



**THE PINNACLE:** Johnston native and Boston Celtics head coach Joe Mazzulla in an appearance he made at Bishop Hendricken, his alma mater. Mazzulla became the youngest coach since 1968 to win an NBA title. *(Photos courtesy Bishop Hendricken)*

# ‘He had it in his blood’

## Johnston’s Mazzulla becomes youngest coach since ‘68 to win NBA title

By ALEX SPONSELLER

Johnston’s own Joe Mazzulla made history on Monday night as he led the Boston Celtics to their league-leading 18th championship when they beat the Dallas Mavericks in Game 5 of the NBA Finals in Boston. Mazzulla, 35, became the youngest coach to win a championship since Bill Russell won at 34 in 1968.

After a successful playing career at Bishop Hendricken, one that would include state championships and Gatorade Player of the Year honors, Mazzulla would go on to play for Division I West Virginia. He would work his way up through the coaching ranks, including stops at Fairmont State and the Maine Red

Claws, before being named the Celtics’ interim head coach prior to the 2022-23 season. He was elevated as permanent head coach during that campaign.

The Celtics enjoyed one of their best seasons in franchise history in 2023-24, winning 64 games and finishing by going on a dominant postseason run, boasting a 16-3 record and winning it all in Monday’s 106-88 title clincher.

Watching closely was family friend and former Hendricken teammate David DelFino, who was thrilled to see another local make a big splash on the national stage.

MAZZULLA - PAGE 11



**COVER ME, I’M GOING IN:** The bocce court outside the Johnston Senior Center may be about to change forever. Town officials plan to construct an enclosure over the court, extending playing time greatly, practically year-round. Last year, the team posed for a photo. *(Photo courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)*

# Year-round bocce awaits Johnston seniors

By RORY SCHULER

One day soon, they’ll be rolling through the snow and rain. Year-round play may await Johnston’s senior bocce players, who have been informed the town plans to build an enclosure over the Johnston Senior Center’s Italian lawn bowling court.

BOCCE - PAGE 4

# 15 Minute Field Trips wins \$44,000 Champlin grant

By RYAN DOHERTY  
Special to the SunRise

What could you do in 15 minutes? Melissa Guillet, creative director of 15 Minute Field Trips (15MFT), has wrestled with this question for years. Guillet, who worked as a full-time teacher, said the idea started from the amount of time her class had for recess.

“I tried to organize some kind of outdoor exploration during that time,” she remembered.

15MFT officially became a nonprofit in 2019, offering before and after-school programming and a summer camp to connect children and families of all ages to the environment.

In late May, the Johnston-based organization received a \$44,000 capital grant from the Champlin Foundation to help with laptop and vehicle costs. Champlin capital grants are given for equipment and facilities costs rather than programming. 15MFT was the only organization based in Johnston to receive funding this year.

This type of grant is rare for 15MFT, which usually receives project-based grants. But, equipment upgrades have proved necessary.

“Right now we’re using my personal laptop from 2014 which is completely maxed out,” Guillet said. “It takes me 10 minutes to open a Word file. It’s very frustrating”

GRANT - PAGE 10

# HEAT WAVE WARNING

## Work up a sweat beating the heat

By RYAN DOHERTY  
& GRETA SHUSTER  
Special to the SunRise

As heat indexes rise to near triple digits, Johnston residents have been breaking a sweat trying to stay cool. The National Weather Service issued a heat advisory from noon Wednesday to 7 p.m. Friday due to rising temperatures and high humidity.

When the heat becomes unbearable, Johnston residents look for places to cool off.

The Mohr Memorial Library offers a series of indoor activities in the cool oasis of their air conditioned facility. It will be open during its regular hours for the remainder of the week.

During the heat advisory, the library will offer a drawing class for adults at 3 p.m. on Thursday and knitting and crocheting at 10 a.m. on Friday.

HEAT - PAGE 5

### Heat Exhaustion

**ACT FAST**

- Move to a cooler area
- Loosen clothing
- Sip cool water
- Seek medical help if symptoms don't improve

Dizziness

Thirst

Heavy Sweating

Nausea

Weakness

### Heat Stroke

**ACT FAST**

**CALL 911**

- Move person to a cooler area
- Loosen clothing and remove extra layers
- Cool with water or ice

Confusion

Dizziness

Becomes Unconscious

Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke.

Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.

**HYDRATE:** Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are no joke. Health officials recommend you drink water, find shade, and chill out, with the onset of the year’s first heat wave. *(Source: RI EMA)*



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**ON TRACK:** Troop 20 Scout Aidan DeAthos has completed his Eagle Project – a tricycle track for preschoolers.

# Prospective Eagle Scout builds tricycle track for preschoolers

## Special to the Sun Rise

Troop 20 Scout Aidan DeAthos from Johnston completed his Eagle Project this weekend with the help of his fellow scouts, friends and family.

Aidan wanted to give back to Greenville Nursery School for starting him on the path to success. With owner Dale Calcione they decided that the preschoolers would benefit from a tricycle track. A large part of preschool is developing their large muscles so they can develop balance, coordination, and motor skills.

With the help of Hartford Paving, Aidan was able to

move forward with his project plans.

Mike Brown of Hartford Paving took the time to speak with Aidan and discuss the project, and the requirements to make the track. Hartford Paving offered to donate the materials and labor to complete the project, allowing Aidan to proceed with the project.

After three months of planning, the project was completed on June 15. Scouts from Troop 20 built tricycles, a playhouse, as well as a storage space for the equipment.

Aidan hopes the kids enjoy their new track, and create fun memories and experiences for years to come.



**THREE-WHEELIN':** Prospective Eagle Scout Aidan DeAthos planned his project for three months, wrapping it up on June 15. Scouts from Troop 20 built tricycles, a playhouse, as well as a storage space for the equipment. (Photos courtesy Troop 20)

**FOUR GENERATIONS:**  
Four generations gathered together in Johnston for a special family visit recently. From left to right, Joanne Aurecchia Tolisano, Andrea Tolisano O'Brien, Sofia Marie O'Brien and Anna Aurecchia posed for a special snapshot for the family album. They shared the photo with the Sun Rise. (Submitted photo)





**DON'T LOOK BACK:** This week's Johnston Senior Center "Spotlite" shines on member Joan Diodati, who has a nuanced way of looking back (don't bother, she says). (Photo courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)

# Ask Joan why the rearview window is smaller than the front

By **RICHARD J. DELFINO JR.**  
Special to the Sun Rise

This week's Johnston Senior Center "Spotlite" shines on member Joan Diodati. According to Joan Diodati, "the Johnston Senior Center is an outlet of happiness and support, alive, vibrant and makes you feel more like your younger days."

Joan Diodati started coming to the Center about one year ago. She says she heard from some friends that there were lots of changes, and was amazed that classes and events were at no cost. In short time, she was attending many of the exercise programs, including line-dancing, and the wonderful daytrips.

She now, along with her many friends, has also signed up for overnight excursions sponsored by the Senior Center.

Joan says one of the great things about the JSC is that "you feel accepted and there is something for everyone." Joan, who had lived 32 years in Johnston, worked many years medical secretary in radiology. She credited the JSC with helping her move to a new chapter in her life.

She says, "If you are having a bad day, come to the JSC, and you will leave feeling better."

She also believes the rearview window is smaller than the front, because the past is behind you, and it serves no purpose to look back. Looking at life ahead of you and focusing family and happiness keeps you healthy and enriches your quality of life.

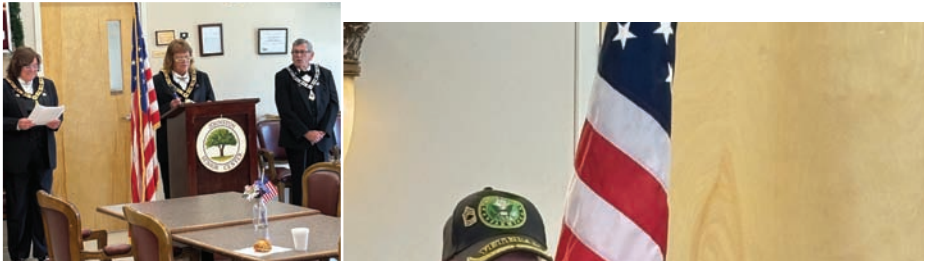
Come by the Johnston Senior Center and see what Joan and so many others have discovered.

**Editor's Note:** Richard J. DelFino Jr. serves as Executive Director of the Johnston Senior Center, at 1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston. The Johnston Sun Rise regularly publishes a senior profile, called "Senior Spotlight," submitted by the senior center.



**FLAG DAY:** Members of the Tri City Elks, Lodge No. 14, from Warwick, delivered a moving Flag Day Ceremony at the Johnston Senior Center on Monday, June 17.

## Our star-spangled banner



**STARS & STRIPES FOREVER:** Various commemorations were carried out by members and officers of the Elks Lodge No. 14, which covered a history of the U.S. Flag, as well as poems and patriotic music. Members and staff enjoyed a great day honoring our U.S. Flag. (Photos courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)



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**NEITHER RAIN NOR SNOW:** The only catch with the bocce court outside the Johnston Senior Center is that you can only play when the sun shines. A new enclosure, pitched for construction over the court, may make year-round play possible for the senior bocce players at the center, shown in the above and below photos, playing a round.

## ■ Bocce

(Continued from page 1)

"Members and staff of the Johnston Senior Center were thrilled to hear the JSC would be receiving monies to 'update and secure' a covering over the Center's Bocce court, which will allow bocce play from early spring to late fall," said Johnston Senior Center Executive Director Richard J. DelFino Jr. "The Town Council and Mayor support the funding to make the improvements."

Town Councilman Robert Civetti suggested the project during discussions over how to spend the town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The funds have been allocated to several projects in town, including a new garage for the Department of Public Works, and improvements at War Memorial Park. However, Civetti argued, the ARPA projects touched the daily lives of each age group in town, except the town's senior citizens.

Although the entirety of the ARPA funding has now been allocated to other projects, the town will use the interest gained on the ARPA funds or a Community Development Block Grant, to build a bocce enclosure at the senior center.

"I would like to thank Councilman Civetti for getting this done," said Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. "We are going to use either interest from ARPA funds or a CDBG, whichever is available and allows for the best use."

Meanwhile, the center's bocce players beamed with excitement.

"This is great," said Steve Massarone. "We'll be able to extend the season and maybe play at night."

"Great news," said Jan Desjardins. "We can play bocce all year long."

"Thank you for the great news," said Dennis Dinofrio, adding, "To play bocce year round ..."

"Wonderful!" said Marjorie Brennan. "Looking forward to playing year round."

"Having been a member of the Johnston Senior Center for over 20 years, it is so nice to have a state of the art bocce

court coming to (the) JSC. Me and my wife Doreen look forward to this new facility here at JSC."

"I first want to thank (Robert) Civetti on the council and Richard DelFino for them getting a state-of-the-art bocce court," said senior center member and bocce bowler Gloria Renzi. "Since he has been the director of the Johnston Senior Center, he has gone above his duty to help us."

Last summer, DelFino submitted a write-up and photos from last season's bocce play.

"One of the most picturesque sites on the beautiful Johnston Senior Center property is located behind the building and not in general view of those traveling Hartford avenue or entering the parking area to the sides and in front of the building," DelFino wrote, long before the plans were pitched to improve the court. "The bocce court is adorned with beautiful flowers and an incredible view of the western part of town, now featuring a great view of the impressive Amazon building."

DelFino said the center's members love to soak up the sun on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning games of bocce.

"As Director, I would like to expand our opportunities to include hosting some of the other centers for those who may be a little more serious or competitive," DelFino said last year. "Bocce at the JSC is one more event for our community to enjoy."

DelFino's plans are coming to fruition.

"The JSC is experiencing record numbers in membership and participation, and all programs, like the Bocce League are benefitting from the community and town support," DelFino said earlier this week.

While the plans remain in the earliest stages, town officials hope to see progress at the site soon.

"I would anticipate the design phase to begin in the coming months and the site work to follow shortly thereafter," Polisena said Wednesday.

If you know someone who may want to join the Johnston Senior Center's bocce players, call the center at 944-3343.





# Yard sale of historic proportions

Johnston Sun Rise photos by Steve Popiel

**CERTIFIED STEALS:** Outside the Elijah Angell House, built circa 1825, the Johnston Historical Society hosted a yard sale on Saturday, May 11. Standing, from left to right, Dan Brown, President; Louis McGowan, Archivist; and Joe Jamroz, Treasurer, helped peddle the wares, raises funds for the historical society, at the headquarters at 101 Putnam Pike, Johnston.



**BARN BURNERS:** The Johnston Historical Society held a fund-raising yard sale last month.



**WHERE'D I PUT MY?** At left, home crafter Stephanie Pazienza, with her son, Paul, sold homemade crafts, like chap stick holding keychains.



**HOME WARES THE HEART IS:** Denise Forcina peddled her wares in front of the Johnston Historical Society Museum, located within a rebuilt post and beam barn (built by Louis McGowan, JHS Archivist).

## ■ Heat

(Continued from page 1)

At the Johnston Senior Center, a Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) cooling center, there are many activities to choose from. Richard DeFino, director of the Johnston Senior Center, says that the staff is willing to be “open as long as we have to be” this week due to the heat wave, extending their hours later into the evenings “if that’s what is necessary.” He encourages seniors to “stay as long as they want,” given that the center provides activities such as board games, cards, television, and a pool table. Between the comfortable seating, provided lunch, and newly fixed air conditioning, the center will be a great place for seniors to cool down this week. If the heat wave continues into the weekend, the senior center will be open on Saturday and Sunday as well. Joseph Wendelken, public information officer at the Rhode Island Department of Health, recommended that residents prepare for the heat. “If outside, do what you can to stay out of the direct sun, wear a hat with a brim, and apply sunscreen,” he said. “Water is key,” Wendelken added, suggesting people avoid caffeine and alcohol. “I think for most people, it’s an inconvenience,” said Tony Petrarca, chief meteorologist for WPRI-TV. “But, there are certain people and specifically young children, the elderly, people who have health issues, it becomes more of a concern.” “What makes heat around here dangerous is that it comes with a lot of humidity,” he added. “Your body has a very difficult time cooling itself off where the humidity is high.” Heat exhaustion and heat stroke can often occur during a heat advisory. According to RIEMA, symptoms of heat exhaustion include dizziness, thirst, heavy sweating, nausea, and weakness. If someone is experiencing heat exhaustion, they should be moved to a cooler area, sip water, and loosen clothing. If symptoms do not improve, you should

seek medical attention because heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke. “Just check in on each other,” Petrarca added. “Make sure they stay hydrated.” Beverly Wiley, Director of Parks and Recreation in Warwick, notes that the beaches in Warwick often get visitors from various other cities and towns. The Warwick beaches opened for the summer season on Saturday, June 15. There are lifeguards working at City Park Beach and Oakland Beach. These beaches can be a more convenient and less expensive option than those in South County. For those who prefer a pool to the beach, McDermott Pool is open during their regular hours. McDermott has a unique indoor/outdoor element because the garage doors can be opened for airflow, Wiley said. Petrarca warned this current heat wave “can be a signal of things to come.” It’s not rare for temperatures to climb into the 90s — it happens about half a dozen times each summer. But, “It may be more frequent this summer,” he added. “We’re anticipating a warmer-than-average summer.” Emergency Management Coordinator and Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira recommends anyone who can’t beat the heat can stop by the town’s official cooling center, the Johnston Senior Center, at 1291 Hartford Ave (open for cooling starting Wednesday, June 19). “This type of heat can be dangerous for the elderly, children, and people who work outdoors,” Vieira said. “We urge everyone to take precautions such as staying hydrated and avoiding prolonged exposure to the sun. Residents should check on their neighbors, especially if they are elderly and don’t have air conditioning. Anyone experiencing heat related symptoms such as dizziness, nausea, and weakness should seek medical help immediately and call 911. Our officers will be here to assist during this stretch of hot weather.”

**Editor’s Note:** Ryan Doherty and Greta Shuster are summer editorial interns for Beacon Media.

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Reg#11374



# Mayor proposes \$134M ‘no tax increase budget’

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston taxpayers will likely see little change in their tax levy if Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr.’s proposed \$134,342,201 budget passes the scrutiny of Town Council on June 26.

The proposed budget is more than \$5 million fatter than last year’s but calls for essentially no tax increase.

Although no public budget hearings have been held, and the budget is several months late (according to the current Town Charter), Polisena released a “report to taxpayers on (the) current and proposed budget” for the 2024-25 fiscal year last week.

“There is no tax increase,” Polisena said earlier this week. “All seniors with the senior tax exemption living in residential property, a total of 2,718 — are going to see their tax bill decreased by \$188.”

Town Council will discuss and likely vote on the budget in a meeting that starts at 6 p.m., Wednesday, June 26.

District 5 Town Councilman Robert J. Civetti, an accountant by trade, has yet to receive the budget details.

“I have not had a chance to review it yet and have requested and am waiting

for info from the School Department,” Civetti said on Monday. “Hoping to get the school info by the end of the week so I can review and be prepared for the meeting on June 26.”

The meeting will be held at the Town of Johnston Municipal Court, 1600 Atwood Ave., Johnston.

According to the town-purchased legal advertisement for the proposed budget, the mayor’s office proposes “to increase its total property tax levy to \$76,445,521 in the 2024-2025 budget year, the total property tax levy this year is \$75,679,737.” The result is technically “a proposed net tax levy increase of 1.01%.”

The notice of proposed property tax rate change continues: “The proposed tax levy will result in a property tax rate of \$15.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for residential real estate, \$27.43 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for commercial real estate and \$64.65 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for tangible personal property, as compared to the current property tax rates of \$15.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for residential real estate, \$27.43 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for commercial real estate and \$64.65 per \$1,000 of assessed

valuation for tangible personal property.”

Last year’s budget totaled \$129,081,852. The town’s expecting to generate only around \$400,000 more from local property taxes in 2024-25 (vs. 2023-24). General state aid has increased \$1,569,431 (from \$11,784,926 to \$13,354,357).

“A property tax rate of \$15.91 for residential real estate, \$28.04 for commercial real estate and \$64.65 for tangible personal property would be needed in the coming budget year to raise the maximum levy authorized by Section 44-5-2 of the general laws.:

Both the police and fire departments will see relatively small budget increases — \$519,768 more for the Johnston Police Department, and \$1,084,637 more for the Johnston Fire Department. Polisena’s budget calls for \$20,640,847 for police, and \$24,620,595 for fire.

“We fully funded the police and fire department,” Polisena said. “We were down 12 police officers when I took over in January (2023) and we are only down three now.”

The mayor and the school committee have been haggling over more money for education over the past year. Polise-

na hired lawyers and analysts to review the schools’ finances. The results have started to emerge, but school officials have yet to comment on Polisena’s proposed budget.

“We are giving the school department another \$1 million increase in operations this year, to go along with an increase in \$1.9 million from the state, totaling an almost \$3 million dollar increase year-over-year,” Polisena explained. “The school department’s budget has now increased by over 10% in the last three years, which is unheard of compared to other districts in Rhode Island. This year the school department’s budget went up more than the town’s budget, 4.60% on the school side compared to 3.57% on the town side. ”

Although he’s beefing up the school allocation this year, Polisena warned of forced austerity in the near future.

“I can get away with it this year, but I cannot keep pumping money into the school department for buildings and operations while still keeping taxes stable,” Polisena said.

“They need to follow the recommendations made in that report to find some cost savings, like other districts in the state are doing.”

## JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

### WARRANT ARREST

Around 10:30 a.m., June 15, Johnston Police Patrolman Nicholas Defelice was on a fixed post at 1573 Plainfield St., when he spotted a black Nissan Altima pass by with “heavy window tint.”

He initiated a traffic stop and identified the driver (police did not release the driver’s name). After a background check, police found Davis’s driver’s license was suspended. Police cited Davis for Unlawful Install of Windshield and Window-Owner and Driving with Suspended/Revoked/Cancelled License (first offense).

The driver was told to have someone with an active driver’s license come to the scene to drive the vehicle home. A woman police identified as Elizabeth L. Davis, 54, of 27 Zanfagna St., Johnston, arrived on the scene. Police checked her license, to ensure it was active, and learned she had an active warrant for a misdemeanor Shoplifting charge out of the Cranston Police Department.

Davis was taken into custody. Cranston Police responded to the scene and took custody of Davis without incident. Another driver drove the vehicle from the scene.

### LARCENY

Around 9:57 p.m., June 11, several Johnston Police officers responded to Centerdale Garage at 35 Putnam Ave. for the report of a disturbance in progress.

Police had been told that the complainant had a man detained on the ground, whom he had “witnessed via surveillance video rummaging through motor vehicles” located in his business’s parking lot.

Police identified the suspect as Anthony Boulet, 25, of 58 Campbell Ave., Apt. 306, North Providence.

The business owner told police he received an alert on his cell phone that someone was in his parking lot. He allegedly watched Boulet “walking around the parking lot and attempting to enter several vehicles, as he gained access to two motor vehicles in the video, including a Jeep Grand Cherokee ... and a Lincoln Town Car ...”

Police said they were given surveillance footage showing Boulet “entering both vehicles one after another and rummaging through (the) ... contents.”

According to police, when the owner arrived on the scene, “Mr. Boulet attempted to flee on foot as he lost his footing, causing him to suffer a minor laceration to his mouth region.”

Johnston Fire Department was called to the scene to evaluate Boulet’s injury.

Police found a vehicle in the lot, a Ford F150 had a shattered front passenger window. According to court records, Boulet has a lengthy criminal background including numerous other arrests on charges related to tampering with motor vehicles, possession of stolen vehicles and driving without consent of the owner.

Johnston Police charged him with two counts of Larceny and Attempted (under \$1,500) and one count Injuring or Tampering with Vehicles), all misdemeanors.

### DUTY TO STOP

Around 9:30 a.m., June 1, Johnston Police responded to a motor vehicle crash hit and run complaint when dispatch notified officers that the suspect vehicle was a black Dodge Durango, last seen traveling east on Hartford Avenue.

Johnston Patrolman Aaron Blanco spotted a vehicle matching that description and initiated a traffic stop.

He identified the driver as Stephen David Ahlert, 34, of 1190 Charles St., Apt. 3B, North Providence.

“While traveling westbound on Hartford Ave. in the inside lane, he admitted to striking another vehicle but stated he did not know which vehicle,” Blanco wrote in the arrest report. “Stephen also stated he stopped in the Cumberland Farms parking lot located at 2643 Hartford Ave. and waited but no vehicle arrived, however Stephen did not call 911 to report the accident.”

Police checked Ahlert’s license and registration status. Both were suspended.

He was arrested and charged with Driving with Suspended License (third offense), Operating Motor Vehicle Without Insurance (first offense), and Operation of Vehicle When Registration is Suspended. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

Ahlert was later charged with Duty to Stop in Accidents Resulting in Damage to Attended Vehicle, a misdemeanor.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** *The preceding police log information has been taken from public record police incident and arrest reports provided by the Johnston Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies.*

CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE CORNER

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59						60				61		
62						63				64		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Breezes through  
5. Supervises interstate commerce  
8. Unruly group  
11. Backs away from  
13. Expression of understanding  
14. Have concern for  
15. Monetary units  
16. Congressman (abbr.)  
17. Iranian city  
18. Eating houses  
20. 2,000 lbs.  
21. Grandmother  
22. They include North, South and Central  
25. In an early way  
30. Foes  
31. Shuttered British entertainment magazine  
32. One who unloads cages  
33. Another term for sesame

CLUES DOWN

1. Sign language  
2. In style  
3. Helsinki neighborhood  
4. Unable to hear

38. Formally forbid  
41. Make clear  
43. Inaccessible  
45. Get through  
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea  
49. Decameter  
50. Type of sword  
55. Actor Idris  
56. Affirmative (slang)  
57. Afflicted  
59. One point north of northeast  
60. Born of  
61. Arabic name  
62. Traditional Hong Kong street food: \_\_\_ pai dong  
63. Termination point  
64. Email function

5. More rapid  
6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth  
7. In a cagy way  
8. Kate and Rooney are two  
9. Algerian port  
10. Community in Ladakh  
12. Midway between south and southeast  
14. Town in Galilee  
19. Satisfy  
23. Italian impressionist painter  
24. Brass instrument  
25. Chest muscle (slang)  
26. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm  
27. Records electric currents generated by the brain  
28. Woman (French)  
29. Aircraft designed to carry lots of passengers

34. Baseball stat  
35. Pointed end of a pen  
36. Popular sports league  
37. Body part  
39. Unlikely to provoke dissent  
40. Yellowish cotton cloth  
41. Domesticated house pet  
42. Untruths  
44. Set out to attract  
45. Spiritual leader  
46. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician  
47. Repair  
48. Genus of flowering plants  
51. Swiss river  
52. Prejudice  
53. River in central Europe  
54. Harness  
58. Father

be kind  
anyway.

cherry hill manor nursing & rehabilitation center



# Opinion

EDITORIAL

## No surprise on the House Speaker's solid leadership

With the legislative session coming to a close last week, it seems an appropriate time to give a grade to Warwick's own K. Joseph Shekarchi, the Speaker of the House since 2021.

When Shekarchi became Speaker, we had little reason to doubt that he would bring the same type of pragmatic leadership and problem solving that he had displayed for many years in city halls across the state while advocating as an attorney for various developers. Whether you ultimately agreed with what he was selling during those sessions, there was never a doubt that every voice would be heard, and the process would be conducted in a professional and transparent manner.

At the conclusion of the 2024 legislative session, it appears that Shekarchi, now serving as one of the most powerful politicians in the state, with immense leeway to advance and curtail whatever agendas he sees fit, is exercising the same respect for the process and respect for various viewpoints that has made him one of the least controversial politicians in recent Rhode Island memory.

It is not as though Speaker Shekarchi has inherited his position in a time devoid of crises. He came into power during a (hopefully) once-in-a-lifetime health crisis with the economy in a state of perpetual chaos, a housing shortage that has destroyed the homeownership dreams of entire generations of Rhode Islanders, and a cultural moment where polarization and conflicting agendas clash with an intensity and regularity not seen since perhaps the 1960s.

With all of that in mind, Shekarchi has slowly but steadily advanced a balanced list of priorities to fruition, much of which has come through his own bills or the championing of bills directly through his advocacy.

He has successfully passed a slew of housing bills that — although imperfect in their over-reliance on one-size-fits-all policies — should begin to see actual increases in the production of units; the number one priority for addressing the housing crisis, according to most experts. He also successfully put the pieces together for a \$120 million bond to go before voters to continue addressing that crisis.

He has taken the perilous state of Rhode Island's educational atmosphere and increased state aid to districts above and beyond what the governor proposed, including an additional funding stream for multi-language learners and a continued focus on career and technical education, while also having the foresight to continue funding the free tuition program at CCRI and put before voters a request to build cutting-edge facilities at UTI and RIC.

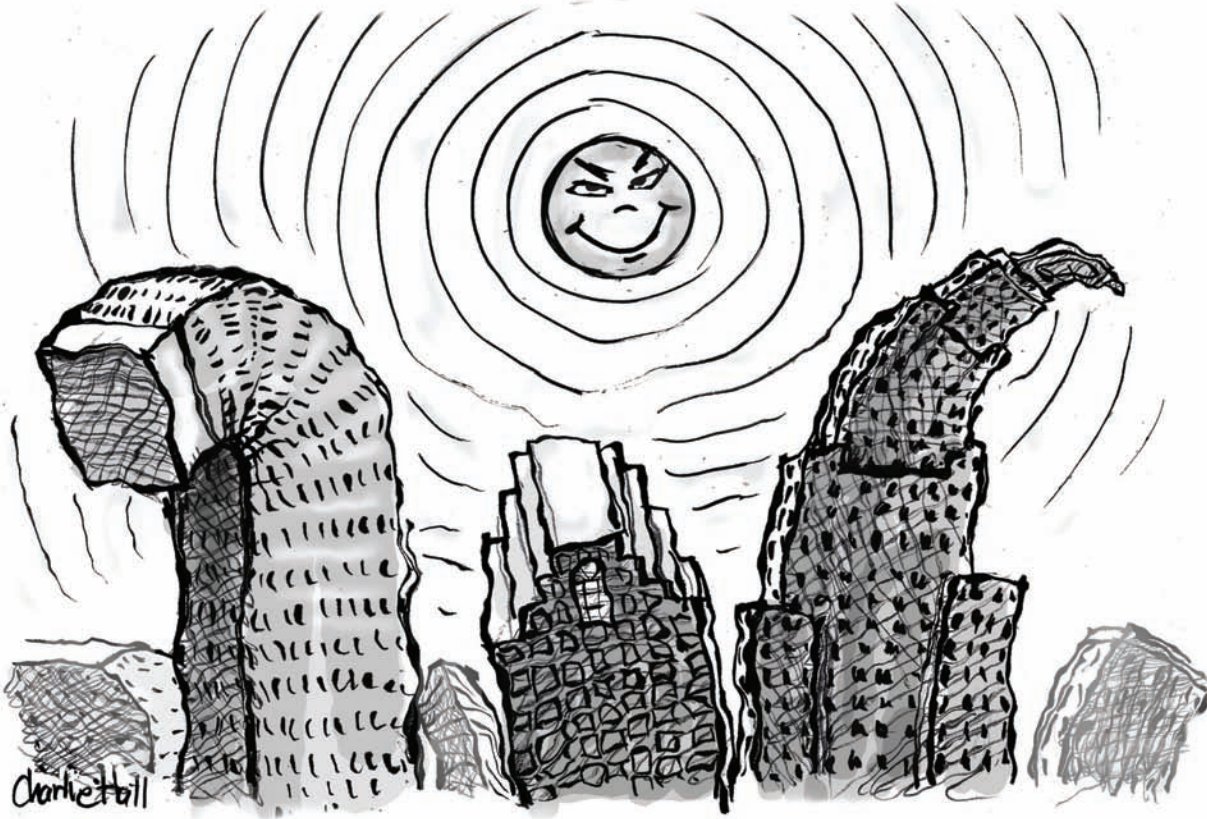
In a win for law enforcement accountability, Shekarchi helped bring together all sides to pass a much-needed amendment to the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBOR), giving police chiefs more ability to transparently punish bad actors among police ranks while increasing the fairness and transparency of the due process procedures afforded to the accused.

While a safe storage weapons bill was another big win for his agenda, it was also an easy layup (as far as gun control bills go), enjoying widespread support. Shekarchi does lose some points by not being able to get an assault weapons ban passed, despite a vast majority of Rhode Islanders demanding such action.

Time will tell if his initiatives can bloom into the sort of change the state needs, but his ability as a leader to bring all sides of an issue together and force compromise is invaluable; something that goes unnoticed until you don't have it. It is the kind of leadership that keeps a company like Citizens Bank from fleeing the state, whereas more temperamental leadership could have led to a catastrophic economic loss.

We can say with certainty that the state is better with Joe Shekarchi at the helm of its House of Representatives.

## The season's first heat wave hits the Ocean State



GUEST OPINION

## Session offers a glimpse in leadership styles

### TALKING POLITICS



by  
IAN  
DONNIS

**STORY OF THE WEEK:** The General Assembly closed its 2024 session with a flurry of activity that ended around 1:32 last Friday morning. The Senate made a final vote on the \$13.9 billion budget — a document that pleased a lot of lawmakers with more money for healthcare and education, while also raising questions about the sustainability of this expansive level of spending. The legislature passed a number of significant bills — making a tax change requested by Citizens Bank, overhauling the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights, approving a measure meant to spark more accessory dwelling units, and passing a requirement for the safe storage of guns, to name a few. Of course, the final night included such staples as heartfelt tributes to departing lawmakers and votes on such quirky issues as auto-body bills and chicken coops. For a bird's eye view of the session, consider the contrast between Senate President Dominick Ruggerio and House Speaker Joe Shekarchi. Ruggerio, 75, was absent at the State House for a number of weeks due to

health concerns, and while he has repeatedly said he plans to seek re-election, the dean of the General Assembly is edging closer to the eventual end of his memorable run in public life. Thirteen years younger, Shekarchi relishes the thrust and parry of politics, he got his ADU priority over the finish line this year, completed the House budget while the sun was still up, and with more than \$2 million in his campaign account, the Warwick Democrat has a longer runway in possible pursuit of a political office to be named later. Leadership matters; as long as Ruggerio presides over the Senate, bills to restrict payday lending and outlaw new sales of semi-automatic military-style rifles are unlikely to advance. But given the structure of state government, the speakership is an unusually powerful role. That's even more true now due to the current landscape of Rhode Island politics.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** With the announcement Thursday by state Rep. Camille Vella-Wilkinson (D-Warwick) that she will not seek re-election, five of 75 reps have announced they will not return to the House chamber. (Warwick Ward 4 City Councilor Jimmy McElroy, a Democrat, plans to seek her office.) The departures include one-third of the nine Republicans in the House: Reps. Barbara Ann Fenton-Fung of Cranston, who is running for mayor, Patricia Morgan of West Warwick, who is running for U.S. Senate, and Brian

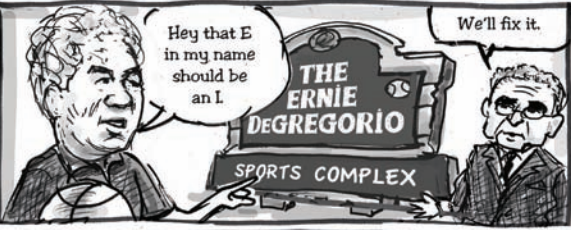
Rea of Smithfield. The other exit is by Rep. Brianna Henriess (D-East Providence), sponsor of the Juneteenth bill that became law and who revealed she may be developing a book — "From Lipstick to Legislation" — about her experiences at the Statehouse. (Democrat Jenni Furtado of the EP School Committee has announced plans to run for the seat being vacated by Henriess.) Across the rotunda in the Senate, the departing are Sens. Frank Lombardi of Cranston, Roger Picard of Woonsocket, Joshua Miller of Cranston/Providence and there is the vacancy created by the death of Sen. Frank Lombardo of Johnston.

**INCOMING:** Attorney

General Peter Neronha and the state Department of Health are expected to make a decision any day now on the Centurion Foundation's proposed purchase of CharterCARE Health Partners, owner of Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital in North Providence. This is a very big deal, as I've reported, and not just because a Superior Court judge this week faulted CharterCARE's owner, California-based Prospect Medical Holdings, for using RWMC and OLOF "as a private bank." The two safety-net hospitals are among the largest employers and biggest taxpayers

■ **DONNIS - PAGE 12**

Meanwhile in North Providence a park is renamed after a PC legend



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# Johnston Senior High School Q4 Honor Roll

**High Honors**  
Melissa Aguilar 2025  
Skyla Almeida 2026  
Andre Amato 2027  
Lucas Anderson 2025  
Kevin Biscelli 2024  
Trinity Blondin 2024  
Isabella Boudreau 2027  
Logan Brennan 2024  
I'daizha Brown 2026  
Tyler Buote 2025  
Juan Burgos Vilchez 2027  
Ryan Capraro 2026  
Ryan Carvalho 2025  
Sofia China 2024  
Matthew Clements 2025  
Elise Connors 2024  
Giuseppe Cucinotta 2025  
Jazmin Cuello-Pineda 2025  
Arianna Dandy 2025  
Devin DelSanto 2024  
Alexia DiLorenzo 2024  
Adrianna Dinucci 2025  
Jada DiRaimo 2026  
Lauren Dixon 2025  
Anelee Fernandez 2027  
Cameron Ferrara 2024  
Olivia Forgetta 2026  
Robert Franchini 2025  
Diana Gaitan Flores 2027  
Kylie Geremia 2027  
Kiniya Glenn 2025  
Riley Guenette 2024  
Jonathan Guilmette 2024  
Gianna Halliwell 2024  
Malikai Hopp 2025  
Brooke Houle 2027  
Ariana Iasimone 2024  
Elizabeth Kue 2027  
Brenton Lang 2025

Ariana Lara 2027  
Nina Lautieri 2024  
Hannah Lavergne 2024  
Timothy Liang 2026  
Jaylin Loeum 2024  
Dylan Lussier 2024  
Isabella Maggiacomo 2024  
Neko Mahony 2025  
Channsophon Mam 2025  
Chelsea Maranhao 2024  
Samantha Marcotte 2024  
Logan Martins 2025  
Bennett McClish 2026  
Peyton McClish 2024  
Arthur Men 2027  
Dariana Munoz 2025  
Hector Munoz-Lopez 2024  
Elijahna Negron 2024  
Neriah Nhar-Matko 2025  
Brendon Norris 2024  
Janelle Nunez 2025  
Sebastian Orozco 2024  
David Pagliarini 2024  
James Pastore 2024  
Loren Pastore 2025  
Nicole Patenaude 2025  
Noelle Patenaude 2025  
Alessandra Pesare 2024  
Jacob Pettit 2026  
Genesis Pineda 2025  
Matthew Ponte 2025  
Skyla Prata 2025  
Fallon Provoyeur 2026  
Donavin Quinones 2024  
Hollan Rodgers 2026  
Yandery Rodriguez 2024  
Rayven Russell 2026  
Sthefany Sandoval Orellano 2026  
Raylin Santos 2024  
Jason Schino 2026  
Lia Shenk 2027  
Andrew Sia 2024  
Lucas Simpson 2026  
Arleny Solorin Henriquez 2025  
Aiden Soto 2025  
Nixon Soto 2027  
Alexander Subirana 2026  
Emmerson Sylvia 2024  
Carl Taglianetti 2024  
Emma Taglianetti 2027  
Luke Taglianetti 2025  
Ayla Tellier 2027  
Branden Testa 2024  
Jayden Testa 2024  
Kyle Urban 2027  
NeAri Vasquez 2024  
Cameron Veitch 2026  
Benjamin Verduchi 2026  
Cameron Walker 2024  
Austin Wheeler 2025  
Sofia Williams 2027  
Thomas Xoydara 2027  
Syeda Zainab 2024

Dario La Terra Bellina 2027  
Lucio La Terra Bellina 2024  
Anthony Lastor Quinonez 2025  
Karen Lastor Rojas 2024  
Freddy Magana Landaverde 2027  
Charlene Maranhao 2027  
Balla Marone 2025  
Isabela Martinez 2027  
Jealeen Mateo 2027  
Manuel Mejia Mejia 2027  
Jiana Mitsoulis 2024  
Alexandra Musa 2026  
Connor Niles 2025  
Gianna Orozco 2025  
Randy Ortega 2025  
Jeremy Ovalles 2025  
Elianna Paez 2027  
Anthony Pannone 2027  
Bricen Parris 2027  
Abagail Patnaude 2024  
Ariana Perron 2026  
McKerry Petit Homme 2027  
Kaylee Poole 2024  
Danny Quinn 2024  
Thainaliz Quinones Cruz 2024  
Leium Quinones 2027  
Joseph Ramos Cardoza 2026  
Gianna Ricci 2025  
Alexis Rivera 2026  
Ariana Rivera 2024  
Joshua Sanford 2024  
Kimberly Sibia 2025  
Janie-Alice Thompson 2027  
Angel Veillard 2027  
Fabian Vejarano-Tolentino 2027  
Jordan (Fae) Weston 2025  
Timothy Xoydara 2027

**Total 1st Honors: 75**

**2nd Honors**  
Selena Albanese 2027  
Amelia Almonte 2024  
Christopher Alves 2025  
Haylee Andrews 2027  
Willow Andrews 2024  
Ella Annicelli 2027  
Lailany Aponte 2027  
Hailey Arroyo 2024  
Nicki Aucone 2025  
Ryan Audino 2024  
Gabriel Bandoma 2024  
Elianna Baptista 2027  
Gabriella Barata 2026  
Benjamin Bejnar 2025  
Nicholas Benoit 2026  
Aiden Bianco 2027  
Colin Bishop 2027  
Aura Blanco Mazariegos 2024  
Kara Bonetti 2026  
Jack Bremer 2025  
Caspian Briggs 2027  
Layla Rose Bryand 2027  
Olivia Bryant 2026  
Sadie Bun 2025  
Josue Cabrera Ramirez 2025  
Abner Cambranes 2027  
Madison Campano 2027  
Jordan Caparrelli 2027  
Janeudy Cardella 2026  
Abbigaelle Cenafils 2027  
Henri Chan 2025  
Michael Chavier 2024  
Raymond Cimino 2024  
Nevaeha Coelho 2027  
Selvin Cordova Martinez 2024  
Evan Correia 2024  
Julian Correia 2024  
Aidan Cross 2027  
Chantal DeJesus 2025  
Edison Diaz Gomez 2026  
Ava DiNobile 2026  
Tyler Diodati 2025  
Skyler Dupre 2024  
Riley Enos 2025  
Ismael Falette Henriquez 2027  
Emily Fashjian 2026  
Landon Faucher 2024  
Alex Fedorchuk 2024  
Gianna Ferranti 2026  
William Ferrara 2027  
Steven Finegan 2024  
Logan Finelli 2027  
Kalyn Foster 2025  
Richard Foster 2027  
Jaelyn Fraser 2027  
Evangelia Georgiladakis 2027  
Kingstan Glenn 2024  
Marielys Gomez Mendez 2027  
Tomas Gomez Ramos 2025  
Cristian Gonzalez 2025  
Serenity Gonzalez 2024  
Robert Graham 2025  
Joseph Grenier 2026

## LEGAL NOTICES

<b>Public Auction Legal Notice</b>	<i>Department of Development and Public Services, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.</i>
To: David Trofi 14 Myra st Providence, RI. A public auction will be held at 100 South st Johnston RI on June 22, 2024 at 900 am. The vehicle a 2008 Buick 2G4WD582281377992 belonging to the above. the auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage fees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Items not heard by 10:30 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or special meeting at the discretion of Board.</i></li><li><i>Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.</i></li></ul>
<b>6/20/24</b>	
<b>JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW REGULAR MEETING AGENDA Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 6:30 PM Johnston Senior Center 1291 Hartford Avenue</b>	<b>Town of Johnston Planning Board REGULAR MEETING AGENDA</b>  <b>Tuesday, July 9th, 2024 6:00 P.M. Johnston Senior Center 1291 Hartford Ave. Johnston, RI 02919</b>
Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its regular meeting on June 27, 2024 at 6:30 pm, at Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue. All persons interested in the following proposals are requested to be present at this time. The assembly facilities are accessible to the handicapped. Persons requiring special accommodations shall call the Zoning Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (401) 231-4000 ext. 4117. Persons utilizing TDD equipment may contact the Town through "Relay Rhode Island" at 1-800-745-6675. The agenda for the evening will be as follows, subject to change:	<b>I. CALL TO ORDER &amp; ROLL CALL</b>  <b>II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>  <b>III. OLD BUSINESS NONE</b>  <b>IV. NEW BUSINESS</b> <b>PB 24-06 – Western Meadows. 198 Shun Pike. AP 33 Lot 63. A Public Hearing on a Comprehensive Permit Application in accordance with RIGL 45-53 – The Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Act. The development will contain 32 housing units where 16 units will be deed restricted to low- and moderate-income households and the balance will be market rate units. The parcel contains 7.9 +/- acres and is zoned R-40. Applicant – Trinity Properties of RI, LLC.</b>  <b>V. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DRAFT Land Use Map</b>  <b>VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT &amp; SPECIAL ITEMS</b> <b>PB 23- 12 – Zoning Update. Discussion and review of draft zoning ordinance. Major restructuring of the ordinance was required because of the changes and the failure to update the ordinance over the past years when changes were made to state law.</b>  <b>VII. ADJOURNMENT</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>The Planning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at https://clerkshq.com/johnston-ri or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Planning Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.</i></li><li><i>Items not heard by 9:00 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or a special meeting at the discretion of the Board.</i></li><li><i>Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.</i></li></ul>
<b>Petition of Edward Freeman Owner/Applicant for 1225 Atwood Ave, AP 24 Lot 112, Zoned B1. Applicant is proposing: Plumber of RI D/B/A Rooter-man, D/B/A Anytime and D/B/A Junk removal. Apartment on the second floor.</b>	
<b>Petition of Thomas Paolantonio Owner/Applicant for 51 Bishop Hill Rd, Ap57Lot35, Zoned40. Applicants is proposing: Single family dwelling expansion of detached garage.</b>	
<b>V. Adjournment</b>	
<i>Per order of the Zoning Board of Review Thomas Lopardo, Chairman</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>The Zoning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at https://clerkshq.com/johnston-ri or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the</i></li></ul>	
<b>6/20, 6/27/24</b>	



# JHS Honor Roll

(Continued from page 8)

Isabella Grimshaw 2026  
Danika-Lyn Gruslin 2027  
Dylan Guernon 2024  
Jasmin Guerrero 2024  
Jennifer Guerrero 2027  
Kenderra Guertin 2025  
Amelia Healy 2027  
Logan Hemstreet 2024  
Adam Hernandez 2024  
Adam Heywood 2026  
Victor Hidalgo-Alvarado 2025  
Dylan Hill 2024  
Madison Hogan 2025  
Walter Homenick 2026  
Dineishka Hunt 2024  
Mineishka Hunt 2024  
Lana Jencks 2027  
Maxx Johnson Goncalves 2027  
Emily Joseph 2026  
Hailee Joyal Weiss 2025  
Christopher Landaverde 2027  
Gabriella Laviano 2027  
Alyssa Leclerc 2025  
Katelyn Loffler 2025  
Joseph Lopez Tavares 2025  
Jeremy Luna Olivo 2027  
Andrew Lyman 2025  
Angelica Maddaline 2026  
Jordan Maggiacomo 2027  
Jayla Mainey 2024  
Analese Marcano 2026  
Analeah Martins 2027  
Kameron Martins 2024  
Caroline McCormack 2026  
Julia McLellan 2027  
Devin Mejia 2024  
Makayla Melillo 2027  
Ava Mello 2026  
Rachael Mendoza 2026  
Ernesto Mercado Anez 2026  
Gabriela Mercado 2024  
Benjamin Monahan 2024  
Alan Montenegro 2025  
Karissa Morales 2025  
Jonathan Morris 2025  
Mia Mowry 2024  
Heber Munoz Lopez 2026  
Mia (Ryo) Nilsson 2025  
Juliana Nunes 2026  
Davian Nunez 2024  
Lizbeth Nunez 2027  
Brady O'Donnell 2027  
Courtney Ortega 2027  
Julianna Ortiz 2025  
Evelyn Pagliarini 2027  
Lexie Palma 2024  
Gabriella Pascale 2025  
Emilly Paul 2025  
Isabella Paulson 2027  
Cheyenne Pecchia 2026  
Alvin Pena 2026  
Sheyla Perez Sosa 2025

Ellyce Perez 2026  
Michael Perugino 2024  
Brea Pezzullo 2026  
Kaylee Phillips 2026  
Madison Picchi 2027  
Jonathan Prata 2026  
Catherine Privitera 2025  
Michelle Recinos 2024  
Victoria Repollet 2026  
Tzivya Reyes 2026  
Gian Ricci 2027  
Isabella Ricci 2026  
Alayath Rietwijk 2025  
Delaynee Rodriguez 2027  
Henry Rodriguez 2027  
Joaquin Rodriguez 2027  
David Roland 2026  
Demetrius Roman 2024  
Brayan Rosales Carrascoza 2024  
Diana Rosales 2024  
Aiven Rua 2025  
Ivana Rua 2027  
Lilianna Salois 2025  
Leah Sanchez Perez 2026  
Melany Sanchez-Rodriguez 2027  
Miguel Santamaria Romero 2025  
Josianny Santana 2027  
Jesse Santillan 2025  
Melissa (Gus) Sauret 2024  
Shanna Scopelliti 2024  
Hailey Segee 2027  
James Senno 2027  
Katelyn Silva 2027  
Alexander Smith 2027  
Kenneth Smith 2024  
Nathaniel Smith 2024  
Christian Sonner 2024  
Shylah Soto 2024  
Skyley Soto 2025  
Kailey Souza 2027  
Jacob Spinella 2024  
Faith Summers 2024  
Alik Symoungkoun 2026  
Abraham Tillett 2025  
Alyssa Tillson 2024  
Josie Torti 2027  
Lena Torti 2024  
Christopher Valdivieso 2027  
Isabella Vargas 2026  
Marques Vasquez 2025  
Anthony Vendetti 2026  
Abdiel Vidal 2027  
Morgan Visnický 2027  
Carldjon'n Volcy 2027  
Ava Waterman 2024  
Ryan Waterman 2027  
Jaiden Weston 2026  
Nicholas Williams 2025  
Malanya Zanni 2024  
**Total 2nd Honors: 184**

### 3rd Honors

Talia Abbruzzi 2026  
Santiago Aguilar 2024  
Logan Akins 2025  
Vincent Allen 2026

Tala Alsheikh Kassem 2026  
Armani Arias 2024  
Marlice Baptista 2026  
Isabella Barata 2025  
Gerson Cabrera 2024  
Jacob Carr 2024  
Jonelvis Castro 2027  
Dylan Cerio 2025  
Elliot Cortesi 2025  
Kamaurie Davis 2025  
Nathan Della Morte 2026  
John DeRensis 2024  
Ennelie Diaz 2024  
Anthony DiBiasio 2025  
James Estrada 2025  
Vanessa Febus 2026  
Taylor Ferreira 2024  
Tyler Fortin 2025  
Elijah Foss 2024  
Deanna Funches 2026  
Luis Gil 2025  
Sara Gomez 2027  
Jaiden Gonsalves 2024  
Antonio Gray 2024  
Carlos Gutierrez Deleon 2025  
Liam Hartman 2026  
Isabella Liang 2027  
Lisbeth Maldonado 2025  
Joel Martinez 2024  
Jacob Martins 2026  
Evan Melvin 2025  
Elias Milhouse 2026  
Antonio Morales 2027  
Ashley Morales 2025  
Daniel Morales 2025  
Michael Morsilli 2027  
Daniela Noriega Garcia 2024  
Andres Ochoa 2027  
Jahzira Oliver 2024  
Ryan Oliver 2026  
Andy Ortiz 2027  
Aubree Padula 2027  
Aiden Pannone 2027  
Alexis (Alex) Pannone 2024  
Brianna Parsons 2024  
Sydney Raposo 2025  
Ryan Rentas 2024  
Emmanuel Rios 2025  
Brissya Rodriguez 2026  
Leandro Roquez 2026  
Faith Rosadio 2026  
Byron Saavedra Valiente 2027  
Sebastian Sanchez 2027  
Fabian Saucedo 2027  
Gianna Sauro 2026  
Malachi Seyon 2024  
Luke Sharpless 2026  
Ariana Stoecker 2025  
Michael Stone 2025  
Bobbi'Sue Trahan 2025  
Jasmine Vasquez 2026  
Ronald Vento 2026  
Victoria Villafane 2026  
Logan Woodall 2025  
**Total 3rd Honors: 68**

# Obituaries

### Richard E. Peltier

Richard E. Peltier, age 67, passed away June 9, 2024. He was the beloved fiancé of Louise Anderson.

Born in Providence, he was the son of the late W. Lionel and Helen (Boutin) Peltier.

Besides his fiancée, he is survived by his son Brian Peltier and his companion Emily; sisters Claudette Mooney and her husband Michael, Jeannine Calandra and her husband Ernest Jr., and Gia Peltier; niece Tonya Pereira and her husband Frank; nephew Kyle Calandra (Robbie); great-nephew Frankie Pereira; and his cherished dog Wally. He also leaves many cousins and friends.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his memorial service on Friday, June 21, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel in St. Ann Cemetery, Cranston. Guests are asked to gather at 12:45 p.m. outside the main gates of the cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org



## Obituaries

In your time of need, the *Johnston Sun Rise* will print your loved one's full obituary for a small charge. The paper also places the obituary on our website, johnstonsunrise.net.

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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**ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:**

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D	A	I				E	N	D			S	E	N	D			



### ■ Grant (Continued from page 1)

“We need that computer to keep track of everything and make our videos and do our graphic design and connect with our community,” she added.

Currently, Guillet is using her own used car, which has racked up over 200,000 miles. When traveling to demonstrations and other programs, she has found that the car does not always have enough space.

“The new vehicle will be hybrid,” she said. “It will be brand new, and it’ll last us a long time.”

While these improvements may seem mundane on the surface, these grants will ensure events ranging

from the Tree Pop-Up Museum and Moth Mimicry run smoothly.

Mixing work and play, participants learn how trees mitigate climate change while drawing, doing leaf rubbings, and participating in neighborhood walks. During Moth Mimicry, they match the cutout moths to paper bark to hide from predators in a musical chairs-style game.

“They’re learning evolution. They’re learning animal adaptations,” Guillet said. “They’re being creative. They’re doing math with the symmetry.”

An art teacher for 17 years, Guillet combines art and nature to help foster belonging for those participating in 15MFT.

“I’ve always felt very connected to nature, and I feel like you can learn a lot

through the arts,” she said. Art “helps us understand the world and help us observe and help us express our feelings.”

The programs also connect children with the opportunity to give back to the community through “citizen science,” which Guillet defined as when “ordinary laypeople collect data for scientists.”

“If we see something unusual, we’ll record it and report it to the appropriate people,” she said. “We found the first spotted lantern fly in Providence — so I captured it, photographed it and destroyed it.”

Guillet then contacted the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to alert proper authorities of the invasive species.

15MFT has partnered with local schools and libraries in Providence and northern Rhode Island. For example, in South Providence, Washington Park, and Olneyville, they were able to provide a garden tool shed for residents.

Even then, not all community members know of the resources 15MFT provides, which Guillet hopes will change in the coming weeks. With more community partnerships, she hopes more people will get involved in their advocacy work.

“I’m looking forward to getting a more holistic connection with the community,” she said.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** *Ryan Doherty is a summer editorial intern for Beacon Media.*



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**PLANTING FUTURES:** 15 Minute Field Trips works on multiple community projects from litter cleanups to pollinator gardens. (Courtesy photo)







# St. Rocco School's 60th Class



**ST. ROCCO CLASS OF 2024:** St. Rocco School's 60th graduating class posed for a class photo. In the back row, left to right, Pastor Rev. Angelo N. Carusi, Nicholas Scotti, Arielle Ainabe, Dante DeAngelis, Cesin Curi and Principal Ms. Regina M. Hand. In the second row: Assistant Principal Marcia Montecalvo, Scott Creighton, William Quattrucci, Alessandro Fava, Austin Martins, and 8th Grade Teacher Miss Tripp. And in the front row: Adrianna Insana, Aurora Trainor, Leilani Delgado, Michael Ramos, Nathan Henao and Alessandro Cassisi-Wood. *(Photo courtesy Mrs. Maria Zambarano, St. Rocco School Administrative Assistant)*

## ■ Donnis (Continued from page 7)

in their respective communities. Centurion's offer faces opposition, in part since it would be financed by debt. Neronha told me the hospitals could go bankrupt even if returned to nonprofit status by Centurion. If that happened, the displacement of services and patients would be a big added burden for Rhode Island's healthcare system.

**THE ECONOMY:** The single-factor tax change resurfaced with dizzying speed and won approval this week after being excised from the budget. The difference will cost about \$15 million over a full budget year, another added expense as Rhode Island faces the return of bigger perennial deficits. While talks with the bank began some time after Massachusetts put the same change into effect last October, it remains unclear why state leaders didn't hasten to tackle the issue sooner.

**POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY:** Steve Brown, executive di-

rector of the Rhode Island ACLU, called the new Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights law an improvement, but he echoed critics who believe LEOBOR reform should have gone farther in a few ways: "One in particular that I would note is that the way it's worded now, Rhode Island is one of a handful of states that doesn't have a decertification law — being able to decertify police officers who engage in misconduct," Brown said during an interview on Political Roundtable. "So even with a stronger LEOBOR law, an officer can resign before a LEOBOR hearing takes place, go to another police department to be hired. And there's nothing that prevents that from happening, no matter how serious the misconduct may have been."

**CIVIL MATTERS:** Here are some key excerpts from my interview with Brown, who has been closely watching the legislature since the 1980s.

— Brown believes a constitutional convention would be a reactionary event for Rhode Island: "In this polarized age, especially now, where out-of-state interests can spend un-

limited amounts of money to come into Rhode Island and propose their own pet amendments and spend millions of dollars on them, I don't think there's any realistic reason to believe that things would be different 40 years from now based on what happened in 1986," when efforts to restrict abortion rights figured prominently.

— On how to institutionalize legislative improvements if a lot depends on the approach of a particular House speaker: "You know, that's a great question. I'm not sure that much can be done. I mean, you can come up with a whole array of rules but there are always loopholes that people can find when you have the rules. And the fact of the matter is, is that as a branch of government, the legislature can only be constrained so far. I mean, they are in charge of their own rules about how they operate. So I don't think there's any magic bullet that would turn the legislature into a utopian's dream. There will be a lot of politicking going on, a lot of closed door activities. All one can do is try to push back as much as possible and, and call for more sunshine."

— On the outlook for the rule of law when millions of Americans don't accept the outcome of the 2020 presidential race: "I think we really are at a precipice in this country, and I don't want to over exaggerate it. But I think November will teach us just where we are going as a nation. It really is extraordinarily troubling to see how many people refuse to accept results of elections without any evidence that there have been any problems. They essentially want a preordained result ... I don't know how this is going to play out. But it really is important for people to exercise their civic rights as much as possible to explain and strengthen our democratic process."

**OPEN RECORDS:** Here's John Marion, executive director of Common Cause of Rhode Island, on why the APRA bill sponsored by Sen. Louis DiPalma (D-Middletown) and Rep. Pat Serpa (D-West Warwick) did not advance, and whether proposing dozens of changes made this a heavier lift: "We won't see APRA reform in 2024 because there was too much opposition, particularly from the executive branch

at the state level," Marion said via email. "It was death by a thousand cuts. There is always a risk in proposing omnibus legislation; you can't get what you don't ask for, but on the other hand you create a bigger target for your opponents to take aim at. Asking for everything was a winning strategy last time we reformed APRA because although we had to compromise on a number of things, we got most of what we asked for in 2012. Clearly, governments at all levels are skeptical of, if not downright hostile to, public records reform. I suspect there are mixed motivations, including a belief that it will create more work, and possibly reveal more about their work."

**MENTAL HEALTH:** MLB promoted a message — "It's OK to ask for help" — and Red Sox pitcher Chris Martin pursued the offer, as The Athletic reports. That's light years away, not surprisingly, from the difficulties encountered by young Sox outfielder Jimmy Piersall in the late 1950s, a story dramatized in the movie Fear Strikes Out.

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# Treasure Chest



Someone's trash is a military family's treasure: Ours

This footlocker, found empty on a curb in Detroit, Michigan, was returned to the family of Lt. Frank M. Weiss. It is pictured here with memorabilia from his service during World War II.



By HERB WEISS

Everyone is aware that the internet can have its negative impact on cybersurfers. Just log in and you'll see a widespread distribution of fake news, cyber-bullying, on-line threats, cyber-theft, revenge and child porn. Its use can even lead to internet addiction.

But the internet can also be a valuable tool for sharing information, researching issues, even locating long-lost friends and family members. As I recently found out, the net was used to return my father's olive green foot locker – issued during World War II – to me.

This foot locker was found on a street curb in Detroit, Michigan, ultimately to find its way back to this writer residing in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Seven hundred miles separate these two cities. And it's been over 80 years since my father packed his personal items, extra uniforms, and toiletries into it.

### Introductions...

At 11:30 p.m. on April 24, 2024, I received a Facebook chat message from a person I have never met. "Mr. Weiss, I found an old army trunk in Detroit with the name, Lt. Frank M. Weiss, stenciled on the front side of the olive green trunk," stated Michael, a Detroit resident, excitedly sharing a photo of the foot locker resting in the back of his pickup truck.

Michael would later tell me that he was driving around his neighborhood "looking for scrap" that he would sell, and watched a person drag the old military footlocker to the curb. The former owner's name was "Lt. Frank M. Weiss," and it was prominently painted on its front. This caught Michael's attention. He later told me that he learned that this trunk had been stored in a garage in his neighborhood – for almost 60 years.

This foot locker might be a great piece of décor for somebody's apartment, he remembers thinking before stopping to pick it up off the curb. It would be easy to sell, too, he thought.

Michael went home and showed it to his girlfriend, Cetaura, suggesting that it might sell quickly at a local flea market to bring extra cash into their household. "It would be a great decorative piece for someone to buy," he said, thinking someone might turn it into a coffee table.

"Out of curiosity my girlfriend searched the internet," Michael told me, "seeking more details about the life of Lt. Frank M. Weiss." Was he an American hero, they wondered?

Cetaura quickly found an article that I had previously written about World War II vets dying ("In coming years, generations of older veterans will be leaving us"). The article was dedicated to Second Lt. Frank M. Weiss, my father. So, the net search gave Cetaura and Michael a lead. There might be a family connection between them they speculated, contacting me through Facebook to confirm.

And amazingly, yes, there was.



# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## Dreamland Learning Center

Enrollment open for summer ~ call 401-280-1400 to learn more



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6 Weeks - 12 Years Old

By JENNIFER COATES

While summertime in Rhode Island is always fun, for working parents with school age-aged children, it can present a whole new series of challenges. Finding childcare is one of those challenges that can keep parents awake at night with worry. But that worry can be quickly evaporated, like summer rain on the hot pavement, by the team at Dreamland Learning Center. Now open for enrollment in its summer programs, this busy center ~ which joins two others across the region ~ has a spot for your child!

If you don't have a plan in place for childcare for all or part of summer, it is not too late. Summer camp begins today, June 20th. There is summer fun in the sun waiting here for your child.

Dreamland Learning Center is a place where children are encouraged to play, explore, learn, socialize, stretch their imaginations and their muscles! Located

on Hartford Avenue in Johnston, this familiar landmark is a happy place, a place where children from six weeks old to age 13 are welcomed and where the carefree joy of childhood flourishes!

Every space in this center is thoughtfully planned and designed to be developmentally appropriate and purposeful. Child-size furniture makes each room look comfortable and adapted to the needs of pint-sized early learners while shelves are filled with toys and walls are strewn with art projects. Centers are set up for imaginary play, arts & crafts, building, science, music and story time. Daily programming for the children who attend Dreamland is packed with age-appropriate activities where children enjoy important routines but also the spontaneity and pure pleasures of childhood.

The outside playgrounds also provide the perfect place for youngsters to run off all that youthful energy.

The staff works together to plan a fun-filled summer complete with field trips, outdoor water play and a balanced curriculum that continues to encourage your children to learn through play, socialization and exercise!

The curriculum and staff-to-child ratio requirements here meet the strict standards of the state while all staff are licensed, and CPR certified. The caregivers/teachers here work as a team with one goal in mind and that is to enrich the lives of the children over whom they have been given this special stewardship. In fact, the whole facility is Bright Star® rated for excellence.

Dreamland Learning Center is now accepting enrollment for children ages 6 weeks through age 13. The center is conveniently located at 1253 Hartford Avenue. For more information or to schedule a personal tour, call 401-280-1400 today!

If you are looking for childcare this upcoming summer ~ be sure to register soon! Be sure to check out the other members of the Dreamland family of childcare centers in West Warwick (401-828-8200) and Pawtucket (401-655-1000).

Refer a friend today and receive \$50/child who is already enrolled. Call today to learn more.



Playing on this colorful playground is only part of the fun this summer at Dreamland Learning Center on Hartford Avenue. Visit this busy center and see for yourselves the magic of childhood. Summer programs begin today!

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# Sports

## Gershkoff Auto set for busy summer

### Legion program adds fourth club to lineup

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Gershkoff Auto Body American Legion baseball program returns this summer and is bigger than it's ever been.

The Cranston-Johnston organization now fields four teams - 9-U, 14-U, 17-U and 19-U, and all are looking to make noise at both the state and regional level.

The big news coming from the club in the early going this season has been the emergence of the newly-formed Top Notch Lightning Elite 9-U club, which is a future's team that is focused on development.

The team enjoyed success immediately in its inaugural season and wound up finishing second in the Massachusetts Elite New Balance League, which boasts one of the most competitive



RUNNERS UP: The Gershkoff 9-U showcase team in the season finale. (Submitted photo)

**STONEWALL:** Gershkoff catcher Dylan Martins snags a pitch on Monday afternoon as a cloud of dust explodes from his mitt. (Photos by Mike Zawistoski)



## Gershkoff seniors taking early 'licks'

By WILLIAM GEOGHEGAN  
Special to the Herald

Early results are matching Warwick Tree Post Two's preseason expectations.

The club swept Gershkoff Auto Body/Auburn Post 20 8-2 and 11-1 in a doubleheader Monday night at Cranston Stadium, improving to 3-0 on the young American Legion baseball season.

"I've got huge expectations," manager Mike Fratus said. "We're coming for it. We're built for it. We were there last year and we gave it up. All my guys returned. We added a couple of key pieces. We're an old team. I've got 12 guys aging out next year. So it's this year - we're going for it."

The Cranston-based Gershkoff squad is fielding a young group and, as expected, is taking some lumps early on. The sweep dropped Gershkoff to 0-5.

"The takeaway is going to be the same all year long - we're a very young team and we're just trying to build and get kids some reps," said Gershkoff co-manager Steve Piscopiello, who is teaming up with Don Ceseretti in taking over for longtime manager Dave Schiappa.

Warwick Tree is coming off a successful season where

SENIORS - PAGE 16



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**MAKING THE PLAY:** Gershkoff infielder Ryan Zarrella fields a ground ball (left) while Logan Martins works the plate on Monday afternoon.



**SWINGING AWAY:** Gershkoff's Jack Fontaine. (Photos by Mike Zawistoski)

## ■ Seniors

(Continued from page 15)

it was one of the top contenders for the state title. Most of the roster is back, with some key reinforcements joining the fold. With a mix of players from Warwick, West Warwick and Coventry, the squad is embracing the possibilities.

"They know," Fratus said. "Especially the older guys, they understand. They know that this is a shot that we have."

Strong pitching carried Warwick in the first game of Monday's twin bill. Bobby Court needed just 60 pitches to deliver five strong innings of two-hit ball. Zack Ellison closed out the win.

A.J. Ferreira picked up where they left off in game two, striking out eight of the first 10 batters he faced. He worked four scoreless innings and allowed just one hit. Reliever Jack Smith gave up one run in the fifth, but nothing else.

And the Warwick bats were hot. Four runs in the first inning set the tone. They added two in the second, two in the fourth and later brought the mercy rule into play with three runs in the sixth.

Ferreira also shined at the plate, going 2-for-4 with a double, a triple and three RBI. His diving catch at second base with two outs in the sixth ended the game.

Jamie Luna had two hits and scored three runs. Dylan Roberts chipped in a hit and two RBI. Jake Faiola had a key two-run double in the big first inning. Nick Andruchow delivered two hits and scored two runs.

"We've got great pitching, we play good defense and we've been hitting the ball," Fratus said. "We put up six runs last Thursday. We put up eight and 11 today. I'll take that for now. And our pitching has been stellar."

Gershkoff's lone rally in game two came in the fifth inning. Adam Stoloff walked, Cory Blanchette doubled and Gillen knocked an RBI single. David Miller had the only other Gershkoff hit in the nightcap.

"We're young, we're going to take our licks. The thing we keep stressing is that we've got to play good, fundamental baseball, and we've got to play hard," Piscopiello said. "I just want to make sure they understand the concept of fundamental baseball. We know when we see a team like this with a bunch of 19-year-olds, it's a big difference. We have one. But we're competitive. The runs they scored tonight, they earned them. We didn't have a lot of miscues. We're just trying to make it work and get the kids their reps."

Warwick picked up a victory over Howard Rogers Post 25 in its season opener last week. The team is back in action Thursday with a game against Riverside Post 10.

"Always big to get two in the doubleheader," Fratus said. "And it was nice to get two before it gets hot this week."

Gershkoff was set to face Howard Rogers on Tuesday. The team's next league game is June 28.



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# Mazzulla makes history

The Boston Celtics, led by Johnston's own Joe Mazzulla, regained the top spot in NBA championships won when they beat Dallas on Monday night for their 18th.

There is so much to chew on with this story, but of course, let's begin with Mazzulla.

When he was hired as the team's interim coach and later elevated to permanent coach, it raised a few eyebrows. He was young, green, and had limited coaching experience. I would be lying if I said I was not one of those people that was holding their breath.

The one thing that was constant was his IQ. He was long gone from Rhode Island when I arrived in 2018, but even before he was hired in Boston, I would always hear stories about how he was on his way to becoming another great coach, following in the footsteps of his father, Dan, who I did get the pleasure of covering prior to his passing.

When national outlets openly questioned the Celtics' front office, the team never wavered and always gave Joe its full support. His first season was a success as he led the team to the conference finals. However, he was not free from scrutiny and was often the target of criticism when analysts broke down the team's playoff exit to the Miami Heat.

I am not a basketball coach, so there are things that go on during the game that I miss. When seeing the breakdowns of some of his mistakes his rookie year, I could see the points being made, whether it was questionable timeouts that he used, struggling with in-game adjustments, and so on. Although he performed better than your standard rookie head coach, there were a few areas that needed to be cleaned up.

This season, he did just that and had total control of this roster. The Celtics were prepared every single game in the playoffs, even during the losses, and there was not one moment in which Mazzulla dropped the ball. His brilliance as a coach matched the brilliance of his talented roster.

Which brings me to my next point. Sometimes, having a surplus of talent is not the blessing that it may seem to be.

## My pitch



by  
ALEX SPONSELLER  
SPORTS EDITOR  
  
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RHODYBEAT.COM

The team made some big roster changes this season, including sending guys like Marcus Smart, Robert Williams and Grant Williams out the door and welcoming in Jrue Holiday and Kristaps Porzingis. Adding those two guys to a roster that already featured Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown, Derrick White and Al Horford, it was an embarrassment of riches.

That said, basketball is quickly becoming a position-less game. If a coach just throws out a lineup based strictly on position, they are going to fall behind in today's game. The NBA is more advanced, more creative than ever and team's need to find new ways of attacking opponents on a nightly basis.

Sure, the Celtics had a little bit of everything with all that talent and skill, but Mazzulla did a masterful job of keeping things organized, consistent, and beating teams in ways that can't be summed up with just plug-and-play schemes. That's not even mentioning Mazzulla needing to manage players' egos and the high pressure and expectations put on them. Boston was considered the betting favorite for much of the season, but the Celtics played like they were underdogs.

Although it is never advisable to bank on a three-peat, this core is strong enough to do it. Tatum and Brown are still in their 20s, too, so they will continue to grow alongside Mazzulla. We could be looking at the next great NBA dynasty, with a Rhode Island native being in the center of it all.

## ■ Gershkoff

(Continued from page 15)

youth fields in the region.

What was perhaps the most impressive part of the team's run was that some of the 9 year olds were not on All-Star teams, while others barely even played. They played in tournaments and league play, taking their lumps, going from the bottom all the way to the top. Andrew Tavaréz went on to make the New Balance 9-U All-Star team.

Head coach Ed Tavaréz said, "The journey is just beginning, and I couldn't be more excited to see these kids develop and flourish on the diamond. Every game, every pitch, every play at the 9-U level is a building block for these young players. Our job as coaches is to nurture their love for the game and help them grow, both as athletes and individuals."

Manager Andrew Piccirillo wrote on social media, "This team has come such a long way from where they started at the beginning of this season. The fact that they made it all the way to the Championship game today is beyond impressive and I am so proud of each and every one of these boys!! Even though they lost (4-3), every single player should be proud of how they played today. I love this team, the parents, and the incredible coaches that we have! Couldn't have asked for a better first season."

The 14-U team entered the 15-U Connecticut American Legion league. The team has competed in three tournaments and will be traveling to Old Orchard Beach, Maine to compete in the Firecracker tournament, followed by the Myrtle Beach National tournament. 14-U coach Dave Schiappa is focused on preparing these players for the high school level.

The 17-U program will also be making the trip to Maine, and will also compete in the Perfect Game and New England Junior Legion tournament later this summer.

Coach Craig Zarrella stated, "With all new players from all parts of the city and one from Johnston, we are ready for a new chapter with every game, every pitch and every play, we embraced the hard work that was put in over the winter, so that we can

pursuit excellence this summer."

Finally, the senior 19-U team will also have a young roster, with only one college player returning and five high school seniors. With many high school juniors and seniors, the goal for these players is to prepare for the college level.

Coach Steve Piscopiello, who returned to coaching after a long hiatus and played and coached at CCRI and RIC, said, "I want to stress the fundamentals and playing hard and if we play fundamentally sound baseball, we will be very competitive."

Coach Don Ceseretti stated, "We have many players that are interchangeable. If we execute our plays, we should position ourselves well for the playoffs."

Gershkoff, along with other area American Legion teams, have been challenged going up against other travel teams and AAU programs in recent years. Schiappa, who also serves as the Gershkoff general manager, enters his 30th year heading the program and was excited to add the new 9-U club to the mix as Gershkoff looks to remain a staple in the Rhode Island baseball community.

"We're building this team into one that, hopefully, can compete in the junior and senior regional championships and World Series. We want them to be good citizens as well, it goes beyond just baseball. Our goal is to develop a competitive program and we also would like to host regionals. We want to do it and we want to do it with local kids, our Cranston and Johnston kids," Schiappa said.

Gershkoff is proud to also field rosters made up of kids strictly from Cranston and Johnston, instead of recruiting from other states.

"There are several pay-to-play teams in the area, we are up against those teams that are competing for the same kids. We're thinking bigger and better. We're one of the only community charters left after Little League that are going for state championships. We're charging a quarter of the price and giving three times as much back. Our motto is more for less,"

The 9-U team's season concluded in the championship, and the remaining Gershkoff clubs are underway in their regular seasons.

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# Anglers say the fishing is hot

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Fishing has been outstanding for a number of anglers. Very impressive stories, from some very accomplished anglers, so I thought I would share some.

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

The Swarter, named for its hybrid appearance between a swimming plug and a darter, takes the long, slender profile of the SP Minnow, and pairs it with a sloped face like the Mag Darter, giving it a unique action, said On-The-Water in a review of the lure. Congratulations Cody, very nice work.

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

“Later in the morning, we switched off to fluke (summer flounder) still fishing off Newport in 25 to 40 feet of what. The tide was just starting to turn incoming, but the wind was not right. A short time later the wind direction changed, and we were in luck with wind and tide in line. I loaded up a bucktail as I often do with squid, fluke belly, Gulp and four spearing. It is a very big bait but works well to attack large fluke. We caught several nice fluke in this area with the large baits. Our largest fluke weighed in at a whopping 11 pounds. It was an outstanding morning,” said Sullivan.

Ryan Turner of Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly said, “This is the best start to the fluke season we have had in a long time. Anglers are hooking up with six and seven pound summer flounder all



**STRIPED BASS:** Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren with the 44 pound striped bass he caught on the surface off Newport last week. *(Submitted photo)*

along the southern coast shore off the Westerly and Charlestown beaches in 50 to 60 feet of water. Fluke fishing is outstanding for this time of year.”

Curt Shumway fished for bluefin tuna with his son last week. Last week Curt said, “We fished for bluefin tuna about 45 miles southwest of Point Judith. We hooked up inside 15 minutes and then doubled up soon after. Whales spread out all over the area. and by 1 p.m. there were only five boats. Some jigging with success and some trolling. We came home with some nice fish, the largest we dropped at the tuna door was between 65” and 69”. It was awesome.”

### Where’s the bite?”

Freshwater. Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, said, “Large-mouth bass are in spawn or coming out of spawn on some ponds. Spinner baits are still working well.”

Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle

Providence said, “The trout bite is good in ponds recently restocked by DEM with a good largemouth bass bite. Olney Pond, Lincoln; Twin Rivers, North Providence; and Roger Willias Park, Providence are all producing for customers.”

Striped bass and bluefish “In Narragansett Bay and up its estuaries including the Taunton and Seekonk Rivers the striped bass bite is on, many are using pogies for bait with success,” said Henault of Ocean State Tackle.

On Monday, angler John Lombardi reported, “Enjoyed exploiting a blitz, along with a few other boats, 1/2 mile-3/4 mile north of the Newport Bridge yesterday. Action steady from 6:45 a.m. till 8:45 a.m. Medium plus sized blues on silver sides and anchovies. Top surface plug worked well.”

Matt Conti of Snug Harbor Bait & Tackle, South Kingstown, said, “Striper fishing on the South West Ledge off Block Island has been good. Top water

lures and trolling with wire seems to be working well during the day, eels are not working as well.”

East End Eddie Doherty, said, “Fishing improved on the Cape Cod Canal this week. Once the new moon arrived ‘Hollywood’ Petracca convinced a slot to attack his Mystic Intrepid green mackerel as the east bound current was flooding. And I reeled in a healthy slot on the new moon breaking tide with a white Hurley Canal Killer while exploring the bottom.”

Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, “Stripers and bluefish have been being caught from the Breachways on both tides. It seems like using eels for bait has taken off this week with a lot of good size fish being caught on them. A few of our customers have been enjoying chunking bunker and mackerel from the shore. Mummies, rain bait, needle fish, silver-sides and juvenile fluke, tog, seabass are what stripers are eating in the ponds. Bass are being caught from schoolies to 15 lbs. in the pond.”

Summer Flounder (fluke), black sea bass and scup. “This week we had anglers doing extremely well with fluke off Charlestown Beach and others that did not do well. It is all about timing. If everything is right with wind and tide in line anglers are catching fish. ,” said Matt Conti of Snug Harbor Marina. O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, said, “Fluke fishing has been consistent locally and over at Block Island, with a fair amount of keeper seabass being caught in the mix. Squid are still plentiful locally so as long as your putting some fresh bait down you should be well off. Have not really heard any reports of some color rigs producing better than others.”

*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@verison.net or visit [www.noflukefishing.com](http://www.noflukefishing.com)*

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# Eyelashes and age spots

As I grow older, my body is losing its youthful appearance. I’ve observed elderly individuals and noticed the wrinkles that accompany aging. I don’t have many wrinkles on my face—just two small lines near my eyes, which I like to think of as laugh lines rather than wrinkles. If I hadn’t been so cheerful throughout my life, those lines wouldn’t exist at all. I also do not have any of the typical wrinkles on my philtrum, thanks to falling flat on my face while trying to chase an errant Steven when he was younger. One disadvantage is that I am no longer able to whistle, but to my delight the scar tissue underneath that space between my nose and my lip has remained taut, preventing any skin crimping.

The bones of many elderly individuals shrink in size and density, but I recently had a bone

density test for osteoporosis that showed my bones are still quite youthful. Theoretically, I could still jump rope, a favorite childhood activity of mine, if it weren’t for the fact that my heart rate would spike dramatically and I would pee my pants with each bounce.

I have always had freckles, which multiplied after every trip to the beach. Now that I’m older, my face, arms, and legs are covered in various shades of brown spots, often referred to as age spots. My skin is sagging more, particularly under my upper arms, which have lost their muscle tone.

For some odd reason, I seem to have lost my eyelashes. They were sparse to begin with, so I often used mascara to make them look fuller. Now, I need a magnifying glass just to find any at all. The wisps are so tiny that using

## Life Matters



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mascara hardly seems practical. As a result, my eyes look very tired, even if I get twelve hours of sleep each night. I have thought about wearing false eyelashes, which are all the rage now, but when I tried that, I glued my eyes shut. My fingers just are not dainty enough to accomplish this beauty trick.

I have started to lose my memory. While remembering names has always been difficult, now

dates and times of doctor appointments, birthdays, and other important activities sometimes slip my mind. I use the calendar on my phone, not only to note important dates but also to send myself reminders a few days in advance so I can prepare. This technique has been especially helpful for remembering the many birthdays I have to keep track of, giving me time to order gifts from Amazon and have them arrive on time using Amazon Prime.

One thing I am not losing is sleep, having always been a great napper. I can sleep anywhere, anytime, perhaps without the immediate worries about my five children who now must worry about themselves because they are adults with families of their own. I am asleep five minutes after I crawl into bed at night, feel the crisp white sheets and cuddle

up to Hubby. We both drift off quickly with a smile on our faces. As I age, my body HAS changed, and I have lost eyelashes and muscle strength. However, each day brings new memories. We celebrated Steven’s wedding in Mexico in March, attended a niece’s high school graduation last week, have a wedding shower for a nephew’s fiancée next month, and the possibility of the birth of more grandchildren, grandnieces and grandnephews. A grandson’s eighteenth birthday is coming up, right after his mom’s fortieth birthday. There are new restaurants to try, new friends to make, new movies and TV shows to watch, new trips to take—including a Thanksgiving trip to Maui with our oldest son, Francis, and his family. Each day I gain much more than I have lost. Life is good!

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145 Woodside Ave	Caouette Jr, Robert W	Prario, Austin D	5/31	\$445,000	15 School St	Barrios, Edward X	Kougias, David J and Holzbaur, Katherine	5/30	\$410,000
20 Vanderbilt Ter	Ritchotte, Kevin C and Padula, Rose	Fitton, Scott A and Peck, Spencer N	5/30	\$430,000	18 Quaker Rd	Michael A Derham Ft and Derham, Christopher A	Therriault, Glenn and Mendes, Dane	6/3	\$605,000
27 Lane F	Quimette, Douglas	Tracy, Karen	5/30	\$198,000	2 Byron Randall Rd Lot 3	Oak & Pallet LLC and Difillippo Const LLC	Ishola, Gafar	6/4	\$675,000
37 Remington Farm Dr	Lenz, Michael L and Lenz, Lindsay B	Marietti, Emma	5/31	\$460,000	3 Cady St	Pavia Michael R Est and Jarvis, Gayle M	Sarah, John T	6/4	\$442,000
4 Cinnamon Dr	Patricia A Oliver T and Oliver, Patricia A	Moore, Michelle M and Omeara, Paul G	5/30	\$687,500	42 Nardolillo St	Comella Jr, Thomas N and Comella, Beth H	Giorgio, Nicholas and Nocera, Teresa	5/31	\$465,000
4200 Flat River Rd	Young, Susanne E	Cavanaugh, Michael	5/31	\$350,000	59 Merino St	Diaz, Omar R	Acosta, Emely T and Calderon, Maximo A	6/3	\$310,000
44 Charlotte St	Cieciorka, James V and Cieciorka, Linda L	Mallinson 4th, Matthew E	5/30	\$376,000	7 Wilson Ave	Prata, Jonathan E and Prata, Angie M	Ozbay, Murat and Ozbay, Onur	6/3	\$450,000
46 Marshall Cir	Finucci, Susan M and Corcoran, William L	Boyd, Kristen R and Boyd, William	5/31	\$400,000	89 Bishop Hill Rd	Homerston, Adam D	Gauthier, Sarah and Deschke, Tyler	5/29	\$499,900
6 Sunset Cir Lot 36	Storybook Homes Inc	Paris, Olivier and Paris, Annie	5/30	\$750,000	90 Enfield St	Dove, James H and Dove, Chelsea	Mitchell, Shaun and Owusu-Mitchell, Shantel	5/31	\$436,250
82 Highwood Dr	Hankey, Daniel J and Brummett, Marissa D	Noble, Christopher and Noble, Katie L	5/31	\$531,325	WARWICK				
9 Meeting St	Velleco, Christine A and Lesniak, Gerard J	Blake, Scott	5/29	\$280,000					
CRANSTON					1 Palm Blvd	Cahoon, Harold and Manning, James P	Santos, Mynor	5/28	\$302,500
115 Ocean Ave	Tarakajian, Peter J	Karlin, Margot and Karlin, Joel	5/31	\$1,100,000	10 Enfield Rd	Fanning, Irene M	Kalfian, Carol and Kalfian, Jason	5/30	\$365,000
121 Lake Garden Dr	Horne, David P and Horne, Adelaide S	Adames Devezle, Elba M and Perez, Esperanza C	5/30	\$440,000	107 Greylawn Ave	Hallas, Raymond D and Hallas, Susan L	Rwr Re Invest Grp LLC	5/29	\$150,000
1391 Narragansett Blvd Lot 3006	Dawson, Christopher N and Curley-Dawson, Maureen	Everest 2024 LLC	5/31	\$850,000	11 George St	Montgomery, Luke	Frank, Maxwell B	5/31	\$425,500
1391 Narragansett Blvd Lot 3007	Dawson, Christopher N and Curley-Dawson, Maureen	Everest 2024 LLC	5/31	\$850,000	11 Largo Rd	Funaro, Giavanna M	Lucier, Steven	5/29	\$305,000
1475 Holland St	Rhode Island Hsg & Mtg F	Gauvin, Ronald J and Gauvin, Leonora M	5/29	\$1	135 Canonchet Ave	Jane L Perel Lt and Goldin, Sherry A	Frederick, Jordan N	5/29	\$556,000
179 Pawtuxet Ave	Antonio F Santos T and Dasilva, Delfina	Tracy, Matthew J and Segura, Narcissa V	5/28	\$415,000	137 Fair St	Rabil Sheryl L Est and Pilkington, Debra	Fair Street LLC	5/28	\$50,000
2038 Broad St	Stefanski, Scott	Shiver, Justin and Shiver, Breeauna	5/30	\$585,000	141 Pilgrim Dr	Smith, Andrew and Smith, Kelly	Garcia-Delacruz, Blanca	5/30	\$440,000
22 Appleton St	Arnold Robert T Est and Arnold, Natalie	Chapin Dev LLC	5/31	\$270,000	142 Shenandoah Rd	Costello, Megan E	Blackman, David and Eastwood, Kristen	5/29	\$475,000
3 W Harry St	Sun, Kim L and Seng, Soeurn	Morales Perdomo, William A	5/31	\$564,000	166 Tennyson Rd	Conley, Robert M and Browen, Tracie S	Waiser Hldg LLC	5/31	\$250,000
331 Hope Rd	Vicki R Fox-Mowry T and Fox-Mowry, Vicki R	Hawkins, Matthew and Hawkins, Lauren	5/29	\$625,000	19 Thomas St	Arlia Salvatore Est and Arlia, Frances E	Wood, Amber	5/31	\$330,000
36 Versailles St	Pelli, Edward R	Drake, Neal	5/29	\$390,000	207 Oak Tree Ave	Rhode Island Hsg & Mtg F	Alpha Hldg LLC	5/30	\$351,000
39 Bluebird Ln	Ramaswami, Aparna and Ramaswami, Karthik	Durigan 3rd, Raymond and Mandell, Laura	5/29	\$925,000	21 Omaha Blvd	Sheehan, Kerri L	Perry, Jackie	5/28	\$229,000
39 Plaza St	Micheletti, Edna F	Dickenson, Joseph	5/31	\$324,000	233 Coburn St	Federal Natl Mtg Assn	Ricci, Benjamin	5/30	\$265,000
46 Hornbeam Dr	Freddie Mac and Fed Home Loan Mtg Corp	Freddie Mac and Federal Home Loan Mtg Cor	5/29	\$295,097	26 Brett Ct	Miccoli, Franco	Ellis, Stephen-Lawrence K and Ellis, Tiffani L	5/31	\$465,000
53 Forsythia Ln	Judith Umbriano RET and Cherone, Lara A	Saavedra, Francisco J and Saavedra, Stacy L	5/31	\$555,000	33 Pilla Dr	Peralta, Valerio M	Gonzalez, Inmaculada C and Gonzalez, Rafael O	5/28	\$385,000
61 Warwick Ave	Williams, Zhongyuan	Alidadi, Katayoun	5/31	\$360,000	37 Breana Ln	Wykretowicz-Sydow, Ewa A	Harmon, Stephen and Harmon, Heather	5/31	\$422,900
70 Long Ct	Gomes, Maria T and Gomes, Jose M	Castillo, Ricardo R	5/30	\$540,000	373 Chatham Cir Lot 373	Marinelli, Emilce	Kaplan, Hillary	5/31	\$409,000
814 Pontiac Ave	Castillo, Ricardo	Franco, Jasmine and Pacheco, Gerald	5/29	\$410,000	44 Ocean Ave	Irons Albert F Est and Boghossian, Leon C	Sequeira, Tauri E	5/31	\$375,000
EAST GREENWICH					49 Meadowbrook Ave	Mcguirl Linda J Est and Mcguirl, David J	Rihdr Inc	5/28	\$286,000
10 River Run	Dignan, Neal and Dignan, Laura	Holland, Christopher and Holland, Willow	5/28	\$1,250,000	828 Williamsburg Cir Lot 828	Gonsalves, Jill C	Lomidze, Raisa	5/31	\$345,000
185 Peirce St Lot 185	Holmes, Ashley E	Dwyer, Christian	5/31	\$350,000	84 Wauregan Dr	Oconnor, Mark F and Gentile, Kathleen	Simas, Paul N and Simas, Mary J	5/31	\$530,000
25 Crestridge Dr	Kreg New Homes LLC	Stephen P Dee & Lynn A En and Dee, Stephen P	5/28	\$800,000	870 Warwick Ave	York, Patricia I	Sciard, Aaron	5/30	\$290,000
290 Shady Hill Dr	Stoermer, Emily B and Stoermer, Russell S	Remmert, Jocelyn and Lammers, Stephen	5/28	\$870,000	99 Beach Ave	Fogg, Rachel M	Brown, Leroy	5/31	\$395,000
98 Division St	Antonuccio, Charles M and Antonuccio, Meredith	Park, Damon and Park, Erica	5/30	\$535,000	WEST WARWICK				
EXETER					W Valley Condo Lot 1	Residences Vly West Vly I	Johnston, Carolyn J	5/31	\$449,400
61 William Reynolds Rd	Kaugars, Karlis and Kaugars, Laima	Russo, Lisa M	6/3	\$690,000	11 Kiwanis Rd	Couto, Manuel D	Johnson, Terssa M	5/31	\$403,000
					13 Harley St	J&m Home Buyers LLC	Bucio, Aida M	5/29	\$405,000
					16 Willow St	Gutierrez, Dennyfer C and Rivas, Dennyfer C	Ramirez, Cheyano U	5/31	\$460,000
					22 Mill St	Vallejo, Eliseo	Molina, Brian and Molina, Carrie	6/3	\$330,000
					290 E Greenwich Ave	Rhode Island Custom Bldrs	Bennett, Deborah and Bennett, James	5/31	\$560,000
					30 Saint Mary St	Disanto, Jarod D	Almada-Brito, Lisete D	5/30	\$382,000
					5 Sisson St	Lyon Kings LLC	Munoz, Pedro L and Gomez, Keyla L	5/31	\$415,000
					565 Quaker Ln Lot 23	Neptin, Brainne M	Holmes, Kelsey M	5/29	\$277,500
					98 Lonsdale St	Dionne, Marc D	Brooks Carpentry & Remode	5/29	\$95,000

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# Tye Cooper marks the latest point in his artistic journey with ‘Black Boys Deserve to Smile’

By ROBERT DUGUAY

Providence and Rhode Island as a whole has an incredible hip hop scene with a plethora of talented artists. On a weekly basis, you can see a few of them either performing live at one of the many great venues throughout The Ocean State, putting out a stellar recording of some sort or unveiling a visually appealing music video. One of the folks in this vibrant community is Tye Cooper, who has been making a substantial impact since the start of the decade. He’s been sponsored by the snack food brand Doritos and has done a ton of collaborations while sharing the stage with the likes of Busta Rhymes, Cypress Hill, KRS-One, Method Man & Redman and Rakim among many others. Cooper has amassed a prolific discography with his latest installment being the full-length album “Black Boys Deserve to Smile” that came out on April 20 via the Silent Reminder Entertainment Corporation.

There’s a message within the album that relays the ebbs and flows life can bring while recognizing that there’s always a crossroads to approach as each obstacle becomes evident. It also fuels Cooper’s knack for collabora-



**TYE COOPER**  
(Submitted photo by Luminous Views)

tion with numerous singers and rappers being featured in most of the tracks. “An ode to the overnight success story that took years to look like it happened overnight,” Cooper says about the conscious theme behind the full-length. “Taking

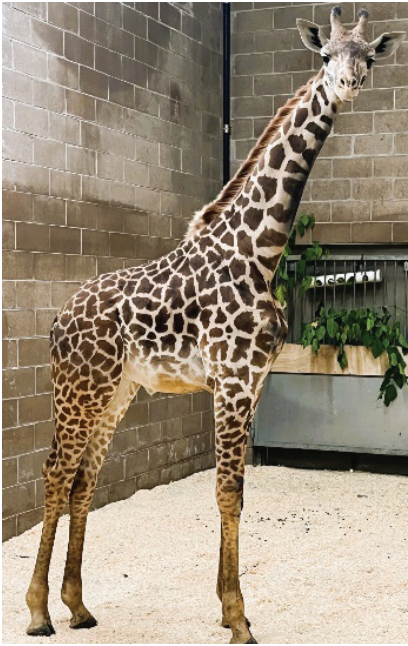
the good with the bad, learning to understand that you have options.” I really like how “Black Boys Deserve to Smile” starts off with the spoken word poem “Spare Change.” It’s presented as a late night talk show monologue with an uplift-

ing & genuine tone being conveyed. With Brooxana weaving in soulful and melodic vocals for the chorus, “An Outlaw Love Symphony” has a very heartfelt quality with an array of subtle beats setting the mood. “Wine and Cheese” exemplifies Cooper’s excellent flow that’s rapid, direct and straightforward while reaching different octaves. Other songs that can’t be overlooked are “Black F.L.A.G” featuring Sule and “Higher Calling” featuring Rick Hyde with the former providing real commentary on mental health and the latter possessing a sound that mirrors what was coming out in hip hop during the mid-’90s. Overall, what I like the most about Cooper’s latest release is his lyrical abilities and how they coalesce seamlessly with other artists. To give “Black Boys Deserve to Smile” a listen, you can simply look it up on Spotify and give it a stream. For more information on the rest of his music and other things he has going on with his career, log on to his website at [tyecooper.com](http://tyecooper.com). Before you start doing that, give this album a listen, especially if you’re a fan of hip hop. In my opinion, it’s one of the best records to come out of Providence so far this year.

# RWP Zoo welcomes “powerful” new giraffe

## One-year-old Eenzi joins the herd

In conjunction with World Giraffe Week, Roger Williams Park Zoo is excited to announce the arrival of Enzi, a one-year-old male giraffe. Enzi, whose name translates to “powerful” in Swahili, will join the Zoo’s existing female giraffes, Cora and Providence, becoming the third member of the herd. Enzi comes to Roger Williams from Zoo New England’s Franklin Park Zoo, where he was born in 2023. Enzi’s arrival is a significant milestone, reinforcing the Zoo’s commitment to the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Plan (SSP) for giraffes. SSPs are collaborative breeding programs aimed at maintaining robust, genetically diverse populations of threatened and endangered species. The current Masai Giraffe SSP population consists of 137 animals (60 males, 77 females) distributed among 35 AZA facilities. By actively participating in SSPs, Roger Williams Park Zoo is playing a crucial role in securing the future of giraffes, a responsibility shared by accredited zoos, like Zoo New England and Roger Williams Park Zoo. Masai giraffes are classified as Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. Masai giraffe populations have declined 50 percent in the last 30 years. The biggest threats to the Masai giraffe population are habitat loss and illegal hunting. Ma-



**ENZI**  
(Photo by Rachel McClung courtesy of RWP Zoo)

sai giraffes are poached for meat and products such as hide, bones, and tail hairs. As of May 2024, the IUCN estimates that there are 32,200 Masai giraffes; they are starting to slightly rebound due to conservation efforts. The Masai giraffe is easily recognized by its jagged and irregular spots. It inhabits various regions of eastern Africa and is the largest-bodied giraffe species, making it the tallest land animal on Earth. Bulls,

like Enzi, typically outweigh and outgrow females, reaching up to 2900 pounds and a height of up to 18 feet. In the wild, these giraffes can live up to 25 years, with lifespans often extending further in managed habitats. One of its most distinctive features is its long neck, composed of seven vertebrae, which account for about one-third of its body height. Additionally, its prehensile tongue, measuring up to 20 inches, allows it to grasp leaves from tall trees that other animals cannot reach. Enzi, at 11 months, weighs 730 pounds and is about 10 feet tall. Guests will have the opportunity to observe the complex social interactions between giraffes, witness their fascinating physical adaptations, and learn more about giraffe conservation efforts. “Our team is committed to providing Enzi with a comfortable and enriching environment as he adjusts to his new home,” said Amy Roberts, chief zoological officer. Keeper Rachel McClung, who has already begun building a rapport with Enzi, describes him as a sweet and curious individual. McClung elaborated, “Enzi is understandably shy around new people, but he’s already shown signs of warming up. He cautiously accepted a treat from me, which was a positive step. It’s great to see him becoming more independent as he explores his new habitat.”

# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Donna Normand

## Ken

Attention Husky lovers!! This handsome boy appropriately named Ken because he is a doll, is ready to join your family! Ken is a year and a half old with the brightest blue eyes you’ve ever seen! He has that Husky zest for life and he loves to be active! He’d love a big fenced in yard or a hiking partner, he’s ready for life’s adventures with you! If you have been searching for a true beauty and a pup who will be your loyal, loving companion then Ken is waiting for you at Rhode Home Rescue. Please contact them at [rhodehomerescue@gmail.com](mailto:rhodehomerescue@gmail.com) or visit their website for more information at <http://www.rhodehomerescue.org> for more information. Get ready to live life to the fullest with Ken by your side!

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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# Chest

(Continued from page 13)

## Confirming Proof of Ownership

I told Michael that my parents lived in Detroit, Michigan, during World War II. They were married in that city in 1942. With my grandfather, Samuel Weller, being a prominent defense attorney, almost every Detroit judge attended their wedding.

My father was drafted into the military service and would serve in military bases around the country (including the 1033rd Technical School Squadron, Kearus, Utah, the 357th Technical School Squadron at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri, 3705th AAF Base Unit, Lowry Field, Denver, Colorado, and the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command, Miami Beach, Florida). He entered the U.S. Army Air Force at the rank of private and left the military as a Second Lt.

Michael said he would give me the footlocker and I paid to have it shipped to my residence in Rhode Island. While I waited for this footlocker to arrive, I was attempting to verify that it really had belonged to my father. Of course, I wanted to be 100 percent sure that it was his.

The Detroit Public Library confirmed that after the war my parents moved from Detroit to Saginaw in 1946, and then relocated to Grand Rapids in the 1950s. They would ultimately move to Dallas, Texas in 1951. But it seems that his military footlocker remained in Detroit, never reaching his new home in North Dallas.

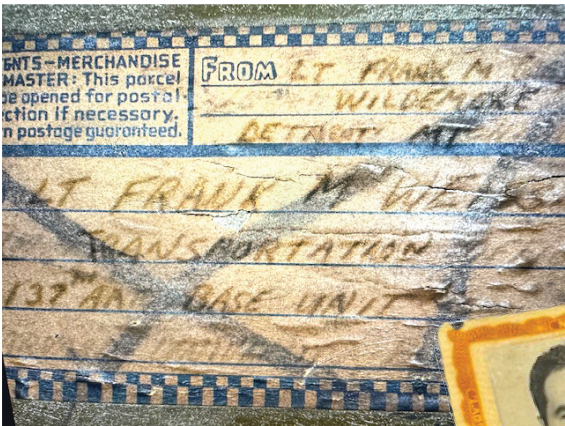
I wondered, could the foot locker have belonged to another "Lt. Frank M. Weiss?" A research librarian confirmed that they could identify only one Frank M. Weiss in Detroit in the 1940s. The others with Frank Weiss's identified had different middle initials. But could I consider this as total proof?

After the footlocker arrived, I closely examined a faded mailing label on its top. By enlarging the label with Photoshop, my graphic designer was able to identify my father's Detroit mailing address, 16841 Wildemere Avenue, (which matched the address in his military records) on the label. Now I was convinced that this trunk was owned by my father.

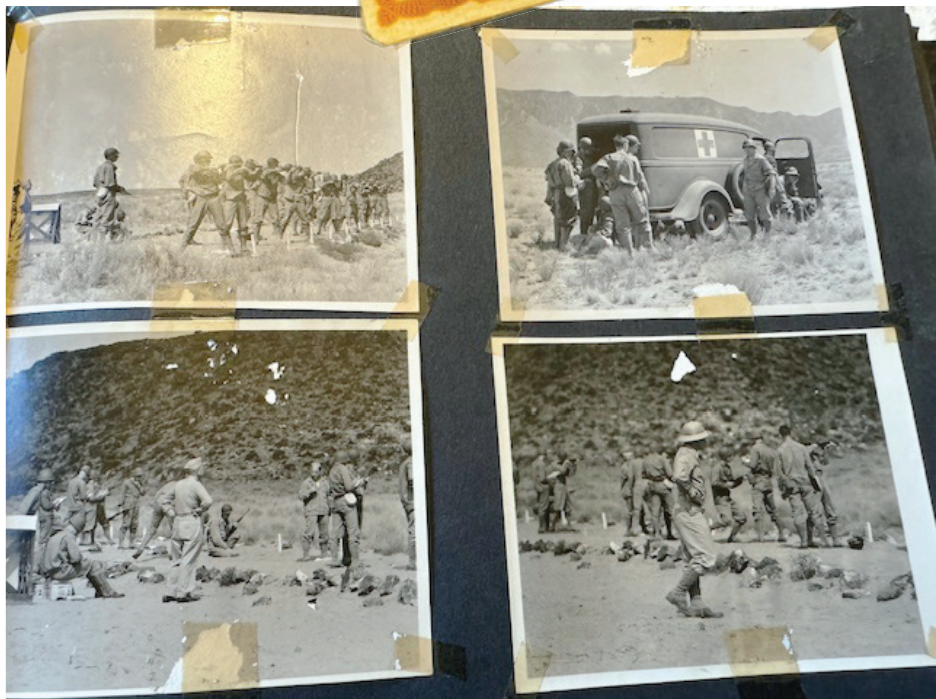
Because of the kindness of Michael and Cetaura, I was able to thank them for their tireless efforts to locate the family of Second Lt. Frank M. Weiss. My father's military footlocker has finally come home. It was empty but today it contains the folded American Flag we received at his funeral, his scrapbook of faded pictures of his comrades and assigned bases from his long-ago days in the military and memorabilia, all safely in his footlocker. Now it is truly a treasure chest.

Special thanks to the librarians at the DPL's special collections for their assistance in verifying the ownership of the military footlocker.

**Herb Weiss, LRI -12,** is a Pawtucket-based writer who has covered aging, health care and medical issues for over 43 years. To purchase his books, *Taking Charge: Collected Stories on Aging Boldly* and a sequel, compiling weekly published articles, go to [herbweiss.com](http://herbweiss.com).



The contents of the foot locker, including World War II era photos, were in good shape more than 80 years after Lt. Weiss packed them away.



# Monday evening concert series at Theatre By The Sea

In celebration of 91 years of Theatre By The Sea (TBTS), owner and producer Bill Hanney is proud to announce the 2024 summer schedule for the Monday Evening Concert Series, which will be held on select Mondays throughout the season.

"I'm very excited about this season's Monday Evening Concert Series," said Bill Hanney. "It's really a spectacular lineup!"

The series began on June 17 with the always popular *A Broadway Celebration*.

The series continues on July 8 with *Simply Barbra* starring Steven Brinberg. For over 25 years Steven Brinberg has performed *Simply Barbra* on stages across America, Australia, and the U.K. Simply Barbra is a love letter to, and a comical look at, one of the greatest stars of our generation. You'll hear classics including "People," "Evergreen," and "Second Hand Rose," sung so beautifully that if

you close your eyes, you'll swear you are listening to the diva herself. Don't miss this one night only event that critics have called a scintillatingly funny, unnervingly accurate and touchingly true tribute that is in touch with Streisand's very soul, spirit, voice and above all, ego!

On August 5, *American A Cappella*, featuring the Narragansett Bay Chorus, with special appearances by the quartets Second Nature and Street Corner, will make their debuts at Theatre By The Sea. The Narragansett Bay Chorus is the performing unit of the Providence Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the largest male singing organization in the world. They represent the Society in both competition and promotional performances and have an impressive list of musical achievements, having won the Society's District Championship on 15 separate occasions. They have received standing ovations in performances from

Nova Scotia to California, Florida to Montreal, Salt Lake City to London, and dozens of other locations. Based in the Greater Providence area since 1949, they continue their goal of bringing a cappella music in the barbershop style to audiences of all ages. Over recent years they have helped raise more than a half million dollars for local charities and non-profits.

Rounding out the series on September 9, is Rhode Island's own *Billy Gilman featuring the Ragged Impresarios*. Gilman burst onto the national stage in 2000 releasing the hit single "One Voice." His debut album was certified double platinum in the U.S., and he was included in the Guinness Book of World Records for being the youngest singer to ever reach #1 on the Billboard Top Country Album charts. He has sold ten million albums worldwide and garnered awards and nods from The Grammys, the Academy

of Country Music, the Country Music Association, Billboard Magazine, and the American Music Association. Now, Gilman is eager to share his new music and his new sound with his fans after soaring to the finale of NBC's *The Voice*.

Performances for the Monday Evening Concert Series will take place on June 17, July 8, August 5, and September 9 at 7:30 pm. The theatre is located at 364 Cards Pond Road, Wakefield. Tickets are \$39 - \$59 (additional fees may apply). Discount rates are available for groups of 10 or more by calling (401) 782-3800 x112. Tickets are on sale at the box office Monday through Saturday from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm and performance days from 11:00 am until curtain, (performance Sundays 12 noon until curtain), online 24-hours-a-day at [www.theatrebythesea.com](http://www.theatrebythesea.com) and via telephone during normal box office hours by calling (401) 782-TKTS



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Buying  
the  
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## Are You a True Collector?



**By Travis Landry**  
Auctioneer & Specialist  
Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers  
Cranston, RI

There is one harmoniously inherent trend in every collector regardless of category: We all love to get a deal. The thrill of finding something vastly

underpriced compared to the next guy is the ultimate rush!  
This is a great feeling when markets are screaming, but what about when everything is down? As a true collector, you cannot be scared to buy when markets are soft. The saying is “those who buy through the dip come out stronger on the other side,” and I want you to really think about that statement. Trends come and go and

collecting can be cyclical, what goes up must come down and vice versa.  
So why do most collectors only like buying when markets are on the up? Personally, I do not know, maybe it’s a psychological thing with the excitement of trending markets - but I try to always do the opposite. If you know a market is at an all-time high, it’s probably not the greatest time to buy in. You have to resist the urge to spend. If a market is soft and prices are half of what they used be in the past, your risk is less with the potential of it returning to its original value. This is what’s known as a “Bear” market on Wall Street, and if you think about collecting no differently than you think about your stock portfolio, and this should be an easy concept to grab.  
Now, you just have to get out there and practice it!  
Currently, prices for comics, toys, watches, automobiles, fine art, (essentially any tangible asset) are

at record lows compared to the past five years. The COVID pandemic, in combination with the explosion of cryptocurrency, created exponential growth in collectible markets. Four years later that growth has been cut back by almost 50% in a lot of areas. To leave you with two examples, a Rolex Submariner that was once valued twelve to fifteen thousand has come back down to about seven to nine, and a Base Unlimited Charizard grade 9 that was once five thousand is back to twelve hundred. I like discounted savings like that, don't you? Don't be scared, get on out there collect like you never have before - The price is right!



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# PRIME TIME

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## Become a Local Tourist this Summer

CLUBS, MUSEUMS, ATTRACTIONS LET YOU KNOW YOUR OWN STATE

Have you ever spent years living in a city but never really explored it? If so, you're not alone.

Many people will spend their lives living in a place for a long time but never visiting the sites that are so interesting to out-of-towners. The same attractions that get visitors excited may not seem so appealing because, well, they're just so familiar.

If you want to make your staycation fun, pretend you're a tourist visiting your own town. Not only will you have a good time, but you'll also come away with a better understanding of your own town's culture.

## Make Your Staycation Unique

Staycations might not seem as glamorous as traveling abroad or as relaxing as spending a week in an oceanfront resort or condominium, but there are ways to make staycations more fun and seem like a true departure from everyday life.

• Experiment with new cuisine. One of the joys of travel is the opportunity to dine out and experience cuisine native to particular locales. But you don't need to travel abroad to enjoy this particular benefit of traveling. The internet is home to a wealth of recipes from countries far and wide. You can choose recipes online and prepare meals from a different country each night, or pick a 'country or region of the week' and prepare a different dish native to that area each night. This provides a great departure from ordinary family dinners and can make for a fun activity for the whole family.



### MUSEUMS

Look for a museum either within your own city or within easy driving distance, and make it a point to go there.

You may think of museums as stuffy places filled with art or incomprehensible science displays, but that's rarely the case.

Small-town museums cater to niche interests such as local artists, city history or even specific hobbies, industries, sports and activities.

Bigger museums in major cities offer impressive displays, of course, and they usually rotate over time. If it's been a while since you've gone, it could be worth a visit to see the new materials and special exhibits that were hidden down in the basement the last time you visited.

### NIGHTLIFE

Another thing locals often ignore is their own city's nightlife. Virtually every city, big or small, has venues that are open into the evening hours for dancing, music, games and drinking.

If you haven't seen your own local nightlife lately, your staycation could be a great chance to relax and enjoy yourself without going too far from home. You can take some time off from work, grab some friends or your partner, and spend time doing what you want, when you want.

### GRAB A CAMERA

Finally, if you enjoy photography or just want to explore your own town, pick up a camera and start snapping pictures. Architecture, people and events can be a lot of fun to photograph. They can also let you see your own city in a new light, just like a tourist would when they visited for the first time. Take pictures of old buildings, interesting locations and eye-catching scenes around town. You may just fall in love with photography as a hobby.

• Take in local culture. Rather than spending the week lounging around the house or the backyard pool, explore the cultural opportunities in your own state. We tend to take such opportunities for granted in our own area. Exploring local history and artistic opportunities in the same way you would when traveling can provide a sense of excitement similar to that experienced during more traditional vacations. Visit a local zoo, take in a performance at a local theater company or take a guided historical tour of an area of your hometown or a nearby city.

• Indulge in an extraordinary activity. While families typically choose staycations to save money, forgetting the budget to enjoy one extraordinary activity can make a staycation more fun and memorable. Spend one day during the staycation doing something you would not ordinarily do, be it visiting an all-day amusement park, taking a helicopter tour of a nearby city or going to a ballgame. Such a break from the norm, even if it's only for a single night, can make staycations feel more like vacations.



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# When Elders Need Help, the Haven is There

Elder Abuse comes in many forms, from physical injury to the more frequent financial harm usually caused by someone known to the victim.

Often elders may not know where to turn or how to get help when they're in trouble. Or they may be afraid of the consequences of reporting their caregiver, the person they rely on for assistance.

Fortunately, in Rhode Island, there is a resource to support and protect this vulnerable population, the Saint Elizabeth Haven for Elder Justice.

The program's activities are diverse and usually occur behind the scenes to protect the individuals involved. During the past year, for example, the Haven and its partners played a critical role in assisting the Warwick Police Department in apprehending suspects in a "grandchild in distress" scam, preventing the victimization of an elder couple.

The Haven's primary focus is to connect elder victims with the resources they need to resolve their crisis. When necessary, the program will provide them with temporary shelter at a local eldercare facility so they have a safe place to stay.

In the meantime, an Elder Justice Advocate develops a safety plan and identifies support for both their immediate and long-term needs. The Advocate also connects the elder with legal assistance and, ultimately, helps plan their safe transition back into the community.

In 2023, the Haven provided services to 56 new clients, with 20 of those given access to shelter.

The Haven for Elder Justice is a program of Saint Elizabeth Community and part of the Rhode Island Coalition for Elder Justice (RICEJ) a collaboration of more than thirty community-based organizations committed to protecting and serving our elder neighbors.

Partners include members of the majority of the state's relevant state elder protection programs, law enforcement agencies, elder case management agencies, domestic violence centers, housing, LGBT services, nursing professionals, legal officers, community policing and others.

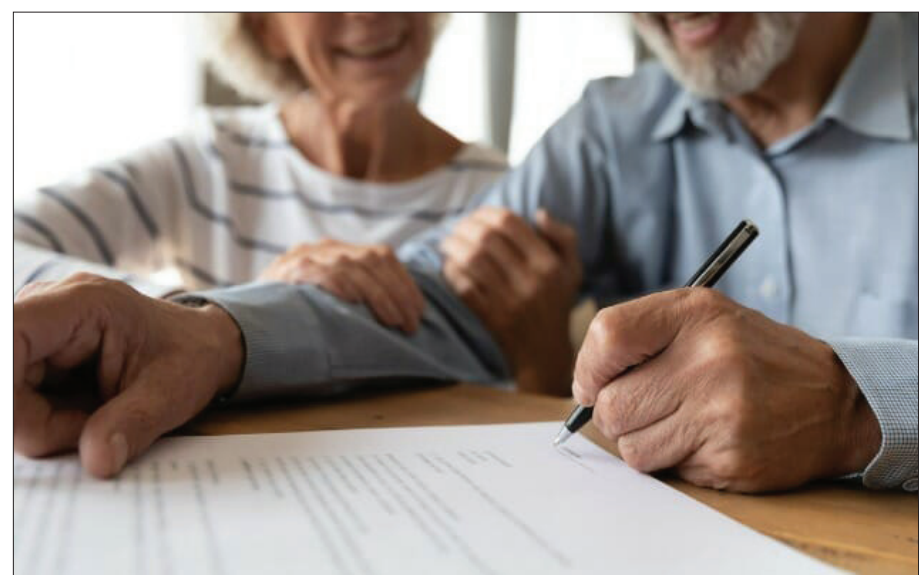
Moving forward, the RICEJ will institutionalize its efforts with a particular emphasis on traditionally underserved populations including individuals with disabilities, individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, persons with limited English proficiency and members of the LGBT community.

For more information, please visit [stelizabethcommunity.org/haven](https://stelizabethcommunity.org/haven) or [rielderjustice.org](https://rielderjustice.org).

*RI law requires those who suspect a Rhode Island resident is a victim of any form of elder abuse to report to the RI Office of Healthy Aging (OHA) Adult Protective Services Unit online at [oha.ri.gov](https://oha.ri.gov) or by calling OHA at 401- 462-0555. Reports can be made 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls are confidential.*

# Estate Planning 101 for Seniors: Steps to Secure Your Future

LAW ADVICE  
by DON DRAKE  
CONNELLY LAW OFFICES, LTD.



“In a society that is changing rapidly, it’s critical to prioritize future planning, especially for older adults,” stated professional fiduciary and certified elder law Attorney RJ Connelly III. “Estate planning provides a means to guarantee that your legacy and assets are handled and distributed in accordance with your desires.

estate taxes, which can ultimately preserve more of your assets for your beneficiaries. Also, trusts can offer asset protection, safeguarding your wealth from creditors and legal claims. Unlike a will, trusts provide the flexibility to control how your assets are managed and distributed both during your lifetime and after your passing.

## Identify Your Assets

Before embarking on estate planning, it is essential to compile a comprehensive inventory of all your assets meticulously. This involves cataloging details of your bank accounts, investment portfolios, real estate properties, vehicles, valuable personal possessions, and any other significant holdings you may have. A clear understanding of your assets will serve as the cornerstone for the subsequent steps in your estate planning journey.

## Incapacity Planning

When creating an estate plan, it’s important to consider what happens after your passing and the possibility of incapacity. This involves designating powers of attorney for healthcare and finances, enabling you to empower trusted individuals to decide on your behalf if you cannot do so yourself.

## A Dynamic Document

Estate planning is a continuous and dynamic process that requires regular attention. Major life events like marriages, divorces, the birth of children, and the passing of loved ones can impact your estate plan. It’s crucial to consistently review and revise your plan to accurately reflect any significant changes in your life or financial circumstances.

## Medicaid Planning

Integrating long-term care planning into your estate plan is essential for anticipating potential healthcare requirements in the future.

Estate planning must be tailored to individual circumstances and not assembled using a cookie-cutter approach or some online standard form. To delve deeper into estate planning for seniors and explore customized strategies, seek the guidance of estate planning professionals who can offer specialized counsel tailored to your requirements.

## Developing a Will

A will is a legally binding document that enables individuals to stipulate the distribution of their assets and possessions following their demise. It constitutes a crucial aspect of estate planning, guaranteeing the observance of one’s desires and the provision for their beneficiaries.

## Identify Beneficiaries

Selecting beneficiaries for your assets, including retirement accounts and life insurance policies, is a crucial aspect of estate planning. By designating beneficiaries, you can guarantee that these assets will be passed on directly to your chosen individuals without probate, making the distribution process more straightforward and efficient.

## Explore Trusts

Creating a trust as part of your estate planning can provide various advantages. One of the key benefits is the potential to minimize

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RJ Connelly III



## Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program to make an estimated 10,000 food vouchers available to eligible seniors

The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment has upgraded its Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) to provide an estimated 10,000 eligible seniors with fresh, RI Grown fruit and vegetables, as well as local honey. The purpose of the SFMNP is to keep food security funds in Rhode Island, to provide eligible seniors with improved access to locally grown food, and to support local agriculture. DEM is working closely with the Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging (OHA) to identify communities in need of assistance and to ensure a widespread and equitable distribution throughout the state. New this year, DEM is following on the success of the Rhode Island Department of Health's WIC Farmers Market electronic benefit model by providing eligible seniors with a benefit card preloaded with \$50 that can be used at eligible farmers markets and farm stands in exchange for local produce, herbs, and honey. SFMNP Benefit Cards will be distributed from senior centers throughout the state beginning on May 1, 2024, and can be used from May 1 to Nov. 30, 2024. Eligible seniors can apply to participate in the SFMNP through their local senior center or other applicable nutrition program, with sign-up locations listed on the SFMNP webpage.

"The continued success of the SFMNP partnership will help ensure that more food-insecure Rhode Island seniors have locally grown and fresh produce in their kitchens and refrigerators," said Governor Dan McKee. "Increasing senior access to healthy, RI Grown food while continuing to support our local growers and farmers is a win all around."

"We are excited to build off the success of last year's SFMNP season with this upgrade to provide even more eligible Rhode Island seniors with access to healthy RI Grown foods provided by local farmers," said DEM Director Terry Gray. "This program exemplifies the power of public-private partnerships united in purpose and focused on solving difficult problems and DEM is grateful for the partnership of the Office of Healthy Aging and Farm Fresh RI."

"The RI Office of Healthy Aging (OHA) is committed to improving food security for low-income Rhode Islanders aged 60 and over," said OHA Director Maria Cimini. "Access to nutritious food is essential in ensuring all populations can thrive and age healthily. This partnership is especially exciting because participants can purchase fresh, locally grown food of their choosing. We are grateful for our senior center partners that voluntarily support the distribution of SFMNP. They support the vision of making healthful and culturally enriching food accessibly to all by stewarding the USDA Farmers Market Senior Nutrition Program across communities in Rhode Island".

"Farm Fresh Rhode Island is proud to partner with DEM and OHA to ensure more seniors have access to fresh, local food at farmers markets, farm stands and through direct distribution to homebound seniors," said Jesse Rye, Executive Director of Farm Fresh Rhode Island. "This upgrade to the SFMNP program helps to better connect senior citizens and Rhode Island's farming community."

# Voters 50 Plus Decide Elections



## AARP - RHODE ISLAND

by CATHERINE TAYLOR

This election year is already marked by a lot of noise and very little agreement. However, there is one thing we know for sure: voters 50 plus decide elections. In fact, they are the majority of voters in every election, and candidates who don't recognize the power of these voters are unlikely to win.

Here's how we know this to be true: For all 50 states and all 435 congressional districts, AARP analyzed data for the 2020 elections to show exactly who was deciding elections. More specifically, in Rhode Island 73 percent of the electorate in 2020 was age 50 plus. 55 percent of Rhode Island's voters 50 plus were women and 45 were men, 10 percent were Hispanic or Black and 65 percent were from suburban areas of the state and 22 percent urban.

Voters age 50 plus are focused on the sustainability of our country's Social Security system. For many, it might be their top concern. It's important voters have the information they need. Today, there are persistent misconceptions about its long-term financial stability and how it works. I'd like to share the facts behind three of the most stubborn Social Security myths.

**Myth #1:** *Social Security is going broke.* **The facts:** Social Security will not run out of money, as long as workers and employers continue to

pay payroll taxes. It's a pay-as-you-go system: Revenue coming in from payroll taxes largely covers the payments going out. But Social Security does face longer-term funding challenges. For decades it collected more than it paid out, building a surplus that stood at \$2.83 trillion at the end of 2022. But the system is starting to pay out more than it takes in, largely because the retiree population is growing faster than the working population and is living longer. Without changes in how Social Security is financed, the surplus is projected to run out in 2034, according to the latest annual report from the program's trustees. Even then, Social Security will still be able to pay benefits from incoming payroll tax revenue. But it will only be enough to pay about 80% percent of scheduled benefits, according to the latest estimate. If Congress doesn't take action in the next 10 years to protect and save Social Security, your Social Security could be cut by 20%—an average of \$4,000 a year.

**Myth #2:** *The government raids Social Security to pay for other programs.* **The facts:** Social Security is primarily funded with workers' and employers' payroll taxes and has never been part of the federal government's general fund. The federal government does, however, borrow from

Social Security and in return issues Treasury bonds. The federal govern-

ment has to pay back any money it borrows from Social Security with interest. The government has always paid it back in full, and annual interest payments increase Social Security's assets, to the tune of \$66.3 billion in 2022.

**Myth #3:** *Members of Congress don't pay into Social Security.* **The facts:** Actually, they do. Members of Congress came under the Social Security umbrella in 1984, along with the rest of the federal workforce, as part of sweeping changes to the program.

Voters age 50 plus know they can count on AARP for nonpartisan information about when, where and how to vote, and the candidates' positions on their policy priorities. We don't tell our members or anyone else who to vote for. But we are committed to making sure all voters have the information they need to make their voices heard in the 2024 elections.

Here in Rhode Island voters 50 plus have long been the deciders in elections. Candidates that want to get elected should pay close attention to these voters and the issues they care about.

For information on the 2024 election – when, where and how to vote – visit [www.aarp.org/RIVotes](http://www.aarp.org/RIVotes).



## June-July Online Events

June 20, 4 p.m. - RI Healthy Cooking  
June 25, 4 p.m. - Tai Chi/Qi Gong  
June 26, 6 p.m. - Laughter Yoga  
July 1, 12 noon - Lunchtime Tech Talk: Intro to Digital Wallets  
July 9, 4 p.m. - Tai Chi/Qi Gong  
July 10, 1 p.m., Everybody Dance  
July 15, 12 noon - Lunchtime Tech Talk: Voice Assistants  
July 29, noon – Lunchtime Tech Talk: Intro to A.I.

## In-Person Events

June 21, 7:30 p.m. - AARP-RI Sponsored Bike Newport Full Moon Bike Ride  
June 26, 7:30 p.m. - Movies for Grownups: Thelma  
June 27- August, 6:30 p.m. - AARP-RI Sponsored RI Historical Society Concerts Under the Elms Series  
**Learn more and register at [aarp.org/RIEvents](http://aarp.org/RIEvents)**

**Fraud Fighting Fridays**  
**Free Document Shredding Events**  
Cranston, June 28  
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Registration, shredding location directions and more at [aarp.org/RIShreds](http://aarp.org/RIShreds)



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## AARP Rhode Island "Fraud Fighting Fridays"

**June 28**, Office of the Attorney General, Cranston  
**July 12**, WaterFire Arts Center, Providence  
**July 26**, Cumberland Senior Center, Cumberland

Drop-offs, 9 a.m. to noon; no more than two boxes per person; no businesses, please. Registration recommended but not required.

**For registration, location directions and more, visit [www.aarp.org/RIShreds](http://www.aarp.org/RIShreds)**



# Easy Ideas to *Stretch* Your Retirement Budget

## Ways seniors can save on enjoyable activities

### FAMILY FEATURES

Retirement may mean you have unlimited time to enjoy each day, but it doesn't mean you have a budget to match. You probably already know staying active is essential for aging with grace, so instead of letting limited funds keep you at home, explore some ways you can enjoy your leisure time without breaking the bank.

#### Hit the Gym

Many fitness centers offer special rates and programs for older adults. Hitting the track or joining a group fitness class are easy ways to socialize while getting some exercise. The discounted membership is also an investment

since staying fit is important for physical and mental health.

#### Enjoy Early Dinner Deals

You can still enjoy dining out occasionally, especially if you take advantage of lower-cost meals designed with older adults in mind. Many specials are for meals earlier in the day, which is consistent with a growing trend toward earlier dining. According to Yelp, the number of people eating from 4-6 p.m. has grown 9% (up to 26% from 17% in 2019). Eating earlier promotes better digestion, and earlier meals are often lighter portions for smaller appetites. For example, Cracker Barrel's Early Dinner Deals feature smaller portions served from 4-6 p.m. on weekdays. Menu items include a variety of homestyle favorites like chicken

n' dumplins, meatloaf, catfish and more.

#### Check Out the Library

Your local library is filled with hours of free entertainment, but it's not just the kind you'll find from getting a library card. You can undoubtedly find a book that covers any genre or interest you can name, but most local libraries also offer programming tailored to special interests and the sessions are typically offered for free or at a low cost. It's an easy, affordable way to pick up a new skill, meet a favorite author, learn about a topic that intrigues you and more. Other resources to explore include your library's DVD collection and internet access if you don't have a computer at home.



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

#### Nurture a Garden

Tending a garden may seem like a seasonal activity, but you can make it a year-round hobby. Researching and planning is a good way to carry your gardening enthusiasm into the cooler months and you can start seedlings indoors to extend your growing season. While you're digging into this low-cost pastime, remember the results of your efforts, such as fresh fruits and veggies, can help cut your grocery costs, too.

#### Mind Your Money with DIY

Saving money at the grocery store is just one way you can make DIY projects work for you. There are dozens of other examples of ways you can put your skills and interests to use by passing time doing something you enjoy while benefiting your bank account. If you like to tinker with cars, figure out what repairs you can handle yourself and avoid hefty service fees. Crafting and sewing might mean you have ready-made gifts for special occasions and a way to repair or repurpose damaged clothing instead of discarding it.

#### Ask About Discounts

You may be surprised by how many places offer discounts for older adults that they don't readily advertise. In some cases, you'll find the information on their website or signage, but other times, you may find it easier to just ask. When you're booking an appointment or checking out, inquire about discounts for older adults, including any restrictions, age requirements, the amount of the discount and other pertinent details. Sometimes the discounts are offered on certain days or for specific services, or they may require you to join a loyalty club to access the discounts. When dining out, many restaurants offer a variety of loyalty perks. Rewards members at Cracker Barrel can earn points, or "Pegs," on qualifying restaurant and retail purchases. Members can also take advantage of bonus birthday, anniversary and surprise rewards throughout the year.

To find a location near you, visit [crackerbarrel.com/locations](https://crackerbarrel.com/locations).

# Quench Your Summer Cravings with Bold, Refreshing Beverages

### FAMILY FEATURES

In between summer adventures and hot afternoons spent poolside, you're likely looking to combat rising temperatures with a cool, refreshing beverage. This year, quench your thirst with drinks that play up the trendiness of bold flavors. While many concoctions can help you beat the heat, some gems seem to hit the spot better than others. Consider one of the trendiest beverages that is increasingly becoming available at smoothie and juice bars nationwide but which you can also prepare at home: the tempting, bold taste of the Mangonada. With a harmonious fusion of sweet, spicy and tangy flavors, this thirst-quencher captures the essence of tropical indulgence with the majestic mango at the center of its symphony of flavors. "Mango not only adds a burst of flavor but also brings a unique depth to the beverage," said Dan Spellman, director of marketing for the National Mango Board. Central to the Mangonada is Tajín Fruity Chamoy Sauce and Clásico Seasoning – a zesty

blend of chili peppers, lime and sea salt – which are must-have ingredients to make the beverage. They combine to infuse the drink with a subtle kick, balancing the mango's sweetness with a hint of spiciness that hits different. This beloved beverage has captured the hearts and palates of people worldwide with its bold flavors and vibrant spirit to make summer deliciously unforgettable. For another take on a classic drink, give this Tangy Chamoy Tropical Daiquiri a try at your next summer cookout. You can enjoy its cool, refreshing flavor with just the right touch of spice from Tajín Fruity Chamoy Hot Sauce with the yellow cap, which is made with natural ingredients but offers a unique fruity and tangy flavor, ideal for pairing with sweet snacks like fruits, smoothies, mangonadas and ice pops. With no added sugar or coloring, they're perfect for the entire family all summer long. There are thousands of ways to enjoy these unique flavors. To find more refreshing drinks that beat the summer heat, visit [tajin.com](https://tajin.com).



#### Tangy Chamoy Tropical Daiquiri

Total time: 15 minutes  
Servings: 2

##### To Rim Glass:

- 2 tablespoons Tajín Fruity Chamoy Hot Sauce
- 2 tablespoons Tajín Clásico Seasoning

##### Drink:

- 1/2 cup diced pineapple
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 2 ice cubes
- 2 tablespoons Tajín Fruity Chamoy Hot Sauce
- 1 slice pineapple, for garnish

Rim two glasses in hot sauce then in seasoning. Blend diced pineapple with orange juice, ice and hot sauce; pour into glasses. Garnish with pineapple slice.

#### Mangonada

Recipe courtesy of the National Mango Board

- 1 cup fresh mango cubes, plus 5-6 cubes for garnish, divided
- 2 ounces fresh mango nectar
- 1/2 ounce lime juice
- 2 cups ice
- 1/2 ounce agave nectar
- 2 tablespoons Tajín Fruity Chamoy Hot Sauce, plus 2 ounces for garnish, divided
- 1 tablespoon Tajín Clásico Seasoning, for garnish
- 1 tamarind candy, for garnish (optional)

Measure 1 cup mango cubes, mango nectar, lime juice, ice and agave nectar into blender cup. Blend until smooth. In separate small dishes, add 1 ounce hot sauce and 1 ounce seasoning. Dip rim of 14-ounce Collins glass into hot sauce then seasoning to coat. Drizzle remaining hot sauce along inside of glass. In glass, pour 1 tablespoon chamoy sauce followed by blended Mangonada. Top with remaining fresh mango cubes and sprinkle with additional seasoning. Add tamarind candy to glass, if desired.



# Perspective

It's how we look at life, what we value most - leads us down different paths and reflects the choices we make, for better or for worse.



MY MEMOIRS  
by SUSAN DEAN

Life is experienced in different ways and we look at life from many unique and diverse directions and pathways. Decisions are made based on one's perspective and we all have opinions on the choices other people make.

I made the decision in June, 2015 to work two more years and planned to retire in June, 2017 from my job as a speech pathologist. I had worked in the public schools for 23 years - two more would bring me to 25 - a number that sounded solid and substantial. A fitting number to end on.

I had also worked in the biochemistry department of a hospital for 17 years prior to my second career in speech - so 42 years of full-time work ending at age 64 felt right.

I had a friend I had met through tennis back in 2013. She was an elementary school teacher. We worked in different school systems but saw each other often on the tennis courts. We played both as partners and against each other as opponents, and we even entered occasional tennis tournaments together as a team. One memorable competition was the time we lost 6-0, 6-1...in about 9 minutes. I'm not convinced that we actually "won" our lone, sad, single game. Clearly we were out of our league and our kind opponents may have felt a bit sorry for us and committed a few "errors" - just so we weren't left feeling totally shamed. We laughed about that experience for years!

My friend loved tennis. She played outdoors all spring, summer, and fall and inside all winter. On Sundays she'd sign up for matches in 2-hour blocks starting at noon right through the final slot at 6:00 pm. She was also on a number of weeknight leagues through the school year, often calling me to sub for her if she was unable to play.

One day on the courts, I mentioned to my friend my plans to retire in 2017. "Oh, no!" she said, looking quite dismayed. "You can't retire that early - what will you live on?" she asked.

I told her that I was pretty sure I'd be okay with my retirement funds and social security. And my summer tour-guiding job would easily morph into my part-time retirement job. I'd be getting an income, at least seasonally, and even still adding to a 401K through that job.

The debate continued through the next two years - always friendly - but both of us steadfast in our viewpoints. "I have a friend who retired and now she's in deep trouble," she told me one day. "Barely able to live. She retired too early. You're making the same mistake."

I told her that I had many retired friends from my school system who had advised me, and I had checked with my human resources department, and with social security itself, and I wasn't worried.

Then it became a difference of opinion on whether it was a good idea to retire at 64 rather than waiting till 66.

"You won't get your full pension," she informed me.

"Full enough," I replied.

"But the longer you stay the bigger your pension will be," she explained.

"True," I answered. "But my free time is valuable, too. There are so many things I want to do while I'm still able to do them. I'm still active and healthy - none of us

knows how much time we have left - I want to enjoy it while I can."

At that point, she pulled out a graph filled with numbers and columns.

"I'm working through June, 2019 when I'll be 66. See how much bigger my pension is going to be? That's true for you, too, since we're the same age. You're taking a big chance retiring in 2017 at 64," she told me.

I then said, "Look, there's nothing wrong with waiting if that's what you want to do. You're making the best decision for you - it's not wrong. But for me, I'm firm on 2017."

"Well, I warned you - I hope you're not in for a big surprise full of regrets," she answered.

I did retire in 2017 and saw my friend on and off through the rest of the year and through the first half of 2018. She always asked how I was faring and I told her things were great. I was thoroughly enjoying my new life.

I didn't see her on the tennis courts during the second half of

2018, but figured she was busy with the September start of school and with her friends and family. But winter faded into spring and still there was no sign of her. It was somewhat unusual not to run into each other on the tennis courts, but I figured we were just missing each other. I wanted to congratulate her on her upcoming retirement as it was now 2019 and June was fast approaching.

June arrived and a group of us were getting ready to leave for Vermont for a tennis weekend. The night before we left I got a call from another tennis friend who asked if I'd seen the obituaries that day. I hadn't, but when I opened the paper, there was my friend looking beautiful and vibrant, smiling into the camera.

She had been diagnosed with brain cancer eight months earlier - in the fall of 2018. She died almost to the day that her school system ended for the summer - the day she would have retired. She was 66. She had children and grandchildren and had looked forward to a retirement filled with family, friends, and sunny tennis days.

I can't help but think about our different perspectives. After our many discussions on the wisdom or foolishness of retiring, I often wondered if I was making the right decision. I sometimes couldn't sleep, lying awake at night second-guessing my plan. I wavered a bit whenever my friend gave me one of her concerned looks along with a "you'll be sorry" warning. I'm glad I stood firm even as she gave me pause at times.

I'm so very sorry that my friend didn't get to experience her retirement. I'm grateful that I've been so fortunate to be enjoying mine.

Perspective - how we look at life, what we value most - leads us down different paths and reflects the choices we make, for better or for worse.

Our differing perspectives wouldn't have changed the outcome, but still, the irony of it has continued to haunt me and reminds me again about the uncertainties of life. And how important it is - how imperative it is - to follow your heart, to trust your intuition, and to find and follow through with whatever it is that makes you happy - and to cherish each present moment. Because that's all any of us truly has - our sweet moments of now.

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One ounce of sunscreen, enough to fill a shot glass, is considered  
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# Year-round tax planning pointers for taxpayers

## YOUR TAXES

by MEG CHEVALIER

Here are some simple things taxpayers can do throughout the year to make filing season less stressful.

**Organize tax records.** Create a system that keeps all important information together. Taxpayers can use a software program for electronic recordkeeping or store paper documents in clearly labeled folders. They should add tax records to their files as they receive them. Organized records will make tax return preparation easier and may help taxpayers discover overlooked deductions or credits.

**Identify filing status.** A taxpayer's filing status determines their filing requirements, standard deduction, eligibility for certain credits and the correct amount of tax they should pay. If more than one filing status applies to a taxpayer, they can get help choosing the best one for their tax situation with the IRS's Interactive Tax Assistant, What Is My Filing Status. Changes in family life — marriage, divorce, birth and death — may affect a person's tax situation, including their filing status and eligibility for certain tax credits and deductions.

**Understand adjusted gross income (AGI).** AGI and tax rate are important factors in figuring taxes. AGI is the taxpayer's income from all sources minus any adjustments. Generally, the higher a taxpayer's AGI, the higher their tax rate and the more tax they pay. Tax planning can include making changes during the year that lower a taxpayer's AGI.

**Check withholding.** Since federal taxes operate on a pay-as-you-go basis, taxpayers need to pay most of their tax as they earn income. Taxpayers should check that they're withholding enough from their pay to cover their taxes owed, especially if their personal or financial situations change during the year. To check withholding, taxpayers can use the IRS Withholding Estimator. If they want to change their tax withholding, taxpayers should provide their employer with an updated Form W-4.

**Make address and name changes.** Taxpayers should notify the United States Postal Service, employers, and the IRS of any address change. To officially change a mailing address with the IRS, taxpayers must complete Form 8822, Change of Address, and mail it to the correct address for their area. For detailed instructions, see page 2 of the form. Report any name change to the Social Security Administration. Making these changes as soon as possible will help make filing their tax return easier.

**Save for retirement.** Saving for retirement can also lower a taxpayer's AGI. Certain contributions to a retirement plan at work and to a traditional IRA may also reduce taxable income.

For additional information, please visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

## Things to Consider If You'd Like to Age In Place

Aging in place is a popular choice among senior citizens who wish to maintain their independence and stay in familiar surroundings as they grow older. However, this decision requires careful consideration of several key factors to ensure safety, comfort, and overall well-being.

Home modifications are essential. Seniors should evaluate their current living space to identify potential hazards and make necessary adjustments. This may include installing grab bars in the bathroom, ensuring proper lighting throughout the house, removing tripping hazards like loose rugs, and possibly even remodeling to create a more accessible living environment, such as widening doorways or adding ramps. These modifications can help prevent falls and make daily activities easier and safer.

Access to healthcare and support services is crucial. Seniors should consider their proximity to medical facilities and the availability of in-home care services. This includes regular visits from healthcare professionals, assistance with medication management, and emergency response systems. Additionally, having a network of family, friends, or neighbors who can provide support and check in regularly can be invaluable. It's also wise to explore local community resources such as senior centers, meal delivery programs, and transportation services.

Financial planning cannot be overlooked. Aging in place can be cost-effective compared to other options, but it still requires a solid financial strategy. Seniors need to account for the costs of home modifications, ongoing maintenance, healthcare, and any in-home care services. It's advisable to work with a financial planner to ensure that resources are managed effectively and that there are contingency plans in place for any unexpected expenses.

By thoughtfully addressing these considerations—home safety, healthcare access, and financial planning—seniors can create a supportive environment that allows them to age in place comfortably and securely.



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# Polyamory and Other Polys

Lately I’ve been seeing the term “polyamory” in the media quite often. I know that “poly” means many or several. And I know that “amor” means love in Latin and Spanish. So I assumed that polyamory is a strong affection for several people. Hardly anything to merit media coverage unless there’s more to the story. I decided to re-search the term.

It turns out that polyamorous people have romantic relationships with more than one partner at the same time, and all the partners involved agree to this. It’s also defined as consensual nonmonogamy. You might think I’d want to travel down that road in more detail for this column, but you’d be wrong. I did wonder how many people would be needed for a relationship to be polyamorous (vs. just a love triangle). But what really piqued my interest was other uses for the compounded “poly.”

The notion of polyamorous relationships did call to mind Pollyanna, whose irrepressible optimism finds good in everything. But I want to explore “poly” with a single “I”. An obvious word to include here is polygamy. It doesn’t seem as sexy as polyamory, and it’s more structured, usually with one husband having multiple wives. Technically one wife could have multiple husbands. Either way the practice of polygamy is now illegal in the U.S.

As a lover of language, I quickly thought of polyglot, someone who knows and uses several languages. To be considered more than bilingual or trilingual, a polyglot can usually communicate in at least four languages. This is different from someone who prides herself on speaking polysyllabically. Using a lot of multi-syllable words does not a polyglot make. It just makes someone a long-winded sesquipedalian.

The most commonly known poly word is probably poly-



## RETIREMENT SPARKS

by ELAINE M. DECKER

gon. This one-I poly word shouldn’t be confused with the two-I “Polly gone,” meaning your pet parrot has flown the coop. Sorry. I couldn’t resist some silliness. A polygon is a multi-sided geometric figure with a certain number of sides and angles. First the triangle (3 sides), then the quadrilateral (4), and then they morph into the “gon” series: pentagon, hexagon, heptagon, octagon, nonagon, decagon, and so on.

A word that sounds like it could be related to polygons is polymath. Its actual meaning has nothing to do with mathematics; it’s someone who knows a lot about many different subjects. Leonardo DaVinci is probably the most famous polymath; Thomas Jefferson is another celebrated one. Elon Musk’s name appears on some lists. Polymaths are usually great solvers of coAmplex problems.

Mathematics does have special meaning for polytechnic universities. They specialize in providing hands-on, practical, and applied education in STEM fields. These are increasingly popular and important fields, specifically science, technology, engineering and math. Some schools that are not polytechnics incorporate art into the mix and use the acronym STEAM. Brown University and RISD (Rhode Island School of Design) have had STEAM collaborations.

Far less interesting are poly words that come from science, especially the many types of polymers. First of these is polyester, the easy-care fiber for all seasons. Then there are the PVC and PET bottles (polyvinylchloride and polyethylene terephthalate) that we’re encouraged to recycle. We coat our outdoor furniture with polyurethane. I see your eyes

glazing over the way the furniture does, so I’ll move on from science.

I love the next two poly words because they have creative connections. Polyphonic instruments are capable of producing many sounds simultaneously, like my mother’s baby grand on which I took piano lessons in elementary school. Polyphonic choral pieces are written for many voices (but not mine). Polychromatic artworks use multiple colors vs. monochromatic ones. I majored in art in college and always liked polychromes.

One of my favorite “poly” words is polydactyl. We see this most often when describing cats that have extra toes. They’re always so adorable with the cutest little mitten paws! Not so common are polydactyl babies, those born with extra fingers. I don’t know anyone who has a baby with this condition but I’ve seen many polydactyl cats. I’m sure I’ve adopted one or two, though it’s not something I paid a lot of attention to. I think I’ll go count my cats’ toes right now.

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

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# Aging

## 10 THINGS THAT IRK ME



MY SIDE OF THINGS  
by LARRY GRIMALDI

I read an advertisement in the AARP magazine hawking life insurance for seniors. A rate chart listed premiums for various age groups and I noted, with consternation, that the ad ended with a breakout spanning the ages of 70 to 74! At 75 I'm no longer considered alive? Have I somehow outlived the anonymous actuary's projected life expectancy?

The age "discrimination" does not stop with life insurance. Health insurance rates penalize me for living another year and auto insurance conglomerates base my rates on age, not my driving record. It's time to don my trusty curmudgeon cap and post nine more of my favorite "irks" about growing older.

**Mental Gymnastics:** In addition to standard blood pressure, heart monitoring, ear, and reflex testing, etc., my primary care physician feels a burning sensation (get the medical pun?) to walk me through a series of third grade mental gymnastics, I ran the gamut successfully. A square is still a square. I can count backwards from 20. I can remember three sentences in their correct sequence; and I can read and draw an old-fashioned clock with the correct time.

**Insidious Conversation Conversion:** I've noticed that conversations with my peers are now dominated by chatter-creep about ailments, doctor's appointments, grandchildren, and other age-related topics. When did that transition take place?

**Room Amnesia:** I admit to entering a room occasionally and forgetting why I am there. I discovered, with great relief, that younger people also fall victim to those same lapses in memory.

**The Incredible Shrinking Man Syndrome:** Most of my life I was 5' 8". At a recent visit to the doctor, I found out that I now stand at 5' and 6 ¾". For the sake of my ego, I'll round it off to 5' 7"; but it remains a mystery as to the one-inch shrinkage.

**Not-So-Subtle Advertising:** Why do corporations, in cahoots with advertising agencies, assume that I relish ads for hair replacement therapy; I require a barrel of nutritional supplements to stay alive; I want a reverse mortgage; it's necessary to make funeral arrangements in advance of my actual demise; buy health insurance; and I must use dentures or teeth whiteners?

**The Short Shift:** The Department of Motor Vehicles has determined that after age 70, my license is renewable after three years instead of the customary five, even with no accidents or traffic violations. Evidently, the DMV is afraid that I might not be able to navigate the pot-hole ridden, detoured, construction underway, orange coned, endlessly-barreled, baffling round-about and bridge falling roadways of Little Rhody.

**Early Bird Special:** Why do restaurants assume that everyone 65 and older eats at 4:30 PM. In defiance, I sometimes make dinner reservations at the ungodly hour of 6:30 PM, or even 7:00 PM if I'm feeling daring!

**Is It Really My Fault?:** It is disturbing that some members of the ruling class (i.e. politicians) name me as being responsible for the shrinking of Social Security and Medicare funds. What am I supposed to do? Experiment with age-reversal snake oil "remedies"?

**The Wisdom Burden:** The terms "older and wiser" can be very misleading and pose an undue burden on seniors. I reserve the right to be wrong, whimsical, cranky, or aggravated. I've earned it!

This month, I'm introducing a new feature, titled *Why is it that?* I will share personal observations on conundrums, absurdities, and befuddlements of daily life. **For instance...***Why is it that the females of our species pay a lot of money for skimpy bikini bathing suits, then spend hours hitching up the tops and stretching out the bottoms?*

*Larry Grimaldi is a freelance writer from North Providence. Many of his previous PrimeTime columns have been re-issued in the anthologies, "50 Shades of Life, Love, and Laughter" and "50 Shades of Life, Love, and Laughter, Volume II." Columns published in these books are used with the permission of Beacon Communications. For more information about these books, or any of his other books, e-mail [lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com](mailto:lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com).*

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# 8 Frequently Asked Questions About Alzheimer's Disease

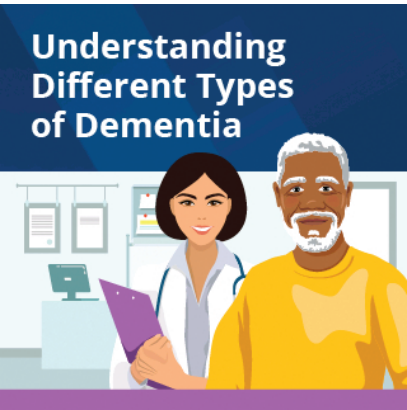
## 1. What is the difference between Alzheimer's disease and dementia?

Alzheimer's disease is a type of dementia. Dementia is a loss of thinking, remembering, and reasoning skills that interferes with a person's daily life and activities. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia among older people. Other types of dementia include frontotemporal disorders, Lewy body dementia, and vascular dementia.

## 2. What are the early signs of Alzheimer's disease?

Memory problems are typically one of the first signs of Alzheimer's disease, though different people may have different initial symptoms. A decline in other aspects of thinking, such as finding the right words, vision/spatial issues, and impaired reasoning or judgment, may also signal the very early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

Mild cognitive impairment, or MCI, is a condition that can also be an early sign of Alzheimer's disease — but not everyone with MCI will develop Alzheimer's. In addition to memory problems, movement difficulties and problems with the sense of smell have been linked to MCI. If you have MCI, it's important to see a doctor or specialist regularly to monitor any changes in memory or thinking .



## 3. What are the stages of Alzheimer's disease?

Alzheimer's disease progresses in several stages: preclinical, early (also called mild), middle (moderate), and late (severe). During the preclinical stage of Alzheimer's disease, people seem to be symptom-free, but toxic changes are taking place in the brain. A person in the early stage of Alzheimer's may exhibit the signs listed above.

As Alzheimer's disease progresses to the middle stage, memory loss and confusion grow worse, and people may have problems recognizing family and friends. As Alzheimer's disease becomes more severe, people lose the ability to communicate. They may sleep more, lose weight, and have trouble swallowing. Eventually, they need total care.

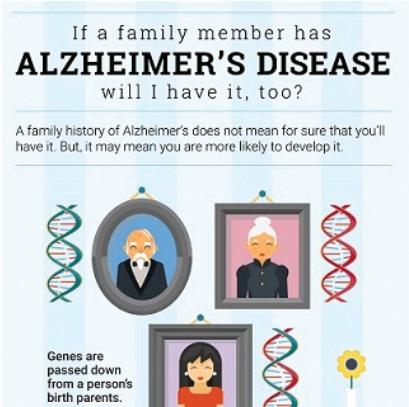
## 4. What are the causes of Alzheimer's disease?

Scientists do not yet fully understand what causes Alzheimer's disease in most people. In early-onset Alzheimer's, which occurs between a person's 30s and mid-60s, there may be a genetic component. Late-onset Alzheimer's, which usually develops in a person's mid-60s, arises from a complex series of age-related brain changes that occur over decades. The causes probably include a mix of these changes, along with genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors. These factors affect each person differently.

Down syndrome, a genetic condition, increases a person's risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. Estimates suggest that 50% or more of people with Down syndrome will develop Alzheimer's disease and may begin to show symptoms in their 40s.

## 5. Is Alzheimer's disease hereditary?

If a family member has Alzheimer's disease, will I have it too? Just because a family member has Alzheimer's disease does not mean that you will get it, too. Most cases of Alzheimer's are late-onset. This form of the disease occurs in a person's mid-60s and is not linked to a specific change in genes. However, genetic factors appear to increase a person's risk of developing late-onset Alzheimer's.



Early-onset Alzheimer's disease, which is rare, can be caused by genetic variants, or changes in certain genes. If one of the genetic variants is passed down, the child will usually — but not always — have the disease. For other cases of early-onset Alzheimer's, research shows other genetic components are involved.

6. Is there a cure for Alzheimer's disease? Currently, there is no cure for Alzheimer's disease. Some sources claim that products such as coconut oil or dietary supplements can cure or delay Alzheimer's. However, there is no scientific evidence to support these claims.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved several drugs to treat people with Alzheimer's disease, and certain medicines and interventions may help control behavioral symptoms.

## 7. Is there a way to prevent Alzheimer's disease?

Currently, there is no definitive evidence about what can prevent Alzheimer's disease or age-related cognitive decline. What we do know is that a healthy lifestyle — one that includes a healthy diet, physical activity, appropriate weight, and control of high blood pressure — can lower the risk of certain chronic diseases and boost overall health and well-being. Scientists are very interested in the possibility that a healthy lifestyle might delay, slow down, or even prevent Alzheimer's. They are also studying the role of social activity and intellectual stimulation in Alzheimer's disease risk.

## 8. Where can I find financial help for people with Alzheimer's disease or their caregivers?

There are several possible sources of financial help, depending on your situation. Looking into programs offered by the government is a great place to start. Several federal and state programs provide help with health care-related costs.

[www.alzheimers.gov](http://www.alzheimers.gov)  
Explore the [Alzheimers.gov](http://www.alzheimers.gov) website for information and resources on Alzheimer's and related dementias from across the federal government.

*This content is provided by the NIH National Institute on Aging (NIA). NIA scientists and other experts review this content to ensure it is accurate and up to date.*