8 p.m. $64–$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**DEER TICK WITH SPECIAL GUESTS JC COVENTRY + SMITH & WEEDEN** — Live Music. 9-11:59 p.m. SOLD OUT. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

## JUN. 7

**PAUL WHITE** — Live Music, 12-2 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit javamadness.com.

**HALLIE LINACRE MEMORIAL FUND WITH 'THOSE GUYS'** — Live Music. 4-7 p.m. $15 Online, $20 at the door. Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

**SUNDAY FUNDAY PRE-DEER TICK PARTY FEATURING Z-BOYS & KARA MCKEE** — Live Music. 4-7 p.m. $5 cover. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

**MUSIC ON THE MEADOW** — Event. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Smith's Castle. 55 Richard Smith Drive, North Kingstown. 294-3521. smithscastle.org.

**TWO RADS** — Live Music. 4:30 p.m., Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**AFTER HOURS STOMP W./ ARTHUR MIGLIAZZA & CAROLE J. BUGGORD** — Event. 5 p.m., $25. Knickerbocker Music Lab, 35 Railroad Ave., Westerly. unitedtheatre.org.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 5 p.m. $64–$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**THE ELLINGTON COLLECTIVE** – A Tribute to Jazz Legend Duke Ellington — Live Music. 7 p.m. $30. Pump House Music Works, 1464 Kingstown Rd, Wakefield. pumphousemusicworks.com.

**DEER TICK WITH SPECIAL GUESTS BABY BABY** — Live Music. 9-11:59 p.m. $57.06 General Admission. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

## JUN. 8-AUG. 28

**PRINTMAKING OPEN STUDIOS** — 12-week workshop on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. 6-9 p.m. For adults. $270 for JAC Members. $300 for non members. Jamestown Arts Center, 18 Valley Street, Jamestown. 401-560-0979. jamestownartcenter.org.

## JUN. 9

**CONVERSATIONS AT THE CASTLE** — Event featuring Jamestown historian Peter Fay speaking on "The Untold Story: Rhode Island African Americans as Loyalists." 6 p.m. Smith's Castle. 55 Richard Smith Drive, North Kingstown. 294-3521. smithscastle.org.

Little Shop of Horrors — Live Theater. 7:30 p.m. $64–$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

## JUN. 10

**VOICES OF UPRISING: ART, PRIDE & PROTEST AT 250** — Film Screening of 'Stonewall Uprising' with performances by spoken word artists. 6-9:30 p.m. Free. Jamestown Arts Center, 18 Valley Street, Jamestown. 401-560-0979. jamestownartcenter.org.

Little Shop of Horrors — Live Theater. 7:30 p.m. $64–$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

## JUN. 11

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 2 p.m. $64–$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 8 p.m. $64–$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**OUR HOUSE: THE MUSIC OF CROSBY STILLS NASH & YOUNG** — Concert. 8 p.m., $52–$58. Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich. 401-885-4000. greenwichodeum.com.

**UNITED ALT COMEDY FEST PRESENTS: BIG GRANDE & F*CK THIS MONTH** — Event. 8 p.m. $29–$35. The United Theatre Black Box Auditorium, 5 Canal Street, Westerly. unitedtheatre.org.

**ANUHEA WITH SPECIAL GUEST SEA OF GIANTS** — Live Music. 9-11:59 p.m. $30.06 General Admission. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

## JUN. 12

**TO BE CONTINUED BAND** — Live Music. 7 p.m., Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**BAD COMPANY – ROCK STEADY** — Concert. 7:30 pm-10 p.m., $28.81–$39.09. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.

**WICKED BETTY & THE BAD HABITS** — Live Music. 8-11 p.m. $10 Online, $15

at the door. Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 8 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**SHAKEY GRAVES-FONDNESS, ETC. TOUR** — Event. 8 p.m. $52. The United Theatre, 5 Canal Street, Westerly. unitedtheatre.org.

**DAVE MATTHEWS TRIBUTE BAND-BRING THAT BEAT BACK TOUR** — Live Music. 9-11:59 p.m. $30.06 General Admission, $84.06 Buy 3, Get 1 Free. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

## JUN. 13

**MARIE CLAUDE** — Live Music, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit javamadness.com.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 2 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**THE COMEDY OF ERRORS: FAMILY, SEPARATION AND THE SEARCH FOR BELONGING** — Event. 3-4:30 p.m. Free. RSVP requested. Jamestown Arts Center, 18 Valley Street, Jamestown. 401-560-0979. jamestownartcenter.org.

**SILVA & LEE** — Live Music. 7 p.m., Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**DAVID BOWIE - REBEL REBEL** — Concert. 7:30 pm-10 p.m. $25-$35. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.

**NORTHERN FRIED** — Live Music. 8-11 p.m. $10 Online, $15 at the door. Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 8 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**THIRD WORLD - TRIBUTE TO "CAT" COORE W/ SPECIAL GUESTS KUMAR FYAH & JWADI** — Live Music. 9-11:59 p.m. $40.86 General Admission. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

## JUN. 14

**BREAKFAST WITH ELEPHANTS** — Live Music, 12-2 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit javamadness.com.

**60'S EXPLOSION** — Live Music. 4-7 p.m. Free. Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

**SUNDAY FUNDAY WITH THE HEAVY RESCUE BAND** — Live Music. 4-7 p.m. $5 cover. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

**JOE MACEY** — Live Music. 4:30 p.m., Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**TEA & HISTORY** — Event featuring a talk by Dr. Jane Lancaster on "Arthur Bowler: In Slavery and Freedom." following the extraordinary odyssey taken by an "ordinary" enslaved man in the 18th century. 4:30 p.m. Smith's Castle. Limited Seating (24). $35/person. 55 Richard Smith Drive, North Kingstown. 294-3521. smithscastle.org.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 5 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**AL DI MEOLA: THE GUITARCHITECT** — Concert. 7 p.m., $64-$72. Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich. 401-885-4000. greenwichodeum.com.

## JUN. 16

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 7:30 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

## JUN. 17

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 2 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**MOVEMENT MUSIC WITH ONE JAZZ COLLECTIVE** — Event. 5-7 p.m. Pay what you can. RSVP requested. Jamestown Arts Center, 18 Valley Street, Jamestown. 401-560-0979. jamestownartcenter.org.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 7:30 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield.




Theatrebythesea.com.

**MIHALI** — Live Music. 9-11:59 p.m. $30.06 General Admission. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

## JUN. 18

**ELVIS – AWARD WINNING DAN FONTAINE** — Concert. 1:30-4 p.m., $25.72-$36.01. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 2 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**GARY GULMAN: ALL NEW LIVE** — Comedy. 8 p.m., $49-$59. Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich. 401-885-4000. greenwichodeum.com.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 8 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**LILA IKÉ** — Live Music. 9-11:59 p.m. $35.46 General Admission. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

## JUN. 19

**JOEL BEAUCHEMIN** — Live Music. 7 p.m., Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**SIMON & GARFUNKEL – ON BLEECKER STREET** — Concert. 7:30-9:30 p.m. $25-$35. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.

**SUGAR** — Live Music. 8-11 p.m. $20. Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 8 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**OCEANS54 SOUTH BEACH DISCO** — Live Music. 9-11:59 p.m. $13.86 General Admission. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

## JUN. 20-JUL. 11

**99TH MEMBERS ANNUAL** — Art Exhibit. South County Art Association, 2587 Kingstown Rd, Kingston. southcountyart.org.

## JUN. 20

**RHODESTERS STRING BAND** — Live Music, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit javamadness.com.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 2 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**LUNA C** — Live Music. 7 p.m., Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**JOHN MELLENCAMP** – Paper in Fire — Concert. 7:30 p.m. $25-$35. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.

**AQUANETT** — Live Music. 8-11 p.m. $15 Online, $25 at the door. Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** — Live Theater. 8 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**SHAWN COLVIN** — Concert. 8 p.m., $60-$68. Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich. 401-885-4000. greenwichodeum.com.

**IESPECIAL: TENTACLE DIFFICULTIES TOUR** — Live Music. 9-11:59 p.m. $30.06 General Admission. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

## JUN. 21

**PAUL COLOMBINO** — Live Music, 12-2 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit javamadness.com.

**STEVE SMITH & THE NAKEDS** — Live Music. 4-7 p.m. $10 Online, $15 at the door. Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

**SUNDAY FUNDAY WITH RUGBURN** — Live Music. 4-7 p.m. $5 cover. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

**TWO CAT TANGO** — Live Music. 4:30 p.m., Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

## JUN. 23

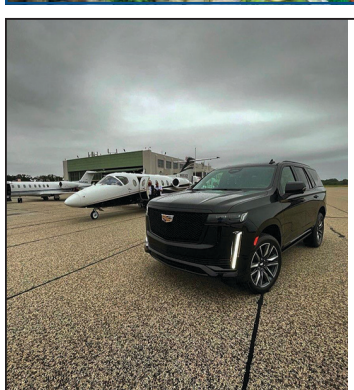
**CONVERSATIONS AT THE CASTLE** — Event featuring historian Christian McBurney speaking on The second American Revolution: Rhode Island's role in the Abolition movement in the North, 1763 to 1784. 6 p.m. Smith's Castle. 55 Richard Smith Drive, North Kingstown. 294-3521. smithscastle.org.

## JUN. 24

**DELICATE STEVE WITH SPECIAL GUEST AGGIE MILLER**— Live Music. 9 p.m.-12 a.m. $24.66 General Admission. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

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## JUN. 25

**GREASE** — Live Theater. 2 p.m. $64–$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**SCOTT ALLAN – LOVE NOTES THROUGH THE VEIL** — Event. 6–8 p.m. $53.50–$63.79. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.

**GREASE** — Live Theater. 8 p.m. $64–$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**BEARLY DEAD** — Live Music. 9–11:59 p.m. $24.66 General Admission. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

## JUN. 26–AUG. 29

**A CELEBRATION OF TREES** — Art exhibit, curated by Laurie Dolphin. Jamestown Arts Center, 18 Valley Street, Jamestown. 401-560-0979. jamestownartcenter.org.

## JUN. 26

**SUMMER SOIRÉE** — Event. 6–10 p.m. $225 for JAC Members, $250 for non members, Jamestown Arts Center, 18 Valley Street, Jamestown. 401-560-0979. jamestownartcenter.org.

**BERGER BOYS** — Live Music. 7 p.m., Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**INTO THE WOODS** — Live Theater. 7 p.m. $12.50–$47.50. Contemporary Theater Company, 327 Main Street, Wakefield. contemporarytheatercompany.com.

**ABBA – ALWAYS ABBA** — Concert. 7:30 p.m., $40.12. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.

**THE MUSIC OF THE BEACH BOYS FEATURING PET SOUNDS LIVE** — Event. 7:30 p.m., $35. The United Theatre United Black Box Auditorium, 5 Canal Street, Westerly. unitedtheatre.org.

**ZAC N' FRIED (ZAC BROWN TRIBUTE)** — Live Music. 8–11 p.m. $20 Online, $25 at the door. Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

**GREASE** — Live Theater. 8 p.m. $64–$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**LANDON MCNAMARA W./ LAYTON MEACHAM** — Live Music. 9–11:59 p.m. $30.06 General Admission. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

## JUN. 27–AUG. 1

**THREADING TIME AND PLACE** — Art Exhibit. Hera Gallery, 10 High Street, Wakefield. heragallery.org.

## JUN. 27

**BREAKFAST TALK** — Event featuring Trustee and OLLIE instructor Mark Burnahm, speaking on the complicated life of one of RI's founding Fathers, Stephen Hopkins and how this self-taught person helped shape political and economic life in the U.S. colonies. 9:30 a.m. coffee and refreshments, 10 a.m. presentation. $5 Suggested Donation. Smith's Castle. 55 Richard Smith Drive, North Kingstown. 294-3521. smithscastle.org.

**YKNOT FEAT. MICHELLE SIEGEL** — Live Music, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit javamadness.com.

**GREASE** — Live Theater. 2 p.m. $64–$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**ABBA – ALWAYS ABBA** — Concert. 7–9:30 p.m., $38.07–$46.30. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.

**INTO THE WOODS** — Live Theater. 7 p.m. $12.50–$47.50. Contemporary Theater Company, 327 Main Street, Wakefield. contemporarytheatercompany.com.

**VEGAS LORDS** — Live Music. 7 p.m., Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**ANOTHER TEQUILA SUNRISE (EAGLES TRIBUTE)** — Live Music. 8–11 p.m. $20 Online, $25 at the door. Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

**GREASE** — Live Theater. 8 p.m. $64–$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**LET'S SING TAYLOR: A TAYLOR SWIFT LIVE BAND EXPERIENCE** — Event. 8 p.m., $62–$71. Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich. 401-885-4000. greenwichodeum.com.





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**JOHN CAFFERTY AND THE BEAVER BROWN BAND** — Live Music. 9-11:59 p.m. $35.46 General Admission. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

## JUN. 28

**JOSH SCHURMAN** — Live Music, 12-2 p.m. Java Madness, 134 Salt Pond Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit javamadness.com.

**MATTHEW CURRY & BAND** — Concert. 1:30-4 p.m., $28.81-$39.09. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.

**GREASE** — Live Theater. 2 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**JUS-TUS** — Live Music. 4-7 p.m. Free. Charlestown Rathskeller, 489a Old Coach Road, Charlestown. 401-792-1000. thecharlestownrathskeller.com.

**SUNDAY FUNDAY WITH LOCOMOTION** — Live Music. 4-7 p.m. $5 cover. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

**CATFISH** — Live Music. 4:30 p.m., Oak Hill Tavern, 565 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. 294-3282, oakhilltavern.com.

**GANG OF FOUR** — Concert with Downtown Boys. 7 p.m., $60-$66. Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main Street, East Greenwich. 401-885-4000. greenwichodeum.com.

**GREASE** — Live Theater. 7 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**WINYAH** — Live Music. 9-11:59 p.m. $30.06 General Admission. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

## JUN. 29

**ROLAND COMTOIS - MESSAGES FROM SPIRIT** — Event. 6-8:30 p.m., $65-$70. Courthouse Center for the Arts, 3481 Kingstown Rd, West Kingston. 401-782-1018. courthousearts.org.

## JUN. 30

**GREASE** — Live Theater. 7:30 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

## JUL. 1

**GREASE** — Live Theater. 2 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**GREASE** — Live Theater. 7:30 p.m. $64-$96. Theatre By The Sea, 364 Cards Pond Rd., Wakefield. Theatrebythesea.com.

**JESSE ROYAL** — Live Music. 9 p.m.-11:59 p.m. $30.06 General Admission, $84.06 Buy 3, Get 1 Free. 21+. Ocean Mist, 895 Matunuck Beach Rd, South Kingstown. oceanmist.net.

**WANT TO SEE YOUR EVENT LISTED?**

To have your upcoming events listed in Shore Life Magazine, email editorial@independentri.com. The deadline for our July issue is June 8th.

# Your Future Awaits

The University of Rhode Island said goodbye to the class of 2026 with three days of ceremonies and festivities at the Ryan Center celebrating more than 4,000 undergraduate and graduate degree candidates. The event highlighted a banner school year for the school, which was ranked the top public university in New England by the Wall Street Journal for the second year in a row.














Photos: Laura Paton


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Class of 2026

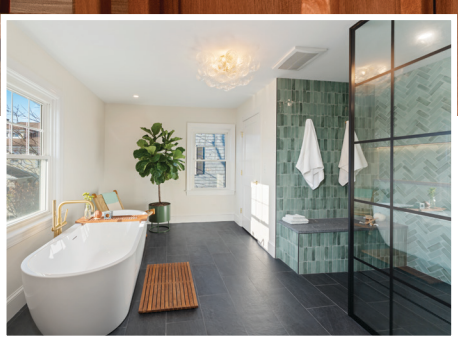



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