



## School Budget Commission nears state approval

*With fiscal year nearing end, time grows tight*

By ADAM ZANGARI  
Beacon Media Staff Writer

The creation of a Warwick Public Schools Budget Commission has cleared one of its final hurdles, and it's on track to become law a week from today.

The bill passed the state Senate last week, and now, according to House communications director Larry Berman, the House and Senate need to pass each other's bills. The texts of each bill are the same, meaning that the process is essentially a formality.

Gov. Dan McKee said that once the bill reaches his desk, he intends to sign it into law.

"I think that we're in a good spot there, and I will sign that legislation," McKee said. "Any way that we can make sure that the local communities can manage their budgets and make sure they're as efficient as possible, I support that."

Berman said a House committee hearing on the bill is set for next Tuesday, with floor passage likely on Thursday. The bill has emerged from Senate committee consideration, and although as of Wednesday it had not been scheduled for a floor vote, Berman expressed confidence it would occur on or before Thursday.

Time is of the essence when it comes to this commission, whose term will expire as soon as City Council has approved the Fiscal Year 2026 budget and the newly formed commission has adopted a deficit-reduction plan approved by the state auditor general. The Fiscal Year 2026 budget takes effect July 1.

Mayor Frank Picozzi and some City Council and School Committee members have advocated for the formation of a school budget commission to address a multimillion-dollar deficit hanging over the school district and the School Committee having trouble erasing it. The deficit, estimated to be near \$9 million earlier this year, is seen as a particular threat as the school system nears groundbreaking on two new high schools with \$350 million authorized by voters in 2023 and estimated costs rising around \$20 million above that in the time since.

Though he hasn't named anyone yet, Mayor Frank Picozzi has said that he has heard multiple times from in-

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Light and airy to eat, heavy to carry. Shannon Monahan hoists a tray of Zeppole at Antonio's bakery in Warwick. Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti

## Bursting with sweet luxury

*Rich in history and welcome every spring, there is nothing modest about Zeppole*

By BARBARA POLICHETTI  
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Despite a somewhat hazy history, there is absolutely no question that the Zeppole (ZAY-poe-lay) Italian pastry is beyond popular in Rhode Island, with local bakeries churning out tens of thousands last Wednesday in preparation for St. Joseph's Day.

Accounts differ on how the pastry became associated with that holy feast day, as do accounts about the evolution of the pastry itself. But here in Rhode Island, the zeppole takes the form of a frilly round pastry bursting with rich custard filling, wreathed in whipped cream and topped with a maraschino cherry.

And although March 19 (St. Joseph's Day) is the 'official' day to partake in the confection, most Italian bakeries across the state sell them from late January through Easter – and a few make them available all year long. Last week we visited popular pastry shops in Warwick, Cranston and Johnston, where it was a veritable frenzy of zeppole-making.

At the Original Italian Bakery in Johnston, it seemed that there were zeppole, or parts of zeppole, everywhere. There were huge wooden bakery tables lined with split zeppole shells waiting for their fillings, buckets of cooked custard filling in the refrigerators and a huge mixer churning out homemade whipped cream.

"By the time we're done with zeppole season, we don't want to want to eat them," said one employee, noting that the desire to indulge in the sought-after sweet goes away

relatively quickly when you are surrounded by them day after day.

Donald DePetrillo, owner of the Original Italian Bakery, can make them in his sleep – something he gets very little of. He typically sells zeppole from around the time of the Super Bowl until Easter Sunday and estimates that the total tally for the season is around 66,000. He already had



The finishing touch. Zeppole are topped off with a bright red maraschino cherry. Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti

countless orders for this week and said that it's not unusual to sell 8,000 zeppole on St. Joseph's Day alone.

A baker and bakery owner for 58 years, DePetrillo, says he typically starts work around 11:30 pm and stays until

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The McKees read the Litter-Free Rhode Island coloring book to the students gathered at Park Elementary. Beacon Media photo by Adam Zangari

## Governor, first lady bring colorful anti-litter campaign to school

By ADAM ZANGARI  
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Governor Dan McKee and First Lady Susan McKee arrived at Park Elementary School on Friday to a crowd of excited second- and third-graders ready to learn about eradicating litter.

The two read the brand-new Litter-Free Rhode Island Coloring Book, which was created to help teach children about why it is important to keep their communities clean.

The visit was part of the McKees' Litter-Free Rhode Island campaign, launched in 2022.

Helping keep communities clean, Susan McKee said, is a big source of civic pride, and something that everyone, no matter what age, can be part of.

"We know that we live in a beautiful state, don't we?" the first lady told the students. "Rhode Island is a beautiful state. It has beautiful beaches, parks and neighborhoods, and we want Rhode Island to be the most beautiful, the cleanest, the healthiest state in the whole country. We know that we can do that if we all work together."

The book's author, Jordan Brazeau, attended Park and graduated from Pilgrim High School as its class president

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## 297-unit apartment complex to take 2 years

*Seen as keystone to City Centre development*

By JOHN HOWELL  
Warwick Beacon Editor

Finally, Michael Integlia is ready to dig into the development that could be the keystone to the long-envisioned Warwick City Centre.

Within the month, Integlia plans to hold the groundbreaking for Skye City Centre, a \$130-million, four-story, 297-unit apartment complex designed around two courtyards.

"The time has come; we're moving ahead with this project," Integlia said Friday. Soon after acquiring the former Leviton Manufacturing Co. property 11 years ago, Integlia subdivided it. Dean Warehouse, which occupied the southern end of the former manufacturing operation, expanded and was separated from the rest of the mill. A solar farm now occupies much of the low-lying land that was contaminated by the Leviton operations. And a complex of 19 single-family, free-standing condo houses and 56 townhouse condominiums is in the final stages of construction on Kilvert Street by Robert Lamoureux of Great Point Group.

Integlia had the vision of developing the heart of Leviton, the Elizabeth Mill built in 1875 by industrialist Thomas Jefferson and named for his wife, into a combination residential, retail and office space. He was not committed to preserving the brick mill building and its iconic tower

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An estimated 200 protesters gathered Sunday afternoon outside ICE offices on Jefferson Boulevard to protest the detention and deportation of people legally in the United States. Submitted photos

## 200 picket outside Warwick ICE office

### Protest detentions, deportation

By **JOHN HOWELL**  
 Warwick Beacon Editor

More than 200 people from numerous groups picketed U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices on Jefferson Boulevard Sunday afternoon.

They came together to protest the detention of Mahmoud Khalil, who was involved in pro-Palestinian demonstrations on Columbia University's campus and is a permanent resident of the United States. He has not been charged with a crime.

But then there was all the more reason to picket with the deportation of Dr. Rasha Alawieh, who has been working for Brown Medicine in the Division of Kidney Disease & Hypertension on an H-1B visa – and the arrest by ICE of Fabian Schmidt, a German national with a green card who, according to NBC News, is being held at the Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls.

“There was a lot of energy, a lot of honking,” The Rev. E. Jarrett Kerbel, an Episcopal priest and organizer of the protest, said Monday. Kerbel said the picketing was orderly and that Warwick police sent two cruisers. Kerbel was at a loss to name all the churches and organizations protesting.

Initially the picketing was in support of Khalil, but as the cases of Dr. Alawieh and Schmidt became known, they were added to the cause. On Sunday, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, called on the Trump administration to immediately readmit Dr. Alawieh, who traveled to Lebanon to visit family and was then prevented by U.S. Customs officials from reentering the United States.

“Deporting lawful immigrants like Dr. Alawieh without any basis undermines the rule of law and reinforces suspicion that our immigration system is turning into an anti-Muslim, white-supremacist institution that seeks to expel and turn away as many Muslims and people of color as

possible,” CAIR wrote in a release.

The explanation on Monday from Department of Homeland Security spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin, according to news reports including the New York Times: “Last month, Rasha Alawieh traveled to Beirut, Lebanon, to attend the funeral of Hassan Nasrallah – a brutal terrorist who led Hezbollah, responsible for killing hundreds of Americans over a four-decade terror spree. Alawieh openly admitted to this to [Customs Border Protection] officers, as well as her support of Nasrallah. A visa is a privilege not a right – glorifying and supporting terrorists who kill Americans is grounds for visa issuance to be denied. This is commonsense security.”

Kerbel, who is serving as an interim pastor for a local church, said “ICE is showing up at Kent County Court looking for people.” He said no one came out of the ICE office on Jefferson Boulevard and he suspected no one was there.

According to NBC, Astrid Senior, Schmidt's mother, said she and her son moved to the United States from Germany in 2007 and received green cards in 2008. He lives in New Hampshire and renewed his permanent legal resident status last year.

Senior told NBC she has no idea why her son is being detained by U.S. immigration officials. She said her son, who once lived in California, faced misdemeanor charges roughly a decade ago. He has no active legal or court issues, she said.

News of Schmidt's arrest and detention was first reported by WGBH, a Boston area Public Broadcasting Service television station.

“We are all waiting to see if the administration is going to follow court orders,” said Kerbel. He also said he and others troubled by Trump's actions are looking for leadership. He observed that fear over the loss of rights has brought together diverse groups that normally would not join forces.

“They face a common threat and band together,” he said.

## Police Log

### DUI

On Feb. 8 at 2:03 a.m., a Warwick police officer on patrol noticed a car being driven irregularly. Upon checking the car and realizing it was listed as unregistered, the officer conducted a traffic stop.

The driver, 26-year-old Abigail Behm of Coventry, told the officer that the vehicle was registered to her grandmother, and provided proper registration. Her eyes, however, were bloodshot and watery, and the officer reportedly noticed a red Solo cup, which he said contained a clear alcoholic beverage.

The officer escorted Behm to a paved parking lot to conduct field sobriety tests. After failing them, Behm was arrested and charged with driving under the influence. While she was at the police station, a breath test indicated she had a blood-alcohol content of .195. During a further search of Behm's vehicle, officers found a four-pack of wine coolers and a bottle of vodka.

There was a passenger in the car for whom Cranston police had issued an arrest warrant. She was taken into custody and turned over to the CPD.

### DUI

On Feb. 8 at 2:45 a.m., a WPD officer noticed a car stopped at a green light on Bald Hill Road. As the car remained stationary, the officer approached the car and tapped on the driver's-side window.

The driver, 42-year-old Jonathan Rodriguez of West Warwick, said he didn't notice that he was stopped at the green light; reportedly, his speech was slurred and his motor skills were delayed. Rodriguez told the officer that he was returning home from the house of a friend in Narragansett, and admitted to having had three beers at the house.

The officer asked Rodriguez to conduct field sobriety tests, which he agreed to. About halfway through the second test, Rodriguez stood in one place for an extended period of time, repeatedly saying “I'm f\*\*\*ed” and “I'm drunk.”

Rodriguez was arrested and charged with driving under the influence. While at the police station, a breath test revealed that he had a blood alcohol content of .101.

### DUI

On Feb. 10 at 12:14 a.m., a WPD officer noticed a car drifting over the lane marker, nearly colliding with another car in an adjacent lane on Post Road. After noticing that and seeing the car driving 20 mph under the speed limit on the Airport Connector, the officer conducted a traffic stop.

The driver, 44-year-old Floyd Varner of Lawrence, Massachusetts, said he was attempting to put his seatbelt on, which is what caused him to swerve. After the officer pointed out that his seat belt was off, Varner said that he took it off once he was pulled over. He told the officer that

he was leaving a friend's Valentine's Day party in West Warwick.

The officer asked Varner if he had been drinking; reportedly, he told the officer that he had consumed “two beers and a drink.” Following that, another officer conducted field sobriety tests. After failing the tests, Varner was arrested and charged with driving under the influence. He refused to take a breath test.

Additionally, Varner's car's registration had been suspended since November, so he was also charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration.

### DRIVING WITH SUSPENDED LICENSE

On Feb. 11 at 10:26 a.m., a WPD officer on patrol noticed a man driving while holding a cellphone up to his head.

The officer pulled over the man, identified as 37-year-old Brian Boulet from East Providence. Boulet told the officer that he was on the phone with his boss. When asked for his license and registration, Boulet said his driver's license had been suspended.

Boulet was arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license, fourth+ offense.

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<b>Publisher</b> Joy Fox - <a href="mailto:Publisher@BeaconMediaRI.com">Publisher@BeaconMediaRI.com</a>	<b>Classified Advertising</b> Iida Zecco - <a href="mailto:Classifieds@rhodybeat.com">Classifieds@rhodybeat.com</a>
<b>Editor</b> John L. Howell, Jr. - <a href="mailto:JohnH@rhodybeat.com">JohnH@rhodybeat.com</a>	<b>Production Manager</b> Lisa Bourque Yuettnier - <a href="mailto:LisaB@rhodybeat.com">LisaB@rhodybeat.com</a>
<b>Editorial Staff</b> Adam Zangari - <a href="mailto:AdamZ@rhodybeat.com">AdamZ@rhodybeat.com</a>	<b>Production Staff</b> Monique Rice - <a href="mailto:MoR@rhodybeat.com">MoR@rhodybeat.com</a> Jason Major - <a href="mailto:JasonM@beaconmediar.com">JasonM@beaconmediar.com</a>
<b>Sports Editor</b> Alex Sponseller - <a href="mailto:AlexS@rhodybeat.com">AlexS@rhodybeat.com</a>	<b>Credit Manager</b> Lynne Taylor
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<b>Advertising Representatives</b> Suzanne Wendoloski - <a href="mailto:SuzanneW@rhodybeat.com">SuzanneW@rhodybeat.com</a>	<b>Spotlight Profile Writer</b> Jennifer Coates - <a href="mailto:JenniferC@rhodybeat.com">JenniferC@rhodybeat.com</a>

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## Good for a story

House Speaker Joe Shekarchi recently read to a second-grade class at Wyman Elementary School as part of Reading Week. He was invited by Principal Ryan Rafanelli. While at the school, Shekarchi presented a \$3,000 legislative grant on behalf of the Warwick House delegation to the Volunteers of Warwick Schools - VOWS, Inc. Nicole Spirito, executive director of VOWS, explained that the grant supports the early intervention Heads Up Anti-Bullying program serving second-grade students throughout Warwick. (Submitted photo)

## Ming's opens on Broad Street

Popular food truck to remain on the road

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

The word 'ming' means 'Auntie' in Khmer, and it is often used as a term of friendship and affection. And it was in the company of the 'aunties,' in her community that Korn Suom grew to love cooking and the dishes of her Cambodian heritage.

Her husband, Josh Burgoyne, also loves cooking, particularly barbecue and comfort food, and was inspired by Suom's knowledge of Asian dishes. Together, the couple fused their culinary passions and about six years ago launched Ming's Asian Street Food, a food truck specializing in Asian-inspired comfort food.

The bright yellow truck -- which dished out specialties such as Korean hot chicken sandwiches and hand-cut French fries covered with pho (beef-based) gravy -- quickly became popular on the state's thriving food truck circuit.

Now Burgoyne and Suom are taking the next step.

They opened their first restaurant at 1864 Broad Street, the location that was long home to the Edgewood Café.

After renovating the site, Suom said that they can't wait to begin serving customers at their new restaurant.

"We want it to be a vibrant, no-frills place where people feel welcome," Suom said. "It also represents stability for us and our employees."

The Ming's truck will stay on the road, she said, but it is also be great to have a home base. Over the past eight years, she said, they have logged many miles in the food truck serving their unique cuisine throughout the state and nearby locations in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

"This is going to give us roots," she Suom said, adding that it marks a big step from their beginnings when they rented a truck to give their culinary creativity a try.

She said the menu at the restaurant will be much the same as the food truck's as they continue to take traditional comfort food and give it an Asian twist. In a nod to the restaurant's start, the Broad Street space has been outfitted with bright awnings the same canary yellow as the



The owners of Ming's, a popular Rhode Island food truck, are now putting down roots at a new restaurant soon opening on Broad Street in Cranston's Edgewood section. Submitted photo

Mings food truck.

"I remember when we were looking to start the business and Josh saw an ad on Craig's List for the rental of a food truck, and said, 'Let's try it,'" Suom recalled. "We did, and we made it work."

## ACLU applauds, urges public meeting streaming

COVID-era decision has improved public access

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

Although remote access to public meetings -- via livestreaming services such as "Zoom" or other platforms -- is not mandatory in the state, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Rhode Island is urging communities to make meetings as accessible as possible.

The organization's recommendation is based on a recent report that examines meeting access to municipal town councils and school committees. The data updates a similar report that the ACLU issued almost two years ago, and while it states that there have been some improvements in remote access to meetings, it concludes that there is room for improvement.

Citing its own prior report, the organization states, "Access to the democratic process should no longer hinge on a person's physical mobility or their ability to afford a car, get time off work, or find a childcare provider."

According to the report which can be read on the Rhode Island ACLU website, a majority of the 39 municipal town councils in the state make livestreaming options available to the public, as do the majority of school committees.

In the Warwick, Cranston and Johnston area, both Warwick and Cranston offer remote access to meetings. Johnston, however, was singled out in the report for not providing streaming access to School Committee meetings. And although it was not highlighted in the ACLU report, the town also does not offer remote access to Town Council meetings.

Robert Russo, president of the Town Council, said that while remote access is not currently offered, being accessible is important to the council. All meeting agendas and minutes are posted online, he said, and he has not heard of any concerns or received requests for remote meeting access for the public. "We don't have the equipment for that (remote access) ...and as far as I am aware, we have not had any requests," he said last week. "But if someone did approach us with concerns, I'm sure we'd try to see if there was something we could do."

Joseph Rotella, Chair of the Johnston School Commit-

tee, expressed similar sentiments. "We follow what the Town Council does," he said, noting that the school board recently hired a stenographer to improve public access to the details of past meetings.

Rotella, who became chairman in January, said the board does not currently have the equipment to live stream its meetings, but he would want to hear from residents who might trouble accessing current in-person sessions. "We don't have the equipment or the staff," he said. "I do want to point out that I think that we should use every extra dollar we have for the students."

Until the Covid pandemic, state law required public bodies to meet in person in sessions open to the public (with specific exemptions for closed "executive sessions"). That requirement was lifted a couple changed during the height of the health crisis when then-Governor Gina Raimondo suspended the in-person meeting requirement and cities and towns sought ways to conduct remote sessions.

However, two years ago, in February 2022, Governor McKee signed an executive order allowing public boards and committees to resume in-person session. He left them the option to continue remote options if they desired, but the remote access is not mandatory.

At the time, Common Cause Rhode Island said it opposed any move that would no longer require remote meeting access. According to an article in the Providence Journal, John Marion Jr., executive director of Common Cause Rhode Island, said that stopping remote meeting access was a "step backward for government transparency."

According to the ACLU press release accompanying the report, 33 of the state's 39 cities and towns have livestreaming options for their council meetings. Of the 34 school committees in the state, 30 offer livestreaming, the ACLU states.

In the report, Zoe Chakoian, a communications for the ACLU, said, "Every step towards a more transparent process is a good thing -- for each person that can be more involved and informed about what's happening in the community, and for the overall government transparency in our state."



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# Nonprofits gear up for 401Gives on April 1



There's still time for organizations to register and be a part of the state's largest philanthropic effort in support of local nonprofits

401Gives, Rhode Island's single largest philanthropic effort to lift up and support the vital work of local nonprofits, is just around the corner on Tuesday, April 1. Hundreds of nonprofits across the Ocean State will participate, including more than 20 from Cranston and Warwick that will be raising funds.

There is still time for organizations to sign up and be a part of the day. Nonprofits can register through March 21 by visiting 401Gives.org.

Last year's 401Gives raised a record \$3.86 million for 597 organizations, inspiring nearly 25,000 gifts. In 2025, and as federal funding uncertainties jeopardize critical programs and services that tens of thousands of Rhode Islanders of all ages depend on, 401Gives is more important than ever.

"There is nothing more powerful

than Rhode Islanders helping Rhode Islanders, and right now, the nonprofits who are always there for us, need us to be there for them," said Cortney Nicolato, United Way's president and CEO. "Cuts to funding leave seniors without specialized care and meals, children without access to Head Start, people without shelter, and unanswered calls to domestic violence hotlines, among many other services. This would be devastating to our communities."

A sampling of the Cranston- and Warwick-based organizations gearing up for 401Gives includes: Project Undercover, RI Civic Chorale & Orchestra, Hope Alzheimer's Center, Cozy Rhody Litter Clean-Up, Rhode Island Parrot Rescue, Children's Wishes, Saint Elizabeth Home, Rhode Island Feline Rescue, Warwick Center for the Arts, Nora's Heaven, West Bay Chorale, Rhode Island Pet Network, Justice Assistance, Friends of the Warwick Animal Shelter, Junior Achievement of Rhode Island and Rhode Island Children's Dyslexia Center

A unified day of giving that makes it easy both for nonprofits to participate and for individuals to make donations to them, 401Gives utilizes an online fundraising platform and harnesses the power of social media and peer-to-peer outreach.

To learn more about 401Gives or if there are questions, contact Caitlynn Douglas at (401) 444-0720, or email 401Gives@unitedwayri.org.

## The Buzz

**March 26 CCRI Criminal Justice Day:** The Community College of Rhode Island invites students and community members on Wednesday at 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for Criminal Justice Day at 400 East Ave. Attendees can explore careers in law enforcement, public safety, and paralegal studies.

**March 27 Community Libraries of Providence** is teaming up with Art Connection Rhode Island (ACRI) to host ABC (Art, Books and Conversation) night at Knight Memorial Library, 275 Elmwood Ave., Providence from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**March 28 Friends of the Warwick Public Library** will have their annual Mini Golf Fundraiser at the main library, 600 Sandy Lane, on Friday, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Donate any amount at the door to play. Come at 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m. or 8 p.m. to avoid waiting in line.

**April 1, East Greenwich Art Club** will meet on Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at United Methodist Church on 1558 South County Trail, East Greenwich. The meeting is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the art club at info@eastgreenwich-artclub.org or at the website: www.eastgreenwichartclub.org.

**April 3, RIPTA releases its 2025 schedule** for its program that offers a reduced fare bus pass program for seniors and people with disabilities. Every month, RIPTA's Customer Service staff will travel to communities throughout the state to process Photo ID bus passes for qualified seniors and individuals with disabilities with valid documentation. This will allow residents to access transit information and apply for the Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program without having to travel to RIPTA offices in Providence. Photo ID bus passes for qualified people with disabilities and seniors will cost \$10 in 2025 and are valid for 2 years. Warwick residents can visit on Thursday, April 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the West Warwick Senior Center on 145 Washington St., West Warwick.

**April 12, Warwick Sewer Authority,** will host an open house on Saturday at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 125 Arthur W. Devine Blvd. All ages are welcome. No open-toed shoes, high heels or flip-flops. Rain Date: Saturday, April 19. For more information, email warwicksewer@warwickri.gov or call 401-739-4949.

**April 13, Defenders of Animals Inc.,** come take a picture with the Easter Bunny on Sunday at 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., at the Governor Sprague Mansion (outdoor event) on 1351 Cranston St. All pets must be leashes and please no retractable leashes. \$10 per emailed photo. For more information, ask for Tonya 401-785-2222.

**April 15 - 17, April School Vacation Art Camp at Warwick Center** for the Arts, 3259 Post Rd. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each day will focus on exploring different art mediums while learning how to use different materials to experiment and develop their own personal, unique creations. Choose one day or all three. Students should pack a lunch and wear comfortable clothing that they can get messy in. For further information, please call 401-737-0010 or warwickcfa.org

**June 23 - Aug. 8, WCFA Summer Art Camp 2025** at the Warwick Center for the Arts. Join us for one week or the whole summer. Morning and

afternoon sessions available with different themes each week. For further information, please call 401-737-0010 or warwickcfa.org

**Wickford Art Festival Artist Applications Now Open:** The Wickford Art Association (WAA) is excited to announce that artist applications for the 62nd annual Wickford Art Festival are now open. The outdoor art festival will take place on the weekend of July 12 & 13, 2025. Now through March 15, artists are invited to submit their applications to be considered for participation in this event. Artists interested in applying can visit the official festival website at www.wickfordart.org for more details. Applications will be reviewed by a jury panel, and selected artists will be notified in early April 2025.

**Every Monday through Friday, Virtual Dementia Caregiver Support Groups** are specifically designed for people caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Monday, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Information and registration, call 401-415-4664; or email to: info@HopeDementia.org. Follow us on Facebook @HopeHealth.

**Every Monday - The Gaspee Celtic Jam** meets at the Pawtuxet Village Baptist Church, 2157 Broad St., Cranston, every Monday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Do you play fiddle, guitar, Irish flute, pennywhistle, bodhran, mandolin, banjo, concertina, accordion, folk harp, hammered dulcimer, Appalachian dulcimer, banjo, acoustic bass, ukulele, keyboard, recorder, or sing? All skill levels welcome. Visit www.gaspeecelticjam.org for more info (including the current tune list/tune book) or to send us any questions. No specific Celtic music experience is required.

**Every First and Third Monday Rhode Island Active Toastmasters** meets, serving both Rhode Island and Southern MA. Rhode Island Active Toastmasters holds its meetings at New England Institute of Technology in East Greenwich, in Rm N214 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information, please contact us Rhode Island Active Toastmasters. All are welcome!

**Every Tuesday, ASL Interpreted RI AA Meeting** will be held at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Ave., Cranston from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Every Second and Fourth Tuesday the Fall River Toastmasters Meeting,** serving both Rhode Island and Southern Mass. the Fall River Toastmasters holds its meetings. Doors open at 6 p.m. and meeting is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join us at The Chamber, 200 Pocasset St, Fall River, Mass., 2nd floor. For more information, call Sean DaCosta at (508)-840-6621. All are welcome!

**Every Thursday, The Warwick Rotary Club** meets from 12 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. Every week features a different speaker.

**Every Thursday, Take Off Pounds Sensibly TOPS #38** is meeting every Thursday morning at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (lower level), 99 Pierce Street, East Greenwich. Weigh-in begins at 10:15 a.m. The meeting starts at 10:45 a.m. Enter from the side parking lot, go down the stairs to the

kitchen area. All are welcome as well as any canned food donations. For information, call: Angela Henderson at 401-225-6174.

**Every Thursday, Get-a-Job-Thursdays - We Make RI,** an organization that provides free manufacturing training, hosts a series of job fairs every Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon, 200 First Ave., Cranston. We Make RI offer job seekers a chance to meet with employers, get career counseling, resume help and more. Some employers include Swissline Precision, Admiral Packaging, KB Surfaces, Warwick Hanger and Hitachi Cable. For more information about this event or other training opportunities, visit www.wemakers.com/get-a-job-thursday or contact Mike at (401) 232-0077 x109.

**PSA Free Gun Locks at Cranston & Warwick Public Libraries:** Secure storage of weapons is now the law in Rhode Island. A Free Gun Lock and Securing Weapons Safely information is now available at two locations: Cranston Central Library Reference Desk, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd. Cranston, Warwick Central Library Reference desk, 600 Sandy Ln., Warwick. Stop by for a free gun lock and literature on how to securely store weapons. Doing so will save lives and make our communities safer. Residents from all RI communities are welcome. "This event is not endorsed by or affiliated with the Cranston Public Library."

**Oaklawn Grange Used Clothing Donation Shed** needs used clothing items at the Oaklawn Grange Donation Shed, 24 Searle Ave., Cranston. Accepted items only: Used Clothing, Shoes, Sneakers, Belts, Purses, Linens, Pillowcases, Blankets, Curtains, and Stuffed Animals. All items must be in useable condition. Your donations will be distributed as whole garments locally and worldwide. Contact oaklawngrangeinfo@gmail.com for more information.

**NAMI-RI Offers Family Support Groups:** The RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness offers free support groups for families and friends of loved ones struggling with mental health. Groups are led by trained facilitators with experience with family members. Meetings last 1.5 hours, and everyone gets a chance to share. Group members offer help and resources, when appropriate, based on their experiences. More information and full schedule can be found at namirhodeisland.org or call 401-331-3060. No pre-registration for these monthly groups is necessary.

**Call for Volunteers Gaspee Days Committee:** Volunteers are needed for all aspects of planning the Gaspee Days celebration. The Gaspee Days Committee meeting is being held on Thursday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Aspray Boat House, 2 E View St. Please ask for the volunteer coordinator. For more information on the Gaspee Days Committee visit www.gaspee.com

*Editor's Note: To submit your news to The Buzz, send information and photos to Rosegalie at rosegaliec@beaconmediari.com by Friday at 3 p.m. to appear in the following week's edition. Items can include community and school event announcements and calls for volunteers. Submissions may be edited for space and are not guaranteed to run. To guarantee space, please call 401-732-3100 and ask to place an advertisement.*

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## Irish Spirit Shines at Rhodes

The annual St. Patrick's Day celebration benefiting St. Michael's Social Ministries for the Poor took place at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet in Cranston on Monday with hundreds of attendees. Organized by St. Michael the Archangel Church in Providence, the event featured the Rhode Island Professional Firefighters Pipe and Drums, members of the Kelly school of Irish Dance, lively Irish bands, dancing, children's activities like arts, crafts and facepainting, raffles, and traditional food. Kathy Harrington, event chair, said proceeds help provide much needed assistance for those in need, while sharing in a fun and festive atmosphere that highlights the church's mission of compassion and support for struggling families. *Beacon Media photos by Tim Forsberg*

## Grade schools prepare for inclusive hoops tourney

By ADAM ZANGARI  
Beacon Media Staff Writer

As March Madness gets into full swing today across America, Warwick is preparing for a special basketball tournament of its own to tip off.

After last year hosting Rhode Island's first elementary-school level unified basketball games – defined by Special Olympics as competition between teams that include players with and without intellectual disabilities, Warwick has gone from organizing individual games to hosting a tournament among 12 of the city's 13 elementary schools this year.

That tournament will be held Saturday, March 29, starting at 9 a.m. It will be hosted by Bishop Hendricken High School, which will be able to hold multiple games at a time due to the school's multiple gyms, and will include a performance by Boston Bruins national anthem singer Todd Angilly.

Hoxsie, Park and Oakland Beach elementary schools – the three teams that played games last year – already had teams ready, but other schools, such as Sherman Elementary School, still needed to get their teams ready for the tournament. That's where School Committee member Sean Wiggins stepped in.

Wiggins approached Hoxsie Elementary School principal Gary McCoombs, who helped set up the tournament, about coaching Sherman's team. Though he said he had no prior connection to Sherman, Wiggins said that he wanted to make sure that

the school was not left out.

"I offered to him that I would do this, because I felt it was necessary," Wiggins said. "They had the kids; they just didn't have the help at the time."

Soon after, teacher Jim Garcia and former City Councilman James McElroy joined the coaching staff. The three have coached the team through five practices now, with one more to be held next week.

Over the course of the team's practices, Wiggins said, he's seen the players improve tremendously, and the team is increasingly enthusiastic as the tournament gets closer.

"The kids are playing so well, and they're so excited," Wiggins said. "I cannot wait for this game. I've been around youth sports for a long time, and I truly believe this is going to be epic."

Wiggins said that he hopes that the event will be a precursor to other unified sports, such as soccer and volleyball, being offered to elementary schoolers in the city as well.

The atmosphere of the tournament, Wiggins said, will be what makes it truly special for each of the players.

"What Gary McCoombs has done to create this tournament, this event – it's unreal," Wiggins said. "I really think we're going to be packing those to gyms, and it's for such an incredible cause... To make this like a March Madness, where you're going to walk into an event surrounded by people, giving these kids an opportunity just to be praised on that court, it's wonderful."

## Businesses seek to weigh, react to unpredictable tariffs

By JOHN HOWELL  
Warwick Beacon Editor

While he lives in the Greenwood section of Warwick, Steve McAllister is in constant communication with businesses and chambers of commerce across the Northeast and the nation. The former president of the Warwick City Council is the vice president, Eastern Region, for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The Department of Government Efficiency and Elon Musk's slashing of federal agencies, grants and spending, the impact of tariffs and extension of business tax credits are of daily concern. They are issues McAllister addresses in virtual meetings and conferences with businesses leaders.

What he's learned is that business is most troubled by the uncertainty. One day tariffs are to be implemented by a certain date at a given rate and the next they are delayed and or reduced. The stock market is a down-

ward roller coaster. Meanwhile, states are mounting challenges to cuts in federal spending and have won court rulings. The future is cloudy.

"We need to know how to plan," said McAllister. Nonetheless, he sees businesses as resilient.

"The business community is most inventive. They will plan and address for their individual business," said McAllister.

He has also found a keen interest among legislators across the region in understanding how trade affects their communities and what tariffs would mean to them.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has provided a state-by-state breakdown of exports.

**RI exports totaled \$5.1 billion in '23**

According to the Chamber's research, Rhode Island's top markets for exports in 2023 were Canada at \$713 million in services and goods, followed by Italy at \$412 million Mexico

at \$353 million, Ireland at \$346 million and the Dominican Republic at \$307 million.

In total, Ocean State companies exported \$5.1 billion in goods and services to more than 160 markets around the world.

International trade made up of exports and imports of goods and services supports 140,000 Rhode Island jobs, or about one in five jobs in the state according to the Chamber. And more than 2,000 companies exported in 2022. Nationally, according to chamber data, 97% of trading companies are small- and medium-size companies.

**Local impacts on newsprint, grain; more expected**

The prospect of tariffs is feared and being calculated, starting right here with this newspaper. Printers of Beacon Media publications depend heavily on newsprint from Canadian mills and are forecasting price increases of 14%



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## Kent Hospital president joins PACE-RI board

Paari Gopalakrishnan, MD, MBA, president and chief operating officer of Kent Hospital, has joined the PACE-RI board of directors. In this role, Dr. Gopalakrishnan will help guide PACE in its mission to support older adults living safely and healthily within their communities.

Gopalakrishnan brings a wealth of experience in hospital leadership, quality improvement, and patient-centered care.

Since joining Kent Hospital, he has championed collaborative, multidisciplinary care models that have significantly improved patient outcomes. His leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, including oversight of the Kent Field Hospital, exemplified his ability to navigate health-care crises while maintaining high standards of care.

He is also passionate and deeply committed to advancing geriatric care in Rhode Island at Kent Hospital, which has a Silver-Level 2 Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA) from the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), the only hospital in the state with this designation. In addition, he has been instrumental in supporting specialized programs such as the Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Unit at Kent Hospital. His dedication to enhancing care for older adults aligns with the mission of PACE, making him a valuable addition to the board of directors.

"Dr. Gopalakrishnan's expertise in hospital operations and health care leadership make him a great addition to our board," said PACE-RI CEO Joan Kwiatkowski. "We look forward to his valuable insights as PACE begins a new decade of growth and innovation in serving Rhode Island elders."

"I am honored to join the PACE-RI's board of directors and to support its mission of delivering comprehensive, community-based care for older adults," said Gopalakrish-



**DR. PAARI GOPALAKRISHNAN**

nan. "Ensuring that older adults have access to the care and support they need is critical, and I look forward to contributing to this important work."

PACE-RI is a nonprofit health plan that provides older adults with team-based health care and additional support services that help them remain living safely in the community, rather than entering long-term care. The organization coordinates a wide range of services, including medical care, adult day programs and social support, to ensure that participants can maintain their independence and quality of life.

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## Union president fired from airport job calls new pact 'good'

By **JOHN HOWELL**  
Warwick Beacon Editor

One hundred and four airport employees, members of Local 2873 of RI Council 94 AFSCME, have a three year contract following a tumultuous eight months during which all but one union member rejected a contract giving them 3% raises for each of the next three years, took a vote of no confidence in Rhode Island Airport Corporation president and CEO Iftikhar Ahmad and saw their union president, Steve Parent, lose his job.

"I think it is a good package," Parent said Wednesday afternoon. "There are no changes to health care costs, and it should help with new hires."

Under the agreement, Parent said, union employees will receive a 5% raise retroactive to last July for the first year followed by a 4% raise as of this July and 3% in the third and final year. Members also will receive a \$500 signing bonus under the agreement which was approved in executive session by the RIAC board on March 13.

Language changes that the union claimed would have given management the power to change job descriptions without workers being able to file grievances was the major stumbling block in the earlier contract offer. At that time, Parent said, "there is not a lot of trust in RIAC," and that Ahmad would like to order anyone at any given time."

As it turned out, Ahmad didn't care for Parent's performance.

Soon after Parent was reelected union president on Oct. 17, 2024, RIAC initiated the process to have him fired as lieutenant in the airport fire department, where he had worked since 2019. RIAC said he "knowingly and willfully engaged in efforts to sabotage airport operations" by discouraging applicants from working at the airport. Parent contested his firing, which has not yet gone to arbitration. Meanwhile, he is collecting unemployment compensation.

In a call Friday, Parent said the union considered making his return to work part of the package, but at his urging it was not included because he didn't want the appearance of the deal hanging on that.

Parent said he is confident of winning his case on the merits, because "what they allege never took place."

In a statement released Thursday, Michael McDonald, President of Council 94, said "Council 94 hopes that the new spirit of collaboration between management and the union continues. We also hope that RIAC management will swiftly reinstate President Steve Parent's employment."

Iftikhar Ahmad, president and CEO of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation had this to say in a release: "We are pleased this matter has been finalized and has resulted in a positive outcome for all parties. Both the union and management agreed to enter into mediation last month, which proved to be a highly successful vehicle for resolving our differences."

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## Credit rating upgrade for Airport Corporation

Fitch Ratings upgraded the rating on about \$54 million of outstanding airport revenue bonds issued by the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation from A- to A, with a rating outlook of 'stable.'

In announcing the upgrade, Fitch cited several positive factors, including Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport's robust financial position highlighted by reduced leverage, strong coverage levels and strong cash balances. The agency also noted that passenger levels have increased, with new airline services underway to boost enplanement growth and volumes.

"We are thankful for Fitch Ratings' continued confirmation of our strong financial stability and growth," said Iftikhar Ahmad, president and CEO of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation said in a statement. "RIAC's 'A' credit rating truly reflects the commitment of all who have worked so hard to help us become one of the best airports in the world and help boost our state's aviation-related economy."

The recent credit upgrade marks the fourth time RIAC has received a revenue bond upgrade in two years. In December 2023, Fitch Ratings upgraded RIAC's bond rating to 'A-' from 'BBB+'. Earlier in 2023, S&P Global had upgraded RIAC's long-term and special-facility bond ratings to 'A,' according to the RIAC release.

## RIDEM seeks volunteers for annual herring count

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's (RIDEM) Division of Fish and Wildlife is looking for volunteers to assist with its annual herring count, a simple yet crucial conservation effort.

Each spring, river herring migrate from the ocean to Rhode Island's freshwater rivers and streams to spawn. To monitor their population, RIDEM is seeking volunteers to count fish at locations such as Buckeye Brook in Warwick and other designated sites across the state.

Participating is easy, volunteers spend just 10 minutes counting herring as they swim upstream. Observers stand onshore at fish ladders and other locations, recording the number of fish seen during that interval, along with the date, time, and water temperature. The data collected helps RIDEM fisheries biologists track Rhode Island's herring population and assess con-

servation efforts.

New volunteers must complete a waiver and either attend an in-person training or watch a pre-recorded session before beginning their counts. The program runs from April 1 through the end of May, with volunteers welcome to stop by survey sites any time between sunrise and sunset.

Volunteers must be at least 12 years old and able to focus for a full 10-minute counting session without distractions to ensure accuracy.

River herring, which include alewife and blueback herring, have faced significant population declines due to habitat loss, unregulated harvesting, predation, and environmental changes. By participating in the count, volunteers play an important role in helping biologists monitor and protect these vital fish populations.

For more information, email DEM.DF-Volunteer@dem.ri.gov.

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# Neronha challenges Trump on many fronts

By JOHN HOWELL  
Warwick Beacon Editor



Attorney General Peter Neronha and his counterparts in other states have challenged multiple actions of the Trump administration. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

Peter Neronha had a story as soon as he learned that former U.S. Rep. David Cicilino, who is now president of the Rhode Island Foundation, would be addressing the Warwick Rotary Club.

Both were young prosecutors and both have a habit of speaking faster and faster when they home in on their final arguments. It was too much for the court stenographer, who stopped them – breaking their train of thought – and told them to slow down.

Nobody told Neronha, now the Rhode Island Attorney General, to slow down last Thursday as he addressed the service club. He was on a roll and lingered to chat well beyond the end of the meeting at the Crowne Plaza.

Only hours before, his office had issued a release that the state had joined a coalition of 20 states in suing the Trump administration to stop the dismantling of the Department of Education.

But he started with his management of the Office of the Attorney General following his election in 2018, went on outline the changes he has made, answered “maybe” when asked if he would run for governor in 2026 and dove into a civics lesson on the three branches of our government and why it is so important to challenge the president when he steps beyond his authority.

And by what criteria does he make the decision to sue the president, or for that matter fight for lower energy rates?

The first question, he said, is whether the action being taken is unlawful, second is whether it harms Rhode Islanders and third is whether he has legal standing.

One of the first of Neronha’s challenges is to Trump’s effort to strip the U.S. citizenship of children born to immigrant parents in the United States. He said the 14th Amendment to the Constitution “makes it clear if I’m born here, I’m a citizen.”

Neronha said he and other attorneys general across the country had been working in anticipation that Trump would seek to deny this birthright citizenship. Their work resulted in the granting of a preliminary injunction by a federal judge early last month.

“If [immigrants] have a child here, they have standing whether [the administration] likes it or not.”

Neronha went on to talk about “federal funding grabs” and efforts to nullify grants that have been approved and in some cases

issued. “We knew we had to act quickly,” he said of calling on other states, among them California and New York, to gain a temporary restraining order.

He called those grants “basically a contract and not new aid.”

Neronha also touched on the dismantling of agencies, saying they “can’t be cut by 50% and do the same level of work.”

In the case of the Department of Education, Neronha said in the release issued last Thursday morning that massive layoffs “will severely undermine the department’s ability to perform basic functions, functions upon which American families rely. Kids with special needs who require speech therapy and IEPs and transportation; kids in rural communities whose districts rely on federal help to keep up; kids from underserved communities; those who require vocational rehabilitation services; the list goes on.”

In a discussion following the meeting, Neronha didn’t hesitate to say that in addition to stripping away the authority of Congress, Trump is going after the courts.

“If the courts don’t stand up to him, he’ll do it,” he said.

But then if the Department of Justice has been compromised, what power do courts have to enforce the law?

Neronha said he would hope that the people would see what’s happening and stand up.

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SCAN ME

# Magaziner launches 2025 congressional art competition

U.S. Representative Seth Magaziner announced his third annual Congressional Art Competition for high school students in Second Congressional District. All eligible high school students are encouraged to participate, with the winning artwork to be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

“The Congressional Art Competition shines a spotlight on the incredible talent of young artists in Rhode Island,” said Magaziner. “I’m thrilled to give students the chance to showcase their creativity on a national stage, and I encourage all eligible students to take part.”

Sponsored annually by the Congressional Institute, this nationwide art competition provides high school students with the opportunity to have their winning artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol. Since the competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students across the country have participated.

Participating students must reside in Rhode Island’s 2nd Congressional District. Entries must be submitted by April 11, 2025, at 5 p.m. and dropped off at Rep. Magaziner’s Warwick District Office, located at 935 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 3003, Warwick, Rhode Island, during office hours, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Students may submit artwork in any of the following seven categories: painting, drawing, collage, print, mixed media, computer-generated art, and photography. All submissions must include a Student Information and Release Form attached, signed by the student, a parent or guardian, and a teacher.

To find the Student Information and Release Form, and to learn more about rules and submission guidelines for Representative Magaziner’s 2025 Art Competition, visit <https://Magaziner.House.gov>.

# Average pump price down, defying typical spring trend upward

Northeast gasoline prices continue to buck the seasonal trend, falling at a time they typically climb thanks to sizable inventories that remain well above average and economic uncertainty gripping global markets.

The dip in prices comes despite demand for gasoline last week reaching the highest level of the year at 9.18 million barrels a day, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA). That’s an increase of 300,000 barrels a day from the previous week and the highest seen for an early March week since 2020.

But the stronger domestic demand wasn’t enough to keep petroleum prices from falling alongside stocks and commodities as uncertainty about tariffs and trade injected volatility into markets last week.

Global demand is also weighing heavily on prices,

particularly because OPEC+ production increases are expected to begin in April. Last week, the International Energy Agency forecasted that global supply will exceed demand later this year, which could keep a lid on crude prices and lead to cheaper gasoline.

The other factor keeping prices down is strong supply: domestic inventories of gasoline are about 7 million barrels above where they were in the comparable week of last year and about 3 million more than the 5-year average, according to the EIA. It’s a similar story in the Northeast: 65.3 million barrels are in storage, compared to 61.1 million last year and the 62 million 5-year average.

Locally, the average gas price in Rhode Island is down 2 cents from last week, averaging \$2.91 per

gallon. Today’s price is 9 cents lower than a month ago and 30 cents lower than a year ago. Rhode Island’s average gas price is 16 cents lower than the national average.

“As more Americans took to the road last week, they enjoyed markedly lower gas prices this year than last,” said Jillian Young, director of public relations for AAA Northeast. “In Rhode Island, for example, prices are 30 cents lower than they were last year.”

Today, Mississippi and Texas have the lowest prices in the nation, at \$2.63 and \$2.65 respectively. California and Hawaii hold the highest prices in the nation this week at \$4.65 and \$4.51, respectively. Rhode Island holds the 22nd place on the list of lowest gas prices in the nation.

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# Women educators headline history month panel

U.S. Senator Jack Reed was at the Cranston Public Library last week to help kick off Women's History Month and spotlight women who educate and inspire women and girls, both in and out of the classroom. Reed collaborated with the Women's Fund of Rhode Island (WFRI) and women educators across the state for a special Women's History Month panel discussion.

"Women's History Month is an opportunity to reflect about women's contributions to every aspect of our society. I was proud to team up with the Women's Fund of Rhode Island to hold this important conversation and talk about how we can work together to ensure that progress in the fight for equality continues," Reed said in a press release. "Many of us can recall teachers or mentors who had a positive impact of our lives, whether at school, on the job, or out in the community."

According to Reed, the discussion helped to look ahead to how educational opportunities can be strengthened for women and girls by inspiring more collaboration and encouraging more leaders of the future.

Kelly Nevins, CEO of the Women's Fund said, "Education is essential for developing skills that are critical for the future, advancing equality, and strengthening our communities. "I was glad to help convene this important discussion with Senator Reed to connect more female educators and leaders with women in our communities to discuss how we can strengthen educational opportunities in Rhode Island to advance diversity and enhance leadership abilities." - Reports from Barbara Polichetti



Panelists for this discussion included Provost Touba Ghadessi from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD); Patti DiCenso, Chair of the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education; Khadija Lewis Khan, Executive Director of Beautiful Beginnings Child Care Center; and Shannon Carroll, President & CEO of the Genesis Center. Photo submitted by the office of Senator Reed

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By JENNIFER COATES

By definition, a "travel bug" is someone who has a "strong desire or passion for travel and exploring new places." Many such avid explorers will often say they have "Caught the travel bug!"; whether they are frequent cruisers or adventurous country walkers or first-time travelers planning their first overseas trip!

Did you know that if you are planning any trip as of May 7th, you will need to possess a "Real ID" driver's license if you do not have a passport? Whether your license is up for renewal or not, if you plan on traveling anywhere this year, you should make your way to the DMV (the initial application must be done in person!) to acquire this important form of identification.

This is exactly the kind of information that a novice traveler or even an experienced traveler may not know about without the help of a travel agent ~ a travel agent who knows the ins and outs of domestic and worldwide travel. A travel agent just like Sue Rezendes of The Travel Connection in Warwick.

The Travel Connection is a longstanding travel planning agency that is located just off Post Road in the city. Sue Rezendes, a travel planner for over thirty years, uses her decades of experience in the industry to help you plan the trip of a lifetime.

Some may ask, why use a travel agent when you have the internet? Though the internet can get you started, there is no technology that can replace the capable and well-researched professionals at an agency such as The Travel Connection. Technology cannot duplicate the expertise,



Come to The Travel Connection, just off Post Road, and meet owner and 30+ year travel consultant Sue Rezendes. She will be your best advocate, adviser, and planner. Call 401-946-6010 today and get traveling!

guidance, and personal touch of a local agent who is there to act on your behalf should you encounter any complications during your trip. Sue Rezendes is just this person!

As a bonafide "travel bug" herself, Sue has seen the world through the eyes of the hundreds of clients she has helped over her 30+ years in the business. Her time, commitment and firsthand knowledge will always exceed the internet!

Her years of experience spent navigating the world have also taught Sue that there are many important questions to ask along the way. Some of these questions might be obvious, such as: what is your dream destination, your budget, your desired accommodations, amenities?

But there is also a plethora of other questions to ask that may not be immediately obvious, even to the most confident traveler ~ questions such as whether or not you need a "Real ID" or insurance? What about cancellation policies, travel warnings, and so much more. This is where the expertise and knowledge of The Travel Connection become so important.

If you have been bitten by the "travel bug" this year, then call Sue Rezendes at 401-946-6010 or contact her at [sue@travelconnectionri.com](mailto:sue@travelconnectionri.com). The Travel Connection is at 1265R Post Road. To learn more, visit the website at: [www.travelconnectionri.com](http://www.travelconnectionri.com). Hours are Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm, Saturdays from 10am - 2pm.

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# Opinion

EDITORIAL

## Will local tourism take a hit?

**W**e're not breaking news to say that there are millions of reasons to visit Rhode Island, and New England in general. People flock here throughout the year, every year, because of our history, our top-notch beaches and protected natural resources, our amazing restaurants, and to watch our world-class professional and collegiate athletic programs.

As we cover in this week's paper, there are some enormous events looming on the horizon that signal big bucks and big opportunities for our local hospitality industry. Even though it will mainly be held in Foxboro, the potential ancillary benefits that Rhode Island could experience from New England-based FIFA World Cup Round 32 matches is tantalizing, to say the least, for our local hotels, restaurants and entertainment venues. World-class events like this provide crucial tax revenue to our coffers and keep our cities and towns financially healthy and on the map.

Tourism remains one of Rhode Island's most important industries, supporting over 86,000 jobs and bringing more than 28 million visitors in 2023. Those visitors and those jobs generated close to a billion dollars in state and local tax revenue.

In other words, keeping Rhode Island (and the country itself) a desirable place to travel is simply paramount to our continuing success.

And this is why we will be keeping a close eye on tourism numbers throughout the coming months and years.

As economic volatility continues to surge — with the price of groceries and the cost of living seeing no relief — and some early signs already being reported that people elsewhere are opting not to take vacations to the United States amidst the bombastic rhetoric of the Trump administration, we find it concerning and worthy of more analysis as we move forward.

A lot of people are hurting financially. The retired couple from Kansas that was pondering taking a flight into Green to check out their Jayhawks as part of March Madness might be clutching their wallets a little tighter this year, and for years to come. The family from Canada or Mexico who were interested in checking out Newport for their annual seaside vacation might think twice considering the political climate of the moment.

These are not unreasonable concerns in modern times. Canadians have been urged by their former prime minister to not visit the United States, and travel to the U.S. from other countries is down over 2% from last year's February numbers.

And while that might seem minuscule, at a time when declining revenue sources and the increasing cost of just about everything from health-insurance premiums to goods and services has put significant and constant burden on municipal budget cycles, even a slight percentage loss to our tourism industry could spell fiscal disaster for the state and for residents who foot the bill through necessary tax increases to make up for it.

Rhode Island must remain a welcoming place to all who wish to visit. That much, at least, remains within our control.

## What's on your mind?

The Warwick Beacon encourages letters to the editor. It's part of our mission to reflect a multitude of perspectives on everything from community news to national politics. In the interest of including as many viewpoints as possible, we ask that you hold your letter to 250 words. We can accommodate a longer piece on a complex topic as an op-ed, preferably with a local focus and a maximum of 750 words. With your letter or op-ed, we ask that you include a phone number (not for publication) where we can reach you to confirm authorship. We'd like to hear from you.

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LETTERS

## Will we know the numbers?

To the Editor,

As a person who has loved science all his life, I find that I must write about the (March 13 Warwick Beacon) article entitled "When Hospital, Schools Struggled at Ground Zero."

In the Beacon's article, according to the state Department of Health, it's reported that COVID caused 3,636 deaths in Rhode Island.

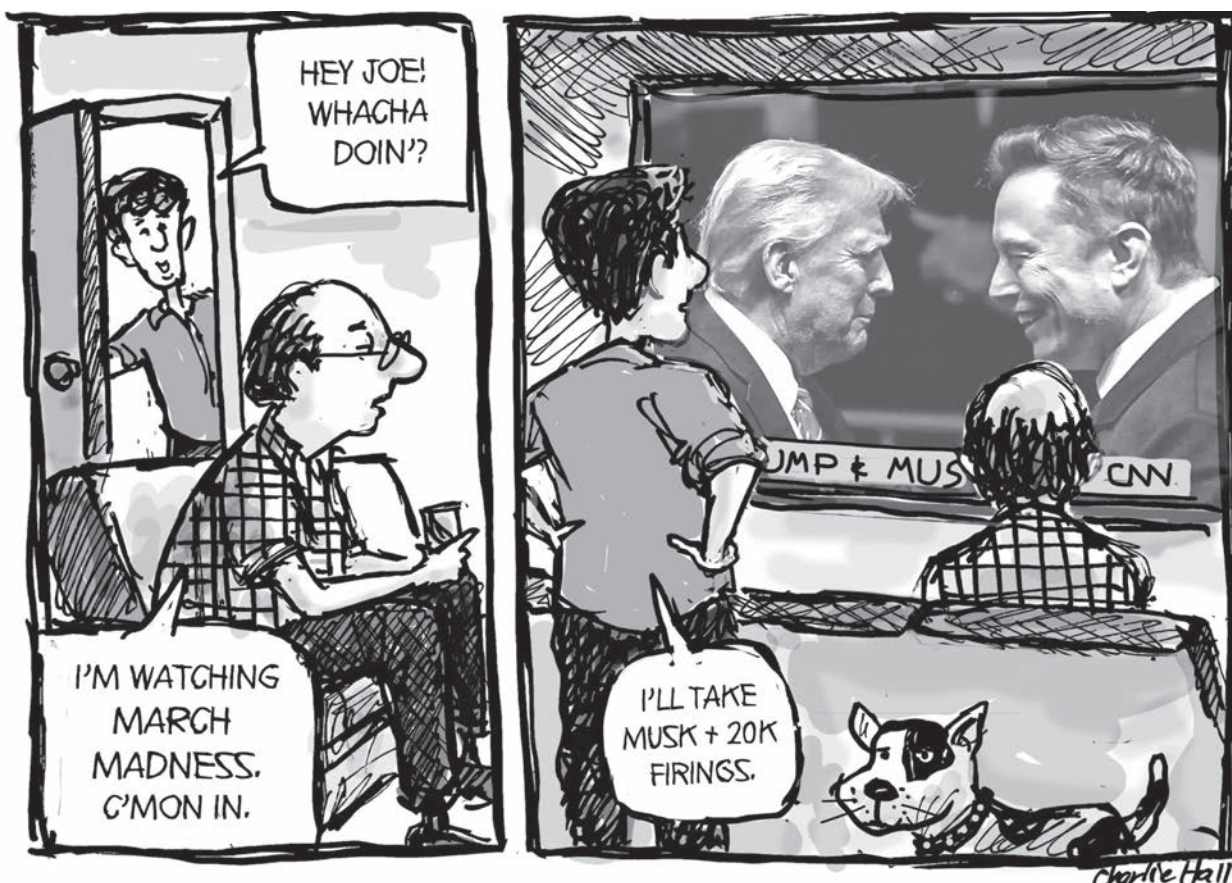
When I read about the statistics, I still wonder if those numbers are accurate.

During the pandemic, I listened to the radio at work and heard Gov. Gina Raimondo's updates regarding COVID deaths. At the time, Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott was director of the Department of Health.

One of the two reporters who usually asked pertinent questions asked if any of the deaths that occurred by other means, by vehicle accident, etc., and the person tested positive for COVID were still counted as a COVID death. Dr. Scott said yes.

How many other states and countries did the same thing? I doubt we'll know for sure.

**Jerry Ferreira**  
**Warwick**



## Building hope with every contribution

**H**ow can you measure hope? I found myself asking the question after talking with Mike and Angelica "Gel" Penta at Mayor Frank Picozzi's fundraiser Wednesday.

Mike and Gel serve up a lot of hope at Gel's Kitchens in Warwick and West Warwick whether they think of what they're doing in those terms or not.

Gel pulled me aside at the fundraiser to tell me of 14-year-old Madi Brodeur, a Pilgrim High School freshman who has been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer that was initially thought to be mono. She has started chemotherapy at Hasbro Children's Hospital and already Gel and her team — Madi's mother, Jen Moore, and their friend Jennifer O'Neil — are doing all they can to support Madi.

Mike and Gel have been down this road many times. On Tuesday, they recognized Amelia Bernard's first year in remission from leukemia. Amelia is now 5 years old and in kindergarten. She underwent two years of chemo treatment during which Gel's Kitchen customers donated to help the Bernard family. They spread the campaign throughout the community using Facebook and with the help of other organizations and the mayor.

"People always want to help," said Gel. She sees herself as "the doorway" to bringing the community together. She made national news when the School Department started giving students who had missed lunch payments sun butter sandwiches. The students didn't take them. They didn't want to be stigmatized as deadbeats. Gel jumped in to help. Her campaign paid off the debts and led to a Westbay Community Action program that pays for the lunches of students who can't afford them. West Warwick now has a free lunch program.

Gel and Mike's personal stories resonate. Gel went through a domestic-violence situation in a prior relationship. Mike, who was a Pilgrim student at the time, and his younger brother found themselves homeless. They lived on the street, keeping their condition a secret from authorities.

They know what hard times are like. Now Jen Moore, who has worked on fundraising campaigns with Gel, is faced with caring for a family and supporting Madi as best she can.

"As a parent, I never thought I would be there," she says.



**This Side Up**  
 by John Howell

What can she do?

She's plunged into building support for Madi in every way she can think of. Madi's hashtag is #FightWithMadi. And there are a number of Madi items, from bracelets and car window stickers, car air fresheners to magnets, lawn signs and T-shirts. As you can see, it's more than raising money; it's

building awareness and positive thoughts for Madi. It's building hope for Madi, her family and the community.

When thought of in those terms, giving yields more than a good feeling. Surely money is helpful in meeting obligations and, as Gel points out, enabling things like "sky-diving" that may seemingly be of little value in the battle



Pilgrim freshman Madi Brodeur is undergoing treatment for a rare form of cancer. Submitted photo

against cancer. Gel looks at it as fulfilling dreams and strengthening those directly involved.

They have the community at their backs, a reinforcement of their faith and hope that things will work out ... that Madi will be OK and that she is strong.

LETTERS

## We're not ready for a bird-flu pandemic

To the Editor,

The clock is ticking for Rhode Island. In February, the FDA cancelled its annual meeting to pick which flu strains should go into next winter's flu shot.

The virus changes every year, so shots need updating, and vaccine manufacturers need six months to get them ready for the fall. As a result, we may not have a shot for the next flu season.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is also thinking about cancelling its contract with Moderna to develop a bird-flu vaccine, and considering RFK Jr.'s hostility toward proven science, cancellation seems likely.

We already have bird-flu vaccines — Canada bought 500,000 doses of GSK's vaccine — but how we get shots for Rhode Island is unclear.

Bird flu is creeping up on us. It's begun infecting humans here and there, and it kills 50% of the people who catch it. Being prepared with a vaccine is important.

So, with plan A — waiting for the federal government to act — falling apart, what would a plan B look like? Can the Rhode Island Department of Health work on getting us vaccines? It would be an unprecedented thing to ask for.

Or could we have a regional response with all six New England states and New York state working together? It's still unprecedented, but sharing the work could make it more possible.

Our state officials are reeling from the chaos caused by federal agencies abruptly reversing course, and limiting the damage will require solutions that are innovative and new.

Everything needs to be done at once, but some things need to be started first. A flu pandemic has the potential to cause unimaginable mayhem and harm, and a plan to contain it needs to be near the top of the list of things to do.

**Wil Gregersen**  
**Providence**

## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



GUEST OPINION

# It's Time to Rethink the Need for Two New Schools

By RICHARD CORRENTE

I have been reconstructing commercial and residential properties since 1974. I have also been financing them for almost as long. I'm not bragging. I just want the readers to know where I'm coming from.

I have been fascinated by the "need" for two new schools for Warwick. I made a thorough inspection of Toll Gate, (sorry, not Pilgrim) and I even trespassed on a Sunday morning and walked around the entire exterior. I have spoken face to face with dozens of the people involved, listened carefully, and deeply respected everything they had to say. Then, I read everything I could find about the ongoing debate over the budget. I watched the voters blindly say "Yes" to the \$350-million bond, believing that we can actually build these beautiful schools for that amount. I am still confused as to why the state will grant us \$174 million but only if it is for new construction; not re-construction. Maybe someone should negotiate that agreement. If a committee is formed I will volunteer to serve.

Folks, it's time. It's time to rethink this. The voters voted from their hearts for a bond that sounded so beneficial that I almost voted for it myself. But the truth is this:

- We already have two beautiful schools. They just need a ton of updating.
- Warwick taxpayers can't afford the debt that will increase their property taxes for decades to come. (They never mentioned that on the ballot. Maybe they should have.)
- The end cost will be in the billion-dollar range, by my findings, even if we do cut all the corners that are already being talked about.

What we will end up with is a new version of exactly what we presently have: cinderblock and steel buildings with granite stairs, classrooms with four walls, solid floors and illuminated ceilings and fireproof doors. A heating system, an electrical system, air-conditioning, etc. Yes, it will be brand new and fuel efficient, but will the teachers be of a higher quality? No. Warwick already has some of the best in the country. Isn't the quality of education the reason we all send our children there? Does it matter what the building looks like, so long as it's safe, sound and secure? I don't see Harvard or Brown replacing their buildings. I read, with great interest, John Howell's piece entitled "What Warwick Will Get With New High Schools" and recommend it to every taxpayer. In the article, John points out what is planned. They include "classrooms, classrooms, labs and classrooms." Folks, we already have that.

We just need to update them. If we build these new schools, the quality of education won't improve one bit. We will still have the same excellent teachers teaching the same high-quality lessons, graduating the same students with exactly the same diplomas, just doing it in much more luxurious surroundings.

That "luxury" is well worth ten or twenty million dollars in renovations, in my opinion, but it is not worth anything close to \$350 million and especially not worth many millions more.

The present school buildings have "good bones." They are structurally sound. We can build on that! Let's improve the cinderblock, steel and granite buildings that are already there, not construct new, extremely expensive cinderblock, steel and granite buildings. Rethinking this project will greatly benefit the families who are paying for this project for decades to come. Isn't that what's better for our students? I think so.

Folks. It's time.  
Happy spring, everyone.

*Richard Corrente is a mortgage broker and former candidate for Warwick mayor whose rallying cry was "Cut taxes, cut spending."*

## 3% surcharge on those earning \$1M+?

Don't tax you, don't tax me, tax that fellow behind the tree!" – the timeless aphorism from the late U.S. Sen. Russell B. Long of Louisiana – speaks to Americans' antipathy to yielding part of their income to the government. Regardless of whether you view taxes as "the price we pay for civilized society" (Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.) or an unjust tribute to a voracious bureaucracy, there's no getting away from them.

And now, uncertainty about whether the Trump administration will cut Medicare and Medicaid has cracked open for the first time in many years the possibility of a broad-based tax increase in the Ocean State.

"What's happening in Washington will have a direct impact on what's happening in Rhode Island," House Speaker Joe Shekarchi told the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce's legislative luncheon last week, as Patrick Anderson reported. That uncertainty has bolstered the hopes of the Revenue for Rhode Islanders Coalition, which is pushing a plan to raise \$190 million in annual revenue with a new 3% surcharge on Rhode Island tax filers earning more than \$1 million. Weayonnoh Nelson-Davies, executive director of the Economic Progress Institute, is among the supporters of the plan. With the state sailing back into a sea of perennial deficits, Nelson-Davies contends there's no evidence that the surcharge would cause an exodus of Rhode Island's richest residents. "It also addresses a regressive tax structure we have where the lowest income Rhode Islanders are paying about 13.3% of their income versus the highest

earners, who are paying only 8.6% of their income," she said during an interview on Political Roundtable. Rhode Island's budget has almost doubled in the last 10 years, from \$8.67 billion in 2015 to the \$14.2 billion proposed by Gov. Dan McKee in January, so should the initial focus before raising taxes be on cutting spending and raising efficiency? "There may be some places we have to look to see where we can cut, but it shouldn't



**Talking Politics**  
by Ian Donniss

be towards low-income folks who are dependent on the government," Nelson-Davies said.

In an email blast, Greater Providence Chamber President Laurie White urged opposition to the proposed tax hike on millionaires, writing, in part: "We need to focus on growing our economy and increasing our tax base by attracting new residents and creating new jobs. Rhode Island is already in a fierce competition with neighboring states to attract and keep businesses, residents and talent. Increasing taxes will have a chilling effect on our ability to compete."

REALITY CHECK: Some of those attending the Greater Providence lunch noted the presence of bomb-sniffing dogs and other elements of elevated security – a response to the public anger being displayed against corporations ranging from Tesla to Rhode Island Energy.

MEDICAID MATH: RI Senate GOP Leader Jessica de la Cruz (R-North Smithfield) is among the Republicans pouring cold water on the idea that the party will cut Medicaid, the insurance program for low-income people. But the Congressional Budget Office has found that U.S. House Republicans' proposed budget is unlikely to work without Medicaid cuts. Reductions would be a big deal here since Medicaid makes up about a third of Rhode Island's budget. "If you know a family that is having a baby in Rhode Island, it's very likely they are being supported by Medicaid," U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse said during a local event earlier this week. "If you have a family member who is elderly and in a nursing home, or if you know someone who is elderly and in a nursing home, there's about a two-thirds chance they're being paid for by Medicaid." On a related note, Whitehouse and U.S. Sen. Jack Reed this week signaled their opposition to cloture on the Congressional GOP plan to fund the government.

FIVE YEARS ON: When I think of the start of the pandemic in 2020, one lasting memory is the face of a fellow shopper as I was scouting for toilet paper at the BJ's Wholesale Club in Seekonk. He was a youngish guy – about 30 – and his expression was a mix of anxiety and thinly veiled frustration, as if he was on the edge. A lot of people felt that way back then, and aside from claiming almost 4,000 lives just in Rhode Island, and more than 7 million around the world, COVID and the response to it made for a polarizing debate about vaccines and the government response, echoes of which remain with us. At the same time, Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of Brown's School of Public Health, has acknowledged mistakes, including how public officials moved too slowly in reopening schools. "The inability to shift, because we had said 'the science says X,' really, I think, boxed public health into a lot of bad decisions that were difficult to get out of," Jha said as part of a panel of Brown experts. "Moving forward, if there are places where we as public health leaders need to acknowledge our errors, we should absolutely do that – and we should try to meet people where they are, understand their values, and move people forward toward a better understanding of how we're going to help folks lead better, healthier lives."

COMING ATTRACTION: Rhode Island FC has been priming the pump of public interest ahead of the May debut of the team's new soccer arena in Pawtucket, sending releases on topics ranging from parking to the roster. Meanwhile, in a tweet last week, Gov. McKee offered a reminder that he cast the tie-breaking vote to move the project forward. The message is not without political risk as we approach election season, considering how taxpayers will pay \$132 million over 30 years for the \$27 million construction cost of the new stadium. But in for a dime, in for a dollar, as McKee doubled-down on a message that the arena will bring new jobs and economic momentum to Pawtucket.

LOCAL MOTION: Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. denies the town is using eminent domain in bad faith to stop an affordable housing development. "No, it's about building the [public safety] complex," Polisena Jr. told my colleague Jeremy Bernfeld. "I mean, that is the number one priority. I don't think there's anything more quintessential to a municipal government than providing public safety." As Jeremy reports, the libertarian-leaning nonprofit Pacific Legal Foundation says it's suing the town on behalf of the landowners, who want to build an affordable housing complex on the land. They call the eminent domain plan "a sham taking" in their legal filings and contend that the town is using the need for a new municipal complex as a fig leaf to mask their efforts to stop the apartments.

TAKING OFF: One Union Station, the former train station that was redeveloped by Marsella Development, has been the home of public radio since before I joined what was then WRNI in 2009. The downtown location in the Rhode Island Foundation building made for a short trip to Smith Hill and other nearby destinations, even if the compact newsroom could make it challenging to hear oneself think on occasion. Over time, WRNI became Rhode Island Public Radio and then The Public's Radio. A bigger change came last year with our merger with Rhode Island PBS. So after recording more than 800 episodes of Political Roundtable and countless news stories from One Union Station, I said goodbye to the trusty old office on Thursday while looking forward to spending more time at our new digs on Park Lane in Providence.

### LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF WARWICK PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3275 Post Road on April 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. to consider the abandonment of a portion of Old Quaker Lane.

That the portion of Old Quaker Lane herein described be set for public hearing and advertisement for the reason that said highway has ceased to be useful to the public.

Your petitioners are the record owner of land abutting upon a certain tract of land situated on in the City of Warwick. The said plat is recorded in the land evidence records of said City of Warwick.

Wherefore, your petitioner prays that the aforesaid undeveloped portion of Old Quaker Lane, a platted street in the said City of Warwick, be abandoned by the said City of Warwick through this Honorable City Council.

That notice be given to all owners of land abutting upon any part of said highway to appear at our City Council Meeting on April 7, 2025 and be heard for and against such abandonment and as to the damage if any which they shall sustain thereby. Such notice shall be given by advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in English, and a further personal notice shall be served upon every person known to reside within this state who is an owner of land abutting on said proposed road to be abandoned.

A copy of the proposed abandonment may be examined in the office of the City Clerk during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The proposals shown thereon may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any such alteration or amendment will be presented for comment in the course of said hearing.

All persons interested are invited to be present at said time and place, to be heard thereon.

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the office of the City Clerk at 738-2006, 72 hours in advance of the hearing date. Any party, person (s) or entity interested in registering for electronic notice for proposed zoning amendments and/or amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Maps, and/or the City's Development Review Regulations governing Subdivision, Land Development and Development Plan Review should contact the City's Planning Department at 401-738-2009 or at <https://www.warwickri.gov/user/116/contact>.

Attest:  
Lynn D'Abrasca, City Clerk

3/20, 3/27, 4/3/25

**SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE**  
 THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN CONDUCTED AND THE PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO THE RULES OF PRACTICE OF THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD. STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS 100 WATER STREET, SUITE 1000, WARWICK, RI 02886.  
 \* LIMITED LIABILITY SURVEYOR LICENSE # 2537  
 MATHIAS HUSKA, SURVEYOR  
 DATE: 03/17/2025

**LEGEND**  
 PROPERTY LINE: DASHED LINE  
 ASBESTOS LINES: DOTTED LINE  
 FENCE: SOLID LINE WITH DASHES  
 SURVEYOR'S MARKS: SOLID LINE WITH 'X'  
 STONE WALL: DASHED LINE WITH 'X'  
 SEWER: SOLID LINE WITH 'S'  
 WATER MAIN: SOLID LINE WITH 'W'  
 ELEC. SERVICE: SOLID LINE WITH 'E'  
 GAS SERVICE: SOLID LINE WITH 'G'  
 UNEXPOSED FOUNDATION: SOLID LINE WITH 'U'  
 EXPOSED FOUNDATION: SOLID LINE WITH 'E'  
 DRIVE FOUNDATION: SOLID LINE WITH 'D'

**GENERAL NOTES**  
 1. THE ABOVE IS A PLAN OF OLD QUAKER LANE IN THE CITY OF WARWICK, R.I. COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, STATE OF RHODE ISLAND.  
 2. THIS SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED BY SURVEY ENGINEERING ON JUNE 1, 2024. THIS PLAN REFLECTS THE SURVEY CONDUCTED AS OF THAT DATE.  
 3. THIS SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF A PUBLIC HEARING. SURVEY ENGINEERING IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY UNDISCOVERED ENCUMBRANCES, DEEDS BY CLAMP THAT A TITLE REPORT WOULD REVEAL.  
 4. RETURN TO: SURVEY ENGINEERING, 100 WATER STREET, SUITE 1000, WARWICK, RI 02886.  
 5. R.I. STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS, 100 WATER STREET, SUITE 1000, WARWICK, RI 02886.

**PLAN REFERENCES**  
 1. "ROAD ABANDONMENT, SEPARATE OF CURRENT LANE, MARKED BY BY COTTELL ENGINEERING, INC., 2018 APRIL 10TH, CASE # 17-18," RECORDED AT THE CITY OF WARWICK LAND EVIDENCE RECORDS, PLAT 0400 003 0 000.  
 2. "WARWICK LAND EVIDENCE RECORDS, SEPARATE ABANDONMENT BY SURVEY ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC., 2018 DECEMBER 10TH, CASE # 17-18."  
 3. "RHODE ISLAND HIGHWAY PLAT 25, 26, 28 & 30."

**ROAD ABANDONMENT PLAN**  
 OLD QUAKER LANE  
 WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND  
 SURVEYOR: MATHIAS HUSKA, LICENSE # 2537  
 ENGINEERING: DIPRETE ENGINEERING, LLC  
 100 WATER STREET, SUITE 1000, WARWICK, RI 02886  
 SCALE: 1"=30'

# Legal Notices

**JOSEPH MICHAEL KRAUS**  
 YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO APPEAR IN ON APRIL 17, 2025, AT 9:00AM, COURTROOM 3D IN THE RHODE ISLAND FAMILY COURT, KENT COUNTY LOCATED AT 222 QUAKER LANE, WARWICK, RI 02886, FOR A DIVORCE PROCEEDING.

**3/20/25**  
 District Court  
 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA  
 CASE NO.: A-25-911623-C  
 DEPT NO.: 5  
 RESORTS WORLD LAS VEGAS LLC  
 dba RESORTS WORLD LAS VEGAS,  
 Plaintiff,  
 vs. HYUNJU CRAIGMILES,  
 Defendant.  
**SUMMONS**

**NOTICE! YOU HAVE BEEN SUED, THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 21 DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW. TO THE DEFENDANT:** HYUNJU CRAIGMILES  
 A civil Complaint has been filed by the Plaintiff against you for the relief set forth in the Complaint. Object of Action: Defendant is being sued for collection of an account relating to an event contract. 1. If you intend to defend this lawsuit, within 21 days after this Summons is served on you exclusive of the day of service, you must do the following: a. File with the Clerk of this Court, whose address is shown below, a formal written response to the Complaint in accordance with the rules of the Court, with the appropriate filing fee. b. Serve a copy of your response upon the attorney whose name and address is shown below. 2. Unless you respond, your default will be entered upon application of the plaintiff and this Court may enter a judgment against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint, which could result in the taking of money or property or other relief requested in the Complaint. 3. If you intend to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your response may be filed on time. 4. The State of Nevada, its political subdivisions, agencies, officers, employees, board members, commission members and legislators, each have 45 days after service of this summons within which to file an answer to the complaint. **CLERK OF COURT, BY:** Steven D. Grierson, Deputy Clerk, Date, FEBRUARY 3, 2025, County Courthouse, 200 Lewis Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155. Issued at the direction of: SKLAR WILLIAMS PLLC, By: Anthony R. Ager, Esq., Nevada Bar No. 003780, 410 S. Rampart Blvd., #350, Las Vegas, NV 89145, Tel: (702) 360-6000, Fax: (702) 360-0000, Attorney for Plaintiff

**3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3/25**

**CITY OF WARWICK  
 ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW  
 REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025  
 TIME: 6:00 P.M.  
 LOCATION: CITY OF WARWICK – ANNEX BUILDING  
 65 CENTERVILLE ROAD  
 WARWICK, RI 02886  
 SAWTOOTH BUILDING – 1ST FLOOR  
 CONFERENCE ROOM

**I. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL**  
**II. PUBLIC HEARING AS ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW** - Discussion and/or action and/or vote regarding the following petitions. The Zoning Board may approve, approve with conditions or deny the following petitions/applications, as may be modified by testimony and/or evidence presented throughout the public hearing; and/or possible vote to continue a petitioner's public hearing to a date determined.

Petition #11045 Ward 6  
 292 Sea View Dr.  
 The petition of Angela Stamoulos, 292 Sea View Dr., Warwick, RI, requests a dimensional variance to construct a porch on the existing deck. Proposed porch having a front yard setback of 11.7' (40' required). Assessor's Plat 375, Lot 131, zoned Residential A-10.

Petition #11046 Ward 9  
 81 Crestwood Rd.  
 The petition of Kristen Sisson, 81 Crestwood Rd., Warwick, RI, requests a dimensional variance to convert the existing sunroom on the first floor to increase the size of the existing living room. Petitioner is also proposing to construct an addition above to add a bathroom to the second floor. Proposed addition having a side yard setback of 12.8' (20' required). Assessor's Plat 235, Lot 50, zoned Residential A-15.

Petition #11047 Ward 7  
 18 Pevear Ave.  
 The petition of Lowell Harris, 18 Pevear Ave., Warwick, RI, requests a dimensional variance to construct a single-family dwelling on the existing foundation. Proposed dwelling having a side yard setback of 2.8' (8' required). Assessor's Plat 367, Lot 208, zoned Residential A-10 & A-7.

Petition #11048 Ward 5  
 46 Burnett Rd.  
 The petition of Elizabeth Kendall & Stephen Howard, 46 Burnett Rd., Warwick, RI, requests a dimensional variance to construct a second-floor addition over the existing attached garage for a personal art studio. Proposed addition having a front yard setback of 18' (25' required per RIGL 45-24-38 (b)), a side yard setback of 3.3' (8' required per RIGL 45-24-38 (b)). Assessor's Plat 380, Lot 183, zoned Residential A-15.

Petition #11049 Ward 8  
 1301 Bald Hill Rd.  
 The petition of Samuel J. Bloomberg Family Trust, 109 Sargent St., Newton, MA, and Josh Bloomberg, 343 Washington St., Suite 201, Newton, MA, requests a dimensional variance to convert the prior retail Sprint store into a fast-food use (Jersey Mike's) having less than required parking. Subject property providing 33 parking spaces (78 spaces required). Assessor's Plat 254, Lot 7, zoned General Business (GB).

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Discussion and/or action and/or vote regarding the Regular Meeting Minutes of the March 11, 2025 meeting.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

BY ORDER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW, WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND  
 Paul DePetrillo, Chairman

\*Please be advised that the Zoning Board of Review has adopted Rules and Regulations governing the application process, submission of material, conduct of the public hearing on the application and responsibilities of an action to appeal a decision. These Rules and regulations are posted on the City's web site and are available for review in the Board's office during regular hours. All applicants and objectors are obliged to review these Rules and shall be held responsible for compliance therewith. If there are any questions on the above petitions, please contact the Zoning Office at 401-921-9534 or by email amy.e.cota@warwickri.gov. Facilities are accessible for people with disabilities. If you need interpreter services, please contact Amy at 401-921-934 at least 48 hours in advance of said hearing.

**3/20/25**  
 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:

**CARDUCCI, Janet, est.**  
 Motion to Appoint Substitute Co-Guardians; for hearing April 10, 2025@8:00AM

**CARDUCCI, Michael A. alias Michael Angelo Carducci, est.**  
 Miscellaneous Petition; for hearing April 3, 2025

**COLE, Adam D., est.**  
 Sale of Real Estate for property located at 176 Aurora Drive, Warwick, RI 02889 further Designated as Assessor's Plat 318 Lot 157; for hearing April 3, 2025

**KANE, Gerald R., est.**  
 Administratrix's Final Account; for hearing April 3, 2025

**LUTZ, Jean alias Jean A. Lutz, est.**  
 Guardian's 2nd Account; for hearing April 3, 2025

**MCCURDY, Frank A. alias Frank Albert McCurdy, est.**  
 Probate of Will; for hearing April 3, 2025

**PICHE, Thomas Vincent alias Thomas Piche, est.**  
 Administration Petition; for hearing April 3, 2025

**POTTER, Joyce M. alias Joyce Marie Potter, est.**  
 Probate of Will; for hearing April 3, 2025

**ROUND, Laurie W. alias Laurie Round, est.**  
 Motion to file a Claim out of Time; for hearing April 3, 2025

**SULLIVAN, Robert L., Sr., est.**  
 Administration Petition; for hearing April 3, 2025

**SWANSON, Philip, est.**  
 Guardianship Petition; for hearing April 3, 2025

**UNDERWOOD, Carol Evelyn, est.**  
 Administratrix's 1st & Final Account; for hearing April 3, 2025

**BURGESS, John J. alias John Joseph Burgess, est.**  
 Carol Burgess has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in The office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**CAMPBELL, Lucy W. alias Lucy Wellman Campbell alias Lucy Campbell, est.**  
 Dale C. Whitney has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the Office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**CARLSON, Kenneth alias Ken Carlson, Kenneth Paul Carlson, est.**  
 Daniel Carlson has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in The office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**FARRALLY, David A. alias David Farrally, est.**  
 Harold E. Watson has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in The office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**FRENETTE, Kaaren L. alias Kaaren Louise Frenette, est.**  
 Janice D'Ovidio has qualified as Executrix (Maria Lahti of 1 Richmond Square, Ste. 303N, Providence, RI 02906 as agent); creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**GLADUE, Keith, est.**  
 Donna King has qualified as Executrix (Stephen P. Levesque of 165 Burnside Street, 2nd Floor, Cranston, RI 02910 as agent); Creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**GREGSON, Joseph T., Jr., est.**  
 Patricia Gregson has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in The office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**HARTLEY, David E., est.**  
 Sandra N. Hartley has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in The office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**HECKMANN, Brett S. alias Brett Stephen Heckmann, est.**  
 Lindsay J. Scroggs has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the Office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**O'NEILL, Madeline, est.**  
 Carol Fritz has qualified as Executrix (Joseph P. McCoy, Esq. of 40 Westminster Street, Ste. 300, Providence, RI 02903 as agent); creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**PECKHAM, Andrew J., est.**  
 David J. Morgan has qualified as

Executor; creditors must file their claims in the Office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**POWERS, Richard A., Sr. alias Richard Allen Powers Sr., est.**  
 Richard A. Powers, Jr. & Deborah Matterna have qualified as Co-Executor's (William Vesceca of 1405 Plainfield Pike, Johnston, RI 02919 as agent); creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**PRIOR, Margaret M., est.**  
 Madeline H. Foulk has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the Office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**SMITH, James R. alias James Richard Smith, est.**  
 Carol A. Smith has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the Office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**SMITH, Jameson C., est.**  
 Charles Lanigan & Lisa Lanigan-Raposa have qualified as Co-Guardian's of the Person & Estate; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time Required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**TORGAN, Janice M., est.**  
 Alicia M. Bigos & Jessica Torgan have qualified as Co-Executors; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**VANNINI, Arthur, est.**  
 Paul A. O'Brien & Michael P. Vannini have qualified as Co-Executor's; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 2025

**ZOMPA, Arthur A., Sr., est.**  
 Lisa L. Zompa has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the Office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 20, 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.

**ATTEST: LYNN D'ABROSCA, CITY CLERK**  
**3/20, 3/27/25**

**LEGAL NOTICE  
 CITY OF WARWICK  
 PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3275 Post Road on April 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. to consider the abandonment of a portion of Harper Street.

That the portion of Harper Street herein described be set for public hearing and advertisement for the reason that said highway has ceased to be useful to the public.

Our petitioners are the record owner of land abutting upon a certain tract of land situated on in the City of Warwick. The said plat is recorded in the land evidence records of said City of Warwick.

Wherefore, your petitioner prays that the aforesaid undeveloped portion of Harper Street, a platted street in the said City of Warwick, be abandoned by the said City of Warwick through this Honorable City Council.

That notice be given to all owners of land abutting upon any part of said highway to appear at our City Council Meeting on April 7, 2025 and be heard for and against such abandonment and as to the damage if any which they shall sustain thereby. Such notice shall be given by advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in English, and a further personal notice shall be served upon every person known to reside within this state who is an owner of land abutting on said proposed road to be abandoned.

A copy of the proposed abandonment may be examined in the office of the City Clerk during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The proposals shown thereon may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any such alteration or amendment will be presented for comment in the course of said hearing.

All persons interested are invited to be present at said time and place, to be heard thereon.

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the office of the City Clerk at 738-2006, 72 hours in advance of the hearing date. Any party, person (s) or entity interested in registering for electronic notice for proposed zoning amendments and/or amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Maps, and/or the City's Development Review Regulations governing Subdivision, Land Development and Development Plan Review should contact the City's Planning Department at 401-738-2009 or at <https://www.warwickri.gov/user/116/contact>.

**Attest:**  
 Lynn D'Abrosca, City Clerk

**3/20, 3/27, 4/3/25**

**THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE  
 CITY OF WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND  
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing, will be held at the City Hall Annex, (Sawtooth Building) Community Room located at 65 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI, on Wednesday, April 9th, 2025 beginning at 6:00 P.M. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider, and the Planning Board may vote, on combined Master and Preliminary Plan approval for consideration of a Unified Development Review Project before the Planning Board. The Applicant is proposing to construct a building containing six (6) contractor storage units with associated parking and stormwater drainage infrastructure. The proposal requests a Special Use Permit under *Section 701.1 - Location of Required Parking Spaces of the Zoning Ordinance* to locate ten (10) parking spaces at an off-site location, being 71 Cypress Drive.

Location: 0 Maple Avenue  
 Subject Property: AP 284, Lot 18 & AP 283, Lot 159  
 Off-site Parking: AP 284, Lot 144  
 Owner/ App li cant: 115 Maple Avenue, LLC  
 Zoned: General Business (GB)  
 Number of lots: Two (2)  
 Proposed Number of lots: One (1)  
 Area: 26,939 Sq ft  
 Ward: 2  
 Engineer: R. A. Cataldo & Assoc.

All persons interested in the above are respectfully requested to be present at the time and place to be heard thereon. For any questions or to review Development Plans, please contact the Planning Department at 738-2009. All persons interested in the above are respectfully requested to be present at that time and place to be heard thereon. Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the office of the City Clerk at 738-2006, 72 hours in advance of the hearing date.

Any party, person(s) or entity interested in registering for electronic notice for proposed zoning amendments and/or amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance and the City's Development Review Regulations governing Subdivision, Land Development and Development Plan Review should contact the City's Planning Department at 401-738-2009.

Per order of the Warwick Planning Board  
 Philip Slocum, Chairman  
**3/20, 3/27, 4/3/25**

**ZONING DISTRICT A-7**

MINIMUM LOT AREA: 7,000 S.F.  
 MINIMUM LOT FRONTAGE: 70 FT.  
 MINIMUM SETBACKS: FRONT: 25 FT.  
 SIDE: 8 FT.  
 REAR: 20 FT.  
 MAXIMUM STRUCTURE HEIGHT: 35 FT.  
 MINIMUM LANDSCAPE: 10%

**HARPER STREET ABANDONMENT**  
 8,021 Sq. Feet  
 0.18 Acres

**SURVEY CLASSIFICATION:**  
 THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN CONDUCTED AND THE PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO SECTION 9 OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE RHODE ISLAND STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS ON NOVEMBER 25, 2015, AS FOLLOWS:

**TYPE OF BOUNDARY SURVEY:** LIMITED CONTENT BOUNDARY SURVEY CLASS 1  
**MEASUREMENT SPECIFICATION:** CLASS 1

THE PURPOSE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE SURVEY AND FOR THE PREPARATION OF THIS PLAN IS AS FOLLOWS:  
 TO ESTABLISH AND VERIFY BOUNDARY LINES.

BY: *Richard T. Bzdyna* DATE: 1/31/24

**REFERENCE:**  
 1. DEED BK. 9778 / PG. 238  
 2. SUBDIVISION OF PORTION OF LOT J OF THE NAUSAUKET PLAT ANNEX No. 2, WARWICK, R.I. JOHN O'NEILL, JULY 1923 PLAT CARD 315  
 3. "NAUSAUKET TERRACE WARWICK, R.I. QUALITY HOMES INC., MAY 1972, WILLIAM L. VILLELLA LISC. SURVEYOR" PLAT CARD 545

**HARPER STREET ABANDONMENT PLAN**  
 SCALE: 1"=20' DATE: JANUARY 29, 2024  
 PREPARED FOR: JOHN HERRALD  
 272 NAUSAUKET ROAD  
 WARWICK, RI 02886.  
 PREPARED BY: OCEAN STATE PLANNERS, INC.  
 1235 OAKLAWN AVENUE, CRANSTON, RI 02929  
 PHONE: (401) 463-9599 info@osplanners.com  
 JOB NO. 10598 / DWG. NO. 10598 - (JNP)  
 GRAPHIC SCALE: 1" = 20'

**THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE  
 CITY OF WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND  
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing, will be held at the City Hall Annex, (Sawtooth Building) Community Room located at 65 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI, on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 beginning at 6:00 P.M. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider, and the Planning Board may vote, on a Master Plan Application for a Major Land Development. The Applicant is proposing to construct 177 residential units within two buildings, with associated parking and stormwater drainage infrastructure.

Location: 1880 Post Road  
 Subject Property: Map 322, Lot 336,  
 Owner: Renaissance Development Corp.,  
 35 Sockanosset Cross Rd., Cranston, RI 02920  
 Applicant: Jan Co Inc., 35 Sockanosset Cross Rd, Cranston, RI 02920  
 Zoned: Gateway District  
 Area: 5.66 acres  
 Ward: 3  
 Engineer: DiPrete Engineering,  
 Two Stafford Court, Cranston, RI 02920

All persons interested in the above are respectfully requested to be present at the time and place to be heard thereon. For any questions or to review Development Plans, please contact the Planning Department at 738-2009. All persons interested in the above are respectfully requested to be present at that time and place to be heard thereon. Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the office of the City Clerk at 738-2006, 72 hours in advance of the hearing date.

Any party, person (s) or entity interested in registering for electronic notice for proposed zoning amendments and/or amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance and the City's Development Review Regulations governing Subdivision, Land Development and Development Plan Review should contact the City's Planning Department at 401-738-2009.

Per order of the Warwick Planning Board  
 Philip Slocum, Chairman  
**3/20, 3/27/25**

# United Way Increasing Nonprofit, Family Support Amid Federal Uncertainty

## New Safety Net Grants Will be Made Available

As uncertainty surrounding federal funding and shifting federal policies grows, threatening the stability of nonprofits and the critical services they provide to hundreds of thousands of Rhode Islanders, United Way of R.I. is doubling-down on its support of local families and organizations.

"United Is The Way" will support efforts to provide needed resources to Rhode Islanders and to the community-based organizations serving them through this unpredictable time, focusing on three main areas. United Way will expand supports for nonprofits through the Alliance for Nonprofit Impact, expand services for residents through 211 and community outreach, and expand grantmaking to local nonprofits that provide vital support to their communities.

"It's been dizzying to try and keep up with the barrage of funding and policy shifts coming out of Washington, but one thing is certain – what's being targeted would be devastating to nonprofits and to our families, friends, and neighbors," said Cortney Nicolato, United Way's president and CEO. "The current climate and what's at risk requires that we be swift and decisive in our actions, and that's what we're doing. You cannot have strong families and strong communities without also having strong nonprofits."

The launch of "United Is The Way" includes expanded services by the Alliance for Nonprofit Impact. Through its partnerships the Alliance will facilitate and fund legal supports to help organizations navigate the new regulatory environment, and will provide technical assistance to prepare nonprofits for increased federal scrutiny. The Alliance also will equip nonprofits with

the resources, tools, and training to help them continue and sustain their vital work.

Among the resources the Alliance will be offering are expanded access to professional experts in the areas of fund development and revenue generation, strategic planning, and financial management. The Alliance also will offer additional support for collaboration and innovation, discounted certification programs, and will be advocating for funding protections at the state level.

United Way is also moving to strengthen its 211 services. In anticipation of increased need among Rhode Islanders, the organization plans to add staff to accommodate an expected increase in call volume and referrals, and to expand its direct community outreach.

The United Way Board of Directors voted to allocate organizational funds to seed "United Is The Way" and its new grants, which will soon be made available via a request for proposal (RFP) process and awarded on a rolling basis. To expedite its investments in the community, United Way will be accelerating payments to its grant partners, providing them added flexibility to meet their immediate needs and those of their community.

"This is a broad-based mobilization strategy to defend our community infrastructure from federal disruptions and do so with the heightened sense of urgency this moment demands," said Nicolato. "We need to ensure the preservation of vital services and empower the nonprofits that deliver them. This is not a time to sit idly-by. It's time for the caring power of the community to shine through."

### ● COMPLEX from page 1

that rivaled the height of the Interlink garage and station connecting to Green Airport across Jefferson Boulevard, although he was pressured to do so by local conservationists. The building was razed about 10 years ago.

Two years ago, Integlia advanced the plan for City Skye Centre. It gained city approvals and it looked like a go. But the timing wasn't right. Inflation was rampant and supply chains were creaking.

Integlia has teamed up with two major apartment developers, LeCesse Development Corporation of Orlando, Florida, and United Group of Troy, New York. Between them, Integlia said, they have developed 50,000 apartment units. Integlia will act as the commercial developer to oversee the buildout of 30,000 square feet of the complex that will include a 120-seat restaurant and small full-service market.

"Millennials" is the word Integlia uses frequently in describing the clientele of the development. And, indeed, Skye City Centre appears to be tailor-made for young singles and couples in good-paying jobs and on the move. He describes the one- and two-bedroom apartments, about equally divided, as "upscale." They will all have a den and one and a half baths (two baths in the larger units) plus access to wide range of amenities including an indoor dog run, gym, conference and office rooms, golf simulator rooms and a fitness center. The entire development will be Wi-Fi-connected, meaning tenants will not need to buy internet service. About half the units will have balconies.

Overall the complex designed by Five G Studio Collaborate from Dallas will have a lot of natural light and have a "fresh outdoor" feel, says Integlia. The courtyard that will be divided into active and passive sections will have a swimming pool and "resort style" area with grilling stations and outdoor games.

What won't be visible is a sea of automobiles. Planned is a nearly 500-car parking garage with charging stations along the rear north end of development.

Apartment rental rates will range from the low- and mid-\$2,000 a month to the low \$4,000 for the larger two-bedroom units.

# McCaffrey to step in during Dambruch absence

## Beacon Media staff

At last night's meeting, the Warwick School Committee was expected to name Assistant Superintendent of Schools William McCaffrey interim superintendent until the return of Superintendent Lynn Dambruch.

Last Friday, Shaun Galligan, chairman of the committee, in a letter addressed to all school employees and also sent to Mayor Frank Picozzi, said Dambruch would take a 30-day leave of absence.

In his letter Galligan wrote, "Superintendent Dambruch's absence is not related to her job performance, or recent department circumstances."

In response to a Beacon text message on Wednesday, he said that, "for personal reasons," he could not comment further.

### ● BUDGET from page 1

Interested parties with significant fiscal experience about joining the commission – once during the City Council's vote to request legislation to allow the commission, and once in the House Education Committee's hearing on the bill.

"I've had some people come forward already; if I mentioned the names, you would know them," Picozzi told members of the House last month. The commission bill specifies five members – three to be appointed by Picozzi with the support of the City Council, one appointed by the superintendent of schools and one appointed by the School Committee.



Developer Michael Integlia outlines plans for the redevelopment of the Leviton Manufacturing Co. site at a press conference 11 years ago. Beacon Media photo by John Howell

Callahan Construction of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, has been selected as the general contractor. Integlia said a closing on the construction loan will be held March 28. He estimated it would take two years to build the project, which he said would not have been possible without the tax stabilization program provided in the City Centre Intermodal zoning. The provision provides for the undeveloped assessment of the property to be used for first five years in determining city taxes and then for the current value of the development to be phased in over a period of 10 years.

Seen as key in attracting tenants is the central Rhode Island location of the development and its easy access to Route 95, MBTA service from the Interlink and connection to Green Airport. The proximity to Boston and New York is seen as a significant attraction.

Asked if he thought tariffs would seriously impact the project, Integlia replied, "I hope not ... I hope it's almost all posturing and bluster."

# HOUSES OF WORSHIP

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Sunday School at 9:30am  
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asburymc.org

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

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

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

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

**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

**Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian**  
805 Main Avenue  
Rev. Dallas Ann Bradel  
737-1230  
www.gccp.org

**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

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

**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

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

**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

**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://sgmcri.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: westminsteru.org

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

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## Obituaries

In your time of need, the *Warwick Beacon* will print your loved one's full obituary for a small charge. The paper also places the obituary on our website, warwickonline.com.

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

- Thank you

# Obituaries

## Rev. Richard M. Friedrichs



**December 23, 1944  
– March 17, 2025  
Ordained to the  
Holy Priesthood:  
June 27, 1970**



Rev. Richard M. Friedrichs, 80, of the Diocese of Providence, died on March 17, 2025, after a period of declining health. The son of the late Gustave and Virginia (Martell) Friedrichs, he spent his early childhood in Sheldonville, MA before moving to Woonsocket, RI. He attended Mount St. Charles Academy and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1962.

In preparation for the priesthood, he studied at Our Lady of Providence Seminary in Warwick, and the American College, University of Louvain, Belgium. He was ordained a priest on June 27, 1970, in Louvain, Belgium.

Upon returning to the States, Father Rick was first assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Wakefield for a number of years, followed by other appointments in succeeding years to St. Michael's Parish in Providence, Prison Ministry in Cranston, and Spiritual Director at the Our Lady of Peace Retreat Center in Narragansett. In addition to these assignments, he was part of the Diocesan Priests Council and went on to receive his Doctorate in Ministry at the Center for Religious Development in Cambridge, MA. In 1991, he was once again posted to Louvain for five years as Spiritual Director for Seminarians.

Upon his return, he was appointed pastor of St. Catherine's Church in Apponaug, a parish that brought him much happiness and fulfillment due to the kindness and generosity of his many parishioners. Just shy of his 50th anniversary in the priesthood, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, which led to an earlier retirement from active duty, but for him, an even greater effort to make life more meaningful for others. He retired to his small cabin at Spring Lake in Burrillville and continued to provide spiritual direction and comfort to the many who requested it.

In addition to his parents, Father Rick was predeceased by his sister, Barbara Allard, and his brother, Chuck Friedrichs. He is survived by his brother Gustave and sister-in-law Pauline of Sarasota, FL and his sister, Virginia Yanyar, of Bristol, as well as several much-loved nieces, nephews and cousins who will carry the memory of his kindness and strength always within them.

A Concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial will be offered in St. Gregory the Great Church, 360 Cowesett Road, Warwick, on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 10:00AM. Burial will follow in St. Charles Parish Cemetery, Blackstone, MA.

Visitation will be held in St. Gregory the Great Church on Sunday, March 23, 2025 from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

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: Saint Michael Church, 239 Oxford Street Providence, RI 02905. [www.murphyfuneralhomes.org](http://www.murphyfuneralhomes.org)

## Barbara A. Sample

Barbara A. Sample, age 82, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Thursday, March 13, 2025. Barbara was predeceased in death by her loving husband Charles S. Sample. She was also predeceased by her first husband, the late Edward L. Walsh, Sr.



Barbara was born on March 29, 1942, in Providence, RI, to the late Raymond and Louise (Clough) Bessette. She graduated from Cranston East High School and the former Rhode Island Hospital School of Nursing, class of 1963. She began her nursing career as a surgical nurse at the Jane Brown unit of Rhode Island Hospital. After raising her 5 children, she returned to nursing at Rhode Island Renal Institute (formerly Fresenius) in Warwick, RI. She earned her advanced certification in Nephrology Nursing at 64 years of age. Barbara was a member of the former Rhode Island Hospital School of Nursing alumni association and enjoyed the camaraderie with her group of nursing friends over the years.

Barbara was an avid fan of the New England sports teams. She was a true "hockey Mom" and attended practices, games and tournaments all over New England.

She and Charlie enjoyed simple pleasures in life such as sitting at The Inn at Castle Hill watching boats go by and making frequent trips "to the mall".

Barbara was happiest to have her family over for any and all occasions. She hosted a fabulous Christmas Day brunch! A tradition we proudly carry on.

Barbara is survived by her brother, Raymond B. Bessette and his wife Kathy Bessette of Pawtucket, RI. Daughters Mary-Ellen (Raleigh) Jenkins, Christine (Michael) Iadevaia and sons Larry Sample and wife Jen Charleson of Barrington, RI and Chuck Sample of Warwick, RI. Also survived by her daughters-in-law Karen Emma and Tracy Walsh.

Grandchildren, Lauren, Taylor, Amanda, Cole, Cameron, Tyler and Eddie.

Great grandchildren, Lucas, Wyatt, Finleigh and Ocean and soon to join us, Quincy.

Besides her parents, Barbara is predeceased by her son Edward L. Walsh, Jr., and grandson Alexander Jenkins and her brother Donald J. Bessette.

Barbara's family would like to thank staff at West Shore Health Center and Continuum Health & Hospice for their care and compassion during Barbara's stay.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend visitation on Friday, March 21, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Barrett and Cotter Funeral Home, 1328 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 a.m. in St. Kevin's Church, 333 Sandy Lane, Warwick. Burial in the Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Exeter, RI.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Barbara's memory can be made to A Wish Come True, 6 Jefferson Drive, Coventry, RI or online at [awish.org](http://awish.org)

## Gloria B. Walker

Gloria B. Walker, 97, of Warwick, passed away peacefully, Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at Kent County Hospital. She was the beloved wife of the late Stanley F. Walker.

Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Frederick G. and Hulda (Franson) Carlson.

Before retiring, Gloria was a saleswoman and makeup artist at various department stores in Rhode Island. Gloria was a proud volunteer for the Warwick Public School Department in the Foster Grandparent Program, where she was more fondly known as "Grandma Gloria". She won the "Foster Grandparent of the Year Award" and volunteered there for 20 years until she was 93. She was cherished by many.

She is survived by her son Brian Belovitch, her grandson Dennis DeLoach Jr., her great grandchildren Jonah and Zoe, and her nephew Scott Carlson. Besides her husband, Gloria was predeceased by her two sons: Dennis DeLoach Sr. and Paul Bricker.

Per her wishes, Gloria's memorial service will be celebrated with family privately.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her memory may be made to the ACLU Foundation of Rhode Island 128 Dorrance Street, Suite 400 Providence, RI 02903

Please share memories and condolences at [www.WoodlawnRI.com](http://www.WoodlawnRI.com)



## Francis R. Nerney

Francis R. Nerney, 88, of Delray Beach, FL, formerly of Providence, passed away peacefully at home Saturday, March 1, 2025. He was the companion of Louise Smeraldo.

Born in Providence, he a son of the late Edward "Teddy" and Rose (Zoglio) Nerney.

Francis was a lifelong baseball fan; he was a devoted Boston Red Sox fan. He was a purchasing manager for Edward Parkinson Manufacturing Company for many years. Following his retirement Francis spent his free time swimming or playing cards, but most of all he enjoyed Facetimeing his grandsons, whom he adored very much.

Francis was the beloved father of Christopher Nerney and wife April Parker, Jennifer Nerney, and Jessica Nerney and husband Scott Kawamoto. He is also survived by his two grandchildren Everett and Brooks Kawamoto. He was the brother of Sylvia Rinaldi, Virginia Pagliaro, Kathy Moulton and husband Harry, and the late Paul and Edward Nerney. Francis also leaves many nieces and nephews.

His funeral will be held at 8:15 am Saturday, March 22 from the "WOODLAWN" Funeral Home, 600 Pontiac Ave., Cranston, with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 am in St. Gregory the Great Church, 360 Cowesett Rd, Warwick. Burial will follow in St. Ann Cemetery, Cranston. Visitation will be held Friday, March 21, from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm in the Funeral Home. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his memory may be made to The Boys & Girls Club of Providence.

Please share memories and condolences at [www.WoodlawnRI.com](http://www.WoodlawnRI.com).



## Robert E. "Bobby" Vincent

Robert E. "Bobby" Vincent, 91 years old, passed away peacefully with his family by his side at Hope Health Hultlar Hospice on March 18, 2025. He was the devoted husband to Doris Vincent, of Warwick, for 65 years. Robert was the son of the late John M. and Nellie Vincent. He leaves behind son, Scott Vincent, of Warwick, and his daughter, Lori LePage, of East Greenwich. He was the best "Bampy" to Galen Gammino, of Washington, DC and Kellie LePage, of East Greenwich.

Robert enjoyed his granddaughters more than anything, he was playing Barbie Dolls, store, and restaurant with his granddaughters when they were little, he would always slip them candy and had the biggest smile when they were around. He never said no or complained. They were everything to him, he was everything to them. Everyone knew their Bampy and how much he loved his granddaughters and how much they loved him.

He was a Warwick resident for 65+ years and was known to strike up a conversation with anyone at the grocery store, during his walk around the neighborhood, especially when he was walking his beloved, Mookie, who passed away a month ago.

Robert served in the United States Army. He worked for many years at Leesona Corp and Carpet Products. When he retired, his job was taking care of his granddaughters and living a very simple life with the love of his life, Doris. He never asked for anything! His happiest days were on holidays with amazing food and his family surrounding him.

Robert leaves behind his sister, Dianne Graham, of Warwick. He was the brother of the late, John "Jack" Vincent and sister, Nancy Vincent. He cherished seeing his nieces and nephews and will especially miss Dawn Hebert, Lisa Marcotte Riley, and Allison Graham, along with many others in California and North Carolina.

He was the best dad; he sacrificed so much for his children and will be deeply missed by Scott and Lori.

We appreciate the staff at RI Hospital (Trauma ICU) and Hope Health Hospice for their care and compassion to Robert and the family during his final days. Special thanks to Jean Vincent for her support and love throughout the years.

His Funeral Service will be held on Friday, March 21, 2025 at 7:00PM at THE URQUHART-MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, 800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 4:00PM-7:00PM. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: RISPICA, 155 Plan Way, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886. [www.murphyfuneralhomes.org](http://www.murphyfuneralhomes.org)



## William "Billy" Costello, Jr.

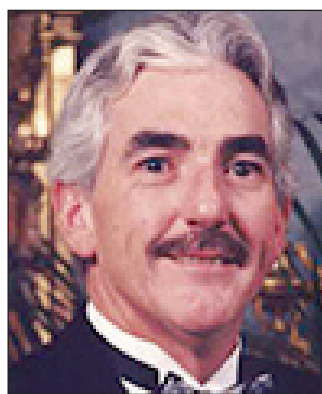
With heavy hearts, we announce that William "Billy" Costello, Jr. died peacefully at home on March 3, 2025. Billy was born on October 14, 1954, the son of the late William and Dorothy (Lemieux) Costello. Originally from Warwick, Bill spent the last decade living in the Villages, FL.

Billy's love language was food. He enjoyed preparing 4-course meals for his loved ones and devoted his career to the culinary arts. Billy was an Executive Chef and General Manager to several, large convention centers including New York City, NY; Charlotte, NC; Washington, DC; Phoenix, AZ; and Miami Beach, FL.

He loved to travel and to spend time with family and friends. He was an avid New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox fan. He was a proud SAL member of American Legion Post #347 in Lady Lake, FL.

He leaves behind his wife, Ketty Estrada; his sister Sandra and her husband John Schaefer; his sister Mary French and his three nieces who he cherished: Kelli, Charlotte and his best friend, Alice. He is preceded in death by his favorite brother-in-law, Fred French.

Billy is also survived by his cousin Paul Lemieux, who was like a brother to him. Paul, Jo-Ann and Pauli provided much love and support to Bill in his final years. Costi also leaves behind his lifelong childhood friends, Bill Savage, Bobby Lees and Skip Jackman.



## William C. Kinnes

William C. Kinnes, 85, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday March 12, 2025 with his beloved wife Kathleen by his side. They were married for an incredible 62 years. He was the son of the late William and Marion Kinnes.

Bill was a submarine qualified Navy veteran who served during the height of the Cold War. His assignments included crewmember on the USS Sablefish (SS-303), and nuclear power plant operator on the USS George Washington (SSBN-598), and the USS Tecumseh (SSBN-628).

After his time in the Navy, in the midst of raising a family of four children with Kathy, Bill ran a successful small appliance business while simultaneously pursuing a degree at the University of Rhode Island. In 1973, he graduated from URI with a Bachelors Degree in Engineering.

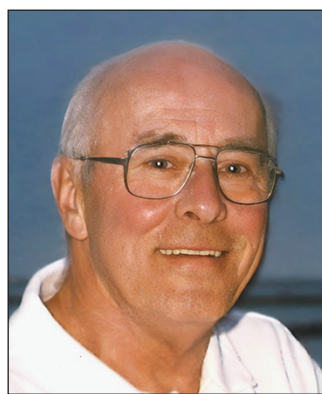
Bill dedicated his entire working life to the submarine construction industry, primarily with General Dynamics/Electric Boat in Groton CT. As a former submariner Bill was an extremely meticulous Nuclear Quality Control Inspector. He spearheaded the development of innovative, computer based statistical modeling processes to ensure submarines were built with only the highest quality parts while significantly increasing inspection speed.

Bill was heavily involved in coaching for many years of his life, often juggling responsibilities on the baseball diamond, the soccer field, as well as in the hockey rink. In his adult years Bill also enjoyed playing softball and hockey himself.

In addition to his wife Kathy, Bill is survived by his daughter Suzanne (Paul), his sons Will (Brenda), Dick (Lisa) and Michael (Isabelle) as well as eleven grandchildren, Kyle, Ryan (Jack), Joshua, Justin, Luke, Liam, Sofia, Kellen, Teagan, Brenna, and Grayson, one great granddaughter Bo, and his sisters Diane, Marion, and Carolyn (Mike).

His funeral will be held at 11am on Friday, March 21, 2025, from the Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Home, 2435 Warwick Ave., Warwick. Interment with Full Military Honors will immediately follow at the RI Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, Exeter. Visiting hours will be from 4pm-7pm on Thursday March 20, 2025.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Bill's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



## Timothy J. Packhem

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*Love, Dad*

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## Happy 42nd Birthday Gina A Petrarca



When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not here to see, If the sun should rise and find your eyes, filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn't cry, The way you did today. While thinking of the many things We didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me, As much as I love you, And each time you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.

When tomorrow starts without me, Don't think we're far apart, For every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart.

*We love and miss you so much, Mom, Dad & Mario*

● CAMPAIGN from page 1

last year. He and the book's illustrator, Margaret Price, had been working on the book as part of the Litter Free RI campaign after they pitched to the McKees the idea of a coloring book to get young people engaged in the Litter-Free Rhode Island campaign.

Park principal Dan Sylvestre said Brazeau's work with the governor and first lady showed current students that they could go on to do great things. Brazeau said that he hoped he could at least inspire students and their families to be active in

keeping their communities clean.

"This was designed to inspire young people like all of you – and me, I'm still young too," Brazeau said, "to think about the impact of litter and take action in their own communities, which is key to maintaining a healthy and sustainable community. Each page tells a story of young leaders in Rhode Island taking initiative."

Price, who is studying political science and global studies at Providence College, said illustrating the book showed her how her different passions could intersect.

"Working on this coloring book reflected for me how politics, art and education can



Gov. Dan McKee and illustrator Margaret Price compliment third-grader Nicholas Carmona on his coloring.



First Lady Susan McKee signs the coloring book of second-grader Ella Dutra as she begins coloring in the classroom.

come together to protect our beautiful lands and waters," Price said. "Participating in cleanups, learning about recycling and becoming more conscious about our intertwined relationships with the Earth starts with kids like you, so it's important for all of us to get involved in caring for our state."

The coloring pages within the book follow a plot line of Jordan and his friends cleaning litter from a beach, with the shore cleaned up by the final pages.

The book also ended with some trivia questions about Rhode Island, which the

governor asked the crowd after he was done reading.

The governor also gave Sylvestre a certificate of recognition on behalf of the whole school for their work helping in the Litter-Free Rhode Island program.

"You kids play such an important role in this," Dan McKee said. "You're going to be a big, big help and make our state really shine."

After reading to the second- and third-graders, the governor and first lady visited classrooms, helping kids color and signing their coloring books.



Gini Nani at DeLuise Bakery with what seems like an endless supply of zeppole. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

● ZEPPOLE from page 1

about 2 pm. Like other bakeries, his busy store on Atwood Avenue near the Cranston line, has gotten creative with the zeppole fillings and now sells more than just the traditional ones filled with a sweet, cooked yellow custard.

The newer, non-traditional fillings – all of which are popular – include chocolate, pistachio, ricotta cheese, and a raspberry spread combined with whipped cream. There is nothing modest about the zeppole. They are bursting with their rich fillings and ringed with generous amounts of whipped cream.

Even the dough is rich. It is typically an egg dough called pâte à choux, and is the same dough used for cream puffs and eclairs. It is a soft dough that is spooned into pastry bags and piped onto baking sheets with crimped tips to give the zeppole its characteristic frilly look.

At DeLuise Bakery on Oaklawn Avenue in Cranston, baker Joe Gardner says zeppole are not the most difficult pastry to make but require "a process" and are certainly labor intensive. Most Italian bakeries in Rhode Island proudly point out that each zeppole is made by hand – from piping out the dough to filling and topping them.

Gardner noted that while frying the pastry is the traditional way to cook a zeppole shell, most are now baked, creating a slightly healthier version – if the word healthy can be applied to such a bodacious pastry.

He said that customers want them pretty much all year long, although the special filling flavors, such as Bailey's Irish cream, are only available during prime zeppole season.

At Antonio's Bakery on West Shore Road in Warwick, trays and trays of zeppole bursting with a variety of fillings lined the glass display cases.

"Thousands, we sell thousands a day at this time of year," said manager Shannon Monahan, as customers were ordering them by the boxful. Antonio's has many of the varieties that other bakeries have but are also proud of their strawberries and cream zeppole creation.

If you like zeppole history, which is mostly anecdotal, the origin of the pastry is humble. Some accounts say it started out as a friendly pancake-like creation, ostensibly because St. Joseph at one time sold pancakes to help support his family. Others say that its original form was nothing like its current, ruffled incarnation. It was supposedly simple balls of fried dough dusted with powdered sugar



Joe Gardner, a baker at DeLuise Bakery in Cranston says each puffy pastry is made by hand. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

and cinnamon.

Some accounts say that the simpler-shaped zeppole of ancient times were meant to signify the carpentry tools of St. Joseph and the crumbs symbolized saw dust. One of the few facts that many – but not all – accounts agree upon is that while the earliest forms of zeppole may date back thousands of years, they began to become popular in the 1800's when Neapolitan baker Pasquale Pinaturo began selling them in the streets every March 19.

The zeppole's current popularity is apparently at its peak in southern Italy, Rhode Island, Boston and parts of other East Coast cities where there are sizeable populations of Italian Americans.

As fascinating as the history may be, sleep is more on the minds of area bakers who are surrounded by zeppole and lines of people who want to buy them.

"I've seen enough this year," said Gini Nani at DeLuise with a laugh. "I don't need to see any more for a while."

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# Lifestyles

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

WARWICK BEACON



Doreen Collins. Submitted photo



Stacy Kendro. Submitted photo



Drag queens Jacqueline DiMera, Haley Star, and LaDiva Jonz. Submitted photo



Stephanie White. Submitted photo



Aimee Schwab. Submitted photo

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

Local comedian Doreen Collins has some celebrating to do. This month marks the tenth anniversary of The Ladies Room, her annual night of standup and drag.

The March 28 event, which features women performers, women sponsors, and supports non-profit organizations run by women, will be held at the Courthouse Center for the Arts in South Kingstown.

"Men give us a bad rap," said Collins, who lives in Warwick with her husband Frank. "Contrary to popular belief, women just really want to support one another."

According to her website, every year she produces a show that's all about the ladies, bringing new meaning to girls night out. "The Ladies Room promotes and supports my fellow funny females by combining women just starting their comedic journey, with ladies with national recognition," she notes on the site.

Collins has lived in Rhode Island for the past 25 years and was the first woman inducted into the Rhode Island Comedy Hall of Fame. Most of her work now is with Aging Disgracefully, a variety show she performs around the state with comedian Charlie Hall. Hall also contributes weekly editorial cartoons to this publication.

Collins and Hall bring Aging Disgracefully to the Courthouse Center for the Arts a few times each year. The venue is mostly known for the cover bands that perform there—in the next month alone you can see tributes to Mötley Crüe, The Doors, Creed, Led Zeppelin, Styx, Boston, and Jackson Browne.

"When it's not live music it has a really intimate theater feel. It's also definitely haunted," she laughs. "I haven't experienced anything myself, but it's totally haunted."

Other comedians at The Ladies Room this year include Boston-based headliner Stacy Kendro, who has performed at the event several times before, as well as Aimee Schwab and Steph White. The three will be joined by drag performers LaDiva Jonz, Haley Star, and Jacqueline DiMera of Drag RI.

The audience is almost entirely made up of women. "There's Frank," she says, pointing to her husband, "and there's Charlie [Hall], and the occasional man who doesn't know what he's walking into." Audiences familiar with Collins might already know about Frank, a frequent subject of her comedy.

Collins likes to keep the night light and not too raunchy. "The performers can be as risqué as they want to be, but I'm not looking for the kind of acts that drop the f-bomb every other word."

One challenge for Collins as the organizer is that it takes time to wrangle the talent and the sponsors and so she doesn't spend a lot of time preparing her own routine.

"I kind of like the spontaneity," she said. "My background is in musical theater where you rehearse, rehearse, rehearse. You know your lines, you hit your marks. I'm too nervous to go in totally cold. I at least need an idea in my head of what I

want it to be about."

Collins is no stranger to being on camera. She's a regular on WPRI's The Rhode Show, where she hosts a segment called Senior Moments, and previously wrote, produced, and hosted the late-night series Rhode Bytes on Channel 10. But she is not a big fan of her live shows being recorded.

"People will video me at a show," she said. "I end every show with a number, and people who have seen me before know that's when the phones come out. I'm not

going to stop the show to say anything about it, but I wonder if it's going to end up somewhere online and what I actually sound like. Sometimes things are really great in the moment and don't really work at all when you rewatch them later. Charlie recently posted a video with two other guys doing karaoke, and not one of them was hitting the notes. I said what are you doing? Take that down!"

As an emcee, Collins also has some thoughts about the role of the host and the role of the interviewer. "I love Kelly Ripa. She's smart, she's funny, and she's a great interviewer. Is she the nicest person off camera? I don't know. Maybe, maybe not. But Mark [Consuelos, her co-host] needs to stay home and do the dishes. He talks over the guests, he reads questions from

note cards, he gets picky with Kelly, he's terrible. When you're interviewing somebody your job is to make them the focus, you get them to talk about whatever they're promoting. You let them have the spotlight." Collins pauses. "I go off on these tangents, I'm sorry."

"I don't think I'm really funny," she adds. "I'm amusing."

Each year Collins donates a portion of proceeds from the event to a different charitable cause, and this year she decided to support Courthouse Center for the Arts, which is under the direction of Mariann Almonte.

In addition to being a music and comedy venue, the center provides opportunities for children of all abilities. According to its website, the center "provides theater, music, art, and child development programs for children of all ages and abilities, with inclusion programs for what we call differently-abled children." Summer and year-round arts camps increase cognitive learning skills, self-esteem, and speaking abilities in the youth.

"I like supporting smaller charities," Collins says, "because they need the money more and every dollar goes farther."

This year show sponsors include Lisa Altieri, owner of Dante's Kitchen in East Greenwich, Christina Rondeau of Rondeau's Kick Boxing in Johnston, Jackie Judd of The Experience, Robin Kall of Reading with Robin, Ashley Bove of Artisan Bites RI, Nancy DiGiglio of Anyplace Travel in Johnston, Jessica Braza of The Dance Floor in Cranston, and Rebecca Minutelli of Mane Hair in Cranston.

The Ladies Room begins at 7:30pm on Friday, March 28. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at <http://courthousearts.org>.

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*a Bronx Tale*

**MARCH 30**



*Parachute jumper found on Warwick shore*

Frederick Louis Bodreau Jr. was contracted by Rocky Point Management to make a jump from an airplane on July 8, 1928 to thrill park guests. Bodreau, 28, who worked as a parachute jumper and wing-walker, hired pilot Raymond Menard of Fall River to fly a plane belonging to Armand Pothier of Woonsocket for the spectacle.

The jump had been scheduled for 3 p.m. and as that time neared, Menard circled the drop area – about a quarter mile from the shore, between the park’s wharf and the Shore Dinner Hall.

“How high are we flying?” Bodreau called to Menard.

“One-thousand two-hundred feet,” Menard informed him.

“Throttle down the motor,” Bodreau directed. As the plane slowed down and began to glide, Bodreau stepped out onto the wing and crouched down, a recently-packed, brand new parachute harnessed to him. Those in the distance watched Bodreau jump. The chute didn’t open. The young daredevil plummeted into the deep water below.

Two men on the shore pushed a small motorboat out into the water and hurried to the scene. The closed chute was providing buoyancy for the unconscious jumper and the two men attempted to pull him into the boat, one grabbing Bodreau’s head and the other grabbing the chute. During the recovery, Bodreau slipped out of the harness and his body sunk below the surface of the water.

Professional diver Charles Crepeau searched the bay’s depth with no luck, followed by Warwick Police unsuccessfully moving through the area with grappling hooks.

Bodreau, the son of Frederick Louis Bo-

**Back in the Day**

by Kelly Sullivan



dreau Sr. and Georgianna (Marshall), was born in Pawtucket on April 23, 1906. He grew up on Lonsdale Avenue, his father – a United States Navy

veteran – supporting a wife and two children as a machinist in a machine shop. The family later removed to Fall River where the elder Frederick worked as a machine shop foreman.

Bodreau had been honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps in 1927. He remained on the west coast where he performed the daredevil feats. He returned to his parents’ home on Legion Way in Auburn in 1927. He was called back by the death of his 12-year-old sister Esther. At that time, he settled into a house in Cranston. By the summer of 1928, he and his wife Vivian were in the process of divorce.

Six days after the fatal jump, two men walking along Warwick Neck, discovered Bodreau’s body – clad in a red bathing suit and white skullcap – washed up on the shore. The cause of death was attributed to the shock of falling and striking the water.

The cause of the parachute malfunction was determined to be an erroneous knot tied by Bodreau when he packed the chute. While one of the shroud lines was supposed to contain a slip knot, he had allegedly tied an inside-out knot by mistake. When he later pulled on the line, the knot tightened when it needed to loosen, leaving Bodreau to freefall over a thousand feet into the water below.

Bodreau was buried in Springvale Cemetery in East Providence, where his sister and both of his parents lay. During his funeral, a plane flying over the cemetery at a height of about 500 feet dropped three bouquets of roses and daisies in his memory.



**The Breakers:**  
 A Tribute to Tom Petty

APRIL 3



**Get the Led Out**

APRIL 18



**Face 2 Face:**  
 A Tribute to Elton John & Billy Joel

APRIL 26



**The Concert:**  
 A Tribute to ABBA

APRIL 29



**Lyle Lovett**  
 and his Acoustic Group

MAY 1



**An Evening with Sara Evans**

MAY 16



**No Apologies**  
 Comedy Show

MAY 17



**Vic DiBitetto**

MAY 23



Everything Everywhere All At Once

**Journeys of the Heart:  
 A Warwick Library  
 film series**

As the Warwick Library tours the U.S. in its “It Happened in America” film series, it will take a side trip for “Journeys of the Heart: A Film Series.” Come for four personal quests to satisfy a troubled soul and reach what may be an unreachable goal at Warwick Public Library on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

On March 25, 2025, see “Everything Everywhere All at Once” (2022), starring Michelle Yeoh and Jamie Lee Curtis. Can the possibilities of the multiverse save weary Evelyn Wang from her failing laundromat, marriage, and family relationships?

On April 1, watch “My Own Private Idaho” (1991), starring River Phoenix and Keanu Reeves. Narcoleptic street hustler Mike Waters and Scott Favor, a fellow hus-

ter from a rich family, travel to Italy to look for Mike’s mother.

On April 8, enjoy “Dead Man” (1995), starring Johnny Depp and Gary Farmer. Native American nomad “Nobody” helps critically-wounded accountant William Blake cross the Northwest frontier and find a poetic death.

On April 15, sit back for “Moonlight” (2016), starring Trevante Rhodes and Naomi Harris. As a child, teen, and young man, Chiron wrestles with neglect, physical and emotional abuse, and finding a way to be black and gay.

For more information, call (401) 739-5440, x9758. The Library is located at 600 Sandy Lane.

This event is free and open to all.



Moonlight

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**SPECTACLE**  
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## Spring has sprung...time to skip with joy

"Spring has sprung. The grass is riz. I wonder where the flowers is." I remember this playful ode to spring from my days at Oakland Beach School. My mother was the president of the PTA, and this was the headline of the spring newsletter. Some attribute these whimsical lines to Ogden Nash, while others credit an anonymous author. Wherever it originated, I appreciate its lighthearted spirit. It's a joyous and carefree welcome to spring—one that comes to mind every year around this time.

I love springtime! The air feels fresher, and with the time change, the days seem so much longer. Add to that the warmth creeping up again, and I can't help but skip around with joy.

Spring is said to be good for your health. Increased sunlight exposure boosts serotonin production, which, in turn, lifts your mood. Gone are the winter doldrums—days spent stuck indoors, wrapped in a warm blanket, eyes glazed over watching reruns on television while snow and ice linger outside. In their place comes the energy and excitement of spring fever.

The thawing temperatures awaken the earth, encouraging wildflowers to bloom. Crocuses are the first to peek through the soil, soon followed by pink tulips, purple hyacinths, and cheerful white and yellow daffodils. Spring is simply breathtaking!

Buds appear on the barren trees, and their leaves return. Birds are more plentiful, with many migratory birds returning from their winter homes, filling the air with cheerful songs. Robins, swallows, and bluebirds are



### Life Matters

with Linda Petersen

among the first to reappear, and, if I am lucky, I can actually spot the birds in the trees rather than just hear their tweets.

Baseball season is back, and Hubby is once again cheering on the Red Sox. Every playing field in the community comes alive with activity, from Little Leaguers just starting out to seasoned high school teams. Mean-

*I love springtime! The air feels fresher, and with the time change, the days seem so much longer. Add to that the warmth creeping up again, and I can't help but skip around with joy.*

while, spring soccer is in full swing, with players of all ages—from the tiniest tots to energetic adults—kicking off the season.

One of the best parts of spring is packing away my bulky winter clothes and reaching for lighter, breezier outfits. Gone are the heavy coats, thick sweaters, and fuzzy socks. I can finally pull out my short-sleeved shirts, dresses, and light sweaters. As I am

doing so, a little voice in the back of my mind whispers a familiar worry that everything will not still fit after months of cozing up indoors and indulging in comfort foods. Those extra five pounds might have settled in a bit too comfortably. But that is okay, I love to go spring shopping at Kohl's. I still love spring.

But wait... with all the beauty of spring comes an unwelcome guest—pollen! As trees and flowers burst into bloom, they release tiny particles into the air, triggering seasonal allergies. Even after taking an allergy pill, I am not spared. My eyes water uncontrollably, and my throat feels scratchy and dry, making my voice sound like the Hulk. My customary tiny sneezes come in rapid succession. (My dad used to sneeze one humongous sneeze which would scare the hell out of me and make me jump and pee in my pants, so I have always held back my sneezes into tiny bursts.)

Additionally, Rhode Island has seen its share of cold in the spring, with ice and snow bursting forth from the sky, covering the tender flowers. I even remember one blizzard on April Fool's Day that dumped over a foot of snow. We were on our way to celebrate Easter with relatives in Connecticut when we got caught up in that snowstorm. The weather in March is unpredictable, with it often being warm during the day, only to wake up to frost on the car windshield the next morning.

I still love spring, with the promise of warmer weather to come.

# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

## Harley

Harley is one of those dogs whose eyes melt your heart! Harley is just two years old and is in search of a loving home that will spoil her like the princess she is! Her dream home is one where she will be your one and only girl, she will want all of your attention to herself! If you have a fenced in yard that would make her dream come true, she loves to run & play! Once she gets her playtime in this sweet girl will love to be by your side! If you have yummy treats Harley will become your bestie for sure! If you'd like more information please contact the rescue and find out how you can meet Harley and have her be the sunshine of your life! Please contact Almost Home Rescue via their website <http://www.almosthomeri.org> or email [support@almosthomeri.org](mailto:support@almosthomeri.org)

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



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## A concert of New Jazz Standards on March 23 at Warwick Library

A concert of new jazz standards by Austin Burns & Elliott Talley will be held at Warwick Public Library on Sunday, March 23 at 2 p.m.

Jazz standards from the Great American Songbook can be up to a century old, so Austin and Elliott are updating it with new standards that sound classic but have a modern sensibility. Hear tunes like "The Coffee Song," "Romance Is Not a Silly Dream," and the pandemic-themed "Ah Chu" sung with a magnificent blend of tenor voices and accompanied by keyboards and guitar.

Burns is a classically-trained performer, composer, and arranger with a degree in vocal performance from New England Conservatory. Talley is Director of Music for Union Congregational Church in East Bridgewater, Massachusetts and a senior at New Bedford High School.

For more information, call (401) 739-5440, x9758. The Library is located at 600 Sandy Lane.

This event is free and open to all.



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## See it on the Screen

with Joyce & Don Fowler



Anora

### WARWICK SHOWCASE

#### ANORA

\*\*\*\*

(Oscar Winner)

Did you know that over the years 17 actresses have won Oscars for playing prostitutes!

Along comes a virtually unknown young actress named Mikey Madison to play yet another woman of the streets and guess what?

She wins an Academy Award for Best Actress.

Know what else? She deserves it.

Madison plays Ani, a stripper who earns a little on the side when her customers want more.

She becomes enamored by one of her customers, the son of a rich Russian who hires her for a week of fun and games at his expensive New York apartment.

A visit to Vegas ends up at a wedding chapel and the two return to NYC as husband and wife.

Daddy finds out and sends his henchmen to collect the spoiled brat and quickly annul the marriage.

Ani resists in one of the funniest scenes we've seen in ages, as she takes on three enormous bad guys.

The rich kid escapes, goes on a bender, as the bodyguards and Ani try to find him in another hilarious series of events.

The ending is both funny, sweet and clever.

If you missed this movie and want to see what all the praise is about, get over to the Showcase or rent it.



Black Bag

#### BLACK BAG

\*\*\*

(Cerebral Spy Whodunnit)

Cate Blanchett and Michael Fassbender play British intelligence officers who happen to be married to each other.

When she is suspected of betraying her nation, he is faced with the choice of turning her in or covering up for her.

There are other suspects, and BLACK BAG quickly turns into a cerebral whodunnit.

The movie opens with the couple inviting three other people to dinner and concludes with the same setting, where all is revealed. There's lots of dialogue and very little action as George tries to find the mole and save jolly old England from a secret code being leaked and thousands of innocent people dying.

Good performances, but occasionally hard to follow with all that spy talk and English accents.



Woman of the Dead

#### NETFLIX

#### WOMAN OF THE DEAD

\*\*\* 1/2

(Grim, eerie murder mystery)

If you like your murder mysteries on the grim and eerie side, this one from Germany is for you.

Brünhilde Blum owns a funeral home in a small ski resort town. She is married to a local cop and has two children and a father-in-law who lives with them.

Her husband is killed on his motorcycle by a hit and run driver and Blum sets out to find the killer, only to discover some nasty goings-on around town.

The series takes a number of turns as more bodies pile up as suspects are unturned.

Blum is an interesting and very dark character with some skeletons (literally) in her past and her present.

The series will give you the creeps as you witness Blum doing her handiwork with corpses.

Great ending.

# Salois of Psyche goes acoustic at Strings

By ROB DUGUAY

There's an energy that usually occurs when a band or musician performs at a particular venue for the first time. It's an opportunity for folks who might not have heard them before to give their music a listen and it's also an opportunity to create new networking opportunities and a new group of friends. It's a cool thing to experience for both the performer and the audience, and if all goes according to plan, it won't be the last time this happens at the establishment.

For vocalist and guitarist Seth Salois from the Providence hard rock act Psyche, this is exactly what's going to happen when he takes the stage on March 25 at Strings Bar & Grill in Johnston. Starting at 7pm, he's going to be doing a full set of acoustic tunes and showing a different aspect of his musical abilities.

We had a talk ahead of the debut performance about what made him want to play stripped down versions of songs, having an evolving song list and a new record he's been working on.

**Rob Duguay:** What made you want to pursue this side gig of performing acoustically?

**Seth Salois:** I started doing it years ago and I really enjoyed it. I was doing it as part of a duo and it's kind of a different platform for me, it allows me to interpret versions of songs that I really like. It also gives me the opportunity to strip things down and work on vocal stuff. It's nice to front a loud rock band, but I've always enjoyed those stripped down versions of songs. I love going out and being able to play in front of people in a different atmosphere, which is great.

**RD:** Does it feel drastically different for you to be performing by yourself with a guitar without a full-fledged band behind you? If so, how do you handle it?

**SS:** It's definitely different because you're under the microscope, but that's partially the reason why I like it because it makes me really hone what I'm doing. I spend a lot of time practicing, rehearsing and making sure my voice is good. I try to push it even more when I'm doing acoustic stuff. To me, it also comes down to song choice. I try to pick things that people might not necessarily know the artist, but they know every word to the song. It's stuff that I really enjoy, and I span everything from

stuff by Peter Gabriel and Elton John all the way to the stuff I grew up on during the '90s, rock, alternative and grunge. Alice In Chains, Pearl Jam and stuff like that and even reinterpreting songs by Linkin Park and Metallica.

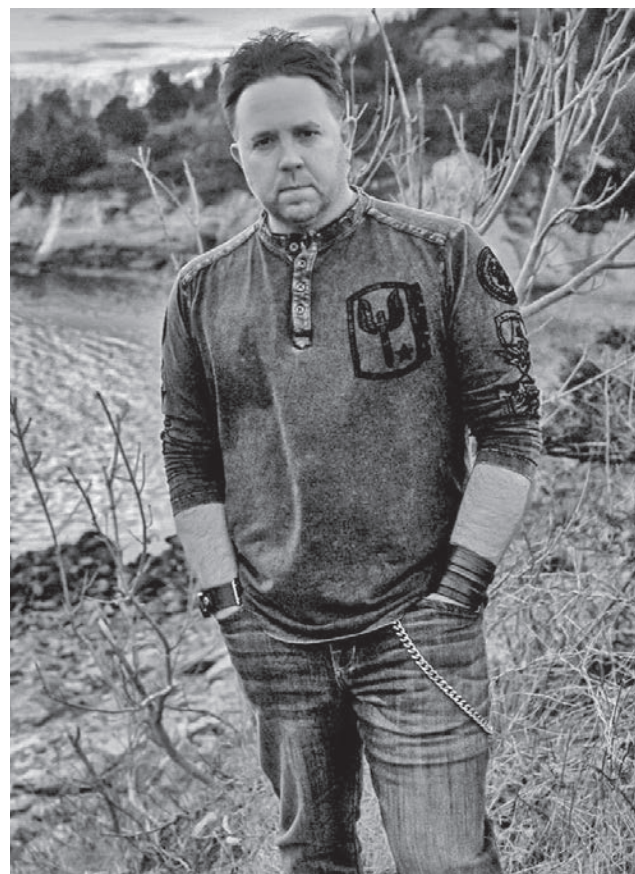
I try to be mindful of the songs that I'm picking, and I also want to give people an appreciation for going out there and stripping it down while showing them that you can be vulnerable. You can just go lay it out there. It's not really about

mistakes or anything like that, it's about being in tune with the audience. You can do a song a different way without being backed up by a bunch of other instruments and trying to create different energy can be a lot of fun.

**RD:** That's a cool approach to have. You just mentioned the songs that you play, and you do a mix of covers and originals with a growing song list that features The Beatles "While My Guitar Gently Weeps", Incubus' "Drive" and Elton John's "Saturday Night's Alright (For Fighting)" among others. When you first started pursuing this outlet, how many songs did you learn how to play and how many did you already know given a rough estimate? Did you find yourself learning 30 songs to begin with, or did you already have an established repertoire from the get go?

**SS:** I did have a lot of songs that I had played either as a cover with a band or stuff that I did when I first started playing solo acoustic years ago. Recently, what I've really tried to start to do is to take songs that I run into each other. For example, doing something like "Mary Jane's Last Dance" by Tom Petty and going into a Bill Withers song. I'm staying in the same key and I'm able to transition into a different song to give a different flavor. It kind of makes a show within itself while stacking songs that are fun to reinterpret like that.

I try to look at it that way, but I'd say that I probably know around 150 songs. I'm always trying to add and I'm always asking people because I want to know what



Seth Salois. Submitted photo

songs they like, which songs I would sound good doing or what they think would be enjoyable. I'm always trying to get feedback or trying to play something that people enjoy, even if it's a piece of it. I think that's fun for people too.

**RD:** When it comes to learning new material to grow the song list, do you make an effort to learn a new song on a daily basis? How would you describe your approach?

**SS:** What I try to do is I will go onto ultimate-guitar.com, where you can learn a lot of songs through tablature and stuff like that. For me, I'll start going through lists of decades and songs from the '70s, '80s and '90s. I also follow a bunch of different groups on Facebook and Instagram where people will put up songs randomly and I'll just save them into a folder. I always try to add at least two, three or maybe four new songs into the rotation. It's nice to go to a new place where people hear you for the first time, but I'm lucky to have a lot of friends and people who follow me and they go to multiple shows, so it's nice to always have something to include that's new.

I'll save them into a folder on my phone and when I have time I'll sit down to go through a few songs and get to where I feel comfortable playing them. I'll pick at least two and I'll keep on adding them as I go, but I grab them from multiple places and then I'll go back to chunk them out.

**RD:** What are your thoughts on this upcoming show at Strings and are there any plans for either a solo album or a new record from Psyche in the near future?

**SS:** I'm really excited about the show. I have a lot

of friends who've played at Strings and my friend Rob Davis, who is also a local musician, has helped me out with stuff and he always has an open ear. He does so many shows and there's so many good artists who are playing there too. Rob told me that Strings is a great place for music, so I'm looking forward to it and I've been really lucky to play the venues I've been able to play at. There's great ownership, some good crowds and I'm hoping to add on to that.

I'm also doing a solo album. I've been working with Chris Piquette at No Boundaries Studios [in North Kingstown] and he also recorded Psyche's first EP and our full-length album. We've stayed close over the years, so I told him that I had these songs, and I really wanted to do something original. We've been fleshing out these ideas and I'm going to be heading back there soon to do the vocals for the second single, so we're probably going to be doing a full five song EP. I'm going to release three or four songs off of it as singles along with a bunch of media behind it to push it while getting as many ears on it as possible.

It's the first time I've done a solo album and just being able to sit with Chris in a room and design these songs the way I want them to has been great. Hopefully people like it and I can get some cats together to play it live, which is an exciting possibility. I've been sitting on these songs for a bit and I'm really excited for people to hear them.



Photo by Sergey Zigle on Unsplash

## Public invited to join beginners ukulele jam

The public is invited to join ukulele beginners Ed, Judy, and Wil for a friendly and relaxed ukulele jam session at Warwick Public Library Wednesday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m.

Ed, Judy, and Wil have been working with each other to learn new songs, chords, and strumming patterns, and you're invited to be part of the group. Work on one tune

each month until every player can confidently perform it with the group.

The Beginners Ukulele Jam runs on the fourth Wednesday of the month from March through October.

For more information, call (401) 739-5440, x9758. The Library is located at 600 Sandy Lane.

This event is free and open to all.

# Prime Time



Audiobooks help Rosenberg make good use of his time. Here he listens while drying dishes. Photo submitted by Avis Gunther-Rosenberg

## Enjoying the Performance of Audiobooks

Q & A with editor and writer Alan Rosenberg

by G. WAYNE MILLER  
Ocean State Stories

**T**hanks for agreeing to do this, Alan. There is a lot to discuss. Let's start by getting into some of your pursuits since leaving *The Providence Journal*, where during a long career you rose to the title of Executive Editor. You are an editor at *SlashGear.com*. Tell us about that.

I hadn't thought about how much fun it would be to edit stories about cars, planes, ships, and other tech stuff before I got the job as a news editor with *SlashGear*. But last week I got to edit stories about a newly commissioned class of Chinese warships; how apps like Google Maps and Waze avoid traffic jams; and why current and former U.S. presidents aren't allowed to drive — among many others. We check all the facts in a story as well as correcting spelling and grammar, so our stories are pretty airtight by the time they're posted. I get to suggest stories, too (the story about the Chinese warships was one of my ideas), and I'm about to start training new writers for the site. So *SlashGear* scratches a lot of itches for me.

**A true passion of yours is as a reviewer of audiobooks. Along with other duties, you reviewed them for over 20 years while at *The Journal* — and now at the *Warwick Beacon*, *Cranston Herald*, *Johnston SunRise*, *The Reminder*, and *The Valley Breeze Newspapers*. Why audiobooks?**

Partly, it's that they help me make good use of my time — I can listen to a book while driving or taking a walk or dealing with the dishes, which I can't do while reading. But it's more than that. Audiobooks have an extra dimension that print books lack — the performance.

**What makes for a great audiobook?**

A top-notch book, plus a terrific multi-actor cast or an excellent narrator. A great narrator can bring a book to life in a way the little voice in your head just can't. They use different accents, they shift their timbre depending on whether a man or a woman is speaking, and they have a whole host of characters they animate in varying ways. They can elevate a so-so book to something that's really enjoyable, and when they're reading a good book it's even better. There are lots of wonderful audiobook narrators today.

**Some audiobooks today have "narrators" that are not people but AI-generated. Your thoughts on those?**

I've only listened to one AI-narrated book, but I wasn't a fan of it. It was a reasonably good facsimile of a human voice, but then it would mispronounce a word or pause in a strange place, which pulled me right out of the story.

**How do you choose your titles?**

I look first for Rhode Island authors and subjects. There are a surprising number of Rhode Islanders — both established writers like Ann Hood and newer talents like Vanessa Lillie and Riss M. Neilson — who are being published today. And even non-Rhode Islanders will sometimes pick Rhode Island subjects or settings to write about.

Beyond Rhode Island, I try to pick New England-based books. After that, I'm looking for whatever interests me. History, science fiction, mysteries, literary fiction, actors' autobiographies — there's a long list. I figure if I'm interested and enjoy a book, I can convey why potential listeners might like it, too.

Also, I try to pick a diverse set of authors

and topics, so anyone in my audience can see themselves reflected in the audiobooks over time.

**What schooling and jobs did you have before coming to *The Providence Journal*?**

I went to Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, which had and still has a program that places students in newsrooms around the country. I took an unpaid internship with the *Herald-Dispatch* in Huntington, West Virginia, which led to a paid internship there, which led to one at the *Detroit Free Press*. And there I was lucky enough to work with Marty Kohn and Carol Stocker, who both had come to the *Free Press* from *The Providence Journal*, and who talked a lot about how great both *The Journal* and *Rhode Island* were. And, of course, they were right.

**Let's indulge in a bit of nostalgia about *The Projo*. You and I were there together for about four decades. Any favorite memories?**

Oh, gosh, so many. *The Journal's* former bureau in Greenville, where I worked with folks like Frank Prosnitz, Debbie

Horne, Peter Gosselin and Gregg Krupa. Wandering around the old Providence police station as a young reporter, getting to know the cops and trying to dig out news. Covering both trials of Claus von Bulow, which involved competing with reporters from all over the world. My years in Features, working alongside unforgettable personalities like Andy Smith, Gail Ciampa and Michael Janusonis, just for starters — and where I got to interview William Shatner and Majel Barrett, and review restaurants along with my wife, Avis Gunther-Rosenberg. And working with my team as executive editor, especially Mike McDermott, Michael Delaney and Whitman Littlefield. I guess it's really the people I remember most fondly.

**What do you see as the biggest problem facing journalism today?**

When I became *The Journal's* executive editor in May of 2017, I wrote that the news media faced "the hostility of a president who has labeled the news media as the nation's enemy, and the suspicion of those who think he might be right." Today, journalists face the same conditions, only more so: a president who

now seems implacably opposed to fact-based journalism, and is working hard to undermine it, as well as the open scorn of many of his followers. It's not clear to me how journalists can break through that scorn so that the information on which people base their decisions is factual, rather than being driven by ideology.

**Finally, what advice would you have for young and emerging reporters and writers?**

Understand that this is a historically hard time to start out and prepare yourself for a long and winding road in trying to make a living as a reporter. Be ready to work long hours for not much pay, if you're lucky enough to get a job, and to take photos and shoot videos as well as reporting and writing. Make sure you're building your own brand as well as burnishing your employer's, because you might find your job evaporating at any moment. And above all, try to conduct yourself ethically in everything you do. It takes a lifetime to build a reputation, and as we've seen so often over the last few years, just one false step or ill-considered social-media post to blow it all away.

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R.J. Connelly III

# The Past Shapes Your Present



MY SIDE OF THINGS  
by LARRY GRIMALDI

Like spring sweeps away winter's doldrums, it's time to open the windows to my memories and let the fresh air in. Our journey through life is like a stone wall, built rock by rock, held together by mortar of recollections and experiences. This column has been 65 years in the making and it's a validation that the past shapes our present.

Recently, I saw the movie, "Twelve Mighty Orphans." The film chronicles a Depression-era football team of 12 Texas orphans fighting for respect and recognition after being abandoned by their birth parents. Twelve Mighty Orphans brought me back to a past life.

My sister and I lived part of the winter and spring of 1959 at St. Aloysius Home, an orphanage in Greenville. My mother was hospitalized for an extended time and my father had to keep his job in the plating room of a local jewelry manufacturing shop. My sister and I sat silently in a dimly lit, foreboding office while my father made the arrangements for our admission. We spent weekdays at St. Aloysius Home; and returned home on weekends. Every Sunday, we would return to St. Aloysius. It must have been very hard on my father.

My 'bedroom' at St. Aloysius was a ward. My 'closet' was an olive drab metal locker for my clothes and a few personal items. My most prized possession was a brand-new hockey stick my father had bought for me. I looked forward to playing hockey on the frozen pond in the back of the orphanage. It's the only fond memory I have of my time there.

Every morning, we were ushered into a cavernous bathroom with a long row of sinks to wash up and brush

our teeth under the watchful eyes of the religious sisters. After breakfast, we walked to the school building next door. Often, I was called on to encourage my younger sister to eat. It was evident that the trauma of being in the strange and intimidating surroundings affected her deeply.

The plain brick school building did not resemble the gothic structure that housed our Tyler School in the parish of the cavernous Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence. The building at St. Aloysius was not the only thing that was unsettling. I had trouble adjusting to new subjects, new teachers, and the new atmosphere. I felt lost and lonely.

Thankfully, my mother came home in May and we went back to Tyler School. I can still feel the gentle spring breezes drifting through classrooms with ancient wooden desks with ink wells bolted to the floors. In retrospect, it was a comforting metaphor for a new start.

Even though many years have passed, my time at St. Aloysius remains a part of my present. My wife and I never wanted our children to be uprooted. We wanted to give them the type of childhood devoid of upheaval. And despite some bumps in the road and the usual childhood 'crises' we achieved that goal.

We spent countless hours at sporting and cheerleading events. We were very accessible to them, and they knew that they were safe and secure. To this day, our three children maintain a close re-

lationship although my daughter lives in North Providence, one son is in Las Vegas; and my other son just moved to Vero Beach. Like many parents, we did our best to install in them the characteristics that would serve them well in their lives. We are proud that each of them is a generous and caring person.

We have five grandchildren now. I believe that my experiences as a temporary resident of St. Aloysius Home, and my wife, as a member of a large, loving family has inspired us to become an important part of their lives. We have joyfully established a very close relationship with our 21-year-old twin granddaughters and our 15-year-old grandson. We are determined to be the same attentive and caring grandparents to our six-year old grandson and three-year-old granddaughter.

The lessons of the past have melded into the present.

*Larry Grimaldi is a freelance writer from North Providence. Larry and his wife Kathy are co-authors of "Wandering Across America," a chronicle of their cross-country road trip, and "Cooking with Mammie," a collection of family recipes prepared with their grandchildren. He has also written the anthologies, "50 Shades of Life, Love, and Laughter, Volumes I & II;" The anthologies are a collection of previously published columns, used with the permission of Beacon Communications. For more information, or comments, e-mail lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com or visit fruithillpublishing.my.canva.site/*

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## New Beginnings



MY MEMOIRS  
by SUSAN DEAN

March is one of those months that is almost like the beginning. The year is fully underway. There are signs of spring and its newness everywhere. The trees are now waking up, stretching their limbs to the sky. Spring bulbs are coming out of hiding — sticking their tender green shoots up out of the ground to take their first breath of spring air — waking up to their official 'New Year'.

Spring sports start and tracks and fields, basketball and tennis courts come alive again. It's as if we've suddenly emerged from hiding, too. Mild air and longer days make us smile.

New beginnings are everywhere. A new beginning happened for me in March long ago. My oldest daughter, Rachel, was born on March 25. I promised her I wouldn't mention the year, but I was 26 and she now has two children — nearly grown — Michael is 20 and Abby is 18.

I remember holding this 8 lb. 2 oz. little being in my arms as I was being wheeled from the delivery room to my hospital room in the old Lying-In, the same hospital where I was born.

● BEGINNINGS to next page



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# Combat isolation, check out your local senior center

Last month I ended this column encouraging you to check out a local senior center as one way to learn more about services available to older adults in Rhode Island. This month, I want to make sure you know where to find one. Not every single city or town in Rhode Island has a senior center, but every single city and town has programming for older adults.



by MARIA CIMINI

How do I know this?

The State of Rhode Island allocates funds for Senior Services Supports through its annual budget and those funds are distributed by the Office of Healthy Aging to 51 municipal and community agencies.

Do you know where your senior center or community center is? You can go on-line to the Office of Healthy Aging website, (<https://oha.ri.gov/>), or call the Aging and Disability Resource Center, 401-462-4444 to find one.

As Rhode Island's older adult population has grown, so has the commitment of the State to these important resources. In 2021, when Governor McKee took office, \$800,000 were allocated to these communities. In each budget he has introduced, he has increased the state's investment. So now, in 2025, \$1.4 million was distributed throughout Rhode Island communities. Additionally, in his proposed budget for next year, Governor McKee recommended another increase to bring that amount to \$1.6 million.

Throughout Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns there are centers where you could join a walking club, take an exercise class, learn how to use the latest iPad, share a meal, gain a new skill, volunteer your time, get support with the questions that you have about aging, or simply enjoy time with friends. Each center is unique, just as each community and each older person is unique.

One of the most important things I've come to appreciate since becoming the Director of the Office of Healthy Aging, is the great diversity within our older adult population and programming, from age ranges to center offerings. Each center mirrors the geographic or cultural community it serves.

At the Cranston Senior Center, you could play chess, talk to a nurse, or hone your ballroom dancing skills.

At the Pilgrim Senior Center in Warwick, you could create sculptures, catch a movie, or learn about Medicare plans.

And at the Johnston Senior Center you could play bocce, plant a garden or go to a blood-pressure clinic. At other centers

throughout the state, seniors are recording podcasts, painting with watercolors, engaging in intergenerational programs, discussing current events, and more. These are just a few examples.

Senior Services Supports are also used to ensure that older adults can find connection and supports within their own cultural or faith communities. There are centers serving Southeast Asians, Spanish-speaking individuals, and African immigrants, as well as LGBTQ+ older adults, veterans, rural Rhode Islanders, and individuals with physical disabilities.

In recent years, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified social isolation and/or loneliness as being as great a risk to health as smoking. We all know after decades of surgeon general reports and scientific research that smoking can be hazardous to your health. Who would've thought that the act of being lonely could have the same impact?

CDC research shows how common it is to feel a lack of social connection. About one third of the older adults in the US report "feeling lonely," and about one quarter of them report "a lack of social and emotional support." Older adults are particularly at risk of loneliness, and that can increase their risk of heart disease, depression, dementia, and type 2 diabetes.

Older adults in Rhode Island, however, are lucky. In every community of our state, and across every level of government, there is consensus that Rhode Islanders deserve an older adulthood full of learning, fun activities, shared experiences, and thoughtful, individual supports. Governor McKee highlights his dedication to that shared goal through his continued support of the Senior Services Supports funding in the state budget. At the 51 community centers across the state, dedicated staff and volunteers make those experiences possible for older adults every day.

So, this column ends as the last one did. There is a place to get answers to your questions, connect to services, develop new interests, and make new friends – at any age! Pop into your local senior center and discover your community.

● WORD from page X

Rachel had bright red hair — a surprise since I'm blond and her father has dark brown hair. We thought this baby would be either light or dark or somewhere in-between... but red?

But my grandmother was a redhead — not the bright carrot top that Rachel was — my grandmother's hair was a coppery auburn shade. And my mother was a strawberry blond. So, I guess having a redheaded baby wasn't so surprising after all. I remember my grandfather, at 89, holding Rachel for the first time when she was just days old.

He said, "She's like Lydia — her hair." Lydia being his wife, my grandmother — who had died six years earlier.

I remember wondering about this little new life — her beginnings. How would her years unfold? What would the world look like as she grew? It was a new beginning for me, too, as I began to navigate motherhood for the first time.

We have another new beginning in our family this year. My youngest daughter, Gretchen, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl — Madeline May-Louise. A lot of thinking went into her name.

Madeline was my aunt's name. As a child I thought it was so old-sounding and felt sorry for her that she was often called "Auntie Mad" by us — her nieces and nephews — although she was anything but. She was sweet and loving, nurturing and caring — never "mad" in any sense.

My daughters were especially close to Aunt Madeline. She provided a listening ear and gave them sage life advice along with sharing her recipes and cooking tips. Gretchen is an occupational therapist and when Aunt Madeline began to physically fail Gretchen helped her adapt at home. Aunt Madeline was a favorite of mine, too. We shared lunch or dinner often — usually at her apartment where she'd

create a fabulous meal and we'd talk for hours. Aunt Madeline died in July, 2021 at age 91. She's still missed by all of us and is remembered with the purest of love.

Gretchen chose to name her new little one after Aunt Madeline, which makes us all smile — so fitting in every way.

Her middle name, May-Louise, was equally thought out and deliberately chosen. Gretchen's oldest son, Anthony, was born in May, and it's also my birth month. Gretchen's second son, Jack, had a medical emergency this past May at 18 months old, a very scary episode where he was rushed to Hasbro by rescue. Jack spent several days intubated and on a ventilator in the pediatric ICU. He recovered fully and is an active and healthy 2-year-old. May was the month when we were frightened beyond words, but then blessed with a miracle, also beyond words.

May was also my grandmother's middle name — the same one who passed her red hair down to Rachel. And May was also my great-grandmother's middle name.

Louise was my mother's name. My mother died in 1995 when Gretchen was 9. Gretchen remembers her, but didn't have the time to get to know her as fully as her older sisters had. But she remembers the deep love she felt from her grandmother.

My mother often told me that she didn't like her name — Louise — and I wondered what she'd think about her great-granddaughter being named after her. This led me to thinking how Madeline might feel, too.

Since Gretchen was having a girl after having two boys, we decided to give her a small shower — a 'sprinkle' — just family and close friends. The night before the gathering I was alone in the house. It was a wintry cold night — all was quiet and still. The doorbell rang — just once. I looked out the window and saw

● WORD to page X

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## Tomato Basil Baked Cod

### Ingredients From Dave's Marketplace

- 1 lb. Cod Tenderloin
- 1/4 Cup Parsley, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. Olive Oil
- 6 Fresh Basil Leaves, chopped
- 1 Lemon, juiced
- 3 Garlic Cloves, minced
- 1 Pint Grape Tomatoes, halved
- Salt & Pepper

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425°
2. Place cod & tomatoes in a baking dish, drizzle olive oil all over. Salt & pepper to taste
3. Bake until fish reaches 145°, about 20 minutes
4. Spoon out tomatoes & place in a separate bowl. Add basil, parsley, garlic & lemon juice to tomatoes. Stir until combined then spoon over cooked cod.

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# Laura M. Krohn

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● WORD from page X

no one — no cars, no Amazon truck, nothing. I opened the front door and looked down the street and it was empty. And there were no footprints in the snow. Why did the doorbell ring?

The next morning I was again alone in the house and in the shower — getting ready for the baby shower. While I was in the shower, I heard a noise and saw that the bathroom door had unlatched itself and opened about three inches. There were no breezes, no reason for this to happen. I wasn't afraid, but I wondered.

Maybe the doorbell ringing and the bathroom door opening were signs due. Did Madeline and Louise — my aunt and my mother — send me these signs to let me know that they're tickled pink that my new granddaugh-

ter shares their names? My aunt and my mother were close friends for more than fifty years — I can picture them laughing together and concocting a way to communicate their approval. It makes me smile.

March — new beginnings that signal the circle of life — birth, growth, death, and signs of rebirth. From the time of Rachel's March birth heralding her new life as well as my new beginning into motherhood, to Madeline May-Louise's start in life, to the signs of the earth waking up. There is assurance that life circles on. Not just through the seasons — but through the generations, too. Signs are everywhere and I see them as the earth physically awakens and I feel them also in my heart. I just have to remember to notice.

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# Save the Penny – Again

by ELAINE DECKER

Here we go again. Periodically we hear proposals to get rid of the penny. There was a major effort in 2014, and I wrote about it then. President Trump has now officially ordered the U.S. mint to stop producing the penny and I've decided to revisit the issue to remind us of the potential consequences.

The first thought that comes to my mind is still: "Where would that leave penny loafers?" I suppose they'd have to become dime loafers; a nickel wouldn't fit in the slot. Actually, I can't remember the last time I saw someone wearing penny loafers, with or without coins, so I don't see this as a major impediment to discontinuing the penny.

The plans to jettison the penny generally propose rounding sales up or down to the nearest nickel (a so-called 'rounding tax' since so many prices end in 99 cents). Some economists are advocating that the government stop minting the nickel, too. If we also drop the nickel, we'll need to round up or down to the nearest dime. It costs 14.5 cents to make a nickel; a penny costs 3.7 cents, which is twice what it costs to make a dime.

Canada discontinued minting its penny in 2012. Their penny is still accepted as legal tender up there, but I suspect that there aren't a lot of Canadian pennies still in circulation. If you're paying with cash, purchases are rounded to the nearest nickel. U.S. banks won't accept the Canadian penny. Based on recent tariff discussions, I doubt the U.S. government will take any comfort in how successful Canada has been in getting rid of their penny.

Another use for the penny that came to my attention recently was using it to measure the tread on your tires. Insert a penny upside down between two of the treads. If any part of Lincoln's head is covered, your tires are still good. If all of his head is visible, the tread is dangerously worn and you should replace your tires. You may want to keep a few pennies stashed away somewhere just for this purpose once they've disappeared from circulation.

Even once we stop minting the penny, the U.S. will continue to lose money minting its other coins. Maybe we should become a changeless society. There are some suggestions to that end floating around, as well as some that we should become cashless altogether and just use plastic or some type of chip mechanism. If that happens, you can be sure there will be plenty for me to write about.

If the potential financial costs to consumers aren't enough disincentive for these proposals (pun intended), here are some emotional ones to consider if we remove 'penny' from our collective conscience.

Getting rid of the penny would be the death knell for the penny ante. Not to get too maudlin, but I still have the tin full of pennies that my late mother used when she played poker with her lady friends. My mother died in 1995, and the last member of her card group died in 2012 at age 103. Their penny tin lives on, as full as it was after their last game.

The title (and lyrics) of the Beatles' song Penny Lane would have to be changed. Somehow Two-Bit Alley just doesn't have the same ring. And if the nickel also gets discontinued, we won't be able to press that into service to replace "Fifth." Saks Nickel Avenue sounds sketchy anyway.

The expression: "I'm like a bad penny; I keep turning up" would lose its meaning. There would be no good pennies, and pennies in general would no longer keep turning up. I'm not sure how we would replace this. "I'm like a discontinued penny; I keep rounding up" comes to mind (but quickly moves on).

Continuing with expressions consider: "For what it's worth, that's my two cents." Turns out your two cents have actually been worth four cents, but what would it be worth now? Would you be "dropping a dime"?

How about your Penny Valentine? If you sent her roses on February 14, would she become your Dime A Dozen Valentine? Whatever you called her and whatever you sent her, what used to cost a pretty penny would now cost an arm and a leg.

It's all just too sad to contemplate. Tissue, anyone?

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*Elaine M. Decker's books include Retirement Downsizing—A Humorous Guide, Retirement Sparks, Retirement Sparks Again, Retirement Sparks Redux and CANCER: A Coping Guide. Her essays appear in the anthologies: 80 Things To Do When You Turn 80 and 70 Things To Do When You Turn 70. All are available on Amazon.com. Contact her at: [emdecker@ix.netcom.com](mailto:emdecker@ix.netcom.com)*

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# Sports

## Centerline opens its doors

New pickleball club offers 8 courts across 22,000 square feet of space

By ALEX SPONSELLER  
Beacon Sports Editor

Centerline Pickleball Club celebrated its grand opening last Saturday at its new facility in Warwick, which opened its doors to the public last month.

The state's latest pickleball facility offers eight new courts along with a private function room for gatherings and boasts an experienced group of certified coaches to guide players of all skill levels as they learn the sport and develop their skills.

Centerline Pickleball Club offers multiple membership options, which provide members with advantages such as free open play, discounts on rentals as well as discounts on leagues and clinics. Non-members are also welcome to join free play.

The facility also hosts birthday parties, corporate team building and private events. Centerline also has its own pro shop and lounge area.

Rhode Island has seen its pickleball community flourish in recent years and it is considered one of the fastest-growing sports in the world with 60 countries playing. The Centerline team, led by owner Gary Bucci, was thrilled to finally see its dream come to fruition and welcome locals to join what is now the state's largest indoor pickleball facility with over 22,000 square feet of space.

"The road getting here

● OPENS to page 28



The Centerline Pickleball Club staff, along with local officials including Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi and Cranston Mayor Ken Hopkins, cut the ribbon during the grand opening ceremony last Saturday morning (above). A look at some of the new courts in the 22,000 square foot facility (at left). *Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller*



Deion Ellis-Cipriano on Sunday night. *Beacon Media photo by Alex Sponseller*

## Hawks fall in state final

By ALEX SPONSELLER  
Beacon Sports Editor

The second-seeded Bishop Hendricken basketball team fell to La Salle 75-60 in the Rhode Island Interscholastic League State Championship on Sunday night at the Ryan Center at the University of Rhode Island. La Salle finished the season with a perfect in-state record and defeated the Hawks for the third time this season in the process.

Despite leading 33-28 at halftime, the Hawks were unable to hold off the late La Salle rally, which saw the Rams outscore them by 13 points in the final quarter. The Rams got to the free throw line a whopping 22 times in the final two minutes and converted on 17 of them.

● HAWKS to page 24

## Hulkow battles back from surgery, takes 2nd at states

By ALEX SPONSELLER  
Beacon Sports Editor

Bishop Hendricken wrestler Mikhail Hulkow made a splash his freshman season back in 2023 as he would go on to win the freshman state title. Things were looking up for the grappler as he was on the brink of joining the state's elite going into his sophomore year.

However, those plans were put on hold in grueling fashion.

Hulkow has dealt with scoliosis for years and would end up on the operating table after a growth spurt caused significant damage to his rib cage. The impending surgery forced him to sit out his entire sophomore campaign.

The operation, which took place in March of 2024, included 18 screws and two rods to repair the damage. Doctors told Hulkow that he would need a full year to recover and that he'd not only miss his entire junior season, but that his wrestling career was in jeopardy altogether.

After the initial shock of the news, Hulkow would buckle down, recover and

● HULKOW to page 25



Mikhail Hulkow on the podium earlier this season. *Submitted photo*



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Gavin Silva with the Brown basketball team. *Submitted photo*

## Community Champion Series: Silva's story inspires on, off court

By **BRETT TAYLOR**  
*Special to the Beacon*

Meet this week's Community Champion, Gavin Silva. Gavin Silva, a fourth grader who attends Norwood Elementary School, has already made an impressive impact both on and off the court.

A committed member of Brown University's basketball team and Team Impact, Gavin refuses to let his diagnosis of Lymphedema define or limit him. Like most kids his age, he enjoys spending time with friends and playing various sports, such as competitive soccer and baseball.

However, unlike many of his peers, Gavin has already taken on the role of an author. Recognizing the challenges that Lymphedema imposes on so many, he decided to take action. In his latest book, "Ultimate Lymphedema Warrior," Gavin sheds light on how the condition can hinder children from fully enjoying their youth while also offering insight into how they can persevere and thrive despite setbacks.

Not only does Gavin inspire his Brown teammates, but also empowers other kids with differences. Gavin's book is available to purchase online at Amazon. This Saturday, March 22, join Gavin for story time and a book signing will be at Barnes and Noble (Warwick) at 11 am. Take a moment to read and be inspired by this fourth grader. "Ultimate Lymphedema Warrior" by Gavin Silva can be found on Amazon.com.

Here is a Q&A with Gavin.

BT: Looking back, what advice would you give your younger self?

Gavin: I would tell my younger self to keep working hard because some things will be difficult but with determination you can overcome anything you put your mind to.

BT: Beyond your achievement in sports, what inspires you to give back to your community as well as encourage others to do the same?

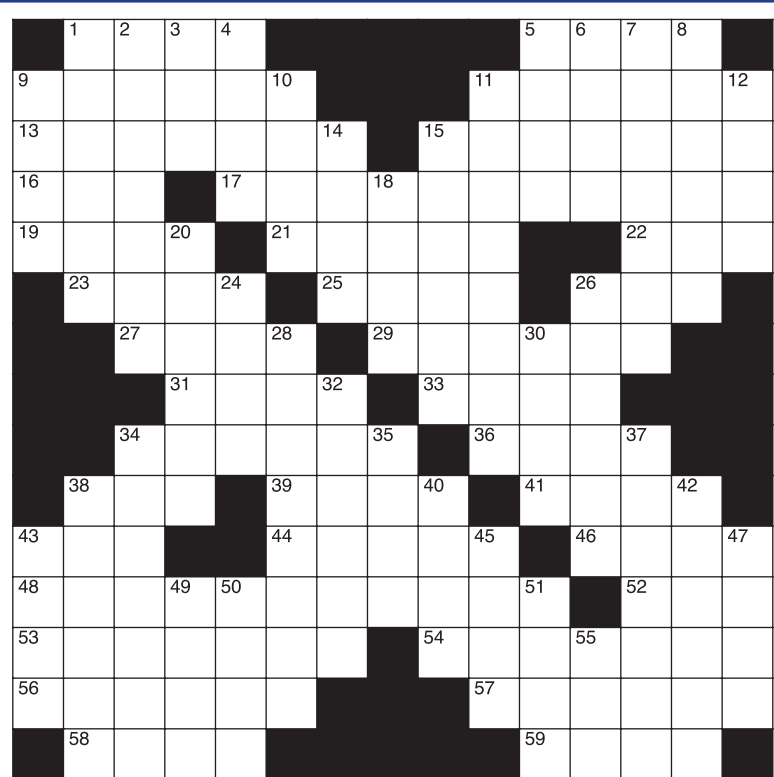
Gavin: I like to give back to the community because other kids might not have the same experience as me, like school or something in their life that is harder for them so to make others feel special makes me feel good.

BT: You, as an athlete, continue to be a positive influence on your teammates and friends. You inspire them to make a difference in their community. What are some examples of the contributions that you have already made as a student in elementary school?

Gavin: Some things that I have helped with in my community: Toy drive for kids in foster care; Thanksgiving baskets for families who needed help; Donate to Hasbro to help kids who are sick; Devereux trunk or treat for kids who are in foster care; Santa parade to bring joy to the community

Thank you Gavin for making a difference!

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Take heed
- 5. One's superior
- 9. Prepped meat
- 11. Tighten anew
- 13. Type of textile fiber
- 15. Animalistic
- 16. When you hope to get somewhere
- 17. Offender
- 19. Former NYC mayor Ed
- 21. Type of cryptocurrency
- 22. Mauna \_\_\_, Hawaiian volcano
- 23. Herring-like fish
- 25. Popular PBS program
- 26. Congressman (abbr.)
- 27. Flightless Australian birds
- 29. Defrosted
- 31. Prior Yankee sensation Kevin
- 33. Nasal mucus
- 34. Some are southern
- 36. A place to construct
- 38. Popular beer brand
- 39. Shouts of farewell

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Pages
- 2. Head pain
- 3. A loud utterance
- 4. Large brown seaweed
- 5. Hulu's chef Carmine
- 6. Greek mountain
- 7. Made final
- 8. Bar
- 9. Tai subgroup
- 10. What you eat
- 11. Teaches again
- 12. Small constellation
- 14. Type of berry
- 15. Cows fattened for meat
- 18. A way to hoof it
- 20. Exaggerated a role
- 24. About two
- 26. Long upholstered seat
- 28. What employees earn
- 30. Fiber from a coconut husk
- 32. Digits
- 34. Polish by rubbing
- 35. Liquid body substances
- 37. Furniture with open shelves
- 38. Edible part of a chicken
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Tool used to remove
- 43. Icelandic poems
- 45. Swiss village
- 47. Drunks
- 49. Evergreen plant genus
- 50. Light precipitation
- 51. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 55. An informal debt instrument



Bishop Hendricken's Jakob Reyes on Sunday night in the state final.

● **HAWKS from page 23**

Hendricken was led by junior Deion Ellis Cipriano, who had a breakout performance with 17 points scored. Michael D'Ambra added 10 while Jakob Reyes scored nine.

The Hawks topped defending champion Classical 70-67 in an overtime thriller in the semifinals the previous night. D'Ambra led the way with 17 points.

Hendricken finished the season with a 22-8 overall record and was the runner up in both the state and division championships. The Hawks will be graduating James Caldarella, Jakob Reyes and Dylan Lynch, while returning guys like D'Ambra, Ellis-Cipriano and Will Cary to the mix next winter.

Ellis-Cipriano was named the team's Most Valuable Player in the state final for his team leading point total.

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Pictured above are the Hendricken's Alex Hopkins, Braiden Sawyer, Alex Roberts and Liam Connolly. Also pictured are Toll Gate's Will Goodine, Luke Goodine, Parker Weldy, John Maynard, Riley Scanlon, Adam Hamza, Jonah La Fauci, Shane Moro, and Brady Fales. *Submitted photos*



Hendricken's Alex Hopkins, who is also the Rhode Island Juniors champion.

# Hawks repeat as table tennis champions

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**  
*Beacon Sports Editor*

The Rhode Island High School Table Tennis Championships were held in Manville and Bishop Hendricken would go on to repeat as champions.

The Hawks finished the regular season with an 11-0 record and would go 5-0 at the tournament, beating Toll Gate in the final, 3-0.

Hendricken's Alex Hopkins took a 2-0 (11-5, 11-4) win over Toll Gate's Luke Goodine to give the Hawks the early advantage. Braiden Sawyer then took a 2-1 (11-3, 10-12, 11-9) victory over Toll Gate's Will Goodine. Hendricken's Alex Roberts came from behind to win 2-1 (13-15, 11-8, 11-6) over Parker Weldy to clinch the championship.

The team table tennis championships have been tak-

ing place in Rhode Island since 2016 but have expanded in recent years to also include teams from Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Rhode Island has a rich table tennis history, with the Rhode Island Table Tennis Association having champions listed all the way back to 1937. Brown University has one of the most competitive collegiate programs in the country, while more high school teams than ever are competing. Hendricken has 50 players in its program.

Hendricken coach Steve Hopkins has been a key figure in the sport's expansion in Rhode Island in the past decade and has hopes of one day bringing it to the varsity level in local high schools. Hopkins believes the appeal is that it's relatively cheap to field table tennis teams and it's a sport that can be played by people of all abilities. The RI Table Tennis Association also

has a 501 (c)3 that rehomes tables to schools searching for them.

"My goal is to eventually get this inexpensive, highly accessible, Olympic sport into our schools as a varsity sport, like it is in New York City where all of their schools have table tennis. Table tennis is the perfect school sport, it's one that big kids and small kids can play, there are rules for para players. It's co-ed and if you're disabled, there are ways that you can play," said Hopkins. "It has that concept of being able to get a college scholarship, we have professional players, teams on the amateur side in the country as well."

Although there is still work to be done in raising it to the varsity level, including the need for 50 percent of high schools to offer teams, Hopkins has been encouraged by the growth in recent years as nine RI schools competed at states.

● **HULKOW** from page 23

return to the mats in just six months. He rejoined the Hendricken team and went on to finish the season with a 29-8 record while taking second place at 120 pounds at the state championships.

"I really wanted to come back this season, I didn't want to miss any more time, so I just had to push myself and recover faster. At first, it was hard to think about, hard to think about missing two years. That just made me more determined to work harder to come back faster," said Hulkow.

Considering how physically demanding and dynamic wrestling is, Hulkow has had to teach his body how to work around itself. He never felt completely recovered this season but was able to improve enough each passing match in time to make a run at the state title.

"Physically, I'm not 100 percent. Going into the year I just wanted to see how good I could do coming back from the surgery. I didn't expect to go this far. I had to figure out what I can and can't do, movements-wise. I can't twist my body the way I used to so I had to adjust to that," Hulkow said. "I feel like I am adapting more and learning how to build around it."



Mikhail Hulkow in a match this past season at Hendricken. *Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com*

As Hulkow made the adjustments, his performance improved, and late in the regular season he began realizing he had a chance to make a strong finish.

"Toward the end of the season, I started winning more matches and I was looking a

lot better. That's when it hit (that I could win at states). It was really, really big. I didn't think I was going to make it to the finals, so when I did I was super happy and felt accomplished," said Hulkow.

Hulkow then went on to compete at New England and went 1-1. He was forced to withdraw from the tournament due to a setback he had in his recovery. As the season progressed, one of the rods was causing the tissue to tear and Hulkow finished the year with a mass the size of a grapefruit in his back. Despite the constant, agonizing pain, Hulkow toughed it out and was focused on making it the entire year.

Hulkow intends on returning for his senior year and will likely be wrestling under similar circumstances. He is confident that he will not just return to states but will have a chance to win it all.

"Next year I definitely think I can win states. I'm going to go into the states confident, confident in myself," said Hulkow. "I used that as motivation when they told me it was going to be a year, but I told myself, 'It's not and I am going to do everything I can to make a full recovery.' I learned how dedicated I can be if I put my mind to something and say I'm going to do it."

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# Trout fishing is the ticket in April

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI  
Special to the Beacon

Rhode Island and some Massachusetts lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams designated as trout-stocked waters are currently closed for fishing. However, the season opens in RI and in additional MA waterways on Saturday, April 12, 2025 and runs through Feb. 28, 2026. More to come in the next week or two on Opening Day April 12.

For licenses and trout/salmon waterway stocking information in Rhode Island visit [www.dem.ri.gov/fishing](http://www.dem.ri.gov/fishing), and in Massachusetts [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).

## RI Marine Fisheries Council meets to consider regulations

The Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council will meet to consider some 2025 commercial and recreational regulations at an in-person and online hybrid meeting 6 p.m., Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography Bay Campus, Coreless Auditorium, 215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett.

The Council makes fishing regulation recommendations to DEM, with Terrance Gray, DEM Director, approving 95 percent of the Council's regulation recommendations.

Issues before the Council on March 26 that impact recreational anglers include regulations on how to measure the length of striped bass, recreational quahog harvest in the Providence River Shellfish Management Area, commercial management of Atlantic menhaden in Narragansett Bay, cobia regulations, and allowing striped bass to be harvested commercially that are caught in gill nets which would be a change.

The RI special management area in Narragansett Bay for Atlantic menhaden has been a model for programs nationally. The program includes weekly (sometimes daily) aerial stock assessments to determine whether the Bay is open or closed to commercial fishing.

There are several commercial fishing in-



Expert fly fisher Ed Lombardo will speak about 'Fishing the Dry Fly on Some of New England's Best Trout Streams' at a RI Trout Unlimited seminar, Wednesday, March 26, West Greenwich Elks Lodge.

dusty proposals being considered at the Council meeting that would in effect dismantle the program to allow more Atlantic menhaden to be taken in the Bay.

For years anglers have advocated for ecosystem-based management for the species to provide enough bio bass in the Bay not only to sustain the fishery but to serve the ecological needs of fish and birds such as striped bass, bluefish, whales, osprey, etc.

The meeting can be joined in person or by

Zoom.

For agenda details with support documents on the meeting visit the calendar page for March 26 at <https://dem.ri.gov>.

## Fly fishing in some of New England's best trout streams

If you want the inside scoop on how to fly fish some of the best trout streams in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut you will not want to miss "Fishing the Dry Fly on

Some of New England's Best Trout Streams."

The presentation will be given by fly fishing expert and guide Ed Lombardo at the RI Trout Unlimited seminar on Wednesday, March 26, 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 42 Gooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI.

Ed Lombardo will share tactics and strategies he has successfully used for years to catch trout. And he will show how to read the water, dry fly imitations he uses as well as the equipment, rods, reels, fly line and leaders he uses.

The public is welcome. For information and to RSVP contact [rhodeislandtu@gmail.com](mailto:rhodeislandtu@gmail.com).

## Kid's Day, An Introduction to Fly Fishing 101

The Aquatic Education Resource Education program of RI DEM will hold a Kid's Day, an Introduction to Fly Fishing on Saturday, April 19, 2025, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Addieville East Farm, 200 Pheasant Drive, Mapleville, RI.

This introductory class is designed for young people ages 10-15. Students will learn about the equipment needed to fly fish, how to tie flies, how to cast a fly rod, safe and responsible fishing techniques. Lunch is provided. A parent or guardian must be present for the duration of the class.

All equipment will be provided including fly rod and reel outfits. The program is free for those registering in advance. Space is limited.

Please email [kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov](mailto:kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov) to register.

## Where's the bite?

Cod. Party boat fishing and a few smaller charter boats continue to fish for cod south of Cape Cod and off Rhode Island waters. Visit Fishing Machine Charters, Pt. Judith, RI at [www.fishingmachinecharters.com](http://www.fishingmachinecharters.com); [www.islandcurrent.com](http://www.islandcurrent.com) and [www.francesfleet.com](http://www.francesfleet.com). Fishing. Full day rates for party boat vessels are generally \$130 to \$135 per adult and around \$80 for those under 12 years old.

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905 Stratford Ln Lot 905	Cotola, Nicholas J	Altieri, Stephen and Altieri, Melissa	2/25	\$330,000
<b>WEST GREENWICH</b>				
1002 Fish Hill Rd	Andrade, Demetrius	Berlied, Erik and Berlied, Amy N	2/27	\$715,000
2 Pine Grove Ln Lot 2	Relli, Robert J	Gormley, Ilse	2/27	\$550,000
64 Hammitt View Dr	Bourgeois, Susan M	Trowbridge, Heather and Stroer, Andrew	2/24	\$600,000
<b>WEST WARWICK</b>				
1 Kristee Cir Lot 1	Hopkins, James R	Valley, Michael	2/28	\$240,000
101 Scenic Dr Lot 101	Deborah M Santagata RET and Santagata	Deborah M Crowley, Carol	2/28	\$312,250
155 Legris Ave	Rooke, Robert R	Mccaughy, Daniel	2/27	\$437,000
183 Lockwood St	Rombo Robert E Est and Patent, Carol A	Aguiar, Susanne	3/3	\$310,000
212 Lockwood St	Dotson Evellyn A Est and Dotson, Todd L	Wang, Ya W	2/28	\$379,900
25 Park St	David J Magiera T and Magiera, Mark	David J Magiera T and Magiera, Mark	2/27	\$370,000
38 Cowesett Ave Lot 17	Weijlard, Hailey	Minille, Ann	2/28	\$201,500
45 W Valley Cir Lot 45	Residences At West Vly In	Baldassi, Leonard and Baldassi, Mary	2/28	\$457,400
53 W Valley Cir Lot 53	Residences At West Vly In	Lisa B Cohen RET and Cohen, Lisa B	3/3	\$464,954
550 Wakefield St Lot 15,	Vila Nova Realty Dev LLC	Ferreira, Paula C	2/28	\$459,900

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A local player works on his form with Centerline owner Dante Bellini (left). Owner Gary Bucci and his family during the grand opening celebration (right).

● OPENS from page 23

was choppy, bumpy, long, but we made it and we're very grateful for that. We are extremely proud of our facility. The chance to open this business trumped all others and our clients have been incredible," said Bucci to the crowd on Saturday, which included members and local dignitaries including Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi and Cranston Mayor Ken Hopkins. "Our members have been so respectful, appreciative, and so enjoyable to be around. Our goal is to continue to make

our facility warm and friendly so the word gets out. This is how we hope to continue to build and prosper at Centerline Pickleball."

Picozzi was also excited to see his city offer a state-of-the-art pickleball complex and provide residents the chance to get involved in the sport.

"When I became mayor four years ago, our parks and recreation director came to me and said 'there's a great demand for pickleball,' and I looked her in the eye and said, 'what the hell's a pickleball,' Picozzi

joked. "Then I learned it's the fastest growing sport in the state and the country."

"Approximately 50 million Americans this past year played pickleball at least once. That tells you the growth of this great sport and how popular it is becoming in the country. It serves all members of our population," added Dennis DeJesus, who also said that 33 percent of players were over the age of 65.

As Centerline Pickleball settles in on the Warwick-Cranston border, Bucci looks

forward to building a community while continuing to introduce the game to the Ocean State.

"Pickleball is the most social sport on earth," said Bucci. "When I look at the courts at 5:30 on any given day and see all the activity in this place, it is truly heartwarming."

Centerline Pickleball is located at 33 Lambert Lind Highway in Warwick, right on the Cranston line. The club's website is centerlinepickleballclub.com and it can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.



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