



BWARWICK BEACON



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EDUCATION 2025

CRANSTON

Creating meaningful opportunities

Public invited to 2025-26 budget preview Jan. 23

By Jeannine Nota-Masse
Cranston Public Schools superintendent



Nota-Masse

Every day is paying off. Several of our schools have advanced from low or typical ranges to high ranges, demonstrating the tangible impact of our educators' hard work.

This progress is about more than test scores – it's about closing learning gaps and creating meaningful opportunities for our students. While educational headlines are often discouraging, our data tells a different, more hopeful story. Our children are making growth and accessing high-quality educational opportunities each day.

The district's five-year master plan is becoming a reality as we continue to improve our facilities. We

have a plan for the completion of Phase III of Eden Park Elementary School's renovation, we continue to see progress on the new Gladstone Elementary School, and we are in the planning phase for the construction that will take place at our charter high school, the Apprenticeship Exploration School. We are also very excited about the plans for a new parking lot at Cranston High School West.

Despite these exciting improvements and new facilities, there is still so much to

■ NOTA-MASSE - PAGE 12

WARWICK

Fostering skills for lifelong learning

Next update on high school construction Jan. 28

By Lynn Dambruch
Warwick Public Schools superintendent



Dambruch

community. With each passing year, we remain committed to providing curriculum and curriculum resources necessary to engage students in academic discussion/discourse and to ensure every student achieves their fullest potential.

In 2025, we will continue to focus on refining our educational practices to further support the academic success of all our learners. In order to accomplish this, we are committed to continuing to implement our framework of "A Vision of a Graduate." This is how we support each child: nurture their academic, social, emotional and mental wellbeing and create lifelong learners.

As we reflect on the milestones and achievements of 2024, we are filled with gratitude and anticipation for the future. The last year has been a time of remarkable progress, and we are excited to continue this momentum into 2025. These achievements would not be possible without a commitment to educational excellence from teachers, families and the Warwick community.

Our students' academic growth continues to move in the right direction, and we are proud of their hard work, as well as the dedication of our entire school

Some ways in which we work to create lifelong learning is through our exploratory classes, career and technical education classes, honors classes, advanced placement courses and dual-enrollment courses through partnerships with CCRI and New England Tech. Additionally, we work with a number of community partners to host financial literacy fairs and participate in opportunities at the middle level sponsored by Junior Achievement. Whether it is future success

■ DAMBRUCH - PAGE 12

RECREATION 2025



The Budlong Pool, closed since 2020, will be replaced by a new pool less than half its size but with a preserved pool house.

City plans July opening of Budlong Pool's successor

Replacement long awaited, much debated and smaller

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS

Since the city closed it in 2020, the Budlong Pool has occupied a murky and contentious place in Cranston, its fate

uncertain and residents questioning the city's plans for it.

Now, as the new year begins, the community pool may be approaching a fresh start, too.

Following the completion of an environmental review required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to access the \$750,000 grant, approval to release those funds was sent over last week, according to the mayor's chief of staff, Anthony Moretti.

In terms of getting shovels in the ground and bringing the pool back into use, Moretti says the goal is to open July 1, 2025 – though the target date may change as work proceeds.

As the project moves forward, some continue to object to the demolition and downsizing of the pool.

A community group,

■ BUDLONG - PAGE 12



An artist's rendering of the planned Warwick City Hall Plaza, a covered ice rink and adjacent park on the site of the former City Hall Annex in Apponaug.

Skating rink headed for fall debut despite delays

Year-round use of \$6.7M City Hall Plaza is planned

By ADAM ZANGARI

Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi's envisioned downtown Apponaug centerpiece will probably not have to wait another winter before skaters hit it.

City Hall Plaza, the ice rink and park being built on the site of the former City Hall Annex, is on pace to open in the fall, according to Chief of Staff Bill Facente.

"It can and will be used throughout the entire year," Facente said. "In the spring, summer – warmer months – it can be used for other public events. The mayor's looking at doing something similar to what they do in Providence, with roller skating in the summer months and other kinds of activities that keep that facility generating interest and revenue throughout the year, like little concerts and food-truck events."

Next to the rink will be a small park with public seating intended to create a green area in the middle of the busy village.

"It's basically going to be a long area, just places to hang out and enjoy nature,"

■ RINK - PAGE 12

Shekarchi: Deficit, housing top concerns



K. Joseph Shekarchi

By ADAM ZANGARI

As the calendar turns to 2025 and Rhode Island's legislature prepares to begin another session, House Speaker K.

Joseph Shekarchi is getting ready for the challenges of the new year. The most immediate concern: the state budget.

This year's budget, Shekarchi said, will be the most challenging he's had to put together throughout his time as speaker. That's largely due to the state's financial posture.

"We're about \$330 million in a deficit situation right now," Shekarchi said. "So we have to, obviously, close that deficit. [A lot depends on] how we close it and how much it ultimately ends up being in May. We'll have to wait and see what the revenue numbers are."

Shekarchi attributed the deficit to higher state expenses, saying that over the last year, more people had received aid from state agencies and state employees had received significant raises.

Finding the revenue to close that deficit, Shekarchi said, was why he was in favor of reinstating truck tolls on highways, which the U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals recently determined the state was within its rights to do.

"As you know, we have a bridge problem, and though I'm very grateful for all the federal money we have, there's going to be a cost associated to state taxpayers, so we need to either offset it or find another revenue stream," Shekarchi said. "What I am definitely against is tolling of cars."

Before truck tolling can happen, though, Shekarchi said the state will have to change its current enabling legislation, which gives preferential treatment to local truckers –

something the First Circuit determined was unconstitutional.

Shekarchi also said that the First Circuit's decision was not necessarily final, as the trucking companies on the other side of this legal tug-of-war can ask for an en banc hearing or to appeal to the Supreme Court.

The speaker said he can't say what the top budget priorities will be until meeting with other members of the House.

"We'll listen to our caucus," Shekarchi said. "We'll listen to what the members have to say."

Housing: Local control isn't the issue, speaker says

In addition to the budget, Shekarchi's top priority for the 2025 session is unchanged: housing.

After passing 47 housing-development bills in the last three General Assembly sessions, Shekarchi said more are needed.

"When you hear people say 'We don't want affordable housing because we don't have

New RI laws
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Class Reunion

Oct. 11, 2025, Pilgrim High School Class of 1975's 50th Reunion will be held on Sat., Oct. 11, 2025 at Quonset "O" Club, 200 Lt. James Brown Road, North Kingstown. We are looking for our classmates and/or info on deceased classmates, etc. Please contact Dean Plowman dean695@gmail.com

■ CHATTER - PAGE 4

Locals nab football awards



The Rhode Island Football Coaches Association recently announced its postseason awards.

Sports, page 19



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Holiday message: 'Don't let poor judgment determine the rest of your life'

By JOHN HOWELL

For the last year Peter Alviti has spent a lot of time talking about the Washington Bridge. And on Thursday Alviti was in front of the cameras again. But this time there wasn't a word about the bridge, what it might cost or when construction might start.

Alviti had a story, not one to be celebrated at this time of year. "It takes one second. Probably less than a second to let poor judgment determine the rest of your life, or maybe determine the end of the life of someone you love. And in that millisecond, you will have lost it all. You will never again know the simple joys of daily life. You will never again have that cup of morning coffee without the image of what you did hanging over you. You will be remembered by your family and your friends and complete strangers as the person who killed another person in a drunk driving crash."

Stretching to the right of Alviti against the wall in the offices of Mothers Against Drunk Driving in Warwick was a line of uniformed law enforcement officers. They stood at parade rest, erect with their hands clasped in front of them. They were silent. They didn't applaud Alviti, or for that matter, any of the other speakers.

While recognizing this is a time for the coming together of family and friends, the universal message – actually more of a plea – was for people to make a good decision and turn the driving over to someone else if have been drinking.

"It's about the irreversible risk you're taking with your life and the lives of others," said Warwick Police Chief and President of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association, Col. Brad Connor. "The solution is simple: decide before you drive. It's a commitment to ensuring you and everyone around you stays safe," he said.

Jillian Young, AAA Northeast director of public relations



Police chiefs and officers from across the state lined up at the Mothers Against Drunk Driving office in Warwick Thursday for a news conference encouraging Rhode Islanders to plan a sober ride home when celebrating the holiday season. (Beacon Media photos)

urged people to use their phones as a means for a safe ride. "Through a text to a friend, a rideshare app. There is no excuse for getting behind the wheel impaired. So please plan ahead, because it could save a life."

Police will also be stepping up DUI enforcement across the state, said Connor.

"Police departments will have extra patrols on the road specifically focused on identifying and apprehending impaired drivers. Our officers will be out to enforce the law and ensure the safety of everyone on the road. Together, we are sending a clear and united message: impaired driving will not be tolerated," he said.

POLICE LOGS

Cranston

BREAKING AND ENTERING

On Dec. 17, at approx. 2:19 p.m., inspectors arrested Savion McKenna, 18, of 99 Midfield Dr. # 7 Waterbury, Connecticut for Breaking and Entering/Building/Felonious Intent and Conspiracy. The arrest was the result of this subject being turned over to 3rd District Court. McKenna was arraigned at 3rd District Court.

LARCENY & VANDALISM

On Dec. 17, at approx. 1:49 p.m., inspectors arrested Joshua Ortiz, 34, of 43 Devonshire St. Providence, for four counts of Larceny over \$1,500 and two counts of Vandalism. The arrest was the result of this subject being turned over to 3rd District Court. Ortiz was arraigned at 3rd District Court.

LARCENY

On Dec. 18, at approx. 4:50 a.m., officers arrested Jose Acevado, 47, of 47 Noyes St. Providence, for Larceny under \$1,500. The arrest was the result of call for service at Marchetti's, 1463 Park Ave. Acevado was awaiting arraignment at 21 Commissioner.

DUI

On Dec. 19 at 12:41 a.m., officers arrested Jashua Rosario Ubiles, 33, of 65 Harris Ave., Apt #2, Cranston, for DUI BAC unknown and Breathalyzer Refusal. The arrest was the result of a traffic stop on Cranston Street at Arlington Avenue. Rosario Ubiles was arraigned and released by a Bail Commissioner.

DUI

On Dec. 21 at 2:47 a.m., officers arrested Odilio Ramos Vasquez, 25, of 167 Wallace St. Apt# 1 Providence, for DUI 0.15 or Greater First Offense (Phase I: 0.162 BAC, Phase II: 0.159 BAC). The arrest is the result of a call for a well-being check at the McDonalds located at 923 Cranston St. Vasquez was arraigned by Justice of Peace and released.

DUI

On Dec. 24 at 2:21 a.m., officers arrested Jonathan Torres, 19, of 228 Althea St. Apt. b Providence, for DUI first offense BAC unknown. The arrest is the result of a call for service at Wendy's located at 110 Garfield Ave. Torres was held for arraignment as a violator.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

On Dec. 25 at 2:37 a.m., officers arrested Pedro Gutierrez, 40, of 21 Lexington Ave., Cranston for resisting legal or illegal arrest, obstruction an officer in execution of duty, and disorderly conduct. The arrest is the result of a disturbance at 21 Lexington Avenue. Disposition of Arrestee: Issued a release to appear.

DOMESTIC SIMPLE ASSAULT

On Dec. 25 at approximately 6:37 p.m., officers arrested Adalberto Castillo Jr., 30, of 69 Whipple Ave Cranston, charging him with one count of Domestic Simple Assault and one count of Domestic Disorderly Conduct. The arrest was a result of a call for service at 69 Whipple Ave. Castillo was arraigned and released by Justice of the Peace.

Warwick

DUI

On Nov. 13 at 10:19 p.m. Warwick police responded to the area of 500 Greenwich Ave. after reports that Cranston police were behind a possible intoxicated driver on Lambert Lind Highway. Cranston police stopped the vehicle at Greenwich Avenue by Shalom Drive.

A Warwick police officer made contact with the driver of the vehicle, identified as Jenny Fumo, 48, of 118 Adams St., Fairhaven, Massachusetts, and found that she had "bloodshot and watery" eyes and "the odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from her breath," according to police.

Fumo consented to a series of standardized field sobriety tests. Based on the officers' observations, she was placed under arrest. She was issued a district court summons for DUI of Liquor - .10 to .15 - 1st offense.

SHOPLIFTING

On Nov. 15 at 6 p.m., police responded to Ulta, 1245 Bald Hill Road, for the report of shoplifting in progress. They

were advised that a female exited Ulta and walked into the Target next to it.

Officers stopped the suspect, identified as Mya Hernandez, 18, of 37 Alvin St., Providence, and retrieved the stolen items valuing \$114.70.

Hernandez was transported to Warwick Police Headquarters. She was issued a 3rd District Court Summons and a No Trespass Order for Ulta and Target.

DUI

On Nov. 17 at 2:25 a.m., police conducted a motor vehicle stop after observing a 2009 Ford Flex traveling at a high rate of speed.

The driver, identified as Luis Fargas Lopez, 43, of 191 Manton Ave., Providence, had "the odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating" from his breath and "bloodshot and watery" eyes, according to police.

Fargas Lopez refused to standardized field sobriety tests, but stated that he had "three or four" beers, according to police. Based on his physical state and on the officers' observations, police determined that he had been driving under the influence.

He later provided a sample of 0.103% BAC. He was issued a court summons for DUI of Liquor BAC .10 - .15 - 1st offense and citations for Speeding 11+ MPH, and Refusal to Submit to Preliminary Breath Test.

DRIVING WITH EXPIRED LICENSE

On Nov. 14 at 9:46, police observed occupants of a vehicle traveling on Jefferson Boulevard not wearing seat belts. Officers conducted a traffic stop.

The driver, identified as Maria Carrion, 40, of 29 Pennsylvania Ave., Providence, stated that she did not have an active driver's license.

Carrion was transported to Warwick Police Headquarters and later released with a 3rd District Court Summons for Driving Without License - 4th offense. She was also issued a Warwick Municipal Court summons for No Seat Belt Operator and No Seat Belt Passenger.

DUI

On Nov. 17 at 12:43 a.m., police conducted a motor vehicle stop after observing a vehicle driving westbound in the eastbound lane on East Avenue.

When approaching the vehicle, the officer found that the driver, identified as Carissa Coleman, 23, of 7 Capital Road, Milford, Massachusetts, had slurred speech, bloodshot and watery eyes, and had the smell of alcohol on her breath.

Coleman consented to a series of standardized field sobriety tests. Based on officers' observations, she was placed under arrest. She was transported to Warwick Police Headquarters and charged with DUI/Drugs/Alcohol - 1st offense - BAC unknown and Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test.

Editor's Note: The preceding arrest log information has been taken from arrest and incident reports provided by the Warwick Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies.

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Schools face \$9M deficit for year

Galligan hopes to make cuts, but where?

By JOHN HOWELL

Six months into the 2025 Fiscal Year, the Warwick School Department has identified it faces a \$9-million deficit by June 30 unless it makes budget adjustments.

Looking at the news from a positive perspective, School Committee Chair Shaun Galligan said Sunday, "What's good is that we caught it [the potential deficit] midway ... there's plenty of time to make alterations."

The not-so-good news is that in a system hemmed in by contractual obligations and state requirements to meet student needs, making budget cuts is going to be difficult. Furthermore, as of last weekend there was no immediate answer as to where the department went off track to incur such a significant projected budget shortfall.

Galligan hoped to get some answers when the committee met in executive session with the school administration Monday morning. He said Sunday the purpose of the meeting is to review what measures could be taken to address the budget while preserving the quality of education. The meeting was ongoing at the deadline for this newspaper, which was early because of the New Year's Day holiday.

Mayor Frank Picozzi learned of the projected school deficit Christmas week. He was in contact with the state auditor general and informed that the city needed to come up with a plan to address the projected deficit. The administration met with Galligan and school administrators on Friday to review the situation.

According to state law: "The chief financial officer of each municipality and each school district shall submit a report, certifying the status of the municipal budget including the school department or regional school district's budget, on a monthly basis." Those reports are to be submitted to the members of the City Council as well as the School Committee.

Galligan did not have an answer as to why the committee is learning only now of a projected budget shortfall if monthly reports are required by the auditor general.

In addition to the projected budget deficit, the School Department has yet to close the books on FY 2024. Galligan discredited reports that the 2024 deficit could be as high as \$6 million. He said that as of last week the number



Warwick School Committee Chairman Shaun Galligan: With projected school deficit estimates ranging widely, "You don't know who to believe anymore." (Beacon Media file photo)

was close to \$500,000 but depending on how expenses are coded [operating expenses versus capital expenses, which in many cases are costs covered by bonded improvements] the deficit could be reduced to zero. Ward 5 Councilman Ed Ladouceur, who has been following municipal and school expenditures, said on Sunday the department's records showed a \$5-million-plus deficit for 2024, and as of last week he was told the number was \$800,000.

"You don't know who to believe anymore," he said. As for the explanation of properly coding expenses, he said, "it's the shell game."

Dealing with the current shortfall doesn't look to be as simple as adjusting department allocations.

Galligan notes that in the 2025 budget approved by the

committee and the City Council was balanced and required the elimination of 34 positions, however those positions have been filled over that last six months. He acknowledges restoring the positions would account for some of the deficit but not all of it.

"We brought back many of those [positions] because of student needs," he said.

He said that according to a student's IEP [individual education program], the district is required to hire additional personnel and there are cases where the IEP dictates one-on-one instruction requiring the district to hire a teacher assistant whose sole job is to work with one student. He estimated the cost of a TA [teacher assistant] including benefits at \$50,000 to \$60,000.

"Were seeing an increase in the number of students needing requiring special benefits," he said. Asked if those requirements could be met by third parties at costs less than the district, Galligan pointed to other factors such as student transportation have to be taken into consideration.

Soon after the telephone interview Sunday, Galligan emailed the following statement:

"The School Committee is deeply concerned with the fiscal health of our district and the challenging position we are in. Over the past weeks, we brought in an independent consultant as an important step to ensure a thorough and objective review of our district's finances.

"We will work closely with Superintendent Dambruch, her team and city leaders to develop a plan to close the budget gap, with education priorities and transparency to our community at center. In light of this news, we foresee a difficult process and challenging decisions ahead. We will navigate this situation responsibly and seriously. The School Committee is committed to keeping the community informed and involved as we move forward."

In a press release issued by her office on Monday, Schools Superintendent Lynn Dambruch said:

"We deeply appreciate the patience and partnership of our Warwick community during this time. Together, we can address these financial challenges while continuing to prioritize the needs of our students and their families."

The release did not address how or why the district ended up with the projected deficit.

Sinapi aims to streamline council meetings

By JOHN HOWELL

Anthony Sinapi has plans for the City Council, although as the incoming council president, he's keeping them secret for the moment.

Sinapi, who was selected chairman by incoming council members in a caucus prior to Christmas, will officially assume the role on Jan. 7 during inauguration ceremonies at the Crowne Plaza.

In an interview Thursday, he said he aims to make meetings "more streamlined." Pressed for details, he said, "I want that to be a surprise." And should it not work out, he added, "We won't stick with it."

He's also keeping close to his vest those council members he plans to name committee chairs. With four of the incoming council members new to the job, he has four incumbents, Bill Foley, Ward 1; Jeremy Rix, Ward 2; Ed Ladouceur, Ward 5 and Vincent Gebhart as seasoned veterans. He said he's talked with members and essentially selected committees, which will also be announced at the Jan. 7 meeting.

But Sinapi isn't hesitant to name challenges faced by the city and how the council may play a role. On top of his list are the school budget and the construction of new Toll Gate and Pilgrim high schools.

Next in line is the municipal budget, which he points out

doesn't have the luxury of federal ARPA funds in 2025. Unlike some other municipalities that used ARPA funds on operating expenses, the administration of Mayor Frank Picozzi allocated most of its \$33 million on capital improvements such as fire trucks, sanitation trucks and the extension of Bayside sewers, meaning the city would not be faced with structural deficits going into the new fiscal year beginning on July 1. That was not the case with the School Department, which used federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds made available during the pandemic to initiate new programs that it continued to fund when the federal programs weren't renewed.

The School Department faces a deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. How much of a deficit and how the administration aims to deal with it remain undefined. When faced with a similar situation where schools failed to complete the fiscal year with a balanced budget, former Mayor Scott Avedisian used city funds on the condition that schools refund the city, which it did over time.

Looming, which could be an even greater problem, is how schools will complete the current budget. Schools are facing a \$9-million shortfall in the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. The administration and schools



Incoming Warwick City Council President Anthony Sinapi says he wants to improve collaboration between the council and school officials and also continue the good working relationship that outgoing council President Steve McAllister has had with Mayor Frank Picozzi. (Beacon Media files)

have been meeting regularly on budget issues. Additionally, schools retained Diane Brennan, who previously worked for the city Finance Department, to work with auditors. How that plays out could ultimately involve the council.

Sinapi aims to improve "collaboration" between schools and the

council, although he didn't say how that might happen. He is also looking to repeat the good relationship that Picozzi and outgoing City Council President Steve McAllister had.

A shortage of funds on a larger scale — approaching \$37 million, according to the most recent projections of the project manager working on the design engineering for the new high schools — could likewise come before the council. Sinapi finds some merit to McAllister's suggestion that the city assume the cost and control of athletic fields as a means of cutting construction costs of the new schools, although it would not reduce costs to the taxpayers.

Sinapi doesn't see an alternative to building the new schools, although it appears the \$350 million approved by voters won't cover costs.

"RIDE [Rhode Island Department of Education] made it clear refurbishing [the two high schools] or a single high school wouldn't work. We're trapped on the path we're on," he said.

While he sees school financial storm clouds, he's optimistic growth in the city will help sustain operations without unduly pressuring taxpayers. He points to an increased tax base through new and planned developments. He mentions vacant land such as that next to the Kent County YMCA as a possible site of new development. Condominiums

were being suggested for a 36-acre parcel abutting Y property. And he cites the development of parcels like those on Centerville Road across from Diamond Hill Road.

"It was assumed all this land would stay as it was," he said.

Ironically, development on Centerville Road, especially construction of condos, could have a direct impact on Sinapi. He was moving into a home last week in Pilgrim Estates off Centerville Road. Access to and from the development is especially difficult during commuter hours and Sinapi and the city have sought answers from the Department of Transportation, which controls the state highway.

Among the first of council actions will be to vote on the tentative agreements reached by the Fraternal Order Of Police and the Warwick Municipal Employees Union. Members of both unions have reportedly approved the agreements, and now it is up to the council to ratify them. Provisions of the agreements have not been released by the administration.

Sinapi, who is licensed to practice law in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, works at the law firm of his father, Richard Sinapi. He also writes contracts for Johnson & Johnson. He is the father of a son.

Asked why he is taking on the job of City Council president, Sinapi said, "I want to go wherever I can help the most people."

BULLETIN BOARD

Class Reunion

Oct. 11, 2025, Pilgrim High School Class of 1975's 50th Reunion will be held on Sat., Oct. 11, 2025 at Quonset "O" Club, 200 Lt. James Brown Road, North Kingstown. We are looking for our classmates and/or info on deceased classmates, etc. Please contact Dean Plowman dean695@gmail.com

Community Events

Jan. 4, Frozen Clam Obstacle Plunge by Mentor Rhode Island and Laidback Fitness at 11 a.m. at the Goddard Park beach. The event features a Ninja-style course with hurdles, walls to climb and tubes to crawl through before plunging into Greenwich Bay. There's always a group that foregoes the course and just takes the dip to benefit Mentor RI. You can buy tickets that morning, but to be sure to get a long sleeve T-Shirt be sure to preregister. Tickets are \$44. For more information call 732-7700.

Jan. 5 - 7, 2025, AARP CHAPTER 2210 ATLAN-

TIC CITY TRIP has planned a trip to Resorts Casino Hotel in Atlantic City from January 5-7. The Tour includes 2 nights' accommodations, 2 meal credits (up to \$20 value each) & \$20 slot play. Bus pickup from the Exit 19 Park & Ride on Hopkins Hill Road at 7 a.m., return time is approximately 6 p.m. Cost is \$299/person (double occupancy), \$279/person (triple occupancy) or \$399/person (single occupancy). For more information call Maureen at 828-5188 or Anne at 263-4272.

Jan. 7, The Gaspee Seniors Club will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Pilgrim Senior Center, 27 Pilgrim Pkwy, Warwick, RI. The business meeting starts promptly at 1:30 p.m. This will be followed by coffee and pastry. The activity for the day is bingo. New members are always welcome.

Jan. 7, VFW Post #183 Hi Lo Jack Tuesday League starts at 6pm. Email vfwpost183events@aol.com with any questions.

Jan. 9, VFW Post #183 BINGO Doors open at 6 p.m. bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. \$30 entry. Cash Prizes. Please email vfwpost183bingo@gmail.com with any questions. Bingo is also taking place Jan. 22, Feb. 6, Feb. 19, March 6, and March 16.

Jan. 11, Open Forum "Remembering the 1950's" will be presented by the Hope Historical Society at 2 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Howland Barn, 35 Ryefield Road, Hope. Open Forum is an interactive meeting where members and attendees become a living history by sharing memorabilia, artifacts, pictures, stories, etc. related to the program topic.

Jan. 11, Ocean State Orchid Society meeting at 1 p.m. We meet at Rocky Hill Grange, 1340 South County Trail (Rte. 2), East Greenwich, RI 02818. Please enter through the door at the rear of the building. Meetings are open to the public. Guests and visitors are welcome!



HELPING WARWICK'S NEEDY

You Can Help A Needy Family

Canned goods and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the locations listed below, or a cash donation can be made payable to **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** c/o Warwick Beacon, 1944 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889 or Dept. of Human Services, Pilgrim Senior Center, 27 Pilgrim Parkway, Warwick, RI 02888 (use coupon below).

Thank You to Contributors:

Bob Fontaine Photography
Lau Brothers Enterprises
dba Han Palace
Ocean State Alarm Company, Inc.
Robert Baxter Associates, Inc.
Iggly's Doughboys, Inc.
Arrest-A-Pest
Crusty's Pizza
Elaine Gambardella
Sullivan Tire Co., Inc.

Bove Associates
Washington Trust
Greenwood Credit Union
Anonymous
William & Patricia McDevitt
Taylor A. Cann
Eloise Boyer
Cap City of RI
Laraine Fennimore
Roger & Betty Keefe

Beverly Lucas
Michael & Sandra Stuart
David & Carolyn Tessitore
Ed & Claire Thurston
Warwick Independent School Employees
Stephen & Marilyn Blanche

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AND FINANCIAL DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- Pilgrim Senior Center
- Beacon Communications
- Warwick City Hall

*Checks should be made payable to "Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

Yes, I would like to make a donation to the Holiday Basket Program

Name _____

Address _____


City _____ Zip _____

Please keep my name confidential

Check Enclosed _____ Amount _____

MAIL TO: Beacon Media, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, 1944 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889

LEGAL NOTICES



CITY OF CRANSTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING "R & T Estates" Minor Subdivision- Preliminary Plan W/Street Creation

You are hereby notified that the Cranston City Plan Commission will meet to review the Preliminary Plan for a proposed Minor Subdivision entitled "R & T Estates." This public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.**, in the City Council Chamber of Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Avenue. As a neighboring property owner, you are invited to attend this public hearing at which time plans will be presented for public comment and City Plan Commission consideration.

The subject parcel is located at **300 Laten Knight Road**, Assessors Plat 29, Lot 2 and is zoned A-80. The property owners are Lawrence D. and Elizabeth Moses of 380 Laten Knight Rd, Cranston, RI. The applicant is Thomas V. Moses, Esq. of Moses Ryan Ltd. 40 Westminster St, 9th Fl, Providence, RI 02903.

The Proposal is to subdivide a single 29-acre lot into a total of five (5) conforming house lots with access through a new private road, stemming from Laten Knight Road. The lots are planned to be serviced by private wells and public sewer.

Zoom webinar information for remote participation:
<https://url.us.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/6GIQCjRNlmlpGk6HWfYImqoYX?domain=zoom.us>
Passcode: 641733, Webinar ID: 921 6101 2817
Or One tap mobile: +13052241968, 92161012817# US
Or Telephone: +1 305 224 1968 US


The meeting of the City Plan Commission will be live streamed on the City's YouTube channel. You will only be able to watch the proceedings: <https://www.youtube.com/@cityofcranston>

Application materials and staff reports will be posted to the City Planning Department webpage at <https://www.cranstonri.com/departments/planning/>. The application may also be reviewed prior to the meeting in the Planning Department, Room 309, Cranston City Hall, during regular office hours, 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Pursuant to the Cranston Subdivision and Land Development Regulations, the proposed plan may be revised by the City Plan Commission as a result of further study or because of views expressed at this meeting. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired should contact the Planning Department at 780-3136, seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting date.

Michael Smith Jason Pezzullo, AICP
President *Planning Director*

12/26/24, 1/2/25



CITY OF CRANSTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING "East Street Plat" Minor Subdivision with Zoning Relief Unified Development Review

You are hereby notified that the Cranston City Plan Commission will hold a public hearing to review a Minor Subdivision – Preliminary Plan requiring zoning relief entitled "East Street Plat". This public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 6:30 P.M.**, in the Council Chamber of Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Avenue. You are invited to attend this public hearing at which time, plans will be presented for public comment and City Plan Commission review and consideration.

Zoom webinar information for remote participation:
<https://url.us.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/6GIQCjRNlmlpGk6HWfYImqoYX?domain=zoom.us>
Passcode: 641733, Webinar ID: 921 6101 2817
Or One tap mobile: +13052241968, 92161012817# US
Or Telephone: +1 305 224 1968 US

The meeting of the City Plan Commission will be live streamed on the City's YouTube channel. You will only be able to watch the proceedings: <https://www.youtube.com/@cityofcranston>

In accordance with the provisions of RIGL § 45-23-50.1 and §45-24-46.4 (Unified Development Plan Review), effective January 1, 2024, the City Plan Commission will consider and vote upon any requested zoning relief in lieu of the Zoning Board of Review for subdivisions and land development projects.

The Proposal requires relief from provisions of the Zoning Ordinance including Chapter 17, 20.120 – Schedule of Intensity Regulation relating to minimum frontage requirements.

The subject parcel is located at 337 East Street, further identified as AP 15, Lots 636, 1643 & 1661. The applicant is Ronn David of 30 Woodland Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920. The property owners are Michael Boscia and Dawn Boscia of 423 Natick Avenue, Cranston, RI 02921. The property is in an A-8 residential zone and contains approximately 58,053 +/- square feet.

The applicant seeks the existing three (3) lots to be subdivided into five (5) lots, as a minor subdivision of land under the Unified Development Review regulations. The subdivision will require the Planning Commission to grant a dimensional variance for width and street frontage of each lot that will greatly exceed the minimum lot size in the A-8 zone under the Unified Development Review process.

All staff reports, recommendations, and supporting materials on this application will be posted on the Planning Department's webpage at <https://www.cranstonri.com/departments/planning/> and will be accessible by following the link entitled "January 7, 2025 Plan Commission". The materials will be posted approximately 4 days before the meeting.

All interested parties are invited to attend this public hearing at which time, plans will be presented for public comment and City Plan Commission review. Plans for this Minor Subdivision project may be reviewed prior to the meeting in the Planning Department, Room 309, Cranston City Hall, during regular office hours, 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Pursuant to the Cranston Subdivision and Land Development Regulations, the proposed plan may be revised by the City Plan Commission as a result of further study or because of views expressed at this meeting. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired should contact the Planning Department at 461-1000 ext. 3222, seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting date.

Michael Smith Jason M. Pezzullo, AICP
President *Planning Director*

12/26/24, 1/2/25

CRANSTON SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held before the Safety Services & Licenses Committee on **Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Cranston City Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Avenue, City Hall, Cranston, R.I. in accordance with Title 3, Chapter 7 of the R.I. Gen. Laws, 1956, as amended, for the purpose of considering the application listed below. Remote participation is also available by using the logon information provided below as posted on the City's website at www.cranstonri.gov and the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ri.gov.

When: Jan 13, 2025 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: Safety Services & Licenses Committee
Passcode:685821
Phone one-tap: +13052241968, 94203273510# US
Join via audio: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
Webinar ID: 942 0327 3510
International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/adkjYClZcS>


NEWAUTO BODY LICENSE
Tasca Automotive Group
40 Sharpe Dr.
Mon-Fri 7am-5pm

Safety Services & Licenses Committee Safety Services & Licenses Committee

Tracy A. Nelson, CMC Tracy A. Nelson, CMC
City Clerk *City Clerk*

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the deaf or hard of hearing must notify the City Clerk's Office at 461-1000 ext. 3198 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

1/2, 1/9/25



CITY OF CRANSTON RHODE ISLAND NOTICE OF SPECIAL INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE CRANSTON CITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to Section 3.03 of the City Charter a Special Inaugural Meeting of the City Council will be held on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in the Cranston High School West Auditorium, 80 Metropolitan Ave., Cranston, RI at which meeting the following items of business shall be transacted.

Remote viewing is also available using the login information provided below as posted on the City's website at www.cranstonri.gov and the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ri.gov

Technology problems should be reported immediately to: CranstonCityCouncilMedia@gmail.com

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://zoom.us/j/95368794973?pwd=ZiZ7m410lcXUbt2X3lXhXJfYpftDQ.1>
Passcode:300211

Phone one-tap:
+16469313860,,95368794973# US
+13017158592,,95368794973# US (Washington DC)

Join via audio:
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+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 719 359 4580 US
+1 253 205 0468 US
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 360 209 5623 US
+1 386 347 5053 US
+1 507 473 4847 US
+1 564 217 2000 US
+1 669 444 9171 US
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 689 278 1000 US
Webinar ID: 953 6879 4973
International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/95368794973>

YouTube Livestream

The meeting will be live streamed on YouTube. Click the link below to view the meeting. You will only be able to watch the proceedings. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtE9vwA1B1PQHuftrNPcZjg>.

- I. CALL TO ORDER BY THE CITY CLERK
- II. ROLL CALL OF THE COUNCIL-ELECT
- III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
 - Election of City Council President (votes may be taken)
- At this time, the elected Council President will preside over the remainder of the meeting
- Election of City Council Vice-President (votes may be taken)
- Announcement of City Council Majority and Minority Leaders (no vote)
- IV. APPOINTMENT OF CITY OFFICIALS
 - City Council Legal Counsel (votes may be taken)
 - Municipal Court Judges (votes may be taken)
 - Auxiliary Judges (votes may be taken)
 - Probate Judge (votes may be taken)
 - Municipal Court Clerk (votes may be taken)
 - Registrar (votes may be taken)
 - Council Auditor/Budget Analyst (votes may be taken)
 - Council Grant Writer (votes may be taken)
- V. ADJOURNMENT (vote may be taken)

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the deaf and hard of hearing must notify the City Clerk at 461-1000 x 3194, 72 hours prior to meeting.

1/2/25

PROBATE COURT OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON NOTICE

Of Matters Pending and For Hearing In Said Court
On the dates specified in notices below at
9 A.M. for hearing said matters
Cranston City Hall
869 Park Ave, Cranston, RI 02910
3rd Floor, Council Chambers

CEPHAS, JOLOMONDEN D. RESIDENT MINOR
Petition for Minor Guardianship; for hearing January 9, 2025

FERRARI, ANTHONY N. ESTATE
Petition for Administration; for hearing January 9, 2025

FIORITO, NANCY ESTATE
Petition for the Sale of Real Estate located at 177 Midwood St., Cranston, RI; for purposes set forth, now on file, wherein said property is more fully described for hearing January 9, 2025

MANN, ROBERT BARNEY ESTATE
Petition for Probate of Will; for hearing January 9, 2025

PILKINGTON, ELIZABETH RESIDENT WARD
Petition for Guardianship; for hearing January 9, 2025

PREBLUD, BARRY J. RESIDENT WARD
Co-Guardian's First Account; for hearing January 9, 2025

RAMBONE, EMMA ESTATE
Administratrix's First and Final Account; for hearing January 9, 2025

QUIXAN CASTRO, ABELINO RESIDENT MINOR
Petition for Minor Guardianship; for hearing January 9, 2025

QUIXAN CASTRO, MARCELINO RESIDENT MINOR
Petition for Minor Guardianship; for hearing January 9, 2025

DOUGLAS, NEIL A. ESTATE
Anganie J. Williams has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning December 26, 2024

FALCONE, ANGELA C. ESTATE
Richard A. Lanigan has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning December 26, 2024

MAIETTA, DOROTHY M. ESTATE
Marjorie C. Maietta has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning December 26, 2024

MARTIN, ADELIN ESTATE
Debra J. Grady and James Moniz, Jr., have qualified as Co-Executors; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning December 26, 2024

PEZZA, ANTONIO D. ESTATE
Beverly A. Pezza has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning December 26, 2024

PROFFIT, DOROTHY RESIDENT WARD
Walter E. Proffit, Jr., has qualified as Guardian of the Person and Estate; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning December 26, 2024

PROFFIT, WALTER E. RESIDENT WARD
Walter E. Proffit, Jr., has qualified as Guardian of the Person and Estate; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning December 26, 2024

STOPPIELLO, STEPHEN F. ESTATE
Stephanie A. Caramante has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning December 26, 2024

THOMPSON, I. TERENCE, ALIAS: THOMPSON, I. TERRY ESTATE
Joseph J. Swinski, III, has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning December 26, 2024

WEBER, SYLVIA ESTATE
Zachary Tashian has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning December 26, 2024

Individuals requiring assistive listening devices are requested to contact the office of the city clerk at 461-1000 ext 3197 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

Tracy Nelson
Clerk of the Probate Court

12/26/24, 1/2/25

WARWICK

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE NOTICE (NEW)

LICENSE APPLICATION FOR A RETAILER'S BEVERAGE LICENSE CLASS BL TO KEEP AND SELL INTOXICATING BEVERAGES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 3 OF THE R.I. GENERAL LAWS OF 1956, AS AMENDED, HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT THIS OFFICE AS FOLLOWS:

FROM: Ripston & Medeiros Inc
DBA: Urban Air
300 Quaker Lane
Warwick RI 02886

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, 2nd floor WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, 99 VETERANS

1/2, 1/9/25

MEMORIAL DR., WARWICK, R.I., on **Tuesday November 26, 2024 at 6:00PM** AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS APPLICATION MAY BE HEARD. REMONSTRANCES MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE OF HEARING.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
James H. Paolucci CLERK

INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED MUST NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AT 468-4217, OR TDD AT 739-9150 AT **LEAST 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE** OF THE MEETING DATE.

12/26/24, 1/2/25

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE NOTICE (NEW)

LICENSE APPLICATION FOR A RETAILER'S BEVERAGE LICENSE CLASS BV TO KEEP AND SELL INTOXICATING BEVERAGES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 3 OF THE R.I. GENERAL LAWS OF 1956, AS AMENDED, HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT THIS OFFICE AS FOLLOWS:

FROM: Korean BBQ Inc
DBA: Gopchang Story
Korean BBQ
1800 post Rd Unit 24
Warwick RI 02886

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, 2nd floor WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR., WARWICK, R.I., on **Tuesday January 14th at 6:00PM** AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS APPLICATION MAY BE HEARD. REMONSTRANCES MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE OF HEARING.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
James H. Paolucci CLERK

INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED MUST NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AT 468-4217, OR TDD AT 739-9150 AT **LEAST 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE** OF THE MEETING DATE.

12/26/24, 1/2/25

STATE WIDE 7

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND Probate Court of the CITY OF WARWICK NOTICE OF MATTERS PENDING AND FOR HEARING IN SAID COURT

The Court will be in session at **WARWICK CITY HALL** on the dates specified in notices below at **9:00 AM** for hearing said matters:

ARMSTRONG, Cheryl, est.
Guardian's 2nd Account; for hearing January 16, 2025

HAWCROFT, Paul D., est.
Custodianship; for hearing January 16, 2025

LAWRENCE, William F. alias William Frederick Lawrence, est.
Co-Guardian's 9th Account; for hearing January 16, 2025

SMITH, Michael D. alias Michael Daniel Smith, est.
Guardianship Petition; for hearing January 16, 2025

BAKER, Debra Ann, est.
Christopher Baker has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning January 2, 2025

COLEMAN, James P. alias James Patrick Coleman, est.
Doreen A. Coleman has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning January 2, 2025

GLEAVEY, Frances, M., est.,
Joseph Gleavey has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning January 2, 2025

HANOIAN, Marcia C., est.
Amy Leigh Hanoian Fontana has qualified as Executrix (Gayle Tarzwell of 490 Woodruff Avenue, Wakefield, RI 02879 as agent); creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning January 2, 2025

LEWIS, Veronica, est.
Kimberly Ouimette has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning January 2, 2025

TOURIGNY, James L., est.
Sharon A. Tourigny has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning January 2, 2025

WHITMAN, Paul A., est.
Melissa Harrison has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning January 2, 2025

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the City Clerk's Office at (401) 738-2006 Ext 4 at least (48) hours in advance of the hearing.

ATTY: LYNN D'ABROSCA,
CITY CLERK

1/2, 1/9/25

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Mike Constantine and Robert DeFelice assemble boxes, the first step to the process.



Rotarian Joseph McGair seeks to wedge in another box in one of the several member vehicles used to transport the boxes across town to the Westbay Marketplace. He was successful.

Still in time for Christmas

Time hardly seemed on their side. But then pure organization was. Westbay Community Action had notified 200 families they could pick up holiday food boxes from the Westbay Marketplace on Jefferson Boulevard the Saturday before Christmas. As of 8 that morning, not a single box had been filled with the makings for a Christmas meal. But Dan Scanlon Jr. of the Rotary Club of Warwick had a plan and a team. The plan, and Scanlon calculated it could be executed in about 30 minutes, was to set up an assembly line at the Lloyd Cooper Armory on Sandy Lane where he had dropped off cartons of food over the past several days. Rotary Club members would assemble and fill the boxes and then get them to the Westbay Marketplace in time for the recipients to pick them up. Filling all the boxes didn't exactly happen within 30 minutes, but it came close. Some families were waiting as club members delivered the boxes to Westbay Marketplace. The Warwick Rotary Club has provided holiday food baskets to needy families for years and at one time personally delivered them to homes. The numbers of baskets or boxes have soared. When Scanlon learned of the greater need this year from Westbay executive director Paul Salera, he increased the count from 100 to 200 boxes. (Beacon Media photos)



Rotary Club member Steve McCartney comes to the end of the assembly line before delivering the box where Scanlon made a quick count of items – there were 14 – before stacking the boxes for delivery to Westbay Community Action.

The write way to shop



Chamber's 2025 vision driven by connection

By Lauren Slocum and Jennifer Wheelehon
Central Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce

As we look ahead to 2025, the Central Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce (CRICC) is embracing a vision rooted in collaboration and connection. Across Warwick and Cranston, this means continuing great partnerships and deepening relationships with Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi and Cranston Mayor Ken Hopkins as well as their many city departments.

Together we will shine a spotlight on the wealth of resources available to local businesses in Rhode Island and foster innovative ways to grow together as a community.

At the heart of this vision is our dedication to building connections between businesses that spur creativity, innovation and the sharing of knowledge and resources. By facilitating relationships, we aim to create an "all boats rise" environment where businesses can thrive not just individually, but collectively, through collaboration, according to Michael Aurecchia, chair of the CRICC board of directors and vice president of Greenwood Credit Union.

Greenwood's relationship with our chamber has developed into a key component of their strategy to engage their employees in the local community, increase its brand recognition and build a thriving business community.

Programs like the CRICC's Simply Business webinars and in-person sessions empower businesses with free, accessible education on today's most pressing and forward-thinking topics. From mastering digital marketing to navigating workforce challenges, these sessions offer tools for success while bringing professionals together to explore new ideas and solutions.

Signature networking events, including their monthly Business After Hours, Leads Lunches and Morning Coffees, play a crucial role in building these connections.

They bring professionals from all industries together in a relaxed, welcoming environment to explore partnerships and build relationships. The result increases commerce, strengthens local businesses and enhances the appeal of working in Cranston and Warwick.

The CRICC is also excited to expand on its well-established Warwick events, like Movies in the Park and Movies at the Complex, that unite businesses and residents, creating opportunities for connection and showcasing the beauty of the community.

We are also excited to explore joint community events that unite businesses and residents, creating opportunities for connection and showcasing what our cities have to offer. One such opportunity is with the historic Park Theatre in Cranston. Sara Shevlin, venue manager, noted recently they are "thrilled to be working with the Central Rhode Island Chamber and utilizing so many of their resources. As we look ahead to 2025, we look forward to building relationships and continuing to be involved in the community."

As a trusted resource for businesses and the city alike, we play a key role in connecting professionals with the tools, information and relationships they need to succeed. Through our programs, existing relationships and collaborative spirit we foster meaningful connections and provide resources that empower businesses to grow, which contributes to our coverage area to being a place where people want to live, work and play. We're here to ensure that every business, no matter the size or industry, has the support it needs to thrive.

Whether you're a new entrepreneur, a long-established business, or simply curious about how to get involved, the Chamber is here to support you. As we continue to work with city leaders, local organizations and businesses, we invite you to join us in helping to shape the future of Cranston and Warwick – one connection at a time.

More than 130 authors, members of the Association of Rhode Island Authors, participated in the daylong Rhode Island Author Expo held Dec. 7 at the Crowne Plaza. Apart from table displays where people got to meet and talk with authors as well as buy their books, there were roundtable discussions ranging from capturing the teen audience to writing a series and self-publishing. In addition, freelance journalist Philip Ell talked about his book "Prescription for Pain: How a Once Promising Doctor Became the 'Pill Mill Killer'"; author Christa Carmen ("The Daughters of Block Island") talked about "Haunted Rhode Island: Writing Settings as Character in the Smallest, Spookiest State," and author Vanessa Lillie shared her pathway to publishing. (Beacon Media photos)

A member of ARIA, Joanne Pevella worked the show but did not have a table. Her first and only book so far is "Vanishing

Act" a story based on her late mother and her personal experiences visiting nursing homes.

A relative newcomer to Rhode Island from Cambridge, Massachusetts, Jeanne K. Cosmos recently bought a house in Warwick. An author, faculty member, lecturer and consultant, Cosmos especially enjoys the research that goes into her works. She said to get the feel of the settings for her stories she visits locations taking in details that make the story authentic. Her dream: A book where Paris is the setting. She's ready to make the trip.

Stanley Carpenter, retire US Navy captain and command historian at the US Naval War College in Newport is the author of scores of books, many of them based on historic characters and events as well as novels using fictional characters set to historic events.

THE REGIONAL CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER



AND COVENTRY HIGH SCHOOL
40 RESERVOIR ROAD COVENTRY, RI 02816 401-822-9499

JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY NIGHT

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 - 6:00-8:00 PM



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<https://rctc.coventryschools.net/>

For more information contact: fergusonlori@coventryschools.net



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AGING DISGRACEFULLY

STARRING DOREEN COLLINS & CHARLIE HALL

- Sat. Jan. 18- Islander, Warwick (all-u-can-eat buffet)
- Sun. Jan. 19- George's of Galilee (matinee)
- Sun. Feb. 2- Spumoni's, Pawtucket (matinee)
- Sat. Feb. 8- Assados, Smithfield (matinee)
- Sun. Feb. 9- Crossroads Pub, Warren (matinee)
- Sat. Feb. 15- River Falls, Woonsocket
- Sun. Feb. 23- Newport Playhouse (matinee)



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I've heard it more than once in the last week: "Well, the days are getting longer."

That's reassuring even though the temperature has been wildly swinging between single digits and an almost balmy 45 degrees and the sun drops below the horizon soon after 4 p.m. There's no other way to look at it: it's winter regardless of reports of global warming.

I'm not complaining as long as the furnace keeps running [I don't dare think of what the gas bill might be], the steam-filled pipes keep clanking and the radiators pump out the heat.

I was intently going through my post-Christmas emails Friday morning when Carol suggested I might want to look out at the Bay. My first thought was I would see a layer of ice, after all the temperatures had dropped into the teens overnight. But no. A flock of Brant geese patrolled the shoreline, diving occasionally to feed on seaweed, and beyond them the clear sky was reflected in tranquil waters.

There was more out there. Diehard quahoggers with their boats anchored were waiting for 8 a.m., when DEM regulations would allow limited harvesting of quahogs in the Providence River. They would have three hours to harvest the rich beds that first opened three years ago after being closed for more than 70 years.

Two developments prompted the opening: Foremost were efforts to clean up bay waters with the excavation of sub-terrain reservoirs enabling the Narragansett Bay Commission to capture and treat stormwater that would otherwise push raw sewage into the river. Then there was the decline of shellfish at regular fishing grounds.

Other than the temperature, this seemed like a beautiful day to be outside, and raking in the littlenecks to help quahoggers pay for home heating bills would be a Christmas bonus.

So, there was a bright side to the frigid conditions if you want to look at it that way.

I was reminded of my father decades ago when he de-

Finding the bright side

This Side Up



by JOHN HOWELL

was crisp. It was deceiving. I reached for the car door handle with my ungloved hand. It instantly froze to the handle. Once free I opened the trunk to bring in the wine. The cardboard box was ruffled where frozen wine had pushed corks free. The wine was mush.

Deflated, I carried the case in.

My father looked puzzled until I explained this was my Christmas gift. He brightened.

"You know," he said. "Let's drink it as soon as it thaws."

On the bay, looking at the quahoggers, I figured there had to be a bright side to being out there.

I called Jody King, whose boat I'd spotted in front of the house. He hoped for some wind. He had two sails up that would have given him some added torque. The sails flopped in the dead calm. It was the last day the quahog-rich Providence River would be open until well into the New Year. Jody harvested half of what he had expected to catch. He wasn't down. That's the way things work out.

I told him the wine story.

Was the glass half full or half empty?

He said it was what it was.

And I reminded him it was cold, but not cold enough to freeze wine. There was a bright side.

ceded it would be fun to celebrate Christmas in upstate New York. The family was excited. We'd got to cut down a tree in the woods [it was scraggly but

had long green needles] and gather around the fireplace. The weather was nasty, but the windblown snow gave it a feeling of adventure and the snuggly feeling inside once we arrived.

My parents loved wine with dinner, so choosing a gift was not difficult. I brought along a case of evenly divided red and white wines. So as not to spoil the surprise and with temperatures hovering near 25, I left the case in the trunk of the car. Overnight the temp dropped to minus 25. The radiators banged all night as did the nearby lake as it froze.

The morning was clear and still. The snow was crisp. It was deceiving. I reached for the car door handle with my ungloved hand. It instantly froze to the handle. Once free I opened the trunk to bring in the wine. The cardboard box was ruffled where frozen wine had pushed corks free. The wine was mush.

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The Plunge:

'All there for the same reason'



Kyle Fellela (center, in the striped outfit with red bow tie), Cranston resident and longtime Penguin Plunger, sprints toward the water at the start of last year's Penguin Plunge. The red bow tie signifies that he has earned the title "Penguin Plunge Excelsior" from Special Olympics Rhode Island. Excelsiors are longtime participants and top fundraisers in the plunge. (Photo submitted by Special Olympics RI)

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS

Cold, shocking, exciting – a rush. That's what it feels like to plunge into frigid water at the beach in the depth of winter. Every year, hardy residents statewide take a plunge into the ocean for a good cause on New Year's Day.

Cranston resident and longtime plunger Kyle Fellela has been doing the Penguin Plunge for over 12 years. He began in 2010 with his brother Hank Fellela and had no idea that the plunge was a fundraiser.

After learning about the purpose of the event, the brothers gathered a team called the Icebreakers and collected donations for Special Olympics, recognizing how beneficial and important their fundraising efforts were to the athletes.

Celebrating its 49th year, the Special Olympics Penguin Plunge helps raise money for kids while raising awareness about the program. Special Olympics Rhode Island provides over 1,500 sports, training and athletic-competition opportunities to more than 4,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

The Icebreakers have grown in number over the years. In their first year, Kyle Fellela said, the team had about five people and raised about \$1,000. Now, they have more than 50 plungers and raised about \$12,000 in 2023.

The 2025 plunge is at Scarborough Beach for the first time and the main plunge is at noon, followed by a family-friendly plunge 15 minutes later. Fellela said it's "pretty exciting" when you line up under the clock. He compared it to the tension as the Romans line up for battle in the movie "Gladiator."

With adrenaline pumping, Fellela said, you don't feel the cold while you're waiting. And when you plunge into the ocean, it is a little shocking at first.

"But you get used to it and it makes it all worth it when you do see the athletes and how empowering it is and the smiles on everyone's faces – everyone's there for the same common goal," Fellela said. "You're all there for the same reason. It's the same effort and it's a great cause to be a part of."

Ed Pacheco, president and CEO of Special Olympics Rhode Island, said that with Kyle comes the whole Fellela clan.

"They have made this a part of their annual tradition, but also a way to come together as a community and not only celebrate each other but celebrate how they as a collective can give back in a meaningful way and have fun at the same time," Pacheco said.

He said Kyle Fellela has been amazing in leading the volunteer and fundraising efforts in his team and has volunteered

countless hours. Pacheco said he "represents the best in people that are a part of this event."

Pacheco highlighted the fundraising efforts of the Penguin Plunge but also underscored a crucial aspect to the event, the education awareness that comes with participation.

"I thank people like Kyle and Hank and his family for really stepping up and being leaders to move that conversation forward," Pacheco said. "Because again, the dollars raised are critical, but the message is what is going to change lives."

Every year the participation in the plunge grows. In 2022, Pacheco said, they had more than 700 people. In 2023, the crowd grew to more than 1,000 people. He expects even more this year.

"When you have people that you haven't even met before, just walk up to you and say, 'I'm going to be there on New Year's Day,' that to me demonstrates that sense of community," Pacheco said. "They want to be a part of something, and they want to take that effort to the next level. It's making a difference in everybody's lives. And you kick off the year with making a splash while making an impact."

Pacheco encouraged anyone who is interested in the plunge to come out and see for themselves the excitement and sense of community found at such an event. He said once you get there, you'll want to be part of the festivities.

"All these families, they don't have to pay for anything. This fundraising is so huge for the Special Olympics," Fellela said. "The Penguin Plunge itself, too – I think it's the biggest fundraiser every year. It's so important and the athletes are so grateful for what people do for them and they're so thankful. So it makes you want to do it, and you see them empowered, and it's so great to see."

When asked what makes him participate every year, Fellela said it is a way of saying thank you to the people who donate to the Icebreakers and a way to give back to the athletes.

"It is a great sense of pride, and I see myself doing it forever," Fellela said. "I don't see myself ever not doing it."

"When people choose to plunge, they're not only choosing to plunge to kick off the new year, [but they're also] plunging to help build awareness about that impact," Pacheco said. "The more people we can get to be a part of that the better, because our world deserves, every single one of our athletes deserves, that future."

Anyone interested in donating or learning more about Special Olympics Rhode Island can visit the website at specialolympicsri.org.

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Cranston inaugural to focus on renewal

By ROSE GALIE CINEUS

Cranston's inauguration ceremony is set for Monday, Jan. 6, at Cranston High School West.

The event will mark the ceremonial swearing in of City Council and School Committee members for the new term. Under the city Charter, Council President Jessica Marino noted, the council must first be officially sworn in by the city clerk.

"Just before the 7 p.m. ceremony in the public, the clerk will swear in the council members with their family members present," Marino said. "That's going to take place in the library at Cranston West beforehand."

"I can say the one thing I am proud of is the bipartisan efforts and the civility" of the current council.

**Council President
Jessica Marino**

Cranston resident and retired First Circuit Court Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson will swear in the council members and the municipal and probate judges.

After its members are sworn in, the council will convene for its first meeting of the new term and make nominations to various positions, such as council president, vice president, committee chairs, majority and minority party leaders and council attorney.

"I am excited, genuinely, about inauguration," Marino said. "It is the first one for some of us, since the whole COVID times are behind us. And it will be nice to go through the traditions of inauguration in person with family, with friends, with the public, and in a way that's involving both branches of our local government, being the executive and the legislative branch."

The new City Council will look different in the new term, as five of nine seats are turning over.

Making history in the new term as one of four women serving on the council and half of the first female pairing as council president and vice president, Marino said, she will be seeking the council presidency again.

"I can say the one thing I am proud of is the bipartisan efforts and the civility" of the current council, Marino said. "It's something that's simple, but it's often-

times lost nowadays. And I do like to think that for the most part, the council has conducted themselves with a great deal of civility and respect for one another, even when we have differing perspectives."

Mayor Kenneth Hopkins, returning for a second term, will be sworn in by Gov. Dan McKee. Hopkins, in turn, will swear in the School Committee members.

Gina Capuano, who serves as the mayor's constituent affairs director, has been organizing the ceremonial affairs ahead of Jan. 6, according to the mayor's chief of staff, Anthony Moretti.

For the ceremony, there will be honor guards consisting of the Cranston Police Department, Fire Department and Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps. The national anthem will be sung by a senior from Cranston High School East, and Cranston West's chamber orchestra will be providing the music for the night. Father Sisco from St. Mary's Church will offer the opening and closing prayers.

Hopkins will speak at the ceremony. Moretti said the mayor's remarks will embody a theme of looking to the future, for the city and its youth.

Key points will include children, education and new school projects underway.

"We just hope it's a beginning of a time to renew," Moretti said. "Frankly, the recent past has been a bit of a contentious time, both at the national level and it worked its way down to more of the local level; we hope that's of the past. And looking to move forward truly in the best interest of the people instead of trying to create political roadblocks."

City Council members to be sworn in include citywide members Christopher E. Buonnano (R), Richard Campopiano (R) and Jessica Marino (D), Ward 1 Councilwoman Bridget R. Graziano (D), Ward 2 Councilwoman Kristen E. Haroian (D), Ward 3 Councilman Andy M. Andujar (D), Ward 4 Councilman Frank Ritz (R), Ward 5 Councilman Michael A. Traficante (R), and Ward 6 Councilman Daniel Wall (D).

Buonnano, Graziano, Andujar and Ritz are new to the council. Traficante has previously served on the council and also as mayor and will be making a return to City Council.

Non-partisan School Committee members to be sworn in include citywide member Anthony Melillo, Ward 1 member Keith Catone, Ward 2 member Anna Medeiros, Ward 3 member Domenic Fusco Jr., Ward 4 member Melanie Marchetti, Ward 5 member Andrea Soave Nadeau and Ward 6 member Kathryn Mary Crowley.

Marchetti, Nadeau and Crowley are new to the committee.

Public invited to inauguration of Warwick officials Tuesday

By ADAM ZANGARI

Mayor Frank Picozzi will officially be sworn in for Warwick's first four-year mayoral term at the Crowne Plaza on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

In addition, the Warwick City Council will swear in its new president, as well as its four new and five returning members, and the Warwick School Committee will swear in both of its new and its three returning members.

The ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. and is open to the public.

According to Chief of Staff Bill Facente, the ceremony will closely resemble previ-

ous inaugurations, although it will not have as many food vendors.

Anthony Sinapi will officially be named City Council president, the council's other members having chosen him for the position. New council members being sworn in are Bryan Nappa (D-Ward 3), Salvatore DeLuise (D-Ward 4), William Muto (D-Ward 6) and John Kirby (D-Ward 7).

On the School Committee, both citywide members will be sworn in, with Sean Wiggins, who received the most votes in November's election, taking a seat for the first time and David Testa, a member of the committee since 2016, being sworn in for his third term.

Picozzi: Time to pull plug on light show

By JOHN HOWELL

Ever since Mayor Frank Picozzi posted on Facebook this could be the final year for his digital Christmas display, which he confirmed in television interviews, traffic has increased in front of his Gristmill Street home. That isn't surprising, but why is he ending a good thing?

Was it the rabbits that nibble through the ground wiring? Was it storms that threatened structures rising above his roof to support lights for fireworks and snowflakes? Was it a labor that frequently started in August and often didn't conclude until Thanksgiving night, when he customarily opened the show of dancing lights synchronized to Christmas music to friends and neighbors? Was it the demands of his office as mayor?

"It's hard for me to do," he said last Thursday, revealing that on Christmas night he was out in his yard "fixing stuff." It's that much a part of him. The show has been running for 17 years.

Picozzi's following – more than 20,000 on Facebook – enabled him to beat incumbent Democrat Joseph Solomon in 2020. Picozzi ran as an independent, spending a fraction of what Solomon spent. In fact, at the height of the pandemic when gatherings were discouraged, Picozzi customized a scaled down version of the show for his pickup and drove every Warwick street to bring cheer to residents. Some spectators waved signs "Picozzi for mayor." The suggestion took root.

The mayor said he thought long before making the decision to pull the plug on the show. He may do some conventional decoration next year, as he loves Christmas time. He will continue being a part of the Good Night Lights program outside Hasbro Children's Hospital, which is aimed at letting young patients and their families know the community is thinking of them

when it comes time to go to bed.

He said he would continue the "Yuling" program that he started with funds going to the Tomorrow Fund. Managed by his wife, Kim, 11 teams of volunteers set up plywood tree and ornament cutouts on people's yards with directions that explain the display will be relocated for a \$10 donation to the Tomorrow Fund. People give much more.

Picozzi is thinking of holding a golf or baseball tournament as a means of making up lost Christmas light-display donations to the Tomorrow Fund.

The end for many annual enthusiasts of the show comes as a shock. Picozzi has heard from them. But he also believes some neighbors who have endured night after night of Christmas music, dancing lights, neighborhood traffic and spectators parked in front of their homes will welcome more of a conventional and ordinary Picozzi Christmas display in 2025. He thanked them for their understanding.

Winter speaker series kicks off at EYC

Join members of the Edgewood Yacht Club for their next winter speaker series program on Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. The first program of 2025 will welcome Joy Fox, publisher of Beacon Media, home of the Cranston Herald, Johnston Sun Rise and Warwick Beacon as well as The Reminder, a weekly shopping guide in Coventry and West Warwick. Fox, who took the reins of the Beacon in June 2024, will share a little about her work with the papers as well as the broader Rhode Island media landscape. The event is free, but RSVP is required. Please call or email George Shuster: gwsjr75@gmail.com or 401-391-0030.

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St. Peter's helps autistic students celebrate Christmas



Student Lincoln Metz smiles as Michaela Tullie helps him make his Christmas ornament.

By ADAM ZANGARI

Students from the Autism and the Sacraments program at St. Peter's Church in Warwick closed out 2024 strong with a special lesson on Christmas.

The program started in 2008, and according to Fr. Roger Gagné, is the only program of its kind in Rhode Island.

"We weren't able to teach them their religion in the traditional way," Gagné said. "So we said, well, we're going to reach them somehow, because they have to be included."

Following that, Gagné said, St. Peter's found a program in Boston started by the mother of an autistic child who helped teach St. Peter's staff about how she taught her son.

"When they started first grade at the CCD at our church, we were very quickly told that it wasn't a good fit and they couldn't really provide what we needed for it. And honestly, as a parent, it's hard not to be a little sensitive to that," Washington said. "I brought it up with a teacher at school, and she said that there was St. Peter's program ... when we went to the introductory meetings and seminar to get started here, I was blown away."

The program is designed in ways to help people with autism learn more easily, such as using images to describe each word in prayers given to each student. Lessons are held every other Saturday.

What meant the most to Tullie was seeing Thomas receive his First Communion in a special ceremony alongside his neurotypical twin brother, Matthew.

"The fact that they includ-



Volunteer Lindsay Haun helps Thomas Tullie put together a Nativity scene during their individualized instruction.

ed both of my siblings together to make their First Communion together because they're twins meant the absolute world to me," Tullie said. "The fact that they have a program like this for kiddos who, you know, have different abilities, as a parent, is pretty amazing, because a lot of times, they're left out."

After a few years, Tullie started volunteering with the program, noting that she wanted to give a bit back. "It's a lot of patience, because every kid won't sit down next to you when you're meeting them, so

you've got to meet them where they're at," Tullie said. "But you know when they take your hand, you know when they sit and they look at you - that connection is huge ... The non-verbal communication means a lot more to this population, because not every child is speaking and they can give you certain cues that they trust you and they like you."

With Christmas just a few days away, Saturday's lessons revolved around the birth of Jesus. After individualized lessons in the upper floor of the church's offices, the program's students created and decorated ornaments together and put them on a Christmas tree as a class.

For those present, the opportunity to help their kids learn about and celebrate Christmas had extra meaning.

"I'm just really thankful it's offered," Tullie said. "They're often overlooked, and it just means so much."

New RI laws, from medical debt to housing

Here are notable laws taking effect Jan. 1, 2025, according to the General Assembly:

Senior Savings Protection Act (S 2278A, H 7940A): Introduced by Sen. Matthew LaMountain (Dist. 31, Warwick, Cranston) and others, this law makes it illegal for anyone selling goods or services to charge a fee to people age 65 years or older for a hard-copy paper bill, statement or invoice.

Medical debt reporting (S 2709A, H 7103A): Prohibits health care providers, EMT services and debt collectors from reporting medical debt to credit bureaus, ensuring that Rhode Islanders will not have their credit scores affected by any amount of medical debt.

Youth camps licensing (S 2174A, H 7154A): Establishes safety procedures and requirements for the licensing of youth camps, including clean drinking water, well-maintained housing units, criminal background checks of adult staff members, and camp inspection by the Department of Human Services.

Protecting patients' pharmacy options (S 2086aa, H 7365A): Prohibits "white bagging," in which insurers require patients to get their prescriptions from insurer-affiliated pharmacies that are often mail-order only, and ensures that patients can choose their pharmacies, and that in-network providers (such as hospitals) get paid for providing services, regardless of the pharmacy from which they obtained the medications.

Insurance coverage for HIV prevention (S 2255H 7625A): Prohibits out-of-pocket copay and deductible costs for the HIV prevention medications PrEP and PEP, while also prohibiting health insurers from requiring patients to get prior authorization before a PrEP or PEP prescription can be given.

Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (S 2921, H 7304): Prohibits landlords from charging convenience fees in a tenant's rent.

Law Enforcement Officers' Due Process, Accountability, and Transparency

Act (S 2096A, H 7263A): Amends the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights to establish a five-member committee to hear complaints against law-enforcement officers, requires the status of all pending hearings to be posted online, and clarifies that all body-camera footage can be made public. Among the bill's sponsors were Reps. Camille Vella-Wilkinson (Dist. 21, Warwick) and Ramon Perez (Dist. 13, Johnston, Providence).

Surveillance in nursing homes (S 2263A, H 7969A): Allows nursing home residents to have cameras installed in their rooms, providing a means of contact, oversight and protection, only with the consent of all roommates and at their own expense.

Consumer PFAS Ban Act of 2024 (S 2152A, H 7356Aaa): Prevents PFAS, a group of "forever chemicals" that can have detrimental health effects, especially for pregnant women and children, from being used in consumer packaging by Jan. 1, 2029. The law also bans the manufacturing, distribution, sale or use of PFAS in firefighting foam throughout the state.

Epinephrine injectors (S 0575A, H 5176A): Requires health insurance plans to cover the full cost of epinephrine auto-injectors, known as EpiPens, and cartridges, with no copayment or deductible.

Minimum wage (RI Gen. Law 28-12-3): The minimum wage will be increased to \$15 per hour, up from \$14 in 2024.

Housing Bills (7948A, 7950A, 7983B, 7979): Various housing bills that, among other things, allow homeowners to develop a single accessory dwelling unit (ADU) to accommodate a family member with disabilities, permits municipalities to count mobile-home units as affordable housing if they meet certain requirements, and enable municipalities to establish "combined review boards" to replace separate planning and zoning boards.

OPINION

EDITORIAL

What's our 2025 resolution? To get fatter

Another year has come and gone in our beautiful state, and in just a few short days we will march into 2025 as we always do — full of excitement to be a small part of your lives as we strive to provide you with informative and entertaining stories that help you make sense of the world around you.

Of course, it is also prudent at this time to reflect back upon the past 12 months, as we depart a year in history that certainly did not lack in newsworthy events, both locally and nationally.

In some ways, we enter 2025 much as we entered 2024 — concerned about bridges. Both the physical ones and the more abstract kind.

The infrastructural crisis separating our east and west bays continues to disrupt hundreds of thousands of daily commuters without a true end in sight. Although there has been progress made towards finding a firm to build a new Washington Bridge, and progress in finding federal funds to build it, there is still much more work to do.

Considering this now marks the second consecutive year where the usually jolly month of December instead brought Rhode Islanders another bridge-related debacle. This year's holiday surprise was a cyber attack on RIBridges, which left a majority of the state vulnerable to identity theft. We fear that rebuilding trust in government might be just as monu-

mental a task as rebuilding a physical bridge. We hope our local and state leaders are up to the challenge and learn valuable lessons from both crises.

Our most important resolution will be to continue to watch and report on the biggest issues facing Rhode Islanders. From the unaffordability of housing, to record levels of food insecurity experienced by residents, and the worsening effects of climate change causing unprecedented flooding and ecological distress, there is no doubt that 2025 will carry over a vast number of complex problems that require dedicated attention and targeted efforts to tackle.

While many people look ahead to a new year as a chance to get back to the gym and lose the pounds they racked up over the holidays, here at Beacon Media we vow instead for the opposite.

We resolve to get fatter in 2025.

A fatter newspaper means more stories covering the issues coming out of your city and town councils, school committees, and municipal bodies of all kinds in between that make the decisions that most impact you. Fatter stories mean bringing you more context, more research, more perspectives, all with the underlying mission to cut through the noise of our modern media landscape and help you understand what is happening, and why it is happening, without bias.

The new year will bring about plenty of unknowns. Many of

these will be out of our hands, such as the transition of power in Washington, and increasing strife throughout the nations of the world. However, we resolve to track and report on issues, regardless of where they originate, if it becomes clear that they will have a local impact.

But for us to fulfill this resolution to a satisfactory degree, we also rely on all of you to bring something to the table. Bring your questions, your critiques, your news tips, your grievances, and your success stories. Bring your belief that local journalism still matters and bring your trust in us to deliver it on time, every week.

From all of us here, we wish you a happy and healthy end to 2024, and a joyous start to 2025.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Out with the old, and in with the ~~new~~ ^{OLD}



LETTERS

Deployed during the holidays

To the Editor:

This holiday season, many individuals find themselves separated from family and loved ones due to various circumstances, including work commitments, travel limitations and financial constraints. This separation is particularly poignant for those serving in the military, deployed far from home, bravely protecting their country and the people they cherish.

My own experiences with holiday deployments instilled in me a profound understanding of the unique bonds forged during such times. The shared experiences and camaraderie among fellow service members create a powerful sense of family, resulting in memories

that are often deeply cherished. These challenging circumstances reveal the true character of individuals, highlighting the strength and resilience of the human spirit. In the face of adversity, genuine friendships are tested and strengthened, fostering a profound sense of mutual support and understanding.

It is with immense gratitude and respect that I extend heartfelt holiday greetings to all the brave men and women in uniform sacrificing their time with loved ones to ensure the safety and security of our nation. Your dedication and patriotism are deeply appreciated.

John Cervone
Retired US Army

By Frank Picozzi
Mayor of the City of Warwick

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the residents of Warwick a very Happy New Year. As we are about to embark on a new year, I am about to start a new term as Mayor and for the very first time in the city's history it will be a four-year term. As I look back on my administration's past four years, I am proud of what we have accomplished. When I took office in 2021, Warwick was not in a very good place. We have worked very hard to turn the city around and have been very successful in doing so.

My goal for the coming year is to stay the course. I have created an economic development department and we have been able to lure well over two hundred new businesses here to Warwick. There are also over a thousand residential units being built in the city over the next year. All of this not only increases our tax base, but it brings in more consumers to support our businesses and enhance our economy.

I attribute this success to taking politics out of our government. Gone are the days of insiders being hired to crucial positions and being appointed to important boards. Now, only the most qualified people are put into these

Staying the course

positions. Developers know that there are no tax deals, no "favors", and no games, everyone is treated fairly and equally, whether it's a multi-million-dollar project or a pizza parlor.

I want to continue providing the residents with quality city services while at the same time looking for ways to enhance them. We're also searching for ways to use technology to make providing the services more economical. We are currently installing GPS units into our sanitation fleet and will use software to make the routes more efficient.

We were very fortunate to have received more than \$39 million in American Rescue funds three years ago. We also received well over \$25 million in other federal grants. We put all of that money into our infrastructure to not only correct the neglect of the past, but to build for the future. Now it is a matter of maintaining everything that we've done.

In the coming year we'll continue with the process to

rebuild Micky Stevens Sports Complex. The project is currently out to design. We have also started a program to begin restoring our playgrounds, there are monies available that came from impact fees paid by developers.

We look forward this year to the opening of the Oakland Beach splash pad, and then in the fall, to the Greenwood Credit Union City Hall Plaza. The Plaza will be a year-round event center featuring everything from ice skating in the winter, to roller skating in the summer, plus outdoor dining, dancing, school concerts, bumper boats, etc. In addition to providing many recreational opportunities to our residents, it is also a catalyst project that will spur long desired economic growth in Apponaug Village.

As I stated, I intend to stay the course. I was re-elected by a resounding mandate, which means that the vast majority of the voters are pleased with what my administration is doing. I will work for the things that enhance the quality of life in our city, and fight against anything that will diminish it.

My goal was, is, and will always be, to make Warwick a place where people enjoy living. A place where they grow up, stay to raise their children, and then spend their retirement.

Setting goals for the year ahead

By Ken Hopkins
Mayor of the City of Cranston

As we look forward to the new year, I'm grateful for the opportunity to share with readers just a few of my goals for 2025 in the City of Cranston. With support from our residents and my fellow elected officials, Cranston will maintain our status as an award-winning community for families and business owners alike.

Public Safety

As always, our city will continue to deliver high quality and affordable services to our residents. I will maintain support for our top-notch public safety departments, while focusing on improving rodent control services and finding practical measures to mitigate the impact of sound from our municipal gun range.

Infrastructure and Recreation

There are significant recreation-based projects planned for 2025. Most notably, we eagerly await the start of construction - and swift completion - of the Budlong Pool. The new pool will provide a safe and enjoyable environment that will serve residents for generations.

Additional recreational projects include continued reno-

vations of playgrounds across the city, as well as the installation of turf on the Brayton Park softball field uplifting our young athletes.

Education

I am just as excitedly looking ahead to the finished construction of Gladstone and Eden Park elementary schools. These new facilities will provide state-of-the-art learning environments that inspire both students and teachers. The completion of these schools represents a significant investment in our children's future, ensuring that they have the resources and support they need to succeed in and out of the classroom.

Infrastructure

The city's sidewalk repair program will continue this spring in partnership with The Apprenticeship Exploration School and the Cranston Area Career and Technical Center. As well, last spring the city began inspections of Cranston-owned bridges and culverts. With a comprehensive review of the structural conditions completed in 2024, officials will continue to act on the developed list of suggested repairs and rehabilitation needs.

Additionally, the city will address overdue, long-term storm water infrastructure projects to mitigate the impacts

of heavy rain on our residential neighborhoods.

Phase 3 of Knightsville revitalization will continue with allocated funds and congressional grants, extending streetscape improvements from Randal Street past St. Mary's Church. This work is just one example of my continued commitment to local businesses as reflected in the work already completed in Rolfe Square and Pawtuxet Village.

Fiscal Health

As always, I have faith in our dedicated government employees, city council members and fellow elected officials that we will navigate another challenging budget year while preserving the fiscal strength that my administration has cultivated.

With this continued focus on the well-being of our residents and championing of developments across our city, Cranston will continue as a community where every resident can thrive in 2025.

Note to readers

As we head into the new year, Beacon Media takes the opportunity this week to preview the issues and themes of 2025. Last week's issue included staff retrospectives on the year in Cranston and Warwick. In this week's issue we publish a look ahead that includes the viewpoints of community leaders in both cities and the perspective of the Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives.

At a time when public regard for news media has dimmed in many places, we consider ourselves fortunate to serve an engaged, involved audience with a strong sense of community and a healthy appetite for local news. We're grateful for your steadfast support and wish you a peaceful and prosperous 2025.

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones





Once one, now two

What is now the Town of West Warwick was once part of Warwick. West Warwick's secession from Warwick officially took place on Nov. 4, 1913. Lawyer, business man and probate judge Patrick Henry Quinn played a major role in the secession. He became West Warwick's first Town Council president. In a ceremony on Dec. 17, a plaque describing Quinn's involvement, to be affixed to Town Hall, was unveiled in a ceremony conducted by former West Warwick Mayor Michael Levesque. RI Historian Laureate and President of the Heritage Harbor Foundation Patrick Conley, who donated the plaque (left), is pictured with Judge Bruce Morin (retired), representing the Quinn family spoke. Both spoke about the life and accomplishments of "PH" Quinn. PH was also a mentor to his nephew, Gov. Robert Quinn, who also came from West Warwick. (Photo courtesy of Mike Leveque)

3 ways to help

Save The Bay in 2025

By Tophers Hamblett and George W. Shuster Jr.

Through the committed actions of Rhode Islanders, Narragansett Bay is cleaner and healthier today than it was in 1975. But as we turn the corner to 2025, Narragansett Bay faces persistent challenges that threaten a swimmable, fishable Bay accessible to all. Save The Bay urges Rhode Islanders to support three initiatives in the coming year to face these challenges and to invest further in Rhode Island's most important natural resource.

First, Save The Bay urges support of federal, state, and local efforts to respond to climate change. Climate change is the single greatest threat to Narragansett Bay because it will affect virtually every aspect of the Bay as we know and enjoy it. Coastal communities are struggling with erosion. Salt marsh habitats are at risk of being submerged before they can adapt. Public access points are being compromised. Inland waterways are flooding neighborhoods and bringing new sources of pollution downstream. Infrastructure built for the environment of the past – roads, bridges, wastewater treatment facilities, recreational facilities – will not survive in their current form.

Projects are underway and in planning stages to relocate infrastructure from shorelines, restore floodplains and improve stormwater management. However, they urgently need funding. While recent "green bonds" have provided some financial support, the need for stable funding far outstrips available resources.

Second, Save The Bay believes that 2025 will be the year when the long-anticipated Coastal Resources Management Council reform will become law. CRMC is on the front lines of dealing with climate impacts alongside other challenges like shoreline access and offshore wind. Their small but mighty staff of scientists and engineers do great work, but decisions are still made by a politically appointed council whose

members are not required to have expertise in coastal law or science. Too often, these political appointees make decisions going against the recommendations of CRMC staff. Please join Save The Bay as it continues to advocate for making CRMC a more transparent and accountable agency by eliminating the politically appointed council.

Third, Save The Bay needs your help on the front lines of addressing the surge of plastic waste in our watershed. A recent study from URI found that roughly a thousand tons of microplastics are now at the bottom of Narragansett Bay. Beverage containers – including plastic bottles – are among the most collected items during shoreline cleanups, contributing to that microplastic problem, and littering both inland and coastal neighborhoods. This is why Save The Bay and others have been strongly advocating for a recycling refund system for beverage containers – also known as a "bottle bill" – as the most effective policy we can adopt to address the problem. Decades of data from states and countries with bottle deposit systems clearly show that these systems reduce litter and improve recycling. A majority of state legislators support a bottle bill for Rhode Island; it's time to get it done.

As Save The Bay works on these and other issues in 2025, our success will ultimately depend on the voices of members and supporters who share our love of – and concern for – the Bay and watershed. Our past victories and improvements in the Bay happened because people demanded them. And as we work to address new and emerging threats in the coming years and decades, that "strength in numbers" has never been more critical.

Tophers Hamblett is executive director of Save The Bay. George W. Shuster Jr. is president of the Save The Bay board of directors.

Pilgrim, Toll Gate students attend financial fairs

More 190 students from Pilgrim High School and Toll Gate High School participated in financial education fairs sponsored by Wave Federal Credit Union during December.

The CU 4 Reality Financial Education Fair is the culminating event that places students through a realistic budgeting experience during which they make a series of spending decisions like the types made by a young adult. The Fair provides students with the opportunity to put into practice what they learn in the classroom and interact with local businesses as consumers based on their chosen career and corresponding monthly income. The students met with representatives from Wave Federal Credit Union and various businesses and industries to include Community College of Rhode Island, DeGiulio Insurance Group, LLC, Generations Financial Strategies LLC, Premier Home Realty, LLC,

Stop and Shop, Tasca Chrysler Jeep Dodge RAM Fiat, and others to gain a better appreciation of the importance of budgeting, financial planning and making wise purchasing decisions.

The events were attended by elected officials and community leaders that included Mayor Frank Picozzi, Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos, Secretary of State Gregg Amore, Ranika Reyes, General Treasurer's Office, state Sen. Mark McKenney, District 30, Warwick School Committee members Leah Hazelwood, Chair and David Testa, and Superintendent of Schools Lynn Dambruch and Assistant Superintendent of Schools William McCaffrey.

The credit union has been sponsoring financial education fairs in the City of Warwick for 15 years, and the spring fairs will take place starting in April.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Anchor Baptist Church
New Meeting Place
868 Reservoir Avenue
Pastor Alex Martinez
632-9672
www.sermonaudio.com/anchorbaptist

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Parish
175 Oaklawn Avenue
401-941-4188
Sunday Liturgy 9:30am
www.annunciationri.org

Asbury United Methodist Church
143 Ann Mary Brown Drive
Rev. Yohan Go
467-5122
Worship Service 9:30am
Sunday School at 9:30am
Sept – June
asburyumc.org

Assemblies Of God The Solid Rock Church
1753 Phenix Avenue
Rev. Richard K. Leahey
827-0770
www.solidrockchurchag.com

Baha'i Faith
Warwick Community
Call for meeting information
800-228-6483

Buttonwoods Bible Chapel
311 Buttonwoods Avenew
401-823-7803
or 508-579-7384

Christ Church
1025 Main St., E.G.
(corner Post & Cedar)
884-8632
www.christchurchec.org

Christadelphian Ecclesia
2104 Cranston Street
441-7432
www.christadelphia.org

Church of The Apostles
Anglican Church in North America
170 Fairview Ave.
Coventry, RI 02816
821-7609
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
www.apostlesri.org

Church Of The Ascension (Episcopal)
390 Pontiac Avenue
Pastor Santiago Rodriguez
Sun 10 am (English)
Sun 12pm (Spanish)
461-5811
www.ascensioncranston.org

Church of The Transfiguration
1665 Broad Street
461-3142
Sunday 10 a.m.
Holy Eucharist

Community of Christ Church
292 West Shore Road
Rev. Nancy L. Cornish
Rev. Peter M. Latham
738-0342

Concordia Center for Spiritual Living
292 West Shore Rd.
732-1552
10 am. Sundays
concordiacsl.org

Eckankar Center
2914 Post Road, Unit #3
Path of Spiritual Freedom
Light & Sound Services
1st & 3rd Sundays 10 AM
Pastor Mark Lopotoski
738-4727
www.eckankar-ri.org

Edgewood Congregational Church
1788 Broad Street
461-1344
Sunday 10 am w/coffee hour
www.edgewoodchurchri.org

Faith Baptist Church
765 Commonwealth Ave.
Pastor Matt Vandeleeest
738-7664
faithbaptistri.org
Sunday 9:30am & 11:00am

Faith Chapel Lutheran Brethren
43 Scituate Ave.
Rev. Michael Natale
944-2771
www.faithchapelri.org
Sunday Worship 10am

Faith Family Chapel
205 Hallene Rd. (Unit 103)
Pastor Brian Regan
681-4690
www.faithfamilychapel.org

First Congregational Church of Warwick, UCC
715 Oakland Beach Avenue
Pastor Michael Ashe
738-3377
fccwri.org

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
124 Division St.
East Greenwich
Friendship Baptist Church
2945 West Shore Road
Pastor Kaleb Hall
738-4392
friendshipri.com

Gateway Pentacostal Fellowship
711 Park Ave. (rear)
Pastor Russell Farmer
467-3830
www.gatewayupc.org

Grace Bible Church
116 Rolfe Street
481-0030
www.gbcri.org
9 a.m. Sunday Worship
7 p.m. Wednesday Prayer

Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian
805 Main Avenue
Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Clark
737-1230
www.gccp.org

Holy Apostles Church
800 Pippin Orchard Road
Very Reverend William J. Ledoux
946-5586
www.holyapostles.com

Lakewood Baptist Church
255 Atlantic Avenue
Pastor Ron Provencal
781-1136
lakewoodbaptistchurchri.com
Sunday Worship 10am
Offering Zoom for Sunday Services.
Please see website for link.
www.facebook.com/LBCWarwick

Living Faith Christian Church
1201 Greenwich Avenue
739-2444
www.LivingFaithRI.org

Narragansett Bay Baptist Church
1642 West Shore Road
Pastor Dru Merrill
738-0600
nbbcri.org

New Beginings Christian Church
122 Laurens St.
Mario J. Nadich, Pastor
787-0725

Norwood Baptist Church
48 Budlong Avenue
Rev. George Barclay
941-7040

Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church
229 Wilbur Avenue
944-0864
www.olcbaptistchurch.com

Pawtuxet Baptist Church
2157 Broad Street
Rev. Irving Soby
461-3635
pawtuxetbaptist@verizon.net

Peoples Baptist Church
1275 Elmwood Avenue
Pastor Mark Lindsay
www.PeoplesBaptistChurch.org

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
565 Pontiac Avenue
467-3300
Handicapped accessible
www.phillipschurch.org
Rev. Dr. Amy Chilton, Pastor
Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island and the USA
Member of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptist (AWAB)
Facebook: @PhillipsChurch
Church Office Hours:
9:00 am – 1:00 pm (Mon. – Fri.)
Worship is at 10:00 am on Sunday

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
1817 Warwick Avenue
Pastor Todd Stange
739-2937
www.pilgrimlutheranri.org

Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church
3257 Post Road
Rev. Scott R. Lee
737-4141
8:00 & 10:00 Holy Eucharist
www.stbarnabaswarwick.org

St. David's On-The-Hill Episcopal Church
200 Meshanticut Valley
Father Edward Beaudreau
942-4368
www.stdavidsonthehill.net

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
111 West Shore Road
737-3127
Saturday - 5:00 pm
Sunday - 9:00 am
www.stmarkswarwick.com

St. Matthew Church
15 Frances Avenue
Rev. Ronald J. Bengford
461-7172

St. Patrick Catholic Church
2068 Cranston Street
Fr. Roger Durand, Pastor
SaintPatrickCatholicChurch.org
Sat. 5pm, Sun. 8:30 & 10:30

Saint Paul Church Of Edgewood
1 St. Paul Place
461-5734

Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
389 Greenwich Avenue
Rev. Hayley Bang
737-6758
stpaulwarwick.org

Saint Timothy Church
1799 Warwick Avenue
739-9552

Saints Rose & Clement Church
111 Long Street
739-0212
Masses: Saturday 4 pm
Sundays 8 am & 10:30 am

Shepherd Of The Valley United Methodist Church
604 Seven Mile Road
Rev. Katherine Mitchell
821-8217
www.sovumc.org

SouthPointe Christian Church
200 Pettaconsett Ave.
401-821-9800
Worship Services 9 & 10:30 a.m.
Kids Programming for Birth-4th grade both services
5th-8th grade Programming 9 a.m. Sundays
High School Programming Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
southpointeri.com

Spring Green Memorial Church
1350 Warwick Avenue
463-8328
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Rev. Shelton Rucker, Jr.
<https://sgmcrici.wordpress.com/>

Trinity Church
139 Ocean Ave., Pawtuxet
Cranston, RI 02905
8 am & 10 am
10 am is live-streamed on facebook @trinitypawtuxet
941-4324
<http://www.trinitycranston.org/>

Warwick Hope Assembly of God
425 Sandy Lane
Pastor Matthew McIntosh
732-0634
Sunday Service 9:30 am.
Bible Study Wed. 7 pm

Warwick Central Baptist Church
3270 Post Road
Pastor Sam Chesser
739-2828
wcbc01@verizon.net
Service Sundays at 10:15 AM

Warwick Christian Fellowship
358 Warwick Neck Avenue
Pastor Steve Reickett
739-26606

Westminster Unitarian Church
119 Kenyon Ave., E.G.
401-884-5933
Sunday Service 10 am
Streaming on: westminster-uu.org

Woodbury Union Church, Presbyterian
58 Beach Avenue
Rev. Deb Packard
737-8232
WoodburyChurchRI@gmail.com

Woodridge Congregational United Church Of Christ
546 Budlong Road
Rev. Aidan Kelley
942-0654
woodridgechurchri.org

Word & Prayer Fellowship
828 Oaklawn Ave.
Pastor Chick Salliby
www.wordandprayer.org

Word Of Life Covenant Church
1308 Phenix Avenue
944-1163
thewordoflife.net

To include your HOUSE OF WORSHIP in this listing, please contact Ida at 732-3100

Jean Louise Stebbins

Jean Louise (Fiddes) Stebbins, 83, who passed away on December 25, 2024, was for 46 years the beloved wife of the late Edward C. "Ted" Stebbins, Jr.



Born in Warwick, she was the daughter of the late William M. and Annie (Parr) Fiddes. Jean noted "I had wonderful parents that made us work for what we wanted". The sister of the late George and Gordon "Bruce" Fiddes, she is survived by several nieces and nephews and extended family.

Jean received both her undergraduate ('64) and master's degree ('81) at the University of Rhode Island where she was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Jean was a teacher at Attleboro (Mass.) High School for 29 years. After her retirement, she went back to Warwick Veterans Memorial High School from 2001-2008 for a job mentoring and job shadow program. About those years and that experience, she made a note that, "this was great!".

A woman with many interests, she and Ted were for years season ticket holders for URI Rams Men's Basketball and were supporters of the athletic program there as well. Education being a central element in their lives as teachers, Jean and Ted established an endowed scholarship fund at URI for the benefit of Rhode Island residents with the need of financial assistance.

She enjoyed working on Class Reunions with former classmates over several decades. Jean and Ted spent many happy summers with neighbors and friends in Cape Cod. She was an avid gardener and reader.

Very proud of her Scottish roots, Jean took several trips to Scotland in her later years to visit family she had discovered through genealogical research. After one of her visits, she had a bagpiping song named after her called "Jean Stebbins welcome to Bon Accord". A loyal and true friend, Jean always had time for her friends and family.

Her funeral service will be held at Carpenter-Jenks Funeral Home, 659 East Greenwich Avenue, West Warwick on Saturday, January 4, 2025, at 10:00 AM. Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 9:00 - 10:00 immediately prior to the service. Her burial will be in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, East Providence.

Kindly omit flowers. Memorial donations may be made to the Edward and Jean Stebbins Endowed Scholarship, c/o the URI Foundation & Alumni Engagement, 79 Upper College Road, Kingston, RI 02881 or to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute - in memory of Jean Stebbins for ovarian cancer research and ANL Blood Cancer, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284. Condolences may also be offered to her family and fond memories of Jean shared online at www.carpenterjenks.com.

Theodore Awde, Sr.

In loving memory of Steven Theodore Awde, Sr., born January 23, 1951, he passed away on December 23, 2024, surrounded by his family at home.



He is carried on by his wife, Carol Awde, two sons; Steven Awde, Jr. and Michael Awde and his grandson, Steven Awde III.

Steven was born in Providence, RI, attended Warwick Veterans Memorial High school and then married his high school sweetheart, Carol Awde. Working as a Machinist, he raised two respectable sons and later his grandson. He used to always say, "I'm so proud of my grandson, The Marine."

Never one for the fancy things in life, he always liked living the simple life. For him, that was fishing, going to the casino and drinking his favorite beer. If you asked anyone who met him, they would all say the same thing: "He was a very kind and lighthearted man."

He will forever be loved and missed by family and friends. P.S. "Grandpa, I love you and will always do my best to make you proud." - Steven T. Awde III (The Marine).

It was Steven's wishes all services and burial will be private.

Howard Bertram Bugbee Sr., WFD Retd.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved father, Howie "Bugs", on December 23, 2024, at Kent County Hospital in Warwick, Rhode Island, following a brief illness. Born on December 8, 1933 and a longtime resident of Warwick, RI, he is predeceased by his parents, Clark and Lillian, and his three siblings, George, Clark and Barbara.



A devoted family man, he was deeply loved by his daughters and their families: Jill Montaquila and her husband Jeffrey, Jane Bugbee and her wife Tracey Cassara, and his son Howard Bugbee, Jr. and his wife Keri. He was a proud and loving grandfather to Paige Alves (husband William), Kevin Bugbee-Cassara (Jenna), Alec Montaquila (Kassidy), and Ezra Bugbee-Cassara. His joy was further expanded by his great-grandson, Liam Alves, and he was excited to welcome the soon-to-be arrival of his second great-grandson. Along with his immediate family, he also cherished extended members, including Zachary, Lily, Lena, Chloe, and Nerea, who spent time living with his daughter, Jane, and were a beloved part of his life. He had an unshakeable love for his family, which was evident in everything he did.

As a retired Battalion Chief with the Warwick Fire Department, "Bugs" dedicated much of his life to serving his community, and he shared a special bond with his longtime friends and fellow firefighters, Art Legault, Ed Thurston, and Ed Armstrong. He was a US Navy veteran and carried with him a strong sense of duty and service. With a voice as big as his heart, he lived life with an infectious zest and enthusiasm. He brought joy to those around him with his sense of humor and deep, unconditional love for those he held dear. He also had a special place in his heart for his "Granddogs" - Charlie, Fabio, Bella, Tilly, Sophie, Clyde, Philo, and Roxy - who brought him comfort and companionship.

His zest for life and his loving presence will be sorely missed by all. He leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and loyalty that will be cherished forever. He will be missed beyond words by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

His family expresses deep gratitude to the caregivers at Kent County Hospital and VNA Care New England Hospice for their care and compassion. Visiting hours and funeral services are respectfully omitted. A celebration of Howie's life and his remarkable firefighting career will be held at a later date.

Funeral Arrangements are entrusted to THE URQUHART-MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, 800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick.

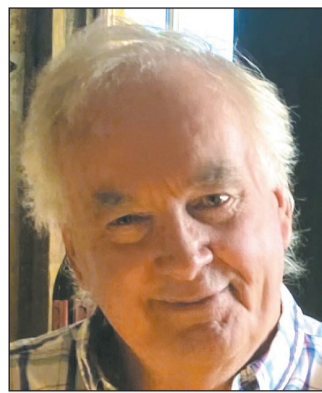
Donations may be made in his memory to the: VNA Care New England Foundation, Philanthropy Building 2, 171 Service Avenue, Suite 310, Warwick, RI 02886 or online at: <http://vnacarenewengland.org>.

Rest in peace, Dad. You will always be loved. www.murphyfuneralhomes.org

OBITUARIES

Robert B. Lawrence

Robert B. Lawrence of West Warwick died at home on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at the age of 74. Son of the late Albert and Lorraine (Hesketh) Lawrence, Bob spent much of his life in the Stadium neighborhood of Cranston, growing up on Jordan Avenue and living with his wife and son on Pomham Street for nearly thirty years.



Bob - known to some as Bobby - was a quiet but sometimes feisty man who enjoyed fishing, golf, and practical jokes. In his younger days he rode a motorcycle, smoked Marlboro Reds, and worked as a long-haul truck driver. He was extremely reserved with his emotions but he bowled a perfect game (more than one, actually) and sometimes told completely fabricated stories about his time as a heart surgeon in Bombay. He was often bored by adults, but children loved his enthusiasm for water balloons.

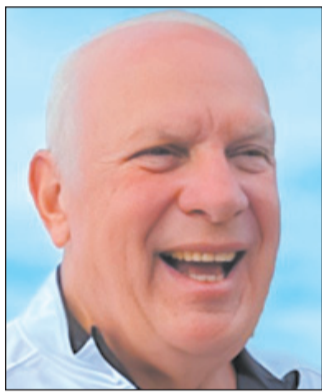
Bob met his future wife Valerie I. Angelone at Hugh B. Bain Junior High School, and they both graduated from Cranston High School East in the Class of 1970. Robert worked as a truck driver for most of his life, finishing his career at Synagro Technologies in Woonsocket. In his final years he was a tireless full-time caretaker for his wife.

In addition to Valerie, Bob is survived by his son Matthew R. Lawrence, Matthew's long-term partner Jason P. Tranchida, sisters Diane Wright and Lori Lawrence Messier, and thirteen beloved nieces and nephews.

Memorial services were limited to close family. Bob is buried at St. Ann Cemetery in Cranston. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in his honor to the Samaritans of Rhode Island. (<https://www.samaritansri.org/>).

Robert Brooks

Robert (Bob) Brooks, 77, of Warwick, RI passed away peacefully on December 27, 2024, at the Hope Health Huli- lar Hospice Center with his beloved spouse and soulmate, Dr. Margaret (Maggie) Brooks, by his side.



Bob was born on May 22, 1947, in Cambridge, Massachusetts to Vivian (Glassman) Brooks and Walter Brooks. He was the cherished older brother of the late Joanne (Brooks) Thomas. Bob attended Longfellow Elementary School and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School before earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Northeastern University.

While at Northeastern, Bob immersed himself in campus life, most notably founding the university's surf club, which organized weekend surfing trips for students from a half-dozen New England colleges to the beaches of Narragansett, Rhode Island. As a young professional in Boston, Bob also discovered a passion for competitive darts, even touring the country as a professional player and was recognized in the book *To The Point: The Story of Darts in America*.

His skills in these arenas were matched only by his superb expertise in civil engineering. Specializing in transportation, Bob left an indelible mark on the world of sports and entertainment through his work as a lead engineer and consultant. His projects included iconic venues such as the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium, Pittsburgh's Heinz Field and PNC Park, Cleveland Progressive Field and Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, and international ventures like the Dhahran Master Plan in Saudi Arabia and the 2021 World's Fair in the United Arab Emirates. Altogether, Bob conducted transportation management planning projects for 17 NFL stadiums, 11 MLB ballparks, 7 NBA and NHL arenas, 10 NCAA college stadiums, 4 convention centers, 2 auto race-tracks, 3 casinos, in addition to 7 specialty projects.

Bob's commitment to community improvement extended beyond his national and global projects. Locally, he served on the Hamilton Department of Public Works and as an elected Selectman. He spearheaded innovative initiatives such as the town's first curbside recycling program and he also advocated for affordable water resources for senior citizens. His passion for the environment and civic engagement reflected his desire to leave the world a better place for future generations.

Bob and his former spouse, Barbara Griffin, instilled a strong foundation of health, education, and ambition in their three children: Dr. Courtney Neill, D.C., Dr. Brad Brooks, D.O., and Eric Brooks, L.Ac. He took immense pride in their professional and personal achievements. His children fondly recall a father who was a storyteller with whimsical voices, a patient homework tutor, a Little League baseball coach, a smooth jazz breakfast chef, and a fervent fan of the Patriots, Red Sox, and Celtics.

In retirement, Bob and Maggie embraced new adventures. He learned to sail and purchased his beloved sailboat, Endless Summer. With his first mate Maggie, he spent summers navigating Narragansett Bay on leisurely outings with family; participating in sailing races sponsored by the Rhode Island Yacht Club, often placing among the top winners; and exploring the open seas. He also played pool in the RI Yacht Club Tuesday Night Pool League.

Bob is survived by his loving spouse Maggie, his children Courtney, Brad, and Eric, and his stepchildren Bobby Barber, Cynthia Boss, Benjamin Landman, and Melissa Landman. He also leaves behind ten grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and countless friends and colleagues who admired his intellect, kindness, and adventurous spirit.

Bob's life was one of passion, dedication, and love. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered for his many contributions to his family, his community, and the world.

A celebration of Bob's life was held on Wednesday January 1, 2025, from 1:30 - 4:30 pm at the Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Home, 2435 Warwick Ave, Warwick, RI 02889. The formal funeral service began at 1:45 pm and was led by Rabbi Ethan Adler. After the Rabbi spoke and led the prayer service, Bob's family and friends were invited to come up to the microphone as well to share their cherished stories and memories. Immediately after the formal service, Bob's family and friends had an opportunity to meet informally and remember his many contributions to their lives and to this world. The burial service took place on Thursday January 2, 2025, at 11:00 am in the Hamilton, MA cemetery located at 623 Bay Road, Hamilton, MA.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in his honor to the RI Yacht Club Educational Foundation, which promotes sailing and other boating programs through education and training and reflects Bob's generous spirit, passion for sailing, and lifelong dedication to helping others. <https://www.riyachtclub.org/riyc-educational-foundation>

The direct link to the Bob Brooks donation page: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=5SBXYSCAVA7WU

Sophie C. Schmidt



Sophie C. (Lawrence) Schmidt, a proud U.S. Navy Veteran and longtime employee for the Warwick School Department passed away in the early hours of Tuesday, December 17, 2024. She was 102 years of age. She was the beloved wife of the late Rudolph J. Schmidt, Jr. Born in Ardrijausku Lithuania, she was a daughter of the late John and Barbara (Pasutir) Laurynaitis.



Sophie arrived in Rhode Island when her husband was transferred to Quonset Point Naval Air Station. She was an active member of The Daughters of Isabella at St. Benedict's Church, and she volunteered at the Warwick Senior Center. Sophie enjoyed bowling, golfing, and traveling within the US and abroad, but she cherished time with her family the most.

Sophie was the devoted mother of Constance Schmidt of MA and the late Jacqueline Blei; cherished 'Granny' of three grandchildren, Katherine Schmidt, Nicholas Blei and Daniel Blei and two great-grandchildren, John Thomas Blei and Samuel Joseph Blei, sons of Nicholas and Andrea Blei. She was a was the mother-in-law of David Blei of MA.

A Visitation will be held Friday, January 3, 2025, from 10-11am with a Funeral Service to follow at 11am in the Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Chapel, 2435 Warwick Ave., Warwick. Her interment will follow immediately in St. Ann Cemetery, Cranston. In lieu of flowers, donation to Hope Health Hospice and Palliative Care, 1085 N. Main St., Providence, RI 02904 or Greenwich Farms at Warwick, 75 Minnesota Ave., Warwick, RI 02888 will be appreciated.

Sister Claudette Aurore Lapointe, RJM

Sister Claudette Aurore Lapointe, RJM, also known as Mother St. Dominic Savio, 82, of Warwick, entered into eternal life on December 25, 2024. She was a sister of the Congregation of the Religious of Jesus and Mary for over sixty-years. Born in Fall River, MA, she was the oldest of seven children of the late Victor and Beatrice (Desrosiers) LaPointe.



Sister Claudette was raised in Fall River, MA, where she attended Notre Dame School and graduated from Jesus Mary Academy. She entered the Novitiate of the Religious of Jesus and Mary in Hyattsville, Maryland on July 31, 1963. Sister Claudette pronounced her First Vows on February 2, 1964. She was then missioned to St. Clare's Academy in Woonsocket, RI. After her Juniorate and a year of study at Fordham University, Sister Claudette was missioned to Holy Family Parish in Woonsocket, RI where she pronounced her Final Vows on February 2, 1968.

Sister Claudette taught in parish schools throughout Rhode Island, New York, Massachusetts, and in the Boarding School in Goffstown, New Hampshire. In 1990, she was asked to serve in France, first at the Motherhouse in Lyon, then in Paris, and finally again in Lyon. When Sister Claudette returned from France, she spent one year in the morning and after school program in Goffstown, New Hampshire. In the summer of 2000, she arrived in Warwick, Rhode Island where she served in St. Timothy's Mission Center and began her work as Pastoral Minister at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Warwick. Sister Claudette also represented the Religious of Jesus and Mary on the Diocesan Council for Religious.

She is survived by her beloved siblings, Rita Lefebvre of St. Pierre, MO, Laurette Shabshelowitz of Westport, MA, Alice Willard of Fall River, MA, Muriel Saunders of Assonet, MA, and Ronald Lapointe of Middleborough, MA, and several nieces and nephews.

She was the sister of the late Claire Belden. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 11:00AM at St. Gregory the Great Church, 360 Cowesett Road, Warwick. Visitation will be held at church prior to the Mass from 10:15AM-10:45AM. Interment will take place at Notre Dame Cemetery in Fall River, MA.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to THE URQUHART-MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, 800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: Religious of Jesus and Mary, Attn: Haiti Fund, 821 Varnum Street N.E. Washington D.C. 20017-2144. www.murphyfuneralhomes.org

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Thank you for your guidance and all the graces you have bestowed upon me. In gratitude - CC & MM

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A community boost

The Washington Trust Co. recently made charitable contributions and in-kind donations to 40 local nonprofit organizations to support their outreach efforts this holiday season.

"Washington Trust truly values our local communities and is committed to supporting organizations that provide basic needs and family services to our neighbors in need," said Edward O. "Ned" Handy III, Washington Trust Chairman & CEO.

"Especially during the season of giving, our entire team is proud to support the organizations that are the cornerstones of our communities as they work to ensure no one goes hungry, and everyone has the opportunity to experience the joy of the season."

Here, Erin DeLuca, assistant vice president and branch manager at the Governor Francis Branch in Warwick, left, and Carrie Charello, assistant vice president and branch manager at the Centerville Road branch, present a \$1,000 check for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program to Roberta Steinle of the city's Human Services Department. (Submitted photo)

Nota-Masse
(Continued from page 1)

be done. We are a large district. Our annual capital improvement budget is frugal. Our facilities are aging and the equipment that keeps them running is often obsolete, making it difficult to maintain them through the seasons of the year. Although our annual budget includes a capital improvement line every year, it is insufficient to maintain several aging school buildings.

We need not only 21st-century teaching and learning facilities for all of our educators and students, we also need things like consistent, reliable heating and cooling systems. These are not

things that can be accomplished in an annual budget, and the longer we wait, the more problems we have and the larger and more costly the problems become. We continue to do the best we can with the resources and funding that are available to us.

That said, January begins our public budget season. We start our budget process in November, looking at the current budget and staffing, and using it to make predictions for the next school year's budget. Although it is difficult to make a budget on predictions, we have an experienced, competent staff of administrators and we have our budget development process down to a science.

On Jan. 23 we will have a public pre-

sentation of our 2025-2026 school year budget. The meeting will be held at Cranston High School East and we hope that our residents will come, and others to support our schools. We need you to take a vested interest in the finances of the School Department and the process that it takes to create a solid, responsible budget that supports 21st-century teaching and learning in a district such as ours with many diverse learners.

Our final budget will be adopted and sent to the City Council in February and the final version will be adopted by the School Committee in late spring. We look forward to having everyone's support for our educators and students.

Dambruch
(Continued from page 1)

in college or a career, our faculty and staff continue to work with individual students to guide and coach them for their future endeavors.

One of the highlights of 2024 has been the significant improvement in student attendance. This accomplishment reflects the dedication of our students, families and staff to the importance of consistent learning. We are excited to see this positive trend continue, as we know that regular attendance plays a key role in fostering academic growth and a strong school community.

Our commitment to integrating technology and innovation into the learning experiences for our students remains a cornerstone of our educational philosophy. We are working hard with the support of many partners to complete outdoor learning spaces at seven of our elementary schools that have

been awarded the Inside Out Learning Grant from RIDE.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to further harness the potential of technology to enhance the educational experience for every student, preparing them for success in an increasingly digital world.

We know that in order to best help students succeed academically, we must be prepared to help them with their Social-Emotional Learning (SEL). To that end, we have a number of programs across the curriculum, an essential part of our students' development, helping them build resilience, empathy and strong interpersonal skills.

Warwick Public Schools has received two mental-health grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) — the Project AWARE grant and the Trauma-Informed Support Services grant. These initiatives have helped Warwick schools to raise awareness about mental-health challenges and the importance of good mental-health practices. As a district, we have focused on edu-

cating our workforce, students and their families.

In 2025, we will continue to expand and enhance these programs, ensuring that students are equipped with the emotional and social tools they need to succeed both in school and in life.

As many of you already know, we are very excited about our once-in-a-generation high school construction projects. The new high schools will be designed and equipped to support 21st-century learning. We continue to work with our partners through the design processes and look forward to continuing to inform the community through our community meetings and forums, with the next being scheduled for Jan. 28.

As we look to the year ahead, we are filled with optimism about what's to come. The accomplishments of 2024 have set the stage for an even brighter future, and we are eager to see what unfolds in 2025. Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you all a happy, healthy and successful New Year.

Budlong
(Continued from page 1)

Cranston Forward, has been resolute in keeping up to date with developments involving the Budlong Pool. Founded by Cranston resident Karen Rosenberg, the organization has made clear its rejection of the mayor's plan for the pool.

During environmental review, Cranston Forward joined the project as a consulting party.

Susan Blake, a member of Cranston Forward, has lived in Cranston for over 30 years. She knows the pool well and described it as a place not just for people to learn how to swim, but also to develop a sense of community.

"I mean, that pool was a gift to us by the WPA, and Hopkins didn't do one single thing to make that pool open since the day he took office four years ago," Blake said.

Blake said her objections to Hopkins' pool plan include the greatly reduced size of the new pool and the cost of such a project, money she says could have been used to repair the pool in its current configuration.

The new pool will be about 8,000 square feet with a deep end of about 6½ feet. The current pool covers 22,000 square feet with a deep end of about 9½ feet.

"As far as I'm concerned, this is a huge waste of money on a project that doesn't need to be done," Blake said. "They have the money to do all the repairs that need to be done to it now and they're not doing it. They're insisting on destroying it — a landmark, destroying that — and putting in this tiny pool at \$4.75 million."

Moretti said that replacing the pool at its current size or repairing it would have cost more than was allocated to the project.

According to a report by Saccoccio & Associates, an architectural firm, and Weston & Sampson, an engineering consulting firm, the cost to repair the pool would be \$5 million and offer a 10-year lifespan. Moretti said the cost to replace the pool at its current size would be \$10 million and offer a

40-year lifespan.

The new Budlong Pool will be fully funded by \$4 million in American Rescue Plan Act money that the City Council approved, plus \$750,000 in federal grant money, and is planned to have a lifespan of more than 40 years.

"The mayor was restricted with certain funds, so he had to build the biggest pool possible with what the City Council gave them," Moretti said.

And because of its eligibility as a state historical landmark, Moretti said, the pool house will be fully preserved with exception to the renovations needed inside to modernize and safeguard against environmental contaminants.

One of the biggest criticisms the administration has gotten throughout this process is the lack of public involvement in the planning of the project.

But Moretti said there have been more than 20 public meetings — and said he was pleased Blake and Rosenberg had participated in nearly all of them.

"I guess when you have over 25 public forums, how many more do you need?" Moretti said. "And there was so much redundancy. So, I don't think it could have been anything more said or anything, any further opportunities given publicly and privately."

The Budlong Pool was first built in the 1930s, during the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt, by the Works Projects Administration (WPA) to combat the rise of unemployment and despondency among Americans during The Great Depression. It provided relief from dismal economic conditions and a community space for people to come together and make memories.

It is one of the largest public swimming pools in the nation, nearly twice as large as an Olympic-size pool.

With the project moving ahead, Blake said there is nothing the group can do to prevent it from happening.

"My goal is just to keep people informed, mostly through social media, about what is going on with it," Blake said. "I'm ready to keep fighting. But at this point, I don't see anything happening unless it's an act of God."

Rink
(Continued from page 1)

and [will serve to] complement the ice rink," Facente said.

The project was funded mostly by a \$5-million federal grant secured by Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse; Facente noted that no city tax dollars have been used for the project. The rink's naming rights have been bought by Greenwood Credit Union for \$300,000.

Though the construction timeline has been short, two major hang-ups have hindered the project so far. First was a dispute over bidding on the project, as Bentley Builders LLC sued to stop the city from awarding the rink contract to Tower Construction, arguing that it and not Tower was in fact the low bidder. After rebidding, Bentley eventually won the rebid with a \$6.7-million bid.

The second wrinkle was the discovery of contaminated soils on the site, which paused the rink's construction in October. The soils were contaminated due to four buried fuel tanks on the site.

The tainted soil was the city's biggest concern about the

rink's construction, Facente said.

"That was the biggest hurdle and the biggest unknown," he said. "Whenever you're digging in ground that was used, that was developed, you never know what you're going to find."

At its Dec. 16 meeting, the City Council approved a bid to remove the soil, with only minimal delays to the overall project expected. Picozzi had said at the rink's groundbreaking in May that he expected construction to take 12-14 months.

The promise of the plaza, Facente said, is already piquing the interest of multiple businesses considering the area.

"We're hearing from some interested parties on some of the vacant properties in the Apponaug area because of the developments," Facente said. "It's both a passive and active recreational opportunity for people that we don't currently have in the village, and will help people to come and enjoy all of the things that Apponaug has to offer."

PHOTO: An artist's rendering of the planned Warwick City Hall Plaza, a covered ice rink and adjacent park on the site of the former City Hall Annex in Apponaug.

Finding the 'right vibe' to stay healthy in new year

Rondeau urges people to find their strength, keep moving, be fit

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

Christina Rondeau knows how to fight.

But the hard-hitting blonde, who made a name for herself in kickboxing and boxing arenas across the country, knows a lot more.

She's a mom, a life coach, an author, fitness advocate, gym owner, and passionate believer that everyone should feel good about themselves.

As 2025 approaches, Rondeau, 52, sat down in the office of her Atwood Avenue gym in Johnston, and talked about her career(s) and why she is committed to helping people take care of themselves — body, mind and spirit.

"As we age, staying fit and taking care of ourselves becomes even more important," said Rondeau. "It doesn't matter if someone comes to me or goes somewhere else. They have to find a place that has the right vibe for them — a place that has the energy they're looking for."

Energy is in no short supply at Rondeau's gym where students — from youths to senior citizens — sweat through fitness classes, and, if they choose, learn to hit hard and kick high. She's been teaching martial arts and fitness classes for more than 30 years in the area, and most recently bought her current location at 1408 Atwood Ave. in Johnston.

"I just want people to learn to find their strength — to keep moving and be fit," she said. "I don't want anyone to ever feel victimized."

Rondeau's career as a kickboxer, and then a boxer, started by accident when she was in high school and struggling with being bullied by another student. A native of Woonsocket, she went to a local martial arts academy to help her feel like she could stand up for herself and fell in love with karate and other fighting arts. At 5 feet, 4-inches tall, with a lot of spirit and stamina, she quickly made a name for herself in kickboxing, winning numerous titles and awards as an amateur and later, as a professional.



Kickboxer, author, gym owner, and fitness advocate Christina Rondeau. (Submitted photo)

■ RONDEAU - PAGE 16

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'Artful Expressions: Creating from the Heart' kicks off 2025 at the Warwick Center for the Arts

By ROBERT DUGUAY

For the past 50 years, the Warwick Center for the Arts has been a hub for creativity for the city it inhabits and the surrounding areas. The organization, located within the old Kentish Artillery Armory on 3259 Post Road, is an incredible asset for anyone who wants to pursue the arts while embracing all the aspects of it ranging from painting to performance. There are numerous events, classes, workshops that people can partake in at the WCFA that happen throughout the year, and 2025 is going to be starting with one that's centered on self-expression. It's called "Artful Expressions: Creating from the Heart" and it's going to be happening every Saturday from Jan. 11 to Feb. 1 with each installment happening from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The sessions are geared towards children between the ages of 6-9, so it's an ideal way for parents to tap into their kid's creativity.

Locally based mixed media artist Deborah Siravo, whose specialty is working with textiles and paper, will be the instructor for the class. She has a Bachelor's in Art History and a Master's in Textile Science from the University of Rhode Island, and her work utilizes the subtleties of the natural world in abstract fashion



(Photo by Warwick Center for The Arts)

through the use of shapes, colors and forms.

"The natural world is a strong influence on my work," Siravo says. "Tangled vines, bark of a tree, seeds blowing in the wind, the evolving shapes and textures of changing seasons are the subtle forms that I draw upon while

creating my stitched panels and mixed-media collages. The forever evolving natural processes; the modest and humble changes in nature go unnoticed unless we take the time to look very closely and observe nature in its pure original form, untouched by humans. My intention is to reflect

the texture and tactile sensations of the natural world using fibers: textiles and reclaimed paper. Portraying nature in the abstract is an organic and intuitive process for me."

"I am most comfortable with abstraction and non-representation as a visual language," she

adds. "My use of abstraction relies on perception, impression, memory, and notion. Familiar shapes, colors, and forms are used in my abstract images to create a sense of place. Even the most abstract works draw upon memory and recognition through a smell, sound or fragment from past experience."

The main ability that the students of Siravo's class will be using is their imagination. This will be done through painting and drawing as a way to channel their thoughts, feelings and ideas onto a blank canvas. The aim is to establish a sense of self-confidence and self-awareness with the whole experience being catered to how the students want to create. There will also be projects that embrace making decisions and introspectiveness along with working together as a group and comprehending and articulating emotions through artistic creation. Students are encouraged to bring a snack and water bottle while all art supplies will be provided.

For more information about tickets for "Artful Expressions: Creating from the Heart," the Warwick Center for the Arts as a whole, and events that the organization has going on in the future, log onto warwickcfa.org.

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Vehicle courtesy of Hurd Auto Mall, Johnston

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The Ham Classic \$9.99 – Honey Baked Ham topped with Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, mayo and hickory honey mustard on a flaky croissant. (Photo courtesy of honeybaked.com)

Honey Baked Ham Co. all about ham

Restaurant Review by DON FOWLER

Ham lovers — and that includes me — will be delighted that the Honey Baked Ham Co. chain has opened in Warwick at 300 Quaker Lane (Route 2) in the shopping center at the corner of Cowesett Avenue.

We stopped by for one of their classic Honey Baked sandwiches (\$9.99) loaded with freshly sliced ham, lettuce, tomato, Swiss cheese on a croissant with Duke's special mayonnaise. It was one of the best ham sandwiches I've ever eaten.

While there are tables for dine-in, Honey Baked Ham is a big take-out business.

Honey Baked Ham sells for \$17.49 a pound, cheaper when you buy more than four pounds.

Honey Baked Boneless Ham (cooked longer and slower) sells for \$16.49 a pound.

The franchise also sells pork, beef, home baked turkey breast, and ham and chicken salad.

"Heat & serve" sides make for a complete ham dinner, including everything you would find in an Easter dinner.

Priced at \$12.99, they include double cheddar macaroni and cheese, country cornbread stuffing, homebaked beans, loaded smashed potatoes and more.

For desserts, I tried the triple chocolate cake and the vanilla rum cake samples. Both were fresh and yummy. Whole cakes go for \$18.99 to \$26.99.

Calories are listed on all items.

They also do catering.

Call 589-109 or visit www.honeybaked.com for more information.



Turkey Breast (both roasted and smoked) is offered at \$3.49 lb. (Photo courtesy of honeybaked.com)

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The cast of 'A Chorus Line' perform the finale number at Theatre By The Sea. (Photos by Michael Derr courtesy of Theatre By The Sea)

Entertainment highlights of 2024

By **DON FOWLER**

We miss the old New Year's Eve celebrations of First Night but enjoyed the fireworks in Providence and Warwick to welcome in the New Year.



Jim O'Brien, Jennifer Mischley, and Zach Gibb in HIR by Taylor Mac at Wilbury Theatre Group. (Photo by Erin X. Smithers)

Wilbury Theatre kicked off the Rhode Island theatre season with a shocking dark comedy, "HiR" by Taylor Mac, followed by the musical "Once."

Trinity had the engaging stories of "La Broa' (Broad Street)." We revisited "Fences," last done at Trinity 32 years ago. Their big hit was "La Cage."



DOUBT (Photo by Cat Laine courtesy of The Gamm Theatre)

Once again it was Gamm who scored an A+ with a compelling performance of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?" followed by a hilarious "Twelfth Night." And gripping "Doubt." And then there was "Amadeus," theatre at its best!



Amie Lytle, Daria Montaquila, and Melissa Penick as three of the five Betties. (Photo courtesy of Burbage Theatre)

Burgage's "Playhouse Creatures," and "A Play With Five Betties" featured great roles for older RI actresses.

FirstWorks celebrated its 20th anniversary with some of the finest entertainment and student workshops featuring artists from around the world.



Warwick's Tommy Gardner aka Tommy Buoy from the band Yachtley Crew. (Submitted photo)

Warwick's Tommy Gardner was a part of Yachtley Crew, a cult band that sold out PPAC.

PPAC once again brought us the top Broadway shows, beginning with a sparkling "Frozen." The fall season broke all records with a return of "Mamma Mia!" and "Hamilton."

Judith Lynn Stillman dazzled us with her innovative "Play Within a Concert" at RIC.

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus played the AMP without the animals, and it was a great show.

Music on the Hill held its 16th Chamber Music Festival in Warwick and East Greenwich.

The R.I. Philharmonic mourned the loss of two of their outstanding conductors, continuing their outstanding concerts with some of the best guest conductors and soloists in the world.



The late Chuck Wentworth (Courtesy of Rhythm & Roots)

The legacy of the late Chuck Wentworth lived on at the Rhythm and Roots Festival in Ninigret Park.

Theatre-by-the Sea brought a dazzling rendition of "A Chorus Line" to the old barn theatre, topping off the summer with an equally dazzling "42nd Street."

Cranston's Park Theatre closed. Cranston's Park Theatre reopened.

Trinity's "A Christmas Carol" moved to PPAC during refurbishing of its Chace Theatre.

And those are just the highlights of the great arts and entertainment offered in Rhode Island!

Discussion group on truth at Edgewood Church

By **DON FOWLER**

What is Truth?
 Many of us are asking that question today.
 Truth in the past election.
 Truth in the media.
 Truth in government. What is our own personal truth?

Rev. William Sterrett, pastor of the Edgewood Congregational Church, will lead a discussion on the subject on Sunday, Jan. 5 following the church service (11 a.m.) in Lower Sawyer Hall (corner of Broad and Arnold).

The event is open to all members of the Edgewood-Pawtuxet community and beyond.

Soup, sandwiches and dessert will be served. The event is informal.

Rev. Sterrett will refer to the writings of political scientist and philosopher Hannah Arendt, who is often credited for writing, "This constant lying is not aimed at making people believe a lie, but ensuring that no one believes anything anymore."

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian
 Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Baylee

When it comes to beauty, Baylee has it all! Her silvery gray and white coat is so pretty and so soft! Her light green eyes compliment it perfectly too! She is a two year old princess who is looking to be the center of your world. Baylee would love to find the sunny spot in your home to bask in the sun when she's not playing with you or taking a cat nap. If you'd like more information about this pretty girl, please contact the Warwick Animal Shelter at 401-468-4377 and maybe she'll become your new best friend!



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Dasha

This adorable "red head" is sweet and affectionate! Dasha is a petite eleven month old Black Mouth Cur mix with a zest for life! She loves to run around as play and can dash like the wind, hence her name. Dasha has those eyes that will reach right into your heart and steal it for sure. If you have another playful pup, she might be a great match as she likes other friendly pups. Also, some of her favorite things are yummy treats, learning, exploring and being the best cuddle-bug! Please contact Save One Soul Animal Rescue League if she sounds like the girl for you! Here is their website: <http://www.sosar.org> or email: jocelyn@sosar.org

If you are thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at animaltalk1920@gmail.com

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Rondeau likes staying in motion. Here she spars with up-and-coming student 11-year-old Abby Cornell. (Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti)

Rondeau
(Continued from page 13)

A fifth-degree black belt, her accomplishments, caused many, herself included, to turn the phrase, "Fight like a girl," into a rallying call. Throughout her career, she has always found time to teach and has run several gyms in the greater Johnston area. In 2019, she was inducted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame as Kickboxing Master of the Year.

Quick to smile, Rondeau is a charismatic teacher. On a recent weeknight, she was

bouncing between groups of students, encouraging them to work harder, "You can do this," she'd say if someone started to falter. "I KNOW you can do this." She is in constant motion and still moves like a boxer — light on her feet with her hands naturally curled in relaxed fists.

Rondeau retired from professional fighting at 35, when her son and daughter were young. Since then, she has also explored other outlets for her knowledge and creativity. She has written about a dozen books — some of them children's books, others instructional books on a wide-range of topics from parenting to self-defense

and safety, and one novel about a female private investigator who lives on the wild side.

If that didn't keep her busy enough, Rondeau made sure she found time to support the community by starting the charity "Knockout Wishes," which raises funds for people going through hard times.

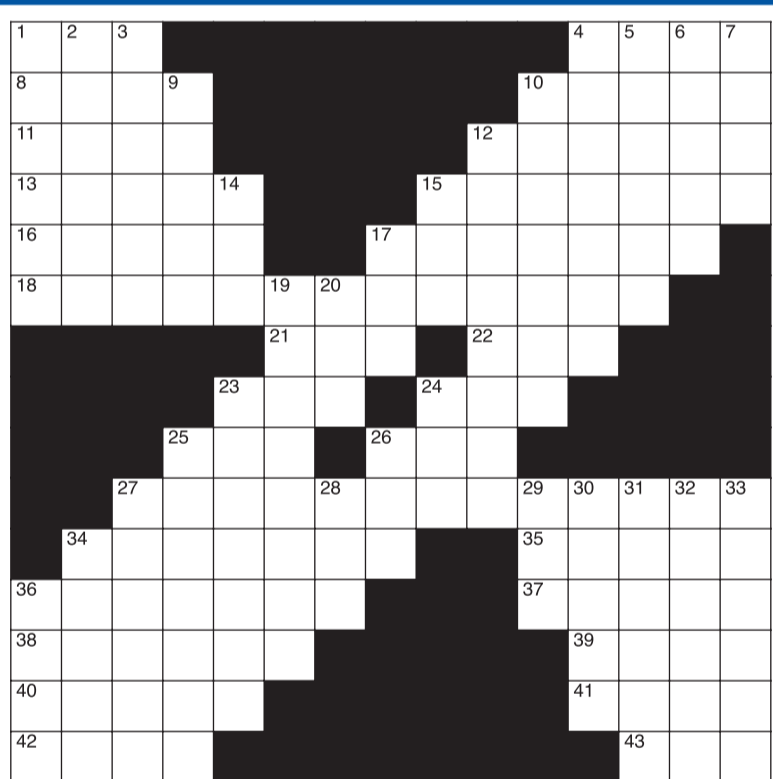
Rondeau is also dedicated to sharing messages of positivity, either through her fitness classes, her books, or her charity. She says that her experiences of having been bullied and then later learning to survive in a tough sport, have led her to focus on the heart and soul of what she does.

"I learned a lot on my own and I want to inspire people," she said. "When I work with my students, I want them to be motivated on many levels."

She pointed to one of the t-shirts she has designed for her gym. It features the image of a Madonna and the words Soul Fighter.

"And what is a soul fighter?" Rondeau asks pointing to the inscription around the image. "It's a person who over comes obstacles with their mind, body and soul... That's what I try to bring to my students."

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Americans' "uncle"
 - 4. Chair
 - 8. Ancient kingdom
 - 10. Egyptian city
 - 11. Alaskan glacier
 - 12. One from Somalia
 - 13. Ancient alphabets
 - 15. Relating to vocabulary
 - 16. Small mongrels
 - 17. Natural settings
 - 18. Weekend entertainments
 - 21. Line from which light seemingly streams
 - 22. Your own private code
 - 23. Swiss river
 - 24. Satisfaction
 - 25. A person's brother or sister
 - 26. Folk singer DiFranco
 - 27. The Blonde Bombshell
 - 34. Kids' school project
 - 35. Bluish greens
 - 36. Classifying
 - 37. Cube-shaped
 - 38. Choo-choos
 - 39. Indian religious god of dissolution
 - 40. French department
 - 41. Leak into gradually
 - 42. Foundation
 - 43. Midway between south and southeast
 - CLUES DOWN**
 - 1. Counterbalancing debt
 - 2. In slow tempo
 - 3. Glamorous city
 - 4. Japanese lute
 - 5. Makes law
 - 6. Informative book
 - 7. Animal's body part
 - 9. American playwright
 - 10. Blood poisoning
 - 12. Angels
 - 14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
 - 15. Written account
 - 17. Unwelcome pest
 - 19. Saddle horses
 - 20. Type of gibbon
 - 23. Delta is one
 - 24. NE Massachusetts cape
 - 25. Soup cracker
 - 26. Yes vote
 - 27. Muddy ground
 - 28. Physics apparatus (abbr.)
 - 29. Type of drug
 - 30. German city
 - 31. Animal disease
 - 32. Martini ingredients
 - 33. Get away
 - 34. Spanish municipality
 - 36. Thrust a knife into



Rondeau can be a stickler for form in teaching students how to throw – and take – punches. (Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti)



You can do it! With her characteristic enthusiasm, Rondeau encourages two kickboxing students to keep the pace up. (Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti)

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The Gilded Age Orchestra of Newport presents 'To Rhode Island with Love' at Park Theatre

By ROBERT DUGUAY

For the past couple of years, The Gilded Age Orchestra of Newport has been exploring the era of The Gilded Age through the musical history of "The City by The Sea." Along with its mission to improve the cultural lifeblood of the community it calls home, it's also going beyond to achieve its goal throughout Rhode Island. Hence this concert that's happening at The Historic Park Theatre, 848 Park Ave., Cranston on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. titled "To Rhode Island, with Love." It promises to be an educational experience for anyone who is interested in The Ocean State's legacy when it comes to music. It's also an opportunity to check out a unique array of songs that only a full-fledged orchestra can provide.

I had a talk ahead of the show with conductor Dr. Mark Stickney about how all of this came about, a nonprofit he runs that's affiliated with the orchestra, and what he's looking to accomplish with the organization in the future.

Rob Duguay: "To Rhode Island, with Love" is an evening of music composed by J. William Middendorf II, who is a former Ambassador to The Netherlands and also a former Secretary of the Navy. How were you able to make this happen by getting these compositions? Were you presented with these firsthand or is the music part of a Naval archive?

Dr. Mark Stickney: I run a nonprofit called Historic Music of Newport, and the name speaks for itself. We're preserving and sharing the story of Newport's musical history and the Naval War College has a march that the ambassador wrote years ago. I'm not even sure when, but I had reached out to him during the middle of last year to talk about his music and talk about his marches while not knowing about the volume of what he had written. I was then invited to meet with him and some of the people who work with him, and they asked if we would be interested in doing a program of his music. I was overwhelmed by the amount of music that he has composed and I jumped on board because as part of Rhode Island's history, it needs to be performed.

This whole program came about with us doing two symphonies, something from an opera he wrote and also a violin concerto that he wrote. There will be some other marches that he composed for a band to rearrange them as an orchestra, so it all came from a curiosity about his music and about him because there's not a lot of publicity about it. I was hoping that I could write a story, which I did, to help get his music more recognized today and performed more today. Not just by us, but by other groups as well.

RD: How has it been with getting the whole orchestra together for this event? Is this orchestra already set in stone with the musicians already being part of it or did you do any auditions or any recruiting?

DMS: The orchestra originally came about from the HBO TV show "The Gilded Age." In season one of their show, they had an orchestra that performed at The Breakers in Newport as part of a ballroom scene that was actually set in New York but was filmed in Newport. One of the musicians is a friend of mine and he's also on the board of my nonprofit. He, another musician I went to graduate school with, who was in a different season of "The Gilded Age," and myself decided to turn this into an actual orchestra while making it a performing and living history part of the nonprofit. We came up with a core group of musicians and then we added other musicians that we knew would enhance the group and make the group even better.

As the group does different things, we bring in other musicians. More if we need more and fewer if we need fewer, so it's a flexible orchestra of regional professionals as far away as Boston and occasionally we've had one or two from New York who have performed with us in the past. It is an actual orchestra that exists, but it came from the TV show and the desire for these musicians to create something lasting.

RD: When it comes to Historic Music of Newport, what's the history behind it and what would you say is the most rewarding thing about the nonprofit? What is the most arduous thing about running the organization?

DMS: The nonprofit started out as a research project. I taught college-level music for about 12 years and I'm from Portsmouth. I worked in Newport for the old Newport Music Festival, which is now called Newport Classical, so I've spent a lot of time listening to the music in the mansions. We don't talk about what the musical life of Newport was like outside of the Folk and Jazz Festivals, which are both awesome, I have to add, but we don't know a lot about Newport's musical history beyond that. I started doing research on the side while I was teaching, and the amount of information was overwhelming.

I decided the best thing to do was to create this nonprofit, which I have done with the help of some friends by founding it in 2022. We have a board with members as far away as Portugal right now, and we've started collecting more and more music, which has amounted to over 1,000 written pieces about Newport, in Newport and by Newporters. We also have the names of almost 1,000 musicians who lived and performed in Newport going back to the earliest days before Newport was a city up until the early 1900s, we've stopped around 1920 for now. It just kind of became more and more information and more and more things that I thought were worth preserving and worth telling stories about. One of the best stories I have about it is the song "Anchors Aweigh," which is the Navy's official march song and the guy who composed it was born in Newport.

People know that, but nobody really thinks about how the song came from Newport. Those are the kinds of things we've been able to find along with others, and we've been able to preserve and tell the stories while doing tours. The most rewarding thing is being able to find something about the stories of the songs and the musicians and sharing it. I love telling the stories of the musicians who've lived in Newport, it's an incredibly diverse group going back before the [American] Revolution when there were enslaved Newporters who were basically given to the Continental Army with the understanding that they would be freed afterwards along with their masters not having to necessarily fight. They became free after the war, including two musicians from Newport who were former slaves.

The hardest part would probably be being a businessman and figuring out how to make the nonprofit happen. I had a lot of help, but it was a lot of work, especially the



The Gilded Age Orchestra brings "To Rhode Island with Love" to The Historic Park Theatre on Jan. 11. (Submitted photo courtesy of The Preservation Society of Newport County)

paperwork, which was rewarding but also demanding. During the first year, finding our way to be a successful nonprofit was difficult because I was learning things on the fly.

RD: For people who are considering coming to this show, what would you say is your biggest selling point? I'm willing to bet that there are people who are interested in Rhode Island's musical history that are probably going to attend, so what can they expect when they arrive?

DMS: First off, the composer is alive. J. William Middendorf II is 100 years old, he lives in Little Compton, and he's going to be at the show. He's going to be there to talk a little bit about the music before we perform it, so it's always an incredible experience to hear from the composer about their music and then hear the music being composed. It's really beautiful, the soprano that we're bringing in for one of the operas is incredibly talented and that's going to be conducted by our co-conductor who is a professor in upstate New York and also a board member of the nonprofit. If they like to hear live music and if they like to hear about music, then it's going to be a great experience.

We don't just perform music, all of our programs are about learning about the musical history as it's being played. I hate to use the word "educational," because that might scare some people away and they don't want to go out and learn on a Saturday night. I'm one of those people, but I think it's just an experience to hear stuff that isn't new music. Most of it is 40 or 50 years old, but it's music that they haven't heard and it's done by a composer who will be present to talk about the music, which will give it a whole new meaning.

RD: You've mentioned that you've amassed a giant ar-

chive of music done by Newporters, so what do you plan on doing with it in the future? Do you plan on making some sort of series happen where it's a quarterly or monthly thing where the orchestra plays a different set of music?

DMS: The eventual goal of the organization is to have a museum in Newport and a space to show off what we have. That's the long range goal of the nonprofit, we want to be able to share in person everything we have so people can see the physical copies of music plus other artifacts. The orchestra itself does two to three performances a year, we recently performed at Rosecliff in Newport and we've done a series with the Preservation Society [of Newport County]. We're looking to possibly expand the orchestra into schools so we can work with students while talking about musical history and getting them involved in performing. We have a website [at historicmusicofnewport.org] that features a blog talking about the musicians and we also have a summer concert series at Touro Park in Newport where we invite community bands from across the region to perform for free on a Sunday.

People come out to sit and listen to music and we picked Touro Park because there was a bandstand there and there were concerts there going back to the mid-1800s. It was a place for concerts, and now we've brought them back. Our goal is always to share and get people involved and this upcoming concert is also a fundraiser for the organization so the people can go to our website to find information about tickets and how they can donate to the nonprofit with their name being in the program for the concert. For us, this concert is about sharing music and also a way for us to push forward and get more programming for the future.

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A COMPLETE UNKNOWN

*** 1/2

(Dylan from 1961-66)

Timothée Chalamet gives a stunning performance as folk legend Bob Dylan during a crucial time in his early career.

The 2-hour-and-20-minute movie opens with a 19-year-old Bobby Dylan arriving in New York City from Minnesota and being taken under the

wing of folk legend Pete Seeger (Edward Norton).

Bobby meets his hero, Woody Guthrie, who is on his death bed, is introduced around the Greenwich Village folk community and gets his start at Folk City.

If you like folk music, especially the early music of Dylan and Joan Baez, you'll love this biopic.

All this plays out during the turbulent sixties: the Vietnam war, student protests, and commie-hunting among the liberal folkies.

We follow Dylan's love affairs

(which I found a bit confusing at times) and his difficulties dealing with sudden fame.

Dylan was deeply conflicted over the attention given to him and often reacted standoffish and negative.

It all comes down to the big point in music history when he plugs in at the Newport Music Festival and draws strong negative and some positive reaction.

We must wait for the credits to remind us of what happened to Dylan, Baez, Seeger and the other folkies.

Hearing the old folk songs, like "Blowin' in the Wind," "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" and "This Land is Your Land" is a big plus.

The depiction of the Newport Music Festival bears no resemblance to the City by the Sea.

I saw Dylan in Newport years later when he became more arrogant and angry, refusing to meet with the press and ordering that no photos be taken.



Timothée Chalamet plays a young Bob Dylan in the new movie "A Complete Unknown."

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

David's Greenwood Barber Shop Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous 2025



David's Greenwood BARBER SHOP
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By JENNIFER COATES

There are a lot of sounds one expects to hear at a corner barber shop ~ the buzzing sound of the shears, the snipping sound of the scissors, the squeaky sound of the swivel chair as it spins in place and the familiar sound of a door opening and closing.

But at David's Greenwood Barber Shop in Warwick, these sounds are trumped by the sounds of laughter, friendly bantering and discussions on the state of affairs of our country. This is the closest thing we have in today's fast-paced world to the town square, where old friends and multiple generations of fathers and sons alike come to get their hair cut, and to "solve the problems" of our day.

David's Greenwood Barber Shop has stood at

this site for thirty years. Dave Picozzi, the salon's owner and longtime barber, even received a personal citation from the State's House of Representatives, recognizing his invaluable 30 years serving our community.

Many of Dave's numerous clients have been coming here for all thirty of those years. Some have been coming since they got their first haircut as elementary school-aged boys. Some are part of three generations - father, son and grandson! Those who come for the first time come back, time and time again. Dave and his son Geno are mainstays on the Warwick landscape. Come in and check out this dynamic duo.

There was a time when the virtue of loyalty was prized above most anything else. Small business owners

like David Picozzi and his son Geno thank all their loyal clients after all these years.

After 30 years, there have been some changes for David's Greenwood Barber Shop. Make note. It is finally time for Dave to enjoy the "fruits of his labor." If you are a customer of Dave's, you will now only find him at his styling station in the mornings (until noon) during the salon's regular hours. Still devoted to making you look great but scaling back a bit to a well-deserved reduced schedule.

If you are contemplating a new look this winter, or you just want to try someplace different, come to this longstanding, traditional barber shop in Warwick.

David's Greenwood Barber Shop is located at 2879 Post Road. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Thursdays are 11:00am to 5:00pm, and Saturdays, from 8:00am to 11:00am. Remember, you will only find Dave here in the mornings! Men and boys (ten years and older) are welcome.



Dave Picozzi, seen here cutting the hair of one of his many loyal customers at David's Greenwood Barber Shop, has been a barber for over 30 years. Walk-ins only at this longstanding shop in Warwick for Dave and for his son and fellow barber Geno.

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Sports

What's in store for Cranston in 2025?

Traficante focused on keeping kids in city as new year begins

By ALEX SPONSELLER

After a very busy 2024, the City of Cranston will now flip the page to 2025 and hopes for another big year in sports. The city will continue to assess its facilities and make improve-

ments, but no major renovations are set for the immediate future. There are plans to resurface the baseball infields at both Cranston West and Cranston Stadium. Talks have also begun regarding possibly laying down new turf at Brayton Park, though those plans

have not been solidified. Cranston athletic director Mike Traficante's goal for this coming year will remain the same as it always is: retain as much local talent as possible while providing top-notch amenities.

"My goal is to keep our kids in the city of Cranston. That's my goal every single year. I know they leave for certain reasons but I want to get them to stay. If we can get our kids to stay then that will work wonders for our ath-

letic department. I try to hire the best coaches that I possibly can and to make sure the kids are outfitted and equipped properly. We try to put the best product we can on the field and court, and hopefully kids will stay," said Traficante, who has emphasized staying on top of other items such as premium uniforms and up-to-date equipment across all sports.

Traficante has also kept a close eye on athletic participation in both of the high schools. He has

noticed some varying trends when it comes to the number of athletes in certain sports, especially at East.

"The dynamic is changing every single year. At Cranston East, the numbers in swim are going down, same with tennis, hockey, but the numbers in baseball, football, basketball, wrestling, we are getting those numbers back after they fell off during COVID. The

Vets retains City Cup



Warwick Vets' Ian Ciffo takes on Winman's Callum Way. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Hurricanes pin rival Warriors in annual wrestling event

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The visiting Warwick Vets Middle School wrestling team grabbed a 63-28 win over rival Winman to retain its City Cup title for another year.

Vets captains Alex Gemma (106 pounds) and Ben Taute (133 pounds) led the way with victories, followed by teammate Ian Ciffo who picked up a win at 112 pounds for the Hurricanes.

Headlining Winman were Christian Benavides and Dylan D'Antonio, who earned wins at 94 pounds and 119 pounds, respectively. Winman also got a win from Brayden Phelan at 75 pounds.

The Hurricanes boast a whopping 75 grapplers on their roster while Winman has a healthy 46, making them two of the largest middle school programs in Rhode Island. For more photos, turn to page 20.



Vets' Harry Wickwire battles Winman's Jaxson Kowalczyk.

Locals nab football awards

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Rhode Island High School Football Coaches Association recently unveiled its All-State and All-Division teams and plenty of locals were recognized for their performances last fall.

Bishop Hendricken running back Jeremy Seidi was named to the All-State First Team Offense, along with linemen Stephen Antonucci and Ethan Charnley. Hendricken kicker Scot Belford made the All-State Second Team Special Teams unit.

Seidi was also named to the Division I First Team Offense, along with Charnley, Antonucci and Arion Amoroso. Cranston West lineman Thomas Tierney made the Division I First Team Defense, long with Hendricken's Chase Bedrossian and Sebastian Nault. Belford also made the team as a kicker.

Cranston West's Charlie Cornell, Kelan Cornell and Zachary Petrella made the Division I Second Team, along with Hendricken's Jeremy Dennis, Jabari Jackson, Dylan Lynch, Will Mascena and Ben Taglianetti.



Cranston West's Kelan Cornell and Pilgrim's Carter Clifton. (Photos by Mike Zawistoski)



Jacqueline M. Lynch of Warwick enjoyed a visit from the Prout hockey team. She was recently discharged from the ACES unit. (Submitted photo)

Prout hockey spreads holiday cheer at Kent

The Prout School hockey team visited with patients staying in the Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Inpatient Unit at Kent Hospital on Monday, Dec. 23. The holiday event to deliver gift bags was organized by Care New England's Chief of Surgery, Dr. Melissa Murphy. Her son, Riley Smith, is a junior at Prout and a member of the hockey team.

Kent Hospital's ACE unit provides quality and comprehensive age-friendly care. The unit is just one of several specialized programs that diagnoses, treats, and manages many of the specific issues related to the health and quality of life of the aging population. The team also took time to learn about the ACES unit from its medical director, Dr. Kadesha Collins-Fletcher.



Aiden Forcier of Warwick read to the patients as part of the team's holiday visit. Forcier is a senior and assistant captain of the Prout hockey team. (Submitted photo)



Elks keeping with tradition

The Tri-City Elks hosted their annual Albert "Cookie" DeLory charity golf tournament last September and recently handed out checks of \$5,000 to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and Operation Stand Down. This was the Elks' fourth time hosting the event, which honors the memory of DeLory, a former member that passed away in 2019. DeLory's family have been faithful members of the lodge for decades and are pivotal in the organization of this charity event. Former Beacon Media freelancer Pete Fontaine was a fellow Elk until his passing in early 2024 and was also key in bringing this tradition together at its inception. (Submitted photos)

URI alumna's study on foot biomechanics, involving women's basketball team, published in international journal

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A biomechanics study conducted by University of Rhode Island graduate and former star guard on the women's basketball team Catherine "Dolly" Cairns was recently published in an international journal. Cairns conducted the study on the basketball floor of the Ryan Center and in the advanced kinesiology labs on Campus study with the help of some of her URI teammates.

Cairns' study, "The Relationship between Foot Anthropometrics, Lower-Extremity Kinematics, and Ground Reaction Force in Elite Female Basketball Players," was recently published in the journal *Biomechanics*. The study, conducted while Cairns was a URI student with kinesiology Assistant Professor Ryan Chapman, investigated the connection between foot structure (specifically, arch height index and navicular drop, essentially a flattening of the arch) in elite female basketball players and their lower extremity movement patterns, as well as the force they generate when landing and pushing off the ground.

The overarching goal was to determine whether differences in the anatomy and function of the foot impact

movement, performance, and the propensity for injury. "We hope this type of information can give coaches, trainers, and athletes a better idea of how to evaluate, train, and keep athletes injury-free," Chapman said.

On the court, Chapman and Cairns ran the student-athletes through typical basketball movements—running, jumping, pivoting, shooting. They attached wearable sensors to each player to measure joint angles, acceleration and velocity. The players also wore force measuring insoles in their shoes to measure how much force the foot exerts during those typical basketball movements.

Back in the kinesiology laboratory in Independence Square, the players were equipped with wearable sensors, electromyography (EMG) sensors to monitor muscle activity, and motion capture sensors to analyze their movements during similar activities. Cairns and Chapman used these sensing modalities to measure how joints moved in space, including foot mobility, and how much force was applied through the feet during different movements.

Findings of the study indicate that there in fact does seem to be a connection between how the foot arch functions and performance. Individuals with lower

navicular drop values have stiffer arches, giving them a more stable platform upon which they can push laterally into the ground during side-to-side motions. This ability to push results in more side-to-side force production and an increased ability to cut and change direction, which are very common motions in basketball.

Conversely, those with a high navicular drop have more mobile, flexible feet. They produce less force in side-to-side motion, giving them less ability to push off while cutting and changing direction. While the reduced force likely decreases risk for foot injury, it may also transfer force to the knee and hip to compensate when a player makes side-to-side motions, potentially increasing injury to those areas.

"These findings may have implications for several facets of sport-specific training and performance," Cairns concluded in her study. "For example, coaches, strength/conditioning staff, and athletic trainers can better pre-evaluate athlete foot stiffness to prepare appropriate training and injury prevention plans. This information could also be utilized to inform the development of novel interventions to improve dynamic foot function."



Winman's Brayden Phelan and Vets' Andrew Cronin.



Vets' Nick Uhrig looks for a takedown (right). Winman's Dylan D'Antonio takes on Vets' Anthony Picozzi (left).



■ Football

(Continued from page 19)

West's David Boscia and Mekhai Taylor made the third team as well as Hendricken's Ben Brooks and Lincoln Tierman.

Cranston East's Amias Reed and Alessandro Duffy-Matos were named to the Division III First Team Offense, along with Pilgrim's Hunter Schobel and Johnston's Matt Ponte. Pilgrim's Colin Burke, Jacob Soulliere and Andreas Filippou made the Division III First Team Defense, along with Johnston's Dean Paris. Pilgrim's Carter Clifton also made the list as a flex player.

Cranston East's Gavin Boylan, Angel Figueroa, Mohammed Kalahji and Aiden Momplaisir all made the second team, along with Johnston's Michael Abbruzzi, Kaden Burrell-Cain, Matt Clements and Lyalo Harrison-Perez. Pilgrim's Alex Earle, Adam El Rhazali, Chris Maniatakos, Dylan Rodrigues and Luka Ruscio were all named to the Division II Second Team as well.

Representing the Division III Third Team for Cranston East were James Conway and Ethan Medeiros. Johnston's James Estrada and Yadier Molin made the third team as well as Pilgrim's Will Ferrara and Louis Gauthier.

Toll Gate's Brady Leigh was named to the Division IV First Team Offense. Nick Bruner, Nate Gamba-Masse, Tony Mero-la and Jaden Tyree Alves made the Division IV Second Team for the Titans while Stephen Amargo and Jonah Mattiello made the third team.

■ 2025

(Continued from page 19)

dynamic at Cranston East is changing and we need to adjust accordingly. In terms of Cranston West, we have plenty of talented athletes in the western part of the city and we need to keep them here. We have good athletes on the eastern side of the city, too, and we need to keep them here," said Traficante.

Traficante also believes that hiring the right coaching staffs will be critical in keeping Cranston kids at home.

"We really try to hire the best coaches possible. We have a new football coach at Cranston East that is very present at CLCF, Edgewood, he's very identifiable. Making yourself known to the youth programs in the city is important. We have two new coaches for basketball at East that are also interested in the youth programs and they're completely changing the cultures of the programs. On and off the court, sportsmanship, I couldn't ask for more. That's the goal for every coach we hire."

Top three fishing stories of 2024

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

There are so many big fishing stories for 2024 it was difficult to select three but here are my top picks.

Striped bass overfished with good bite in some areas

Striped bass fishing was good at the Cape Cod Canal and other top spots with structure, bait and water flow along the coast. However, in bays and estuaries where water flow is not as great, and the water was warm the bite was dramatically down.

Additionally, the specie remained overfished with fish managers deciding to institute an addendum to the striped bass plan to explore more conservation measures if needed in 2026 so that the stock can fulfill its required rebuilding plan by 2029.

"Four of the bass we caught off Newport Tuesday morning (in June) were over 40 pounds. The largest, a hungry 44 pound fish was caught on the surface, this one on a DOC 9 topwater lure," said expert angler Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, RI. "There is nothing like having a 44-pound fish attack your lure on the surface."

East End Eddie Doherty, Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author, said, "The new moon provided better action in the Canal with fish slot size and larger breaking periodically for an hour at first light. One of our success stories is thirteen year-old Cody Rice from Connecticut who caught seven nice striped bass including a couple of 40-inch beauties on a JoeBaggs Swarter in the middle of a west tide."

Although fishing may have been good for striped bass at top fishing spots, other locations where the water was warmer with less bait saw a big slump.

Fred Definis, editor of the RI Saltwater Anglers Association magazine and 2nd Vice President of the Association said, "The big disappointment this year was the lack of bait in the Sakonnet River and East Bay area of Narragansett Bay which I fish. Very few strippers and almost no bluefish. A half dozen places that were dependable in 2023 yielded few to no fish this year. Ended up going east of Sakonnet light a lot, sometimes all the way to Westport to find fish. The bonito saved the season as they were around in big numbers for quite a while."

Great tautog bite with a new Rhode Island Record

Once again this year tautog fishing was very good with fish being taken at the Cape Cod Canal, in Buzzards Bay, off Newport, along Rhode Island's southern coastal shore and in Narragansett Bay. Anglers caught their limit often and the fish were large.

Angler John Migliori of Newport caught a 7.46 pound, 21-inch tautog from shore off Aquidneck Island. It was his first keeper of the year.

And we had a new Rhode Island record this year. Vinney Simms, Jr's huge tautog made a total of four runs back



Capt. Rob Taylor (left) with charter customer Vinny Simms who broke the Rhode Island State tautog record with this 22 pound 5.28 ounce tautog. (Submitted photo)



Vito Marsico with the 28 pound striped bass he caught on the Cape Cod Canal. (Photo by Vinnie Marsico.)

down to the bottom. He managed to keep the fish off the bottom and got it into the boat, it was a new State of Rhode Island record breaking 22 pounds 5.28 ounce and 31 inches.

Simms, a resident of Hamilton, New Jersey, landed the huge tautog while fishing with Capt. Rob Taylor of Newport Sportfishing Charters.

"Vinny did a good job, but you also need a lot of luck to land a big fish like this. With big fish I tell anglers to just keep reeling, even if the fish is talking drag you are slowing it down (Simms's drag was set at a very heavy 18 pounds)," said Capt. Taylor. "The aim is to prevent the fish from returning to

where it came from, meaning the rock cluster it lives in. We had a lot of current and strong tides Monday so this fish fortunately may have gotten disoriented a bit coming up and down four times."

The fish was landed aboard the Reel E-Z, Capt. Taylor's charter fishing vessel, on a piece of structure he discovered earlier this year in about 60 feet of water when netting Atlantic menhaden for striped bass fishing bait. It was the first time he brought charter customers to the spot to fish.

Climate impacting fishing, large animals and warm water exotics

This year climate continued to impact the fish we catch and love to eat as well as bringing larger animals closer to shore. Warm water brings more robust bait profiles and warm water fish follow the bait into our area and the cold water fish like winter flounder and American Lobster leave for colder deeper water.

The giant bluefin and school tuna bite was outstanding once again this year. Whales, sharks and exotic warm water fish were here in greater numbers too. There was enhanced shark deprivation, with sharks eating an anglers catch (stiped bass, summer flounder, cod, etc.) as they brought the fish to the boat or shore.

Whale strikes and fixed gear entanglements continued to rise as whales came in greater contact with humans, vessels, fish traps and lobster pots to feed.

Matt Conti of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown, said in September, "The giant bluefin tuna bite is crazy. Multiple fish caught at the Gully, Habbs Ledge at the Butterfish Hole, and yesterday multiple giants were caught just two miles off Scarbrough Beach, Narragansett. The fish were feeding behind trawlers as they brought their nets up. They have been feeding on Atlantic menhaden. Three giants were weighed in at our dock all at the same time Wednesday afternoon. Fish being caught this week were all sizes with the largest being in the 800 plus pound range."

Exotic warm water fish continue to be caught in our region. More mahi, wahoo and cobia than ever before were caught in our area and then this summer Tom Czernik, a Brown University graduate student caught a 70-inch Atlantic Tarpon off a Rhode Island Beach. And, last year a tarpon was caught off a Cape Cod beach.

Where's the bite?

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

Freshwater fishing. Anglers are fishing for largemouth bass weather permitting. And, for a complete list of trout stocked ponds in Massachusetts visit Mass Wildlife at Trout stocking report | Mass.gov, both Whiting and Falls Ponds in North Attleboro were stocked this fall. And, in Rhode Island visit www.dem.ri.gov/fishing, or call 401-789-0281 or 401-539-0019 for more information on trout stocking.

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

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Shekarchi

(Continued from page 1)

enough water or sewer lines, that's a false premise, because if you don't have enough water, you don't have sewer, you don't have any housing," Shekarchi said. "And we're not mandating housing in any way that communities can't support it."

In response to Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr.'s vow to challenge Rhode Island's affordable housing laws to stop the proposed development of a 252-unit apartment complex near George Waterman Road, Shekarchi said he thinks Polisena is trying to negotiate for a smaller development on the site.

"I think he's doing what he thinks is best in his community," Shekarchi said. "But we cannot leave it to local cities and towns to make a lot of these decisions regarding land-use process. I want

to distinguish between the process and the decision, because every single decision made regarding any development is still made at the local level. The Johnston Planning Board, appointed by the mayor, Johnston Zoning Board, Johnston Town Council, make the final decision."

What the Assembly has done, he says, is to make "the process easier to go through."

Shekarchi also said that if Johnston was looking to build single-family homes — rather than apartments — in the area where they are proposed, they would have to be small buildings on small lots to be affordable.

The speaker pointed to a backlog of Superior Court cases relating to land-use disputes as an example of how housing-related decisions have picked up the pace recently. Prior to 2024, there were 131 cases in the backlog; now, Shekarchi said, there are only 20.

Three different commissions —

the landlord-tenant commission, affordable housing commission, and land-use reform commission — will also wrap up their work in January and suggest legislation to help ease the housing crisis.

The speaker challenged those who have opposed his housing plans to find other solutions, saying that while he has heard plenty of criticism of his plans to increase housing supply and density, he hasn't heard any feasible alternative solutions.

"This is a very difficult 30-year problem, and quite frankly, I don't see anyone else stepping up to pick up the ball and try to find some workable solutions," Shekarchi said. "I welcome anybody who opposes any of this to come forward and give me a different plan, another workable solution. And I haven't found anyone to step forward, other than saying it's going to be left to local control. Well, we've left it in local control for 30 years, and what do

we have? A housing crisis."

Despite all the attention paid and the work done to encourage more affordable housing, however, Rhode Island's homelessness rate has been among the nation's fastest rising, with data from the state Coalition to End Homelessness showing a 35% increase in the unsheltered population statewide last year.

Shekarchi said that Rhode Island led the country in enacting a Homelessness Bill of Rights, but that government could not do much more beyond that and increasing housing supply.

"Homelessness is a very complicated problem," Shekarchi said. "We, the General Assembly, pass laws, we appropriate money, and that's it. The actual running of the programs — the hiring, the implementation — is all done in the executive branch."

With the new year starting, many laws passed in the General Assembly's 2024 session are now

taking effect, with at least four of them having to do with housing.

Other laws now in effect include significant reforms to the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights (LEOBOR), a ban on food packaging and firefighting foam that contains PFAS, known as "forever chemicals," and a law prohibiting health care providers from reporting medical debt to credit agencies.

After four years as speaker of the House, Shekarchi took November's election results as a sign of confidence in his leadership and is hoping he can make 2025 a strong year for the state.

"Every single incumbent, Democrat and Republican, won reelection in November, and I think that's a validation of the work we've been doing," Shekarchi said. "My next election is January 7, for election of the speaker. I want to get elected speaker and I want to be the best possible speaker I can be."

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| 1065 Town Farm Rd | Virginia R Giordano T and Leite, Cathleen | Lebron, Eliezer and Lebron, Elvira | 12/12 | \$715,000 |
| 12 Cobblestone Ter | Celtic Roman Group LLC | Morrissey, Joanne and Morrissey, Paul | 12/11 | \$502,500 |
| 17 Alaska St | M & A Family Realty LLC | Bedian, Vahe and Bedian, Anni | 12/11 | \$39,900 |
| 17 Driftwood Dr | Martin, Glenn A and Martin, Joy M | Orfan, Daniel J and Olivier, Lisa A | 12/10 | \$650,000 |
| 18 Paul Sprague Dr | Velasquez, Francisco A and Velasquez, Jennifer L | Lin, Xiaojing and Long, Zheng | 12/11 | \$765,000 |
| 2 Michael Ct | Lsf9 Master Part T and Us Bank TNa Tr | Buteau, Roland D and Buteau, Patricia A | 12/19 | \$405,000 |
| 26 Sandra Cir | Rudolf, Barbara | Guindon, Robert and Guindon, Lorraine | 12/13 | \$233,000 |
| 27 Sunset Lake Cir Lot 24 | Westwood Const Inc | Storybook Homes Inc | 12/12 | \$215,000 |
| 29 Sunset Lake Cir Lot 23 | Westwood Const Inc | Storybook Homes Inc | 12/12 | \$215,000 |
| 3 2nd St | Craig, Glen J and Craig, Lois R | Garafano, Kim and Garafano, Stacie L | 12/12 | \$370,000 |
| 3222 Flat River Rd | Guindon, Robert R and Guindon, Lorraine M | Brown, Christopher M | 12/13 | \$395,500 |
| 46 Hill Farm Camp Rd Lot 46 | Robert J Higgins T and Higgins, Kevin R | Leo, Sheila S and Shea, Michelle J | 12/11 | \$430,000 |
| 71 Club House Rd | Tortolani, Laura E | Correia, Paulo and Correia, Nelia | 12/12 | \$400,000 |
| 8 Labrea Way | Lebron, Eliezer and Lebron, Elvira | Conceicao, Michael and Conceicao, Kathryn | 12/12 | \$570,000 |
| 91 Macarthur Blvd | Lavery, Thomas M | Howard, Paige M and Davey, Andrew P | 12/13 | \$410,000 |

CRANSTON

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|-----------------------------|---|---|-------|-------------|
| 101 Knollwood Ave | Irving, Jane | Vaughn, Brian J and Vaughn, Amanda | 12/6 | \$310,000 |
| 118 Albert Ave Lot 118 | Sampson, David K | Anderson, Flora S | 12/5 | \$310,000 |
| 120 Vallette St | Frias, Massiel A | Soto, Flor C | 12/5 | \$435,000 |
| 139 Park View Blvd | Kalinin, Vladimir A and Kalinin, Natalya | Weng, Qin | 12/9 | \$366,000 |
| 139 Park View Blvd Lot 1514 | Kalinin, Vladimir A and Kalinin, Natalya | Weng, Qin | 12/9 | \$366,000 |
| 16 E Hill Dr | Frank Laurito RET and Laurito, Frank | Arias, Paul A and Essig, Alycia | 12/11 | \$600,000 |
| 16 Wakefield Ave | Burrows Jr, Stephen | Boyle, Jillian and Grace, Domenic | 12/5 | \$515,000 |
| 165 Holland St Lot 22 | Casey J Daniel Est and Walker, Jane E | Rathbun, Alexander E | 12/5 | \$315,000 |
| 165 Maplewood Ave | Cicione Ft and Black, Geraldine M | Ngim, Leak K | 12/6 | \$466,000 |
| 181 Bay View Ave | Hernandez, Silvano | Rodriguez Ger, Alexander M and German, Marianny D | 12/9 | \$665,000 |
| 2 Jay Ct | Motta, David J and Motta, Deborah L | Desjarlais, Seth and Desjarlais, Melissa | 12/9 | \$780,000 |
| 240 Curry Rd | Rita P Branca Irt and Melillo, Elisha A | Halnon, Brian and Halnon, Lorian | 12/5 | \$425,000 |
| 30 Hampshire Rd | Graves, Geraldine A and Boisclair, Mari-Ellen | Armstrong, Gary | 12/6 | \$315,000 |
| 31 Tucker Ave | Pvd Vent LLC | Dimov, Tatyana and Dimov, Sergey | 12/6 | \$845,000 |
| 32 Lockmere Rd | Arias, Paul | Moura, Vanessa | 12/10 | \$410,000 |
| 39 Weaver St | Madeline M Montanaro Retl and Montanaro, Gina M | Tessier, Michael and Tessier, Donna | 12/9 | \$515,000 |
| 40 Berkley St | Sollars, Marie and Chalek, Susan M | Corrigan, Cynthia | 12/6 | \$320,000 |
| 40 N View Ave | Wolfe, Paul B and Wolfe, Jamie M | 401 Homebuyers LLC | 12/11 | \$362,000 |
| 5 Sweet Pea Dr Lot 5 | Joanna Lambros Lt and Lambros, Joanna | Nagle, Ann M | 12/5 | \$542,000 |
| 54 Speck Ave | Henderson, Ramon A and Henderson, Lutgarda | Moreno, Nancy and Reyes, Yoelson | 12/6 | \$402,150 |
| 59 Tomahawk Trl | Corsi Robert Est and Corsi, Robert E | Corsi, Michael F | 12/4 | \$385,000 |
| 65 Mollie Dr | Bell, Gregory G and Bell, Rennae I | Nunez-Duran, Walli J and Nunez, Jackeline | 12/5 | \$790,000 |
| 7 Astle St | Ferguson, Ryan M | Duran, Ann E | 12/10 | \$410,000 |
| 72 Columbia Ave | Walcott-Matthew, Kristin E and Matthews, Evan H | Williams, Ted R | 12/5 | \$840,000 |
| 78 Meshanticut Valley Pkwy | Pirolli, Joanne E | Cocozza, Julia and Barry, Ryan | 12/5 | \$675,000 |
| 995 Pontiac Ave Lot 1046 | Eb Prop Inc | Natale Family Llp | 12/5 | \$1,375,000 |
| 995 Pontiac Ave Lot 647 | Eb Prop Inc | Natale Family Llp | 12/5 | \$1,375,000 |
| 995 Pontiac Ave Lot 650 | Eb Prop Inc | Natale Family Llp | 12/5 | \$1,375,000 |

EAST GREENWICH

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|--------------------|--|--|-------|-------------|
| 18 Long St | Weisenfeld, Richard and Weisenfeld, Janet M | Sabbagh, Geoffrey | 12/3 | \$720,000 |
| 20 Graham Way | White Jr, Peter D and White, Sheri A | Marzilli, Vanessa L and Belakonis, Jacob D | 12/10 | \$985,000 |
| 205 Shady Hill Dr | Pine 3rd, William B and Santagata, Stephanie | Delahanty, Lawrence and Fraioli, Vincent | 12/13 | \$600,000 |
| 47 Bridge St Lot 7 | Lovinsky, Linnea S and Lovinsky, James D | Hsiao, Ho P and Wu, Kuan-Hui | 12/6 | \$505,000 |
| 51 Somerset St | Greene, William F | Michele D Lipman RET and Lipman, Michele D | 12/6 | \$825,000 |
| 75 Tipping Rock Dr | Jennifer P Batista RET and Batista, Jennifer P | Fortner, Justin and Fortner, Chelsey | 12/9 | \$1,695,000 |
| 8 Maplewood Dr | Murray, John and Heller, Lanie | Chen, Liang and Li, Chunyang | 12/6 | \$519,900 |

EXETER

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|----------------------|---|--|-------|-----------|
| 205 Escoheag Hill Rd | Charles S Cummiskey T and Cummiskey Jr, Charles S | Cummiskey Jr, Charles S and Cummiskey, Charlotte J | 12/13 | \$225,000 |
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JOHNSTON

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|----------------|---|--|-------|-----------|
| 11 Linwood Dr | Cionci Evelyn Est and Cionci, Richard F | Puleo, Joseph A and Puleo, Elizabeth F | 12/13 | \$10,000 |
| 11 Linwood Dr | Cionci, John L and Cionci, Leann S | Puleo, Joseph A and Puleo, Elizabeth F | 12/13 | \$330,000 |
| 50 Burnett St | Paquin, Kathym E | Brannon, Lindset and Searles, Benjamin | 12/11 | \$410,000 |
| 7 Mathewson St | Ea Group LLC | Oliva, Marco A and Oliva-Alorizo, Anna P | 12/17 | \$520,000 |

WARWICK

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|------------------------------|--|---|-------|-------------|
| 102 Hollis Ave | Costa, Lucas A and Ferreira, Julie L | Mathews, Kaylee L and Fleury, Sean M | 12/12 | \$384,900 |
| 12 Rosewood Ave | Abbott, Lisa M | Rapose, Anthony M and Rapose, Angelina C | 12/13 | \$380,000 |
| 130 Pilgrim Pkwy Lot 8 | Miville, Ann C | Mejia, Alexis | 12/13 | \$200,000 |
| 15 Candle Hill Ct | Jerianne H Berman RET and Berman, Andrew | Reddy, Jake and Kane, Hannah | 12/12 | \$500,000 |
| 190 Smith St | Correia, Paolo M and Correia, Nelia J | Ditmore, John D and Cordon, Shannon K | 12/12 | \$410,000 |
| 242 Natick Ave | Dias, Donna L | Mccabe, Brandi L | 12/11 | \$365,000 |
| 29 S Atlantic Ave | Colburn, Carleen E and Mandile, Richard J | Marie V Hoy T and Hoy, Marie V | 12/13 | \$750,000 |
| 30 Dayton Ave | Penta Fret and Penta, Michael | Fernandez, Michael S | 12/13 | \$642,000 |
| 30 Novelty Rd | Moura, Vanessa | Wellington, Corey | 12/10 | \$365,000 |
| 34 Chapin Ave | Boulet, Jennifer E | Sib Prop LLC | 12/13 | \$410,000 |
| 3585 W Shore Rd | Deschenes, Timothy W and Deschenes, Denise | Shepherd, Jennifer L | 12/10 | \$275,000 |
| 37 Westbrook Rd | Three Kids LLC | Hurley, Jennifer L and Hurley, Melissa C | 12/11 | \$445,000 |
| 39 Church Ave | Mckerracher, Barbara R and Iannotta, Wendy K | Radcliffe, William E and Radcliffe, Nancy J | 12/13 | \$325,000 |
| 44 Castle Rocks Rd | Lucia M Marshall T and Marshall, Lucia M | Brady, Mark and Lui, Roberta | 12/11 | \$925,000 |
| 46 Burnett Rd | Clynes Sr, Kevin F | Kendall, Elizabeth A and Howard, Stephen P | 12/13 | \$1,475,000 |
| 49 Van Zandt Ave | Federal Natl Mtg Assn | Greenwich Cap Partners LL | 12/11 | \$130,000 |
| 56 Corin St | Jennette, Matthew | Laorenza, Margaret M | 12/12 | \$429,000 |
| 59 Keller Ave | Dorsey, John A | Harrington Rity LLC | 12/9 | \$150,000 |
| 594 Algonquin Dr | Marilyn Fleising Lt and Fleising, Marilyn | Bogosian, Jessica L and Zannini, Michael | 12/13 | \$575,000 |
| 62 Crescendo Dr | Grande, Denise L | 64 South Invest LLC | 12/9 | \$265,000 |
| 62 Crescendo Dr | 64 Invest LLC | Elevator Prop Inc | 12/9 | \$315,000 |
| 773 Williamsburg Cir Lot 773 | Miele, Domenic | Bristo Irt and Brito, Joseph | 12/10 | \$270,000 |
| 79 Barton Ave | Creiglow, Amanda G | Lisa N Rizzo T and Rizzo, Lisa N | 12/13 | \$390,000 |
| 81 Yucatan Dr | Hurst, Ann E | Brutis LLC | 12/11 | \$237,500 |
| 88 Lee Ave | Cameron, Gayle M | Ventriglia, Jennifer E and Ventriglia Jr, Americo D | 12/10 | \$320,000 |
| 881 Greenwich Ave Lot 38 | Hanley, Christine | Silvia, Chad W and Silvia Jr, Ernest | 12/11 | \$385,000 |

WEST GREENWICH

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| 54 Breakheart Hill Rd | Madden, Michael R | Jennette, Matthew and Given, Jaime | 12/12 | \$595,000 |
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| | | | | |
|----------------------|--|--|-------|-----------|
| 110 E Main St | Madden, Richard E | Guerra-Cedeno, Jesus M | 12/11 | \$385,000 |
| 12 Bayview Dr | Blanchette Ft and Cuomo, Leanne M | Blanchette, Robert J | 12/12 | \$390,000 |
| 13 Granite St | Madden, Richard | Pires, Albert | 12/16 | \$360,000 |
| 28 Scenic Dr Lot 28 | Heiss, John E | Connell, Elizabeth and Connell, Margaret | 12/13 | \$250,000 |
| 30 Gough Ave | Rapose, Anthony M and Rapose, Angelina C | Bucklin, Nicholas E and Martin-Graham, Taylor M | 12/12 | \$320,000 |
| 33 Matteson Ave | Scott, Glenn and Scott, Sandra | Rojas-Carrera, Dylan A and Ordonez-Pineda, America L | 12/11 | \$430,000 |
| 44 Juniper Dr | Cavallaro, James J | Dicenzo, Cynthia J and Cirelli, Michael D | 12/13 | \$515,000 |
| 565 Quaker Ln Lot 32 | Jones, Tanya M | Roccio, William | 12/17 | \$315,000 |
| 7 Eileen Dr | Metivier, Sara L and Metivier, Kaytlyn | Follette, Kenneth R and Follette, Alyssa | 12/13 | \$396,000 |
| 71 Border St | Defazio, Sally J and Defazio Sr, Peter A | Correia, Luis | 12/13 | \$240,000 |
| 9 Oakland Dr | Kershaw, Patricia | Pamela Kershaw RET and Kershaw, Pamela | 12/17 | \$300,000 |



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