

# Big questions on the ballot

## Major changes possible in Johnston if six town charter amendments pass referendum

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston voters will answer several major questions on this year’s ballot, which may substantially alter local government. Six questions were ultimately approved at a Special Meeting of Johnston Town Council on July 17. At that meeting, the culmination of more than a dozen Johnston Charter Review Commission meetings were

strained and concentrated into six ballot questions. “All 39 cities and towns have local questions on the November ballot, and Johnston stands out for proposing some of the most fundamental changes to the structure of local government,” said John Marion, executive director of Common Cause Rhode Island.

QUESTIONS - PAGE 10

## GRANITEVILLE’S GREYSTONE GRIDLOCK



**GO BACK THE WAY YOU CAME:** Orange barricades, erected by RI DOT in 2020, block both sides of the Greystone Sluiceway Bridge on the border of Johnston and North Providence. Last Wednesday, supporters of reopening and rebuilding the bridge to vehicle traffic met for a rally/press conference. *(Beacon Media photos by Rory Schuler)*

# Bridge presser applies pressure

By RORY SCHULER

The blocked off Greystone Bridge had no problem holding the weight of nearly 100 neighbors, local business owners, elected officials and a sizeable Greystone Social Club contingent last Wednesday. Will the bridge come down? And if it does, what will

the state build in its place? The state’s Department of Transportation says they’re open to a meeting, but bridge demolition plans remain underway. Chris Gosetti, a vocal advocate for re-opening and re-building the bridge for vehicular traffic, spoke first last Wednesday at a press conference called by local

legislators and the neighboring social club. “Under the (Gov.) Gina Raimondo administration the bridge was on a list of bridges to be rebuilt across Rhode Island,” Gosetti told the crowd. He described the previously scheduled bridge work.

BRIDGE - PAGE 11

# RICAS results in Johnston ‘disappointing’

## Town’s test scores still slightly better than state’s

By RORY SCHULER

In Johnston, nearly one quarter of all students are failing to meet expectations, following the release of the latest round of Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS) testing results. In English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA), only 27.7% of Johnston’s students are “Meeting or Exceeding Expectations.” And in Math, only 20.2% of students are “Meeting or Exceeding Expectations.” “The results of the test scores released to-

day are disappointing,” said Johnston Public Schools Superintendent Bernard DiLullo Jr. Johnston’s school leaders had hoped for better scores this round. “The district has purchased high quality curricula that spans grades Kindergarten through 12 in both English Language Arts and math,” DiLullo explained earlier this week. “We have instituted these programs over the last four years.” For ELA, 2023-24 RICAS results show, of all Johnston students who took the latest round of tests (1,414 students), 23.3% did not

meet expectations. “We have reading specialists and math interventionists in all schools,” DiLullo said. “The administrators in all schools and at the district level are participating in focus walks where classrooms are observed for fidelity of instruction as it relates to the high quality curricula materials. Engaged, well behaved students and instruction that is executed with fidelity has been observed on these walks.”

RICAS - PAGE 6



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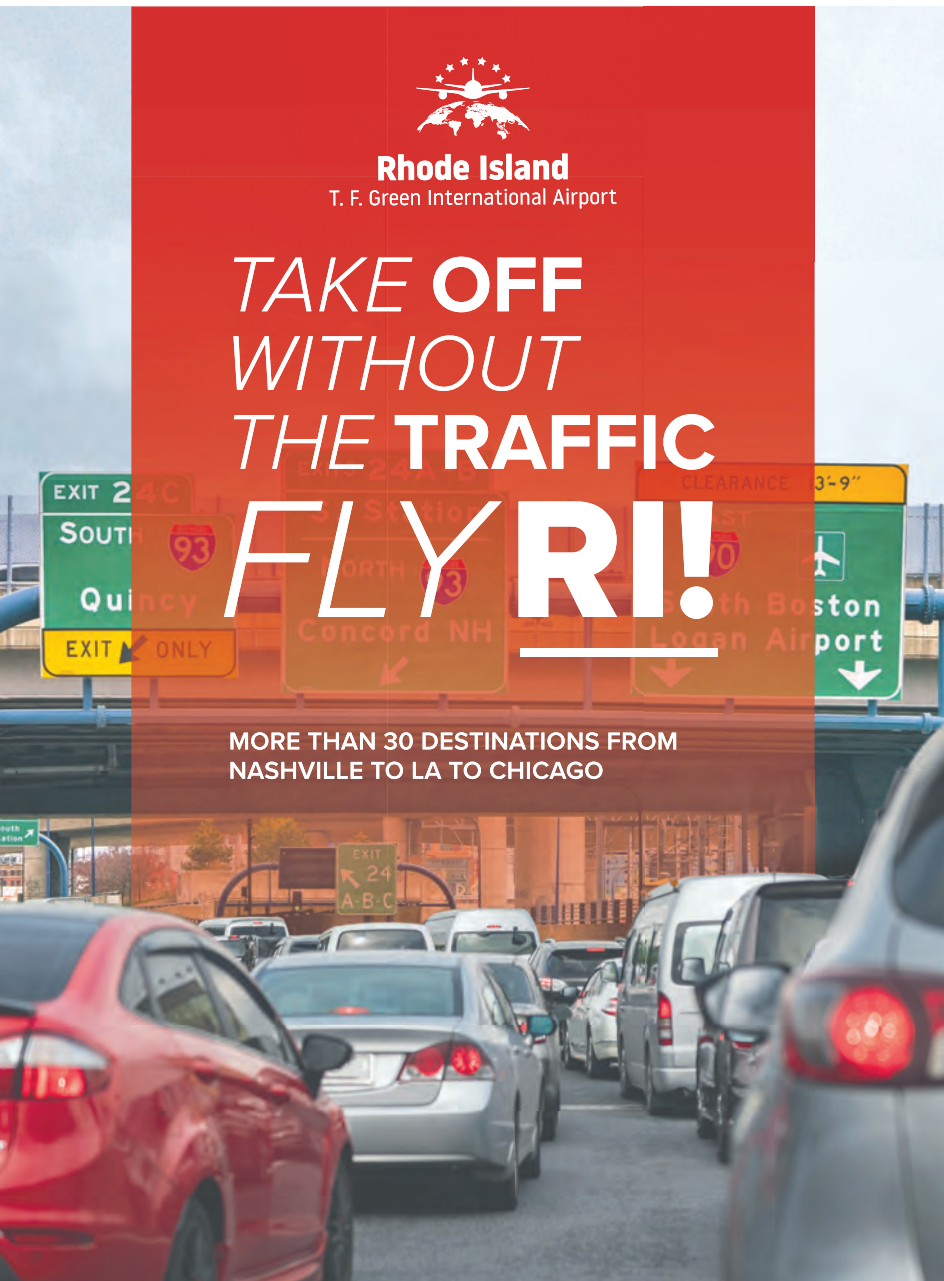
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# JHS Panther of the Week



**POTW:** This week's Panther of the Week is Marissa Morsilli. Marissa is a freshman at Johnston High School and is a member of the Girls Volleyball team. Her Coach, Ms. Hanna Awwad, nominated Marissa to represent Johnston High School at the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Leadership Conference last week. Her leadership skills are evident as she has helped the Girls Volleyball team vastly improve from last season. After high school, Marissa plans to explore careers in the FBI. (Photos submitted by Matt Velino, Johnston High School Principal)

**Editor's Note:** This is the newest installment of an ongoing weekly series highlighting Johnston's amazing students. Staff at Johnston High School will be nominating students and submitting a caption and a photo for publication. You'll find each week's winning Panther on Page 2 of the Johnston Sun Rise.

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**INTERSTATE OF MIND:** According to RIDOT Chief Public Affairs Officer Charles St. Martin, before 2024 is done, Interstate 295 northbound in between the Cranston Canyon and the Route 6 exit in Johnston will become three lanes. (*Beacon Media photos by Rory Schuler*)

# I-295 to become three lanes, other projects continue into 2025

By ADAM ZANGARI

While much of the state’s attention on road work has been on the Washington Bridge, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation has made progress throughout the year on a number of infrastructure projects in the West Bay.

Before 2024 is done, according to RIDOT Chief Public Affairs Officer Charles St. Martin, another major development will occur — Rt. 295 northbound in between the Cranston Canyon and the Route 6 exit in Johnston will become three lanes.

The expansion of 295 northbound from two to three lanes is part of RIDOT’s larger Route 37 project, and last year, the highway from the Rt. 37 on-ramp through the canyon was extended to three lanes. At the Route 6 exit, the highway becomes three lanes again until its northern terminus in Attleboro.

2025 will be a big year for Rt. 37, as three of the route’s major bridges are expected to be finished.

“The second half of these two bridges [carrying Rt. 37 over Rt. 295] will be completed by September 2025,” St. Martin told the Beacon. “The second half of Rt. 37 over Cranston Street will also be completed by September 2025. The new bridge carrying Rt. 37’s eastbound ramp over 295 north will be completed by September 2025 as well.”


Completed this year as part of the project were Rt. 37’s bridges over the Washington Secondary Bike Path — which RIDOT is currently repaving as part of another project — and the Rt. 37 westbound off-ramp.

Much more bridge work in the area lies in RIDOT’s future, however.

Earlier this year, RIDOT announced a project, christened the “I-95 15,” that its website calls the largest design-build project that the agency has undertaken in its history. The project, which focuses on replacing structurally deficient bridges along I-95 and Rt. 10, began last month with work on the bridge carrying I-95 over Elmwood Ave. in Providence.

The bridges being replaced stretch from the bridge carrying Eddy Street in Providence over I-95 at its northern terminus to the bridge carrying I-95 over Jefferson Boulevard in Warwick at its southernmost point. Two of those bridges — the one carrying Pontiac Ave-

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<b>CHARLESTOWN, RI</b> Charlestown Senior Center 100 Park Lane Wed. Oct. 23rd @ 1PM Tues. Nov. 26th @ 1PM	<b>CRANSTON, RI</b> CME Credit Union 1615 Pontiac Avenue Call To Schedule by Appointment CME: 401-463-3010 UWM: 401-331-7600	<b>MIDDLETOWN, RI</b> Howard Johnson by Wyndham 351 West Main Road Mon. Oct. 28th @ 10AM & 2PM Tues. Nov. 19th @ 10AM & 2PM Thurs. Nov. 21st @ 10AM & 2PM

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**CHANGING LANES:** According to RIDOT Chief Public Affairs Officer Charles St. Martin, before 2024 is done, Interstate 295 northbound in between the Cranston Canyon and the Route 6 exit in Johnston will become three lanes. *(Beacon Media photos by Rory Schuler)*



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

	C	B	S		A	M	T	R	A	K	
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## ■ Interstate

(Continued from page 4)

ue over Route 10 and the Jefferson Boulevard bridge — are scheduled for work to begin next year.

The project as a whole is expected to continue through 2031, though work in Warwick and Cranston will likely be done before the rest of the project, as work on the other two bridges in the cities — the one carrying Park Avenue over a Rt. 10 on-ramp and carrying I-95 over the Pawtuxet River — is expected to begin in late 2026 and 2027, respectively.

2024 will also mark the completion of a major project in Warwick — the Airport Connector beautification project, which St. Martin said will officially be finished in November.

In addition to work along the connector, most notably the installation of two signs reading “Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport” along I-95 by the exit, the project also included the repaving of portions of Post Road in front of the airport. The final step, St. Martin said, is additional landscaping work.

Currently, plans for an expansion of the T.F. Green train station are still being reviewed by Amtrak, which has been officially reviewing the plans since January.

The expansion would allow the station, which currently is only part of the MBTA Commuter Rail, to have Amtrak trains stop as well, adding it to the stations that are part of the Northeast Corridor. It would be the third of those stations connecting the corridor to an international airport, alongside stations at Newark International Airport and Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

### MORE AT MOHR LIBRARY

# Celebrate National Friends of the Library Week

By **JON ANDERSON**  
Special to the **SunRise**

It's National Friends of the Library week, Oct. 20 through Oct. 26.

Friends of Libraries are volunteer fundraising groups that advocate for their local library. Friends groups often carry out book sales, and may act as the nonprofit fundraising arm of their library. Our Friends group advocated for our new facility constructed in 2011, ran giant outdoor book sale events, and continues to pay for the library's major summer and vacation week performances.

If you'd like to help the Friends, visit the library's ongoing book sale, or ask for a membership form. You can choose your level of participation, starting at \$5. Getting involved with the Friends can be a rewarding way to be a part of the Library's work.

The Library will hold special Halloween storytimes for toddlers on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 10:30 a.m., and for preschooler age 3-5 on Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 10:30 a.m. On Saturday, Nov. 2, we'll host Tri-County's Yoga for kids age 5-12, and chess club for kids grades 1 through 5.

On the following week, Nov. 5 & 6, Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., we'll have a special guest, Mr. Guitar Man, and a musical family story time, paid for by the Friends of the Mohr Public Library.

The Library will close at noon Nov. 5, Election Day. The Library is closed Nov. 11 for Veteran's Day.

**Editor's Note:** Jon Anderson serves as Library Director at the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library, 1 Memorial Ave., Johnston, RI 02919. Call the library at 401-231-4980.

### RIDOT is Accepting Online Applications for Private Contractors



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TOWN OF JOHNSTON

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Providence, SC.

BY: Vincent P. Baccari, Jr., Town Clerk, of the Town of Johnston, Rhode Island

NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

This Greeting serves to notify and warn the Electors and Qualified Voters of the Town of Johnston to meet in ELECTIVE MEETINGS at their respective voting places, to wit, for the following purpose

NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WHERE THE POLLS WILL OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. AND CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the provisions of said Section, the electors qualified to vote in said General Election in the Town of Johnston, are hereby warned and notified to assemble on said date and record their vote for:

A PRESIDENT AND A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A REPRESENTATIVE TO REPRESENT THE 2nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN THE STATE OF R. I. IN THE 119TH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

A SENATOR TO REPRESENT THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND IN THE 119TH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

A SENATOR FROM THE 25TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT AND A SENATOR FROM THE 7TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE 13TH, 42nd, 43rd, AND 44TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS TO REPRESENT THIS TOWN IN THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SAID STATE.

TO VOTE TO APPROVE OR REJECT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITIONS AS ATTACHED HERETO TO WIT:

AND FOR THE TRANSACTION OF SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE SUCH DISTRICT MEETING.

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PRECINCT 1604	N. A. FERRI MIDDLE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM, 10 MEMORIAL AVE.
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PRECINCT 1607	AIME J. FORAND COMMUNITY HALL, 8 FORAND CIRCLE
PRECINCT 1608	N. A. FERRI MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA, LEFT-SIDE, 10 MEMORIAL AVE.
PRECINCT 1609	GRANITEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 6 COLLINS AVE.
PRECINCT 1610	SARAH DYER BARNES SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 24 BARNES AVE.
PRECINCT 1611	JOHNSTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 345 CHERRY HILL RD.
PRECINCT 1612	BROWN AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 14 BROWN AVE.

The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Given under my hand and the seal of said Town of Johnston, this 24th day of October, A.D., 2024.

.....

Vincent P. Baccari, Jr., Town Clerk

JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

LARCENY

Around 12:15 p.m. on Aug. 30, Johnston Police Ptlm. Robert Cardoza Jr. responded to BJ’s Wholesale Club, 200 Stonehill Dr., for a report of shoplifting. Security camera footage from Aug. 20, 25, and 28 revealed “a dark skinned mid 30s male” loading items into a cart and walking past the register. The stolen items totaled \$17,180.67.

Around 1:20 p.m. on Aug. 31, Ptlm. Zachary Morin and several other officers responded to BJ’s for a larceny that had just occurred. Store personnel said the alleged suspect was in the parking lot loading stolen items into his car. After the store manager identified the suspect, Officer Morin arrested Huhendi Barona De Los Santos, 51, of 412 Hartford Ave., Providence, and took him to Johnston Police Headquarters, where was charged with Larceny Over \$1,500.

He was charged with an additional three counts for the Aug. 20, 25, and 28 incidents. He was released on \$15,000 personal recognizance with a 6th District Court pre-arraignment conference date in November.

DRUG POSSESSION

At 5:10 p.m. on Aug. 30, Johnston Police Ptlm. Aaron Blanco observed a grey Honda Accord traveling westbound on Putnam Avenue. Police identified the driver as Jesus Berrio, 23, of 64 Serrel Sweet Road, Johnston.

According to police, Berrio had an active warrant from East Providence Police Department for two counts of Obstructing a Police Officer.

When Berrio was being processed at police headquarters, a bag of “suspected cocaine was discovered wedged between his groin and thigh,” according to the arrest report.

The suspected cocaine tested positive for cocaine and crack cocaine. He was charged with Possession of Schedule I-V (over 10 Grams) and Driving in Possession of Controlled Substances.

DUI

Around 5 a.m. on Sept. 29, Johnston Police Ptlm. Richard Xon responded to the area of Interstate 295 southbound and Greenville Avenue in reference to a motor vehicle facing north on the I-295 southbound on-ramp. He tried to make contact with the driver who was sleeping with the vehicle’s engine on. He then broke the passenger side window with the back-side of his pocket knife and unlocked the car door. The driver woke up and complied with Xon’s orders to turn off the vehicle and step outside.

The driver was identified as Anthony Matos Vega, 41, of 327 Grove St., Woonsocket. According to the officer, Vega’s breath smelled like alcohol, his eyes appeared to be “bloodshot/watery,” and his speech was allegedly slurred. Vega consented to standardized field sobriety tests, including a Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus, Walk and Turn, and One Leg Stand. Xon concluded that Vega was operating his vehicle under the influence.

Vega was processed at Johnston police headquarters and charged with DUI of Liquor or Drugs (1st offense, blood alcohol content unknown) and Refusal to submit a Chemical Test.

DRIVING WITH SUSPENDED LICENSE

On Oct. 12 at 1:40 p.m., Johnston Police observed Scott Mcdermott, 53, of 23 Paradise Lane, Johnston speeding and not wearing a seatbelt. An officer stopped him in the parking lot of Atwood Grill, 1413 Atwood Ave. and discovered that he had an active Bench Warrant and that his driver’s license was inactive.

He was issued a traffic summons for No Seat Belt – Operator and Driving with Suspended License – 2nd Offense.

WARRANT ARREST

At 9:16 a.m., Oct. 20, Cranston Police Officers arrested Nathan Vanasse, 34, of 3 Betsy Williams Circle, Johnston, for an active Bench Warrant. The arrest was the result of a motor vehicle crash at 241 Main St., Cranston. Vanasse was transported to the ACI, according to Cranston Police.

WARRANT ARREST

Around 12:59 p.m., Oct. 18, Cranston Police Officers arrested Diego Rancano, 36, of 1224 Cranston St., Cranston, for an arrest and affidavit warrant out of Johnston Police Department. The arrest was the result of a motor vehicle stop in the area of Budlong Road and Baldino Drive. Rancano was transferred over to Johnston Police, according to Cranston Police.

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

RICAS

(Continued from page 1)

For Math, 2023-24 RICAS results show 21.3% of Johnston’s students did not meet expectations.

“Screening, interventions, and progress monitoring is being done at set intervals throughout the year,” according to DiLullo. “High Quality Professional Development is offered five times a year and all our teachers are participating in the science of reading training to meet the state mandate for 2025. We anticipated a better outcome this year as a

result of these academic initiatives and will continue to analyze where students had challenges on the tests and focus our instruction on these areas. We will continue to strive for student success at all levels.”

Johnston’s performance, however, out-performed the Ocean State’s state-wide RICAS results.

State-wide, 23.6% of Rhode Island’s students are not meeting expectations in Math, and 26.5% of the state’s students are not meeting expectations in ELA, according to results posted on the Rhode Island Department of Education’s (RIDE) Assessment Data Portal.

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# A Community United



**THE JSPCC:** The Johnston Senior Provider Collaboration Committee (JSPCC) has been established. From left to right, (back row) Robert Piscione, Richard DelFino, and Maurizio Marchese; (front row) Loraine DiLorenzo, Michael Mangasarian, and Jennifer Cardullo Burns. *(Photo courtesy Maurizio Marchese)*

## Johnston Senior Provider Collaboration Committee launches to serve and strengthen local families

By **MAURIZIO MARCHESE**  
Special to the SunRise

In a heartwarming display of unity and shared purpose, the Johnston community has come together to establish the Johnston Senior Provider Collaboration Committee (JSPCC). Spearheaded by senior leadership at the Johnston Senior Center Richard DelFino, executive director, and Robert Piscione, operations manager, the JSPCC is a testament to the collective vision and commitment of Johnston’s senior care providers to improve the quality of life for older adults.

This unique committee was founded by four key figures in the senior care industry: Maurizio Marchese (Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center), Michael Mangasarian (The Bridge at Cherry Hill), Jennifer Cardullo Burns (Anchor Bay at Pocasset), and Loraine DiLorenzo (Cherry Hill Manor). The JSPCC aims to not only organize events for the community but also to strengthen the bonds among providers, caregivers, and residents. This new chapter in Johnston’s history is defined by compassion, collaboration, and a commitment to making sure no one faces life’s challenges alone.

The Birth of an Idea: How Bocce Brought a Community Together

The idea for this committee emerged from the heartwarming success of the first annual Bocce Tournament & Award Ceremony in 2024. Conceived by Marchese and Mangasarian, the event not only brought the sport of bocce to the forefront but also showcased the

true spirit of unity that defines Johnston. Community members, senior sponsors, and families all came together in a remarkable show of support for one another. It was in this moment that the seeds for the JSPCC were planted, igniting a vision for a formal collaboration among the area’s senior care providers.

DelFino, a proud Johnston native, saw the power in what had been achieved. He called forth the four founding board members Marchese, Mangasarian, Burns, and DiLorenzo to formalize the group and take the next step in bringing the senior community even closer. Together, they realized that by pooling their talents, resources, and collective commitment, they could do so much more for the elderly population and their families.

Meet the Committee: Champions of Senior Care

Every member of the JSPCC carries a story that fuels their dedication to senior care.

Michael Mangasarian, sales and marketing director at The Bridge at Cherry Hill. With over 10 years of experience in the Senior Living industry, Michael’s career was inspired by his personal journey with his grandmothers, whom he lost at a young age. His grandmother Margo, diagnosed with cancer, spent the last year of her life with his family. As a child, Michael witnessed his mother’s dedication, having spent over three decades in assisted living, and learned the beauty that can exist at the end of life.

Michael’s passion has turned senior care from a career into a life-

style, and his commitment to improving the industry has led him to serve on several boards throughout the assisted living profession. His aim is to ensure that seniors not only receive care but experience a rich, fulfilling chapter of life, filled with intellectual engagement, passion, and hope for a better tomorrow.

Loraine DiLorenzo, director of sales and marketing at Cherry Hill Manor, brings 14 years of experience to the Johnston Senior Provider Collaboration Committee. Having begun her journey as an activity assistant, Loraine has held various roles at Cherry Hill Manor, eventually stepping into the position of activity department manager. Her passion for enriching the lives of seniors is reflected in her hands-on work within the community, from conducting painting classes at the Johnston Senior Center to supporting fundraising efforts across independent living and assisted living centers, as well as church groups.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Loraine found deep fulfillment in maintaining connections with residents, providing vital support during a difficult time. As the world transitioned into a post pandemic, so did Loraine, moving back into business development where she continues to foster strong relationships within the community and the senior care industry. Her passion for serving seniors remains the core of her work, and she treasures the relationships built with those dedicated to improving the lives of older adults.

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# Beaming with pride

## New elementary school's coming along, projected to open in 2026

By RORY SCHULER

Earlier this week, Johnston Public Schools celebrated a milestone in the construction of the town's newest school building.

"The final beam was put into place at this morning's Johnston Elementary School Topping Off Ceremony," Johnston schools posted on social media Tuesday evening. "The new school, which is slated to be ready by the fall of 2026, is right next door to Johnston Senior High School, the Johnston Soccer Complex and the Indoor Recreation Center."

Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. addressed the crowd.

"When this project was envisioned, we were living in a different world than what we see today," he said. "Interest rates were low, materials were affordable and labor prices were manageable. Then, COVID upended everything. Low interest rates almost tripled, supply chain issues yielded astronomical price increases and a mass exodus in the labor market caused unimaginable delays."

Town and school officials also plan to build a new high school. Some elected officials, including the president of Town Council, Robert Russo, however, think the new



**TOPPING OFF:** Johnston Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bernard DiLullo (2nd from Left) served as the Master of Ceremony. He is pictured here, holding a beam momento, with JHS athletic director Justin Erickson, Assistant Superintendent Edda Carmadello and JHS Principal Matt Velino. (Photos courtesy Johnston Schools)

BEAM - PAGE 11

## JSPCC

(Continued from page 7)

Jennifer Cardullo Burns, director of sales and marketing at Anchor Bay at Pocasset, has been immersed in the health care industry since high school. Beginning her career as a CNA, she has worked in various areas of senior care, including nursing homes, assisted living, home care, and hospice. Health care runs deep in her family. Both of her parents, Joann and Paul Cardullo, were pioneers in the industry, with her father serving as an executive director and her mother as both an executive director and a nurse in various communities in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Jennifer took a short interim from health care and became a successful educator and business owner in the cosmetology industry. However, after the birth of her second daughter, she decided to return to health care, where her heart truly lies. When asked why, she explains, "I love meeting people and learning their stories. Being part of their new journey as a resource gives me a sense of fulfillment." With over 14 years of experience in her current role in the senior care industry, Jennifer now serves on multiple committees and boards, making a meaningful impact on the seniors and communities she serves.

Maurizio Marchese, director of admissions and marketing at Morgan Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, joined the health care industry in 2020 during the height of COVID-19, initially as a health care recruiter. With over 10 years of prior

experience in sales and marketing in the fashion industry, Maurizio brought his expertise to health care, driven by a passion to promote senior care and health.

As a Sicilian immigrant, Maurizio's upbringing was rooted in the European culture of family, values, and tradition. After losing his mother at the age of 23, he became the primary caregiver for his father, who suffered from dementia for over seven years. In 2024, Maurizio joined Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, working alongside administrator Robert Sechio to fulfill their shared vision of helping seniors and supporting their families. His personal experience as a caregiver allows him to connect with families on a deeper level, ensuring that loved ones receive the compassionate care they deserve.

### The JSPCC Mission

At the heart of JSPCC is a shared vision: to bring together the senior care providers of Johnston, unite them with the community, and ensure that no one in need is left behind. As families face the daunting challenges of aging, whether it's managing health, long-term care decisions, or simply finding the right resources, the JSPCC aims to serve as a guiding light.

This committee is more than just a professional alliance, it's a family of caregivers, advocates, and supporters. Their core values focus on bringing the community together, empowering families with knowledge and support, and reminding everyone that no one must navigate the journey of senior care alone.

"The values and strengths of the JSPCC extend beyond organizing

events," said DelFino. "We want to unite people from all walks of life, fostering a city where we look after one another and provide resources to serve those in need."

Brunch with Santa: The JSPCC's First Community Event

As the holiday season approaches, the JSPCC is proud to announce its inaugural community event, Brunch with Santa, on Dec. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Johnston Senior Center. This festive event is more than just a holiday gathering. It's an opportunity for the entire community to come together and celebrate the spirit of the season while learning about important resources available to support seniors and families.

Attendees will be treated to an array of family-friendly activities, including live North Pole animals, arts and crafts, and the chance to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. Children can have their photos taken on Santa's lap (free of charge using their own phones) and receive their first gift of the season. Local gourmet chefs will provide delicious food and seasonal drinks, ensuring the event is as festive as it is informative.

In addition to the holiday cheer, there will be booths offering valuable information on a wide range of services, including Home Care, Hospice, Asset Management, and Senior Planning. The JSPCC hopes that this event will not only bring joy to the community but also serve as a platform to connect people with resources that can enhance their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

"We invite everyone to come out, enjoy the festivities, and learn more about the services available to help you and

your family," said Marchese. "This event is about giving back to the community and ensuring everyone feels supported, especially during the holiday season."

### A Call to the Community

The JSPCC's journey is just beginning, and they are eager to continue growing their efforts to serve Johnston's seniors and families. The success of the Bocce Tournament ignited a spark, but the JSPCC's vision extends far beyond a single event. They aim to foster an ongoing connection within the community, bridging the gap between providers, families, and seniors themselves.

The JSPCC invites local businesses, senior care providers, and community members to get involved whether through sponsorship, participation, or simply by attending upcoming events. Together, the people of Johnston can create a network of care and support that ensures no one is left behind.

For sponsorship opportunities or to learn more about the JSPCC's future events, please contact the Johnston Senior Center at (401) 944-3343.

Through the efforts of Marchese, Mangasarian, DelFino, Burns, DiLorenzo, and Piscione, the Johnston community is embarking on a new chapter of collaboration and compassion. At its core, the JSPCC is about lifting each other up, ensuring that as we care for our seniors, we strengthen the bonds that make Johnston a thriving and united community.

**Editor's Note:** Maurizio Marchese is the Director of Admissions at Morgan Rehab & Healthcare Center, 80 Morgan Ave., Johnston.



## I-95 NORTH OVER ELMWOOD AVE WEEKEND CLOSURES



The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) will replace the I-95 bridge northbound over Elmwood Avenue on the weekend of November 1st and November 8th using rapid bridge construction. During this operation, I-95 northbound at Elmwood Avenue will be reduced to two lanes. The bridge replacement will start at 8 p.m. Friday night and re-open at 5 a.m. on Monday morning for the morning commute. Travelers are advised to expect delays and plan alternate routes. More information and detour maps can be found at: [www.ridot.net](http://www.ridot.net).



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# Opinion

## EDITORIAL

### Are the fears over Question 1 warranted?

Voters will soon be tasked with a decision that Rhode Islanders face every 10 years. Should the state convene a Constitutional Convention to ponder amendments to the state Constitution?

Rhode Island is only one of five states in the nation that gives voters a regular chance to do so, but it hasn't actually seized the opportunity since 1986, after voting in approval of convening a convention during the 1984 election.

We think it is important to outline the facts of what a Constitutional Convention would actually mean if Rhode Islanders opt to do so for the first time in 40 years.

If voters approve Question 1 in November, it will trigger a special election in 2025 to elect 75 convention delegates representing all of Rhode Island's House of Representative districts. Those delegates would then be

tasked over the course of the next year to pass proposed amendments to the state Constitution, which would then be voted on by the residents of Rhode Island like any other ballot initiative that is passed by the General Assembly.

So what are the pros and cons of doing so? It depends largely on a number of variables, unfortunately.

Those in favor of holding a convention say that it is a way to streamline long-sought-after changes that have never been able to make it through the traditional legislative process. Initiatives such as the creation of an independent Inspector General to provide a hawk-eyed analysis of the state's spending — a goal of Rhode Island Republicans for years that has never materialized — is a good example. Another would be uniform term limits for members of the legislature, which is something you can imagine would not likely be brought forth by those same legislators.

But opponents to the convention concept, like the Rhode Island ACLU and several labor unions, fear that the opportunities for widespread constitutional change carry an inherent risk of special-interest groups usurping the process and enacting unpopular changes that jeopardize civil liberties.

They point to the last time a convention was convened, which resulted in more than a dozen proposed amendments that put the burden on residents to read long-winded ballot questions, sometimes wrapped in multiple layers of nuance, that could hide a harmful change within the scope of a more attractive one. For example, they argue a ballot question in 1986 included a "free speech" provision that actually, in practice, would prohibit access to abortion.

The fear is that in today's polarized political climate, similar provisions would be included within proposed amendments to discriminate against people in the LG-BTQ community, limit access to and protections for safe abortions, and inject other political red meat seen in national politics into our state's politics.

Whether or not you think that is worth the risk largely comes down to your own political views and how much you trust the voting populace at large to understand and competently decide on the amendments that are ultimately brought forth from the convention.

The estimates of how much such an endeavor would cost have been announced to be between \$2.6 million and \$4.6 million which, if we're speaking bluntly, is a drop in the bucket for a state budget that neared \$14 billion in FY25. While anyone can make a "nickels and dimes" argument against any initiative they want, it doesn't seem to hold water when considering something as infrequent and potentially impactful as a Constitutional Convention.

The real question voters should ask themselves is whether or not they believe the current legislative process is enough to enact the kinds of changes they want to see in the state, and whether they trust the current batch of legislators charged with working that process, or if they'd prefer to have a new batch of 75 different people to do so, and do so in a significantly accelerated time frame.

Ultimately, it should not be lost that at the end of the day, the people of Rhode Island have the final say to vote for or against any constitutional amendment that is brought forth. Even if the fears come to pass that harmful amendments make it to the ballot, in theory, the majority of Rhode Island's voters and their political desires should rule, just the same as they do in any other election.

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## (Continued from page 1)

"Specifically, I'm in strong support of the town representation on the school committee," Polisena argued last week. "I think having voting members of the school committee representing the town would help foster a greater discussion

"I do not believe that the Mayor or the Town Council should have the ability to appoint someone to the School Committee who would have the same powers and authority of the members that ran for this political position and were voted to serve in the capacity of School Committee Member by the taxpayers," Civetti argues. "The taxpayers

"Currently under RI State Law the Mayor and the Town Council have no control in how the School Committee spends the funding which they receive to support their annual budget," Civetti argued. "I believe that since the Mayor and Town Council have no control over their spending then the State should pass legislation which would allow the members of School Committees throughout the State of Rhode Island to set their own tax rate. The Town could simply incorporate the School Committee approved rate for education with the Town Councils approved tax rate when sending out annual tax bills. Having the School Committee responsible for setting their own tax rate may increase accountability to the taxpayers and will avoid any claims for lack of

"Although I agree that the town does

## 10/24/24



# ■ Bridge

(Continued from page 1)

“Major rehabilitation work, superstructure, and/or total bridge replacement quoted at a total cost of \$2 million,” Gosetti told the crowd. “And if the DOT director needs help finding this information on the DOT website, please don’t hesitate to call me.”

Gosetti heard the bridge was scheduled to be demolished; but it wasn’t, for some reason. He asked a series of questions probing the state’s transparency on the bridge rebuild.

“What’s changed now?” Gosetti asked. “Why weren’t the residents and business owners notified about the decision? And why was it done quietly by the DOT Director and the Governor?”

Earlier this week, Charles St. Martin, Chief of Public Affairs for the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), confirmed the demolition option was still on the table.

“The contractor has submitted demolition plans and RIDOT is reviewing them,” St. Martin wrote on Tuesday, Oct. 22. “We have not set a timeline for completion.”

## Bridge History

The bridge has been blocked now for more than four years.

In 2020, the state determined the Greystone Sluiceway Bridge, on the border of Johnston and North Providence, was structurally deficient. After Raimondo left office for a job with the Biden administration in Washington D.C., and Gov. Dan McKee took office, the projected cost of the bridge has ballooned dramatically, to as much as \$20 million.

“The new governor took over, and that’s when the delays started,” Gosetti told the crowd last week. “The project got pushed out again, and again, and again. And sometime after that, the rug got pulled out from under us, and we found out the bridge was not going to be built after all.”

Following the press conference, RIDOT responded to a list of questions with a brief statement.

“As you know, RIDOT previously met with officials from both communities years ago and came to a consensus for building a pedestrian bridge to provide connectivity for pedestrians of both communities and to access an adjacent park,” St. Martin wrote on Monday, Oct. 21.

The bridge is next to Cricket Field, at 15 Riverside Ave. in Johnston, where signs provide glimpses into the past of the Graniteville neighborhood that once thrived along the Woonasquatucket River. Now, it’s quiet and open only to dog-walkers, reachable from just one direction through daunting Route 44 traffic.

“Parties were in agreement with that strategy at that time,” St. Martin wrote. “As a result of the communities’ change in their consensus, the Director is willing to meet with the mayors again and to discuss other options for a path forward.”

## Key Points

“The key point there is to meet with the mayors,” Gosetti said Wednesday morning.

Gosetti heads the Greystone Social Club, but says he mainly speaks as a concerned resident and business owner.

“It irks me, every time the DOT director says, ‘I met with people,’” Gosetti said. “Well you didn’t meet with the right people.”

When the state decided to build a pedestrian bridge accessible by emergency vehicles only, they did so without seeking public feedback, according to Gosetti.

“He never met with residents, business owners, town councils, the people who live here,” Gosetti said. “It should have been an open forum. DOT can’t just meet



**CALLING IT OUT:** Chris Gosetti, President of the Greystone Social Club, has helped bring attention to the sleepy Graniteville neighborhood, where a closed bridge threatens a community coma. The state's considering demolishing the bridge soon, but the structure's future replacement is unclear. *(Beacon Media photos by Rory Schuler)*



**ONE MAYOR SHOWED:** Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena was one of several local elected officials who took turns at the center of the crowd on Wednesday, Oct. 16. *(Beacon Media photos by Rory Schuler)*

with two mayors. DOT needs to meet with town councils. Everybody knows that this bridge is needed.”

Several months ago, RIDOT provided a chart showing hourly vehicle counts at the bridge prior to closure (in 2019) — estimating around 3,000 vehicles crossed the bridge each day.

“The bridge has been closed since July 2020, and in the four years since it was closed RIDOT has not observed traffic congestion along the detour route that takes approximately four minutes to travel,” Peter Alviti Jr. said in a statement, via St. Martin. “The cost of building the bridge for full use by cars and trucks is much more than that of a single-lane pedestrian bridge capable of handling rescue vehicles. The cost to do this is not consistent

with the traffic using the bridge, the short detour and no congestion observed in the four years it has carried zero numbers of cars and trucks. These facts do not justify the investment for its replacement given the many bridges across the state carrying vastly higher volumes of traffic and commerce that are in need of repair or replacement.”

Gosetti had a simple response to the director’s assertions: “They’re not the one sitting in traffic on a Friday afternoon. That’s the big picture in a nutshell.”

Alviti “sounds like a broken record,” Gosetti said. “He’s talking about things from years and years ago, but it doesn’t apply any more. Traffic is much heavier now. And this affects everyone.”

# ■ Beam

(Continued from page 8)



**FOR THE KIDS:** Students from all of Johnston’s Elementary Schools came to watch the final beam be put into place at their future school, slated to open for the 2026-27 school year. *(Photos courtesy Johnston Schools)*

high school plans don’t address potential population growth in town (Russo recently called for a pause in new school building projects). Those issues will likely be re-examined soon by the Johnston School Building Committee.

Regardless, Tuesday’s ceremony was a celebration of public works achievement.

“But here we are, on time and on budget, about to place the final beam on this historic structure, and when you really think about it, as much as the world has changed since then, much of it still remains the same,” Polisena told the crowd. “That is our duty to our children, family, friends and even total strangers. A responsibility to provide support for those in need and to foster connections that transcend time and circumstance.”

Johnston Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. served as event’s Master of Ceremony. He and other key administrators and elected officials each received a “beam moment.”

“This beam isn’t just a piece of steel, it’s a testament to our resilience as Johnston and a symbol of the community we’ve built together,” Polisena said. “As we lift it into place, we honor the past while embracing the future, reminding ourselves that progress isn’t just about physical structures, but is also about the bonds we forge and lives we impact.”

Other dignitaries in attendance at the Johnston Elementary School Topping Off Ceremony included U.S. Rep. Seth Magaziner, state Treasurer James Diossa, Rhode Island House Speaker state Rep. K. Joseph Shekarchi, the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) Deputy Commissioner of Instructional Programs Lisa Odom-Villella.

“In this moment, we are not just constructing a building, we are constructing a commitment,” Polisena concluded. “A commitment to those (who) have come before us and to those who will come after us. I’m proud to share this moment with you, because with everything that’s happened, with everything we’ve all been through, you, as residents of Johnston, you as members of our community, you’ve earned this.”



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## ■ Questions

(Continued from page 10)

have a number of problems and deficiencies with the Stormwater Management and Sewer Facilities I also feel that the Town has not provided sufficient information as of this date for the taxpayers to approve a \$40 million bond,” Civetti said on Tuesday, Oct. 22. “I would have liked to see the Town be fully transparent and hold several workshops to discuss the proposed projects and plan for utilizing this \$40 million, along with the impact this bond would have on the tax rate.”

In 2022, voters also approved a \$215 million bond to build new schools (Polisena promised those bond payments would be covered by the tax agreement with Amazon, which has yet to open its facility on Hartford Avenue but has already started making annual payments to the town).

“Many of the issues with the stormwater drainage system in the town (were) created years ago when the town allowed developers to build where they should not be building and where the town did not properly monitor these projects,” Civetti said. “If you go back and look at some of these areas where the town is looking to utilize these bond funds you will see how these areas once contained brooks, ponds, and streams yet they were filled in and the property developed. If the town would have held contractors responsible and properly managed the development years ago the taxpayers would not be asked to now pay \$40 million to help rectify the situation. Let’s hold some public workshops where the plan can be fully vetted and discussed with the taxpayers before we ask them to approve this bond.”

Johnston and Cranston are about to cooperate with the federal government in a major home buyout and demolition program aimed at tearing down more than 100 structures and building flood remediation features

in their place. That program is separate and apart from the local \$40 million bond question in Johnston.

### Longer Terms

Question 8 proposes doubling town council terms. “Another proposed change lengthens the terms of office for council members from two to four years,” Marion said. “This means councilors will have to run for office less frequently, but they’ll also be less accountable to voters.”

The Charter Review Commission recommended this change, although current elected officials questioned the need.

“I spoke out on this proposal several months ago and stand by my position that a two-year term is sufficient and provides the most flexibility to voters in keeping their elected officials on their toes,” Polisena said.

Civetti supports the change.

“I hope that the taxpayers approve this ballot question to increase the term of office from 2 years to 4 years,” Civetti said. “All other elected offices in the town (Mayor and School Committee members) currently serve 4 year terms and I do not see a reason why Town Council should be any different ... It takes some time for a newly elected Town Council member to get situated in the position and therefore I believe that a 4 year term is more appropriate than a 2 year term.”

### Budget Calendar

Polisena and Civetti have been repeatedly at odds over the town budget, and its introduction to Town Council and the public. Question 11 will ask voters to amend the Town Charter to allow the mayor to present the town’s proposed budget to Town Council on or before the first day in June each year (and the Town Council “shall enact the budget no later than the last day of June in each year”).

Polisena and Town Council have already been following that schedule for years, in blatant violation of Town Charter. Civetti cries foul every year.

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State Questions	State Questions	Local Questions
<b>1. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION</b> (Section 2 of Article XIV of the Rhode Island Constitution)  Shall there be a convention to amend or revise the Rhode Island Constitution?  <input type="radio"/> Approve <input type="radio"/> Reject	<b>5. CULTURAL ARTS AND THE ECONOMY GRANT PROGRAM</b> <b>\$10,000,000</b>  For purposes of funding for 1:1 matching grants to continue the Cultural Arts and the Economy Grant Program administered by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA) for capital improvement, preservation, and renovation projects for public and non-profit artistic centers, performance centers, museums, and cultural art centers located throughout the State of Rhode Island, to be allocated as follows:  a. Tomaquag Museum - \$2,000,000 b. Newport Contemporary Ballet - \$2,000,000 c. Trinity Repertory Company - \$2,000,000 d. Other funds to be allocated by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts - \$4,000,000  <input type="radio"/> Approve <input type="radio"/> Reject	<b>9. CODE OF ETHICS</b> (Resolution 2024-36 of the Johnston Town Council adopted July 17, 2024)  Shall Section 19-4 of Article XIX entitled "General Provisions" be amended so that all elected and appointed officers and employees of the town government, including the schools and members of the school committee, shall abide by the state and local code of ethics?  <input type="radio"/> Approve <input type="radio"/> Reject
<b>QUESTIONS 2 - 5</b> (Chapter 117 Public Laws 2024)  Shall the act passed by the General Assembly at the January 2024 session allowing Rhode Island to issue bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes to pay for the projects listed below, be approved, and the State be allowed to issue these bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes as outlined in the law?	<b>6. FINANCING FOR THE RENOVATION, REPAIR, AND IMPROVEMENT FOR THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND SEWER FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE TOWN</b> <b>\$40,000,000</b> <b>BONDS AND NOTES</b> (Local Acts 032/033 - Acts and Resolves of 2024)  Shall an act, passed at the 2024 session of the General Assembly, entitled, "An Act authorizing the Town of Johnston to issue not to exceed \$40,000,000 general obligation bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness to finance construction, additions, renovation, improvement, alteration, repair, furnishing and equipping of stormwater management and sewer facilities throughout the Town" be approved?  <input type="radio"/> Approve <input type="radio"/> Reject	<b>10. CREATION OF AUXILIARY PROBATE JUDGE POSITION</b> (Resolution 2024-37 of the Johnston Town Council adopted July 17, 2024)  Shall Sections 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, and 7-4 of Article VII entitled "Probate Judge" be amended so that an additional position of Auxiliary Probate Judge position is created and whose appointment and compensation shall be by the Town Council?  <input type="radio"/> Approve <input type="radio"/> Reject
<b>2. HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES - \$160,500,000</b>  For capital improvements to higher education facilities, to be allocated as follows:  a. University of Rhode Island Biomedical Sciences Building - \$87,500,000 b. Rhode Island College Cybersecurity Building - \$73,000,000  <input type="radio"/> Approve <input type="radio"/> Reject	<b>7. TOWN REPRESENTATION ON THE JOHNSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE</b> (Resolution 2024-34 of the Johnston Town Council adopted July 17, 2024)  Shall Section 15-1 of Article XV entitled "School Department" be amended so that beginning with the swearing in of the newly elected members of the Town Council and School Committee in January 2025, the membership of the school committee shall be expanded to nine (9) total members serving staggered terms and shall consist of five (5) members elected by districts of the Town, two (2) members appointed by the Mayor, and two (2) members appointed by the Town Council?  <input type="radio"/> Approve <input type="radio"/> Reject	<b>11. BUDGET INTRODUCTION AND ENACTMENT</b> (Resolution 2024-38 of the Johnston Town Council adopted July 17, 2024)  Shall Section 8-3 of Article VIII entitled "The Budget" be amended so that the Mayor shall present the Town's proposed budget to the Town Council on or before the first day in June in each year and the Town Council shall enact the budget no later than the last day of June in each year?  <input type="radio"/> Approve <input type="radio"/> Reject
<b>3. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY - \$120,000,000</b>  To increase the availability of housing, support community revitalization, and promote home ownership, to be allocated as follows:  a. Affordable Housing - \$80,000,000 b. Acquisition and Revitalization - \$10,000,000 c. Homeownership - \$20,000,000 d. Site Acquisition - \$5,000,000 e. Housing Related Infrastructure - \$4,000,000 f. Municipal Planning - \$1,000,000  <input type="radio"/> Approve <input type="radio"/> Reject	<b>8. FOUR-YEAR TERMS FOR JOHNSTON TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS</b> (Resolution 2024-35 of the Johnston Town Council adopted July 17, 2024)  Shall Section 3-1 of Article III entitled "Town Council" be amended so that beginning with the general election of 2026, the Town Council shall serve a term of four (4) years?  <input type="radio"/> Approve <input type="radio"/> Reject	<b>12. AUDIT AND AUDIT STANDARDS FOR THE TOWN AND SCHOOL DEPARTMENT</b> (Resolution 2024-39 of the Johnston Town Council adopted July 17, 2024)  Shall Section 3-10 of Article III entitled "Town Council" and Section 15-5 of Article XV entitled "School Department" be amended so that the Town Council, with the School Department cooperating in financial reporting, must complete an annual detailed audit in compliance with government auditing standards and within the time period mandated by state law?  <input type="radio"/> Approve <input type="radio"/> Reject



# ■ Questions

(Continued from page 12)

“A proposed change to the dates for introducing and passing the town budget could give less time for scrutiny by the council and public input by moving by shortening the window between the budget’s introduction and adoption,” Marion said.

Polisena said he supports the “presentation of budget by June 1 instead of April 1.”

“Having a town budget ready by April 1 is not in the best interests of the taxpayer as it is not accurate at such an early stage,” Polisena explained. “I believe the budget should be fine tuned over the longest period possible as we do not know what our state funding level is often until June each year. Passing a budget without such revenue figures would be negligent.”

Civetti first turned to the budget schedule language in the current Town Charter.

“Currently the Charter requires the Mayor to present the proposed budget to the Town Council on or before the first day of April each year,” Civetti said. “In addition, the Charter states that the Town Council shall hold one or more public hearings on the proposed budget and shall enact the budget ordinance on or before the first day of May in each year. If you look over the past decade or so the Mayor has never submitted the proposed budget to the Town Council by April 1st and the Town Council has never held multiple public meetings on the budget.”

The budgeting process in Johnston is late and opaque; the budget is dropped and Town Council votes almost immediately after, sometimes just hours before the start of the new fiscal year (sometimes after).

“Usually the budget is presented to the members of the Council separately in a closed meeting with the Mayor, the Chief of Staff, and the Finance Director and then one public meeting is held to discuss and vote on the budget,” Civetti explained. “I do not believe that this current process is transparent or consistent with the Town Charter. I believe that the Town Council should hold several public meetings to vet the proposed budget prepared by the Mayor. The Council should ask individual Directors and members of the School Department to discuss their budget at these meetings so that the Council has a full understanding of the budget. Therefore, I believe that waiting until June 1st for the Mayor to submit the budget for review does not provide adequate time for the Town Council to do their proper due diligence on the annual budget, which now exceeds \$134 million. I recommend that taxpayers vote No on this question and require the Mayor and Town Council to comply with the current Charter requirements. I am willing to bet that most of the RI Municipalities have their budgets submitted to the Town Council, hold public hearings, and approve the annual budget prior to the proposed June



1st date being suggested for the initial submission of the Mayor’s proposed budget.”

## The Rest

Four final ballot questions ask voters to hold elected and appointed town officials to the state’s Code of Ethics, create an Auxiliary Probate Judge position, amend the town’s budget calendar, and a Town Council-led (School Committee-aided) audit of school district finances.

“Other changes will have little practical effect,” Marion argued. “One proposed change specifies that all elected school department employees and officials will be subject to the state and local ethics codes. All elected and appointed municipal officials and employees in Rhode Island are already subject to the state’s Code of Ethics. This is largely a feel good measure with little or no actual impact.”

Polisena and Civetti both support the code of ethics amendment.

They also both support the creation of an “Auxiliary Probate” position.

“I think the courts need flexibility in scheduling and having an auxiliary probate judge will guarantee that court sessions do not get rescheduled due to the unavailability of a single judge,” Polisena said. “Local judges are practicing attorneys and there are many times their schedule conflict with the town probate court date. The expense of an auxiliary probate judge is minimal, and the benefit far outweighs the minimum cost.”

Civetti said he understands that the “position is not a fully paid position rather the position is only paid whenever the auxiliary judge fills in for the probate judge.”

“I believe this position is something that is needed to ensure that the Town continues to serve the residents of our community,” Civetti said. “The Town had an unfortunate incident occur this past year where we had a vacancy in the position of Probate Judge. Probate is somewhat of a specialty and we should have had an Auxiliary Judge available that could have stepped in to fill the vacancy. Voting to approve this question will ensure that we have someone qualified to fill in for the Probate Judge so that all probate matters are heard in a timely and efficient manner.”

The sitting Probate Judge faced criminal charges; and under the old Town Charter, the town’s solicitor was to temporarily fill the position. This ballot measure should prevent that in the future.

## Public Messaging

Civetti raised concerns with the presentation of the ballot questions to the public.

“Let me start by saying that I believe that the Town of Johnston did not do a sufficient job in providing information to the taxpayers about these questions which appear on the 2024 Ballot,” Civetti argued. He shared a story about “taxpayers” with whom he has spoken “who have already voted said they were surprised and caught off guard by the local questions which appeared on the back of their ballot.”

“They indicated that they had no idea what the questions were about and wished that the Town of Johnston had sent out some notice ahead of the election to provide information about the local questions which they were going to be asked to vote on,” Civetti said. “The State of Rhode Island did a mailing to all taxpayers about the State questions. Why didn’t the Town of Johnston do the same for the Town questions?”

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**Editor's Note:** Geoff Decker is a Cranston resident and regular contributor to the Cranston Herald and Johnston SunRise.



# It's 'Witching Hour...' and 10 minutes...at Burbage

Theatre Review by  
DON FOWLER

Burbage Theatre presents a special Halloween event, a quirky, comedic 70 minutes of ghost stories titled "Witching Hour Social Club" by Fall River playwright James Lucey and directed by Allison Crews.

Nothing heavy here, just a couple around a campfire waiting for others to arrive by listening to old cassette tapes from their high school storytelling club.

Clever staging produces a curtain in front of the campfire, where nearly 20 actors play out four short stories.

The first vignette gets your attention as two friends examine a mysterious box that has appeared on a dresser.

The second one involves a group of people breaking into a haunted house. The third, and the funniest, involves two people running away from a wolf while discussing the best way to stay alive.

The fourth one veers from the usual ghost story theme and left me hanging.

It's all silly Halloween stuff that will provide a few chuckles and perhaps a shock or two.

"Witching Hour Social Club" is at Burbage Theater through Oct. 31. Go online at [www.burbagetheatre.org](http://www.burbagetheatre.org) for tickets.

## Prison holds woman for embezzlement

In March of 1924, 40-year-old Maude Tefft gave a guest presentation at Rhode Island State College — now known as The University of Rhode Island — on the subject of Banking in Relation to College Societies. Maude was employed as treasurer of the Kingston Trust Company Bank which stood across the street from the college, a branch of the People's Savings bank of Providence. No one in the audience that day knew that Maude was embezzling money from the bank and would be behind bars the next year.

Born on Oct. 16, 1884, Maude was the daughter of South Kingstown stonemason Andrew Norman Tefft and his wife Hannah Griffin (Sisson). Maude was 21 years old, living at home with her parents and working as a school teacher when her father passed away at the age of 49. After her father's death, she remained living at the Columbia Street house with her mother and adult siblings and secured a job as a book-keeper in the Town Clerk's office. By 1920, she had become assistant treasurer at the Kingston Trust Company Bank on Kingston Hill.

### Back in the Day



by  
KELLY  
SULLIVAN

16. During the ensuing trial, the judge stated that he recognized that her "standing in the community before this occurrence, the trust that her neighbors had in her destroyed, the disgrace she has brought upon herself and the remorse which naturally follows a thing of this kind has punished the defendant considerably." He would not, however, overlook the crime she had chosen to commit. "I feel obliged, under my oath of office," he announced, "to send you away as a deterrent for others."

On March 13, 1925, Maude was sentenced to serve 18 months of hard labor at the Woman's Reformatory at the Rhode Island State Prison in Cranston. After she arrived, it became obvious that she was physically unable to complete the work required of her due

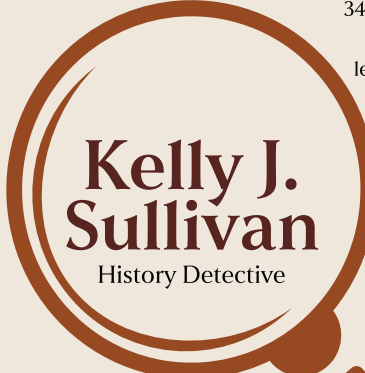
to a spinal injury she had suffered five years earlier. She was therefore spared from physical labor during her sentence.

After half her sentence had been served, Maude went up for parole on Dec. 22, 1925. She was granted parole, which was scheduled to begin on Jan. 1, 1926, however the parole board decided to release her the following night so that she could spend Christmas with her mother. On the evening of Dec. 23, her brother picked her up at the prison and took her to their mother's house in Peace Dale for an unexpected holiday celebration.

The Kingston Trust Company was forced into receivership and never reopened. The building, located at 2587 Kingston Road, now houses the South County Art Association.

After her siblings married and moved away, and their mother passed on, Maude continued living in the Columbia Street house, alone. She died in 1969 and is buried with her family at Riverside Cemetery in South Kingstown.

*Kelly Sullivan is a Rhode Island columnist, lecturer and author.*



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# The after effects of Milton

## Life Matters



with  
LINDA  
PETERSEN

their usual vibrant tropical hues, the leaves have turned a crispy shade of brown and orange, having been “wind-burned” thanks to the salty spread from the bay in the hurricane winds.

Most of the gas stations have run out of gas after filling up the tanks of hurricane evacuators. We were lucky enough to have a little bit of gas to run our generator, a God-send, in an area where electricity is non-existent. While it has been reported that 20,000 electrical workers from 41 states and Canada are working around the clock, many of us, even a week later, have no power. “Crews continue to work around the clock and will not stop until every customer has their lights back on,” Florida Power and Light said in a statement.

Bugs are in abundance, especially mosquitoes. It’s a mad dash to get into my car and to slam the door quick or risk turning my vehicle into a flying, buzzing nightmare. It is dangerous enough to drive when there is no electricity, as the red lights and the green lights do not work. We have been instructed to treat each intersection as a four-way stop...easier said than done when the roads are six lanes across each way. Florida drivers are not the best in the first place, but to add this challenge makes them more dangerous than ever.

Because the hurricane knocked out the power, several restaurants fired up generators and served food as long as people could come in to order and to pay with cash. One

local Chinese place really stepped up, offering combination plates at a deep discount. It worked out great for everyone: the restaurant sold off ingredients instead of tossing them, and they made some cash for much-needed repairs. Hungry neighbors were thrilled that they got a hot meal even though they had to wait in a line halfway down the parking lot. Even folks who don’t normally eat Chinese food were so grateful, they promised to make it their new go-to.

Help is available everywhere I turn. The US National Guard has set up many points of distribution for things like water, food, personal care items, dog food, and cleaning supplies. They will even come to one’s home to help remove debris, especially important for those whose windows and roofs have been blown in and whose bedroom dresser has been thrown in the front yard, askew, with important photos and papers scattered in the mud.

The US Army corps of engineers have a free “Blue Roof Program” where they provide fiber-reinforced, industrial-strength sheeting to protect storm-damaged roofs until homeowners can make permanent repairs. It is especially heartbreaking to see whole neighborhoods of blue roofs, which will stay that color for up to two years as homeowners fight with insurance adjusters.

For those without electricity (and thus, no hot water), feeling storm-grubby is an unfortunate reality. Comfort Stations are strategically placed around the community. These locations provide free resources, including restrooms, hot showers, laundry facilities, Wi-Fi, and cell phone assistance. Individuals are asked to bring their own personal shower supplies and a towel, as well as laundry supplies including detergent and dryer sheets. Many community gyms also offer free showers for

those affected by the hurricane.

While there are many downsides to experiencing a hurricane, there are definitely some surprising upsides as well. Nothing says family bonding more than playing cards in candlelight in lieu of playing games on my iPad or watching television, (although I did miss, once again, “Survivor.”) This provided a newfound appreciation FOR games on the iPad and watching television, and I was near-giddy when both were restored. Also, like snow days in Rhode Island, the hurricane provides extra time off of school and work. It also brings people together, both relatives and strangers. I wanted to know where all of my Florida friends were during the storm to make sure they were safe. After the initial hurricane, Hubby was instrumental in helping our neighbors remove debris from their yards. County wide pickups at the curb were provided for five piles: one for vegetation, tree limbs and other organic matter, one for building materials such as siding, shingles, windows and roofs, one for household items such as couches, mattresses and kitchen tables, another for the regular recycled items, (such as my many Diet Coke and Hubby’s whiskey bottles) and one pile for regular garbage. In many cases, the piles were higher than the damaged house itself.

The biggest upside of the hurricane for me was gaining a whole new appreciation for life. I know it sounds a bit corny, but after facing the fear of dying in the wind and flood, I was absolutely delirious to still be here. House or no house, damage or no damage, electricity or no electricity — I was alive! It’s amazing how a near-brush with a death-defying hurricane can strip away all the small worries and leave you with nothing but pure gratitude for simply breathing.





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Lastly, don't forget to check out DJ Bingo Night every Monday night from 7:00pm - 9:30pm and DJ Trivia Night every Wednesday night from 7:00pm - 9:30pm. Bring your friends and enjoy the fun, food & prizes. These events are always huge crowd-pleasers.

Check out A Taste of Italy Deli & Caffe on Facebook to learn more about Psychic Medium Debbie Squizzero, coming to do a group reading on November 7th. This event requires tickets which are available at [www.debbiesquizzero.com](http://www.debbiesquizzero.com) for \$65.

A Taste of Italy is found at 1302 Atwood Avenue in Johnston. The deli is open Monday-Friday (10:00am - 6:00pm), Saturday and Sunday (10:00am - 4:00pm). To see more of their delicious food, follow them on Facebook. For more information, call 401-942-1234.

DoorDash and GrubHub have come to the deli, with UberEats to follow shortly!



Check out Johnston's culinary sensation, A Taste of Italy, an Italian deli and caffe on Atwood Avenue ~ serving up classic Italian dishes and sumptuous meals, antipasto trays and desserts, just like these, every single day.

By JENNIFER COATES

It was said by renowned Italian chef Marcella Hazen that "There is no such thing as 'Italian haute cuisine' because there are no high or low roads in Italian cooking. All roads lead to the home, to las cucina di casa."

No words could be truer than these when describing the home cooking of chef Jennifer Kaya of Johnston's popular A Taste of Italy, Deli & Caffe ~ everything tastes as if it came straight from your own Nona's kitchen. The great Italian classics. Traditional ingredients, traditional recipes, traditional techniques, traditional seasonings ~ but still modern, creative and always made in-house! Always fresh, always vibrant, always delicious, always authentic.

The menu at A Taste of Italy, all of which is available for take-out or dine-in, is diverse and tantalizing. Begin your day here with tastebud-teasing cinnamon rolls, muffins and donuts. There

are many other traditional Italian baked goods such as their yummy cannolis and sfogliatellas ~ perfect to linger over with a cup of cappuccino or espresso.

When the owners of A Taste of Italy, Deli & Caffe opened this eatery, they knew their most important decision was who would be the chef. They also knew they had nailed that decision as soon as they hired talented chef, Chef Kaya. Chef Kaya prepares the great Italian "comfort foods"; think lasagna, eggplant, chicken cutlets, veal cutlets, frittatas, stuffed mushrooms and peppers, pasta dishes galore, grilled vegetables, endless salads (including snail, caprese and tomato/cucumber salads). Don't forget FISH & CHIPS every Friday (call ahead to order!)

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# Sports

## JHS Athletic HOF inducts star-studded class

### Corsinetti earns Mazzie Award

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston Athletic Hall of Fame inducted its 2024 class this past Sunday in the school auditorium, celebrating 10 individual figures and two teams in a star-studded lineup.

The individual honorees included: Tim Tedesco (wrestling); Jake Coro (baseball); Nick Raposo (baseball); Jon Soto (wrestling); John Willette (baseball); Kyle Nelson (football, baseball, basketball, track); Ryan Yankee (basketball); Zach Clesas (baseball) and Gary Salzillo (contributor). The teams inducted were the 1989 boys hockey team and the 1995 slow-pitch softball team.

Highlighting the roster



**HALL OF FAMERS:** Members of the 1995 JHS slow-pitch softball team that was inducted on Sunday. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

### Panthers get back on track with win over Avengers

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Johnston football team picked up a much-needed win last Friday night when it traveled to East Greenwich and ran past the Avengers in a 26-7 victory.

Senior Dean Paris was a force on both sides of the ball for the Panthers, as he rushed for three touchdowns on offense then returned and interception to the house for another score on defense. Paris rushed for 152 yards and also recorded 42 yards of receiving.

Quarterback Matt Clements finished the day going 9-for-18 passing. Throwing over 100 yards in the air. Lyalo Harrison-Perez hauled in four receptions to pick up 42 yards of offense as well.

Jonny Costa also grabbed an interception on defense as well.

With the win, Johnston improved to 2-3 and will next



**BACK ON TRACK:** Johnston wide receiver Lyalo Harrison-Perez battles through East Greenwich defenders last week. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/ rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

■ PANTHERS - PAGE 19



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TWO-WAY PLAYER: Dean Paris breaks a tackle last week.

## ■ Panthers

(Continued from page 18)

be taking on Pilgrim this Friday in War-

wick. The Pats have won back to back

games, most recently upsetting top-seed-

ed Classical last weekend. The Panthers

will wrap up the regular season by tak-

ing on the Purple at home the following

week.

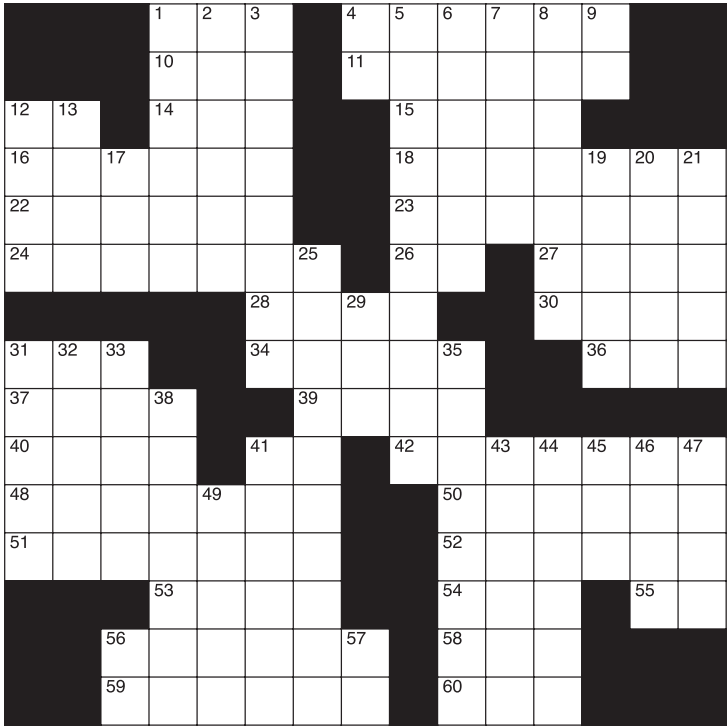


PANTHER PACK: Members of the Johnston defense work together.



MAKING THE STOP: Mike Messina and Jonny Costa take down a ball carrier.

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### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. "60 Minutes" network
- 4. Train line
- 10. Go quickly
- 11. Straightforward
- 12. Canadian province
- 14. At any rate (abbr.)
- 15. Genealogy
- 16. Make changes
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. In a way, turned up
- 23. Type of ship
- 24. Agents of one's downfall
- 26. Not out
- 27. Something to scratch
- 28. Round water pot
- 30. Refreshing green fruit (slang)
- 31. Promotions
- 34. Primordial matters
- 36. One-time world power (abbr.)
- 37. Source of illumination
- 39. The content of cognition
- 40. An Arab ruler
- 41. South Dakota

- 42. Gnawed at with teeth
- 48. Hawaiian island
- 50. Smaller
- 51. Of a single person
- 52. Rigid bracelet
- 53. Barbary sheep (Fr.)
- 54. Not even
- 55. Specific gravity
- 56. Engage in petty bargaining
- 58. Boxing's "GOAT"
- 59. Split between parties
- 60. Notable offensive

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. A place to lounge
- 2. Skewed views
- 3. Peacefully
- 4. Commercial
- 5. Auxiliary forces
- 6. Large mollusk
- 7. Take out again
- 8. Sharp and forthright
- 9. Knight (chess)
- 12. Source of fiber
- 13. Flesh covering some birds' beaks
- 17. Energy
- 19. Night monkeys genus
- 20. Small, sharp nails
- 21. Pleasant-smelling liquid
- 25. Affirms one's hold
- 29. CNN's founder
- 31. Texans can't forget it
- 32. "Oppenheimer" actor Matt
- 33. Expression
- 35. Vessel
- 38. Lacking poetic beauty
- 41. Tall, swift and slender dog
- 43. Sports personality Michelle
- 44. Robber
- 45. Liquefied natural gas
- 46. Snake-like fishes
- 47. The most worthless part of something
- 49. City in Crimea
- 56. Bad grades
- 57. Reichsmark

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# Circle hooks not savings striped bass as thought

By CAPT DAVE MONTI

Fish managers thought that circle hooks would help save striped bass. That was the assumption when they created a rule in 2020 requiring anglers to use circle hooks when fishing with bait for striped bass.

Preliminary studies from the late 1990s suggested that circle hooks result in lower rates of gut hooking than regular J-hooks. However, those studies relied on an older scientific method that used cages to monitor survival for 2-3 days after fish were caught. Additionally, the style of circle hooks available today are quite different than were available 25 years ago.

For these reasons, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) biologists conducted a study using modern circle hooks and modern scientific methods to measure the conservation benefit of the "striped bass circle hook rule."

Over two years, they caught 716 striped bass with J-hooks and three popular circle hooks models. Before releasing them, they tagged nearly half of these fish with electronic transmitters that measured tail beats. Using an array of receiver buoys, they remotely monitored their survival for two months.

In an article on their website DMF said, "Surprisingly, we found no significant difference in mortality between any of the circle hooks and J-hooks. Why is this? Well, we have a few ideas: first, there isn't much difference in the gap width (distance from hook point to shaft) between modern circle hooks and J-hooks, whereas older circle hook models used to have a much narrower gap. Also, the earlier studies relied on chunked menhaden for bait, and many of our fish were caught using live mackere."

It's important to remember that this rule also prevents fishing with baited treble hooks, which used to be a common practice. An ongoing follow-up study suggests that both bait fishing and treble hooks cause more injury than lures with single hooks.

Visit Evaluating the conservation benefit of circle hooks for the Atlantic Striped Bass recreational fishery.

## Learn about surf and wetsuit fishing from the experts

Lean surf casting strategies and tactics from surfcasting experts Jeff Sullivan and Paul Chapman at a Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) seminar Monday, October 28, 7:00 p.m. at the West Warwick Elks Lodge, 60 Clyde Street, West Warwick.

This duo will speak about how to target, approach, and prepare for surfcasting and wetsuit fishing including tips, tactics, and gear for targeting striped bass during spring to fall in our coastal waters..

Sullivan, a contributing writer for "The Fisherman" magazine and "On the Water" magazine, is an associate at Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, RI and is a mate on "K&M Coastal Charter." Paul Chapman has been featured in "On The



**NEW FINDINGS:** MA Division of Marine Fisheries study says, "We found no significant difference in striped bass mortality between circle hooks and J-hooks." (Submitted photos)

Water" magazine, is a "Striper Cu." tournament winner, and avid surf casting enthusiast.

Food will be available for purchase by Five-0-Five Fusion Catering starting at 5:30 p.m. Active RISAA members are free, non-members are asked to make a \$10 donation to the RISAA Scholarship Fund. Contact Scott Travers, Executive Director at 401-826-2121 or [travers@risaa.org](mailto:travers@risaa.org) for information.

### Where's the bite?

Striped bass, bluefish, bonito. Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "Fish coming from the beach, rocks, and back in the ponds. We had a full moon last week which has ramped up the amount of water moving. The increase in water movement has been causing bait to get flushed out of the ponds and bigger fish taking full advantage. Large amounts of peanut bunker have begun to move out of the pond. Pond fishing has been great this week with solid sized fish being caught on large soft plastics and top water spoons. Mullet are still cruising around in schools in the farthest back coves. Reports of nice sized fish coming from the beach at night as an alternative. We have had some bay anchovies along the beach this week bluefish as well as shad have been on them."

Ed Lombardo, expert fly fisher and instructor, said, "I fished Narrow River last week and for the first time since the spring we got into a nice number of shad and striped bass. I'd say seven bass mostly 1."to 2."and one beautiful fish at 3." I went fishing this Monday and caught one striped bass at 2."and another at 3." all on my Ed'fly hot pink or all burgundy colors."

"Anglers have been catching striped bass in Narragansett Bay as schools of fish have been popping up everywhere. And, a special treat bonito have entered the Bay too. Anglers fishing from the Rocky Point Fishing Pier were even able to hook up with bonito."said Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick.

East End Eddie Doherty, Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author, said, "The Canal has heated up for October! "Jumpin' Jo."England caught a 37-inch striper with a 5-ounce green mack Fish-Lab during the rising east flow and Bill "On the Gril."Prodouz watched a 34-inch bass explode on his 3-ounce white Guppy JoBo on the same tide as well as a 32 incher later."

Tautog. The tautog limit increased October 15 from three fish/person to five fish/person with one fish larger than 2."allowed, all others must be between 1."and under 2." a ten fish per boat limit is in



**SEMINAR COMING UP:** Striped bass fishing experts Jeff Sullivan (above photo) and Paul Chapman will be guest speakers Monday, October 28 on wet suit and surfcasting fishing.

place. Giddings of the Tackle Box, said, "It has been windy this week but anglers getting out before high winds were catching keeper tautog to their limit from Conimicut Point to the Newport and Jamestown bridges."

"Black fishing is red hot, most boats finding their limit. With a good short to keeper ratio. Make sure your rigs are tied well and your line is strong enough to handle a big fish taking you into the rocks. You don't want to lose your biggest blackfish of the season."said O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle.

Freshwater fishing. The largemouth bass bite has been

good as fish are starting to stage in fall areas. Trout stocking locations in Massachusetts are updated daily, visit Trout stocking report | Mass.gov for an interactive map. Visit [www.dem.ri.gov/fishing](http://www.dem.ri.gov/fishing) for ponds stocked in RI.

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





**COMMUNITY LEADER:** Chris Corsinetti (left) as he receives the Gary V. Mazzie Lifetime Achievement Award.



**TEAMMATES:** Nick Raposo, Zach Clesas, John Willette and Jake Coro, who were all inducted and were teammates on the baseball team.



**FORMER GOALIE:** Frank Kiser, who was a past JHS HOF inductee and the goalie of the 1989 hockey team, addresses the crowd on Sunday.

## ■ HOF

(Continued from page 18)

was former coach Chris Corsinetti, who won the Gary V. Mazzie Lifetime Achievement Award.

Corsinetti has been a significant presence in Johnston athletics for more than 30 years. He started by working at the town rec center as a teenager and went on to coach the middle school girls basketball team.

He then would join the late coach Dan Mazzulla's staff coaching the girls basketball team at JHS. After serving as Mazzulla's assistant for 15 seasons, he was elevated to head coach in 2011 and stayed in that position until 2019. During his JHS tenure as both an assistant and head coach, he was instrumental in the team winning multiple Division II titles and guided the Panthers to the state Final Four in 2018.

"I'm extremely honored to get the award. I'm very appreciative to the Mazzie family. The standards that Gary set at the high school, his legacy lives on through this hall of fame and to receive this award is an honor," said Corsinetti.

Corsinetti thanked his mentors and family, specifically his wife Gina, son Anthony and daughters Kara and Ali, for their support over the decades.

"Just looking back, we've lost a lot of great guys along the way that helped me. Guys like Dan Mazzulla that helped me get into coaching. Looking back on my first year at the

high school in 1997, seeing recent players (at the induction), I wouldn't change a thing. The relationships you make are rewarding," said Corsinetti. "(My family was) so supportive throughout my time at JHS. Coaches' wives are very special and my wife's support contributed greatly to our success."

Corsinetti and his brother Anthony, co-owners of Hartford Paving, have also contributed resources over the years to the town's athletic department. Corsinetti is proud to give back to Johnston.

"My parents always told my brother and I to give back to the community, how important it is. That's something we'll always do and we always try to lead with our hearts. I started in the rec department under Dan Mazzulla and Vin LaFazia. I got into coaching, reffing. It's a close knit community and recreation is the center of that. It's a special community," said Corsinetti.

More than anything, Corsinetti is thankful for those he bonded with over the years both on the court and off.

"When you first get into coaching, you do it for the love of coaching and the love of the sport you're coaching. Very quickly it becomes your love for the players, those relationships, the sports become a secondary thing," Corsinetti said. "Those teaching moments, the bus rides, team dinners. The relationships built along the way were probably more rewarding than the championships."

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# Anchorwomen blank Huskies

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sophomore setter Yuleisy Alvelo (San Juan, Puerto Rico) posted a double-double with 32 assists and 10 digs as Rhode Island College picked up its second Little East win of the season in a 3-0 shutout vs. Southern Maine at The Murray Center on Saturday afternoon.

RIC, which was without its top offensive threat in sophomore outside hitter Sarina Marines (Cranston), took the first by seven, 25-18.

The visitors pushed RIC to the limit in both sets two and three, but the Anchorwomen prevailed by two in each stanza, 25-23.

RIC had a balanced attack offensively, with junior middle hitter Andrayah Williams (North Providence) leading the way with eight kills.

Sophomore outside hitter Marina Colonis (Waterford, Conn.) posted seven kills and a team-high 12 digs. Alvelo and sophomore defensive specialist Brooklyn Feola (Riverside, R.I.) each posted a match-best four service aces.

RIC stopped a three-match losing skid and picked up its seventh shutout win

on the season in the victory.

**Coast Guard picks off RIC**

Sophomore goalkeeper Elhadji Ndoeye (Cranston) made three saves as Rhode Island College lost, 3-0, vs. Coast Guard at Alumni Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

RIC came up empty on six first half shots and Ndoeye was tested early on as the Bears totaled 11 shots in the first 45 minutes.

After a Coast Guard redirected shot in the 43rd minute, a foul on a loose ball awarded the visitors with a penalty kick attempt. Ndoeye dove to his left to make the save to keep the game scoreless.

However, the visitors broke through with seven seconds left in the opening stanza to go into halftime up by a goal.

That would prove to be the game-winner as RIC was unable to mount any offensive momentum, which led to the club's first shutout setback this fall.

Two more goals came for the Bears in the second half to seal the Anchormen's fate.

Coast Guard junior goalie John Putnam (Halfmoon, N.Y.) recorded his

fourth shutout and made six saves in a winning effort (7-3).

Ndoeye took the loss (2-1).

**Macera leads RIC to LEC title match**

Senior Amara Devine (Greenville) paired with fifth-year Amiah Sommer (Cumberland) for a win at No. 3 doubles, then won at No. 6 singles, to lift No. 2 Rhode Island College past No. 3 Bridgewater State, 5-0, in the semifinals of the 2024 Little East Women's Tennis Championship at the RIC Tennis Center on Thursday afternoon.

The Anchorwomen set themselves up for success by sweeping all three doubles matches. Fifth-year Lauren Macera (Cranston, R.I.) and junior Erica Botelho (Greenville, R.I.) won, 8-1, at the top spot.

Freshman Haylie Peacock (West Gardiner, Maine) won (6-2, 6-0) at No. 4 singles and Devine sent the Anchorwomen to the final with a straight set (6-1, 6-0) victory at sixth singles.

The Anchorwomen are playing in the Little East final for the ninth straight season and for the 10th time in the past 11 years.

RIC previously defeated Bridgewater State, 8-1, in the two club's regular season meeting on Sept. 7.

Freshman Haylie Peacock (West Gardiner, Maine) won in straight sets at No. 4 singles as No. 2 Rhode Island College lost, 5-1, vs. No. 1 UMass Boston in the 2024 Little East Championship final played at the Weymouth Club on Saturday evening.

The top-ranked Beacons took all three in doubles action to build a 3-0 lead after pairs action.

After a UMB win at second singles, Peacock won (6-1, 6-2) before the Beacons won the title with a decision at No. 1 singles.

Peacock concluded the 2024 season with a 17-0 singles record.

RIC was making its ninth straight appearance in the Little East Championship final and for the 10th time in the past 11 years.

The Beacons have defeated RIC in the LEC finals in each of the last three seasons. UMB earned the top seed by edging the Anchorwomen, 5-4, in the two club's regular season meeting on Oct. 5.

## Morry remains RI's scariest football foe

Heading into last Friday's football game between Pilgrim and Classical, I had a strange feeling that the Pats would take care of business.

The Purple entered the matchup unbeaten and as the top-ranked team in Division III. Classical was the favorite, no doubt, but I just could not help but feel that Pilgrim was going to walk out the winner. I could not put my finger on it when everything pointed toward a Classical win. Record, points for, points against, general momentum, everything screamed Classical.

Except for one thing: The Morry. Pilgrim's home field continues to be the best advantage in the state and there's no better place to catch a game. There is something about that environment that continues to give even the best teams fits.

It's dark, holy cow it is dark. Especially at midfield, there are times where opposing teams can't pass the ball because it gets lost in the

night sky mid flight. The Pats also have the all-black uniforms, which also makes them tough to track even though the players are right in front of you. As a media member, taking photos is a nightmare, but it is always fun watching opposing teams try to manage the light conditions.

There are fans everywhere and the other team knows it. The only thing separating the fans from the sideline is the track and even better, Pilgrim provides seating at the perimeter of the end zone. Fans are right on top of you and watching the banter is (usually) hysterical. Pilgrim fans do a great job of heckling without being disrespectful. There was a Classical red zone trip where the fans were all over the Purple receivers and you could tell the visitors were on edge, Classical struggled to stay focused in the red zone all night.

After Pilgrim pulled off the upset, I asked a few players if they

### My pitch



by  
ALEX  
SPONSELLER  
SPORTS EDITOR  
  
ALEXS@  
RHODYBEAT.COM

noticed the home field advantage that they seem to have. They agreed, but also pointed toward the field conditions, which as a spectator is hard to evaluate. One player told me that it was "like running on gravel." No lights, fans chirping, tough footing. If you are not a Pilgrim player, that is a nightmare scenario.

Now, you can't take anything away from Pilgrim's performance.

It scored in all three phases, came up with turnovers on defense, big plays on offense. Classical punched back in the second quarter to make it a game then rallied late and forced the Pats to come up with one last stand. It was a great game between two excellent teams and Pilgrim was the better one last Friday. But, yes, Morry is the toughest place to play in Rhode Island.

I spent the final three quarters on the Classical sideline as an experiment. I typically stay on the home sideline when covering games, but I wanted to take the temperature of Classical after it fell behind by two touchdowns early. My suspicions turned out to be valid. The Classical players struggled with that environment.

I heard players complaining about slipping, losing sight of the ball, saying the fans were encroaching on the sideline in the back of the end zone. Credit to Classical for bouncing back in the fourth quar-

ter. It seemed like it was on the brink of unravelling in the third quarter but the kids showed poise. But again, even more credit to Pilgrim for protecting its turf and taking out the division's best team.

Pilgrim is now a contender in Division III, and should it host a playoff game, the Pats may very well end up being the favorite come championship weekend.

In terms of big picture stuff, it was also the last homecoming game that the field will host as this is the final season the team will be using the historic facility. I don't think that it is hyperbolic to say that it was one of the biggest wins in program history for the Pats. A big upset against a divisional foe in front of a packed audience in the final homecoming bash ever. Should Pilgrim go on to win the Super Bowl, this will be the game that we look back on and remember, at least as far as the regular season is concerned.

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# Real Estate Transactions

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE	ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
COVENTRY					JOHNSTON				
111 Reservoir Rd	M&i Homes LLC	Dupuis, Brianne I	10/3	\$315,000	11 Traver Ave Lot 5	Marold, Brianna	Meek 2nd, Paul T and Meek, Toni-Lynn	10/4	\$175,000
12 Stephanie Dr Lot 12	Corrente T and Corrente 3rd Roger	Lee A Pellegrini T and Pellegrini, Lee A	9/30	\$442,000	1603 Plainfield Pike Lot B5	Donna A Diraimo RET and Diraimo, Donna A	Russo, Rhonda	10/8	\$295,000
5 Lane 6	Tempo Holdings LLC	Briggs, Andrew	10/4	\$109,000	30 Sprague Cir	Fratantuono, Tracy A	Rodriguez, Edwin E and Colon, Cyrrstal S	10/7	\$530,000
501 Hope Furnace Rd	Olivieri Ralph L Est and Olivieri, Michael R	Cowen, Richard	9/30	\$825,000	44 Leading S	Brady, Thomas M and Brady, Elsie	Brady, Thomas F	10/7	\$100,000
54 Leuba Rd	Beverly G Anderson T and Cooney, Arlene R	Taylor, Kyle and Young, Satsuki M	10/1	\$400,000	WARWICK				
7 Park Ln	Winfield, Debra J and Fiske, Richard	Buontempo, Rudolph and Buontempo, Scott	9/30	\$30,000					
CRANSTON									
100 Burton St Lot 8	Messina, Kathleen and Messina, Laurence	Kist, Kevin R and Kist, Michele A	9/30	\$642,000	107 Greylawn Ave	Rwr Re Invest Grp LLC	Perez, Erick and Kelley, Hannah	10/2	\$400,000
104 Alexander St	Lukens, Robert	Peixoto, Victoria H	9/30	\$415,000	125 Posnegansett Ave	Gary & Melanie Beaudette and Beaudette, Gary S	Oberg, Gregg and Oberg, Ashley H	10/4	\$500,000
119 3rd Ave	Tremblay Simone M Est and Kersey, David	Mohamed, Osama	9/30	\$430,000	145 Aborn Ave	Rivera, Elizabeth	Pereira, Hollie	9/30	\$330,000
12 Edgemere Dr	Tasca, Susan	Calise Prop LLC	10/3	\$599,900	20 Gazebo View Dr Lot 20	Casey Kathleen D Est and Wickersham, Maureen C	Rawcliffe Fit and Rawcliffe, John A	10/4	\$550,000
1320 Elmwood Ave	Kyltiff Invest & Consulti	Pierre, Junior and Pierre, Marie	9/30	\$689,000	29 Chapmans Ave	D&c Pratt Irt and Pratt, Jonathan S	Palumbo, Nicholas	10/3	\$465,000
14 Brookfield Dr	Ananthapadmanaba, Sriraman and Sriraman, Charulatha	Kamara, Francesc M	10/1	\$390,000	29 Zachariah Pl	Matthew R Pari Lt and Pari, Matthew R	Casale, Brett	9/30	\$415,000
15 Happy St	Desjarlais Lydia R Est and Desjarlais, Carl J	Romero, Erica L and Romero, Christopher M	10/3	\$375,000	30 Toledo Ave	Garcia, Angel V	Garcia, Max	10/2	\$345,000
155 Clark Ave	Bain, Michael L and Bain, Erika	Paolucci, Megan M and Paolucci Jr, Robert A	9/30	\$472,500	32 Oak Tree Ave	Clifford, Brandon J and Taylor, Michelle	Laplante Estates LLC	10/1	\$330,000
16 Happy St	Olivo, Stephen	Cabral Tavares, Luis G and Baez, Yamilex V	10/3	\$400,000	331 Church Ave	Kenneth J Uth Lt and Uth, Kenneth J	Petrosinelli, Melissa and Petrosinelli, John	10/3	\$565,000
16 Happy St Lot 1667	Olivo, Stephen	Cabral Tavares, Luis G and Baez, Yamilex V	10/3	\$400,000	4 Brewster Dr	Cambio, Steven R	Aquino, Ariel and Mercurio, Stefanie	10/1	\$383,500
207 Pontiac Ave	Caffrey, Louise M	Innovation Grp LLC	9/30	\$290,000	40 Oak Grove St Lot 10	Novembrino, Vito L	Omalley, Kathyann	10/1	\$795,000
213 Cheshire Dr Lot 213	Scolardi, Paul	Hatzakis, Ellen	10/3	\$540,000	4158 Post Rd Lot 15	Guillemette, Michael L	Rinn Re Grp LLC	10/1	\$260,000
23 Angela Ave	Agudelo, Ckaria E and Agudelo, Rafael H	Mercurio, Vincent J and Marshall, Laura A	10/4	\$530,000	4496 Post Rd Lot 3	Rimmerman Bernard Est and Rimmerman, Curtis M	Hennessy, Walter P and Giordano, Carol W	10/1	\$520,000
25 Ashley St	Rocheleau, Joseph and Rocheleau, Nicole K	Kulczyk, Nicole	10/1	\$405,000	46 Freeman St	Mantia Maryann Est and Esquire, Thomas M	Jl Invest LLC	10/3	\$295,000
266 Summit Dr	Lucy E Megrdochian RET and Megrdochian, John M	Gauvin, Adam R and Gauvin, Lauren A	10/4	\$560,000	52 Warwick Lake Ave	Ontario Invest LLC	Toler, Michael A and Aadnani, Rachid	9/30	\$460,000
28 Whispering Pines Dr	Porter, Nancy A	Manton, Michael and Manton, Lauren	10/4	\$640,000	5804 Post Rd Lot 4	Saint Ours, Matthew	Porter, Dean R and Brown, Benita F	9/30	\$334,000
29 Ryder Ave	Estevez, Michael M and Estevez, Lissette Y	Ocasio, Thomas and Marcano, Sirelys S	10/4	\$430,000	66 Collingwood Dr	Harding, Brett E and Doyle, Edward A	Castro, Yamilets	10/4	\$374,900
297 Princess Ave	Dipanni Jr, Michael R	Paniagua, Jose D and Fondeur, Yaquelin	9/30	\$400,000	70 Cedar Bay Dr	Infante, Jeffrey	Bolvin 3rd, Richard L	10/1	\$1,040,000
30 Bennett Ave Lot 1003	Munoz, Valentin L and Liz, Zulen	Perez, Miramor G	9/30	\$405,000	72 Cathedral Rd	Cabana Series V T and Us Bank TNa	Dalomba, Adrian	10/3	\$281,000
30 Bennett Ave Lot 1004	Munoz, Valentin L and Liz, Zulen	Perez, Miramor G	9/30	\$405,000	76 Melbourn Rd	Moniz, Anne M and Kane, Timothy R	Gillis, Andrew R and Gillis, Karen A	10/4	\$1,750,000
44 Arnold Ave	Samuel & Lauren Grossman and Grossman, Samuel	Shedd, Andre and Tran, Camly	10/1	\$775,000	79 Duncan Rd	Catherine E Channell Lt and Channell, Catherine E	Saint Germain, Cory	10/1	\$311,000
45 Stamp Farm Rd Lot 75	Rolling Frito-Lay Sales L	Willow Prop 14 LLC	10/	\$2,150,000	85 Toll Gate Rd	Dilorenzo, Anthony W	Bucci, Alexander M and Bucci, Courtney	10/2	\$345,000
58 Burbank St	Iacobucci, Steven M and Iacobucci, Mark	Fermin Jr, Crystal L and Fermin, Jonel	10/3	\$258,400	89 Cushing Rd	Cody, Susan W	Secretary Of Hud	10/2	\$338,861
58 Washington Ave	Enterprise Invest LLC	Rodriguez Gutie, Liliana K	10/3	\$555,000	89 Fostmere Ct	Jose Fit and Jose, David T	Plummer, Ark	10/1	\$535,000
61 High School Ave	Ryan, Stephen G and Ryan, Laurette A	Torres, Claribel P	10/2	\$421,000	WEST GREENWICH				
74 Coolspring Dr	Olga M Hurd Irt and Hurd, Howard	Forte, Lynn A	10/3	\$422,500					
84 Meredith Dr	Cimini Bruno F Est and Cimini, Donald J	Coffey, David J	10/1	\$515,000	WEST WARWICK				
85 Randall St	Estrella, Aidan J and Swindell, Jason M	Desire, Sephora and Joseph, Beatrice D	10/4	\$365,000					
9 Gray Coach Ln Lot 903	Patriot Bldrs Inc	Cardoza, Christine M	9/30	\$349,900	1158 Acorn Ln	Winsor, Haley L	Phetsaynakoth, Austin M and Tagliaferri, Julie L	10/7	\$500,000
9 Gray Coach Ln Lot 913	Patriot Bldrs Inc	Warneke, Ryan	9/30	\$355,000	219 Legris Ave	Noble, Brittany F	Piper, Jabari S	10/2	\$360,000
90 Doane St	Eramo, Lisa A	Pugliese, Kaylee and Masse, Colby	9/30	\$455,000	4 Terrace Ave	Chaves, Tyler	Miller, Corey	10/8	\$295,000
90 Ellison St	Elias-Capone, Susan	Kronsberg, Kevin F	10/1	\$355,000	55 South St Lot B	Rhode Is Custom Bldrs LLC	Gigliotti, Danielle M	10/4	\$399,900
EAST GREENWICH					6 W Valley Cir Lot 6	Residences At West Vly In	Bambino, James and Bambino, Vivian	10/3	\$450,400
					85 Lenox Ave	Boisvert, Roland W	Boisvert, Diane E	10/8	\$306,500
105 Crickett Cir Lot 105	Minor, Robert O and Minor, Joann L	Andrea F Medeiros RET and Medeiros, Andrea F	9/26	\$737,500	<div>SOLD</div>				
1070 Frenchtown Rd	Brito, Sally L and Brito Sr, Michael	Penta, Michael W and Penta, Angelica	10/4	\$750,000					
14 Mallard Way	Ferretti, Cheryl A	Ou, Heak and Ear, Lakthong	10/1	\$1,375,000					
200 Tillinghast Rd	Gronhagen, Mark D and Gronhagen, Eric J	Honey Rock Farm LLC	9/26	\$475,000					
25 Woodland Rd	Leavy, Richard	Mittendorff 2nd, Robert E and Mills, Ashley E	10/3	\$595,000					
35 Downing St	John R Kramer T and Casey, Kirsten	Jambyn Lt and Yablonsky, Michael	9/27	\$900,000					
46 Brookside Dr	Conley, Patrick T	Oconnell, Charles C and Campbell, Amanda	9/30	\$1					
65 Water St	Massotti, Jeffrey R	Porter, Douglas R and Porter, Doreen L	9/27	\$960,000					
66 Wanton Shippee Rd	Arcidiacono, Christine M and Arcidiacono, Steven M	Arcidiacono, Christine M and Arcidiacono, Steven M	10/4	\$250,000					
72 Great Rd, Darrow, Zachary G to Tasca Jr, Carl A and Tasca, Tania G, 9/30, \$300,000									
EXETER									
1S Trail Commercial Condo Lot 1	Jade Investment Group LLC	Cherella, William P and Cherella, Diane M	10/4	\$279,000					
1S Trail Commercial Condo Lot 305	Jade Investment Group LLC	Denise M Manzi T and Manzi 3rd, John A	10/4	\$252,175					
4 Levitt Ln	Lineberry, Myles and Lineberry, Nancy	Lineberry, Arielle	10/7	\$425,000					
50 Ridge Dr	Darsch, Peter J	Schoppmann, Gail E and Schoppmann, Ken	9/30	\$792,500					

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# RhodyLife

## Cinematography, Curling & Cranston



## Filming “The Roaring Game,” an underdog tale of redemption

By **PAM SCHIFF**  
Special to the Beacon Media



**GRONK TAKES CRANSTON:** Posing with NFL icon, Rob Gronkowski, on the set of “The Roaring Game,” from left to right, actor Rob Goon, producer Chad Verdi, actor Mickey Rourke, actor Rob Gronkowski, director Tom DeNucci, producer Chad Verdi Jr., producer Paul Luba, and director of photography Marcus Ian Friedlander.

Top right photo:  
**THE ICE MEN COMETH:** Getting their grooves on the ice are, from left to right, Antwon Tanner (“Mitchell”), John Fiore (“Moretti”), Eddie Kaye Thomas and Darin Brooks as the “Rhodes Brothers.” (Photos courtesy Michael Braga Jr. and Bryan Marchulaitis, set photographers; and Cole Harper, @graphicole)



Lights. Camera. Cranston.  
For the past several months, film crews have been all over the state, mostly based in Cranston to shoot the comedy film “The Roaring Game.”  
Filming started Sept. 16 and wrapped early Saturday morning, Oct. 5, with days running anywhere from eight to 12 hours.  
The director Tom DeNucci is from Cranston and graduated from Cranston High School West in 2002. His resume since graduation has included being involved with almost 40 films, and was awarded the 2013 Rhode Island International Film Festival Robert Burgess Aldrich Award (Aldrich was also from Cranston).  
Producers Chad Verdi Jr. and his father, Chad Verdi Sr., have family members that still live in Cranston. They also lived in Cranston for a time themselves.  
The film is also produced by Michelle Verdi, Paul Luba and Anthony Gudas. Sera Verdi will executive produce and Ed Brady is an associate producer.

### The Plot

The premise for “The Roaring Game” is a true underdog tale of redemption. Rickey is a high school janitor who loses everything when his love, Kelly, is picked to play for Team USA hockey.  
To win her back, Rickey creates a misfit curling team and uses his sweeping skills to compete for gold and complete a comic quest for redemption that captivates the nation.  
“Cranston is a beautiful city and one of the state’s most prominent cities,” said Verdi Jr. “With so much to offer we were able to capitalize on the city’s diverse landscape — from public parks, to city buildings, to private event space, the city really welcomed us with open arms. It makes it easy to operate and run a smooth film set when you are able to work closely with the city itself and, on top of that, everything is so centrally located so the convenience factor is huge.”  
The Verdi family has invested heavily in DeNucci throughout his career, funding many of the movies he has written and directed.  
“It has been truly incredible working with this team and seeing the next generation of artists,” Brady said.

■ **MOVIE - PAGE 26**



**THAT’S A WRAP:** The crew of “The Roaring Game” are all smiles after filming is complete.



See it at the  
with  
Joyce & Don  
Fowler

# Movies



We have been reviewing movies since the mid 1970s, and have never had such a tough time finding good ones.

We used to average 3.5 movies a week. Admittedly, they were not all five star productions, but they certainly were better than a lot of stuff we've sat through lately.

Netflix has filled the gap somewhat, and the Avon occasionally brings an interesting foreign or independent film to the East Side, but since the pandemic the quality and quantity of good movies has diminished.

## TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES

We've often heard the expression, "They don't make 'em like they used to," and that is a fact that has led us to watching the Turner Classic Movies channel.

If you don't have it, get it.

Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, Turner Classic Movies airs everything from early silent films, to classics from the '40s into this century, commercial free and with experts giving their insights into the films.

You'll get some of the best scary films at Halloween, political films before election time, Christmas movies, and festivals featuring great actors like John Wayne, Patricia Neal and Paul Newman.

We like to check their listings, which can be easily Googled, and record them for that rainy day or evening when you just can't find anything good on TV.

Here's a sample of what is coming up:

**Friday, Oct. 25**  
8:00 p.m. — "All the Presi-



The 1976 classic "All the President's Men" starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman is among the gems playing on Turner Classic Movies this weekend.

dent's Men" (1976): Woodward and Bernstein uncover the Watergate scandal in this four star drama starring Dustin Hoffman and Robert Redford.  
10:30 p.m. — "Citizen Kane"

(1941): Orson Welles' classic film of all time.

**Saturday, Oct. 26**  
6:00 p.m. — "The Devil and Daniel Webster" (1941)

**Sunday, Oct. 27**  
6:00 p.m. — "Gaslight" (1944): Classic starring Charles Boyer.  
8:00 p.m. — "Cry, the Beloved Country" (1995): James Earl Jones and Richard Harris.

# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

## Local ♥ Adoptable ♥ Loveable

# Hounds



If you are a dog lover and looking to adopt, then please visit the Exeter Animal Shelter. This is just one of the four lovable Hounds available and yes, they are all this beautiful! There are two boys and one girl, they are all about one year old. These precious pups were found abandoned in the woods left to fend for themselves. Luckily someone spotted them and they were brought safely to the shelter. They have been receiving lots of love and attention but they really would love to find loving homes with a family of their very own. They will be so grateful to feel what it's like to be loved forever! For more information, please call the shelter 401-294-2754 and tell them you'd love to meet the Hounds!

Photo credit: Jess Woody

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



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**MASTER CLASS FREE OF CHARGE:** Movie director/producer Tom DeNucci speaks to Cranston West students on the set of his latest movie, "The Roaring Game."

## ■ Movie (Continued from page 25)

With over 50 Cranston residents as extras in the film, DeNucci was very inclusive with the casting, even using 22 students from the Cranston West Theater department, courtesy of Principal John Fontaine and teachers Christine Baum and Evan Lancia.

"With so much negativity in the world, I really wanted to tell a story that embraces the lighter side of life," DeNucci said. "Directing my first comedy has been all about providing an escape and creating a space where audiences can just have a good time. We've had so many laughs on set. I cannot wait to share them with the world."

### City Collaboration

"The city worked with us on a number of things and we wouldn't have had a successful film without the city's help and collaboration," said Verdi Jr. "We had an open line of communication with them, which allowed us to know exactly what we were and weren't allowed to do. When you get the rules up front, it makes it easy to follow them. So we are very grateful for the city's help and transparency."

A lot of great memories were made.

"The most memorable is the fact we were able to build an official curling rink inside of the Cranston Veterans Memorial Ice Rink," said Verdi Jr. "Seeing that transformation was truly remarkable and it is not nearly as easy as it seems."

The cast and crew were delighted by the culinary scene in Cranston as well. Twin Oaks takeout was a cast favorite. Saugys and Luxe Lemon were also popular.

"The energy and culture I was around every day needs to be studied," Brady said. "It was truly electric and inclusive."

He said he "learned a lot" from "this young producing team" and that he is "very very very proud" of them.

### Winter Olympics

The producers expect a commercial movie release date may coincide with the Winter Olympic games in 2026.

"The cast on this film covers multiple generations and decades," said Verdi Jr. "We are going for the gold with this project and targeting a release to coincide with the upcoming Winter Olympics."

DeNucci took to his Facebook page to express his gratitude and appreciation to everyone connected to the project: "The journey behind this project just about spans the entire length of my career," he wrote. "When I was 24 I sold a script to the only producer who believed in me at the time, Chad Verdi. The script was written but the timing wasn't right. We went on to make dozens of other films together and 'The Roaring Game' was tucked away for safe keeping. Last spring the movie planets aligned and we began prepping the movie. It's hard to describe the feeling of finally crossing the finish line. This was my first comedy and I can safely say I've never laughed so much in a four week stretch in my life. That's gotta be a good sign. So thankful for this phenomenal cast. They took the simple words on the page and bringing them to life in ways I could have never imagined. This cast of strangers quickly became a team. That team became a family. I'll never forget their efforts and can't wait to share the laughs we created with the audience."

Recent projects released by Verdi Productions include "Chosen Family," starring Heather Graham and Julia Stiles; "Junction" starring Bryan Greenberg, Griffin Dunne and Sophia Bush; and "Knockout Blonde," the documentary about transgender boxing manager Kellie Maloney.



# Proclamation Ale Company's Proctoberfest returns with live music, delicious food & special brews



Proclamation Ale located at 298 Kilvert St., Warwick  
(Submitted photo)

By ROBERT DUGUAY

While this year’s Oktoberfest has already come and gone, there are still gatherings ringing in the festivities all over the globe. An example of this is Proctoberfest, which is an annual event that’s put on by Proclamation Ale Company at their brewery located on 298 Kilvert St. in Warwick. The fourth edition of this extravaganza is taking place on Oct. 27 from 12 noon to 6 p.m. and there’s going to be a lot of fun to be had. A couple musical acts will perform live along with a special menu featuring flavorful beers and scrumptious food. There’s going to be competitions in both stein holding and keg rolling and also a lederhosen costume contest.

The trademark beer of the event is Guggenmusik, which is a Märzen that takes its name from a tradition that coalesces with fall’s transition into winter. This particular brew is being made in collaboration with the illustrious intergalactic improv performance group Big Nazo, which is headquartered in Providence.

“Our annual Oktoberfest-style beer collaboration with Big Nazo is called Guggenmusik, which is named after a tradition of parades of people in costume playing loud and strange music to frighten away the spirits of winter,” Proclamation owner & creative director Lori Witham says. “Once again, we will celebrate this beer with our fourth annual Proctoberfest this Sunday. Big Nazo and Providence Drum Troupe will perform as they only know how, and our brewer, Bruce Hutchings, will display his bagpipe skills. Belly Busters will be creating an Oktoberfest menu for the day that includes soft pretzels, brats, and schnitzel. We will also have local vendors selling snacks and gifts, come get weird

with us!”

“Normally I play solemn events, vigils, funerals with the occasional wedding but at Proctoberfest, I’ll be playing festive, traditional and non traditional tunes for the crowds near and far!”, Hutchings adds. “You may ask how the bagpipes relate to a German inspired event, but ‘Guggenmusik’ refers to a group of people playing loud music, and if you’ve ever been at a parade you have an idea on how loud the bagpipes are! It’s going to be a fun, festive and weird afternoon so it’ll be worth the visit to experience it all. Last year, I had the opportunity to ‘jam’ with Big Nazo and the Providence Drum Troupe, so we shall see if we make the magic happen again!”

The upcoming gig for the Providence Drum Troupe is one of seven shows for the group ahead of a gala fundraiser they’re having on Nov. 9 at their clubhouse located on 517 Atwells Ave. in their home city. They’re very excited to be bringing a party atmosphere to Proctoberfest and collaborating with Big Nazo in vibrant fashion.

“The Providence Drum Troupe is coming off a rather robust summer performance schedule and always looks forward to returning to one of our original sponsors, the Proclamation Ale Company!,” founder and performer David Lee Black exclaims. “We are combining creative forces for the greater good with Big Nazo again for this special Proctoberfest! Performing in Oktoberfest attire, the Providence Drum Troupe and Big Nazo will create a funky interactive dance party for the citizens of Earth and beyond at Proclamation!”

For more info on Proctoberfest, log onto Proclamation Ale Company’s website at [proclamationaleco.com](http://proclamationaleco.com).

## Rose Weaver: A celebration of jazz & fine dining

Oct. 25 & 26 at Pot au Feu, Providence

Join us for two unforgettable nights as Rhode Island’s very own Rose Weaver returns for a special evening of live jazz, delicious cuisine, and soulful storytelling. *Rose Weaver: A Celebration of Jazz & Fine Dining* will take place at the renowned Pot au Feu restaurant, 44 Custom House St., Providence, on Friday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 26, at 7:30 p.m. The event features a three-course dinner with wine, accompanied by a captivating musical performance from the legendary singer and actress. Tickets are \$100 per person (including tax and tip.)

Rose Weaver, whose voice has graced stages worldwide, will pay tribute to the jazz greats that inspired her illustrious career. Accompanied by Jhony Keys on keyboards and Dave Zinno on acoustic bass, this performance promises to be an enchanting evening of music and memories.

### Rose Weaver

Rose Weaver has returned to her Providence roots from Atlanta, where she continues her work as a playwright, actress, and singer. The oldest of six children born to a sharecropping family in Georgia, Weaver grew from humble roots into a dynamic actress, singer, playwright, and motivational speaker. Her talent has graced countless productions at Trinity Repertory Company, most recently August Wilson’s *Gem of the Ocean* in March 2022.

She received her B.A. from Wheaton College and an MFA in Creative Writing from Brown University. She holds three Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts Degrees from Wheaton College, Marymount Manhattan College, and Providence College.

Tickets are available online at <https://pot-au-feu-100967.square.site>.



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