

Johnston's Stop & Shop chopped

By RORY SCHULER

On Tuesday evening, around 6 p.m., the long row of registers at Stop & Shop in Johnston was empty. There were clearly more employees than customers in the store.

By early November, the Johnston grocery store will be empty; closed forever.

When asked about the Johnston grocery store's recently announced closure (slated to close by the end of the year), employees have been instructed to hand out tiny white slips of paper that assure the customer: "WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS."

The slip of paper encourages curious shoppers to write to the Stop & Shop Supermarket Company Consumer Affairs Department via snail mail or email, or call (1-800-767-7772, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

"One call might not make a difference, but you never know," said one of the young cashiers on duty Tuesday evening. "It actually might."

"We're a family here," said another employee.

Employees couldn't go on the record.



RAIN CHECKS: Employees at the Johnston store have been instructed to hand out these little slips of white paper when customers inquire about the store's future.

EMPTY REGISTERS: On Tuesday evening, the Stop & Shop at 11 Commerce Way in Johnston was nearly empty, except for employees. The grocery store chain announced last week that the store will be one of 32 "underperforming stores by year-end." (*SunRise photo by Rory Schuler*)

SHOP - PAGE 5



SIGNS AGAINST CHANGE: Keri Dennison-Leidecker, who lives at 200 Shun Pike, noted all the yellow signs around the proposed site. "Notably, the signs displayed throughout our entire neighborhood express a collective sentiment against this development," she told the Johnston Planning Board last week. (*SunRise photo by Rory Schuler*)

GROWING PAINS

Shun Pike single-family homeowners square off against affordable housing developer

By RORY SCHULER

They learned to live with the solar fields and sky-scraping windmills.

But 32 condos — 16 restricted to low- and moderate-income households, and 16 market rate units — neighbors testified last week, would "injure" homeowners in the rural Shun Pike neighborhood off Peck Hill Road, not far from Plainfield Pike.

The abutters of a proposed condominium development codenamed "Western Meadows," pitched for construction at 198 Shun Pike, attended last Tuesday's Johnston Planning Board meeting to sound their objections.

"We are deeply concerned about this proposed project and wish to voice our opposition for several compelling reasons," said Keri Dennison-Leidecker, who lives at 200 Shun Pike, "immediately adjacent to the proposed development site."

CONDOS - PAGE 6

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A DOCENT, A DEER, A FEMALE DEER: This week’s Johnston Senior Center Spotlight shines on Linda Stanich, who also serves as a “Docent” at the Roger Williams Park Zoo. She loves animals and wildlife of all sorts. (Photo courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)

Splitting time between her two favorite zoos

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

Having found all the ingredients to a “happy and fulfilling” life, and finding the time to exercise with her friends at the Johnston Senior Center up to four mornings a week, Linda Stanich is this week’s “Senior Spotlight.”

Linda’s certainly a “woman on a mission” as she moves about the JSC. This retired English and theater teacher spent 29 years at East Providence High School, earned a Bachelor’s Degree, two Master’s Degrees, and completed two years of Doctoral work toward a Ph.D. Linda also worked at Rhode Island College in the Adult Education Outreach Program, teaching in the GED program.

Linda is a “great” profile for the JSC, because she is an example of how we find happiness in our later years. Linda boasts of having relationships with friends that go back as far as her early childhood and fostering those contacts, whether it be spending time enjoying lunch or talking on the phone. Maintaining those meaningful relationships is very important to her. Linda spends considerable time volunteering.

She serves the Roger Williams Park Zoo in the capacity as “Docent” who regularly answers questions and provides information to those visiting the zoo. Her love of animals and wildlife goes much further in her support and advocacy on behalf of the Audubon Society, and the RSPCA. Linda is a “lover” of the arts, and regularly attends performances at Trinity Rep, Gamm Theatre, and the RI Philharmonic Orchestra’s Rush Hour.

The best of time is spent with her husband, especially when traveling and on vacation, or relaxing at home with her two cats. Linda makes sure there is very little idle time.

We here at the Johnston Senior Center “Spotlite” Linda, as she is a fine example of living life at its fullest. Whatever your schedule, we can fill some space that will surely benefit you in some way. Linda has shown us that sometimes all it takes is a “great” dessert to make your day, and we have plenty here. Come by and share some with Linda and allow her zest for life to shed some light on your day.

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.

Johnston seniors enjoy Panera’s Day-End Dough-Nations

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

Every morning here at the Johnston Senior Center, members enjoy complimentary cups of coffee, along with a daily treat, an assortment of pastries from local Panera Bread franchises.

Since 2000, Panera has grown to 25 bakery/café franchises across Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The bakery/cafes donate their unsold bread, bagels, and baked goods to local non-profits at the end of the night through their Day-End Dough-Nation program. All 25 cafes are booked seven days per week with pick-ups.

The Howley Bread Group donated about 3.6 million pounds of baked goods. Each franchise will donate between \$300 and \$400 worth of unsold goods.

The Johnston Senior Center and its members are the beneficiary of this worthwhile and generous program that allows our seniors to enjoy quality baked goods, and allows members to take home bread, rolls, and assorted other bakery products.

Currently, Johnston receives donations from two franchises. Some of the other supported charities of the Panera donation program are after school centers, outreach programs, churches, etc.

The Johnston Senior Center sincerely appreciates the relationship established with Panera, and the many benefits extended to our members.

Editor’s Note: Richard J. Delfino Jr. is the Executive Director of the Johnston Senior Center. He regularly submits articles of senior interest for publication in the Johnston SunRise.



DOUGH-NATION: Seniors who gather at the Johnston Senior Center have had the opportunity to sample unsold baked goods brought in by nearby Panera Bread locations. (Photos courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)



COFFEE BREAK: Johnston Senior Center Advisory Board Chairman Robert Piscione met with Elizabeth D'Uva, a Senior Catering Sales & Marketing Manager with The Howley Bread Group, for coffee and pastries.





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SPECIAL OLYMPIAN: Becky Bernard posed for a photo with Ed Pacheco and Mary-Ellen Powers. (Photo courtesy volunteer photographer Phlash Photography & Artistry)

FIRST CLASS

22 Special Olympics Rhode Island Athletes Make History as Graduates of Inaugural Class of Athlete Leadership University

Johnston resident and Special Olympics Rhode Island (SORI) athlete Becky Bernard is one of 22 amazing athletes who recently made history as graduates of SORI's Inaugural Class of Athlete Leadership University.

After a year and a half of taking college-style courses to become certified leaders, the inaugural class of Special Olympics Rhode Island's Athlete Leadership University celebrated their graduation on June 8 at Bryant University. This milestone marked the completion of a program by 22 Special Olympics Rhode Island athletes from across the state who mastered both basic and advanced core modules of Athlete Leadership, as well as specific courses related to one of three majors: Athlete Spokesperson, Athlete Representative, or Health Messenger.

"Athlete Leadership University provided a transformative learning experience for these athletes, empowering them with confidence and leadership skills to drive societal change," said Ed Pacheco, President and CEO of Special Olympics Rhode Island. "I am immensely proud of these individuals and cannot wait to see their future achievements with their newfound leadership skills."

Special Olympics Rhode Island's Athlete Leadership University (ALU) was conceived after Mary-Ellen Powers, a Special Olympics Rhode Island athlete from Barrington and Athlete Leadership Specialist for the organization, drew inspiration from successful ALU programs

in other states. Modeled after these programs, Special Olympics Rhode Island's ALU leverages the support of volunteer mentors from diverse professional backgrounds to guide athletes through essential leadership courses before they specialize in a major. Their learning journey culminates in capstone projects reflecting their chosen field of study. This program's creation was showcased at the 2023 Global Athlete Congress in Berlin, Germany.

"Witnessing the growth of my fellow athletes through their participation in Athlete Leadership University has been truly inspiring," said Powers. "They have amplified their voices, boosted their confidence, and embraced new leadership roles along the way. And let's not forget their courage as trailblazers – the inaugural class of Athlete Leadership University is ready to lead!"

Graduates of Special Olympics Rhode Island's first-ever Athlete Leadership University class are listed below along with athletes' respective majors and hometowns.

Registration for the next cohort of Athlete Leadership University, starting in September, will soon be open to Special Olympics Rhode Island athletes.

Interested athletes are encouraged to contact Mary-Ellen Powers at maryellen@specialolympicsri.org or 401-349-4900 extension 325. Alternatively, they can express their interest to their team coaches.



FIRST CLASS: The inaugural class of Special Olympics Rhode Island's Athlete Leadership University, joined by Special Olympics Rhode Island President and CEO Ed Pacheco, and Athlete Leadership Specialist Mary-Ellen Powers. (Athletes and others are identified from left to right, row by row.) First Row: Sofia Illiano, Becky Bernard, Diana Halleman, Heather Wrosteck, and Molly McKay. Second Row: Mary-Ellen Powers, Christina Peacock, Mary Irons, Liz Grasso, Brianna Puglia, and Jeffery Pete, Jr. Third Row: Cote David, Drew Palumbo, Ed Pacheco, Emily MacLaughlin, Kathy Krzywonos, Lauren Sartini, and John Williams. Fourth Row: Alex Adams, Keith Wilcox, Jr., Ian Shepherd, Chris Lussier, Sarah LaBreche, and Michael Bullock. (Photo courtesy volunteer photographer Phlash Photography & Artistry)



EMPTY PARKING LOT: The lot outside the Stop & Shop at 11 Commerce Way in Johnston has been aching for traffic since the Market Basket opened on Hartford Avenue, just a few blocks away. The store is now slated to close forever by early November. *(SunRise photo by Rory Schuler)*

■ Shop

(Continued from page 1)

They’ve been warned by the corporate office. Instead of answering questions, they’ve been told to distribute the little pieces of “contact us” paper.

Town residents have long noticed the mostly empty parking lot outside Stop & Shop since a new Market Basket opened a few blocks away on Hartford Avenue two years ago.

‘Underperforming’
Quincy, Massachusetts based Stop & Shop announced July 12 that it plans to close 32 “underperforming stores by year-end.” The list of closing stores included two Rhode Island locations: 11 Commerce Way, Johnston, and 176 Pittman St., Providence (the former East-side Marketplace).

The closures are meant to “position (the) company for growth,” according to the company’s corporate press release, which also pledges “to offer positions to all impacted associates.”

After closing 32 stores, Stop & Shop still owns and operates more than 350 stores across five states.

“Stop & Shop associates at impacted locations will be offered other opportunities within the company,” the company promised in the press release.

Stop & Shop Spokesperson Stephanie Cunha, the public relations contact for Stop & Shop in Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts, answered questions on the impending closure Wednesday morning.

“The decision to close the Johnston store was difficult, and only made after careful analysis and deliberation,” Cunha explained when asked what factors contributed to the closing of the Johnston location. “The store was underperforming, and the decision was necessary to

create a healthy base for the future growth of our brand. A multitude of factors went into determining which store locations may close, including store performance, terms of our real estate deals and the broader community impact. While Stop & Shop does face strong competition across the neighborhoods we serve, we continue to maintain a strong market position in New England.”

Cunha shared a copy of the corporate press release.

“Stop & Shop is proud of the deep roots and community ties we have developed as a neighborhood grocer of more than 100 years, and we remain committed to nourishing our associates, customers and communities,” said President of Stop & Shop Gordon Reid. “As we announced in May, Stop & Shop has evaluated its overall store portfolio and made the difficult decision to close underperforming stores to create a healthy base for the future growth of our brand.”

‘Farewell’
Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. recalled working at the store as a teenager.

“I worked there for a few years,” he said. “It was my first job at 16 years old when I was in high school. I’m glad all the employees get to keep their jobs at other locations.”

Reid again promised employees would not be left without jobs after the store closures.

“Our associates are a strong community dedicated to growing and working together, and all of our store associates will continue to have a place in the Stop & Shop family as we look forward to serving customers at other nearby locations,” added Reid.

Like most Johnston residents, the news of the store’s planned shuttering was disappointing, but not necessarily shocking.

“While it’s always sad to see a business close, this is the free market at work,” Polisena said. “It’s why I advocate for as much market competition as possible, so businesses have to compete against each other for the consumers’ dollar. Other grocery stores such as Aldi, Price Rite and particularly Market Basket took off, but Stop & Shop did little to innovate or improve the quality of their product. The end result was consumers spending their hard-earned money elsewhere.”

Little details can make or break a business in an arena of stiff competition. Nobody loves paying for crappy, low quality paper bags.

“Lastly, even though the fee is nominal, the 10¢ charge for paper bags was not very consumer friendly either,” Polisena said.

The Johnston store may simply be a casualty of the nationwide paper bag wars.

‘Hole in Town’
The Commerce Way shopping plaza, along Atwood Avenue in Johnston, is situated along a roadway that has become very prone to flooding during heavy rain. When the road floods, half of the region’s population is cut off from the store, while Market Basket enjoys an elevated vantage point high on an overlooking hill.

GameStop pulled its store from the plaza several years ago.

On Oct. 25, 2021, the Johnston Sun Rise reached out to Stop & Shop corporate offices asking if the Johnston location was in danger of impending closure.

Later that same day, a representative for Kel & Partners, a public relations firm hired by the grocery chain, responded: “Looping back with a statement that can be attributed to Stop & Shop: ‘The grocer has no plans to close the store and Stop & Shop is

proud to serve the Johnston community.”

Two and a half years later, the plans have changed.

When will Johnston’s Stop & Shop close?

“I do not have a specific date for this store’s closure yet,” Cunha said Wednesday morning. “All stores should close on or before Nov. 2 and it will be communicated to local teams and customers in advance.”

Will another large corporate retail client move into Stop & Shop’s place?

“As far as what goes there next, I’m open to anything modern that will serve the residents of Johnston,” Polisena said Tuesday. “The good thing is Carpinato Group is among the best landlords in the state, and they always find high-quality storefronts for their locations.”

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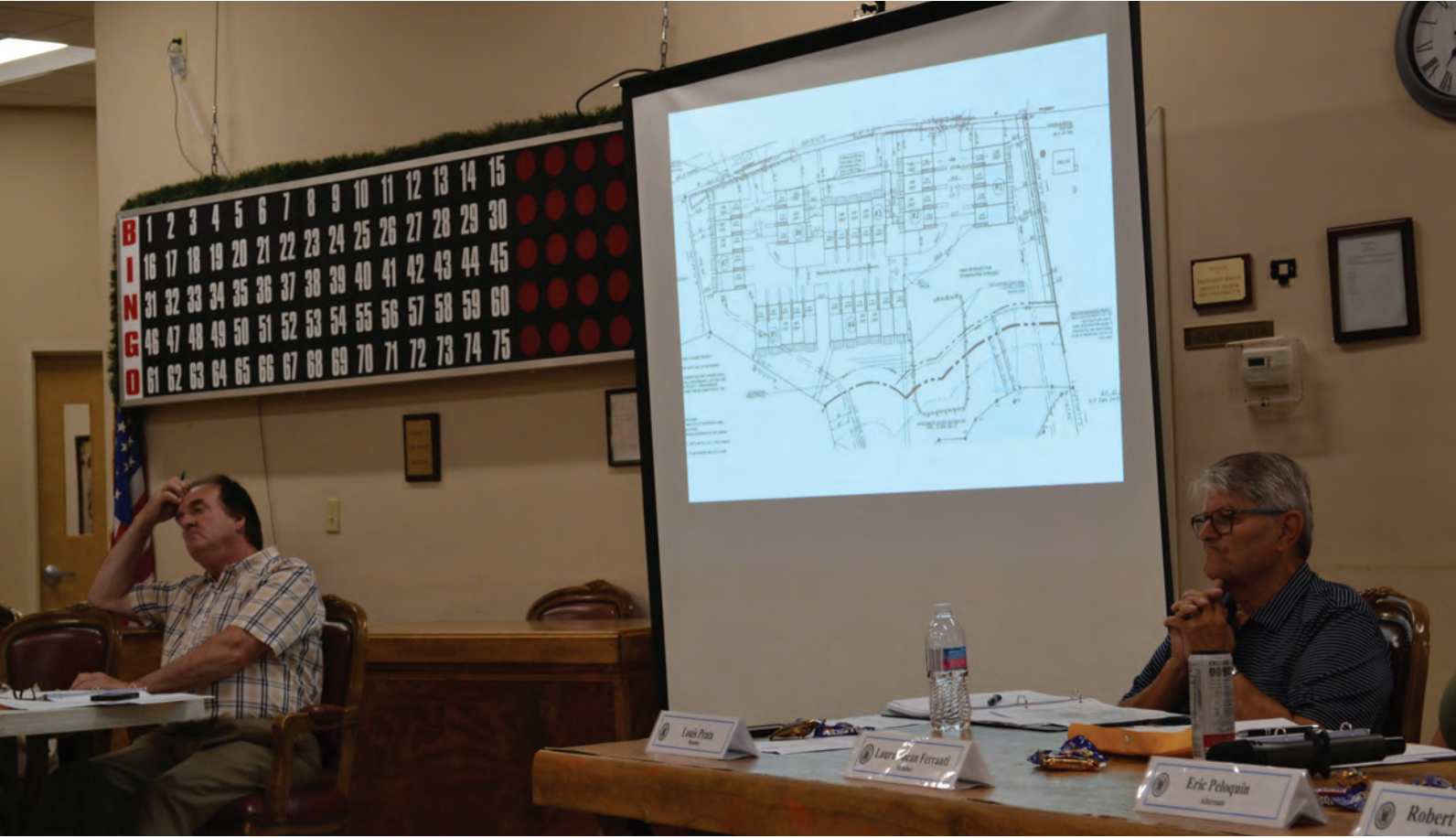
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THE PLAN:
A proposal to build 32 condo units – 16 affordable, and 16 at market rate – has encountered abutter resistance. Neighbors took turns sounding off against the plan at a Johnston Planning Board meeting last Tuesday, July 9. (SunRise photo by Rory Schuler)

■ Condos

(Continued from page 1)

There Goes The ...

“Our neighborhood along Shun Pike is quiet,” Dennison-Leidecker testified during a public hearing on the development. “It has a rural character. This peaceful environment is the primary reason we chose our house and moved back to Johnston last November.”

The development has been proposed by Robert Baldwin, member of Trinity Properties of RI, LLC, for a nearly 8-acre parcel currently zoned R-40 on the south side of Shun Pike. Last Tuesday’s public hearing was to issue a “Comprehensive Permit” for a “Preliminary Plan Submission.”

According to the developers, the project would help Johnston meet state-mandated affordable housing goals. They submitted the project under the state’s Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Act, and “after pre-application, preliminary plan review is the first stage of review for a project submitted under the Act, with only final plan review and approval after that on the local level.”

The developers tout financial benefits that they say will accompany the project — both tax dollars and the addition of 16-units toward state-mandated affordable housing quotas.

“A most important benefit that will accrue to the Town of Johnston is the provision for 16 additional Low & Moderate-Income housing units added to the inventory in Johnston and thus counted towards the 10% goal mandated by the State of Rhode Island,” asserts a Fiscal Impact Study submitted to the town by Trinity. “The Town is currently at 7.91%.”

The study also estimates Johnston “will realize total estimated Revenues of \$219,504 from Property Taxes on an annual basis with the development of the proposed Western Meadows.”

Déjà view?

Dennison-Leidecker said she and her partner sought “a serene place to live” when they relocated to Shun Pike.

“Introducing a development of this size and scale, no matter its purpose, at 198 Shun Pike, would drastically alter the quiet nature of our community,” she argued before the Planning Board. “Not only would it alter the serenity that Shun Pike offers, it would invariably raise the level of current traffic dangers. Traffic safety is a significant concern on Shun Pike — with frequent incidents of dangerous speeding. Adding more residential units will inevitably exasperate these issues; posing potential risk to pedestrians, cyclists and drivers alike.”

Following Dennison-Leidecker’s testimony, more than a dozen neighbors stood to punctuate her remarks.

Over the past few years, this region of Johnston and neighboring Cranston, has had its fair share of growing pains as resident groups have banded together to fight development projects.

Johnston residents successfully shot down a massive 160-acre Central Avenue solar project (that defeat still lingers in court). Cranston residents are fighting an 8-home development on Sage Avenue (a zoning change was recently vetoed by Cranston Mayor Ken Hopkins; the City Council may challenge the veto next week).

Large swaths of untouched, mostly former farmland give the area a distinct rural feel. A blossoming housing crisis, however, has pitted developers and legislators against single-family homeowners.

“The ecological impact cannot be overstated,” Dennison-Leidecker argued. “Development will disrupt local wildlife habitats that are already struggling in our increasingly developed area, while the removal of trees and undergrowth and their replacement with asphalt and concrete, does further harm to the environment balance. Preserving our natural surroundings is crucial for maintaining the quality of life that attracted many of us to Johnston in the first place.”

‘The Trifecta’

Dennison-Leidecker had a trio of bullet points to share with the board.

“In short, a development of this sort, injures Shun Pike and those who live there in three ways: it’s rural character is diminished, the risk to safety is elevated, and finally, the environment is harmed,” she testified.

Conscious of political correctness, some of the project opponents made careful arguments.

“Our objection is not against low to moderate income housing,” Dennison-Leidecker explained. “Our objection is to the development of this tract because of the harms referenced. However, with respect to low and moderate income housing, numerous areas in Johnston would be more conducive to such developments ... Because these locations offer what many of the potential occupants would need; access to essential services like public transportation, grocery stores, pharmacies and access to schools. Locations with existing infrastructure to support residents’ daily needs would ensure a more sustainable and beneficial environment for low to moderate income housing initiatives.”

The Plan

Trinity’s attorney Joelle C. Rocha, of Providence law firm Duffy & Sweeney, urged the Johnston Planning Board to approve the applicant’s proposal.

By the end of the meeting, the board balked at passage, voting instead to table the discussion so that the committee could digest all the testimony and information provided by the applicant.

“It’s state law now that frankly, the application as it has been presented, is ready to be approved,” Planning Board Vice-Chairperson Joseph Lembo told the crowd. “And legally, it covers everything. The state has now changed so many of our density rules ... The affordability rules ... (But) the community of Johnston does have a say in it.”

Each board member sat before a hefty paper packet of documents submitted by Trinity. The Trinity reps, Baldwin, and their hired experts sat together at a table in the Johnston Senior Center dining room, where the Planning Board holds its hearings.

“This is also the first time we’ve had this type of a project in front of us,” Lembo told the crowd. “I did not read everything in the packet prior to this evening. I’ll admit my error there.”

Lembo tried to lower audience expectations. The crowd was getting argumentative; shouting down the attorney. The board was visibly torn between the competing interests.

“Technically, this could be approved right now,” Lembo told them. “Because it meets all state requirements. Are there things that we, the town of Johnston, can add to it, or ask for some adjustments? Sure. But I think the six of us, and my other two members, should also have some time to review this a little further.”

‘The Community’

Both the abutters and the applicant left unsatisfied. The project will be back on the agenda soon.

Meanwhile, the objectors are gathering like-minded neighbors, using yard signs and knocking on each others’ doors.

“Notably, the signs displayed throughout our entire neighborhood express a collective sentiment against this development,” Dennison-Leidecker told the board, and her fellow neighbors. “In conclusion, we urge the committee to prioritize the wishes ... of the community over the financial interests of developers. Listening to the concerns of those directly affected by this proposal is vial in making an informed decision that respects the integrity and wishes of Johnston residents.”

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Warwick City Councilwoman pleads no contest, gets a year suspended sentence & probation

By RORY SCHULER

Warwick City Councilwoman Donna Travis pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges that she filed a false document connected to the illicit acquisition of a next-door slice of Oakland Beach Real Estate Association property. Travis and her attorney refused comment as they exited the District Court building on Quaker Lane. Her husband, William Travis, will not face charges, according to Brian Hodge, spokesman for Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha's office. "No," Hodge said

Tuesday morning. "Today's proceeding resolves the matter." Donna Travis, who has served as the Ward 6 councilwoman for 30 years and is not seeking reelection, was sentenced to one year, suspended sentence and one year of probation. According to the AG's office, the charge stemmed from a RISP "investigation into allegations involving the Councilwoman's transfer of property from the Oakland Beach (Real Estate) Association." Travis stood before District Court Judge J. Terence Houlihan Jr. in her arraignment on a single

misdemeanor count Tuesday morning. Travis, 74, of 733 Oakland Beach Ave., Warwick, is a more than three-decade member of the Oakland Beach Association and represents Ward 6 on Warwick City Council (the ward that includes Oakland Beach). She spoke very little during Tuesday morning's court proceedings. Travis entered a plea of nolo contendere. That means, as a defendant, Travis does not accept or deny responsibility for the charges. She waives her right to a trial and agrees to accept the penalty levied by the judge. Houlihan addressed

Travis and her attorney, reading aloud the single charge of providing a false document to a public official. "Counsel, to the misdemeanor charge, how does your client plead?" Houlihan asked. Defense attorney Robert Flaherty replied, "Nolo contendere." According to Hodge, "in Rhode Island, a nolo plea is equivalent to a plea of guilty." Houlihan asked Travis if she understood that she was waiving her right to a trial, and everything that comes with that right, from confronting the witnesses against her, to calling witnesses of her own. She was also waiving her right to appeal the decision. Travis indicated that she understood. Special Assistant Attorney General Alison Bittl addressed the court, and



NO CONTEST: Warwick City Councilwoman Donna Travis pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges that she filed a false document connected to the illicit acquisition of a next-door slice of Oakland Beach property during a Third District Court arraignment Tuesday morning, July 16, 2024. (Warwick Beacon photo by Rory Schuler)

■ TRAVIS - PAGE 9

LEGAL NOTICES

JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, July 25 2024 at 6:30 PM
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Avenue

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its regular meeting on July 25, 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:

- I. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance**
- II. Minutes from Previous Meetings**
- III. Old Business:**
Petition of Edward Freeman: Owner/ Applicant of 1225 Atwood Ave, Ap 24 Lot 112, Zone B1. Applicant is proposing: Plumbing of RI, D/B/A Rooter-man, D/B/A Anytime, B/D/A Junk removal. Apartment on second floor.

IV. New Business:
Petition of Gary DiRaimo Owner/Applicant for 1665 Hartford Ave, AP 53 Lot 200, Zoned B2. Applicant is proposing: A special use permit in according with subsection 14 of the use table to operate a Doggie Day Care Center

- V. Adjournment**
- Per order of the Zoning Board of Review Thomas Lopardo, Chairman*
- 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 Department of Development and Public Services, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.*
- Items not heard by 10:30 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or special meeting at the discretion of Board.*
- Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.*

7/11, 7/18/24

CITATION

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Providence County

PETITION TO FORECLOSE

TAX LIEN
PM-2023-02743

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and to Joseph Manzi, International Realty, Town of Johnston and Town of Johnston

Whereas, a petition has been presented to said Court by Cecilia Jimenez in the County of Providence and State of Rhode Island, to foreclose all rights of redemption from the tax lien proceedings described in said petition in and concerning a certain parcel of land situated in the Town of Johnston County of Providence and in the State of Rhode Island, described in said petition as follows:

That certain lot or parcel of land, with all the buildings and improvements thereon, situated on Valley Road in the Town of Johnston, County of Providence, State of Rhode Island laid out and designated as Lot 73 on Plat 65 of the Assessor's Map of the Town of Johnston.

If you desire to make any objection or defense to said petition, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer, under oath, setting forth clearly and specifically your objection or defense to each part of said petition, in the office of the Superior Court in Providence, Rhode Island, on or before the 20th day following the day of receipt of this Citation next, that you may then and there show cause, if any, why the prayer of the petition should not be granted.

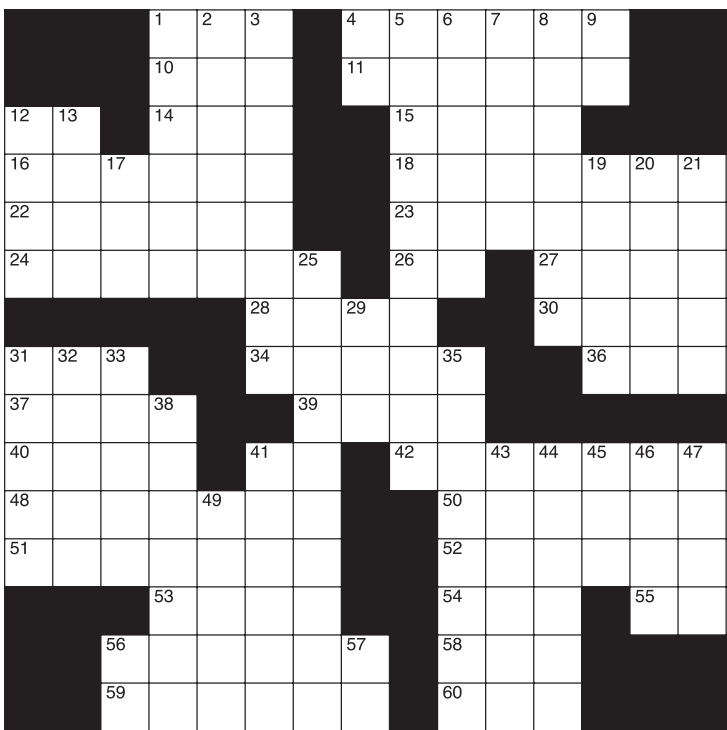
Unless your appearance is filed by or for you, your default will be recorded, the said petition will be taken as confessed and you will be forever barred from contesting said petition or any decree entered thereon. And in addition to the usual service of this notice as required by law, it is ordered that the foregoing citation be published forthwith once each week for three successive weeks in the **Pawtucket Times**, a newspaper published in said County of Providence, to wit on **July 11th, July 18th, and July 25th, 2024** and once each week for three successive weeks in the **Johnston SunRise**, a newspaper published in the Town of Johnston, to wit on: **July 11th, July 18th, and July 25th, 2024**

Witness the SEAL OF our SUPERIOR COURT this 20th day of June, 2024.

/s/ Susan M Diggins

7/11, 7/18, 7/25/24

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 4. Cause to become entangled
 - 10. Swiss river
 - 11. Conversation
 - 12. "Magnum" was one
 - 14. Small integer
 - 15. Christmas
 - 16. Of a specific mountain region
 - 18. Burrowing bugs
 - 22. Of a symbol worthy of veneration
 - 23. A type of syndrome
 - 24. Cephalopod mollusks
 - 26. Metric ton
 - 27. Ornamental box
 - 28. As quickly as can be done
 - 30. "Hoop Dreams" subject Arthur
 - 31. Old TV part
 - 34. Extinct flightless birds
 - 36. Former CIA
 - 37. Successor
 - 39. Archaic form of you
 - 40. Within
 - 41. Danny Hurley's alma mater
 - 42. Not sacred or biblical
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. A right conferred through legal means
 - 2. American island state
 - 3. Inflexibly entrenched
 - 4. "Pollock" actor Harris
 - 5. Foolish person
 - 6. Follows a particular Chairman
 - 7. Choose
 - 8. Sunrooms
 - 9. One hundred grams (abbr.)
- 48. Written law
 - 50. Popular hairstyle
 - 51. Congressman
 - 52. Type of font
 - 53. A predetermined period in office
 - 54. Pouch
 - 55. Hormone that stimulates ovulation (abbr.)
 - 56. One from a particular Asian region
 - 58. One's sense of self-esteem
 - 59. Headgear used to control a horse
 - 60. The habitat of wild animals
- 12. A symptom of some physical hurt or disorder
 - 13. South American hummingbird
 - 17. "Girl Chopping Onions" painter
 - 19. Wild dog
 - 20. Units of land
 - 21. Footwear
 - 25. Possessing a constant temperature
 - 29. Hormone that promotes water retention (abbr.)
 - 31. Popular game
 - 32. Pension (German)
 - 33. Giant of industry
 - 35. Inferred
 - 38. One who revolves
 - 41. Kept possession of
 - 43. Loss of electricity
 - 44. Stoppered bottle
 - 45. Everything
 - 46. First to walk on the moon
 - 47. Engrave
 - 49. Female organs
 - 56. Equal to 1,024 bytes (abbr.)
 - 57. Northeast

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Legal Notice
Town of Johnston
Adopted Ordinances

At a recent meeting of The Johnston Town Council, the Council did adopt the following Ordinance effective immediately:

Ordinance 2024-7
An Ordinance ordering the assessment and collection of property tax on the ratable real estate and tangible personal property

Said Ordinance is on file and available for review in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Johnston Town Council
Robert V. Russo
President

Attest:
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.
Town Clerk

7/18/24

■ Travis
(Continued from page 8)

told Judge Houlihan that had the case proceeded to trial, the prosecution was ready to prove the charge beyond a reasonable doubt.

Prosecutors allege that on Aug. 16, 2021, Travis, “knowingly submitted a quitclaim deed dated Aug. 14, 2021, to the City of Warwick, which contained false information.”

“The defendant intended to mislead the City of Warwick with the filing of that quitclaim deed, more specifically a lot located at 735 Oakland Beach Ave.,” Bittl told the judge. The land had been previously donated to the Oakland Beach Real Estate Owners Association in 1937, according to Bittl, and the Oakland Beach Association remained the “sole owner until Aug. 16, 2021.”

Travis and her husband, William Travis, lived next door, at 733 Oakland Beach Ave., “which was adjacent to the lot located at 735,” Bittl told the court. “Through an investigation by Rhode Island State Police (RISP), the state obtained the Association’s bylaws, which provided that no property of the Association shall be sold or conveyed unless” a majority of the voters agreed at a legal meeting of the association.

According to the prosecution, RISP detectives interviewed several members of the association, including the 2021 officers, and obtained Oakland Beach Association meeting minutes.

“Through the investigation it was learned that there was no meeting or vote that took place to convey the lot at 735 Oakland Beach Ave.,” Bittl told the court. “The records also reflect the sale price at the time of this quitclaim deed was for zero dollars.”

The deed was also allegedly signed by an individual who was not an officer of the association at the time, according to Bittl. “And the city’s records indicated that Donna Travis paid a recording fee of \$85 that same morning.”

“Given that there was no vote on the conveyance of 735 Oakland Beach Ave. by the association members ... the information on that quitclaim deed (that) conveyed the property to Donna and William Travis was false and in violation of Rhode Island General Laws,” Bittl told the judge.

Houlihan turned slightly to his right to address Travis.

“Do agree that this charge could be proved beyond a reasonable doubt?” He asked.

“It could be, I guess, your Honor,” Travis answered.

“No,” Houlihan said, rejecting Travis’s reply. “We can’t guess in a courtroom.”

“Then it could be,” Travis answered, quietly.

The judge moved on, discussing the defendant’s sentence.

Flaherty told the judge that the prosecution had agreed to make the suspended sentence and year of probation run concurrently (at the same time).

Travis also agreed to “will convey the property back to the association.”

Flaherty, her defense attorney, told the judge that Travis plans to “pursue the collection of the funds that she paid” for the land. Travis had argued that she paid the taxes on the plot and also handled its upkeep.

“The victim’s going to reimburse the defendant,” Flaherty told the judge.

“I can’t impose upon them,” Houlihan replied.

Following the proceedings, Hodge confirmed that “there was no agreement to repay Travis any of the taxes, etc.”

Call for Resignation

On Wednesday morning, Ward 9 Warwick City Councilman Vinny Gebhart issued a call for Travis to step down from some of her current positions within the city’s Democratic Party.

“Ms. Travis has served the Warwick community for many years,” Gebhart said. “However, it is with deep regret and disappointment that I acknowledge her recent actions, which have led to charges and a guilty

plea for submitting false information to the City of Warwick. Additionally, Ms. Travis betrayed the trust of the Oakland Beach Association by wrongfully claiming ownership of a property to which she was not entitled for her own personal gain. The integrity of our city government and the trust of our community members are paramount. While Ms. Travis’ long service to our city is recognized, this serious lapse in judgment and failure to uphold her duties as a member of the City Council cannot go unnoticed. We hold all our public officials to the highest standards of honesty and integrity, and actions that undermine these values are unacceptable.”

Travis serves as head of the city’s Democrats.

“In light of these events, it is imperative that Councilwoman Travis resign her post as Chairwoman of the City of Warwick Democratic Party,” Gebhart wrote in the statement he circulated Wednesday. “Furthermore, I urge my colleagues in the Democratic Caucus to immediately vote to remove Ms. Travis as Pro Tempore of the City Council. I am committed to maintaining transparency, accountability, and trust with our residents. We will continue to work diligently to ensure that all members of our government act in the best interests of our community. I understand that this news may be disappointing to many who have placed their trust in Councilwoman Travis. I will take all necessary actions to address this matter and uphold the standards expected of our elected officials.”

Obituaries

Roberta “Bobbi” Rivelli

Roberta “Bobbi” Rivelli, aged 88, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family on July 14, 2024. Bobbi was born on November 25, 1935 in Providence, Rhode Island to the late Lucia Trivisonno Rivelli & Allen Rivelli. She is survived by her children Edgar Deshaies, Renee Authier, James Deshaies and Roberta Deshaies.

She is predeceased by her son Rory Deshaies. She leaves behind fifteen grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Geraldine Barone and predeceased by her brother James “Buster” Rivelli, Dorothy Catalfomo, Diane Pinto and Jamie Rivelli.

Bobbi was retired from the City of Providence Retirement Office as well as the Providence Police Department and was also a proud member of the Local 1033 Union. Bobbi loved to cook for her family, her Sunday “gravy” a weekly tradition right up until the time of her passing. The happiest times of her life were spent enjoying her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her warm, generous spirit, quick wit and effortless elegance were felt by all who had the honor of knowing her, and she will be remembered as a woman who lived life to the fullest on her own terms.

Calling hours were Tuesday, July 16th, 2024 between 4pm - 6pm at Berarducci Funeral Home at 26 Grove Street, Providence, Rhode Island. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude Children’s Hospital.



OAKLAND BEACH LAND GRAB: Warwick City Councilwoman Donna Travis pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges that she filed a false document connected to the illicit acquisition of a next-door slice of Oakland Beach property during a Third District Court arraignment Tuesday morning, July 16, 2024. She and her attorney Robert Flaherty declined comment while exiting the District Courthouse on Quaker Lane. (Warwick Beacon photo by Rory Schuler)

Fourteenth Anniversary
Anna P. Pilozzi
3/28/16 - 7/10/2010



Our Mother - Grandmother

To one who bears the sweetest name
And adds a luster to the same,
Who shared our joys and cheered us when we were sad,
The greatest friend we ever had.
God bless her in Heaven
There will never be another to take the place of our dear mother.

Son Anthony & Wife Concetta,
Grandson Emilio, Son Robert & Wife Rhonda, Grandson Robert,
Granddaughter Regina
and great-grandson Vincent

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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 for additional information. Obituary prices start at \$60. You may include the obituary in any of our other newspapers for half price.

– Thank you

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Tita's Tailors and Cleaners

Two new locations in Cranston are now open for business



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By JENNIFER COATES

Summer is here in all its glory and with all its lazy beach days, summer barbecues and evenings under the stars. It is time to wear all those long-stored dresses, summer suits, summer shorts and slacks, summer EVERYTHING! It may also be time to do some slight altering to make room for the slight changes in your waistline that occurred over a long winter. Time to visit Tita's Tailors and Cleaners in Johnston or Cranston.

Tita's Tailors and Cleaners is a full-service tailor and cleaners, just as its name describes. Owned and operated by Tita Meija and Tim Henry, the team here at Tita's Tailors is comprised of several tailors, including Tita, all of whom who all lend their considerable experience, expertise, and talent to their work. They are the only full-service tailor shop in Rhode Island that does not "send out" dry cleaning and laundry to someone else. All dry cleaning and laundry services are performed by Tita's Tailors staff. Some clients have referred to them as a "hospital for clothes."

These tailors are friendly, meticulous, detail-oriented, friendly, and dedicated to their customers. They are respectful of your possessions, your money, and your time, working hard to finish their work in an efficient and professional manner. They are respectful of your possessions, your money, and your time. They work hard to finish their work efficiently and professionally, with an average turnaround of less than a week for most tailoring jobs.



Come to Tita's Tailors, now open at two NEW locations in Cranston. Check them out at 589 Reservoir Avenue and 280 Warwick Avenue (seen here). Same fabulous service and professional care.

Quinceaneras, Diwali and more.

With wedding season upon us, don't wait to get your formal occasion attire altered before the crush begins. Tita and her team will do everything to accommodate you, but don't put this off until the last minute!

Tita's Tailors repairs backpacks, zippers, leather items, upholstery and many items of outerwear. Don't discard these items, and many outerwear items. Don't discard these items; bring them to this professional team! You would be surprised by what an expert tailor can do!

Customers will find dry cleaning, laundry and pressing as well as wash & fold services at Tita's Tailors. At Tita's Tailors, customers can find dry cleaning, laundry,

pressing, and wash and fold services. The team of experts here will handle your clothes and possessions with professionalism and care.

Come to one of Tita's Tailors and Cleaners at 11 Commerce Way in Johnston, three convenient locations at 11 Commerce Way in Johnston, right in the Stop & Shop plaza; Also at 589 Reservoir Avenue and 280 Warwick Avenue, both in Cranston. Hours are Mon. - Friday, 8:00am - 6:00pm and Saturdays, 8:00am - 3:00pm. For more info, call 401-403-2292.

Their website is www.titastailors.com. Check out their military/first responders/veterans discounts as well as their generous 10% discount to those who donate clothes (all of which go to local charities). services, call 401-231-7019.



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by DON DRAKE
CONNELLY LAW OFFICES, LTD.

“As we approach a period of hot and humid weather, it’s important to be aware that spending more time outdoors can increase the risk of mosquito bites. With the reported arrival of the West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in southern New England, it’s crucial to be vigilant and take appropriate precautions.

It’s important to note that while most people who contract WNV show no symptoms, young children and the elderly are particularly susceptible to the virus. WNV is known to cause mild to severe illness and, in some cases, can even lead to death. Authorities recommend preventive measures to avoid mosquito bites, particularly those in high-risk groups.

EEE is an uncommon yet highly dangerous disease that can be transmitted to humans and horses through infected mosquitoes. This virus is part of a collection of mosquito-borne illnesses that can impact the central nervous system, leading to severe complications and, in some cases, even death. The majority of EEE cases have been documented in states along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. In particular, southeastern Massachusetts, specifically Plymouth and Bristol counties, has been identified as a significant area for EEE outbreaks. While instances of human infections are infrequent, outbreaks in horses are more prevalent during the summer and fall seasons.

Mosquito Season

in Southern New England

EEE and WNV Have Been Detected

About West Nile Virus

West Nile virus (WNV) is a disease transmitted to humans primarily through mosquito bites. It affects humans, birds, horses, and other mammals. While WNV is not transmitted through casual contact, such as touching, kissing, or caring for an infected person, it is essential to take preventive measures against mosquito bites to reduce the risk of infection. Symptoms of severe WNV infection may include headache, high fever, stiff neck, confusion, coma, tremors, convulsions, and muscle weakness or paralysis. In the most severe cases, WNV can cause permanent neurological damage and even death. If symptoms do appear, they typically manifest within 3 to 15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

About Eastern Equine Encephalitis

EEE, or Eastern Equine Encephalitis, typically does not cause symptoms in most infected people. However, those who experience symptoms generally appear four to 10 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

Individuals who fall ill with the EEE virus often experience flu-like symptoms, including fever, chills, body aches, and joint pain. This illness usually lasts one to two weeks, and most individuals completely recover if the central nervous system is not involved.

In rare cases, the virus can infect the brain and spinal cord, leading to a sudden high fever ranging from 103° to 106°F, a stiff neck, and increasingly severe headaches. This can result in inflammation and swelling of the brain, a condition known as encephalitis. The progression of the disease can be rapid.

Approximately one-third of those who develop encephalitis due to EEE virus infection do not survive, and among those who do, many are left with mild to severe disabilities.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and Rhode Island Department of Health revealed that Rhode Island recorded its first instance of mosquitoes testing positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). However, West Nile has not been detected yet. The virus was discovered in mosquitoes captured from Tiverton and Coventry on June 10. Unlike West Nile virus (WNV), which is consistently present in Rhode Island each year, the risk of EEE varies and fluctuates annually.

It’s important to stay vigilant against mosquito-borne diseases, even though the likelihood of getting sick from a mosquito bite is low, about one in three hundred. People of all ages can get the EEE virus, but those under fifteen and over fifty are at the highest risk of developing severe illness. Additionally, anyone bitten by an infected mosquito can be at risk of WNV, with those over fifty facing the highest risk of serious WNV disease. To protect yourself and your loved ones, it’s important to know how to stay safe from mosquito bites and to stay informed about mosquito activity in your area.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention discovered that older adults, who are more vulnerable to the harmful effects of WNV and EEE, may be less inclined to use mosquito repellent. Therefore, it is important to educate this demographic about the significance of using mosquito repellent to reduce the risk of WNV and EEE-related illnesses.

PROTECT YOURSELF

Remember to limit your time outdoors between dusk and dawn, as mosquitoes are most active and likely to bite. It’s important to take precautions during these times to avoid being bitten.

Inspect all your door and window screens to ensure they are securely in place and free from tears or damage. Tight-fitting screens are essential for keeping insects out and ensuring proper ventilation indoors. Regularly check the condition of the screens and promptly repair or replace any damaged ones. This will help maintain a comfortable and bug-free environment inside your home.

When spending time outdoors for extended periods or when mosquitoes are particularly active, it’s important to wear protective clothing. This should include shoes, socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt. Choose clothing in light col-

ors of tightly woven materials that effectively keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Regularly empty out any containers such as buckets, flowerpots, toys, and other items that can collect and hold water, as these can become breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Regularly inspect your roof gutters to ensure they are free of leaves, dirt, and debris. It is important that the gutters are not clogged and allow water to drain properly.

Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors or in an unscreened structure, such as a tent or a cabin without window screens. It is also important to protect small babies outdoors where mosquitoes are active.

Use an EPA-registered mosquito repellent and follow the directions carefully whenever you are outdoors, especially in areas where mosquitoes are prevalent. This will help protect you from mosquito bites and reduce the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses.



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Rhode Island 

Hobby or Business

What to know if you have a side hustle

YOUR TAXES

by MEG CHEVALIER

SENIOR TAX CONSULTANT/ RELATIONSHIP MANAGER - IRS/SPEC

Hobbies and businesses are treated differently when it comes to filing taxes. The biggest difference between the two is that businesses operate to make a profit while hobbies are for pleasure or recreation.

Whether someone is having fun with a hobby or running a business, if they are paid through payment apps for goods and services during the year, they may receive an IRS Form 1099-K for those transactions. These payments are taxable income and must be reported on federal tax returns.

There are a few other things people should consider when deciding whether their project is a hobby or business. No single thing is the deciding factor. Taxpayers should review all the factors to make a good decision.



How taxpayers can decide if it’s a hobby or business

These questions can help taxpayers decide whether they have a hobby or business:

- Does the time and effort they put into the activity show they intend to make a profit?
- Does the activity make a profit in some years, and if so, how much profit does it make?
- Can they expect to make a future profit from the appreciation of the assets used in the activity?
- Do they depend on income from the activity for their livelihood?
- Are any losses due to circumstances beyond their control or are the losses normal for the startup phase of their type of business?
- Do they change their methods of operation to improve profitability?
- Do they carry out the activity in a businesslike manner and keep complete and accurate books and records?
- Do the taxpayer and their advisors have the knowledge needed to carry out the activity as a successful business?

Whether taxpayers have a hobby or run a business, good recordkeeping throughout the year will help when they file taxes. For additional information, please visit www.irs.gov on the search box type hobby or business.

PROTECTING PETS IN HOT WEATHER

Warm weather brings many changes. Warm weather can make travel more enjoyable and affords people more time to comfortably enjoy the great outdoors.

It’s best to keep safety in mind when soaking up the sun. That’s important for all members of the family, including pets. Cats and dogs are as susceptible to heat-related illnesses as their human companions.

RECOGNIZE HEAT STROKE

Pets can suffer from heat stroke, according to the American Red Cross. Certain breeds of dogs are highly susceptible, particularly those with short snouts, such as pugs and bulldogs. Excessive exercise in hot weather, lack of appropriate shelter outdoors and leaving a dog in a hot car may precipitate an episode of heat stroke. It’s important to get the pet out of direct heat right away and check for signs of shock, which include seizures, a

body temperature of 104 F or higher, stupor, increased heart rate, or excessive panting. Placing water-soaked towels on the pet’s feet, head, neck, and abdomen can bring down its temperature.

BE CAUTIOUS OF HOT SURFACES

Humans wear shoes on their feet for protection, but pets do not have that luxury. Think about how hot your feet can feel when you scurry barefoot across hot sand en route to the shoreline or to cross a deck to get to the pool. When the sun beats down on surfaces, those surface temperatures rise quickly. According to a 2010 study by Liberty Home and Pet Services, at peak afternoon sun and an ambient temperature of 95 F in southern Florida, the temperature of cement was measured at 125 F, red brick at 135 F, blacktop at 140 F, and grass at 102 F. Individuals who think a car is safer for their dog or cat may be surprised the informal study measured 152 F on seat surfaces.

PROVIDE EXTRA WATER

It’s likely you will need to fill your pets’

water bowls more frequently in warm weather than during other times of the year. Be sure to provide constant access to fresh water, even for young puppies who may be learning to house train.

AVOID CUTTING FUR TOO SHORT

If a veterinarian suggests a hair cut may be beneficial for keeping a pet cool or comfortable, resist the urge to shave down to the skin. Having at least one inch of fur will protect the pet from sunburn.

OUTDOOR HAZARDS

Warm weather may bring out a high number of insects and wildlife. Use a flea and tick preventative product and medication to protect against heartworm, which is transmitted through mosquitoes. Snakes, skunks, raccoons, foxes, and other animals may be roaming around, and a scuffle with your pet can result in injury.

Pets need extra care during the warm weather to avoid damage and sickness from the sun, heat and more.



Dogs get sunburned too

Human beings are accustomed to taking certain measures to protect themselves when spending time in the sun. Applying and reapplying sunscreen, avoiding the outdoors during certain times of the day and drinking plenty of water while outside are just a few of the ways people can safely soak up summer sun.

But what about dogs? Should dog owners be equally protective of their four-legged friends before letting them run around in the backyard or fraternize with fellow canines at the nearest dog park?

According to the American Kennel Club, dogs can get sunburned just like their human counterparts. In addition, the AKC notes that sunburn can make dogs more vulnerable to certain types of skin cancer, including squamous cell carcinoma, malignant melanomas and hemangiomas. Sunburn also can exacerbate preexisting conditions like autoimmune disorders and dermatitis.

While no dog is immune to sunburn, some are more vulnerable than others. The AKC notes that hairless breeds like the American Hairless Terrier need sun protection whenever they will be outside for extended periods of time. In addition, dogs with white or thin coats and those with light-pigmented noses and eyelids also are especially vulnerable to sunburn.

The AKC also says that dogs with thick coats of hair are not immune to sunburn, as many such dogs shed their coats during especially warm weather, thereby making them more vulnerable to the sun’s ultraviolet rays. Dog owners can speak with their veterinarians to determine how vulnerable their dogs are to sunburn.

Dogs can benefit from sunscreen just like their owners. However, dog owners must only apply dog-specific sunscreens to their furry friends. The AKC advises dog owners to avoid applying sunscreens that contain zinc oxide or para-aminobenzoic acid, or PABA, to their dogs, as these can be toxic when ingested. The AKC also recommends using waterproof sunscreens with a minimum sun protection factor, or SPF, of 30.

Before applying sunscreen to a dog’s entire body, pick an area of its body to apply a small amount. Then wait a little while to see if the sunscreen causes an allergic reaction. Apply the sunscreen about 20 minutes before going outside. Apply the product anywhere pigment is light, and also make sure to get vulnerable areas like the bridge of the nose, ear tips and the skin around the lips, groin and inner thighs.

The Joys of July



MY MEMOIRS
by SUSAN DEAN

I’ve always loved summer. My parents built their summer house in Bonnet shores in 1959 and we began spending our summers there every year. But the run-up to the lazy days of July started in the spring. Even as a child of seven or eight I felt the excitement build in my bones as we headed down to the beach house on Saturdays in April. Not to stay overnight, but to open up the house to begin getting it ready.

It was usually pretty chilly and sometimes patches of snow still dotted the brown lawn. We’d have to wear heavy sweaters or jackets as we opened up the doors to air out the house. Windows had to be washed, the floors and deck had to be swept, and bureau drawers had to be lined.

My mother would hand me a large roll of white shelf paper - just paper - no stickiness or adhesive in those days. I’d have to measure the insides of all the drawers and carefully mark my findings with a pencil. And trying to use a steady hand I’d cut - both length and width. And if I mis-measured I’d have to start all over again. Looking back, I was making good use of my elementary school math skills long before learning algebra and geometry! And while I measured and cut, and measured and drew lines, and cut again, I’d gaze out the windows at the brown patches and the snow...and dream about July.

Once school ended in June we’d make the move. As I filled my lined bureau drawers with my clothes I’d again gaze out the windows - this time wide open - and see green leafy trees and flowers in bloom, and I could smell salty air and hear the roar of the surf. The promise of long summer days lay ahead.

As June melted into July we’d begin to prepare for the 4th - always a big day, an exciting day. My mother’s family - my grandparents, my aunt and uncle, my six Mellor cousins came for the whole day. Beach, cook-outs, outdoor games, evening walks - together from morning till night. Even the occasional rainy 4th didn’t stop us. Wiffle ball in the backyard took place no matter the weather - with everyone slipping and sliding and completely soggy and soaked...and laughing while it poured.

The years went by and things changed, as they always do. My grandparents passed away and my father died, too. My mother continued to host the 4th of July, but also began to rent out the house during part of the summer. In 1979 my aunt and uncle - Helen and Don Mellor - bought a house on Highland Lake in Bridgton, Maine and in the early 1980s our 4th of July celebrations began taking place up there. Along with the usual activities, canoeing was added to the mix. And a 4-mile road race called “4 on the 4th”. My aunt began running this race in her fifties, and soon after most of us joined her year after year. It was the start of my running days, which have continued.

Inspired by my Aunt Helen, I began running 5K road races. I’m now down to two - the Gaspee 5K in June and the Downtown 5K in September. I ran the Gaspee race this past June and thought I “heard” Aunt Helen cheering me on as I huffed and puffed up the long giant hill that is Narragansett Parkway. I pictured her running beside me, encouraging me to keep going when every inch of me wanted to stop and walk. While running, I thought about the happiness that is June. It’s easy to pick up the infectious spirit of the day - the runners, the crowds lining the road in anticipation of the Gaspee Days parade - the whole atmosphere is festive and electric with laughter and families and children together. Worries are put aside as people gather moments of joy to cherish and store into memory. And I thought about June and how that kernel of thrill still bubbles up into my stomach - that it meant that July was still ahead - the start of another summer. One must keep a collection of thoughts thrumming through one’s brain to keep one’s focus off creaky knees and screaming muscles!

As is the way of the world, life is not always sunny, even in July. My mother passed away in July, 1995, as did one of my cousins - 15 hours apart. But I had a rosebush that had never bloomed - until the weekend of their back-to-back funerals when two sweet pink roses appeared. A reminder that life goes on.

Aunt Helen and Uncle Don sold their house in Maine in the early 2000s. By then, my brother, Rob, was living in the beach house in Bonnet Shores. Life went full circle as our 4th of July celebrations returned to the house in Bonnet - where it all began. My daughters and their cousins had scattered by then, and had families of their own. But everyone returns for the 4th. The fun and activities are the same - the day feels the same - even as the faces change - children now adults and new little ones running around.

My oldest grandson was born in July. Michael turns twenty on July 29th. The summer of his birth feels like yesterday even though twenty years have somehow flown by. Since then, four more grandchildren have arrived - spending their baby days, childhoods, teenage years, and now young adulthood with us as we celebrate the start of another summer.

Next summer - 2025 - will be a special one once again. My daughter, Gretchen, recently told us that she is pregnant - a new little one is due to arrive during the winter snows. I want to appreciate every day that I have and I plan to enjoy each and every summer moment and beyond. And I’ll look forward to introducing another new little precious soul to the joys of July.

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Gardens of Time

*April showers bring May **Flowers**;
Weddings in June bring **Bouquet** tunes.
But July is when **Gardens** fully bloom!*



RETIREMENT SPARKS
by ELAINE M. DECKER

This year’s Met Gala, **The Garden of Time**, based on a short story, inspired today’s column. I’m celebrating gardens from mythology to imaginary ones to historical examples to those we can still visit today. There are many categories of gardens. Often we think of those with myriads of colorful flowers, growing informally around our homes. Public gardens are likely to be formal, with hedges and paths and even topiary, usually found around museums and estates, both public and private.

Gardens are where life begins anew each year, where love can be secretly nourished and passions kindled. They can provide places to relax and meditate, places to recharge emotional batteries. We can enjoy them in solitude or with friends and family. You could have a bucket list with nothing but wonderful gardens still extant to visit.

Our retrospective begins with the **Garden of Eden**, the garden of God, from where both Adam and Eve were expelled after Eve gave Adam that apple. In Greek Mythology, **The Garden of the Hesperides**, aka Hera’s Orchard, was the sacred garden of Hera from where the gods got their immortality. Heracles (the Roman Hercules), had to retrieve golden apples from the tree in the center of the garden as part of his twelve labors. Also in Greek mythology, the **Elysian Fields** are the final resting place of the souls of the heroic and the virtuous. Obviously, none of these gardens can be visited today.

Other historical gardens no longer bucket list options are the **Hanging Gardens of Babylon**, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. They’ve been described as marvels of agricultural engineering, filled with flowers, fruit, exotic foliage, and impressive waterfalls. Similarly, literary gardens are wish-list only, the **Garden of the Finzi**

Contini, for instance. And you can’t spend midnight in the **Garden of Good and Evil**. Do we even know where **The Secret Garden** is?

Some gardens celebrated in paintings and literature can still be visited. **Monet’s Gardens in Giverny** should be on your list. Mercifully, **The Garden of Earthly Delights** depicted by Hieronymus Bosch was imaginary. You’d be certifiable to want to visit it. On the other hand, somewhere in England and well worth searching for must be that **Host of Golden Daffodils** that inspired Wordsworth when he wandered lonely as a cloud.

By now you should be looking for good examples for your bucket list. I’ll start with one that you’ll want to visit next spring; it’s past its prime in summer. That’s the **Keukenhof Tulip Gardens in The Netherlands**. Pique your interest by looking at some of the photos on line. They’re glorious.

There are two fabulous botanical gardens to include, one on each side of the pond. The first are the **Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew Gardens** in Richmond (Southwest London). It’s a UNESCO World Heritage Centre. There are both formal and informal gardens to explore and various houses to visit, especially the Great Pagoda.

The second is the **New York Botanical Garden**, located in Bronx Park. It contains fifty different gardens and plant collections, and even a cascade waterfall. Throughout the year there are exhibitions, immersive botanical experiences, art and music. It’s well worth an extended visit.

Another summer garden is the **Elizabeth Park Rose Garden**, in Hartford, CT a walkers’ haven, with several gardens along its wildflower trail, a lovely pond and sports and concert facilities It’s best known for its magnificent rose



gardens, with 800 varieties of roses.

For those wanting to add some formal gardens to their bucket lists, you can do no better than visiting the **Gardens of the Palace of Versailles**, a UNESCO World Heritage Centre outside Paris. The gardens of Versailles contain some 400 statues, making them the world’s largest open-air sculpture museum. Go for the palace, but allow plenty of time for the gardens.

For a similar experience, travel to Vienna to see the **Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn**, an impressive and well-preserved Baroque property. The gardens form an organic extension of the palace, so plan to visit the entire complex. It, too, is a UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

A very different option would be the formal **Gardens of the Taj Mahal** in Agra, India. It’s another UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The focus of the gardens is the white marble mausoleum, built by the emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favorite wife. Forewarned: depending on when you visit, it can be a challenge to fight the crowds.

We’ve barely scratched the surface of gardens worth seeing. The sooner you build your own bucket list, the sooner you can plan trips to visit them. Start looking for comfortable walking shoes 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

Stay Cool This Summer Prevent Dehydration

A person’s desire to be outdoors can sometimes be at odds with the outdoors itself. The dead of winter tends to be a time of year when people know to stay indoors, but the dog days of summer can be dangerous as well.

Heat-related diseases like dehydration can put lives at risk. According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, children and people over the age of 60 are particularly susceptible to dehydration. Understanding dehydration and how to prevent it is essential for anyone who plans to spend time outside during the summer.

What is dehydration?

The U.S. National Library of Medicine notes that a dehydrated body does not have enough fluid and electrolytes to work properly. On an average day, the human body needs about three quarts of water. But the USNLM notes that anyone planning to spend time outside in the hot sun needs significantly more water than that to avoid dehydration.

What are the signs of dehydration?

Johns Hopkins Medicine notes that people experience dehydration differently. However, there are some common symptoms that indicate someone is dehydrated.

These symptoms include:

- thirst
- less frequent urination
- dry skin
- fatigue
- light-headedness
- dizziness
- confusion
- dry mouth and mucous membranes
- increased heart rate and breathing.

Children who are dehydrated may exhibit additional symptoms, including dry mouth and tongue; no tears and crying; no wet diapers for several hours; sunken abdomen, eyes or cheeks; listlessness; irritability; and skin that does not flatten when pinched and released.

How to prevent dehydration

Drinking plenty of fluids when working or playing in the sun is one way to prevent dehydration. Being sure to take in more fluid than you are losing is another way to prevent dehydration. Anyone, and especially people who sweat a lot, should keep a close eye on fluid loss when spending time outdoors in the summer. Sports drinks that help people maintain their electrolyte balance, such as Gatorade, can help prevent dehydration as well. Pediatric is often recommended for sick infants or children who have experienced vomiting, as it can help restore electrolyte balance that was adversely affected when kids became sick. The solution can be equally effective at restoring electrolyte balance that was thrown off during heat exposure.

Dehydration poses a significant health risk at any time of year, but people who spend time out in the summer heat may be especially vulnerable. Limiting time spent outdoors on hot days and keeping a close eye on your fluid intake and fluid levels can help prevent dehydration. TF197101

Homemade Ice Cream! (without a machine)

- 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 2 cups half-and-half cream
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Freeze an empty freezer-safe shallow bowl or pan. Use a 13×9-inch Pyrex pan, but anything stainless steel .

MIX: In a large bowl, stir all the ingredients until the sugar is dissolved. For a smooth texture, make sure the sugar is completely dissolved before you freeze.

FREEZE: Transfer your mixture into the cold pan and stick it back in the freezer for about 20-30 minutes. Around that time, check the ice cream. Once the edges start to freeze, take out the mixture and beat it using a hand mixer. By breaking up the ice cream, you'll help make it smooth and creamy. You cannot beat the mixture too much.

Return the pan to the freezer. Every 30 minutes or so, take it back out and beat the ice cream again. Repeat until it is firmly frozen, usually around four or five mixing sessions. Once it’s frozen, the mixture should be smooth and creamy. If at any time the ice cream becomes too hard, place it in the refrigerator until it becomes soft enough to beat, and then continue the process.

Store your homemade ice cream in a covered freezer container.



MAKE IT YOUR OWN:

- Mix in chunks of your favorite candy bars.
- Drizzle in toppings like melted caramel, dark chocolate or toffee.
- Layer the ice cream between two cookies or

Summer Memories

Summer has arrived and has pulled us into the maelstrom of heat and humidity. Every year about the Fourth of July I slip into reveries of times long past that elicit the images that color my youth. Step into the time machine with me and revisit the 50s and 60s, a much different world.

The memories begin in late spring when we opened the doors to the living room that had been sealed off to conserve heat during the winter.

When I was very young, my grandfather had a beach shack in the Shawmut section of Conimicut Point in Warwick. I slept on the front porch. Most mornings, I could be seen peddling my bike, complete with handle-bar streamers bought from village’s Salk’s Hardware Store, streaking in the wind, around the neighborhood. It was equipped with the prerequisite baseball cards stuck in the spokes to mimic a motorcycle roar. My generation was totally ignorant of the future value that some of these cardboard treasures. Or maybe we just didn’t care. I can visualize the terrifying fury of Hurricane Carol in 1954 as the menacing brown waves roiled the shores of the cove.

My father and uncles would mash the feet and dig into the soft sands with their hands at low tide (no rakes allowed) for quahogs. Often, they would eat their quarry after they had harvested them. They always saved some of their bounty for spaghetti and clams served later that day. I still can’t figure out why I willingly devour these raw, ocean-fresh bivalves on the half-shell and shun oysters.

We enjoyed many weekends at Goddard State Park escaping the South Providence inner city heat. Lest you think that we chowed down on the normal Americanized picnic fare, we



MY SIDE OF THINGS by LARRY GRIMALDI

literally brought Sunday dinner with us, complete with macaroni and roasted chicken.

I remember when the ice man, the rag man, and the vegetable vendor hawked their wares in our neighborhood. And I remember the small “spa” (neighborhood variety store) that sat across from our tenement.

During the summer, we played endless games of knock-hockey, wove gimp jewelry, slurped popsicles, and organized pick-up games of baseball at the dusty, local playground. We stopped just long enough to head home for lunch.

I remember the adventurous drives to South County beaches, passing the vegetable gardens planted on land adjoining the prison complex, the Sockanosset facility for “bad boys,” the Warwick Musical Theater, vast rolling lawns of the Bostitch Company, the expansive wooded and undeveloped areas after Bostitch, and maneuvering around the Route 4 rotary.

I remember nights spent on the porch at our Hospital Street tenement seeking relief from the sultry summer stillness. I recall the summer that the first stretches of Route 95 were built literally across the street from my first home on Crary Street. My summer memories include the eerie silence of the surrounding jewelry factory shutdowns during the first

two weeks of July.

In those days, an air-conditioned car meant sticking your head out the open window. It was a treat to spend the afternoon watching a movie in the cool of the Lowe’s, Strand, Majestic, or Albee theaters and then maybe devouring an ice cream sundae at the Outlet Company. If you were lucky, there was a fan in your bedroom so you could sleep on those long summer nights thick with humidity.

I recall savoring a foot-long hot dog from the small take-out stand in front of Warwick Shoppers World.

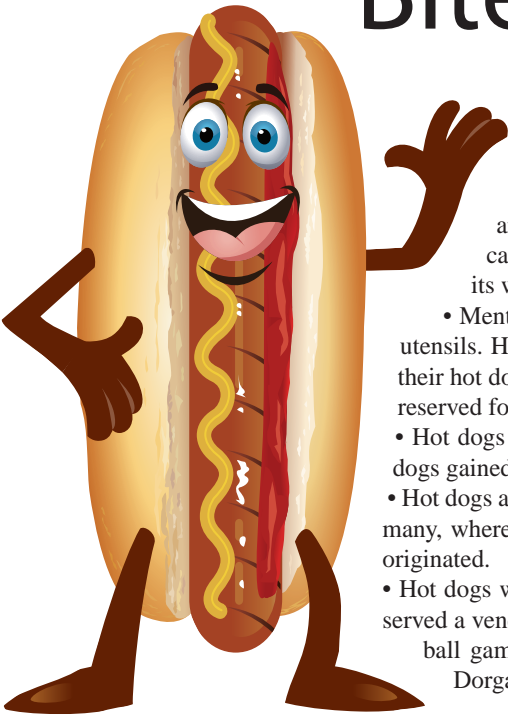
I was never a fan of Labor Day as it signaled the end of the summer and a return to school. (I also disliked New Years Day for the same reason).

Now, it’s time for you to settle on your porch or backyard patio with your favorite cool beverage and bring back your summer memories. Happy dreaming.

THIS MONTH’S WHY IS IT THAT FEATURE: Why is it that the brawnier men are seen walking the smallest dogs?”

Larry Grimaldi is a freelance writer from North Providence. Larry and his wife Kathy are co-authors of “Wandering Across America,” a chronicle of their cross-country road trip, and “Cooking with Mammie,” a collection of family recipes prepared with their grandchildren. He has also written the column anthologies “50 Shades of Life, Love, and Laughter, Volumes I & II.” Columns reissued in these books are used with the permission of Beacon Communications. For more information, or comments, e-mail lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com.

Bite into these hot dog facts!



Hot dogs are the yin to the hamburger’s yang. Franks and burgers are a common pair at barbecues and ballparks, and rightfully so. Handheld, portable meals, they pack a convenient and flavorful punchy. Few foods may seem as American as hot dogs. However, hot dogs are derivative of European sausages. This fact and more can shed light on the humble hot dog, which is sure to find its way to a grill near you this summer.

- Mental Floss says it’s pretentious to consume a hot dog with utensils. Hot dog etiquette experts also insist adults should not top their hot dogs with ketchup, which they suggest is a topping strictly reserved for children.
- Hot dogs are often associated with New York City. However, hot dogs gained popularity across the country in the 20th century.
- Hot dogs are often called frankfurters. This refers to Frankfurt, Germany, where pork sausages similar to hot dogs are believed to have originated.
- Hot dogs were given their name by cartoonist Tad Dorgan. He observed a vendor selling “hot dachshund sausage dogs” during a baseball game at New York City’s Polo Grounds. As legend has it, Dorgan couldn’t spell the name of the dog, instead writing

only “hot dogs.” The name eventually caught on.

- Despite several jokes as well as speculation regarding what hot dogs contain, hot dogs are cured and cooked sausages that contain mainly pork, beef, chicken, and turkey. The meats come from the muscle of the animals. If a product contains organ meats, it must be declared on the packaging.
- In 1867, Charles Feltman made a cart with a stove on it, which he used to boil sausages. The cart also had compartments to keep buns fresh. Carts that sell hot dogs on the street are now seen in cities across the country.
- Hot dogs are a NASA-approved food for astronauts.
- While hot dogs are sold at many venues, data indicates that the popular convenience store chain 7-Eleven sells the most grilled hot dogs in North America, with 100 million sold annually.
- Relish, sauerkraut and even ketchup are popular hot dog toppings. But mustard is by far the most popular.
- Why are there typically 10 hot dogs per pack and only eight buns per bag? When hot dogs were first introduced, they were sold at varying quantities at the butcher shop. Hot dogs were eventually standardized to packages of 10, but buns are baked in clusters of four in popular pans designed to hold eight rolls.

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Voters 50+ Want Action on Caregiving



AARP - RHODE ISLAND
by CATHERINE TAYLOR

In Rhode Island and across the nation, voters 50 plus decide elections. The facts show 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.

According to AARP research, one in five voters -- more than 48 million Americans – are family caregivers. AARP is mobilizing this significant slice of the electorate to fight for commonsense solutions that will save caregivers time and money and get them more support.

- Here, according to research, is how family caregivers are doing right now:**
- 42% of family caregivers spend over 20 hours a week on caregiving, and large majorities say they are stressed emotionally, financially, and overwhelmed by their caregiving responsibilities. What they most want from the government is financial support: 60% say they’d prefer to see Congress provide financial assistance to caregivers versus 30% who want caregiving support.
 - 68% of voters are concerned they won’t be able to afford the care they need as they grow older and 65% are concerned that they won’t be able to live independently.
 - 75% of voters 50+ – say it is very important for Congress to “help seniors live independently in their own homes instead of a nursing home,” and 57% say it is very important to “provide support family caregivers.
- Family caregivers are the backbone of a broken long term care system, helping with everything from buying groceries and managing medications to bathing and dressing. They often put their own finances and jobs at risk to care for loved ones.

America’s family caregivers provide more than \$600 billion in unpaid care each year, saving taxpayers billions by keeping loved ones at home instead of in Medicaid-funded nursing homes. Rhode Island’s 121,000 unpaid family caregivers contribute more than \$113 million of unpaid care each year, valued at approximately \$2.1 billion.

A recent AARP survey shows that most voters – 70 percent – say they are more likely to support a candidate who backs proposals that support family caregivers, such as tax credits, paid family leave and respite services. An overwhelming 75 percent of voters age 50 plus say it is important for Congress to help older Americans live independently in their homes instead of in nursing homes.

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.

Make your voice heard. Especially if you are a family caregiver. For information on the 2024 election – when, where and how to vote – visit [ww.aarp.org/RIvotes](https://www.aarp.org/RIvotes).



- JULY-AUGUST ONLINE EVENTS**
- July 23, August 13, 4 p.m. - Tai Chi/Qi Gong
 - July 24, 6 p.m.- Laughter Yoga
 - July 29, noon – Lunchtime Tech Talk: Intro to A.I.
 - August 14, 1 p.m. – Everybody Dance!
 - August 15, 4 p.m. – RI Healthy Cooking
- IN-PERSON EVENTS**
- July 18 - August 1, 6:30 p.m. - AARP-RI Sponsored RI Historical Society Concerts Under the Elms
 - July 19, 11 a.m. - Fraud Basics: The Scam Landscape and Staying Safe, Da Vinci Center-Community Progress, Providence
 - July 21, 7:15 p.m., August 19, 6:30 p.m.- AARP-RI Sponsored Bike Newport Full Moon Bike Rides
- Learn more and register at aarp.org/RIEvents**
- Fraud Fighting Fridays - Free Document Shredding (Last of the Season)***
Cumberland, July 26
- Registration, shredding location directions and more at aarp.org/RIShreds

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Sports

Gershkoff wins at nationals

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Gershkoff/Top Notch Lightning Elite 14-U baseball team traveled down to Myrtle Beach for the Youth Baseball Nationals Tournament series, and came back champions. The tournament included the top teams from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Ohio, Texas, Georgia, Maryland, Wisconsin, and Ontario, Canada.

This was no easy feat as it had to play five pool games over a three-day span, and because of expected rain in the area last Thursday, it needed to win three bracket games in the final day to win it all.

The team finished pool play with a record of 4-0-1 and then swept the bracket playoffs to finish 7-0-1.

All 12 players had their moments. The team was shorthanded as starting shortstop and key pitcher Dylan Milano was down, but it overcame it with well-rounded play.

Aiden Neil, Anthony Campagnone, and Aidyn



DOMINATING MYRTLE: The Gershkoff 14-U team last week at Myrtle Beach. (Submitted photo)



One last look

The Johnston Little League All-Star teams wrapped up their summer last week in their District I runs. Here is one last look at the 12-year-old team that played its final season together on the small field. (Submitted photos)



ALL-STAR BUDS: Pictured are 12-year-olds Mikey Orsini, Michael lafrete and Joe Splendorio.

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■ Gershkoff

(Continued from page 17)

Pizzuti dominated the playoff bracket on the mound. Pizzuti picked up the first win in a 1-hitter as Gershkoff won 10-0 in four innings over Georgia. Neil picked up the semifinal win over a club out of Ohio in the same fashion, no hitter/mercy rule of 10-0.

Prior to facing these clubs in the playoff bracket, Gershkoff came from behind to beat the Georgia club 4-3, and came from behind to tie the same Ohio club, 9-9.

"There were times where I wasn't sure if we'd be able to come back, but they did, they were resilient. That was huge. It was such a great feeling to win a national championship. We've won some local tournaments, but we had never been able to get to a national tournament then win it," said Gershkoff manager Dave Schiappa, who credited his strong pitching rotation for leading the way in SC. "We weren't sure (if we could win) going in, but by the fourth game we felt pretty good considering the amount of rest for our top pitchers. If it wasn't for the multiple pitchers we had in between, we wouldn't have been able to get there."

Campagnone and Neil combined to beat another Ohio club in the championship matchup. An extra-inning affair that ended in dramatic fashion. Luca Schroer knocked in the winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning as Gershkoff took the game, 5-4.

Pizzuti and Neil allowed no earned runs for the week and the team carried a 2.08 ERA throughout. In addition to those three, Matt Iannitti picked up a key win in pool play; and Schroer, Joey Nunez, Lucca Ricci, and Corey Ogden all contributed on the mound during. Neil had one of the more dominant performances with a 15-strikeout shutout in pool play, and Campagnone won the skills competition for velocity.

In regard to offense, there was no shortage of scoring. The team scored 66 runs and batted just under .400 as a team for the entire tournament.

Schroer led the team with a .615 average.

Andrew Schiappa and Max Pilkington were rocks behind the dish and at the dish. Schiappa's ability to manage the pitching staff during intense moments was pivotal, and Pilkington provided solid play and hitting between catching duties and designated hitter.

Eddie Wenzl was a wizard at second base, making several challenging plays look easy. He also clubbed a few big extra base hits during crucial times.

Ogden and Lucas Santo patrolled the outfield with Pizzuti and Schroer. Santo batted leadoff and led the team in stolen bases and tied for runs scored. Ogden was able to pick up key extra base hits when the team needed it.

After a tough start to the season in which the team struggled to maintain a .500 record, Gershkoff turned things around in time to win the big one.

"I think they played down to their competition, but when they were faced with better teams, they rose to the occasion. I told them that if they didn't get the energy up, they wouldn't be winners this year. I challenged them and they responded," said Dave Schiappa.

Dave Schiappa, who is also the Gershkoff program's general manager, has made it his mission to build a nationally-recognized organization with local talent, strictly from Cranston and Johnston.

Winning this tournament was a step in the right direction.

"Ultimately, they just feel so confident. People ask us, 'are you sure that you're from one community?' It's surprising, it doesn't happen often. It's the old school way of keeping the community together. To be a community program and be able to compete in a tournament like this, it feels good," said Dave Schiappa.

Dave Schiappa also wanted to give one last shout out to the ones that made it happen.

"I want to thank the players and the parents that supported us. I want to thank our sponsors Gershkoff and Top Notch for helping this program get going," Dave Schiappa said.



Still not a fan of MLB All-Star week

Monday night marked the annual Major League Baseball Home Run Derby and Tuesday was the All-Star Game. For those who know me, I cannot stand these antiquated traditions.

I was weary of writing this column due to fear of repetition, but I looked into it and the last time I harped on this was in 2018. Six years later, I am still every bit as unenthused as I was the previous writing.

I am not a fan of All-Star games in general. The players are going half speed, it's not competitive, the athletes typically care more about the awards like MVP and the prizes rather than the win. I swear, back in the 1990s when I was a budding sports fan, it was not like that. Players just had that edge and wanted to win, even if it was just a

fun exhibition.

Now, there was a time that the MLB All-Star festivities, specifically the All-Star game itself, were the best of the bunch. The winner earned home field advantage in the World Series and it sure felt like something was on the line. It was an event that I truly looked forward to when July rolled around.

Same with the home run derby. Players used to knock down the door to get an opportunity to participate, including the very best players in the game. Sammy Sosa, Mark McGwire, Ken Griffey Jr., Barry Bonds. Now, many of those top players decline the invite and fans are stuck with guys that sometimes aren't even power hitters.

They also have tweaked the format a few times which I can't stand. Between brackets, the num-

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

ALEXS@
RHODYBEAT.COM

ber of outs. Just go back to the old system and leave it at that. Each batter gets 10 outs, then the top two guys get an additional 10 outs in the championship round. Much better than this mess of a product.

I love the sport of baseball and its history. There is nothing like it, and even though the NFL has

dominated the US sports scene for the past two decades, I still consider baseball to be America's Pastime. I have to admit, though, the MLB has become the most unwatchable product in professional sports.

The NFL introduced the Pro Bowl Games, which is essentially a bunch of positional competitions that players run through for the weekend. I did not tune in and do not plan on tuning in any time soon, but at least the NFL has enough self awareness to understand that the Pro Bowl no longer worked as a game. It was touch football, at best.

I refused to watch the Home Run Derby on Monday. I just could not bear the thought of it. When looking at the field, it was perhaps the least impressive I have ever witnessed. Again, the league's top

power hitters were nowhere to be found.

My advice to the MLB would be to reinstate the home field advantage rule for the All-Star Game and find some new incentive for true power hitters to get involved in the derby. I can stomach the new format of the derby as long as we are getting the big bats that the event deserves.

I remember in the late 90s, early 2000s, my formative years as a young sports fan, I would be giddy with excitement on the Monday and Tuesday of All-Star week. I would give anything to feel that joy again and to have another summer sports event to look forward to. There are so few events going on this time of year, and although many fans still tune in, this one here does not. Take me back to 1999.

Real Estate Transactions

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE	ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
COVENTRY					WARWICK				
12 Idaho St	Belrose, Dawn	Rabbani, Rachid	6/27	\$340,000	1 Willow Glen Cir Lot 105	Restivo, Carole A and Restivo, Allen J	Perry, Alma B	6/24	\$287,000
20 Sunset Lake Cir Lot 29	Westwood Const Inc	Boehmke, Ronald D and Boehmke, Laura K	6/25	\$711,057	1 Willow Glen Cir Lot 122	Cocoris, John W	Restivo, Allen J and Restivo, Carole A	6/25	\$285,000
26 Highland Ave	Mcrose, Audrey	Johnson, Regena	6/24	\$325,000	123 Kenway Ave	Wolfe, Shaun and Wolfe, Erin	Mandeville, George	6/25	\$235,000
33 Martin St	Northup, Debra L and Northup Jr, Daniel E	Marketos, Elizabeth D	6/28	\$336,000	137 Overlook Dr	Alpha Hldg LLC	Galeras Const LLC	6/24	\$325,000
4 Wolfe Ct	Lee, Changmi	Gavlick, Lauren O	6/27	\$671,500	14 Center Ct, Czabanowski	Theodore H and Czabanowski, Linda D	Celtic Roman Grp LLC	6/25	\$350,000
45 Overview Dr	Vitale 3rd, Robert	Martinez, Daisy and Gardner, Paul	6/28	\$330,000	161 Posnegansett Ave	Clark, Stephen L and Weber, Robert C	Weber, Robert C and Tejada, Juan R	6/25	\$455,000
51 Knotty Oak Shrs	Flowers, Cora A	M&i Homes LLC	6/25	\$132,000	161 Sleepy Hollow Farm Rd	Andreason Jr, Carl and Andreason, Kristen L	Altizer Jr, Lance and Altizer, Regina	6/24	\$774,000
9 Gentry Farm Dr	Verrier, Joseph E and Verrier, Danielle R	Matias, Bruno M	6/28	\$760,000	192 Midget Ave	Rmac T and Us Bank Na	JPMorgan Chase Bank Na	6/24	\$515,110
93 Provident Pl	Mondaca, Stephen M and Mondaca, Dana K	Priestley, Eric R and Priestley, Kristen M	6/28	\$650,000	22 Center Ct	Czabanowski, Theodore H and Czabanowski, Linda D	Celtic Roman Grp LLC	6/25	\$350,000
CRANSTON					23 Tingley St	Freitas, David	Tameirao, Travis and Desrosiers, Katie M	6/25	\$589,900
11254 Cranston St	Monteiro, Carl and Monteiro, Tami D	Ortega, Fernando J	6/26	\$530,000	236 Pequot Ave	FINMA	Blanco, Rafael J	6/26	\$290,000
135 Lippitt Ave,	Towd Point Mtg T2016-5 and Us Bank Na	Supreme Enterprise LLC	6/17	\$200,000	236 Pequot Ave Lot 25	FINMA	Blanco, Rafael J	6/26	\$290,000
145 Ridgeway Rd	Melita H Lambert RET and Lambert, Gary E	Marple, Corey	6/25	\$480,000	27 Scranton Ave	Marseglia, Vincent J and Marseglia, Joann	Cimarelli, Paola D and King, Sharon	6/24	\$480,000
17 Fairbanks St	Equity T Co	Rancher, Derrick J and Rancher, Sheena N	6/25	\$445,000	3 Pevear Ave	Campbell, Brian J and Campbell, Tina M	Schumacher, Tate and Coltrain, Lauren	6/25	\$451,000
17 Fairbanks St Lot 1245	Equity T Co	Rancher, Derrick J and Rancher, Sheena N	6/25	\$445,000	3 Winchell Rd	Pion, Gerard L and Pion, Maria D	Simmons, Michael L and Lafauci, Angela	6/26	\$475,000
203 Knollwood Ave	Toledo, Ivan	Sical, Samuel	6/24	\$337,500	354 Sea View Dr	White, William R	Egge, Dina M and Gray Jr, Thurston L	6/25	\$1,000,000
215 Poplar Dr	Tavarez, Miguel F	Ciceron, Livingston	6/25	\$545,000	52 Deer Run Xing Lot 52	C&M Rlty LLC	Hunt, Richard W and Hunt, Anne G	6/25	\$720,150
31 Netherlands Ave	Bilski, Sophie M and Van Loon, Charles	Rodriguez, Marciana A	6/25	\$222,650	64 Uncas St	McDonald, Brian	Gizzarelli, Elijah and Gilles, Carla	6/26	\$313,000
34 Bellevue Dr	Souto, Marisa A	Meimarides, Alexander and Humphrey, Paige	6/20	\$482,500	642 Post Rd	Donclan, James M	Toribio, Victor	6/24	\$379,000
35 Falcon Ln	Cary, Shawn	Green, Dana and Green, Heather	6/24	\$955,000	95 Reed St Lot 95	Bedard, Jodie A	Glover, Sarah	6/17	\$275,000
35 Sockanosset Cross Rd Lot	Goodyear Rlty LLC	Renaissance Dev Corp	6/25	\$300,000	WEST GREENWICH				
5 Bennett Ave	Williams, Ophelia N	Neilson, Marissa M	6/24	\$410,000	1599 Hopkins Hill Rd Lot 15	Hopkins Hill Rd Rlty LLC	Joseph R Vinagro Prop LLC	6/24	\$1,000,000
6 Cleveland Ave	Savard, Theresa and Gosselin, Brian	Cepeda, Yenelsy	6/24	\$440,000	599 Hopkins Hill Rd Lot 3	Hopkins Hill Rd Rlty LLC	Joseph R Vinagro Prop LLC	6/24	\$1,000,000
65 Blackamore Ave	Ebott, Orock and Ebott, Jasmine A	Yun, Cassandra and Song, Yi	6/26	\$535,000	73 Carrs Pond Rd	John L & Laura B Picraux and Delacruz, John L	Dern, Dennis L and Dern, Rita S	6/24	\$700,000
75 Elwyn St	Clowery, Jarrod and Clowery	Amy to Dmitrieva, Kseniya and Darosa, Kyle	6/26	\$542,500	WEST WARWICK				
EAST GREENWICH					23 Tobin St, Caron	Alexander E	Porter, Jessica R and Porter, Carl T	6/27	\$369,900
7 Remy Pl	Gryn, Eric C	No Lighters LLC	6/26	\$1,100,000	39 Kristee Cir Lot 39	Tellier, Barbara E	Bontemp, Irma	7/1	\$235,000
EXETER					6 Orrin St	Arthur J Caron Lt and Caron, Arthur J	Iacomucci, Claire M and Iacomucci, Thomas	7/1	\$275,000
167 Liberty Rd	Kenyon Ray H Est and Kenyon, Jani C	McKeen, Brendon L	6/28	\$220,000	88 Lexington Ave	Vallier, Michael R and Vallier, April E	Sirna, Daniel	7/1	\$440,000
36 E Shore Dr	Ryan, Kathryn D	Graves, William G	6/21	\$360,000					
JOHNSTON									
2 Rose Hill Dr	Menebhi, Erica and Menebhi, Syeda M	Monteiro, Leonardo	7/1	\$450,000					
48 School St	Bibeault, Kathleen M and Warner, Kelly L	Chavez, Ashley D	7/1	\$425,000					

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Still time to register for the Block Island Tourney

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

There is still time to register for the Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament which takes place within the 3-mile limit around Block Island.

“We made online registration easy and there is still time to register. The tournament starts Saturday, July 27, 5:30 a.m. and ends Sunday, July 28, 12 noon,” said Capt. Chris Willi of Block Island Fish Works, tournament host. There will be an ‘After Party’ at Capt. Nick’s Rock & Roll Bar, Block Island on Sunday, July 28 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Limited dockage may be available after the tournament for four to five hours in Old Harbor at the Town Dock. Contact the Dockmaster on Ch12.

“This is a length only Tournament. When anglers want to make a Tournament entry, they take a photo of their catch with the tournament smartphone app against the tournament supplied ruler and send their entry in electronically.” said Chris Willi. “So, it is not necessary to attend the ‘After Party’ to receive your Tournament prize. However, those attending the ‘after party’ will get a chance to win one of twenty-five \$100 tackle shop gift cards.”

Capt. Willi said, “Thanks to the Block Island Wind Farm/Ørsted and six tackle shop co-sponsors, we can donate 100% of Tournament entry fees to the Block Island Fire Department and Rescue. And, we have over \$10,000 in gift cards, swag and prizes with fluke, black sea bass, striped bass and bluefish categories with shore, fly fishing, youth, team and photo divisions.

Anglers can pick up participant bags at one of seven locations including Block Island Fish Works, Block Island; Ocean State Tackle, Providence; Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren; the Tackle Box, Warwick; Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown; Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown;

and Watch Hill Outfitters, West-erly.

Register online at BI Inshore Tourney | bi-FishWorks (sanduallypointco.com) or call 401.742.3992.

Horseshoe crabs here before the dinosaurs

“Horseshoe crabs have been around for 350 to 450 million years; long before the dinosaurs. And, they have been so successful that they have remained largely unchanged for millennia,” said the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) in a recent newsletter article highlighting more conservative regulations introduced this spring to bolster the State’s horseshoe crab population.

Beginning this year, spawning horseshoe crabs received the added protection of a continuous 7 ½ week no-harvest closure from mid-April through June 7. This new rule replaced the state’s intermittent 5-day “lunar closures” that surrounded each new and full moon in the spring.

In Rhode Island, according to the Department of Environmental Management’s website, the horseshoe crab bait fishery season is closed five weeks in the Month of May.

The new Massachusetts regulation aims to enhance conservation by maximizing the spawning potential of the local populations. Based on data collected by DMF that describe the timing of spawning activity, this closure will protect about 90% of spawning crabs, allowing them to deposit eggs on Massachusetts beaches undisturbed.

Don’t hold your breath for quick results as the greatest benefit of this new regulation will likely be observed on spawning beaches in about ten years, when the young crabs produced by this year’s eggs will return as mature adults to spawn, said the DMF.

The fishery is also managed by two quotas that DMF feels are conservative and sustainable: the



STRIPED BASS: East End Eddie Doherty with a 30-pound, 45-striped bass caught on the Cape Cod Canal. Photo by Phyruth Ho. (Submitted photo)

quota for crabs harvested as bait is 140,000 crabs—far below the state’s 360,000 crab allowance in the interstate management plan; and the quota for crabs retained for biomedical purposes is 200,000 crabs, shared by the two licensed companies.

While DMF has added the spawning closure to its management approach, it is important to recognize that Massachusetts horseshoe crab populations appear to be increasing in recent years. Nonetheless, DMF’s philosophy is to manage this species conservatively with precautionary management and rigorous oversight.

Where’s the bite?

Striped bass and bluefish. Jeff Sullivan, expert angler and associate at Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, said, “We are still catching large striped bass off Newport with large top water lures working well, the big fish are still go-

ing for these lures, usually it is the smaller bass. There is still a bass bite in the East Passage from Newport to Mt. Hope Bay, however, the bluefish bite has not been good.”

“The Cape Cod Canal came back to life with some slots caught on the surface by John Morgan on a west ebb tide with his blue Atom Striper Swiper that he has been throwing for 20 years! Other surfcasters landed slots including “Paulie the Painter” Gravina with his handmade white paddle tail jig. This correspondent got into an early morning east flood bite as my white Guppy Jobo Jr. fooled well fed 30- & 33-inch bass with the slot going to the family table of our youngest daughter Chrissy. Both fish ate the bucktail single tail-hook,” said East End Eddie Doherty, Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author.

“Bass fishing has been very good locally and out around

Block Island. Bigger fish have showed up on the local reefs and in the pond and have been taking eels and rigged soft plastics. Some customers have been lucky enough to find bass feeding on mackerel and that has presented great top water opportunity,” said Declan O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown.

Fluke (Summer flounder), black sea bass and scup. “The fluke bite is excellent off Newport with the best bite coming over transition areas where rough terrain meets sand. Our best luck has come in about 50 feet of water, but the fluke bite in the Bay has not been good,” said Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle. O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, said, “Fluke fishing has been okay with the better bite coming inshore. Some nice black sea bass have been caught locally and off the center wall of Point Judith. A technique that seems to be showing good results is casting a ball head jig with a gulp grub and covering more ground as the boat is drifting.”

Bluefin and yellow fin tuna. “Giant bluefin tuna were being caught close to Block Island at the East Fishing Grounds to the Dump last week with the giants pushing up sand eels to the surface with school bluefin tuna in the 40 to 60 pound rand mixed in,” said Sullivan of Luckey Bait & Tackle.

“Freshwater fishing for smallmouth bass has been outstanding on Cape Cod ponds and lakes as well as at Stafford Pond in Tiverton, RI,” said Sullivan. “I have been using micro lures to connect with smallmouth successfully.”

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.

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It's potato salad season!



COMPANY PRIDE:
Operations Manager Tom Glasgow poses in front of the company sign in front of the facility, sporting the company logo on his shirt as well.
(RhodyLife photos by Greta Shuster)

Cranston's Eastland Foods brings produce to the picnic

By GRETA SHUSTER

Do you ever wonder where your food comes from? Or how the cabbage in the premade coleslaw gets from the farmer to the supermarket? Cranston's Eastland Foods is the local linchpin of the produce supply chain.

Eastland Foods has been owned and operated by owner Tony DeMarco's family since his father opened a small facility in Providence in 1963. When it started, the family was strictly processing potatoes. Since then it has expanded to all kinds of produce: cabbage for coleslaw, peppers and onions for kebabs, fruits for fruit cups, and more.

"We're a processor, so we're in between the farmer and the manufacturer," said Operations Manager Tom Glasgow when describing the company. "The veggies come in, and they're peeled, sliced, diced, shredded — cut in some way — and then our customers take those cut vegetables and make things you see at the deli counter."

In a sustainable and cyclical fashion, the produce waste generated from the facility goes right back to the farms. "We lose about 30% of [the produce] we're making, and that goes to the pig farmers. The pigs are fed through our waste, which is unique," said Glasgow.



POTATO SALAD SEASON: Boston Salads, one of Eastland Food's customers, prepares and packages potato salads and other products to be sold in delis and supermarkets around New England. (Submitted photo)

■ POTATO SALAD - PAGE 23

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TEAM EFFORT: One group of workers collaborate to remove all the seeds from the green bell peppers that will eventually be sold in supermarkets as pre-made kebabs.

■ Potato Salad

(Continued from page 22)

“Summers are definitely busier,” said owner Tony DeMarco. During this time of year, Eastland Foods brings in anywhere from 100,000 to 150,000 pounds of potatoes a day.

Eastland Foods moved from the small facility in Providence to a new Cranston facility in 1990. The new facility’s workfloor is a large warehouse space with several different production lines. Each production line has several workers, each with their own specific task.

For example, potatoes are first put through a peeling machine that takes off the skin with a sandpaper-like mechanism. Then, the potatoes are checked by workers to remove minor imperfections with a knife. The potatoes are then sent through a dicing machine to cut them into the equal, bite-sized cubes found in pre-made potato salad. In order for the potatoes to not turn brown through oxidation, the cubes are sent through a salt-based bath. When they emerge, they are hand-checked by workers for quality control.

“We’ll do eight to ten thousand pounds of kebabs a day during the



KEBAB PREP: Jack Moretta chops up the green bell pepper by hand to be sold to manufacturers in bulk.

summertime. That would make literally hundreds of thousands of kebabs,” said Glasgow. The peppers and onions are cut by hand at the facility. “Certain things you can’t do with a machine, and the kebabs are one of those things,” he added.

Freshness is a top priority for the

company. “We don’t do any frozen [food], everything is freshly cut and freshly shipped. We receive our orders and process them throughout the day, ship them out overnight, and the customers get them the next day,” said Glasgow.

The shipping radius stretches well beyond the state of Rhode Island. Eastland Foods ships directly to manufacturers as far south as Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and as far north as southern New Hampshire. Then those manufacturers use the produce to create packaged products which are then shipped all over the East Coast.

“It has a family vibe to it when you walk in,” said Glasgow about the workplace environment.

Eastland Foods is truly a family business. Tony DeMarco started working here with his father when he was 10 years old and has never worked another job.

When Tony’s father died, his mother, Josephine DeMarco, kept the business going until he was ready to take over.

“She’s still going strong as the matriarch of Eastland Foods,” said Tom Glasgow.

DeMarco’s sisters work in the office, as well as his son and nephew. “It’s unique because it’s very much a family company, but we employ a lot of people, so it’s nice that it still has a small atmosphere to it,” Glasgow added.

Tony’s son, Anthony, has been working at the company for 10 years. “We have the people in place to continue,” said DeMarco. “It would be good to see the younger guys keep it going.”

Eastland Foods has a lot of love for the state. “Doing business in Rhode Island is great. It’s getting tougher, and you don’t see as many businesses in Rhode Island. We ship a lot of stuff out of state, and so whenever we can do business with people in the state it’s great,” said Glasgow.

The company has over 150 employees, providing safe and reliable jobs for local people. They also have important connections within the Cranston community, indirectly providing produce for the Cranston Senior Center and Cranston Public Schools.

In addition to potato salad season, the other busy time of the year for Eastland Foods is Thanksgiving when the company processes butternut squash. “New England’s unique because butternut squash is as ubiquitous as potatoes and turkey. We do a ton of butternut squash, around 80,000 pounds every day during the month of November,” said Glasgow.

During the Thanksgiving season, the company distributes directly to Stop & Shop locations, so this coming holiday be sure to check the underside of the pre-cut butternut squash containers for the Eastland Foods logo. That way, you’ll now know exactly where your food comes from.



QUALITY CONTROL: QA Manager Diva Gomes tests the concentration of peracetic acid in the water on the onion processing line. The test comes back positively, with the concentration level within the acceptable range.



POTATO PROCESS: One worker doing quality control checks for imperfections in the potatoes after they come out of the dicing machine.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable

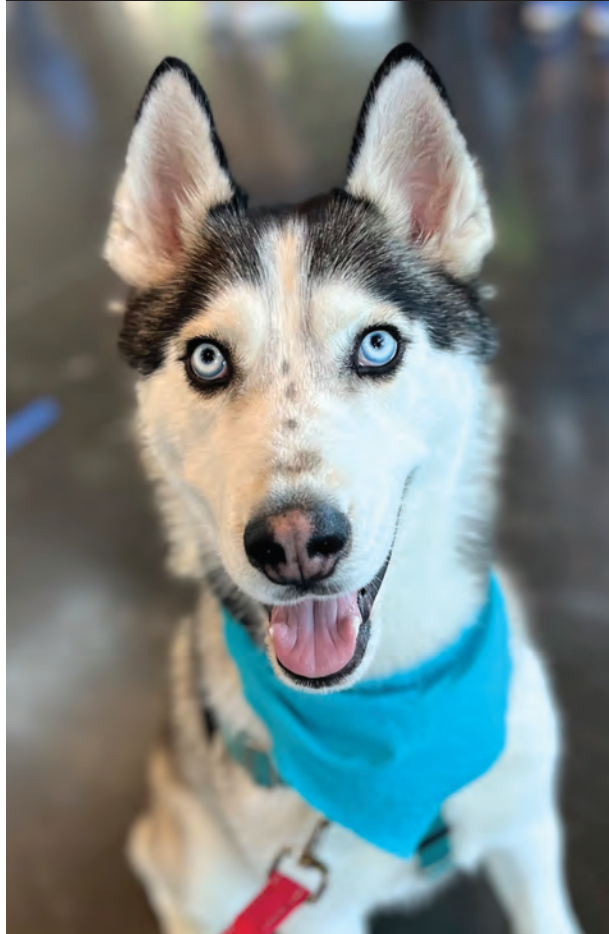


Photo credit: Donna Normand

Ken

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