



# Warwick Beacon

Thursday, April 10, 2025

2 Sections with supplements • 28 Pages • \$2.00 • Vol. 72 No. 40

## Experienced director to lead school finance team

*Craig Enos, lauded for role in East Providence, says building communications is his first priority*

By **JOHN HOWELL**  
Warwick Beacon Editor

A man recognized by his peers for his financial oversight of the new East Providence High School's construction and for his management of that city's school finances will take charge of Warwick school finances June 2.

Craig Enos was the top candidate for the Warwick job, which was vacated earlier this year soon after it was disclosed that the School Department faced a \$9-million operating deficit in FY 25 unless it took dramatic cost cutting measures immediately. Joseph Crowley, former director of the Warwick Area Career and Technical Center, who is serving as interim school finance director, knows Enos, having worked with him.

"He's very open," Crowley said of Enos' ability to answer questions and articulate conditions to give a clear

picture of a situation and what needs to be done. Enos also received favorable reviews from city Finance Director Peder Schaefer (who officially retired Friday), David Testa, who chairs the school building committee, and state Auditor David Bergantino.

"He's good," said Schaefer. "They certainly need some stability there," he said of Warwick schools. Testa said he hasn't met Enos, but has heard nothing but accolades.



**Craig Enos**

"I'm very very pleased that he's gone through what we're going through," he said.

Enos' appointment was a surprise to Bergantino, who has worked with him. He feels Warwick has made a good move given the overall paucity of school finance personnel.

Enos faces no lack of challenges here.

Warwick schools have not yet closed the audit of the fiscal year that ends June 30, which is projected to show of deficit of several million dollars. Enos will have to finish the current year, which will surely show a deficit, and nail down the FY26 budget that was sent to

**School Budget Commission named see page 3**

● DIRECTOR to page 10

## Rare deer spotted in Buttonwoods

Arthur Dunn, who is always on the lookout for nature, spotted this trio of white-tailed deer in Buttonwoods recently. He'd seen piebald deer before, but photographed this one among its cousins. We contacted Dylan Ferreira, senior wildlife biologist at the state Department of Environmental Management, to see how unusual it is to see a piebald deer and ask what causes the spotted fur. Ferreira provided the following information: Piebald deer are the result of a rare genetic mutation that causes random patches of skin to lack the specialized pigment cells that give deer hair its color. Even the skin beneath the white hair lacks color. Across the whitetail's range, around one in 1,000 deer are piebald. Submitted photo by Arthur Dunn



## NEIT to offer two-year bachelor's in four majors

By **ADAM ZANGARI**  
Beacon Media Staff Writer

The New England Institute of Technology will offer bachelor's degrees that students can attain in only two years starting this fall.

The four majors in which 24-month bachelor's degrees will be offered are in cybersecurity, business management, graphic design and criminal justice.

While many schools now offer three-year bachelor's programs, NE Tech's quarterly schedule allowed the institute to cut off another year and get students into the workforce even faster, Provost Doug Sherman said.

"The reason that we can do this in two years is because our academic calendar is different from the traditional two-semester calendar," Sherman said. "Our calendar is four 10-week quarters, so our students are actually in school 40 weeks of the calendar year versus the traditional 30 weeks – so it allows us to accelerate even more."

To make sure students receive the same amount of edu-

cation as a traditional four-year bachelor's student would, Sherman said that NE Tech made changes to the overall curriculum, including the removal of general-education courses and reduction in the number of credits required to graduate.

"We worked very hard and very deliberately to integrate the general-education learning outcomes into our major courses," Sherman said. "We've worked very closely with our faculty within our majors to develop new learning outcomes for certain courses that would help students to develop those same kinds of outcomes that we achieve in our more traditional bachelor's degree program."

The four majors chosen came out of a desire to allow students to enter the workforce in high-demand fields quickly, Sherman said.

Only four majors could be approved at the program's onset, as the New England Commission of Higher Education was unwilling to give accreditation to more programs

● NEIT to page 8

## Revaluation to reflect hot market, high home values

By **JOHN HOWELL**  
Warwick Beacon Editor

City Tax Assessor Neal Dupuis asks Warwick homeowners and businesses to pose one question when they go online or open a letter from his office in mid-April: "Could I sell the property for what it is being valued?"

If the answer is, "I don't think so," then it's time to look at comparable properties and those values.

But before digging much deeper – Dupuis has seen taxpayers spend countless hours researching property values and preparing charts to support their arguments – he recommends they call his office and "have a conversation with us first."

"We're getting close to the tail end," Dupuis said of the full citywide revaluation that will be used in calculating tax bills for the 2025-26 fiscal year. Unless there's a delay, the bills should be mailed by mid-June.

The city administration is in the midst of budget deliberations, with the big unknown being the School Department budget. Schools have yet to close out fiscal year 2024 budget, which is projected to run a deficit. According to projections made earlier this year, schools were on track to finishing the current operating budget with a deficit that could be as high as \$9 million. Cost-cutting efforts are being made.

Mayor Frank Picozzi is hopeful that a five-member School Budget Commission approved last week by the General Assembly will dig into the budgets, find ways to reduce deficits and develop balanced budgets going forward. Schools submitted a five-year plan to State Auditor David Bergantino more than a week ago, which is serving as a basis for discussion. As it stands now, Picozzi says, the school plan won't work because it is too dependent on the city paying off school deficits rather than schools cutting costs.

● REVALUATION to page 10

## RI House GOP leader asks: What do we get for \$14 billion?

By **JOHN HOWELL**  
Warwick Beacon Editor

Delaware has twice the land mass of Rhode Island, no sales tax and a \$6.6-billion state budget.

On the other hand, Rhode Island has a 7% sales tax and a \$14.2-billion budget with the prospect of very little help from the federal government.

Rep. Michael Chippendale made the comparison in opening remarks to the Warwick Rotary Club on Thursday, adding, "It makes us ask what are we getting for \$14 billion? Education, the economy and health care are not doing so well."

The House Minority Leader, Chip-

pendale was accompanied by former Warwick Ward 1 Councilwoman Sue Stenhouse, who is chief of staff for House Republicans. While often on opposite sides of the aisle, Chippendale said legislators of both parties realize the state is dealing with a serious budget issue that according to the latest projections is nearly a \$300-million shortfall.

With only 13% of state representatives Republicans, Chippendale observed, "we don't have control of the budget." But that doesn't mean Republicans aren't looking for ways to cut waste and reduce expenditures.

● GOP LEADER to page 10



**Rep. Michael Chippendale**



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## Business After Hours offer connections, networking

Businesses from across Rhode Island are invited to join a casual, no-pressure Business After Hours networking event on Wednesday, April 30, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza.

This event, hosted by the Rhode Island Chambers of Commerce, is open to all, whether or not you are a Chamber member. It promises to be a relaxed evening filled with opportunities to meet fellow business owners and managers, share ideas, and explore potential partnerships.

Attendees can expect to connect with more than 600 professionals, browse over 100 vendor tables, and enjoy delicious samples from local restaurants and caterers such

as the Crowne Plaza, The Honey Baked Ham Company, Not Your Average Joes, Rosa's Tavern, Revolution American Bistro, and Uno Pizzeria & Grill. There are no lengthy speeches, just great conversations and meaningful connections.

Whether you are a startup, an experienced entrepreneur, or simply looking to expand your network, this is an ideal event. Tickets are available for \$20 per person, with a cash bar. Bring a friend or colleague for a fun evening of building business relationships and tasting local fare. To reserve your spot, visit <https://bit.ly/statewide2025>.

## Irish national charged in home-repair scam

An Irish national residing illegally in the United States has been ordered detained on wire fraud and conspiracy charges related to an alleged scheme to defraud homeowners in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, R.I. Acting U.S. Attorney Sara Miron Bloom has announced.

Prior to making an initial appearance in U.S. District Court on a federal criminal complaint charging him with wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud, John O'Brien, 28, had been held on an immigration detainer following his arrest by Homeland Security Investigations on March 28 for overstaying a tourist visa issued to him in 2021 that expired in October 2021.

Charging documents allege that O'Brien and others defrauded property owners by inducing them to pay for home repairs that were not needed and often not completed. O'Brien misrepresented the need for the repairs and services, as well as the qualifications of his purported construction business, Traditional Masonry & Construction.

O'Brien's alleged fraud scheme

came to the attention of law enforcement when an 83-year-old Warwick resident identified in court documents as Victim 1 contacted Warwick police to complain he had been defrauded by a contractor. Victim 1 reported that O'Brien told him that, while doing work in the neighborhood, he observed cracks in Victim 1's foundation. O'Brien offered to professionally repair the damage to the foundation. O'Brien collected \$9,500 from Victim 1.

As work proceeded, O'Brien allegedly claimed that further damage was discovered. O'Brien allegedly revised the costs for repairs and sought an additional \$80,000 from the victim. A home inspector hired by the U.S. Attorney's Office later reviewed the property and found no evidence of a need for these extensive foundation repairs.

As described in court documents, other alleged victims have been identified who described similar interactions with O'Brien that began with initial, unsolicited recommendations for small

home repairs, followed by O'Brien's purported discovery of major repairs needed, and often a representation that the homeowner's foundation was in urgent need of repairs. It is estimated that this scheme has defrauded homeowners out of over \$1 million.

At the time of O'Brien's arrest, investigators allegedly seized from his vehicle hundreds of Traditional Masonry & Construction flyers, identical to the ones handed out to the victims in this case, and four binders containing quotes, contracts, and invoices for Traditional Masonry & Construction. The documents and contracts are dated between April 2024 through March 2025, and range from \$300 to \$205,000. The approximate value of the contracts contained within the binders totaled nearly \$2 million.

The scheme O'Brien is alleged to have been executing is becoming increasingly common throughout the United States. It has come to be known as Traveling Conman Fraud.

## Police Log

### FENTANYL OVERDOSE

The Warwick Police Department is issuing a public safety warning following the tragic death of a 27-year-old woman who unknowingly consumed marijuana laced with fentanyl.

The victim was found unresponsive in Warwick after using marijuana that was not purchased from a licensed dispensary. Despite lifesaving efforts, she was pronounced dead.

Preliminary investigation indicates that the marijuana was contaminated with fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid that can be lethal even in small amounts. The Warwick Police Department is actively investigating the source of the substance and urges the public to exercise extreme caution when purchasing or using marijuana from unregulated sources.

### DUI

On March 1 at 1:05 a.m., a Warwick police officer noticed a car pulling out of Grid Iron Ale House, nearly colliding with his car before reportedly narrowly avoiding another crash. Following this, the officer executed a traffic stop.

The driver, 31-year-old Ali El-Laham of Cranston, told the officer that he had had two drinks and was driving home. He reportedly would later revise that number to "3-4 shots."

El-Laham told the officer multiple times that he refused to take a field sobriety test, and said that he felt good to drive. When officers attempted to handcuff him on suspicion of DUI, El-Laham pulled his hand away, asking "What about the breath test?" El-Laham reportedly refused to take the breath test. He was reportedly confrontational following his arrest, telling officers they were "gonna get f\*\*\*ed" and screaming while in the police car on the way to the station.

El-Laham was arrested and charged with DUI.

### DUI

On March 1 at 2:47 a.m., a WPD officer responded to the intersection of Quaker Lane and Major Potter Road for a report of a car parked in the left lane. When arriving at the scene, the officer noticed a woman slumped over the steering wheel of the car, with her foot on the brake preventing it from moving.

The driver, 31-year-old Courtney Milton of West Warwick, reportedly took a while to regain consciousness. When she did, the officer asked her to put her car in park, which she did not comprehend. After multiple attempts, and Milton removing her foot from the brake pedal, causing the car to begin traveling, the officer was eventually able to put the car in park and turn off the ignition.

Milton reportedly smelled strongly of alcohol, and told the officer that she had consumed 15 drinks that night. She refused to take a field sobriety test, and would later refuse to take a breath test as well.

Milton was arrested and charged with DUI.

### DUI

On March 3 at 2:29 a.m., a WPD officer on patrol was

approached by a driver, who told him that another driver had been driving erratically. After finding that car and witnessing erratic driving, the officer executed a traffic stop.

The driver of the erratic car, 30-year-old Edgar Jorge of Providence, told officers that he was returning from a Smithfield bar, and had just dropped off his drunk friend. Jorge was reportedly confused as to how he got to Warwick, and told officers that he had consumed two beers. In addition to the beers, the officer noted a bong secured with a seatbelt in the car's passenger seat, and the smell of both alcohol and marijuana.

Jorge consented to a field sobriety test, which he failed, leading to his arrest for DUI. While riding back to the station, Jorge reportedly told officers that he had driven drunk before, though he had never been caught, and thanked officers for arresting him, saying he didn't know what would have happened if he had kept driving home. While at the station, Jorge was tested as having a blood alcohol content of .102.

### DRIVING WITHOUT LICENSE

On March 6 at 1:20 a.m., a WPD officer noticed a car moving onto Route 37 erratically, accelerating very quickly to get onto the highway. The officer conducted a routine traffic stop.

The driver, 40-year-old Gary Hurst of Woonsocket, told the officer that he had been returning from work. A search of his license revealed that Hurst had not had a driver's license since 2004, and he told officers that he did not have a license.

Hurst was arrested and charged with his 4th+ offense of driving without a license.

### DRIVING WITHOUT LICENSE

On March 1 at 9:51 a.m., a WPD officer noticed a car take a left turn at a red light. Following that, the officer executed a traffic stop.

The driver, 26-year-old Luigi Macarusso of West Warwick, was reportedly nervous and told officers that he did not have a license and did not want to be arrested.

Macarusso was arrested and charged with his 4th+ offense of driving without a license.

# Warwick Beacon

Published every Thursday by Beacon Media POSTMASTER: send address changes to:  
BEACON MEDIA RI, 1944 Warwick Avenue, Ste. 4, Warwick, RI 02889

Offices located at  
1944 Warwick Avenue, Ste. 4, Warwick, RI 02889 - Telephone (401) 732-3100  
Mail delivery \$45.00 for one (1) year (52 issues), \$75.00 for two (2) years (104 issues). Senior rate \$35.00 for one (1) year, \$49.00 for two (2) years (104 issues). \$2.00 weekly for carrier delivery. Out-of-State \$80.00 for one (1) year (52 issues). Periodicals Postage Paid at Warwick, RI 02886  
(USPS666-780)

John Howell, Publisher Emeritus

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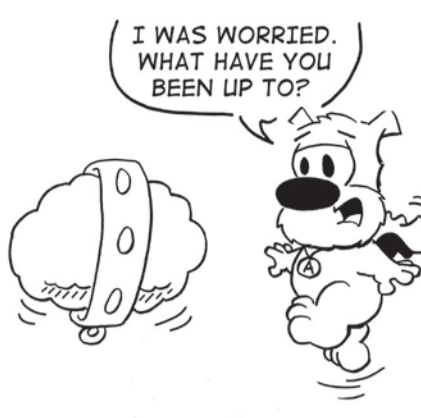
## WARWICK BEACON

### ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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# SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



## New high schools reap savings, hit snag

By ADAM ZANGARI  
Beacon Media Staff Writer

As construction of new Pilgrim and Toll Gate high schools gets ever closer, the Warwick School Committee approved another package for Pilgrim's construction while hearing updates about the site's condition.

After three early release packages for Pilgrim were approved in a special meeting last month, a fourth package for overall site work at Pilgrim came before the council. The low bidder on that package was Manafort Brothers, which offered about \$718,000 less for the work than LeftField Project Management, the Owner's Project Manager for both high schools, had budgeted.

"This is one of the biggest packages that we're going to be awarding," LeftField's Chris Spiegel said. "I've personally worked with Manafort. They've done a number of school projects. They're a great firm to work with."

Spiegel said that in total, the bids received for items at Pilgrim were about \$1.8 million below budget, bringing the project closer to the \$350-million figure approved by the city's voters; in the time since the 2022 vote, costs have climbed roughly \$20 million.

But it wasn't all good news on the school construction front, as Spiegel said LeftField would have to dip into its contingency funds for the first time to remove unsuitable soils from the Pilgrim site.

Spiegel said that finding the soils was to be expected, and that they were found on about 30% of the site. The amount of contingency released into the project, Spiegel said, would be for a worst-case scenario, which would be removing 6 inches of soil across the entire site.

"As I've talked about multiple times

throughout this project, we were not comfortable releasing contingency back into the project until we have a better grasp of our soil conditions," Spiegel said. "On the majority of the site, everything turned out great... [The worst-case scenario] is not something that we're concerned about, but to protect [WPS], we want to make these allocations now so we can remediate any issue that pops up.

The soils were deemed unsuitable due to high concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, as well as arsenic. Rhode Island, Spiegel said, also has the strictest rules on how much arsenic in the soil is acceptable, noting that the amount found would be considered OK under Massachusetts or federal standards.

Budget commission affects meeting rules

Tuesday's meeting was the first School Committee meeting held during the existence of the Warwick School Budget Commission, approved by the General Assembly at the request of Mayor Frank Picozzi and the City Council.

As such, School Committee Chair Shaun Galligan and the School Committee's attorney, Andrew Henneous, had a conversation about how that would affect the typical bids that come before the committee.

Henneous told the panel that the best course of action would be to continue voting on each spending request, though its approvals would be non-binding.

"My suggestion to this body has been to continue to operate as you would," Henneous said. "Either approve or deny the requests. If the request is approved, then that gets going into the Budget Commission, and they'll ultimately make the decision."

The School Committee gave its endorsement to each regularly scheduled bid on the agenda, though members noted that the final decision was up to the commission.

A special meeting on the School Committee's budget will be held April 17.

Committee hears presentation on student's rare cancer

The School Committee also heard a presentation from Thomas Monteiro, a student within the district. Monteiro's cousin, Madison Brodeur, is a freshman at Pilgrim who was recently diagnosed with nasopharyngeal carcinoma, a rare form of nasal cancer.

In addition to helping his cousin with the costs of treatment, Monteiro said he wanted to raise awareness about rare childhood cancers, leading to his presentation to the School Committee.

"Despite this challenging situation, Maddie has remained true to her beliefs and embodies kindness, intelligence, hard work and athleticism," Monteiro said.

To raise awareness, Monteiro suggested that Warwick hold an awareness day where students could wear yellow, as well as a program where anyone who donates can receive a custom-made bracelet as a token of appreciation.

Members of the School Committee each commended Monteiro on his speech, with Michelle Kirby-Chapman saying she wanted to donate for a bracelet.

"It's obvious the love that you have for your family and what you're going forward with is inspirational," committee member Sean Wiggins said. "This will be successful because of you and because of who you are. I hadn't met you before tonight, but I'm already impressed."

## School budget commission named

By JOHN HOWELL  
Warwick Beacon Editor

After months of discussion and finally General Assembly approval, a five-member school budget commission has been selected. The commission will come before the City Council for advice and consent April 21 before starting a review of school financial operations and drafting a plan to amortize school deficits over the next five years.

Yesterday, Mayor Frank Picozzi released the names of his appointees: Ernest Almonte, David John Champagne and Angela Murray, who will be joined by Joseph Crowley, the appointee of the superintendent of schools and Sherri Kuntze, the appointee of School Committee Chairman Shaun Galligan.

While it is up to the commission to choose its leader, Picozzi said he would like to see Almonte in the role.

Almonte, who was for 16 years the state's auditor general, a job in which he was responsible for the State of Rhode Island's financial, performance and fraud audits, is chief officer of the Almonte Group LLC. He is a government-relations professional and lobbyist for several entities and is also a Certified Public Accountant and certified in financial forensics. He most recently worked as director of the RI League of Cities and

towns. In his resume, which Picozzi provided, Champagne states his objective is "to use my knowledge and skills to promote a safe and academically challenging school environment. To encourage students and staff to set high standards for maximum success. To provide insightful leadership." He has served as the interim superintendent of Davies Career & Technical High School in Cumberland and is currently the school's supervisor of student management.

Murray is the city's controller, a position she has held since 2022, having previously worked in North Kingstown, where she worked on the school budget and municipal finances.

Crowley, interim Warwick School finance director, is the retired director of the Warwick Area Career and Technical Center.

A Warwick resident who attended Warwick schools, Kuntze is audit manager at Cavanagh CPAs & Associates LLC.

As Galligan pointed out, "she is the only Warwick resident on the commission."

Picozzi said he "very excited" by the selection of Craig Enos as director of finances for Warwick schools. He feels Enos' experience as finance director of East Providence schools and his oversight of the construction of the East Providence High School will assist the commission in its work.

## AAA: Average Rhode Island pump price back up to \$3

Northeast pump prices are currently up on tightening gasoline supplies and pricier summer blend fuel reaching retailers. While prices are following typical seasonal trends for now, global market reactions to the Trump administration's tariffs announced last week could potentially slow the seasonal price climb as crude oil prices fall.

By the close of markets on Friday, crude oil prices had fallen roughly \$10 a barrel, reaching levels not seen in four years as markets reacted to the tariff announcement on Thursday. Along with concerns that the tariffs could quash gasoline demand amid economic fallout, the collapse in the price of crude was accelerated by the surprise announcement by OPEC+ that they'd increase production next month by more than 500,000 barrels a day — 411,000 barrels a day more than expected.

Here in the Northeast, inventories of gasoline fell by 1.3 million barrels last week as retailers push winter blend out and summer blend into their storage tanks, but supplies are still 6 million barrels higher than last year and 2 million barrels above the 5-year average,

according to the Energy Information Administration.

Locally, the average gas price in Rhode Island is up 5 cents from last week (\$2.95), averaging \$3 per gallon. Today's price is 4 cents higher than a month ago (\$2.96) and 33 cents lower than a year ago (\$3.33). Rhode Island's average gas price is 25 cents lower than the national average.

"After market routs last week, wholesale prices for summer blended gasoline are now equivalent to winter blend prices seen in February," said Jillian Young, director of public relations for AAA Northeast, in a press release. "If markets continue to sag, it could lead to cheaper gasoline prices, but it will take some time for the lower crude and wholesale gasoline prices to reach retail pumps."

AAA Northeast's April 7 survey of fuel prices found the current national average up 9 cents from last week (\$3.16), averaging \$3.25 gallon. Today's national average price is 15 cents higher than a month ago (\$3.10) and 34 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.59).

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### The City of Warwick Announces Contributive Support Grant Program

The City of Warwick is inviting non-profit organizations who provide services to residents of the City of Warwick to apply for a Contributive Support Grant

For an application, please call  
Roberta Steinle  
Human Services, City of Warwick  
401-468-4101  
Roberta.a.steinle@warwickri.gov  
or download a copy at  
www.warwickri.gov

**Deadline to apply is: Monday, May 5, 2025**

**Frank J. Picozzi Mayor**

# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Rhode Home Rescue

## Joe Joe

Joe Joe is a small senior (nine years old) pup who's looking for a warm lap and lots of love! He's a pint-sized guy who loves being with you, playing in the yard and enjoys yummy treats! He is best suited for an adult, quiet home with a fenced in back yard. If you have been searching for an adorable companion please contact Rhode Home Rescue via email: [rhodehomerescue@gmail.com](mailto:rhodehomerescue@gmail.com) or visit their website for more information at [rhodehomerescue.org](http://rhodehomerescue.org) Joe Joe will be waiting to fill your heart and home with love!

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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## The Buzz

**April 10: Oakland Beach Association Meeting** will be held on Thursday, April 10 at 6 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 715 Oakland Beach Ave., Warwick (side entrance).

**Saturday, April 12th Conimicut Village Association is sponsoring the annual Easter Egg Hunt** at 10:00 SHARP at Clegg Field on Winter Ave., in Conimicut Village off West Shore Rd. If you come at 10:01, you will miss the event. Take pictures with the Easter Bunny, get your free goodie bag (no candy) and egg hunt with hundreds of prizes. Bring your own basket or bag. Two age groups: Kindergarten and Younger and 1st Grade to 9 Y/O. [www.conimicutvillageassociation.com](http://www.conimicutvillageassociation.com)

**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](mailto:warwicksewer@warwickri.gov) or call 401-739-4949.

**April 12: Boat America, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 07-08** is offering a one-day boating class that meets all the requirements for the RI DEM Boater Safety Identification Card. It will happen from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Warwick Police Department Community Room, 99 Veterans Memorial Dr. Please call 508-343-0235 to reserve your seat. Please no walk-ins. Class size is limited to 22 students. Payment of \$50 in cash or check made out to USCGAUX Flotilla 0708 accepted from 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. before the first class on April 12. Bring photo ID, as the USCG and RI state test will be administered during the class. Please bring your own lunch and note-taking materials.

**April 13, St. Mary's Church in Cranston** will bury a time capsule as part of the church's 100-year celebration on Palm Sunday after the 11 a.m. Mass. It will include all related historical memorabilia (photos with names, dates, events, small plaques, etc.) from parishioners donated to the time capsule to immortalize their family.

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

**April 13: 20th Annual RI Community Food Bank Benefit Concert** will be held Sunday at Lakewood Baptist Church, 255 Atlantic Ave., Warwick 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Admission: at least one non-perishable food item for West Bay Marketplace and a free-will offering will also be taken (check payable to RI Community Food Bank). Refreshments and fellowship following the concert.

**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 media 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](http://warwickcfa.org)

**April 19: Oakland Beach Easter Egg Hunt** will begin at noon sharp. Children ages 9 and under are invited to search for eggs at the Oakland Beach Elementary School field, behind the school. Free and open to all.

**April 19 A Spring Fling Dinner at the First Baptist Church**, 1613 Main Street, West Warwick from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. This is an old-fashioned family style meal: Saugy hot dogs, beans, green salad, homemade potato and macaroni salads, brown bread, assorted desserts, coffee, punch and water. There will also be a Spring Bulb Sale. Adults/\$15, Children 6 – 10/\$8 and under 5/Free. All proceeds to go to help defray the cost to replace and install a new boiler system.

**April 25: The Warwick Wildlife and Conservation Commission** will hold its 20th annual Arbor Day tree planting Friday at 11 a.m. at Sherman school.

**April 25: CCRI Dental Hygiene Clinic** to host free Sealant and Fluoride Community Day for children and teens on Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Lincoln Campus. It will provide free dental sealants and fluoride treatments for children and teens ages 6 to 17.

**April 26, Almost May Breakfast The Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ**, 546 Budlong Rd, Cranston, will host its 41st Almost May Gourmet Breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. with continuous seating throughout the morning. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ages 5 to 12, and will be available at the door.

**April 26 Earth Day cleanup with the Edgewood Waterfront Preservation Association.** The cleanup will be from 10 a.m. to noon at Stillhouse Cove in Edgewood and Pawtuxet Park. To register visit: [www.stillhousecove.org](http://www.stillhousecove.org)

**April 26, Wyman Elementary School and playground cleanup** from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. All are welcome to come and volunteer to help make the school sparkle.

**April 26: Brayton Cemetery cleanup** will be on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Apponaug. Pouring rain date is Sunday, April 27.

**April 27: Paint Party Fundraiser** will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church Hall at 111 West Shore Rd., on Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$45 per person. Sign up today at [www.jjartworks.com](http://www.jjartworks.com), click on "buy tickets" under "paint parties." Find April 27 and click "register now."

**April 27: Chamber of Orchestra of Barrington** at St. John's will host a spring concert on Sunday at 3 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, on 191 County Rd., Barrington. This will be the final concert of founding Music Director Edward Markward's eight-year tenure. It is free admission with patrons encouraged to pay what they can. Please consider bringing a canned food item for St. John's Outreach Program.

**May 3: The Cranston Public Library and Notable Works** will hold a special event celebrating the six poets who will read their winning poems from the 2025 Notable Works' Poetry Contest. The event will take place in the William Hall Library Auditorium at 1825 Broad St., Cranston on Saturday at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is free and open to the public and complimentary refreshments will be served. Registration is not required, but those who register up to three days before the event will receive an email reminder about the program. Pre-Registration Link: <https://events.cranstonlibrary.org/event/13004740>.

**May 4: St. Rita Church will celebrate its 90th anniversary and St. Timothy Church** will celebrate its 75th anniversary beginning with a Mass at St. Timothy at 1799 Warwick Ave., at 9 a.m. and a Mass at St. Rita Church at 722 Oakland Beach Ave., at 10:30 a.m. This will be followed by a dinner/dance at 1 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, 301 Greenwich Ave. Please call St. Rita's rectory at 401-738-1800 or St. Timothy's rectory at 401-739-9552 for further information.

**June 23 - August 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](http://warwickcfa.org)

Call for Volunteers Gaspee Days Committee: Volunteers are needed for all aspects of planning the Gaspee Days celebration. The next Gaspee Days Committee meeting will be held on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Aspray Boat House, 2 E. View St. For more information on the Gaspee Days Committee visit [www.gaspee.com](http://www.gaspee.com)

**Conimicut Village Art Festival** is now accepting artist and maker applications for its annual Art Festival on Saturday, Oct. 4. Space is limited, so don't wait to apply. Original artwork will be reviewed by a jury committee and artists will be notified of their acceptance by July 15. Questions or to request an application (\$60 registration fee) can be directed to [conimicutvillage@gmail.com](mailto:conimicutvillage@gmail.com) or for more information visit [conimicut.org](http://conimicut.org).

**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 to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 3 to 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 5 to 6:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Information and registration, call 401-415-4664; or email to: [info@HopeDementia.org](mailto: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 7-9 p.m. Do you play fiddle, guitar, Irish flute, pennywhistle, bodhran, mandolin, banjo, concertina, accordion, folk harp, hammer dulcimer, Appalachian dulcimer, banjo, acoustic bass, ukulele, keyboard, recorder – or do you sing? All skill levels welcome. Visit [www.gaspeecelticjam.org](http://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 Massachusetts. Rhode Island Active Toastmasters holds its meetings at New England Institute of Technology in East Greenwich, in Room N214 from 6:30-8:30 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: Fall River Toastmasters Meeting**, serving both Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts the Fall River Toastmasters holds its meetings. Doors open at 6 p.m. and meeting is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join us at The Chamber, 200 Pocasset St, Fall River, Massachusetts, 2nd floor. For more information, call Sean DaCosta at (508) 840-6621. All are welcome!

**Every Thursday: The Warwick Rotary Club meets from noon 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 St., 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.wemakeri.com/get-a-job-thursday](http://www.wemakeri.com/get-a-job-thursday) or contact Mike at (401) 232-0077 x109.

**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](http://namirhodeisland.org). or call 401-331-3060. No pre-registration for these monthly groups is necessary.

*Editor's Note: To submit your news to The Buzz, send information and photos to Rosegalie at [rosegalie@beaconmediari.com](mailto:rosegalie@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.*



Urban Air employees blast confetti cannons as City Council President Anthony Sinapi, left, Mayor Frank Picozzi, right, and David Medeiros look on after cutting the ribbon together. *Contributed photo by Sarah Dell*

## Indoor park wants to give Warwick a bounce

By **ADAM ZANGARI**  
Beacon Media  
Staff Writer

Rhode Island's largest indoor adventure park, as it markets itself, is now open in Warwick for the public to enjoy.

Urban Air Trampoline and Adventure Park, at 300 Quaker Lane, held a ribbon-cutting last Friday after a soft opening earlier in the week.

Owner David Medeiros said he got involved with Urban Air because he wanted to own his own business. Urban Air was founded in 2011 and now has hundreds of locations nationwide and in Canada. The Warwick location is the company's first franchise in Rhode Island.

"We just wanted to do something fun," Medeiros said. "That was the name of the game, really — how do we have fun at work every day?"

From there came a period of about two years to find the right space to build the park, as well as designing and constructing it, according to Medeiros.

"Rhode Island has a lot of people who support local businesses," Medeiros said. "People really stay in Rhode Island, so we were really attracted to this market. And when we were looking at

real estate, Warwick is kind of the commercial hub of the state, some would say, so that's why we opened here.

The amenities at Urban Air, Medeiros said, include an arcade, a zipline, bumper cars, climbing walls, laser tag, a rope course, trampolines and a play area for younger kids. Medeiros said one of his favorite parts about Urban Air is seeing kids overcome their fears on rides like the park's zipline.

Seeing the park officially open, Medeiros said, felt like the culmination of years of hard work.

"It's taken us a while to get here, but I'm really proud of the team for getting it all over the goal line," he said. "It was a proud moment, and it was really fun to meet with the mayor and Chamber of Commerce and celebrate the opening with them."

He hopes that as the park becomes more enmeshed in the community, it becomes the main stop for anyone thinking about hosting a party or any large event.

Getting involved in the Warwick community, Medeiros said, was what he was most looking forward to.

"I think that's the thing that we're really the most excited about," Medeiros

said. "Establishing ourselves in the community, helping all the local non-profits, we really want to help people in need as much as we can. Every way that we can give back to the community and help those in need, we're really excited for."



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## AG: No violation in school board's closed session

By **JOHN HOWELL**  
Warwick Beacon Editor

Attorney General Peter Neronha has found that the Warwick School Committee did not violate the Opening Meetings Law when it discussed possible budget actions in an executive session last December.

Reaction to the ruling has prompted crossfire between School Committee Chair Shaun Galligan and former School Committee member and Councilman Bob Cushman. Galligan suggested an apology from Cushman for filing his open-meetings violation complaint to the Attorney General's office, saying it cost time and money for the School Department to defend its action.

Cushman is not about to apologize.

He says had he not brought the action, the public would have never learned the committee considered a suit against the city in an effort to gain a greater municipal appropriation.

"The goal of the complaint was to gain more understanding about how the School Committee planned to address the issue." (a projected \$9-million deficit in the current operating budget. "This complaint succeeded in providing that insight. It was never about winning a case but uncovering for Warwick taxpayers what the School Committee was trying to hide. My recent letter to the editor that you published touched on that issue," Cushman wrote in an email.

In his complaint, Cushman noted there is nothing in the law that allows for the committee to discuss budgetary items in a closed session.

"Those were accusations, just that, accusations," Galligan said of Cushman's complaint. He said it's customary for the committee to discuss sensitive issues behind closed doors.

"By the end of the day it was a frivolous complaint. Maybe he should have done a little more research," said Galligan.

Cushman pressed on.

"Mr. Galligan promised taxpayers and city leaders in December 2024 that he would ensure total transparency regarding the salary deficit facing the School Department.

"After reading affidavits filed by the School Committee, it was apparent that the School Committee wanted to hide a possible Caruolo Act lawsuit against the city. The School Committee response also revealed that a report was provided by a hired consultant on Dec. 17, costing taxpayers \$15,750. This report was not disclosed on the Dec. 30 School Committee meeting agenda, was never discussed in public or provided to Warwick taxpayers who paid for it and was withheld from Mayor Picozzi and the City Council," Cushman wrote.

Galligan replied that the school administration and committee are "operating in a compliant way."

"None of us are doing this for the money," said Galligan.

He added that this isn't the first time the attorney general has ruled against Cushman and that he personally takes pride in his values.

In the ruling, the attorney general said there was no finding of a violation because the executive session included discussion of possible litigation under the Caruolo Act, and discussing possible litigation is permissible in a closed session.

*Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! He has risen as He said, Alleluia!*

## A Blessed Easter!

### HOLY WEEK AT OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Masses at 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am & 5:00 pm

Palm branches will be blessed at all Masses

Solemn Procession of Palms from Mercy Park at the 10:30 am Mass

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK, APRIL 14, 2025

Masses at 7:30 am & 12:05 pm

Chrism Mass at Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul, 6:00 pm

Confessions 6:00 pm -8:00pm with two Priests

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK, APRIL 15, 2025

Masses at 7:30 am & 12:05 pm

SPY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025

Masses at 7:30 am & 12:05 pm

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

Office of Readings & Morning Prayer at 8:00 am

Mass of the Lord's Supper with Mandatum at 7:00 pm

Adoration at the Altar of Repose until 12:00 am

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025

Office of Readings & Morning Prayer at 8:00 am

Stations of the Cross at 3:00 pm

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion & Veneration of the Cross at 7:00 pm

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2025

Office of Readings & Morning Prayer at 8:00 am

Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 pm

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025

Mass of the Lord's Resurrection at 7:30 am, 9:00 am & 10:30 am

No 5:00 pm Evening Mass on Easter Sunday

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# 50 years of keeping public officials honest

By JOHN HOWELL  
Warwick Beacon Editor

Interviewed soon after taking the job in 1992, Peder Schaefer was asked what it took to be the city's finance director.

Two weeks ago, soon after Mayor Frank Picozzi announced Schaefer would retire from the job after 50-plus years in government service, the director recalled his answer.

"You need to be persistent," Schaefer said. And indeed, persistence underscores Schaefer's career. He pursues the tiniest of details until he gets answers. It has made for clocklike performance in the delivery of everything from annual budgets to the submission of grants, the sale of bonds and the projection of costs essential to government operations.

Clocklike and determined: "Stick to your guns if your numbers are right," he said. "You can't go with the wind."

It's not a job Schaefer envisioned as a political science major at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, until he took a course in public administration. He was interested and decided to pursue a graduate degree in public administration, but not before taking a year off being a "ski bum" and then some time on Block Island.

Then he looked at his options and concluded Syracuse was an institution where graduates went into government jobs. Syracuse was the only school to which he applied. It turned out to be the right decision. On weekends he worked the desk at the Holiday Inn at Exit 39 West on the New York Thruway and with spring break of his graduation year he wrote two letters – one to the state budget office and the other to a federal internship program that would have landed him in Washington.

## Choice was made easy

Two days later he got a call from state budget director John Murray, who Schaefer remembers as a "brilliant man." Schaefer was offered a job. It was an "easy decision" that can be credited with keeping Schaefer in Rhode Island rather than launching a career in Washington.

At \$10,600 a year, the state job paid \$500 more than Washington.

He stayed in the state budget office for 17 years, a job that put him in contact with state officials and naturally the governor's office. He didn't always agree with the hierarchy and the game plan when it came to the long-term state costs. That was the case with former Gov. Ed DiPrete's plan to reduce costs by offering early-retirement incentives – which ended up costing more. "I knew it was bad when it happened," he said.

He worked for a year as a public finance consultant for the RI League of Cities and Towns, RI Medical Society and Public Education fund and then became the director of research at the League of Cities and Towns.

## First Warwick landing

He left the league in 1993 to work for Warwick during the administration of former Gov. Bruce Sundlun. It was through his connections from Providence Country Day School that he knew Lincoln Chafee and Jonathan Stevens. Chafee and Stevens had been classmates since first grade in Cowesett School.

It was 1992 and Charles Donovan was up for reelection for mayor. It looked to be an easy race for Donovan until a contentious budget hearing and the Democratic Party nomination. Donovan decided to run as an independent rather than face a primary with Michael Brophy thereby setting up a three way race with Chafee, a former councilman, running as a Republican.

At the time the high volume of Warwick's trash at the landfill, compared to other municipalities was an issue. Why was Warwick generating so much trash? Schaefer



Peder Schaefer cracks a smile Friday afternoon, only hours from retiring on his last day as full time city finance director. Submitted photo by Melissa Correia

researched the matter discovering Truk Away that had the city contract was disposing of commercial refuse along with municipal waste to take advantage of the lower municipal tipping rate.

"That was a big one," Chafee says of the issue. Another election issue raised by Schaefer, Chafee recalled, was the fact the city hadn't performed an annual audit as required in several years.

"He was invaluable," Chafee said of Schaefer's advice during that campaign and the years that followed as his finance director.

## Chafee depended on Schaefer

He characterized Schaefer, who was a couple of years ahead of him at Providence Country Day School, as a "dour Norwegian." Chafee said the City Council loved him because they could trust him to deliver the "unvarnished truth."

"I wouldn't do anything without consulting Peder," said Chafee.

Following the Chafee administration, Schaefer worked the state Department of Administration as chief of the office of municipal affairs. It wasn't long before he was back with Chafee, who had been appointed to complete the term of his late father, U.S. Sen. John Chafee. But Schaefer didn't go to Washington. He worked as chief budget analyst for the state budget office chief in the Division of Municipal Finance, had an 11-year run as assistant director of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns and then returned to Warwick as finance director in 2021.

Chafee had a role in bringing Schaefer back to Warwick. Picozzi was in his campaign office following the 2020 election cleaning things out when Chafee dropped in unannounced. Picozzi was still putting his team together with the position of finance director a big hole. Off the cuff and not knowing where Schaefer had landed, Picozzi said he wished he had a Peder Schaefer.

Chafee said he would call him, and the link was made. "It's a huge loss," Picozzi said recently of Schaefer's

departure. He credited Schaefer for building the financial framework to address a rapidly deteriorating fleet of sanitation trucks and aging fire apparatus and police cruisers. Much of the COVID money that flowed into the city went into capital costs rather than operating costs that would have resulted in structural deficits once the federal money dried up.

## Working through the city budget

Schaefer will stay on three days a week to help with the city's FY 2026 budget.

Picozzi noted that Schaefer is leaving the city with a \$35.5-million fund balance plus a \$3-million surplus for the last year.

"He has so much knowledge ... he's so respected in the state," Picozzi said.

Looking back at his first stint as Warwick finance director, Schaefer credits then-Ward 5 Councilman Carlo Pisaturo with the forward thinking of a \$130-million sewer bond. Pisaturo reasoned that as the sewer system was built, fewer would vote for sewers since they had them. While the bond wasn't sufficient to completely build out the system, it enabled sewer extensions along the waterfront that would have become problematic as the state looked to enforce clean water regulations.

It was through his city job that Schaefer met his future wife, Elizabeth Rau. Rau was a Providence Journal reporter covering Warwick and a regular at City Hall meetings and press conferences. They crossed paths professionally, but it was not until they were both waiting outside an Ethics Commission that they got to know each other.

"We started talking and three years later there were two kids," he says with a laugh.

## Daunting city numbers

Oddly, Schaefer doesn't think of himself as an accountant, although he is a numbers guy. And the numbers right now look daunting with upcoming school bonds.

He notes that much of the general obligation sewer bonds have been paid off, but general-fund debt retirement will double annual costs to more than \$25 million. While that will be reduced when the state reimburses about 55% of school construction costs, that "won't happen until the kids walk through the doors," said Schaefer.

"We've got wonderful accountants here who make me look good," said Schaefer. He went on to name Tax Collector Kayla Jones and Assessor Neal Dupuis. And he said he would be lost without the technical expertise of Phil Carlucci.

Schaefer is dismayed by what's happening in Washington.

"He [Trump] is trying to do everything by executive order. If you want to change benefits, Medicare, tax administration, then make a suggestion to Congress and do it by law," he said. In an opinion piece published by the Providence Journal, Schaefer scored Elon Musk.

"Elon Musk developed a cost-effective company for launching rocket ships, was successful in creating a company that used to make a profit selling boring and ugly electric vehicles, but is someone who also bought Twitter for \$44 billion and has seen its value plummet under his leadership to \$9.4 billion. This is someone with a spotty track record and little patience for doing things the diligent and painstaking old-fashioned way," he wrote.

Schaefer is careful with his own money.

With his wife's approval, he bought a used sailboat that he looks forward to cruising to Potter's Cove on Prudence Island, picking up a mooring, spending the night and then sailing back to Warwick Cove. Newport is just too crowded for him. Over the winter he had the boat's name removed.

It's not surprising he's renaming it "Persistence."

# Winman Honor Roll for Quarter 2

## High Honors Grade 6

Emma Carty, Abigail Clinton, Mackenzie D'Antuono, Sophia DeAlmo, Piper Dutcher, Emery Eaton, Noah Garcia-Lara, Jacen Gardner, Evey Hallam, Mason Keller, Matthew Lang, William Lang, Miller McGuinness, Madeline McNeil, Kellan Meredith, Colin Myers, Lennox O'Connell, Arvind Vinod Kumar Noelle Weldy

## Honors Grade 6

Isabella Antunes, Ava Barrolle, Robert Bell, Annabelle Blazier, Henry Boutwell, Lillian Briggs, Wesley Caetano, Daniel Centeio, Elena Chaj, Emilia Chaj, Aman Ciju Nair, Giuliana Ciotti, Samantha Cordle, Carter Dancause, Demi DeAlmo, Carter DeJesus, Iseye Drechsler, Abigail Fife, Robert Fraser, Ella Gesualdi, Atticus Gomes, Benjamin Goodine, Mia Goodine, Cormick Hayes, Brayden Igo, Xylah Johnson, Matthew LaBossiere, Arianna Laine, Brooklyn Laskowski, Alejandro Mendez, Noah Neirinckx, Sophia Noh, Vienna Oldrid, Grace Payne, Alexis Pelletier, Connor Perrino, Marcos Rapoza, Finley Robertson, Conner Ross, Noah Sary, Liam Shockley, Audrey Shottek, Bradley Silva, Dakota Sloan, Kinsey Tran, Lorenzo Ucci, Evlyn Vinod, McKenna Viquiert, Owen Whitehouse, Grace Yates, Carmella Zambrano

## High Honors Grade 7

Jocelyn Anderson, Cole Auclair, Christopher Baldassi, Saydee Bence, Rileigh Burrows, Cali Caruso, Dani Eastwood, Hadley King, Nolan Lavature, Maddox Long, Jonathan Madden, John McAniff, Riley McKiernan, Thomas Monk, Haley Mulcahey, Eloise Persson, Ava Resnick, Maya Reynolds, Keira Rose, Sadie Rotz, Mia Skaltsis, Lily Sorice, Sarah Sullivan, Ivy von Maffei, Callum Way, Adelynn Yates, Brenton Zagryn

## Honors Grade 7

Grace Aligo, Gianna Andrade, Ethan Banspach, Quinn Bears, Lily Canfield, Braelyn-Qwynn Caputo, Noah Carey, Daniel Decosta, Landon Dutcher, Collin Elsdorfer, Colby Fales, Dylan Fogarty, Gabriel Gonzaga, Zoe Hambly, Ryan Hanley, Madison Kavanagh, Kaleigh Leavitt, Allen Lim, Avery Lourenco, Mylah Major, Jackson Mandola, Hayden Mattox, Kyle McGuire, George Melendez, Aleahbelle Mendez, Violet Millette, Lola Millette, Connor Moua, Layah Moua, Dilan Murray, Mia Parks, Dylan Pavao, Dawsey Persson, Devagya Punetha, Keaton Rounds-Illaraza, Nicolas Mateo Santos de Castro Torres Melo, Drew Simpkins, Kenley Smith, Patrick Sweeney, Sheyli Marianita Urizar Noriega, Sebastian VanBlarcom, Cameron Ventura, Theodore Watson, Josephine Webb, Miles Welch, Nora Wood

## High Honors Grade 8

Yara Alkassem Alosman, Jayden Ball-Rodrigues, Samuel Breault, Anabelle Consalter, Natasha DeCosta, Alice DeGaetano, Ryan DeSilva, Lily Dillon, Sophie Goodridge, Juliana Janton, Sophia Madriaga, Owen Mahon, Jordyn Mailloux, William Mulcahey, Riley O'Donnell, Ark Patel, Max Richmond, Giuliana Simas, Soleil St Onge, Cassidy Szymkowicz

## Honors Grade 8

Chloe Becker-Hebert, Ashley Brightman, Carolyn Cudmore, Emily Curley, Megan Curley, Dylan D'Antonio, Sydney DeCosta, Addison Dempsey, Evelyn Dillon, David Ellingwood, Nathan Flynn, Natalie Garcia, Augustin Gubala, Amaya Hahn Sweet, Hannah Hochman, Vayda Johnson, Danielle Lafreniere, Benjamin Laine, Joanna Le, Summer LeBlanc, Kaylee Leonard, Kayleigh McCaffrey, Jason Morin, Grace Morris, Siena Mulcahey, Audrey Neil, Rosalie O'Hara, Ryan O'Neil, Ariana Pacheco, Kylie Pagano, Emersyn Page, Samantha Paiva, Maanya Patel, Sophia Politelli, duncan Robertson, Jackson Rotz, Jacob Rush, Vanessa Santo, Peyton Sisto, Justin Sliney, Alexander Smith, Kelly Tran, Raquel Umoh, Alinah UsSpaziano, Ava Velino, Griffin Weldy, Reilly White, Marielle Wood

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# Howell to be inducted into RI Heritage Hall of Fame

The Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame announced the selection of nine Rhode Islanders for membership in the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame.

According to Board President Lawrence Reid, the Hall of Fame, consisting of illustrious Rhode Islanders from Roger Williams and the Chief Sachems of the Narragansett and the Wampanoag tribes to the present, was created in 1965 to honor “any individual who has brought credit to Rhode Island, brought Rhode Island into prominence, and contributed to the history and heritage of the state.”

This is Reid’s first annual induction ceremony as president.

The Inductee Class of 2025 (listed alphabetically) with their inductors (who are Hall of Fame Inductees or Directors) are as follows:

Maria Gemma Corcelli – Executive Director of the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Center, social activist (to be inducted by Director Daniel Harrington).

Olivia Culp (McCaffrey) – Miss Rhode Island, Miss USA, and Miss Universe (2012), actress, model, businesswoman (to be inducted by Director Emeritus James Marusak, Esquire).

Steven Feinberg – Executive Director of the Rhode Island Film & Television Office, writer, film producer, and director (to be inducted by Director Emeritus Kenneth Dooley, 2018 Inductee).

John Howell – Dean of Rhode Island newspaper publishing, editor of the Warwick Beacon and civic leader. He served as the publisher of Beacon Communications, which publishes the Warwick Beacon, Cranston Herald, Johnston SunRise and The Reminder, from 1969 to 2024. (to be inducted by Director Michael Levesque).

Speaker Matthew J. Smith – former Speaker of the House, historian, professor, and Catholic lay leader (to be inducted by President Emeritus Dr. Patrick T. Conley, 1995 Inductee).

Lorén M. Spears – Executive Director, Tomaquag Museum, educator, Native American rights advocate (to be inducted by Dr. Scott Molloy, 2009 Inductee).

Dr. Joyce L. Stevos – Versatile educator, social reformer for African and Native American communities, Director of the Heritage Harbor Foundation (to be inducted by Dr. Debra Mulligan, Secretary, Director).



**JOHN HOWELL**

James Vincent – Social activist, former president of both the Urban League of Rhode Island and the Providence branch of the NAACP (to be inducted by Director Michael Levesque).

Thomas P. Whitten – Longtime Executive Director of the John Hope Settlement House, author, and social activist for the Black community (to be inducted by Director Emeritus Albert R. Beauparlant).

This year’s ceremony--the 59th--will take place on Saturday, May 3, at the Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet in Cranston. A 5 p.m. social hour will be followed by a 6 p.m. dinner, entertainment, and the induction ceremony.

General James D’Agostino, a Hall of Fame Director, is dinner chairman and is assisted by Director Lt. Colonel Dennis Morgan, who will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

The Pawtuxet Rangers Fife and Drum Corps will open the evening’s program followed by an invocation from Reverend Robert Marciano, pastor of St. Kevin Church in Warwick and then introductory remarks by President Reid. Dinner music will be provided by an array of well-known local musicians, some of whom are Hall of Fame inductees. Liliana Iavarone will sing the National Anthem.

The donation to the Heritage Hall of Fame for the dinner event is \$150.00 per person or \$1,200.00 for a table of 10.



## Counting on seals for healthy waters

Forty-three volunteer community scientists took to the water and shoreline to continue Save The Bay’s annual statewide seal count on Thursday, March 27. With support from the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, The Nature Conservancy and Environmental Protection Agency staff, the volunteers counted 755 seals living in Rhode Island waters.

“When planning the annual count – this was the 17th annual – we look to schedule it on a day at the height of seal season with ideal weather,” said Save The Bay Volunteer and Internship Manager July Lewis. “Despite the breezy conditions, the seals were out there enjoying the sun, reflected in a well-above-average number for the Bay and coast, and the most we’ve seen yet for Block

Island. Our community scientists’ efforts are pivotal as we continue our work to better understand these important and iconic animals.”

The harbor seal – the most commonly found seal in Narragansett Bay and along the southern coast – plays an essential role in the Bay’s ecology as a top predator species. Grey seals, spotted rarely in the Bay but more frequently on Block Island, can be found in coastal waters year-round. Earlier seal counts focused on seals in the Bay and along the coast. In recent years, with support from the Nature Conservancy on Block Island, Save The Bay has been able to get a comprehensive count for seals statewide. *Submitted photo*



## Conversations

The Education Committee for the Wethersfield Condominium Association welcomed the Warwick Beacon’s Life Matters columnist Linda Petersen to share the many interesting stories of her life, with an emphasis on the acceptance and love of others, including her five children with special needs. From left, Janet Nemirow, Joan Riley, Susan Feldman, Fran Audette and Pat Roche. *Submitted photo*

# Putt your skills to the test

## Boys & Girls Clubs tees up for mini-golf fundraiser

By **TARA MONASTESSE**  
*Beacon Media contributor*

Get ready to hit the astroturf. The annual Par-Tee mini-golf fundraiser is back for its second year, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Warwick is inviting folks to break out the golf clubs once again in support of a good cause.

And best of all? According to Warwick Boys & Girls Clubs CEO Lara D’Antuono, “You don’t have to be great at mini-golf.”

The clubhouse’s full-size gym will house two 9-hole courses for the evening, and catering from the 99 Restaurants will keep the event well-stocked with burgers, hot dogs, ribs, and cocktails. The centerpiece of the night will be the raffle drawing — with only 300 tickets to be sold, the \$10,000 cash prize is anyone’s game.

“I think it’s a great way for people to get into the club to see what we actually do on a daily basis with the kids, and the facilities that they’re in, and the great impact they have,” D’Antuono told the Beacon.

While the April 24 event is adults-only — alcohol will be served — kids are at the heart of it all. All proceeds from the event will go towards keeping the Boys & Girls Clubs affordable and accessible to local families, who rely on the club centers for childcare, meals and educational programming. While membership for children ages 5 to 18 comes with a small annual fee, scholarship applicants are never turned away, according to D’Antuono.

Raffle entries can be purchased at the event for \$100 each — or prior to on the Boys & Girls Clubs website, if you’d like snag one early. Registration for the event starts at \$50 each for individuals, while the \$150 “Tee for Two” package covers mini-golf for a pair and includes a raffle entry. The \$300 “Party of Fore” bundle admits four golfers and includes two raffle entries.

There’s something for everyone, whether you’re looking to get in some company bonding time or simply bringing friends and family along to earn some bragging rights.

“Come as you are,” D’Antuono said. “Stay for two hours, stay for 15 minutes, it’s really your choice. But either way, you’d be helping the 10,000-plus kids we serve every year.”

Holly Ferrara, the event’s planning chair, said that this



Lara D’Antuono, CEO of the Warwick Boys & Girls Clubs, announced the \$10,000 Cash Raffle Drawing with assistance from Warwick Police Chief Brad Connor and Event Chair, Holly Ferrara. *Submitted photo*

year’s Par-Tee will be similar to the first one: a “fun, casual, enjoyable evening” where participants can have a good time even if they don’t play mini-golf. There will be one new addition: a silent auction where attendees can bid on artwork, produced by both local artists and the Clubs’ very own child members.

Over the past year, the nonprofit Boys & Girls Clubs has given out everything from Thanksgiving meals to school supplies to local families. Across the Clubs’ three locations, children are given access to a variety of educational opportunities, including cooking classes, a recording studio for learning how to produce podcasts, and a screen-printing machine.

So far, sponsors for this year’s event include Beacon

Mutual, Greenwood Credit Union, Navigant Credit Union, Saccoccio & Associates, the Warwick Beacon, Prime Heating, SiteScapes, 99 Restaurants, BankRI, Dave’s Marketplace, MicroClean, Sweeney Real Estate & Appraisal, and Domino’s Pizza.

Sponsorships can be purchased online, with the lowest tier starting at \$200. Proceeds from the various sponsorship tiers will go towards providing resources for the Boys & Girls Clubs, such as workbooks, snacks, STEAM activities and maintenance for club vans.

The mini golf event tees off on Thursday, April 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Par-Tee fundraiser will be held at the Oakland Beach Clubhouse.



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● NEIT from page 1

with no proven record of success. As such, he said, NE Tech chose the four programs based on which majors were most in demand.

“Our Career Services Department helps our graduates connect with employers, and so they’re very in tune with what the employment needs are in the local area and regional area and, for that matter, even nationally,” Sherman said. “So when we talked with them about it, we asked what they would select as the top four programs based on employment demand, and these four rose to the top.”

The format, Sherman said, would help students save money while allowing them to make money sooner as part of a growing workforce. He hopes it will help NE Tech increase its enrollment numbers as well.

“In many institutions across the country, there’s been a dip in enrollments, and it’s primarily caused by the fact that the demographics of college-age students is shifting



The New England Institute of Technology's East Greenwich campus. The school recently reduced tuition 47% in its building-trades program and now is offering a two-year bachelor's degree in four majors – cybersecurity, business management, graphic design and criminal justice. *Submitted photo*

– there’s less and less of them,” Sherman said. “Students are going to get a very high-quality education that produces meaningful skill sets that will help them

get employed, and there’s an opportunity to start earning income one or two years prior to their peers who go through a more traditional pathway. So there’s that oppor-

tunity ... that I think will attract a lot of students to come to these programs. It benefits everybody, really.”

Sherman said that the students in the program will be monitored to determine whether they’re achieving the same learning outcomes as students receiving a traditional bachelor’s degree.

If the program is successful, Sherman said, NE Tech would ask the New England Commission of Higher Education to approve more two-year bachelor’s programs.

“We’re going to collect lots of evidence,” Sherman said. “We have lots of ways to determine whether or not they’re receiving these same outcomes. And if we see this as something we’re successful in doing, we’re hoping that we can do this across the board with some of our other programs. We honestly think that if we are successful, especially with the integration of the general-education outcomes into the major classes, we think it could revolutionize baccalaureate-level education. Time will tell.”

# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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By JENNIFER COATES

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# Worship with your family this Easter

## First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rev. Michael T. Lembke  
124 Division St., E Greenwich  
401-884-5572  
firstlutheraneg1@gmail.com  
firstlutheraneg.org

Thursday, April 17  
Maundy Thursday – 7:00 p.m.  
Friday, April 18  
Good Friday – 12:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 20  
Easter Service – 10:00 a.m.

## Norwood Baptist Church RI

Reverend George Barclay Jr.  
48 Budlong Ave, Warwick  
401-941-7040  
www.norwoodbaptistchurchri.org

Sunday, April 13  
Palm Sunday – 10:30 a.m.  
Thursday, April 17  
Maundy Thursday – 7:00 p.m.  
Friday, April 18  
Good Friday – 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 20  
Easter Sunday – 10:30 a.m.

## Phillips Memorial Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Amy L. Chilton  
565 Pontiac Ave, Cranston  
401-467-3300  
www.phillipschurch.org

Sunday, April 13  
Lent Sunday Easter Musical – 10:00 a.m.  
Thursday, April 17  
Maundy Thursday Communion Service – 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday, April 20  
Easter Service – 10:00 a.m.  
with  
Children's Easter Egg Hunt to follow

## Trinity Episcopal Church

The Rev. Susan Wrathall  
139 Ocean Ave., Cranston  
401-941-4324  
office@trinitycranston.org  
www.trinitycranston.org

Thursday, April 17  
Maundy Thursday – 7:00 p.m.  
Friday, April 18  
Good Friday – 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, April 19  
Easter Vigil – 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 20  
Easter Holy Eucharist – 8:00 a.m.  
Easter Festival Eucharist – 10:00 a.m.

## St. Paul Roman Catholic Church

Rev. Thomas J. Woodhouse  
Deacon Paul M. Shea  
One Saint Paul Place, Cranston  
401-461-5734  
office@saintpaulcranston.org/saintpaulcranston.org

Saturday, April 12  
Palm Sunday Vigil Mass – 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday, April 13  
Palm Sunday Masses – 8:00, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, April 15  
Tenebrae – 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, April 17  
Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:00 p.m.  
Friday, April 18  
Stations of the cross followed by solemn procession – 3:00 p.m.  
Service of the Lord's passion, veneration of the cross and Holy Communion – 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, April 19  
Holy Night of Easter Vigil & Easter Mass – 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 20  
Easter Sunday Masses – 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

## First Congregational Church of Warwick and St. Rita's

**Easter Sunrise Service**  
Pastor Michael Ashe & Marcia Beagan  
The Seawall of Oakland Beach  
715 & 722 Oakland Beach Ave., Warwick  
401-738-3377  
UccWarwick@Gmail.com  
FCCWRI.ORG

Sunday April 20  
Easter Sunrise Service – 7:00 a.m.  
Easter Church Worship – 10:15 a.m.

## Pilgrim Lutheran Church

1817 Warwick Avenue, Warwick  
401-739-2937  
parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org

Sunday, April 13  
Palm Sunday Service – 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday, April 20  
Easter Sunday Service – 9:30 a.m.

## SouthPointe Christian Church

Pastor Jamie Lankford  
200 Pettaconsett Ave., Warwick  
401-821-9800  
southpointeri.com

Friday, April 18  
Good Friday Experience – 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
45-minute interactive experience  
Sunday, April 20  
Easter Service – 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

## St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Jarrett Kerbel, Interim Rector  
99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI  
401-884-4116  
www.stlukeseg.org

Thursday, April 17  
Maundy Thursday Worship Meal – 6:00 p.m.  
Maundy Thursday Worship – 7:00 p.m.  
Friday, April 18  
Good Friday Worship – 12:00 p.m.  
Ecumenical Taizé Worship – 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, April 19  
Easter Vigil Worship – 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 20  
Easter Sunday Worship – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

## Spring Green Memorial Church

Pastor Shelton Rucker  
1350 Warwick Avenue  
Warwick  
401-463-8328  
springgreenchurch@yahoo.com  
http://www.sgmcri.wordpress.com

Friday, April 18  
Good Friday Service – 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 20  
Easter Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.

## Woodbury Union Church

Rev. Deb Packard  
58 Beach Ave., Warwick  
401-737-8232  
WoodburyChurchRI@gmail.com

Sunday, April 13  
Palm Sunday – 10:00 a.m.  
Thursday, April 17  
Maundy Thursday – 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 20  
Easter Sunday – 10:00 a.m.

## Lakewood Baptist Church

Ron Provençal, Pastor  
255 Atlantic Ave, Warwick  
401-781-1136  
www.lakewoodbaptistchurchri.com

Sunday, April 20, 2025  
Sunrise Service @ Warwick Neck Lighthouse – 6:00 a.m.  
Easter Service – 10:00 a.m.

## St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

Fr. Scott R. Lee  
3257 Post Road, Warwick  
401-737-4141  
parishadmin@stbarnabaswarwick.org

Thursday, April 17  
Maundy Thursday – 7:00 p.m.  
The church will remain open for 1 hour after the service, giving the opportunity to "Keep Awake" with Christ to pray.  
Friday, April 18  
Good Friday – 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, April 19  
Easter Vigil – 7:00 p.m.  
Easter Sunday, April 20  
Sunrise Service @Warwick Neck Lighthouse – 6:00 a.m.

Easter Services – Rite I – 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

## St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church and Bethany Ministry

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

Sunday, April 13  
Palm Sunday Passion Play Service with Communion and Palms – 9:30 a.m.  
Easter Egg Hunt in church yard after service  
Thursday, April 17  
Maundy Thursday Service with Communion – 7:00 p.m.  
Friday, April 18  
Good Friday Tenebrae Service at Matthew XXV – 2:00 p.m.  
Good Friday Tenebrae Service in Sanctuary – 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 20  
Easter Worship Service with Communion – 9:30 a.m.  
and  
First Communion

## St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Debra Bergeron, Senior Warden  
111 West Shore Road, Warwick  
401-737-3127  
office@stmarkswarwick.org

Saturday, April 12  
Eve of Palm Sunday Service – 5:00 p.m.  
Rev. Gary Sturni, presiding  
Sunday, April 13  
Palm Sunday Service – 9:00 a.m.  
Rev. Robert Saik, presiding  
Thursday, April 17  
Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00 p.m.  
Right Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely  
Bishop of Rhode Island, presiding  
Friday, April 18  
Good Friday Service – 7:00 p.m.  
Right Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely  
Bishop of Rhode Island, presiding  
Sunday, April 20  
Easter Service – 9:00 a.m.  
Right Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely  
Bishop of Rhode Island, presiding



# St. Kevin School students earn honors

The following students at St. Kevin School have achieved honors for the most current marking period:

<p><b>Honors</b></p> <p><b>Grade 6</b> Levi Ashton, Caleb Bergeron and Justin Kemp</p> <p><b>Grade 7</b> Aubrey Nichols and Siady Rodriguez</p> <p><b>Grade 8</b> Ethan Lopes</p> <p><b>High Honors</b></p> <p><b>Grade 6</b> Mckenzie Farias, Levi Korkuc, Grace Murphy and Kassidy Underwood</p> <p><b>Grade 7</b> Marcus Almanzar, Kennedy Fischer and John Glardon</p>	<p><b>Grade 8</b> Elizabeth Burghardt, Kaileigh Foley and Jack Jennings</p> <p><b>High Honors with Distinction</b></p> <p><b>Grade 6</b> Sophia Caccia, Abigail Gudas, JunYan Luo and Sergio Tejada</p> <p><b>Grade 7</b> Jackson Galoski, Jayden Leal and Jack Murphy</p> <p><b>Grade 8</b> Alex Almanzar, Celia Perrino, Mary Monahan and Michael Farias</p>
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## ● GOP LEADER from page 1

Republicans will once again look to create the office of an inspector general, which has proven to save millions in other states. He is looking at education, saying the state’s approach of “throwing money at it hasn’t worked.”

The high cost of energy is in his sights, too. Renewals – solar and wind – represent a small portion of the power the state needs. He favors relaxation of regulations to enable utilities to purchase nuclear and hydro power. He also argues that natural gas, which he said could be made 99%

## ● REVALUATION from page 1

### Values going up

There’s no question that given the spike in real estate values – especially in Warwick, where single family homes carried a median price of \$425,000 in February, according to the Rhode Island Real Estate Association – will increase assessed values dramatically from the last full revaluation in 2015. Full revaluations are performed every nine years. Statistical revaluations are done on the third and sixth year after a full revaluation.

Mike Pereira of June Realty, who is president-elect of the Rhode Island Association of Realtors, offered another way of gauging Warwick values. He totaled the

sale prices of Warwick homes for the last three years and came up with an average price for each year. He then compared those prices year over year. He found that for 2022, Warwick home prices increased by 10.5% from 2021. In 2023 and 2024 they increased by 9% each year.

“I don’t think prices of single family homes will ever come down,” he said. Furthermore, as he pointed out, the volume of Warwick sales always leads the state, which he attributes to its central Rhode Island location and density of housing. Fueling the market’s boom was the pandemic, which prompted remote work from home and made Rhode Island attractive because of its relatively affordable homes.

Pereira said 50% of single-family homebuyers are from out of state. As for those

## ● DIRECTOR from page 1

The School Committee on April 1 and takes effect July 1. Then there’s the new Toll Gate and Pilgrim high schools. Groundbreakings on the new schools are slated for this spring even though their projected costs are expected to exceed the \$350 million voters approved in 2022. Ward 5 Councilman Ed Ladouceur, who is chair of the council finance committee, is calling for a special election this spring for a vote on a second school bond to cover unexpected school costs of up to \$50 million. As of this week, a resolution has not come before the council to consider a special election, which would also require General Assembly approval.

That’s not all Enos will face. With legislative approval, but not the governor’s signature as he said he would do, the School Budget Commission is projected to be up and operating by the end of this month. Mayor Frank Picozzi proposed creation of the five-member commission soon after school officials disclosed they faced a deficit in the current operating budget. It’s taken this long to get off the ground.

Assistant Superintendent William McCaffrey, who is filling in for Lynn Dambruch while she is on personal leave, said Enos has made the rounds of school administrative offices and will be in periodically during school vacation next week. McCaffrey is enthusiastic about having Enos on the team, citing his experience with construction of the East Providence High School, which came in on budget at about \$190 million. Enos will join Carlyle Vincent, assistant controller, and Yarmayn Rodriguez, controller, to round out a trio that McCaffrey said will give the department a strong financial team.

“I’m very excited about being a part of the Warwick

efficient, should be explored.

Chippendale was asked what will become of toll gantries now that state efforts to give local truckers a break was knocked down by a federal court. He said legislators are looking at activating the tolls and option may be to activate only those gantries where there is a high level of out-of-state truck traffic. He doesn’t see the gantries being used to toll cars since that would be political suicide and besides, he noted, the toll legislation passed in 2016 includes a Republican amendment that expanding the tolls

selling, he said most sales result from unforeseen circumstances, whether it is a change in jobs, a divorce, a death or the loss of a job.

### Don’t panic, says Realtor

As for homeowners staying in Warwick, Pereira advises them “not to panic” when they get their revaluation notices.

“Warwick is a great city ... I don’t think residents should be concerned,” he said.

Assessor Dupuis cautions homeowners not to compare the value assigned to their property to the median price of homes in Warwick. Dupuis calls the median price of homes “misleading” because every property has its individual value. Moreover, he warns homeowners not to apply the per-

team ... rolling up my sleeves and diving in. There’s no time to be taking it slowly,” Enos said in a Friday interview. He said the first thing on his agenda is opening up communications and getting to know the culture of the city and its schools.

A Rhode Island native and resident of Barrington, Enos – and his wife, who works at the Rhode Island Department of Education – are the parents of two grown children. He said he is a point in his career to make a change and was impressed with the administrative team he met in Warwick. He met Picozzi two years ago when he and other city leaders took a tour of the new East Providence High School.

“It’s going to be a lot of work,” Enos said. He plans to spend time off owed him by East Providence to meet people in Warwick and orient himself in the system before officially starting. He said he is poised “for a great future with Warwick schools with the fantastic staff we have.”

East Providence hired Enos as school finance director in April 2018. Before that, he worked for 13 years as the director of administration for the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative.

In 2021 the Rhode Island Association of School Business Officials named Enos “School Business Official of the Year” for 2021-22.

In nominating Enos for the award, then-East Providence Schools Superintendent Kathryn Crowley, wife of Joseph Crowley, currently interim finance director for Warwick schools, wrote, “... two of Craig’s most welcome assets are his pleasant nature and ever-present smile. His is in a most demanding position; however, he is simultaneously able to relieve tension and get the job done.”

to cars would require a referendum.

Chippendale also sees the need to increase medical care, pointing out that the state’s Medicaid reimbursement rates are lower than those of Connecticut and Massachusetts and that is driving health care workers from certified nursing assistants to doctors out of the state.

“People able to leave are leaving,” he said. He also called for deregulation as a means of reducing health care costs.

percentage growth in median values to their current tax bill, or to apply the current tax rate to the new valuation.

He points out that taxes are a function of the budget and what needs to be raised [the levy] to provide services. By law the city can’t raise the levy by more than 4% without legislative approval or only under certain conditions.

During this revaluation, Vision Government Solutions played a lesser role than in previous years, with the assessor’s office checking properties and conducting visits. Dupuis estimates the city saved \$1.1 million over having had Vision perform the full revaluation. He said the department, working alongside Vision, also gained insights and skills that will be useful going forward.

# Legal Notices

## LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF WARWICK ORDINANCE NO. O-25-5

APPROVED Frank J. Picozzi  
April 8, 2025 MAYOR

### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-13 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CLARIFY THE PROCEDURE FOR CLAIMS AND APPEALS OF DETERMINATIONS

Be it ordained by the City of Warwick:

Section I: Chapter 2, Article I, Section 2-13 of the City of Warwick Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

#### Sec. 2-13. Procedure for processing claims against the city.

(a) If a claim against the city is based upon damage or harm caused by a vendor or contractor doing work for the city, the claim must first be pursued against the vendor or contractor before it can be presented to the city council. The claimant must file a written disposition of the claim by the vendor or contractor with the city clerk at the time of filing the claim against the city.

(b) Upon filing a claim against the city, the claimant shall also file an affidavit, in a form approved by the city council, to be executed by the claimant or his or her legal representative attesting whether the claimant has received, or will seek compensation from, any source other than the city, including but not limited to, the claimant’s insurance company for any loss attributable to the incident which is the subject of claimant’s claim against the city.

(c) On the first business day of each month, directors of departments presented with claims against the city shall:

1) Report to the Mayor, City Council, and City Clerk of any determination on claims made against the city for less than \$2,500; and

2) Send a copy of a determination to the claimant through electronic means if an e-mail is provided, otherwise through traditional mail.

Any claimant or member of the City Council can appeal the determination of the department within fourteen (14) days of the issuance of notice of determination. Such appeal may be made by timely providing either electronic notice or delivery of written notice to the City Clerk. Upon the timely receipt of appeal, the Council President shall cause to be docketed a PCR for the appeal of such claim, to be considered at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council following its docketing.

A firm or individual who is licensed under the laws of the State of Rhode Island as an independent motor vehicle damage appraiser shall be retained by the city, after competitive bid, to appraise damages to motor vehicles for all claims in excess of \$500.00, but less than \$2,500.00. For any claim involving property damage to a claimant’s motor vehicle alleged to be in excess of \$500.00, but less than \$2,500.00, the appraiser shall contact the claimant in a timely manner to make arrangements to view the claimant’s motor vehicle for the purposes of preparing an independent damage appraisal. Within 20 days of the claim

filing date, a written damage appraisal report shall be submitted to the public safety committee of the city council. The public safety committee shall review the report prior to voting on any claim under this subsection, but in the event that no report is available to the committee, it may continue the matter until a report is available, or it may render a decision without the aid of the report.

The city purchasing agent is hereby directed to prepare a request for proposals (RFP) and solicit competitive bids for an independent motor vehicle damage appraiser to be retained by the city in order to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

(d) The city clerk shall deliver a copy of this section to each person filing a claim against the city.

Section II: This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as prescribed by law.

SPONSORED BY:  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT SINAPI  
COUNCILMAN LADOUCEUR  
COUNCILMAN GEBHART  
COUNCILMAN FOLEY

COMMITTEE: ORDINANCE

Attest:  
Lynn D’Abrosca, City Clerk

4/10/25

### ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE NOTICE (NEW)

LICENSE APPLICATION FOR A RETAILER’S BEVERAGE LICENSE CLASS BV TO KEEP AND SELL

INTOXICATING BEVERAGES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 3 OF THE R.I. GENERAL LAWS OF 1956, AS AMENDED, HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT THIS OFFICE AS FOLLOWS:

FROM: Grove Bay Concessions PVD LLC  
DBA: Narragansett Kitchen & Bar  
2000 Post Rd.  
Warwick RI 02886

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR., WARWICK, R.I., on **Tuesday April 22, 2025 at 6:00PM AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS APPLICATION MAY BE HEARD. REMONSTRANCES MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE OF HEARING.**

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
James H. PaoLUcci CLERK

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

4/3, 4/10/25

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:

**BADESSA, Jerry T., est.**  
Miscellaneous Petition to Re-Open Estate; for hearing April 17, 2025

**BAZOR, John N., est.**  
Sale of Real Estate for property located at 47 Adelaide Avenue, a/k/a 96 Adelaide Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886 further designated as Assessor’s Plat 262 Lot 36; for hearing April 17, 2025

**COSTA, John A. J., est.**  
3<sup>rd</sup> & Final Account; for hearing April 17, 2025

**DUBKE, Lester B., est.**  
1<sup>st</sup> & Final Account; for hearing April 17, 2025

**DURAND, Jayson J. alias Jayson Joseph Durand, est.**  
Administration Petition; for hearing April 17, 2025

**FANFARA, Edward, Jr., est.**  
Probate of Will; for hearing April 17, 2025

**GELINAS, Jeffrey Todd, esq.**  
Administration Petition; for hearing April 17, 2025

**KEARNS, Michael C., est.**  
Guardian’s 2nd Account; for hearing April 17, 2025

**KHAMVONGSA, Joann Viengthong, est.**  
Administration Petition; for hearing April 17, 2025

**O’DONNELL, Carol, est.**  
Guardian’s 2nd Account; for hearing April 17, 2025

**PLATT, Thomas alias Thomas M. Platt, est.**  
Probate of Will; for hearing April 17, 2025

**CAGNO, Joseph A. Jr. alias Joseph Albert Cagno, Jr., Joseph A. Cagno, est.**  
Jared Cagno has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 2025

**CAULEY, Richard H., Jr., est.**  
Catherine A. Blinkhorn has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 2025

**COLE, Warren D. alias Warren Douglas Cole, est.**  
Lori A. Brierty has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 2025

**COLWELL, Louise, est.**  
Dana Barrows Colwell has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 2025

**CONNELLY, Lynne M., est.**  
John Connelly has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 2025

**DETATA, Mary E., est.**  
Christine J. Shriner has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 2025

**DONOVAN, James T. alias James Timothy Donovan alias James Donovan, est.**  
Mary Donovan has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 2025

**FURFARI, Pauline T. alias Pauline Theresa Furfari, est.**  
Donna Theresa Scally has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the

Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 2025

**GIVENS, Jacqueline C., est.**  
Colleen A. Duran has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 2025

**HOULE, Grace, est.**  
Barry M. & KaraBeth Houle 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 April 3, 2025

**JENCKS, Lillian J., est.**  
Chanel G.M. Ashton has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 2025

**MORGAN, William I., III, est.**  
Tessa Morgan & Brittany Morgan have qualified as Co-Administrators; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 2025

**O’CONNOR, William P. alias William Patrick O’Connor, William O’Connor, est.**  
Brian O’Connor has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 2025

**PIERCE FROEHLICH, Patricia, est.**  
Nancy Robinson has qualified as Administratrix (Victoria Pizzuti, Esq. of 392 Wampanoag Trail, Riverside, RI 02915 as agent); creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 2025

**RODGERS, Joseph N, est.**  
Doreen Rodgers has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 2025

**SCHEUFLER, Jason T. alias Jason Thomas Scheufler, est.**  
Lynn Ann Scheufler has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 3, 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**

4/3, 4/10/25

## Advertisement for Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

The Warwick Housing Authority (WHA) herein solicits Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from qualified, licensed, and responsible firms interested in providing WHA with Architectural & Engineering services for any projects deemed necessary by the Authority (RFQ 2025 -2030)

### Date and Time for Receiving Proposals:

Friday, May 2, 2025 by 3:00 p.m. EST Proposals are to be submitted at the office of the Warwick Housing Authority (WHA), 1035 West Shore Road, Warwick, RI 02889

Specifications and instructions for proposal submission and the criteria that will be used to evaluate submissions are available at:

paulam@warwickhousing.org

Paula B. McFarland, Executive Director-Warwick Housing Authority

Board of Commissioners of the Warwick Housing Authority

Deborah A. Quirk, Chairwoman

Housing Authority of the City of Warwick is an Equal Opportunity Employer



4/10/25

# Opinion

EDITORIAL

## Solutions, not blame, will make energy cheaper

It's not always easy to accept when forces beyond our control are to blame for things that make our lives more difficult, particularly when they result in real financial stress.

Rhode Islanders have been rightfully upset about skyrocketing electric and heating bills over the last year, which have forced many to make hard decisions about toughing out a cold winter or spending less in other areas to ensure they could heat and power their homes.

These are decisions, frankly, that no one should have to make.

And while it might be convenient and cathartic to lay all the blame for these high costs onto the utility that distributes 90% of our local energy – the utility formerly known as National Grid, now Rhode Island Energy – that approach misses the mark factually and does nothing to move us toward a better, less expensive future for Rhode Islanders.

The hard truth is that many of the drivers of energy prices in Rhode Island are completely out of the hands of Rhode Island Energy. New England relies heavily – over 50% – on liquid natural gas to heat homes during the winter. Demand for that commodity far outpaces supply, and the war in Ukraine (one of the world's biggest exporters of natural gas, including to the United States) increased that demand and constrained production, leading to even higher prices during the crucial winter months.

Greed is not the answer, either. Much of Rhode Island Energy's role is mandated by law. For example, it is not allowed to mark up the price of energy that it buys and then sells to customers. And while the company reported around \$88 million in profits last year, it has not increased distribution rates to customers since 2018.

What gets the conspiratorially-minded folks riled up is Rhode Island Energy's status as a public utility that is also funded by investor capital; meaning it is incentivized to return a profit on that investment. But this is standard operating procedure for many utility companies, and Rhode Island Energy's return on investment for its investors is modest – hovering around 4%, which is less than the return on a government treasury bond (just north of 4.5%).

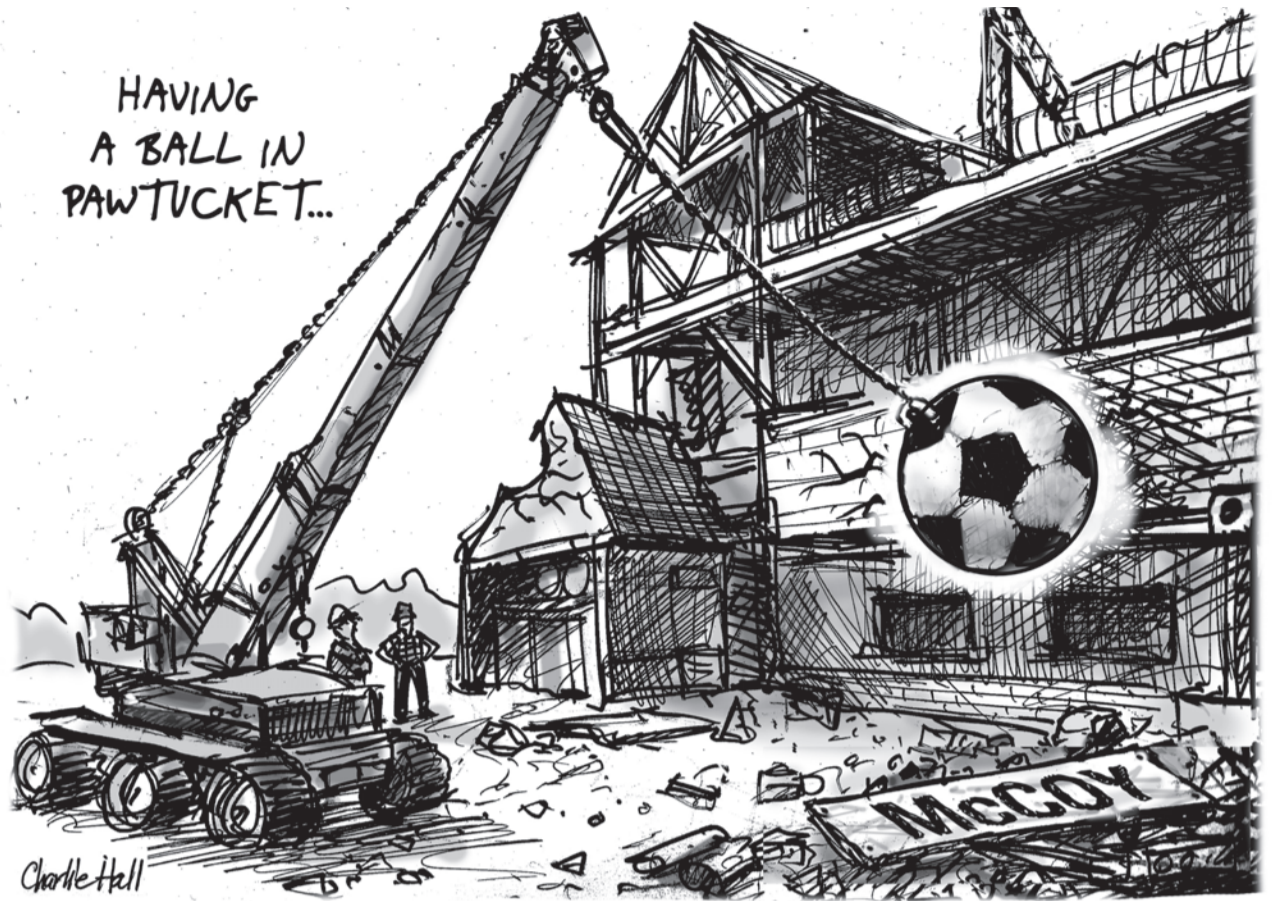
Rhode Island Energy is essentially a middleman between the producers of energy and the customers who rely on it being delivered reliably. It is responsible for maintaining all the infrastructure that delivers that energy and paying taxes on that infrastructure, which brings significant revenue to the state and its municipalities.

While pointing fingers might make us feel better for a short while, the only thing that will ease the pain from higher utility costs is to continue to improve policies for energy production and how we purchase our energy.

A bill from state Rep. Joseph Solomon Jr. to allow Rhode Island Energy to join other states in purchasing more nuclear power – more consistent than wind and solar and increasingly green as nuclear-waste disposal technology rapidly improves – is a good step toward relieving some of the stress on a system that is too reliant on liquefied natural gas.

We are encouraged by the leadership of Greg Cornett, president of Rhode Island Energy, who has put in the effort to listen to concerned ratepayers and take the heat from a population looking for a scapegoat.

While other leaders in the country are directing massive layoffs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – including firing everyone responsible for administering popular and effective LIHEAP program that keeps 6 million Americans from freezing or roasting to death during the most extreme weather months – Cornett's apparently authentic desire to find ways to reduce our energy burden is a breath of fresh air.



## The repartee continues off court

“Do you know why schools are so expensive?”

I was all ears, waiting for Joe Crowley to give me the answer.

I should have expected such a question following Saturday morning tennis as we sat at the “usual” spot at Panera in East Greenwich, even if it's more than a year since I joined the gang for breakfast. It's been that long after three back operations restricted from me driving. I suppose I could have asked for a ride, however, it only seemed fair not to subject Carol to more than an hour of trading stories about local events and commentary on national affairs.

For a first time I got behind the wheel last weekend to drive to the Beacon office, and on Saturday I vowed to stretch things and make it to Panera.

I warned Joe on Friday that I might show up for coffee, and he opened the door to Panera as soon as he spotted me roll up with my walker.

Joe, retired director of the Warwick Area Career & Technical Center, is currently the acting interim director of Warwick school finances.

If anyone, he would know why schools are so expensive.

“So, why are they so expensive?” I asked.

“I'm working on that,” he replied.

Seated and cradling a mug of coffee and not looking his age was Bob Coker. His son Dave was at the counter picking up their breakfast order. Bob, a retired Toll Gate physics teacher and tennis

coach, started the tennis league soon after the high school

opened more than 50 years ago. He stopped playing several years ago after turning 90 but can't miss Saturday morning coffee. Eddie Blamires, a longtime league player, would join us.

That's not to imply we're an exclusive group. Hardly.

State Sen. Leonidas P. Raptakis (Coventry, West Warwick) entered, scanning the restaurant. He was planning to meet someone and joined us to chat while waiting. We traded small talk, although I'm sure the senator would have loved to hear why schools are so expensive. He didn't get the scoop from Joe. His friend showed up and they went off to meet.

I got a quick rundown of who scored points and who came up empty-handed in Saturday's play. Joe was smiling. Eddie complained he had stayed up too late watching the UConn game Friday and fell asleep during the final quarter. Bob was up to speed on national events, scoring the president for failing to be at Dover Air Force base for the return of the bodies of four U.S. soldiers who lost their lives when their military vehicle sank in a swap while training in Lithuania. Trump was attending a LIV golf tournament at his Trump National Doral Golf Club and spent the night at Mar-a-Lago for a candlelight MAGA million-dollar-a-



**This Side Up**

by John Howell

ticket dinner, according to media reports. That's the way the group is; you say your piece.

No one argued with Bob. He would have heard otherwise had there been a bone of contention.

rested the man, whom the Department of Justice estimated had made off with a million dollars in similar scams across the country.

Eddie reported he recognizes the numbers of incoming calls from Block Island and other locales such as Pawtucket – and the voice of



The Saturday-morning league tennis players always find plenty to talk about after leaving the court for breakfast. From left are: Eddie Blamires, Joe Crowley and Bob Coker. Bob stopped playing several years ago after turning 90 but still actively follows sports and events. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

The story of the elderly Warwick homeowner who was scammed out of \$9,500 by an Irishman generated lots of stories. The Irishman said he and his crew were doing home repairs in the Gaspee neighborhood and could fix the resident's cracked foundation only to demand \$95,000 once work was started because, he claimed, conditions were worse and the situation was dire. The homeowner alerted Warwick police, who contacted federal authorities. Working together, they ar-

a scammer who always uses a different name. He no longer bothers picking up those calls. Bob told of the online scams claiming unpaid highway tolls and urging him to go online to make a payment. He doesn't follow the instructions.

On the other hand, Joe spelled out the reason schools are so costly. No one argued with him. As we finished our coffee he said he was going home to write it up, adding he would send it along to the Beacon. You'll find the answers on this page.

GUEST OPINION

## Why it's so expensive to run schools

By JOSEPH CROWLEY

Arguments on schools and the cost of education are often based on misinformation or references to “When I was in school.” The arguments over school costs are the same everywhere. The schools cost too much, there's all sorts of waste and there are too many administrators. If it was run like a business, it would cost less.

Contention exists between school committees and municipal councils. The council members claim they have to take the heat for raising taxes while the schools spend most of the tax income.

Full disclosure: The writer is interim director of finance for the Warwick Public Schools and has served in comparable positions in nine other Rhode Island districts. So, let's look.

Warwick serves 8,000 students – that is 8,000 Warwick residents for six hours per day, 180 days per year. No other agency provides that level of support for that number of residents. At the barest minimum, schools provide the daycare needed by many families to allow both parents to work. The district transports students to and from school. Then, the expectation is the children will be taught to read and write, understand science and do algebra.

In addition, schools are required to address the safety and mental health of students. Schools are expected to offer students the opportunity to benefit from athletics and other activities such as music. For the college-bound, colleges dictate the curriculum to qualify for acceptance. For students looking to be employed upon graduation, career-preparation programs are provided.

For students with extraordinary needs, the district is required to place those students in programs with the staffing suitable for each child's needs. The services for students with special needs is required by the federal government's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. When that legislation was passed, the message was that the federal government would ultimately fund 75% of the costs of implementing the programs. Funding has never been close to that. School districts have been required to carry most of the very significant costs.

Educating children is expensive. It is very labor intensive. Good education does not happen with 40 children in a classroom. Are administrators needed? If there are no administrators, who will supervise and evaluate the education staff? Administrators are also disciplinarians for those situations when needed. Rhode Island Department of Education regulations require

the evaluation of all teachers at least once every three years – a time-consuming process. RIDE mandates what is to be taught through its Basic Education Plan. It requires districts to devote 3% of their budgets to the maintenance of buildings. It requires the transportation of students.

### Schools equivalent to a \$200M business

The Warwick schools are the equivalent of a \$200M-per-year, labor-intensive business. But education is not a business. No business is required to provide the services mandated for schools. The school curriculum is mandated by the Department of Education. The education of special-needs students is mandated by the federal government. The transportation of students is mandated under Rhode Island's general laws.

There are those who blame school costs on teacher unions and the contracts they negotiate. There are many studies that indicate those becoming teachers will earn less than those entering business or industry with comparable educations. And teachers – again, by law – must gain more education to maintain their teacher certifications. There is a great demand for teachers. For college graduates looking for employment,

districts offering the best salaries attract the best and brightest.

The demands on schools are ever-increasing. For those who like to harken back to when they were in school, schools and the demands on schools have changed considerably. Currently, in the General Assembly, there are legislative proposals to require additional mental-health professionals such as psychologists and social workers to address students' mental-health issues. One bill would require athletic trainers to work with sports teams in each high school. Another would require the state to fund all mandates such as those noted. The previously noted mandates for added staff may well become law; the bill to require the state to fund its mandates will likely not.

One goal of the RI Public Expenditure Council is advancing fiscally responsible government. In a recent report, RIPEC suggested neither the state nor communities are adequately funding school districts.

“Why are we paying for failing schools?” It is a good question. But it is built on a faulty assumption. Having authored a book on educating children in poverty, I can attest that considerable research has gone

## GUEST OPINION

## ● SCHOOLS from page 11

into why schools are labeled as "failing." That designation comes from the No Child Left Behind federal program of a couple of decades ago. A school was "failing" if there was a so-called learning gap between students in different economic strata – the rich and the poor. The assumption was schools were the origin of the gaps – fix the schools and the gaps will disappear. Train teachers, fire those in "underperforming" schools, upgrade the curriculum. In more than 25 years, the interventions of NCLB and its successor programs have not closed the gaps at all, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the nation's report card.

## Stress hinders ability to learn

Learning gaps are no smaller now than they were 20 years ago in Warwick, Providence or East Greenwich. Children arrive at the schoolhouse door coming from different homes. The children living in homes of well-edu-

cated parents learn from their parents and are given opportunities outside of school to learn. Children living in less well-to-do homes are, generally, living with less-educated parents and have fewer education-enhancing opportunities. In addition, children living in poverty suffer stresses that further hinder their ability to learn. As a result, when students are tested, children from wealthier homes achieve higher scores than their less-well-off peers – the learning gaps. It is the same in Warwick, Providence and East Greenwich. Learning gaps can be addressed by providing children living in poverty with additional school resources such as longer days or school years. The schools are not failing.

Our schools are serving your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews and the little kids across the street. For many, the schools once provided education for your children. When we are talking about school budgets, we are not talking only about dollars. We are talking about preparing the next generation, those who will be responsible as parents, wage earners, voters and, possibly, our

caretakers. It is called the generational compact. Each generation is to prepare the following generation to assume its role. It is the responsibility of each parent to educate their children. The education system was put in place such that educators could serve in loco parentis – in the place of the parents.

Around the world, the most successful countries are those with the most educated populations. A well-educated population is in everyone's self-interests. In the long term, the poorly educated require more in government food, housing, medical and unemployment supports. Pay me now, or pay me later. Education is an investment that improves everyone's future.

*Joseph H. Crowley, former director of the Warwick Area Career and Technical Center, is currently interim director of finance of Warwick Public Schools.*

## HOUSES OF WORSHIP

<p><b>Asbury United Methodist Church</b> 143 Ann Mary Brown Drive Rev. Yohan Go 467-5122 Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School at 9:30am Sept – June asburymcri.org</p>	<p><b>Narragansett Bay Baptist Church</b> 1642 West Shore Road Pastor Dru Merrill 738-0600 nbbcri.org</p>
<p><b>Baha'i Faith</b> Warwick Community Call for meeting information 800-228-6483</p>	<p><b>Norwood Baptist Church</b> 48 Budlong Avenue Rev. George Barclay 941-7040</p>
<p><b>Buttonwoods Bible Chapel</b> 311 Buttonwoods Avenue 401-823-7803 or 508-579-7384</p>	<p><b>Pilgrim Lutheran Church</b> 1817 Warwick Avenue Pastor Todd Stange 739-2937 www.pilgrimlutheranri.org</p>
<p><b>Christ Church</b> 1025 Main St., E.G. (corner Post &amp; Cedar) 884-8632 www.christchurchec.org</p>	<p><b>Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church</b> 3257 Post Road Rev. Scott R. Lee 737-4141 8:00 &amp; 10:00 Holy Eucharist www.stbarnabaswarwick.org</p>
<p><b>Church of The Apostles</b> Anglican Church in North America 170 Fairview Ave. Coventry, RI 02816 821-7609 Sunday Worship 9 a.m. www.apostlesri.org</p>	<p><b>Saint Mark's Episcopal Church</b> 111 West Shore Road 737-3127 Saturday - 5:00 pm Sunday - 9:00 am www.stmarkswarwick.com</p>
<p><b>Church of The Transfiguration</b> 1665 Broad Street 461-3142 Sunday 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p>	<p><b>Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church</b> 389 Greenwich Avenue Rev. Hayley Bang 737-6758 stpaulwarwick.org</p>
<p><b>Community of Christ Church</b> 292 West Shore Road Rev. Nancy L. Cornish Rev. Peter M. Latham 738-0342</p>	<p><b>Saint Timothy Church</b> 1799 Warwick Avenue 739-9552</p>
<p><b>Concordia Center for Spiritual Living</b> 292 West Shore Rd. 732-1552 10 am. Sundays concordiacsl.org</p>	<p><b>Saints Rose &amp; Clement Church</b> 111 Long Street 739-0212 Masses: Saturday 4 pm Sundays 8 am &amp; 10:30 am</p>
<p><b>Eckankar Center</b> 2914 Post Road, Unit #3 Path of Spiritual Freedom Light &amp; Sound Services 1st &amp; 3rd Sundays 10 AM Pastor Mark Lopotoski 738-4272 www.eckankar-ri.org</p>	<p><b>SouthPointe Christian Church</b> 200 Pettaconsett Ave. 401-821-9800 Worship Services 9 &amp; 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</p>
<p><b>Faith Baptist Church</b> 765 Commonwealth Ave. Pastor Matt Vandeleeest 738-7664 faithbaptistri.org Sunday 9:30am &amp; 11:00am</p>	<p><b>Spring Green Memorial Church</b> 1350 Warwick Avenue 463-8328 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Rev. Shelton Rucker, Jr. https://sgmcri.wordpress.com/</p>
<p><b>Faith Family Chapel</b> 205 Hallene Rd. (Unit 103) Pastor Brian Regan 681-4690 www.faithfamilychapel.org</p>	<p><b>Trinity Church</b> 139 Ocean Ave., Pawtuxet Cranston, RI 02905 8 am &amp; 10 am 10 am is live-streamed on facebook @trinitypawtuxet 941-4324 http://www.trinitycranston.org/</p>
<p><b>First Congregational Church of Warwick, UCC</b> 715 Oakland Beach Avenue Pastor Michael Ashe 738-3377 fccwri.org</p>	<p><b>Warwick Hope Assembly of God</b> 425 Sandy Lane Pastor Matthew McIntosh 732-0634 Sunday Service 9:30 am. Bible Study Wed. 7 pm</p>
<p><b>First Evangelical Lutheran Church</b> 124 Division St. East Greenwich</p>	<p><b>Warwick Central Baptist Church</b> 3270 Post Road Pastor Sam Chesser 739-2828 wcbc01@verizon.net Service Sundays at 10:15 AM</p>
<p><b>Friendship Baptist Church</b> 2945 West Shore Road Pastor Kaleb Hall 738-4392 friendshipri.com</p>	<p><b>Warwick Christian Fellowship</b> 358 Warwick Neck Avenue Pastor Steve Reickett 739-26606</p>
<p><b>Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian</b> 805 Main Avenue Rev. Dallas Ann Bradel 737-1230 www.gccp.org</p>	<p><b>Westminster Unitarian Church</b> 119 Kenyon Ave., E.G. 401-884-5933 Sunday Service 10 am Streaming on: westminsteruu.org</p>
<p><b>Lakewood Baptist Church</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Woodbury Union Church, Presbyterian</b> 58 Beach Avenue Rev. Deb Packard 737-8232 WoodburyChurchRI@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>Living Faith Christian Church</b> 1201 Greenwich Avenue 739-2444 www.LivingFaithRI.org</p>	

## Where to have surgery? It's hard to know

## By Dr. MATHIAS P. BOSTROM

Each year, millions of Americans face a decision that's more consequential than buying a home or car: choosing where to have major surgery. For procedures like spinal fusions and hip and knee replacements – among the most common operations in medicine – the choice of hospital can mean the difference between a full recovery and months of avoidable setbacks, pain and stress.

Yet while a car purchase comes with detailed safety ratings and prospective homebuyers can obtain inspection reports, patients preparing for surgery are left largely in the dark – even though surgical complications can lead to extended hospital stays, additional procedures and sometimes permanent disability.

Luckily, there is one telltale indicator of the risk associated with having surgery at a specific hospital – volume, or how many procedures a hospital performs annually. Studies show that high-volume hospitals consistently achieve better outcomes across multiple types of surgery.

This makes the current approach to choosing surgical care deeply concerning. Research shows that most patients select hospitals based on data-free factors like word-of-mouth recommendations or doctor referrals. These recom-

mendations and referrals aren't always completely objective, especially as health systems increasingly pressure physicians to refer patients within their systems.

Patients can become their own best advocates by examining the data in five critical areas.

First, look at success rates – how well patients recover. The best hospitals track and share their patients' improvements in quality of life, pain levels and function after surgery.

Second, examine patient-experience scores. They contain a wealth of information about how well a hospital communicates, coordinates care and supports patients through their journey.

Third, dig into complication rates. Find out how often things go wrong and how well the hospital handles the challenges that arise.

The fourth factor, readmission rates, is particularly telling. How often do patients end up back in the hospital unexpectedly? Low rates of readmission signal that a hospital excels at preventing complications and managing the overall process of recovery.

Fifth, consider procedure volume – how many of the specified surgeries the hospital performs. Experience matters, and high-volume centers tend to deliver better results.

Together, these five measures paint a clear picture of hospital quality, and

should be readily available to any patient considering surgery. Yet all too often this information is difficult or impossible to find.

But there are few resources available to patients interested in comparison shopping. While the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services provide some hospital comparison tools, they're clunky and incomplete. Private insurers have detailed data on their providers' outcomes, but many choose not to share it.

Easier access to comparisons would be game-changing both for patients and the health care system as a whole. Just as vehicle safety ratings spurred car makers to compete on crash protection, surgical outcome transparency could drive providers to improve their results. Research suggests that simply publishing complication rates motivates hospitals to enhance their safety practices.

Patients scheduling surgery shouldn't settle for less information than they'd want when buying a car – and our health care system shouldn't make finding it any harder than reading a window sticker.

*Mathias P. Bostrom, MD, is associate surgeon-in-chief and director of quality and safety at the Hospital for Special Surgery, in New York City. This was originally published by The Well News.*

## LETTERS

## In-your-face gloating

## To the Editor,

As a teen, Donald Trump was sent to military boarding school by his father in an attempt to "toughen him up," a parental decision that would turn out to have its desired effect.

So, how do I know this? From his roommate at the school, who would later marry my cousin, and from whom I heard unflattering stories about Trump's character – which included walking around campus brandishing a cut-off broomstick to intimidate lower classmen, and pretending to still have a superior cadet rank

even after it was taken away for abuse of power and privilege. And yet, oddly enough, these first-hand stories aren't all that important to understanding Donald Trump since he's an open book to anyone who chooses to see him for what he really is – a self-absorbed braggart and bully.

To me, the most troubling aspect of the Trump administration, aside from its stunning incompetence, is the in-your-face gloating while recklessly slashing government programs and throwing thousands of employees out of work. Elon Musk gleefully waving around a chainsaw. Tom Homan

smirking about shipping off migrants without due process to an El Salvadoran dungeon. A vengeful Donald Trump going after any individual, institution or country that happens to irk him.

What kind of person acts like this? Well, apparently someone devoid of empathy or basic human compassion who's never had to deal with personal adversity or hardship – or, if they ever have, then their memories must be really short and highly selective.

**Peter Carney  
Warwick RI**

## Column resonates with 'North Woods Law' viewer

## To the Editor:

I can relate to Linda Petersen's "Life Matters" column "Crimes in the North Woods" in the Lifestyles section of the March 27 Warwick Beacon. My brothers and I are big fans of "North Woods Law" on the Animal Planet channel.

We too, have spent a great deal of time in New Hampshire. We love to see places we have been to. We appreciate the dedication to finding the truth on each episode. The men and women of New Hampshire Fish and Game are

doing a great job educating and holding the public to laws of the state. My brother even had his picture taken with one of the officers (Lakes Region) a few years ago.

Our family has been going to the state for more than 75 years! If we happen to see an officer, we are sure to say a big thank-you for a job well done!

**Elizabeth Readett  
Warwick**

## Enough already

## To the Editor,

I have read the recent letters and I feel that the real facts need to be stated.

I am protesting the traitorous and treasonous behavior of the 47th president.

It is time to convict and impeach this irresponsible person. It is time to use the 25th Amendment and "lock him up."

I protest the "inefficiency" of his administration and that of his unelected pet musk-rat and all his little doge-ies.

I protest the cruelty, the incompetence, the stupidity and the ignorance of the Cabinet.

They are so unqualified for their jobs.

I protest the lies, the violence and the threats to our veterans and the federal workers.

I protest that fat old white male Republicans have continued threatening my life and my planet for the last seven decades.

## Neighbors' voices on zoning change are heard

## To the Editor,

Thanks to the city Planning Commission for its work in reviewing the zoning request and not supporting the Caraway Drive zone change in Alpine Estates. Commission president Steve Frias pointed out the negative impact to city resources including traffic, school overcrowding and that the proposal didn't protect and stabilize existing residential neighborhoods. That information combined with the passionate testimony of numerous neighbors led the commission to not recommend the zone change. The proposal was then denied by the City Council's ordinance committee and was unanimously denied by the full council last night on March 24.

**Janice Cataldo  
Cranston**

**Respectfully,  
Nancy Urquhart  
Warwick**

# Obituaries

## Richard P. Newbury

Richard "Dick" P. Newbury 87 passed away peacefully on April 4, 2025. He was the husband of the late Elizabeth "Betty" (Martin) Newbury. Born in Pawtucket, RI he was the son of the late Wilbert D. and Hope (Beliviau) Newbury.



Richard leaves behind a daughter Jodi Leduc, a son-in-law John Leduc, a son Rick. Lovingly known as Grandpa Rich by his grandchildren Emmalie, Collin, and Kya, he brought them much joy, laughter and happiness (and lots of candy).

He was a mortgage loan officer for Inbank and Fleet Bank for over 40 years.

Whether skiing, playing golf, or enjoying a Patriots game (or expressing frustration at their latest season), Dick lived with a smile on his face, a beer in his hand and always ready with a witty one-liner.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Barrett and Cotter Funeral Home, 1328 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI with Funeral Service at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow in Swan Point Cemetery, Providence.

## Lisa Marie Ferolito

Lisa Marie (Andreozzi) Ferolito, 54, of Betsey Williams Drive, Warwick, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at Kent Hospital. Born in Warwick, she was the daughter of Anthony and Margaret E. (Quirk) Andreozzi of Warwick.



An avid reader, Lisa loved to have a book in her lap and her well manicured toes in the sand at the beach. From her childhood days in Narragansett, RI, to her frequent visits to Sarasota, FL in her adult years, she enjoyed listening to Jimmy Buffett with a cocktail in her hand.

Lisa opened her home to family and friends for holidays and visits, offering a variety of homemade meals and treats. She especially enjoyed opening her arms to take care of others, and was always happy to share a laugh, hug, or advice with those around her.

Lisa's boys were her world. Her smile lit up a room when she shared stories of their accomplishments. They were her pride and joy. Lisa was a role model, teaching her boys to persevere through challenging times.

Lisa was a member of the 1989 graduating class of Pilgrim High School. She earned a bachelor degree from Rhode Island College. Lisa was employed by The City of Warwick as the Administrative Assistant to the Board of Public Safety for the Warwick Fire Department and Warwick Police Department. She gained many cherished friendships throughout the departments.

Besides her parents, she is survived by her loving sons, Alex and Aidan Ferolito of Warwick; her sister Jennifer (Andreozzi) Collins and her husband Edward Collins, Jr of Warwick; her nieces and nephews, Kaylee and Tyler Collins of Warwick as well as Sophia and Rocco Ferolito and many loving aunts, uncles, cousins and friends!

Her Funeral was held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. from the Barrett and Cotter Funeral Home, 1328 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI, with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. in St. Peter's Church, 350 Fair St., Warwick, RI. Interment followed in St. Ann Cemetery, Cranston. Visitation was on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Lisa's memory towards her sons Alex and Aidan's College Education Fund, payable to Jennifer Collins, c/o Barrett and Cotter Funeral Home, 1328 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI 02888 would be appreciated.

## Robert Iadevaia

Robert Iadevaia, 84, passed away Friday, April 4, 2025, at home surrounded by his loving family. He was the beloved husband of Nancy J. (Berube) Iadevaia to whom he shared 31 years of marriage. Robert was predeceased by his first wife, Barbara Carol (Grice) Iadevaia. He was the son of Thomas and Theresa (DiNofrio) Iadevaia of Federal Hill, Providence. He leaves behind four daughters, Brenda Bernardo (James), Rebecca Caneira (Tony), Kimberly Lambert (Mark) and Chelsie Iadevaia and was the loving 'Papa' to ten grandchildren, Joseph, Sarah, Timothy, Angellica, Antonio, Payton, Grace, Audrey, Olivia and Anthony. He is survived by his brother Thomas and was predeceased by his siblings, Anna, Ludwig, Joseph, Louie, Anthony and Rosie.



Robert worked for General Electric as a machinist for over 33 years. During his retirement, he attended and graduated from New England Tech with a technology degree in HVAC. In his younger years, he worked as a mechanic; always making sure his daughters knew how to check their oil and never let that tank get below a ¼!

Robert enjoyed spending time with his family, holidays together, Italian food and his red wine. He loved spending time on the beach and trips to New Hampshire and his backyard was a nature haven that he thoroughly enjoyed.

He was a parishioner of St. Kevin Parish for over 40 years. Thank you to everyone who prayed for him over the last couple of months. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

We will be forever grateful to the kind and compassionate doctors, RNs and CNAs from the VNA, Kent Regency and Kent Hospital for their care of our dad during these last few months.

His funeral will be held Friday, April 11, 2025, at 9am in the Thomas and Walter Quinn Funeral Home, 2435 Warwick Ave., Warwick with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10am in St. Kevin Church, 333 Sandy Lane, Warwick. Interment will immediately follow in St. Ann Cemetery. Visiting hours are Thursday from 4-7pm in the Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, contributions to your favorite charity in his honor would be appreciated.

## Harry Edgar Moulton

Harry Edgar Moulton (81) passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 29, 2025, in Lebanon, NH.



Harry was born on August 12, 1943, in Bath, Maine. Son of William and Marguerite Moulton. Harry's childhood on a small farm with his 3 brothers, Bill, Wally, and Terry, instilled within him a fierce determination that would carry him through the joys and challenges of his amazing life.

Harry attended Wentworth College to earn his engineering degree. Later, he served 2 years in the Navy. In 1963, Harry met Kathy, the love of his life, which led to a 61 year romance filled with love. Together they raised four children who are the pride of their lives, Ed Moulton, Karyn Perugini (Mike), Kelly Gullotta (Justin), and Kathryn Solomon (Andy).

Harry's work and personal life allowed him to visit and embrace the world. He took special joy in introducing these new worlds to friends and family, especially his grandchildren - Quinn (25), Kendall (24), Murphie (23), Courtney (22), Tate (22), Cameron (21), and Harrison (7).

Still, Harry's true passion was skiing and this love of skiing is a legacy he passed on to all.

Giving us everything and leaving us with more, Harry will be forever remembered by his wife, children, grandchildren, sister-in-laws (Sylvia Rinaldi, Virginia Pagliaro and Carolyn Moulton), Madison, nieces, nephews and cousins. Forever in our hearts and always in our thoughts, we love you, Harry! You will be missed, but never forgotten. Service to be announced.

## Merilee J. Hanley

Merilee J. Hanley, 64, of Warwick, RI passed away on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at Kent Hospital in Warwick. She was the cherished soulmate and partner of the late Henry A. "Cootsie" Padula, Jr.



Born in Providence, she was the beloved daughter of Joyce E. (Alarie) Hanley of Warwick and the late Thomas G. Hanley.

Merilee graduated from Providence College and embarked on a lifelong career as a Manager for AT&T where she was awarded and recognized numerous times for her outstanding performance.

Merilee was an avid football fan, and you always knew where to find her during football season, at home watching the Red Zone. Merilee loved Miami Dolphins, win or lose.

Merilee also enjoyed spending time with her family and friends and loved cruising. She was an active member at St. Kevin's parish and enjoyed volunteering in support of all their initiatives and this gave her great joy. She especially enjoyed her time working with Ashley and her friends through SPRED.

Merilee was an amazing daughter, sister, Aunt and friend. She meant so much to so many, but no one was more important to her than her family. Merilee was a kind, generous soul who will be missed by many.

Besides her mother, she is survived by four sisters, Kimberly J. Caravana and her husband Stephen of North Dartmouth, MA, Sandra L. Hanley-Stansfield and her husband Brian Moses of East Greenwich, Sally A. Hanley-Whitworth of Oviedo, FL and Ashley M. Hanley of Warwick and her nieces and nephews, Stephen Jr. and Sean Caravana, Thomas and Anna Stansfield and Brendan and Austin Whitworth.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend her Mass of Christian Burial on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in St. Kevin Church, 333 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI. Burial will be private for the family. Visiting hours respectfully omitted. In lieu of flowers, donations in Merilee's name to St. Kevin's Church would be appreciated. Information and condolences at barrettandcotter.com.

## James R. Choquette II

James R. Choquette II, age 51, passed away unexpectedly on April 5, 2025. He was the beloved son of James R. Choquette and Diane L. (Miller) Choquette of Warwick. James is survived by his loving brother Roy J. Choquette of Denver, Colorado; as well as by many loving relatives and friends.



Born in Cranston, James worked as a warehouse manager at Broadband Access Services for many years. In his free time, he enjoyed nothing more than meeting up with friends to watch his beloved Red Sox or New England Patriots. He took an avid interest in all things outdoors, especially learning about gardening, barbequing and smoking. Also, a big fan of action and Sci-Fi movies, James was a self-proclaimed Star Wars expert, much to the entertainment of his family and friends. James had a love for dogs and will be missed dearly by his closest K-9 friend, Phoebe. Those closest to him knew James to have a hard exterior, but a warm and loving heart; He would do anything for those close to him and will be missed by many.

Relatives and friends are invited to a visitation on Friday, April 11, 2025 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Home, 2435 Warwick Ave., Warwick. James' Celebration of Life gathering will be held starting at 7:00pm at the Oakland Beach Volunteer Fireman Club; come and share stories and laughs. His burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in James' memory may be made to Animal Rescue Rhode Island (ARRI) by visiting the following webpage: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/animalrescuehodeisland/>.

## Steven DeForest Macomber

Steven DeForest Macomber, 80, of Warwick, Rhode Island, to the great sorrow of many, passed away on Saturday March 28, 2025 due to complications with the flu.



Steven was born on July 4, 1944 to his mother June A. Macomber (née Healy), and Calvin D. Macomber who both preceded him in death, alongside his wife of fifty years Cynthia Macomber (née DuMaine). Theirs was a love story for the ages.

Steven attended Pilgrim High School. During his lifetime, Steven dedicated three decades to the care of his community as a municipal worker in the Highway Department of The City of Warwick.

Steven had an active lifestyle with his beloved wife Cindy. They enjoyed painting, drawing, hiking, biking, kayaking, snowmobiling, fishing, boating, carpentry, and being part of their community. They were inseparable. Steven would often walk the neighborhood with his dog Sugarbear and greet all the neighbors on his way to the local coffee shop. Making sure all were looked after. He truly was a capital fellow, a man among men. He simply loved people and was always ready to help. The first to show up and the last to leave. Steven never expected anything in return for the help and kindness he offered everyone.

Steven is survived by many who treasured him dearly; among his closest relations are his devoted siblings, Bruce R. Macomber of Waldorf, MD and Jane M. Carrazzo of Warwick. Sisters-in-law Elizabeth Botella of Warwick, Cynthia Macomber of Waldorf, MD, Lori Ford of CO. Brother-in-law Joseph Bottella Sr and Donald DuMaine of Warwick, Tony Ford of CO, Bruce DuMaine and Tom Menard of West Warwick.

With countless nieces and nephews, the list of those that shared in Steven's life is far too great to include in its entirety. The best lives leave gifts and Steven's has left an indelible mark on those who loved him.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, April 25, 2025 at 10:00AM at St. Peter's Church, 350 Fair Street, Warwick. Visitation will be held prior to the Mass from 8:00AM-9:00AM at THE URQUHART-MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, 800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: St. Elizabeth Community, Memo Line: Philanthropy Department/Day Program, 2364 Post Road, Suite 100 Warwick, RI 02886-2232

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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.

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The leaders of seven of Rhode Island's Community Action Programs joined together to sound the alarm on the local impact of federal budget cuts. *Beacon Media photos by Tim Forsberg*

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Senator Jack Reed said proposed federal budget cuts would shred Rhode Islanders' social safety nets.



Paul Salera, president and CEO of Westbay Community Action, is concerned about the impact that budget cuts would have on food pantries and heating assistance plans.

Westbay Community Action's food pantry, which serves 120 households a day, five days a week, may be affected by federal budget cuts.



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## Reed, local leaders warn: HHS cuts will harm residents

By **TIM FORSBERG**  
*Beacon Media Staff Writer*

As the Trump administration proceeds with layoffs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Sen. Jack Reed is sounding the alarm on the local impact, warning that the cuts could throw critical support services for Rhode Islanders into jeopardy.

At a press conference held Monday at Westbay Community Action in Warwick, Reed joined Paul Salera, president and CEO of Westbay Community Action. They were joined by the leaders of the other six Community Action Programs (CAPs) in Rhode Island.

Reed highlighted the potential consequences of the layoffs and broader Republican-led budget proposals that cut funding to programs such as Medicaid, childcare, nutrition assistance and seasonal energy aid.

"The Trump administration and the Republicans in Congress, they want to shred the social safety net, upend this federal and local cooperation and community partnership that has lifted up so many Americans," Reed said. "Trump, Elon Musk, Robert Kennedy Jr., they've taken a sledgehammer to Department of Health and Human services, cutting 20,000 professionals that helped CAP agencies each day, and they've done it in such a careless way."

Rhode Island's CAPs serve more than 190,000 residents across the state, offering access to job training, health care, affordable housing and energy assistance.

Salera, whose organization serves Kent County, said his organization's food pantry serves 120 households a day, five days a week. He fears that job cuts and potential budget cuts could be harmful to each CAP, as they get funding from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. He added these

organizations may need to rely on community partners who might not be able to contribute as much due to rising costs from tariffs and inflation.

"My biggest fear is for the residents of both Kent County and the state and them not being able to get the safety-net services. It's that husband and wife who live on Social Security, those older Rhode Islanders who live on Social Security, and now they can't get heating assistance, which could possibly save them \$50 to \$200 a month off their budget," he said. "We're hoping that a lot of this stuff is just headlines, it's just talk."

The Trump administration's HHS layoffs come as part of a broader push by congressional Republicans to advance a budget with cuts across social safety-net programs. Reed criticized the effort, saying that slashing funds for federal programs often shifts the financial burden, resulting in fewer services and higher costs.

"What they've done is they've made these headline announcements, and the details are following. In some cases, we were seeing cuts and, in some cases, it's just for confusion," he said "No one knows how much is being cut or where it is coming from. He wants headlines and it's work out the details later, but everything we've heard is cut, cut, cut programs that really help people."

Reed added, "They're making mistakes about our community's health and safety, and of course lives, literally."

The senator vowed to fight the proposed cuts in Washington and urged local leaders and residents to voice their concerns about the long-term impact on Rhode Island communities.

"There's still a bit of confusion, but yes, Republicans will feel this too. I hope before we get to that point my colleagues will understand that and step up and say we can't do it," he said.

# Spring Home

Thursday, April 10, 2025

WARWICK BEACON



Spring is the perfect season for new beginnings...

...and to embrace the urge to clean, declutter



An example of what a little work can do. Here are before and after pictures of a playroom organized by Elsie Seber of Min2MAX. Submitted photos



Elsie Seber, owner of Min2MAX organizing is committed to helping clients feel better about their homes and themselves. Submitted photos courtesy Elsie Seber

By BARBARA POLICHETTI  
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Spring is officially here. It's the season of budding trees, daffodils, and the sense that summer will really arrive.

It's also the season when many people get the urge to clean – to throw open their windows, declutter, dust and, in general, reclaim their homes. It's almost as if they are whisking away any remnants of winter with a new, clean fresh start.

The history of spring clean can be traced to religions and cultural traditions that date back to ancient times. But, more simply, it's a great time here in New England to let fresh air in and disorder out.

It seems like it should be simple -- work that can be done with mops and brooms – but as our lives have become more complicated, so has the task of cleaning and decluttering.

In honor of spring, Beacon Media talked to several professional organizers in an attempt to get some inspiration for clearing away the cobwebs and also take a look at the psychology of clearing your space and why, for many people, it is such a difficult task to tackle.

Stacy Jackson, owner of Little Boxes (Organizing, Downsizing and Decluttering) in Warwick, loves to make order out of disorder. She has dug through entire households, garages, basements, and more in order to help clients get control of their “stuff” – and their lives.

A former teacher who has also worked as an artisan restoring stained glass, Jackson said she found her career as an organizer after her father-in-law passed away. He had been an eclectic collector, she said, and after his passing the family was left not only with grief, but the weight of what to do with his many possessions.



Stacy Jackson, owner of Little Boxes organizing services in Warwick, says she loves what she does. Photo contributed by Stacy Jackson.

● DECLUTTER to page 16





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## 'Don't toss it out. Toss it to us.'

Donating is sustainable, helpful

By **BARBARA POLICETTI**  
Beacon Media Staff Writer

If decluttering is part of your spring-cleaning regime, you should end up with lots of items – clothes, books, shoes, linens, and more – that need a new home after they leave yours.

Most professional organizers recommend that you not just toss it all in the trash but donate it to the charity of your choice. And Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island (BBBSRI) wants people to know that they can help.

"We always say, 'Don't toss it out. Toss it to us,'" says Tina Santos, marketing director for Big Brothers Big Sisters. "Donating is convenient and easy, and you know that what you are getting rid of is really helping someone else."

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a national non-profit organization that is committed to helping youth reach their potential through its mentoring network. Clothing and other donations support much of the mentoring work and help them assist partner agencies, Santos said.

She said that BBBSRI makes donations work for them by teaming up with Savers thrift stores and selling the donations it collects to the stores.

"The funds we receive (for the donations) support about 70-percent of our mentoring work," Santos said. "The impact is tangible. In 2024, 100-percent of our mentees advanced to the next grade and 93-percent of parents noted improved mental health in their children."

Donating not only supports the work BBBSRI does, but it is good for the environment and an easy way to recycle, according to Santos. She said that the clothing and other "soft items" that the organization collected "diverted 4 million pounds of textile waste from the landfill."

Santos said that Big Brothers Big Sisters makes it easy for people to donate. It offers free curbside pickup at people's homes and also has drop-off centers, and more than 100 green bins throughout Rhode Island.

"We want to make sure it is convenient and easy to donate," Santos said. "We say, 'bag it, tag it and drop it.'"

While donations are critical to the programs Big Brothers Big Sisters provides, Santos said that they are also aware that they are helping people get unwanted items from their home.

She advises anyone embarking on a spring-cleaning project to do their homework and pick a charitable organization to donate to rather than just tossing items in the trash.

In addition to clothing, some of the items Big Brothers Big Sisters accepts includes clean handbags, towels, sheets, books, small toys, sporting goods, and small appliances in working condition.

"Donating is sustainable, and it helps organizations do good work," she said.

### ● DECLUTTER from page 15

"I would say that loss and major life changes are the two biggest reasons I am contacted," she said. "It can be someone who is starting a new career or getting ready to retire, but they cope with making changes in their homes and deciding it is time to move on."

One of the things she loves about being an organizer, she said, is that it is a visible way to help people, and most clients end up feeling better about themselves – not just their homes.

"It's just so good to see progress being made and a project completed," she said. "Getting started is the hardest thing for most people – it's very easy to get overwhelmed. But I love it." She added that after completing a job, she gets notes from clients saying that they felt better about themselves.

Elsie Seber, a professional organizer for nearly 10 years, agrees about the transformative nature of cleaning up one's life. Owner and founder of Min2MAX based in Barrington, Seber said her professional mission is to help people "achieve clarity of action by optimizing (their) environment."

Like all the professionals we interviewed, she said aside from the physical and practical results that come from being organized, there are psychological and emotional benefits to getting one's house in order.

"I associate physical chaos with mental chaos," Seber said, adding that she after she finishes a job, she often gets heartfelt letters of gratitude from clients who say they are not only enjoying being neater, but they feel calmer and more peaceful.

"For me being organized is about just being in a space that you can breathe in," said Seber who worked as a project manager at Boston University and at the Herreshoff Marine Museum in Bristol.

She said she is very neat by nature and attributes the trait to having grown up sharing a bedroom with a very messy younger sister. "I've been organizing ever since then," she said.

Most clients feel guilty or ashamed that they need help getting their homes in order, but Seber said they should know that needing professional assistance is more common than they think. Studies have shown, she said, that many Americans buy items that already own simply because they can't find what is in their homes.

Seber said that when many clients first contact her it's because they feel stuck "or frozen." "I tell people I can help unfreeze them," she said. "We do it together -- it helps so much when you have a teammate."

Rachel Fontaine, owner of Fontaine Organizing in Cranston, said that she understands the work her clients put into learning how to keep their houses free of clutter because she is not a naturally neat person. "I had to teach myself to be organized," said. "I like to describe organization as the ability to find what you need when you need it – I can pretty much find anything in my house at any time."



Rachel Fontaine, owner of Fontaine Organizing says she knows where everything is in her house, and if you want to be organized be prepared to declutter. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

Like other professionals in her field, Fontaine has invested time and training for her work and belongs to several national industry organizations including the Institute for Challenging Disorganization. She also collaborates with colleagues on some jobs and said she often works with Kate Bosch, a professional organizer in Providence. Bosch, who has fond childhood memories of organizing



Laurie Lindemann, owner of DeClutter Pronto, says getting your house order can be fun. *Photo contributed by DeClutter Pronto.*



Yes, your kitchen can be organized right down to the spices. *Photo contributed by DeClutter Pronto.*

her toybox, said she loves helping other people dismantle their messes. "It's like a fun puzzle to me," she said, adding that communication with the client throughout the process is key.

Laurie Lindemann, owner of DeClutter Pronto, in East Greenwich agrees. Clients are letting you into their lives when they ask for help cleaning up their homes and it can be an emotional process, she said.

"I love this work, and I try to make it fun for my clients," she said. "Sometimes we laugh, sometimes we cry together but we do have fun."

Lindemann follows the teachings of Marie Kondo, the Japanese organizing consultant who rocketed to fame around 2011 when she published her book *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up*.

It sold millions of copies and in 2015 she was named to Time Magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world and now oversees a business empire committed to the art of decluttering. Kondo has approximately 4 million followers on Instagram and is well known for her philosophy that your home should not be cluttered with items that do not bring you joy.

Lindemann said that Kondo changed her life and got her on the path of becoming a professional organizer. She was grieving the loss of her husband and going through mountains of his belongings in the family's historic Cape Cod style house when she read Kondo's book.

"I thought, 'I can do this,'" she said. And after going to New York City to hear Kondo speak in 2016, she became a certified Kondo consultant.

Lindemann said that people will be amazed at what a little decluttering can do. She had just started culling from her own home when she found that guests would ask if she had gotten new furniture or painted a room.

"People thought I had redecorated when all I had really done was gotten rid of some things," she said.

Spring is a great time for cleaning, Lindemann said, and it can be a season that lasts all year long. "I find that after clearing their spaces, people start taking better care of themselves," she said. "They take off the clothes that were hanging on the treadmill and start using it."

"It's like I've helped them open up space for new beginnings."

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# Pollinator Pathways Connect Native Species

Pollinator pathways can come in all shapes and sizes, from gardens to pots. *Frank Carini/ecoRI News*

By **FRANK CARINI**  
*ecoRI News senior reporter*

Neck surgery in 2005 put Amy Ottilige’s life on hold. She was “bored,” until she noticed a monarch butterfly fluttering outside her window. The simple observation changed her life. Instead of just briefly stopping to smell the flowers, she came to appreciate the bugs’ life on them.

Once recovered and after some self-education, Ottilige embraced the importance of native plants and the pollinators they support. Since 2014, when she began “raising” butterflies, some 1,500 of the nectar-feeding insects have completed their metamorphosis in her yard, including 161 monarchs in 2023 and 28 swallowtails in 2024.

“I just started, and then I ended up having a whole width of my house as a pollinator garden,” Ottilige said. “I’ve raised all types of butterflies, but monarchs are my favorite.”

The Warwick Wildlife and Conservation Commission member is continually educating herself about pollinators and their needs, and has received her pollinator steward certification. She is a member of the Monarch Watch program, and she has made and distributed several pamphlets — “Pollinators & How We Can Help,” “What is Pollination?,” and “Your Pollinator Garden” — to educate the public about the importance of pollinators.

Anne Holst, who has been chair of the Wildlife and Conservation Commission for the past 15 years, noted it’s important to plant native flowers in your yard, or at least in a few pots.

“When surrounded by grassy lawns, pollinators move or die, but the presence of native plants sustains them,” Holst said. “We need bee lawns. People need to realize that if you don’t have pollinators, you’re not going to have food.”

ecoRI News spoke with both women about the importance of pollinators and their disturbing decline, and how pollinator pathways can help.

“People can learn the basics of working with their own gardens and yards to provide healthy environments for bees, butterflies, and birds, all creatures we need to ensure flowers, fruits, and vegetables can grow abundantly,” Holst said. “Bees are very limited in how far from the hive they can go unless there is a continuous path of plants that they can get pollen and nectar from.”

Most native bees have a range of no more than half a mile, so the goal of pollinator pathways are to connect

properties that are no farther apart than that.

Ottilige noted that pollinator pathways — in backyards, on municipal property, or in a business park — don’t need to be intense, time-consuming, or expensive. She said they can be as small as a window box with a few native perennials.

“Do what you feel you can afford and handle. You can start with a simple, small window container,” Ottilige said. “If you have a large yard, you can have half as a meadow. It’s up to you how much you want to put into it, and it’s up to you to be able to sit back and have a cup of tea and watch all these beautiful things fly around.”

*“We need bee lawns. People need to realize that if you don’t have pollinators, you’re not going to have food!”*

The women recommended not mowing your lawn every week and allow it to grow taller for two or three weeks before cutting; leaving some patches of your yard vegetation-free to provide habitat for native ground-nesting bees; and creating a mowing schedule around the life cycles of native plants, because wildflowers aren’t only beautiful in bloom, but they also provide important ecological services.

“We’re trying to educate people about the fact that the most unhealthy thing is what we call the monoculture lawn and everything that goes on it,” Holst said. “You’re just depriving pollinators of food.”

Pollination enables native plants in yards, parks, farms, orchards, and forests to reproduce. While imported European honeybees are the pollinators most often celebrated, there are some 4,000 bee species native to the United States, plus flies, moths, butterflies, and other insects, that also provide this service for free.

Pollinator populations, however, are in sharp decline, largely because of the overuse of pesticides, the relentless development of habitat, and the human-caused climate crisis. Monarch butterflies have declined by about 90% in the past few decades, according to the National Wildlife Federation. A 2017 study found a 75% decline in all flying insects in the past 28 years.

“In the long term, we’re putting a big dent in the evolution of life on the planet,” according to the researchers

who authored last year’s study. “But also, in this century, what we’re doing to the tree of life will cause a lot of suffering for humanity.”

It should come as no surprise then that our massive footprint is stomping out insect life. According to a 2019 study, about half of the world’s insects are speeding down a path toward extinction that threatens the collapse of ecosystems. Insects are a food source for amphibians, birds, fish, reptiles, and some humans.

They are also pollinators, and humans need them.

Three-fourths of the world’s flowering plants and about 35% of the world’s food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. Some scientists have estimated that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators such as bees, beetles, butterflies, moths, and other insects, plus birds and bats.

More than 40% of insect species are declining and a third are endangered. Their rate of insect extinction is eight times faster than that of mammals, birds, and reptiles. Total bug mass is decreasing by 2.5% annually, according to research.

“We’re not asking them to spend beaucoup money,” said Ottilige of encouraging people to help pollinators. “It’s whatever you feel like you want to do and try.”

*Note: This story was originally published by ecoRI News in September 2024. It has been updated.*

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## Tips to manage seasonal allergies



Spring and summer are typically welcomed with open arms. Warm weather, blooming flowers and trees full of leaves are a welcome sight for many, but seasonal allergy sufferers may find the transition from winter to spring a little more challenging. The Center for Health Statistics found that just under 26 percent of adults and roughly 19 percent of children have a seasonal allergy. Treatments for seasonal allergies can be effective, and many people find over-the-

counter medications are enough to alleviate their symptoms. But even people who take OTC medications daily may have days when seasonal allergies cause considerable discomfort. In such situations, allergy sufferers can consider these strategies.

- **Identify your triggers.** The American College of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology notes that pollen is the most common outside allergy trigger. Trees and grasses typically pollinate in spring and summer, which is why these seasons can be especially challenging for people with seasonal allergies. A visit to an allergist can determine what exactly triggers seasonal allergies.

- **Stay indoors on dry, windy days.** The Mayo Clinic advises seasonal allergy sufferers to stay indoors on dry, windy days, when pollen can be nearly impossible to avoid.

- **Take advantage of a good rain.** The Mayo Clinic advises that the best time for seasonal allergy sufferers to be outside is after a good rain. Rain helps to clear pollen from the air, so post-rain conditions can be ideal for people with seasonal allergies.

- **Change your clothes and wash up upon coming inside.** The ACAAI recommends changing clothes, washing them and taking a shower upon coming inside during allergy season. Washing clothes and taking a shower reduces the likelihood that you’ll spread pollen around the interior of your home, where it can attach to furniture and trigger allergic reactions.

- **Monitor the pollen count.** As noted, pollen is a seasonal allergy trigger, so allergy sufferers are urged to monitor the pollen count via a website such as Pollen.com, where visitors can type in their ZIP code and get an up-to-date allergy report. On days when the pollen count is high, stay indoors and keep windows closed so the pollen does not get inside.

Seasonal allergies can make spring and summer more challenging. A few simple strategies can help people control their seasonal allergies even on days when pollen counts are particularly high.

## Five Steps to Get Your Yard Ready for Spring

(Family Features) As the weather begins to warm and days get longer, it’s important to begin preparing your yard for a healthy growing season. While factors like climate, soil type and grass type can all impact how your yard grows, there are a few steps you can take during the spring months to help your lawn thrive.

From dethatching and aerating to fertilizing and mowing, tackling these simple chores can help ensure your yard looks its best and is prepared to fight off seasonal weeds, disease and drought.

### Tune Your Mower

Before it’s time for the first mowing of the season, inspect your mower and perform any routine maintenance necessary. That goes beyond sharpening, or replacing, the blade, and includes changing the oil, spark plugs and filter as well as filling with a fresh tank of gas.

### Loosen the Thatch Layer

While it’s important to avoid working on your lawn until after the final freeze to avoid damaging the grass, raking your yard with a spring tine rake to loosen thatch - the layer of leaves, roots and dead grass that builds up between live grass and soil - before the first mow is equally important. Be sure to rake when the soil is dry; if it’s too soft or muddy, you may pull up healthy grass crowns.

### Combat Compacted Soil

If your soil has become compacted - likely the effect of heavy foot traffic -

and is too dense for water, air and other nutrients to reach the roots of your grass, aerating can help break it up and reduce thatch. A core, or plug, aerator can introduce tiny holes into your soil by removing plugs of grass and soil, which lets nutrients more easily reach the roots. An added bonus, the plugs can decompose on top of your grass, supplying more nutrients.

### Fill in Bare Spots

If your lawn is looking sparse, overseeding, which involves spreading grass seed over your existing lawn, can help fill in bare spots. Be sure to choose the right type of seed for your climate and soil type to ensure proper growth. Applying a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer at the same time can provide additional nutrients that are important for promoting healthy growth.

### Start Seasonal Mowing

When the ground is dry enough and your grass is long enough to require cutting, begin seasonal mowing. Be sure to use proper techniques, including varying your mowing direction each time to avoid creating patterns or ruts, and avoid cutting grass too low, which can make the lawn more susceptible to weeds and drought stress. In general, never remove more than one-third of the grass blade at a time.

Find more tips to help get your yard ready for warm weather at [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com).

# How to establish a peaceful *Backyard Retreat*



**B**ackyards have undergone quite a transformation over the last decade-plus. The days when patios and decks were all a backyard living space had to offer are largely a thing of the past, as homeowners have realized just how valuable it can be to commit to a stunning backyard.

The real estate experts at Zillow estimate that homes with backyard features such as outdoor televisions, outdoor showers and outdoor kitchens command 3.1 percent more than expected upon reaching the market. If 3.1 percent doesn't sound like a lot, it actually equates to nearly \$11,000 on a typical home. But there's more to gain than money when converting a backyard space into a relaxing respite. Such spaces can provide a welcoming escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life, all the while giving homeowners and residents a comfortable space to soak in the great outdoors. With that in mind, homeowners can

take the following steps to establish a peaceful backyard retreat.

- **Refresh the landscape.** Even if your vision is centered on outdoor furniture and a space that accommodates movie nights under the stars, it's still best to refresh the existing landscape if it needs a little upkeep. Overgrown trees, hedges and bushes can create the same cluttered vibe that dominates interior spaces overrun with items. If necessary, work with a local tree service or landscape architect to trim, or even remove, trees and hedges that are crowding the backyard and making it feel claustrophobic or giving it an unkempt look. Aim for a landscape that affords a balance of sun and shade so the space is as comfortable as possible throughout the day.

- **Set up multiple gathering spaces, if possible.** Once a backyard retreat is estab-

lished, everyone who calls the property home might find the space hard to resist. Keep this in mind when planning the space and aim to set up multiple gathering spaces. An outdoor kitchen with a nearby dinner table can be a great space to enjoy al fresco dining, but a separate area to read a book or watch a movie or ballgame can make the space more versatile. Some may want to relax away from the noise of the grill area, and multiple gathering spaces ensures there's always a peaceful spot to unwind out back.

- **Add a water feature.** Running water has a way of calming the nerves, and that's good to keep in mind when planning a backyard retreat. Water features run the gamut from garden ponds to koi ponds to fountains to hot tubs. Homeowners can identify which feature best aligns with their idea of relaxation and then work with a landscape architect to ensure it's installed in their backyard oasis.

- **Don't forget shade.** Temperatures are rising in many areas of the globe, and that's worth noting when planning a backyard retreat. Even the most ardent sun worshippers likely won't want to be exposed to the sun at all times when relaxing in their backyards. Strategically chosen means of providing shade can make spaces enjoyable all day long. Consider umbrellas, gazebos, pergolas, and even retractable awnings to cover patios and decks when the sun is at its highest each afternoon. If you plan to spend ample time in the grass, make that more enjoyable by planting shade trees, which also can protect the grass from drought and make it more comfortable underfoot.

A relaxing backyard retreat can make for an ideal space to escape the hustle and bustle of daily life.

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## A spring lawn revitalization strategy

*Revitalizing a lawn in spring is a multifaceted process but can be well worth the reward when green grass adds to a beautiful landscape and functional yard.*

New growth is a hallmark of spring, whether it plays out in the birth of birds and bunnies or with the returned buds on trees and plant stalks. While most greenery rebounds naturally, lawns may need a little extra TLC in order to return to their once lush, green glory.

Revitalizing a lawn in spring is a multifaceted process but can be well worth the reward when green grass adds to a beautiful landscape and functional yard. Here is how to get started when the weather warms, courtesy of The Farmer's Almanac and The Home Depot.

- **Clean up debris.** Spend a few hours raking up leaves from the lawn and removing any other winter debris like twigs so that air can reach the grass below. Also remove any thatch that has developed.

- **Test the soil.** Take a sample of the soil to determine its pH level and nutrient needs. Then you can make adjustments to set a strong foundation for the lawn to grow.

- **Do some weeding.** Pull out any weeds that have poked through early on and apply a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent additional weeds from taking over.

- **Start the aeration process.** A core aerator punches holes into the soil. This enables air and water to penetrate through to the roots.

- **Overseed the lawn.** Apply grass seeds over the lawn, paying special attention to any bare or thin areas so that the seed will fill in the lawn.

- **Water consistently.** It is important to water the lawn deeply and consistently, especially when the weather is dry, to help promote strong root development.

- **Time fertilizer correctly.** Apply a spring fertilizer around three weeks after the lawn starts to turn green or after the first two or three mowings. If fertilizer is applied too early it can feed weeds instead of the grass and result in fertilizer runoff.

- **Mow to an appropriate height.** Begin to mow when the ground is dry enough and the grass is long enough to need cutting. Leave some length to the lawn; otherwise, sunlight will reach the soil and encourage weed seeds to germinate.

With a little elbow grease at the start of spring, homeowners can establish strong and healthy lawns.

# Consider Spring-Flowering Epimediums

By JOYCE FLEISCHER

I came to know Epimediums rather recently in the 25 years that I've been gardening. The two kinds I have in my garden are shade-loving and evergreen, and any carefree plant that can bring joy twelve months of the year gets my vote.

I don't remember how I found out about Karen Perkins, the owner of the now-closed Garden Vision Epimediums nursery. But it was early days of the pandemic, and I ordered the Epimediums online and arranged for in-person pick-up outside her home in rural central Massachusetts. It was not actually an "in-person" pickup. We agreed to a date and time for me to come. Then on one of those impossibly beautiful early spring days my husband and I drove to her home and claimed our plants that were set out on a small table under an umbrella in the front yard. I could see rock ledge on the side of her shady garden where her nursery plants were growing. What an ideal place to grow these plants. I couldn't help but wish to tour her garden. She grew about 170 different varieties.

The plants looked delicate and very small in their 2½" square pots. I got two of two kinds. Epimedium pinnatum ssp. colchicum "Thunderbolt" was discovered in the Republic of Georgia. It has yellow flowers with leaves that turn mahogany in the cold months. It is drought tolerant, a little less than a foot tall, and spreads by rhizomes. My tiny plants have bulked up and gently spread in a harsh environment on the north side of the house under a juniper tree. They get no sun in the winter and take the brunt of the north wind. Real troopers.

The other kind is called Epimedium 'Pink Champagne' and is a taller, clump-forming plant. The pink flowers grow above their mottled, arrow-shaped leaves. Karen says that this variety, a hybrid by plantsman Darrell Probst, is her favorite. These plants are happy in a rather



E. pinnatum ssp. colchicum flower. Photo courtesy of Garden Vision Epimediums

sunny spot next to an azalea. In spring I cut back the old leaves to show the new ones. That's the extent of care.

Epimediums play nicely with other woodland plants, such as hellebores, hostas, tiarellas, trilliums and hepaticas. Because they have evergreen leaves—unlike some spring ephemerals such as bleeding hearts or bloodroot—you know where they are in the garden and can easily place new plants nearby without disturbing them. And in the early spring when you are going through the beds for a tidy-up of the battered hellebore leaves you can trim the Epimediums at the same time. They say that Epimediums love dry shade. It is true that many of them will successfully grow on dry ground, but only once well-established. It is best to water Epimediums regularly the first year that they have been planted to be sure that their roots get moisture.

Epimediums are also called barrenworts and bishop's hat. They are in the barberry family and are native to China, Japan, and Korea. Some varieties have fun names like 'Ninja Stars.' I'm thinking that all are worthy of garden space.



Epimedium 'Pink Champagne' Photo courtesy of Garden Vision Epimediums

Note: Fleischer tends her flower gardens in the Edgewood neighborhood of Cranston whenever the weather lets her.

## Pooh Bear and Buc-ee the Beaver love Spring

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines cleaning as "to rid of dirt, impurities, or extraneous matter." Let's be honest, everyone's definition of "clean" is a little different. For some, it means spotless perfection; for others (like me), it means shoving things into a drawer and calling it a day. Then there's spring cleaning, that mythical time of year when we suddenly feel the urge to scrub, dust, and question our life choices.

While keeping the kitchen and bathrooms clean is a daily chore, I often find that other areas of the house tend to accumulate clutter, waiting for a day when I finally feel motivated to tackle them. That day seems to come every spring! Usually, it is a weekend when I am not working, a day when I wake up and enjoy my cup of tea sitting next to a wide-open window that lets the warm breeze in. That rush of fresh air against my cheek miraculously awakens my dormant cleaning skills.

I jump up from my seat and head to the bedroom. I draw back the drapes and open the windows, letting in both sunlight and fresh air. I strip the bed, tossing the sheets and comforter into the washing machine along with a Tide Pod infused with stain remover and the fresh scent of Spring Meadow. Soon, with the crisp air drifting through the window and the lovely fragrance lingering in the fabric, our bed will smell like we're sleeping in a spring meadow.

I dust off the bureaus, along with the often-overlooked spots on top of the television and cable box. The drawer handles are similarly dirty, which is corrected by one sweep of my dust cloth. The backboard of the bed also gets dusted. Using a damp cloth, I clean the many remote controls on the bureau. Then, armed with Windex, I tackle the mirrors on the wall-to-wall closet, mirrors I usually avoid because, for some reason, they insist on



**Life Matters**

with Linda Petersen

making me look thirty pounds heavier than I really am.

I sprinkle a generous coating of Arm & Hammer carpet freshener onto the rug, then use my foot to swish it back and forth, ensuring it sinks deep into the lower fibers. I will have Hubby vacuum

that up later.

With the bed still unmade, I climb up with my feather duster to tackle the layer of dust that has settled on the ceiling fan. Down below, I check under the bed to ensure all our clear plastic storage boxes are neatly arranged.

As the last act of spring cleaning in the bedroom, I carefully make the bed, I ensure the sweet-smelling sheets are tucked in tightly lest they come loose at the corners during my nightly leg thrusts and turnovers. The comforter and pillow shams are neatly arranged back in place. Giddily, I then set our two beloved stuffed animals on the bed: a Winnie the Pooh from our early days of marriage and Buc-ee the Beaver, a treasured keepsake from one of our favorite stops on our trips to Florida. Of course, they are placed in the middle of the pillows, arm in arm (or paw in paw?)

After an intense battle with dust bunnies, (eliminated just before Easter,) and a mirror that refuses to flatter me, my bedroom is finally spring-cleaned to perfection. The air smells like a delightful mix of spring meadow with just a hint of industrial-strength carpet freshener. The bed is crisp, the pillows are fluffed, and Pooh and Buc-ee sit proudly in the middle, holding onto each other and looking like the official mascots of our marriage. I step back to admire my work, feeling accomplished, until I glance at the closed closet door. With a dramatic sigh, I decide that THAT is a task for NEXT spring.

# Spring



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Bob Tougas of Job Lot catches up with Cherine Whitney, a long time customer, about her latest craft project. *Beacon Media photos by Joy Fox*

# All the *tools* you need for *spring* and more

By JOY FOX  
Beacon Media Publisher

“I need nothing,” said Cherine Whitney as she pushed her cart away to do exactly the opposite after a gleeful exchange about how hard it is to resist a Job Lot deal.

Safe to say, Whitney is not alone. Job Lot shoppers often stop in for one quick item only to find their cart overflowing with the store’s famous “crazy deals”, “insider deals”, and just plain old deals they couldn’t refuse, especially as the seasons change.

No matter what a person’s level of ambition for cleaning and gardening this

spring, Job Lot is ready and waiting. Garden supplies, cleaning supplies, indoor/outdoor rugs, patio sets and accessories are fully stocked. If you need it, chances are they’ve got it.

Since 1977, finding what you want has been a priority for company leaders since opening their first store in North Kingstown. The other important goal is to provide “an exceptional customer experience,” according to Bob Tougas, store team leader.

### Providing value

“For us, it’s Kindergarten 101,” said Tougas of Cranston. “Treat people the

way you want to be treated. When you visit our stores, we want you to have that family feel and know that you will be taken care of.”

Twenty-five years ago, after corporate consolidations in the grocery business left him looking for a new job, friends suggested he apply to Job Lot. Prior to joining the North Kingstown team, he worked for three years to get the new Job Lot on Warwick Avenue up and running.

Tougas doesn’t miss a beat when asked to cite the wide range of products they have on hand to meet customers’ year-round needs and seasonal supplies. Cleaning supplies, patio furniture, gazebos, pop-up tents, vegetable seeds, hoses and nozzles, planters, fire pits, pool supplies – and so much more. While the depth and breadth of products may have changed here and there over the years, the biggest shift he’s noticed is how customers are buying.

“Buying online and using ship-to-store continues to increase,” he said.

It’s exciting to be in a place that is growing, he says while tidying shelves and displays. The company plans to open 20 new locations in the coming year on the East Coast.

### Providing the product

The North Kingstown store on Frenchtown Road plays a little different role in the vast network of stores that spans from Maine to Maryland. It’s the closest to the company’s headquarters in the Quonset Business Park and is likely to receive more frequent visits from company executives, to check on merchandise and, well, to shop.

And that’s how Marlene Bellini, vice president of buying, joined the conversation with Tougas last week. She popped in to grab some last-minute gifts.

Bellini, along with her team of 12, help keep the stores stocked with everything customers need and more. Relying on planning, forecasting, analytics, Bellini starts her buying at least a year in ad-

vance. The team has its ear to the ground for buyouts, closeouts, overstock from Amazon and Macy’s, and hundreds of retailers in between.

She says if the “price is right” she jumps on it. She just placed an order for 80,000 shirts. But she is also mindful to steer clear of chasing trends and to not worry about what WalMart and Target are doing. Ship-to-store has also allowed the chain to buy smaller quantities too.

“We love a brand and so does the consumer, and if we can offer that brand at a better price, we do,” she continued, listing off clothing brands such as Champion to Fiskars gardening tools. For her, all roads lead back to value for the customer.

### Weathering the economy

Like many businesses, Job Lot is not immune to shifts in economic policy and public health emergencies.

And when it comes to weathering the economy, Tougas echoes the same point, it “goes back to everyday value.”

“We are all trying to save money, no matter the price point,” he said. “We have all kinds of customers, and they are all looking for value.”

Bellini added that the company has never strayed from who they are. “We understand our business and are passionate about it. This passion starts at the top with Marc (Perlman principal owner and CEO of Ocean State Job Lot).”

The company navigated the pandemic, which brought increases to freight and shipping along with a surge in sales because of people staying home and going back to take care of their yards.

The also navigated increased tariffs during the first Trump administration and now are paying attention to the next wave of tariffs coming. Their teams are looking for different countries to source products. They say they will continue to make sure their shelves are stocked with whatever their customers need.

“We will always have reasonable prices to give someone a deal,” said Tougas.



*“Treat people the way you want to be treated. When you visit our stores, we want you to have that family feel and know that you will be taken care of.”*  
— Bob Tougas

Bob Tougas of Cranston is a store team leader at Job Lot.



Marlene Bellini talks buying trends and customer value with her colleague, Bob Tougas.



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Marie Limoge, on the deck of her new tiny home, which boasts 650 square feet of living space, including a kitchen, a loft, one bedroom, and one bath. *Beacon Media photo by Joy Fox*

# Accessory dwellings become reality under new law

By JOY FOX  
Beacon Media Publisher

## Getting started

For years, Marie Limoges believed her daughter's garage "would make a terrific tiny house."

About a year ago, she and her daughter, Michele Grimes, started to make this dream a reality. Limoge moved into her tiny house in the Gaspee section of Warwick in January and couldn't be happier.

"At a certain point you start to wonder if you can get a project like this off the ground," she said last week standing on the porch of her new 650 square-foot home, noting the stress of increasing rents. "We decided to jump in and get it done."

On March 19, she and Grimes were joined by elected officials, builders, and others to cut the ribbon on Warwick's first accessory dwelling unit (ADU) under new legislation.

The Limoge project was managed by Giuseppe "Joe" Pagnani from NE Tiny Homes of East Providence, along with company co-owners Kyle Seyboth and Alicia Medeiros. The three have worked in real estate and property development for years and decided to seize this moment in home construction.

According to a press release from the office of Speaker Joseph Shekarchi, ADUs, sometimes referred to as in-law apartments or granny flats, have become increasingly popular around the country in recent years as states as municipalities balance the need to create more housing while preserving the character of residential neighborhoods.

## New law

The legislation allowing for ADUs was signed into law in June 2024 and was sponsored by House Commission on Housing Affordability Chairwoman June S. Speakman and Sen. Victoria Gu. Shekarchi was the House bill's top co-sponsor.

The new law provides homeowners the right to develop a single ADU on an owner-occupied property, within the existing footprint of their structures or on any lot larger than 20,000 square feet, provided that the ADU's design satisfies building code, size limits and infrastructure requirements, according to the Shekarchi's office.

The legislation prohibits ADUs constructed under this provision from being used as short-term rentals and streamlines the permitting process.

## The need

"There is a massive need for affordable housing," said Seyboth. He noted with the passage of the ADU legislation, there is "an excellent opportunity" in the market.

"This is not a fad," said Medeiros, noting that as a mom she is already thinking ahead about how they can afford housing in the future and considering her own garage conversion. "People need housing, and this [option] is an affordable, stable solid investment people can feel positive about."

Pagnani agreed. "Multigenerational living is sustainable and affordable," he said.

"We must reframe how we think about housing as we grow older, and ADUs are part of the equation," said Catherine Taylor, AARP Rhode Island state director in a press release. "Aging in community – where 87 percent of Rhode Islanders 45 and older have told us they wish to be – is possible if homes can be modified to accommodate changing needs. Our cities and towns must have housing options that are suitable for differing incomes, ages and life stages. ADUs are an important way to accomplish this goal."

Along with AARP, the bill was supported by numerous organizations and agencies, including Rhode Island Housing, Grow Smart RI and Housing Network RI.

There are a couple major steps to consider before construction even begins, starting with financing and site review. So long as the homeowner has the space, it can be assessed for an ADU. Projects can range from a new build to converting a garage, basement or attic.

Once the project financing was set, the next important step for Limoge was to find a trustworthy partner. She chose the NE Tiny Home team.



The Limoge tiny home was the first in Warwick under new ADU legislation. Aiden, a member of the construction team, along with Marie Limoge, her daughter, Michele Grimes, and builders, Jessica and Jason Correia. *Submitted photo*

navigate projects.

"The permit process took a long time," said Limoges, again noting that her project was the first in Warwick under the new law.

For the Limoge project, with financing set and permits in hand, crews ripped the roof off the existing garage and went up two levels. The initial framing started around Labor Day weekend.

The final product: a new build tiny home with approximately 650 square feet of living space, including a kitchen, a loft, one bedroom, and one bath.

"I would have lost my mind doing this on my own," Limoge said. "It was a wonderful experience. The guys had such work ethic."

The feeling was mutual. "I love my clients," said Pagnani, noting the personal rewards he feels helping people age in place.

"What better thing is there than keeping families together," he said.

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# Sports



Stella-Blue Kraus and Madison Gautieri celebrate after a goal. *Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller*

## 'A growing process'

### Titans look to build momentum with young core

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

The Toll Gate girls lacrosse team is off to a solid start this season as it sits at 2-2 overall and 1-1 in league play. The Titans picked up a pair of wins to begin the season but have since dropped two as they sit at .500

Madison Gautieri and Aubrey Rubeira lead the team in scoring with four goals each while Stella-Blue Kraus and Delanie Wheeler have each scored three goals.

Wheeler scored a hat trick in the season opener when Toll Gate beat North Providence, 5-1. The team then edged Ponaganset in a 2-1 win before falling to Cranston East 9-8 in a game which they surrendered a four-goal lead. Toll Gate most recently fell to Cranston West in a 12-2 decision.

The Titans played strong defense through their first three games and coach Jim Areson was pleased with the effort in the loss at East.

"We've played pretty good D, I thought we played

● **PROCESS to page 28**



Tate Payne looks to pass the ball last week against Cranston East.

## Roundup: Pats improve to 3-0

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Pilgrim softball team edged Ponaganset 7-3 on Tuesday to improve to 3-0 this season.

Skylar Hawes, Madison Tuirok and Genna D'Amato all drove in multiple runs while Gretchen Dombeck added another.

Dombeck got the win in the circle, pitching a complete game while allowing just one earned run and striking out six batters.

Pilgrim will next face Moses Brown on Thursday afternoon before taking on Toll Gate on Friday.

### Toll Gate 15, Exeter-West Greenwich 0

The Titans got back to .500 by rolling past the Scarlett Knights.

Abby O'Connor led Toll Gate at the plate by going 2-for-3 with three RBI. Lexi Watson also drove in a pair of runs.

Reagan Motta got the win in the circle for the Titans, pitching three hitless innings while picking up six strikeouts.

The Titans faced South Kingstown at home on Wednesday afternoon, but the results were not available at press time.

### BASEBALL

#### West Warwick 5, Toll Gate 0

The Titans were shut out at home by the Wizards last week.

Oliver Chaves pitched 3 1/3 innings for the Titans and recorded six strikeouts. Braeden Geer pitched three innings and finished with three strikeouts and Brady Fales struck out two batters in 2/3 of an inning of work.

The Titans took on East Greenwich on Wednesday, but the results were unavailable at press time.

Toll Gate won its league opener last week when it beat St. Ray's 5-3.

Jack Colvin and Geer each drove in two runs while Colvin earned the win on the mound, pitching five innings and allowing one run while striking out five batters. Greg Laliberte and Chavez each tossed an inning of relief and struck out two batters each.

#### Pilgrim 3, La Salle 0

The Pats topped La Salle in a playoff rematch last week.

Henry Kearns went 1-for-3 and drove in a pair of runs while Tyler Boudreau added another.

Liam Budz got the win on the mound, pitching a complete game while allowing just three hits and striking out three batters.

The Pats were shut out 4-0 by North Providence the following game.

Derrick Butler pitched five innings and allowed no earned runs while striking out five batters. Boudreau recorded a strikeout in two innings of relief and also allowed no earned runs.

The Pats will be back in action on Thursday when they travel to Moses Brown. They will then take on Cranston West Friday.

### BOYS TENNIS

#### Barrington 6, Hendricken 1

The Hawks fell to the Eagles on Tuesday. Hendricken's lone win came at first doubles when Patrick Cavanaugh and Shane Ciunci earned the 6-2, 6-4 win.

### BOYS VOLLEYBALL

#### Toll Gate 3, EWG 1

The Titans edged EWG last week and were led by Harrison Hun with 12 kills, while Riley Scanlon added 18 assists.

#### Pawtucket 3, Pilgrim 0

The Pats were swept on Monday night. Logan McDermott led the way with eight kills in the defeat.

Pilgrim faced West Warwick on Wednesday and will next be in action against Johnston on Friday.

## Warwick tennis co-op splits first matches

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

The Warwick boys tennis co-op split its first two matches of the season as it enters its third year as a partnership. The co-op dropped the season opener to Providence Country Day 5-2 but bounced back to sweep Scituate 7-0 the following match.

John Maynard won his singles match against PCD in three sets, coming back to win 4-6/ 6-4/ 7-6. William King and Alex Marsis won their match at second doubles 6-4/ 6-2.

Top singles player Cornelius Zmed won 6-0/ 6-1 while Parker Weldy picked up a 6-3/ 6-1 win at second singles against Scituate. Josh Maynard won at third singles, 6-1/ 6-2 while John Maynard won in the fourth spot, also 6-1/ 6-2.

Etienne Degos and Jacob Scott took home a 6-2/ 7-5 win at first doubles, while King and Marsis won 6-2/ 6-3. Avy Marques and Alex Mihalos won 6-1/ 2-6/ 7-2 at third doubles to complete the shutout win.

The co-op took a step forward as a program last season by finishing the regular season 6-6 and reaching the Divi-

● **TENNIS to page 27**



## Athlete of the Week: John Maynard

The Warwick Beacon's Athlete of the Week is senior John Maynard, who returns as one of the leaders of the Pilgrim-Toll Gate boys tennis co-op. Maynard has gotten off to a strong start for the team and won his first two matches of the year. He won a thriller to open the season in a 4-6/ 6-4/ 7-6 comeback before taking home a 6-1/ 6-2 win the following match against Scituate to help Warwick improve to 1-1. *Beacon Media photo by Alex Sponseller*

# Magaziner discusses Trump-Musk attacks on NOAA

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI  
Special to the Beacon

Last week I was pleasantly surprised to see U.S. Representative Seth Magaziner from Rhode Island hosting an issues forum with other U.S. House Natural Resources Committee Members titled “Attacks on NOAA threaten American Communities and Economies.”

During this forum, the Members examined the dangerous consequences of the Trump administration’s ongoing campaign to dismantle the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Members and panelists warned that Trump and Musk’s attacks are calculated moves to silence scientists, privatize public services, and reward tax breaks to billionaires at the expense of the American people.

“Fishing is part of who we are in Rhode Island—and data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on weather, fish stocks, and more plays a critical role in protecting lives and livelihoods in the Ocean State,” said Rep. Seth Magaziner. “I was proud to bring voices together and host today’s forum with House Natural Resources Committee Democrats to elevate local challenges and shine a light on the reckless cuts to NOAA by Trump and Musk that hurt the Ocean State and its coastal economy.”

The second pleasant forum surprise for me was that Sarah Schumann, Rhode Island and Alaskan commercial fisher, and Owner/Principal Consultant, Shining Sea Fisheries Consulting, LLC was the lead fisheries panelist at the forum.

Schumann, said, “All of the ambitious and visionary things that fishermen desperately need, the faster, more collaborative data collection and decision-making, the greater attention to the multitude of stressors affecting fishery habitats, the supports for young people to enter and thrive in fishing careers, will be vastly more difficult to achieve with a diminished and distressed NOAA workforce.”

The form also included comments from committee Ranking Member Jared Huffman of California who said, “Commercial and recreational fishers have stories to tell about the impacts these policies have on their day-to-day lives and their families’ futures. Sarah Schumann highlighted some of these stories at the forum, and there are so many more fishers out there who can and should speak their truth to power while we still have a shot at turning this chaos around.”

Hats off to Rep Huffman for holding the NOAA forum and for Rep. Magaziner for doing a great job hosting. Rep. Magaziner’s leadership makes me, fishers and all Rhode Islanders proud.

### Trout season opens this Saturday. Go Fish!

Rhode Island and Massachusetts have stocked waterways with a variety of trout which makes catching them easy this time of year. Freshwater fishing is a good way to start fishing as anglers of all ages can fish from the safety and comfort of a pond, lake or river bank.



Rep. Seth Magaziner leads discussions at the Natural Resources Committee’s NOAA issues forum. Rep. Maxine Dexter of Oregon looks on. Submitted photo

The trout season in Rhode Island opens this Saturday, April 12. Most waterways in Massachusetts were already open before this date.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has stocked over 60,000 brook, brown, rainbow and golden rainbow trout and Massachusetts stocks over 500,000 fish each year.

Kenneth “Casey” Fernstrom, DEM Senior Biologist and manager of the four trout hatcheries in Rhode Island said, “We are stocking with larger fish this year, most are between 14” and 18”, however, the 20 plus inch fish are more abundant, particularly the golden trout we stocked this year.”

Anglers who catch a golden rainbow trout on Opening Day and through May 6 will be eligible to receive a golden trout pin. Simply take a picture and email it to dem.fishri@dem.ri.gov for verification. Submissions must be received no later than Monday, May 5, 2025.

“State law requires boaters to have personal flotation devices (PFDs) for each person and a newer regulation is that all operators and passengers of canoes, kayaks, paddle boards and any other paddle craft must always wear a PFD, regardless of age,” said Deputy Chief Michael Schippritt of DEM’s Law Enforcement Division. “Anglers are reminded to protect themselves from hypothermia. Do not be fooled by warm fishing weather in the

spring as the water is very cold in the 50 degree range so respect that and take precautions. Boaters are also asked to make sure their vessels are check out, are in good working order and safe as opening day is the first time many anglers are using their boats for the season.”

A 2025 fishing license is required for anglers 15 years of age and older. A Trout Conservation Stamp is also required of anyone wishing to keep or possess a trout or to fish in a catch-and-release or “fly-fishing only” area in Rhode Island.

The daily creel/possession limit for trout and/or landlocked domestic salmon singly or in aggregate, is five from April 12, 2025, through Nov. 30, 2025, however, only two salmon may be possessed per day. The number is reduced to two Dec. 1, 2025, to Feb. 28, 2026.

For complete regulations, a list of stocked ponds, and a copy of the RI Freshwater Fishing Regulations and Guide visit Fish & Wildlife | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and in Massachusetts visit Freshwater Fishing | Mass.gov.

### Where’s the bite?

Striped bass fishing in salt ponds, rivers and waterways continues to be very good with anglers catching holdover striped bass to 34”.

Cod Fishing is still open as new regulations have been delayed due to the new Federal rule making executive order,

agencies must reduce regulations by ten to introduce every new one. This executive order needs to exempt fishing (as it did in the last President Trump administration) as fisheries open and close regularly based on quotas.

Rick Bellavance, chairman of the New England Fishery Management Council and president of the RI Party & Charter Boat Association said, “Since the fishing year starts on May 1, and the new regulations may not be ready to start the year, NOAA is trying to develop an emergency action that will basically implement the councils desired management plans. NOAA is hoping to be able to implement the emergency action prior to May 1st, but that is not a sure thing. I will most likely learn more at the Mid-Atlantic Council meeting. If the emergency action is not successful, the current understanding is the fishery closes.”

Freshwater fishing. Opening day for trout season in Rhode Island is Saturday, April 12, largemouth bass fishing has been good.

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

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## WFFSC kicks off spring

The Warwick Fire Fighters Soccer Club kicked off its opening day of the spring recreational season last Saturday at Winslow Park with hundreds of players hitting the field. WFFSC is set to host a record number of kids this upcoming season with over 700 recreational players across 54 teams and 450 players across 38 competitive teams. The program is run by its 200 volunteer coaches along with its board of directors as it has established itself as the state's top youth soccer program. Here are some looks at the Opening Day action. *Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller*



## RWA headed back to Johnston

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Renegade Wrestling Alliance will be making its return to the Johnston Recreation Center on Saturday, April 12 for its April Reign event.

The event, which will be headed by former champion and newly-appointed commissioner Alfred "Danger Boy Alfredo" Travieso, will feature a stacked lineup of local wrestlers looking to put on a big time performance.

Some notable RWA names that will be going at it include Rylie O'Neil and Sara Jade. There will also be a Lucky 7 Gauntlet match, featuring seven fighters with the winner earning a shot at the title against current champ Mike Graca in June. On top of the gauntlet, there will also be The Monarchy Royal Invitational Tournament, which will be a bracketed competition featuring seven more performers.

There will also be a newcomer to the action, as Jariel Rivera is slated to make his debut against "The Right Stuff" Stephen Lust.

The event is set to begin at 6 p.m. Front row seats are sold out, however, plenty of seats are still available for purchase at [rwa4ever.com](http://rwa4ever.com). There will be food, drinks and free parking on site. The event is sponsored by The 78 Pub and This Guy's Pizza.

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**APRIL REIGN**

**Lucky 7 Contenders Gauntlet Winner vs Mike Graca at RWA Spectacle**

# Ovechkin's record may never be caught

Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin finally broke the NHL's all-time goal record last week when he put away No. 895, topping Wayne Gretzky's record which was set all the way back in 1994.

Hockey has become a secondary sport in our region when compared to the likes of football, baseball and basketball, which in this case is a shame, as this is one of the biggest sports stories of the past decade.

Like most that watch the NHL, I have spent the majority of my life considering Gretzky's record as untouchable. I never thought I would see the day that the record was broken as 895 is such an astronomical number. It was not until last season that I began thinking that Ovechkin had a chance.

At 39 years old, Ovechkin is not as explosive as he once was

but remains a productive player. He is now up to 42 goals this season and a plus/minus of 17. This record chase has propelled him to one of his best seasons ever as he has tapped into his younger self.

I thought that by the time he retired he would have a chance, but I thought he'd be lucky to score anything beyond, say, 25 goals this year. This is my long-winded way of saying that what he is doing is remarkable.

We'll see what the future holds for him, but if he sticks around for another couple seasons, he may actually be able to put the record out of reach for more than Gretzky's 31 years. The Capitals are one of the favorites to win the Stanley Cup this season, and if they do, would Ovechkin consider retirement with the goals record and his second championship? I can't say I'd blame him if he walked away under those cir-



## My Pitch

by Alex Sponseller

cumstances, but how could he retire after scoring over 40 goals? Clearly he still has more in the tank.

Although most fans have embraced witnessing history, there of course were some naysayers on the radio airwaves the past few days trying to put a damper on Ovechkin's record. The older generation that still worships Gretzky is very protective of his legacy and Ovechkin being mentioned in the same breath has clearly struck a nerve for some.

Relax. Gretzky is still the greatest player of all time. He's second in goals scored, first in assists (which is a record that truly, may never be touched),

first in points, fourth in career plus/minus, all while being a nine-time MVP and four-time Stanley Cup champion. Although one record slipped away, it's hard to imagine that we encounter a better, more accomplished player in the sport in our lifetimes.

I am a sucker for historic moments in sports. I love a feel-good story, I love a thrilling game, but perhaps more than anything, I love watching history. While most fans in Rhode Island were locked in to March Madness and the Red Sox opening their season, my eyes were on the goals record. It may, and probably will be, the last time we ever see that record broken.

By the way, Gretzky was first class throughout the entire process.

He traveled with the Capitals the last few games and when the record was broken, he was the

first person to shake his hand on the ice and delivered more than complimentary words of congratulations. Records are meant to be broken and he operated in a manner that few would. Sure, professionals are usually capable of putting on a brave face when needed, but Gretzky appeared to be truly happy for Ovechkin. He seemed proud to pass the torch to the next generation.

There are some things in sports that we rarely, if ever witness. The all-time goals record in hockey is one of the most prestigious numbers that we finally, after 31 years, got to see be reset. Pittsburgh Penguins' star Sidney Crosby is the next down the list of current players with 622, but is 37 years old. Steven Stamkos is at 580 but is 35.

If Ovechkin keeps playing, we could be waiting more than 31 years. Let's celebrate witnessing such a significant event.

# Locals lead RIC track to 3rd at Bryant

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Junior Haley Oliver (Coventry) finished third in the 5,000m (18:00.95) as the Rhode Island College women's track and field team competed at Bryant's Ocean State Cup on Thursday and Friday afternoon.

The event featured seven Rhode Island teams from across Div. I, II and III. Rhode Island College, Roger Williams and Johnson and Wales were the lone Div. III squads.

The team score was comprised of both the men's and women's results. RIC finished fifth with a team score of 115.5. URI won the meet with a team score of 406.0.

Junior Milana Melvin (Johnston) finished 14th in the discus (29.59m) and 15th in the hammer (37.89m). Fifth-year Trinity Hayes (Providence) finished third in the 400m (57.88) and fourth in both the 4x100m relay (49.42) and the 200m (25.04).

Freshman Quiana Pezza (Cranston) finished fourth in both the triple jump (10.46m) and the 4x100m relay (49.42) and 14th in the 200m (26.50). Junior

Tayshia Cary (Wakefield) finished fourth in the 4x100m relay (49.42), ninth in the 100m (13.38) and 16th in the 200m (26.61).

Freshman Bendu Kamara (Pawtucket) finished fourth in the 4x100m relay (49.42) and 17th in the 400m (1:02.45).

Senior Samantha Sainristil (Cranston) finished fifth in the shot (12.25m), seventh in the hammer (45.62m) and 12th in the discus (32.04m).

Junior Bethanie Jean-Philippe (Cranston) finished seventh in the javelin (35.04m). Sophomore Lexie Zakrzewski (Taunton, Mass.) finished 18th in the 400m (1:03.37).

Freshman Grace Lane (North Smithfield) finished 18th in the 800m (2:34.45).

Freshman Mariangely Rodriguez (Providence) finished 18th in the discus (23.97m) and 25th in the hammer (31.41m). Freshman Taryn Reed (Pascoag) finished 19th in the hammer (36.24m) and 22nd in the discus (22.14m).

Sophomore Shirley Portillo (North Providence) finished 20th in the 800m (2:46.97).

Freshman Funmilayo Mclin (Providence) finished 21st in the hammer

(33.08m).

Junior Valeria Uribe Calderon (Central Falls) finished 21st in the 800m (2:52.17).

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at Southern New Hampshire's Ed Daniels Invitational on Saturday, April 12 (10:45 a.m.).

## RIC baseball swept

Junior center fielder Lucas McElroy (Westport, Mass.) went a combined 3-for-6 with three singles as Rhode Island College dropped a Little East twin-bill vs. Eastern Connecticut (17-1; 3-1) at Pontarelli Field on Friday afternoon.

## GAME ONE

Both squads put in a defensive battle, led by the pitching, as the first three innings were scoreless.

The Anchormen were able to put themselves on the board first on a solo home run from senior designated hitter Lucas Pierce (Chepachet) in the fourth frame.

Fifth-year pitcher Terry Murray (Norfolk, Mass.) was brilliant through six innings until the Warriors rattled off a five-run seventh frame.

The visitors were not done there, as a

four-run eighth and an eight-run put the game out of reach. Pierce went 2-for-4 with a double and a homer. Murray picked up the loss (1-2), striking out four in 6 2/3 innings of work.

## GAME TWO

Fifth-year shortstop Izaiah Rivera (Pawtucket) registered the first hit of the game with a double to center field in the second inning.

However, he was left on base to end the inning and the Warriors put a run across in the top of the third with a single to pick up the early, 1-0 lead.

The Anchormen remained scoreless until the bottom of the sixth as fifth-year third baseman Cal Parrillo (Greenville) grounded out, which plated Pierce to knot the game.

Eastern Connecticut capitalized on a two-out error by the Anchormen in the seventh to take their first lead and held on to complete the sweep.

Sophomore reliever Stephen Sullivan (Acton, Mass.) hurled a solid three innings out of the bullpen, allowing two unearned runs to go along with three strikeouts, in the loss (1-2).

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14 Kearsarge Dr	Johnson, Arleigh and Johnson, Isabel F	Granillo, Abner G	3/21	\$515,000	110 Winter Ave	Olivier, Ross and Olivier, Shannon	Fricchione, Melanie A and Huth, Ollie A	3/20	\$498,500
15 Flynn Ave	Fed Natl Mtg Assn	Montesino, Leslie R	3/18	\$559,900	176 Horse Neck Rd	Burgos, Wilfredo and Ayala, Crystalle	Foote, Nicole and Jones, Ryan	3/20	\$273,000
17 Hillsdale Dr	J&M Home Buyers LLC	Rose, Katherine and Rose, Erika R	3/18	\$640,000	177 Baldwin Rd	Larkin, Robert J and Larkin, Jeane E	Papapietro, Hannah R and Papapietro Jr, Robert	3/17	\$400,000
203 Bay View Ave	Ramos, Ramon C	Fernandez, Ivelisse A and Fernandez, Joel	3/17	\$392,000	19 Cushing Rd	Barriera, Elaine	Prop Bldrs Ri LLC	3/17	\$243,000
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Warwick's top singles player Cornelius Zmed returns a shot in the season opener against Providence Country Day.



Warwick's Parker Weldy makes a play.

● TENNIS from page 22

sion III playoffs, where they fell to Burrillville in the opening round.

Some key upperclassmen return to the lineup, including John and Josh Maynard and Scott. However, much of the lineup is occupied by a large freshman class, with guys like Zmed, Weldy and Marsis making early impacts.

With a balanced lineup and quality depth with 23 players in the program, Warwick coach Matthew Morris hopes to see the team get back to the playoffs and advance past the first round.

"They finished 6-6 last year and made the playoffs. I think being able to be 6-6 compared to what

they had been was a win. I think with the experience that you have playing high school tennis from Josh and John Maynard, Jacob Scott, William King, and the other tennis experience the others have, I hope they go far," said Morris.

Morris is also excited to have a young group to work with moving forward and has been encouraged by their dedication starting at the middle school level with Vets.

"They seem like a good group of players and they also want to do well and have a good season. They recognize that they have a decent amount of talent on the team this year. They're taking the co-op in stride. we're taking the best of both schools and presenting it to the state," Morris said.



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Stella-Blue Kraus carries the ball last week against East.

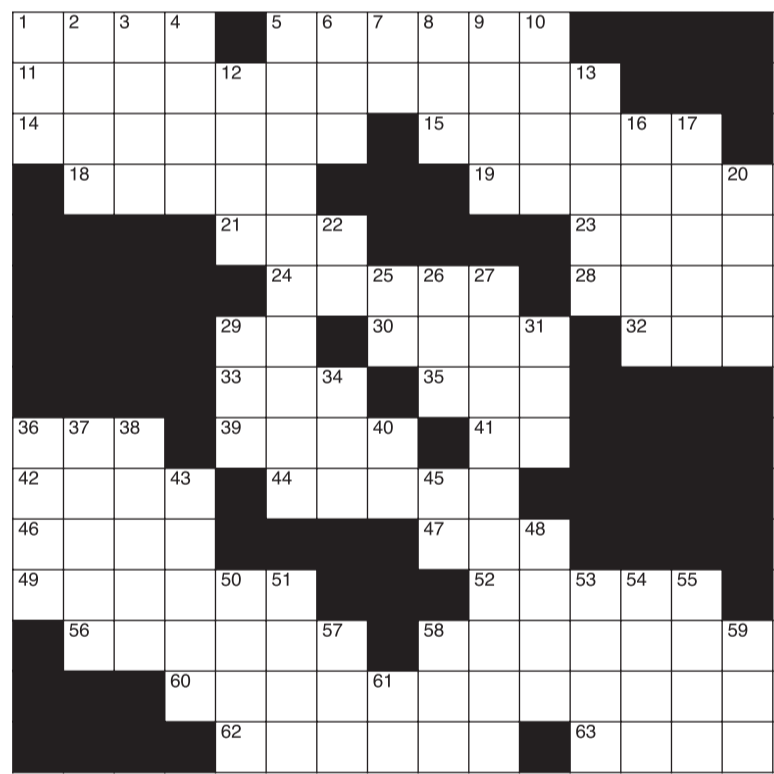
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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Garden tool
- 5. A way to preserve
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. Domestic sheep
- 15. Simpler
- 18. Cavities containing liquid
- 19. Large fish-eating bird
- 21. Ocular protection index
- 23. Phil \_\_, former CIA
- 24. Icelandic poems
- 28. Pop
- 29. Device
- 30. Actor Rudd
- 32. A pituitary hormone
- 33. Focus on an object
- 35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 36. Young women's association
- 39. Not shallow
- 41. Doctor
- 42. Furniture
- 44. Hindu male religious teacher
- 46. Highly spiced stew
- 47. A way to communicate
- 49. Almost last

- 52. Astronomer Carl
- 56. Small horses
- 58. A slender tower with balconies
- 60. A disrespectful quality
- 62. Fully shaded inner regions
- 63. Short convulsive intake of breath

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Popular Sunday dinner option
- 2. Oil cartel
- 3. Agile
- 4. Greek goddess of discord
- 5. Genetically distinct variety
- 6. Indicates badly
- 7. Popular Mr. T character
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL great Randy
- 12. Within
- 13. Palm trees
- 16. Fungal disease
- 17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
- 20. Affirmative! (slang)

- 22. A passport is one
- 25. Two outs in baseball (abbr.)
- 26. Swiss river
- 27. Differential
- 29. Where a bachelor lives
- 31. Portable computer screen material
- 34. A crying noise of a bird
- 36. Sticky, amorphous substance
- 37. Starchy dish of dried tubers
- 38. Type of acid
- 40. Partner to "Ma"
- 43. 16 ounces
- 45. The Bay State
- 48. A well-defined track or path
- 50. Substitution
- 51. Defined period
- 53. Group of toughs
- 54. Region
- 55. Famed Scottish Loch
- 57. Blood relation
- 58. Not around
- 59. Recipe measurement
- 61. Father to Junior

● **PROCESS** from page 22

good defense today. We're hurting a little bit, we've got a couple kids injured right now. Every day they're a little bit better," said Areson. "It's a growing process. I thought they played well today, but (Cranston East leading scorer Lily) Tillinghast is a really good player. This game is all about possession, and in the second and third quarter, we didn't possess it at all."

Toll Gate's roster is young with only three seniors in Ayla Paley, Ava Marrocco and Kate Whelan. Rubeira is a sophomore, along with players like Lauren Bastien and Emerson Wheeler. Toll Gate has a large junior core which includes Delanie Wheeler, Tate Payne, Gautieri and Blue-Kraus.

A key freshman will be Olivia Napoli-

tano, who won the goalie competition in the preseason and has held steady in the early going.

"She's played really well. She earned (the starting position) and has been getting better every time she's out there. She's done some good things," said Areson.

The Titans were back in action on Wednesday in a rematch against West but the results were unavailable at press time. Toll Gate will be taking on Classical on Friday night on the road.

As the Titans look to improve and make a playoff run in Division III, Areson hopes that they will improve in practice first.

"We've been trying to work on things in practice, and when you're this young, the only way you're going to get better is by practice," said Areson.



Madison Gautieri, who leads the team with four goals this season.



Gracelyn Cobb last week in Cranston.

**Prudence Dispatch.**

A POETRY JOURNAL

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