

COMPLIMENTARY

AUGUST 2020

The Smithfield *Times*



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The Jewels of Smithfield



WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL

By Jim Gass

The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC) is hosting a series of signage and tour events this summer commemorating the history of Smithfield's unique reservoir system, "The Jewels of Smithfield." The series kicks off on Wednesday, August 5th at 5:30 p.m. at Georgiaville Pond, and will feature a tour of the new informational signs. The event is free. Other Jewels of Smithfield programs coming up in August include a paddle on Stump Pond and a bike tour. WRWC asks that if you attend the event at Georgiaville, please wear a mask and adhere to social distancing guidelines.

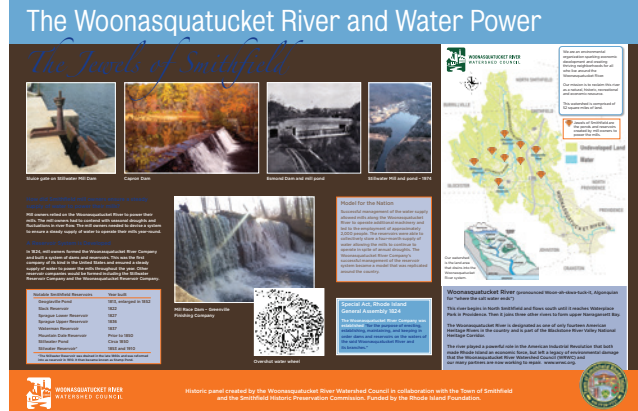
The Jewels of Smithfield project is a collaborative effort between WRWC, Smithfield's Town Council, Planning Department, Historic Preservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Department and Conservation Commission. The project was funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Rhode Island Foundation. Its purpose is to get people to visit the reservoirs and to learn about their historical significance, including extensive Native American use of the Woonasquatucket River, and to encourage stewardship and protection of these unique natural resources.

The Woonasquatucket River's headwaters originate from wetlands in Primrose, North Smithfield, at 300 feet above sea level. From there, the river flows 19 miles southeast over 18 dams, through numerous ponds, until finally reaching downtown Providence. Once there it joins the Moshassuck River to form the Providence River, which empties into upper Narragansett Bay. According to WRWC, the Woonasquatucket watershed covers 50 square miles in the towns of North Smithfield, Smithfield, Johnston, North Providence, and Providence. The

river was an important resource for both the Native Americans of the region and the European settlers that followed. It served as a transportation route for various inland tribes, allowing them to access Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Certain places along the river in what is now Providence were places where Narragansett and Wampanoag peoples met for trade and seasonal festivals. During the 19th century, it was important for Rhode Island's fledgling textile industry, providing water power to the mills that created woolen fabric.

The Jewels of Smithfield reservoir system was created by a group of Providence mill owners in 1824. It was the first of its kind in the country. The river was strategically dammed to create water storage reservoirs that would service mills downstream in Johnston, North Providence and Providence. Water was retained in the reservoirs during the rainy months and then released through the dams during the dry months. The result was a permanent, year-round source of water power for the mills. The Jewels of Smithfield are Georgiaville Pond, Stillwater Reservoir (also known as the Woonasquatucket Reservoir or Stump Pond), and Waterman Reservoir.

Other Jewels of Smithfield events happening this month include a bike tour of the new signs scheduled for Thursday, August 6th. The tour starts at 4:00 p.m. at the parking lot of the Stump Pond State Fishing Area off Log Road. It will be just under 10 miles and finished by sunset. Sites along the way will include Log



Signs designed by Smithfield resident Elaine S. Amoriggi.

Road, Stump Pond, Georgiaville Pond, Whipple Field and Esmond Park.

The second event is a canoe and kayak paddle at Stump Pond scheduled for Tuesday, August 11th. Meet at the boat launch off Log Road at the west side of the reservoir. Launch time is at 6:00 p.m. but arrive 15 minutes early to get set up. It will be a relaxing two-and-a-half mile paddle that will take about two hours to complete. While gliding by lakeside homes, small islands and secluded woods, you will see dragonflies and damselflies, wetland plants in bloom, herons, painted turtles and several species of fish.

Pre-registration is required for both programs and can be done on the council's website. You can attend the events for free, but since WRWC is a non-profit organization, they request a \$5.00 to \$20.00 donation, paid when you register.

WRWC's mission is to reclaim the Woonasquatucket River as a natural, historic, recreational and economic resource. To find out how you can get involved or to register for these and other upcoming programs, visit their website at: www.wrrc.org/wp/

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Medicaid is a state administered program that is funded to a great extent by the Social Security trust fund. It provides for payment of medical services and long term nursing home care for those who qualify.

Because of the ever increasing cost of long term nursing home

Review Your Trust Annually To Protect Your Assets



care, both the federal and state governments periodically amend the Medicaid statutes and regulations in order to further limit eligibility for the program.

Therefore, if you have had a living Trust prepared to shelter your assets from nursing home expenses and enhance your chances of qualifying for Medicaid long term care benefits after a five year look back period, you should have that Trust reviewed annually and revised if necessary to be sure it conforms to the current Medicaid statutes and regulations.

It is part of my regular practice to prepare living Trusts to both avoid probate of a client's estate and protect their assets from nursing home costs during their lifetime. I also review and update those Trusts, and similar Trusts prepared by other attorneys upon request.

If you are concerned about possible long term care expenses and would like to discuss your concerns with me, please call my office for an appointment. There is no fee for the initial consultation.

— George M. Prescott

Courtesy of:

George M. Prescott
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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The Rhode Island Supreme Court licenses all lawyers in the general practice of law. The Court does not license or certify any lawyer as an expert or specialist in any field of practice.

Greenville Inn closes, *daughter shares touching memories of hard work, family, and community*

By Brittni Henderson

For over 61 years, the Greenville Inn has been a place where the residents of Smithfield and surrounding areas could gather for a meal, drinks, and quality time together. Unlike many other restaurants, the Greenville Inn was built by a family and upheld family values to create a place that feels just like home. For the Belknap family, who purchased the Greenville Inn in 1997, keeping these factors consistent over the last 23 years was of utmost importance.

Jim and Diane Belknap met while working in the restaurant business, an industry they were both introduced to at the age of 15. Jim was the chef at a restaurant in Smithfield, while Diane was working there part time during graduate school. Diane was in the midst of attaining her Master's Degree from Bryant University at the time. The two dated, got married, and welcomed two daughters into the world before purchasing the Inn.



"My mom was teaching, while also working part time at the Greenville Inn when it went up for sale," daughter Allison (Belknap) Abilheira says. "My parents decided to put both of their restaurant experiences together, as well as Diane's business background to use and bought the Greenville Inn."



When her parents purchased the Inn, Allison was 10 years old and her younger sister Jackie was 7. Allison reminisces about the grand opening party, post father-daughter dance gatherings, birthday parties, and most recently, her baby shower— all held at the Inn.

"My favorite part as a child was the never ending supply of chicken fingers and french fries!" Allison says. "But as I got older and more involved, it was the ability to work alongside my family and to help make the restaurant successful. The teamwork and social atmosphere was fun too. It was interesting talking to so many customers and hearing their stories."

When Allison and Jackie were old enough, they would help out at the restaurant by hanging coats in the winter. Eventually they were promoted to bus girls, servers, and then bartenders. The sisters worked their way through high school and college, both studying at Bryant University for their undergraduate degrees. These motivated young women believe that everyone should work in the restaurant industry at some point in

their careers, as it helped instill a strong work ethic for both of them, catapulting them into the successful careers they have today.

"My sister and I learned that you have to work hard in life to be

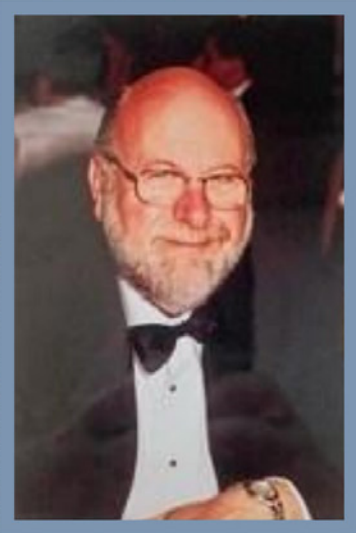
successful," Allison shares. "I became a criminal defense attorney with my own practice in Warren and Jackie is a CPA in Boston. We worked hard to achieve both careers."

Although the Inn taught the Belknap sisters the values of hard work and family, it's time as a restaurant came to a bittersweet end in July 2020 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Jim and Diane had time to reflect on their family's success and the countless memories made at the Inn, and decided it was time to retire to spend more time with their daughters, their families, and of course their grandson!

"I will miss working with my family, celebrating at the restaurant, popping in to say hi to old co-workers and customers," says Allison. "Our employees and customers have really become extended family over the years. I will miss sharing stories with them and seeing friendly faces. I will miss the delicious dinners too of course! We hope that the new buyers will hold true to the values we had at the Inn and that it will remain a place for locals to meet to have a drink, share a meal, and a laugh!"

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Principal Urges Students to **Think** and **Drive**

By Paul Lonardo

Following the spring lockdowns and the recent reopening of society, many young people are anxious to get out of the house and enjoy the summer with family and friends. With that freedom comes a degree of responsibility that needs to be taken seriously because not only have Covid-19 cases spiked, but so have car accidents and fatalities, of which drugs and alcohol are leading contributors.

“Student use of drugs and alcohol remains prevalent, and it is something we need to continue to monitor as parents and teachers and school leaders,” says Smithfield High School principal, Daniel Kelley. “While drug-related use has not seen very much on school grounds itself in recent years, what happens outside of school hours is just as impactful on our students and the overall community.”

According to Kelley and other leading experts on adolescent behavior, young people tend to see themselves as invincible to many hazards, including mortal harm related to drinking and driving. “That’s why we need to continue to hammer home to them that some of the choices they make will have lifelong impacts on them and their families,” Kelley says.

The current Smithfield High School principal recalls that the beloved former principal, Bob Salisbury, who sadly died last June, kept a log of students who lost their lives to drug and alcohol-related accidents. “When he was principal, there was a period of time when such tragic accidents happened quite often,” Kelley says. “The year I was hired, one of the first things I dealt with was

a car accident where a student passed away. So, it continues to be an issue and remains something we have to address as a community.”

In a world where so much can go wrong that is not in our control, what makes alcohol or drug-related accidents all the more tragic is that they are completely preventable.

Kelley believes that the solution begins at home, with parents talking with their children and asking questions. With kids getting their own phones and other devices at an early age, it is imperative that parents know what their children are doing when they are not at school, who they are associating with, and who is texting them.

“Just because they’re in high school doesn’t mean they’re adults,” he says. “Parents still need to keep an eye out on what their kids are doing online and maintain an open dialogue.”

Another way to reach these vulnerable young people is at school, where there are resources and staff available to them to address issues such as alcohol and substance use.

“One of the best resources we have at the high school is our own substance abuse counselor, Rebecca Young, who does a tremendous job connecting with the kids and getting them further connecting with other resources to help them, whatever their needs.”

The solution is often as simple as picking up the phone, which is likely already in hand, and calling a relative, a friend or a ride-sharing company like Uber if you or someone you’re with is about to get into a car after having too much to drink. However, things like peer pressure and feelings of invincibility can get in the way, and that’s what makes it so frustrating.

“These types of accidents can be prevented,” Kelley insists. “If people just took a moment and paused to ask themselves what they’re about to do, whether it’s buying alcohol for minors or getting into a car with someone who you know has had too much to drink.”

So, while there is still a lot of work to do as a community around the issue of impaired driving, Kelley is confident that steps can be taken to keep our most precious cargo get to where they’re going safely.



Be Smart:
**DON'T
DRINK & DRIVE!**

Smithfield Businesses Adjust to Pandemic

By Joe Siegel

Local businesses have adjusted to the new reality of the coronavirus pandemic. Rhode Island entered Phase 3 on June 30 with relaxed guidelines allowing for larger social gatherings. New cases of COVID-19 and hospitalizations have dropped off, but owners and managers are still taking precautions.

For nearly three months, restaurants had been only allowed to provide delivery and take-out orders to patrons.

Stephanie Mosca, owner of A & W on Route 44, notes a steady stream of customers looking for burgers and fries during the hot days of summer.

“Business has been great,” said Mosca. “We’re takeout only so it actually increased our business in the spring.”

Mosca reports since the reopening of other restaurants for indoor dining, business has returned to normal levels.

Mosca said customers are wearing masks and social distancing.

“If they don’t have one on, we will ask them to put it on,” Mosca noted. “For the most part, we’re not doing any window service, we are going directly to the cars and taking their orders so no one has to get out, no one has to be exposed. We ask that they wear the mask in the car when we’re taking the order so we’re minimizing contact as much as we can.”

Kountry Kitchen owner Lionel Delos also reports that business has picked up since indoor dining has been allowed. The restaurant also has twenty tables for outside dining.

“I don’t see any signs of it slowing down,” Delos said. “We’re actually getting busier and busier.”

Funeral home operators have been facing their own challenges in providing comfort to people mourning their family members in a time of social distancing.

had been live-streaming funeral services so families and friends of the deceased could watch from their safety of their own homes.

The amount of mourners allowed to attend a funeral service in a church varies widely, according to Winfield.

“If you have a moderately sized funeral, you probably can have everyone in the facility with you,” Winfield said.

Visitors to the funeral home have been wearing face coverings.

“The people that we serve, they come prepared, we have not had one person come to our facility without (a mask), it’s been very easy to work with everybody. I think everybody understands the big picture,” Winfield noted.

Winfield is “cautiously optimistic” there will be a larger amount of people allowed to attend visitations and funerals as the state guidelines continue to be relaxed.

“I’m glad we moved to the next phase,” Winfield added. “I think if we continue to do what we do and we’re diligent, we use our face mask, we wash our hands, we use good common sense, I think that we’re going to be okay, we’re going to get out of this.”

“We usually get an e-mail from the (state) Department of Health and it tells us exactly what we can do,” said Thomas Winfield, President of Anderson-Winfield Funeral Home. “Right now, we can have 25 people in the building. We think it might be more than the 25 but we’re being very cautious until we receive that e-mail which is important.”

Due to the prohibition of gatherings of more than 10 people, Anderson-Winfield



Residents Honor Smithfield Police

By Joe Siegel

A coalition of town residents and local businesses donated gift baskets stuffed with snacks, hand sanitizer, cake pops, and other goodies to recognize the work done by the Smithfield Police Department.

“It’s been amazing,” said Liz Wood, who created a Facebook page in an effort to solicit donations.

Wood thought it would be a great idea to show support for law enforcement after the last few months of protests and riots around the country.

“We’re overwhelmed with the generosity of everybody,” Wood noted. The page “blew up,” said Melissa McDonough.

“The whole community came out,” McDonough said. “The amount of stuff we got is unbelievable.”

Some businesses contributed gift cards. One business owner donated 42 massages to the police department.

Chief Richard St. Sauveur said the donations were appreciated.

“We know we have support (from the community) but it’s really nice to see,” St. Sauveur added.



Congratulations

to Elizabeth Thacker and her dog Bandit! Liz earned her Master’s Degree in Occupational Therapy from New England Institute of Technology.



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Photo credit: Sandra Archille



IMHO | by Ron Scopelliti

The milk of human kindness

As bad as the past few months have been, the epic disruption of the pandemic has had me looking at parts of our culture that I'd left largely unexamined until now. Unfortunately I'm not talking about any deep and momentous ruminations, like figuring out how we can rise above a civilization that's become dominated by cutthroat capitalism, or how we can be culturally sensitive without completely crushing the concept of free speech. What I've been reexamining the past few months is my relationship with milk.

When this whole thing started I got kind of panicky, not because I couldn't find toilet paper, but because I couldn't find milk. Being that I don't actually drink the stuff, it shouldn't have been all that alarming. But I use milk in my two main sources of ingestible comfort: cereal and coffee. I knew I could improvise some sort of alternative to toilet paper, but the prospect of not having milk for my Honey Bunches of Oats had me panic-buying condensed milk, and scrambling to figure out what kind of container I should un-condense it into.

Luckily, milk began to reappear on shelves pretty quickly, but it still became a defining factor in my life. When the stay-at-home order came along and I chose to only go out for essentials, the timing always seemed to be based on when my milk ran out or went bad. I started thinking that maybe this was a chance to get back in touch with my mammalian origins, and start to better embrace the liquid that helps distinguish us from lizards and insects.

Then it occurred to me that most mammals stop drinking milk once they're weaned, and that I didn't even wait that long, being part a generation raised on baby formula. And I started wondering what inspired the first dairy farmer to yank on a cow's udder and drink what came out? I suspect that dairy farming must have been invented after fermentation, because that has "drunken bet" written all over it.

So I started doing web searches on "history of milk," and after acknowledging that it was probably the lamest search term I'd ever typed, I found out that the drinking of milk has had such a complex history that I could barely scratch the surface. The practice of drinking milk from an animal has been the source of all kinds of cultural stigmas, health concerns, and safety controversies. One interesting fact I stumbled upon was that there's a fairly common 7,500-year-old human mutation that allows people to keep producing lactase, the enzyme that allows infants to easily digest milk, into adulthood. So it could be that those of us who aren't lactose intolerant can only deal with milk because we're mutants. But we're the uncool mutants who didn't make it into Professor Xavier's academy because we can't set things on fire with our eyes. Go figure.

Along the way, a friend alerted me to the trend of millennials abandoning traditional dairy milk and moving to a growing number of alternatives. Almond milk and soy milk are old standbys that I've been seeing for years, but now they're being caught up with by rice

milk and oat milk. I'm not sure what the driving force behind this trend is, but it actually makes a lot of sense.

It's pretty inefficient to breed something as big as a cow and continually to feed it vegetation so it will produce milk, when you could just be making milk out of the vegetation. Cut out the middleman, or in this case, the middle bovine lady.

So maybe cancel culture has finally caught up with the dairy cow. What will happen when cows cease to be domestic animals and revert to the wild? Will animal shelters have to enlarge their kennels to accommodate stray Holsteins? Will packs of cows wander around raising hell like Marlon Brando's motorcycle gang from "The Wild One?" They already have the leather jackets. Or will dairy cows end up on the ever-expanding unemployment line? I suppose unemployment is a more pleasant option than life as a perpetual milk donor.

So I guess I should explore some alternatives. If I can free some cows, help save the planet, and stop relying on my mutant powers to digest lactose, maybe it's worth trying some almond milk. After all, when Shakespeare coined his famous phrase, he never said that "the milk of human kindness" couldn't come from a nut.



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Bank of America Connects Rhode Island Youth to Workforce Success Through Paid Virtual Summer Leadership Experience

Student Leaders underlines bank's ongoing commitment to connect young people to jobs, skills-building and opportunities to strengthen our community

Bank of America today announced that the four Rhode Island high school juniors and seniors selected as **Student Leaders** (#BofAStudentLeaders) have started their paid summer internship experience of leadership,

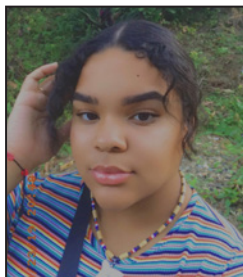
civic engagement, and workforce skills-building. In light of the health concerns that remain in local communities, the program has been adapted to a virtual format, through which students will have the opportunity to participate in sessions

that will expose them to the vital role that nonprofits play in advancing community health, the importance of public private partnerships to advance social change, and a focus on building financial acumen.

The Class of 2020 Rhode Island-based Bank of America Student Leaders are:



Ajiehume Ceasay, of Woonsocket, a Woonsocket High School graduate



Noelia Garcia, of Providence, senior at Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex



Cameron Kasbarian, of Smithfield, senior at Smithfield High School

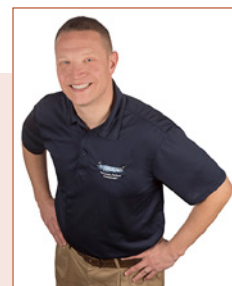


Autumn Lupoli, of Wakefield, senior at The Prout School

Ask an Expert

My name is Tom Lopatosky. I'm the President of LOPCO Contracting (www.LopcoContracting.com) and I'm honored to have the opportunity to talk to you about home improvement on a monthly basis.

I love answering your questions! Please send them to tom@LopcoContracting.com or call 401-270-2664. Thanks in advance for taking the time to read this column!



How Do You Get Rid of Carpenter Bees?

Some “pests” are pestier than others!

The more challenging it is to get rid of a pest that is causing damage to your home in one way, shape, or form, causes me to label it “pestier” than others.

There are all types of creepy crawlies that many folks refer to as “pests” that create damage around the home – carpenter ants, mice, termites, you name it!

Perhaps near the top of the pestiest of them all, for me, would be carpenter bees.

As far as bees are concerned, carpenter bees are not really that harmful.

The males may appear to be a bit feisty (they do like to dive bomb beings that they feel are coming into their territory) but they do not even have stingers (and they would not “bite” per se!).

The females have stingers, but will only resort to trying to sting if they are being bothered.

Where the carpenter bees create damage, is by burrowing into various areas around the home (I usually see them in trim areas high above or various areas around porch ceilings, etc.).

Carpenter bees are unlike other bees in that they do not live in colonies.

To a degree, they are loners, and when you see their damage, it is typically the females chewing circular holes to make places to lay eggs and protect their larvae as they develop.

These holes can be quite extensive and are often noticed when a homeowner happens to stumble upon varying degrees of carpenter bee excrement, which is often found on the area of a home directly below a place where carpenter bees have been burrowing.

The crazy thing about these pests, is that although they can cause quite a bit of damage to your home, they are extraordinary pollinators!

Knowing this, I come across situations where people are often torn as to how to address them.

Assuming you would like to be rid of them, they are not very easy to stop, as even with pest control treatments, they often come back to the same spot, or a spot nearby, soon after a treatment has been done.

There are a variety of recommendations throughout the internet in terms of how to stop them.

My recommendation is that if you do move forward with some type of pest control for carpenter bees, do not close their holes up right away.



About Tom Lopatosky

Tom Lopatosky has run his own RI-based carpentry and painting business since 1995; LOPCO Contracting – the “Personable, Particular Professionals” – specializes in carpentry and exterior & interior painting. Recently LOPCO Contracting was named ‘RI’s Finest Painting Contracting Company’ by ShopInRI Magazine. In 2013, Tom was named “Humanitarian of the Year” by the Painting and Decorating Contractors of America (PDCA) and a “40 Under 40” award winner by Providence Business News. He is a member of both PCA (Painting Contractors Association) and RIBA (Rhode Island Builders Association). Tom has often had weekly ‘Home Improvement Tips’ that have aired on the radio on 630 WPRO AM and on television on WPRI 12.

Instead, keep an eye on the area that was treated and its nearby places to make sure that the carpenter bees are indeed gone.

Once you are convinced that the carpenter bees are no longer around your home, wait until later in the Fall to work toward correcting any damage that they may have done.

My further recommendation is to

replace the damaged wood with pressure treated (or some other chemically treated wood) or composite material where possible and to keep all painted surfaces properly maintained.

Carpenter bees sure can create a dilemma between their usefulness in pollination and the damage that they can cause to someone's home.

Believe it or not, there are systems out

there that try to attract carpenter bees away from areas on the home that they may be in the process of damaging, but at the same time try to keep them near the home to benefit from the way that they pollinate.

Whatever the case may be, out of all the pests I typically come across, carpenter bees present the most challenge in terms of quickly stopping them from damaging someone's home over a long term basis.

Cook & Dagger Offers Great Food *With No Political Fare*

By Paul Lonardo

The owners of Greenville's Cook and Dagger restaurant, Chris Kattawar and Taylor Krickl, are happy to be back serving what they refer to as "creative comfort food" to their returning customers. They are proud of their menu, made with fresh ingredients, and their continued support of local farmers and businesses, and that's where they would like all the focus to remain. However, a recent controversy erupted due to a sign that the restaurant shares with a neighboring business, the New England for Trump gift shop. In this volatile political climate, some people have taken offense to the political novelty store and mistakenly associated it with the restaurant.

Cook and Dagger, which has been in operation since 2015, wants to set the record straight that New England for Trump is in no way affiliated with them. They only share space on a sign. The restaurant owners would only like to promote an expanding menu that includes their popular calamari appetizer, which comes tossed with roasted corn, grilled red onion, shishito peppers, and chorizo vinaigrette.



"We just want to keep whipping up delicious food and drink," they wrote in a Facebook plea to their customers. "That's all we are trying to do here."

Cook and Dagger now has limited indoor seating available. Call ahead for reservations. They request patrons wear a face coverings when entering and exiting. Curbside take-out is also available. Take-out hours are 2-9 PM Tuesday through Saturday, and dine-in hours 5-9 PM Tuesday through Saturday.

Cook & Dagger is located at 566 Putnam Pike in Greenville.

Check out their menu at <http://cookanddagger.com/>.

**For reservations call
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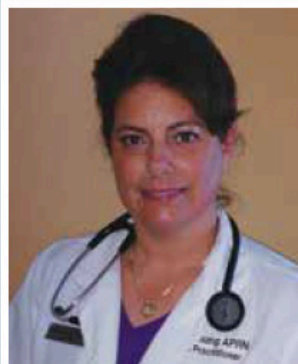
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Here are just a few of Senator Archambault's many accomplishments:

- Spearheaded nationally recognized law requiring that all police officers receive training in mental health in order to better recognize and de-escalate situations that involve people struggling with mental illness.
- Sponsored and won adoption of laws to combat opioid addiction, including pill and dosage limits on highly addictive prescription painkillers and arming patients and parents with real-time information.
- Advanced legislation to protect consumers from surprise medical bills from out of network providers by requiring advance notification and through expanding insurance coverage.
- Actively backed legislation to assist small businesses and local farmers.
- Won the adoption of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) supported legislation to combat drunk driving by requiring interlocks in the cars of all first time offenders.
- Led the successful fight for the adoption of a state law ensuring that Bryant University contributes its fair share for services received from the Town of Smithfield.



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Is telehealth here to stay?

by Diane L. Marolla, LICSW

In last month's Smithfield Times article, I discussed how telehealth has been playing a key role in keeping individuals who suffer from addiction engaged in treatment. In some cases, telehealth has been a life saver. In this article, I will talk about why telehealth needs to be part of the new normal overall in the treatment of mental health disorders as well. For this article, I have also tapped into Katie Pecora, LICSW at Gershon Psychological Associates regarding her experiences in using telehealth as a tool to help her clients.

Prior to the pandemic, according to Joe Harpaz May 4th 2020 article in Forbes magazine 5 Reasons Why Telehealth Is Here to Stay (Covid-19 And Beyond) a survey "by Sage Growth Partner (SGP) and Black Book Market Research, 25% of consumer respondents had used telehealth prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fifty-nine percent reported they are more likely to use telehealth services now more than previously, and 33% would even leave their current physician for a provider who offered telehealth access." This same article goes on to explain that the "surge" in telehealth is related to individuals accessing behavioral health services. Behavioral health services are provided for the treatment of mental health and substance use/abuse disorders.

If you talk with any behavioral health provider, they will tell you that there has been an uptick locally and nationally

of anxiety, depression, alcohol and drug use/abuse, and domestic violence during the pandemic. They will explain that when the pandemic is over, as a society, we will all mentally feel the lasting effects of it.

As I am writing this article, it is July 6th and there could be a surge in cases in RI if individuals do not adhere to the rules and protocols during the holiday weekend as outlined by the Governor



of RI and the RI Department of Health. Nationally, we are already seeing a surge in cases and in deaths in states that opened faster than RI. At the agency that I am currently at (Gershon Psychological Associates) the decision was made to do virtual visits only unless the client's needs warrant a face to face office visit. From a clinical standpoint, I had never used telehealth before so I was skeptical as to whether it would be beneficial to clients. Having used it since mid-March, I can attest that telehealth is safe (as I am using a HIPAA compliant IT platform), and easy. My current clients have also

embraced telehealth as it is convenient for them.

I compared my experiences with telehealth with my colleague at Gershon, Katie Pecora, LICSW. Katie has been with Gershon for almost 2.5 years. Katie has been a clinician for 15 years. She sees the benefits of telehealth with her clients as "it captures people who find in person visits prohibitive" (i.e. individuals who cannot get

transportation and are disabled, or who cannot take time off from work). In Katie's opinion clients come to their visits "more relaxed and more open" to discuss their issues. Katie also commented that telehealth can help individuals who suffer from social anxiety as it can be used as a tool to engage them in treatment virtually and then make in person office-based visits as a goal for the patient as part of their treatment plan.

Katie commented that telehealth should not replace in person visits (and I concur with Katie), but that telehealth's a "win win" for the client and clinician.

There are some drawbacks to telehealth, however. Technology does fail during the visit, so if a client is disclosing difficult or painful information to the therapist, it can be a disruption to the session. Also, an in-person session helps the clinician get a better feel for the client and their needs and helps build a rapport and environment of trust for the client. Besides technology failing during a visit, Katie and I could not think of

any negatives in the use of telehealth.

From an insurance perspective both our local and national leaders have mandated that the rules with telehealth be relaxed during the pandemic. Unfortunately, insurance companies are already looking for ways to pay providers less for this necessary treatment and looking for more

confusing rules that providers will need to follow. In typical form, the lobbyists from the insurance companies are already providing false data to top officials in RI stating that telehealth does not benefit clients and will be costly. Fortunately, there is legislation at the RI General Assembly that will support and preserve telehealth and not make it confusing or cost prohibitive to the

clinician or the client. The legislation is supported by the Senate Leadership, The RI Insurance Commissioner's Office, and the RI Governor's Office. Hopefully, the leadership at the RI House of Representatives will ensure passage to demonstrate that they care about the health and well-being of all Rhode Islanders and not the profits of already rich health insurance companies.

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Senior Scene

Biogen offers hope for treatment of Alzheimer's disease

by Paul V. Palange

Good news can be difficult to come by these days. There is some around, however, and I recently saw a few upbeat pieces in my email inbox. The notifications concerned a promising development in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

According to Reuters news service, Biogen, Inc has submitted an application for U.S. approval of aducanumab, which would be the first drug brought to market to slow the progression of a mind ravishing disease that can suck the life right out of victims as well as their loved ones.

Most of us know people who are suffering or have succumbed to Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. For many patients, it's a lonely, confusing battle; and for the patients' friends and relatives who are caregivers, it's an emotionally exhausting journey. Witnessing cognitive and physical regression firsthand is heart wrenching, especially as someone's condition worsens and there is nothing that can be done to slow down or stop the disease.

According to the Alzheimer's Association Rhode Island Chapter, there are 24,000 state residents with Alzheimer's, and that total is expected to increase by 12.5 percent to 27,000 by 2025. As of 2018, Alzheimer's was the fourth leading cause of death in the Ocean State, and as of 2019, there were 54,000 unpaid caregivers here.

The Reuters' article states: "The number of people in the United States living with Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia, is expected to triple to nearly

14 million by 2050 without effective treatments, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

Those state and national figures are daunting, which makes me hope that Cambridge, Mass.-based Biogen can demonstrate that aducanumab is an effective treatment, and that the doubt about the drug expressed by some experts can be dashed.

Dr. Maria Carrillo, chief science officer at the Alzheimer's Association, refused to speculate to Reuters on the chances of the drug winning approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

"We are looking forward to that rigorous review and their decision," Carrillo told Reuters, adding that a "drug like this that addresses the biological causes associated with Alzheimer's dementia would be historic and no doubt impactful for the Alzheimer's community."

The FDA has 60 days to decide whether to accept the application for review, Biogen and partner Eisai Co. Ltd. said in a joint statement, Reuters reported.

Effective treatments of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia would be welcomed by people of all income levels. Just ask Kim Campbell, the widow of singer Glen Campbell. Insights about some of the struggles caregivers face can be found in her book, "Gentle On My Mind: In Sickness and in Health With Glen Campbell." The state Alzheimer's Association website has a link to an article about the book that was released last month. An excerpt reads:

"I never say I 'put' or 'placed' my

husband in a 'home' or 'facility.' Those terms feed a negative stigma that keeps people from getting the help they need. I say, 'Our family joined a memory care community.' It was our community, too. We lived each day with families on the same journey. We laughed together, cried together, prayed together and supported each other. If this disease becomes too difficult to manage at home, being part of a quality memory care community should be your first choice, not your last resort.

"Part of my self-care entailed participating in a support group with women losing their mates to dementia. Like me, like everyone, they required compassion. And they needed to know that they were not alone. This led me to start a blog called CareLiving.org, to encourage caregivers to care for themselves while caring for others. Helping others helped me," she wrote.

Patients, caregivers and health care professionals facing or dealing with Alzheimer's or other dementias can receive education and support from the Alzheimer's Association Rhode Island Chapter. More information is available at alz.org/ri, and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest.

It is stated on the association's website that the organization is committed to advocating for the needs and rights of people facing Alzheimer's disease and advancing critical research toward methods of treatment, prevention and, ultimately, a cure.

That would be fantastic news.



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Sports with Dan

by Dan Pieroni

The 2020 MLB season; concessional crumb or wakeup call to relevance?

It's here whether we asked for it or not.

Yes, barring another extreme wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, Major League Baseball has begun its 2020 season with a shortened schedule, modified rules, and likely no fans in the stands.

For the purists, baseball will look radically then ole ballgame they are used to.

Red Sox fans looking to see Los Angeles Angels phenom Mike Trout or the exciting young core of the Houston Astros are out of luck. To reduce travel in the wake of the corona virus, teams will play 10 games apiece against their division rivals, and five games each against the National League teams that are geographically closest to them (i.e. NL West teams will play AL West teams five times each).

The playoff format will remain the same, which could potentially lead to accusations of unfairness.

For example, let's say the Mariners beat out the Red Sox for the final playoff spot. Since the Red Sox won't be able to play the Mariners this season, it could lead to potential accusations of the Mariners playing in an easier division. Thus, how could we fairly quantify the Mariners were actually the better team and not the beneficiary of an easier schedule?

Plus, if you're a stickler for rules, the gimmicky nature of this shortened season is going to make you madder than when a batter tries to bunt in order to break up a no-hitter.

The Designated hitter is now in both leagues. True, the game may be less strategic, but it's best to protect pitchers from unfortunate injuries on the basepaths.

To me though, the most gimmick-laden rule is that if a game goes into extra innings, a runner will automatically be placed on second base in an attempt to speed up gameplay.

The traditionalist will cry foul, especially if they root for the Yankees or Dodgers. I imagine they'll be calling their local sports radio stations up lamenting that their team got a raw deal because of the shortened season. Any team besides the Yankees or the Dodgers that wins the World Series should have an asterisk placed next to their name in the record book. This wasn't a full season, and everyone who follows the game passionately knows that the Yankees or Dodgers would have dominated throughout the season.

Any team can get lucky over 60 games, which is precisely why this season may end up saving baseball in the long run.

Younger fans who don't appreciate the nuanced strategy of baseball continually complain that the games are too long, too boring, and too predictable.

They're right, but baseball's bigger problems are the lack of marketable stars as compared to the NBA and NFL, and the level of greed displayed by the owners and players during the latest negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement.

Perhaps this is the shot in the arm baseball needs to stay relevant. Forget about labor squabbles and long seasons.

So what if the Yankees lose out to a team that got lucky over 60 games. They are the most talented team on paper, so in theory they should win it all.

If you hear a Yankee fan complain that they didn't go all the way it's just sour grapes.

In a 60-game season, every game is do or die. There is little margin for error, and yes, even teams like the Marlins and the Orioles have a legitimate chance to make noise.

This is exactly what baseball needs. A short season, the potential for more offense, gimmicks galore, and the notion that every game will matter.

How can we not be excited?

Alas, the owners will complain about lost revenues, the players will complain about lost wages, and you'll be too invested in what the NHL and NBA is doing to care about little old baseball.

People like me who continue to bang the drum for baseball's relevance amid a society of instant gratification will likely view this mini season as nothing more than a crumb in a big pie.

I guess there's nothing left to do but repeat the rallying cry of our forefathers who never saw the Ole Town Team win it all. Wait till' next year!



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The Haunted Tavern

By Thomas D'Agostino

Route 44 has always seen its fair share of traffic. Early travelers on horseback, wagon or foot traversed the roadway en route to Providence or Putnam, Connecticut. The need for taverns every five miles was mandated, and those who were of prominence in the towns the turnpike passed through were given license to provide victuals, drink and lodging.

In 1733 Resolved Waterman Jr., a great-grandson of Roger Williams built a tavern in the center of what is now Greenville. In 1822, The Smithfield Exchange Bank attached an ell onto the back of the main tavern building. Another western ell was built onto the tavern, and a cobblestone courtyard connected the two. A large dining hall sat on the first floor with a dance hall directly above.

The tavern became a popular stop along the Providence/Putnam Pike. So popular that it rarely stayed vacant. Through the centuries, many living occupants have graced the walls of the old tavern, but there are also the permanent occupants that have made the antiquated structure their eternal home.

One evening a traveling peddler stopped at the inn in hopes of a meal and a bed for the night. Unfortunately, all the rooms were full, but Mr. Waterman, being a kind man, could not turn the tired soul away, so he offered him lodging in the root cellar. The man dined and imbibed, enjoying the company of others until he was ready to bed down for the night. With his thirst and hunger well sated, the peddler stumbled down the steep stairs to his lodging. That was the last anyone ever saw of him, in the flesh, anyway.

The next morning, Innkeeper Waterman

called on the man for breakfast, but there was no answer. Resolved descended the stairs thinking that the poor peddler was sleeping off his merriment, but when he reached the makeshift bed, it was vacant. His bag of wares and belongings were still next to the sleeping arrangement, but its owner simply vanished without a trace.



Several guests and staff searched for the man in vain. No one had seen him leave nor had heard him in the night, one theory proposed was that he might have risen in the dead of night and stumbling around in the dark, fell into the well in the basement. The well was very deep, and there was no way of telling if the traveling salesman had accidentally fallen in the water source. With little other choices, Resolved sealed the well and dug another in a safer place. Within a few weeks of the incident, guests began seeing the melancholy ghost of a man roaming around the building. Regulars recognized the shade as the peddler they shared drinks with that fateful night. The ghost often passed by the taproom and disappeared at the stairs leading to the basement.

A regular sketched a drawing of the ghost as it passed by him one night.

Everyone agreed it was the likeness of the peddler that went missing only to return in the spirit form.

A guest once requested to sleep in the cellar in hopes of seeing the ghost. The stout ghost hunter stated he feared no spirit and took residence in the basement for the night. Sometime in the night he was awoken by a scream as a pair of scissors took on wings and flew past his head. Needless to say, the “brave” ghost buster took his belongings and cut out of the building in a hurry.

The Resolved Waterman Tavern an historic landmark and reminder of the days of stagecoach travel and tavern life. The present building is but a fraction of the once massive tavern. The old inn became a private home in 1902. The front of the inn was razed in 1936 to make room for the expansion of US Route 44. It stayed a private residence until 1969 when the last occupant, Bessie Fish passed, leaving the structure empty but not necessarily vacant. People passing by often claimed to see dim lights moving about the rooms and shadows passing by the windows as if still occupied by some ethereal presence.

In 2003, The Smithfield Preservation Society acquired the building and began renovations. The old inn is slated to be a museum, complete with artifacts and important historical points throughout.

The ghost of the peddler is still said to haunt the structure as you read this. The building is occasionally open for tours, and those who venture through the rooms get a glimpse of some of the town’s most distinguished history. Who knows, you may even get a tour from a man resembling an 18th-century peddler.



Angelica Bovis, a lifelong resident of the Town of Smithfield and graduate of Smithfield High School, has announced her candidacy for Town Council as a Democrat. Angelica is a recent graduate of Roger Williams University School of Law and a current member of the Smithfield Land Trust. Angelica's primary goals as a member of the Town Council consider sustainability,

community involvement, and improving education.

As a member of the Smithfield Land Trust, Angelica is passionate about preserving our open space and historical integrity. Angelica stated "If elected to Town Council I will work hard to preserve the quality of life that all of our residents are accustomed to. I consider myself extremely lucky to have been raised in Smithfield. It is very important that the Town continues to maintain its unique heritage and

natural resources so that future generations of Smithfield residents can enjoy them."

She is also particularly interested in promoting community involvement, especially among young people. Angelica believes that it is important that young people realize the different ways they can get involved in their town's decision making process and that everyone has a say in how the town operates. At a young age Angelica became involved in local politics and committees, and truly believes that community involvement fosters growth within the town.

Finally, as a member of the Town Council, Angelica would like to continue to strengthen a strong working relationship between the Town Council and School Committee. Angelica credits much of her success to the Smithfield Public Schools and, as a recent graduate, has first hand knowledge about the challenges young people are facing in their future career paths and higher education decisions. Additionally, Angelica considers the renovations to the Smithfield elementary schools, which will result in state of the art facilities, to be a great initial step towards a productive educational environment.

DuPont Declares Candidacy for State Senate

Smithfield native says she will "use compassion and courage to help neighbors, make systems work for everyone, improve laws and lives."

Melanie DuPont filed her Declaration of Candidacy with the Board of Canvassers. DuPont is a Democrat running for State Senate in District 22, which spans all of Smithfield and parts of Johnston and North Providence.

"As your State Senator, I will take bold, decisive action to secure for us green energy jobs, living wages, equal pay, and affordable housing. I will work to decouple health insurance from employment and expand mental healthcare for survivors of domestic violence."

– Melanie DuPont, Democrat for State Senate

DuPont has cited her own experience, growing up with mother making tipped minimum wage and father unable to find work, as a motivating factor for her run.

"I don't trust our endorsed representative to meaningfully

improve our lives.

Instead of eight years of service, we got eight years of lip service.

And now that we're in the COVID crisis, we can see the effects of political inaction. It's time we make the switch to a candidate who offers a different and courageous approach to public service. I am your candidate and I ask you to vote for me in the Primary on September 8th."

DuPont's campaign is online at [MelForRI.com](https://www.melforri.com) and Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

– Contact Noah Glickman, Campaign Manager, at campaign@MelForRI.com or <https://www.instagram.com/melforri> <https://twitter.com/melforri> <https://www.facebook.com/MelForRI/>





Sean Kilduff –

It is my pleasure to announce that I will be seeking re-election to the Smithfield Town Council for a second term. It has been a great honor to serve the residents of Smithfield at such an important time in the town's history.

Being a graduate of Smithfield Public Schools, I am proud to be overseeing much-needed renovations to our elementary schools which will provide future generations of Smithfield students with the opportunity to learn in a cutting-edge educational environment. If re-elected, I will continue to work with the School Department in order to ensure that this voter approved \$45,000,000 project does not exceed its budgeted amount and will be completed in a timely manner.

During my first term on the Town Council, I have collaborated with my Council colleagues and the Department of Public Works to address the many infrastructure needs of the community, including plans to resurface several of the town's aging roads. Together with

our General Assembly delegation, we successfully lobbied the Rhode Island Department of Transportation to resurface Greenville Avenue: three years ahead of schedule.

The Town is also in the process of making much-needed repairs to each of its water storage tanks. These tanks, which have not had any preventative maintenance in the last two decades, will now have a greater life expectancy. These repairs ensure that Smithfield residents will not have any issues with respect to their water supply for years to come.

With regards to public safety, the Town has selected a site for new fire station. Located along the Route 7/116 corridor, this new station will greatly reduce fire and rescue response times for residents residing in the northern areas of Smithfield.

As a lifetime resident of Smithfield, I truly believe that is essential that affordability and quality of life be preserved for all Smithfield residents.

As the Town Council's liaison to the Smithfield Land Trust, I have worked closely with our Land Trust members to maintain and preserve the beautiful trails that our residents enjoy. Further, I have worked cooperatively with my council colleagues to scrutinize our municipal finances wherever possible. It is imperative that the Town continue to enact fiscally conservative budgets that in all instances minimize the financial burden on our residential homeowners and local businesses.

If re-elected, I will continue to work in conjunction with the Town's Economic Development Commission and our Town Manager to attract new businesses to Smithfield. It is extremely important that the Town continue to expand its commercial tax base in a manner that is consistent with the Town's comprehensive plan.

I respectfully ask for your support and your vote on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Together, we can continue to improve the quality of life of all Smithfield residents.

T. Michael Lawton –

Council Vice President T. Michael Lawton has announced that he will seek re-election to the Smithfield Town Council. Lawton stated it has been a great honor to serve the residents of Smithfield over the last four years. As a small business owner, it has been a priority of mine to enact budgets that are fiscally responsible, and which provide our residents with the level of service that they are accustomed to receiving. It is imperative that the Town continue to pursue responsible economic development within our Economic Growth Overlay District in an effort to expand the Town's commer-

cial tax base in order to keep Smithfield affordable to our residents and minimize the tax burden on our residential homeowners and local businesses.

During the current council term, I have worked diligently with my council colleagues to address significant and much needed infrastructure improvements to our Town. The Town has finally completed a municipal road assessment which will be incorporated into a road re-surfacing program so that those roads in the worst condition will receive a priority with respect to paving. The Town is also in the process of completing a much-needed overhaul of its water

system by repairing and repainting all three of its municipal water tanks which will extend their life expectancy. As the council liaison to the Fire Department Building Committee, the committee is in the process of selecting a site within the Route 7/116 corridor which will address an underserved area of Town and lower the Fire Department response time for residents who reside within this area.

As a parent of three children who are graduates of the Smithfield School system, I am pleased that the Town and School Department, working together, are in the process of making major renovations to our elementary schools and



provide our students with state-of-the-art learning environments. As a member of the Town Council, myself and my council colleagues along with the School Department are deeply committed to ensuring that this 45-million-dollar voter approved initiative is finished on time and within its budget.

The Council is in the process of pursu-

ing additional recreational opportunities for our families. The Town is currently negotiating with the YMCA to utilize a portion of the Camp Shepard property to provide additional opportunities for ball fields for our children. The Town is also awaiting the receipt of architectural plans that would assist the Town in developing a plan to restore and reopen the East Smithfield Neighborhood

Center for both municipal and recreational purposes.

I am truly honored to serve the residents of our Town and look forward to continuing to increase the quality of life for all of our residents. I respectfully request your vote on November 3, 2020 so that together we can continue to move our community forward.

Tikoian announces candidacy for Smithfield Town Council



David P. Tikoian, a lifelong resident of the Town of Smithfield, product of the Smithfield School system, graduate of Bryant University and a person deeply committed to the town, has announced his candidacy for Smithfield Town Council on the Democratic ticket.

Tikoian recently retired as the North Providence Police Chief and has been credited for transforming the agency. During his tenure as Chief, Tikoian utilized his strong financial oversight ability during the construction of the new North Providence Public Safety Complex, saving taxpayers approximately 1 million dollars during the course of this massive capital project. Tikoian was also

successful in earning Rhode Island State Accreditation for the department, approving and implementing policies and procedures that are consistent with best practices in modern day law enforcement. Prior to his public service as Police Chief, Tikoian served on the Rhode Island State Police for 23 years, rising to the rank of Major and Chief Administrative Officer for the department. As Major and Chief Administrative Officer, a significant portion of his responsibilities included oversight of the agency's Finance Office and fiscal management of the Department's 97-million-dollar budget. He also was designated as the legislative liaison for the department to the Rhode Island General Assembly testifying before various House and Senate committees regarding proposed legislation.

"Smithfield is at a crucial financial cross road," Tikoian stated. The Town's bonded indebtedness, in excess of 45 million dollars, has been leveraged to its maximum capacity as a result of recent voter approved initiatives. "When elected I will rely on the management and financial oversight skills acquired during my career, exploring savings and revenue opportunities consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan. This

essential initiative will minimize further financial impact to our taxpayers, while keeping Smithfield affordable for our current residents and inviting to the many new families moving into our beautiful Town."

"As a member of the Town Council, I will work collaboratively with my colleagues to ensure residents receive responsible, responsive government, quality municipal services, prudent educational investment, enhanced recreational facilities, upgrades to our aging infrastructure and preservation of the Town's historical character," Tikoian added.

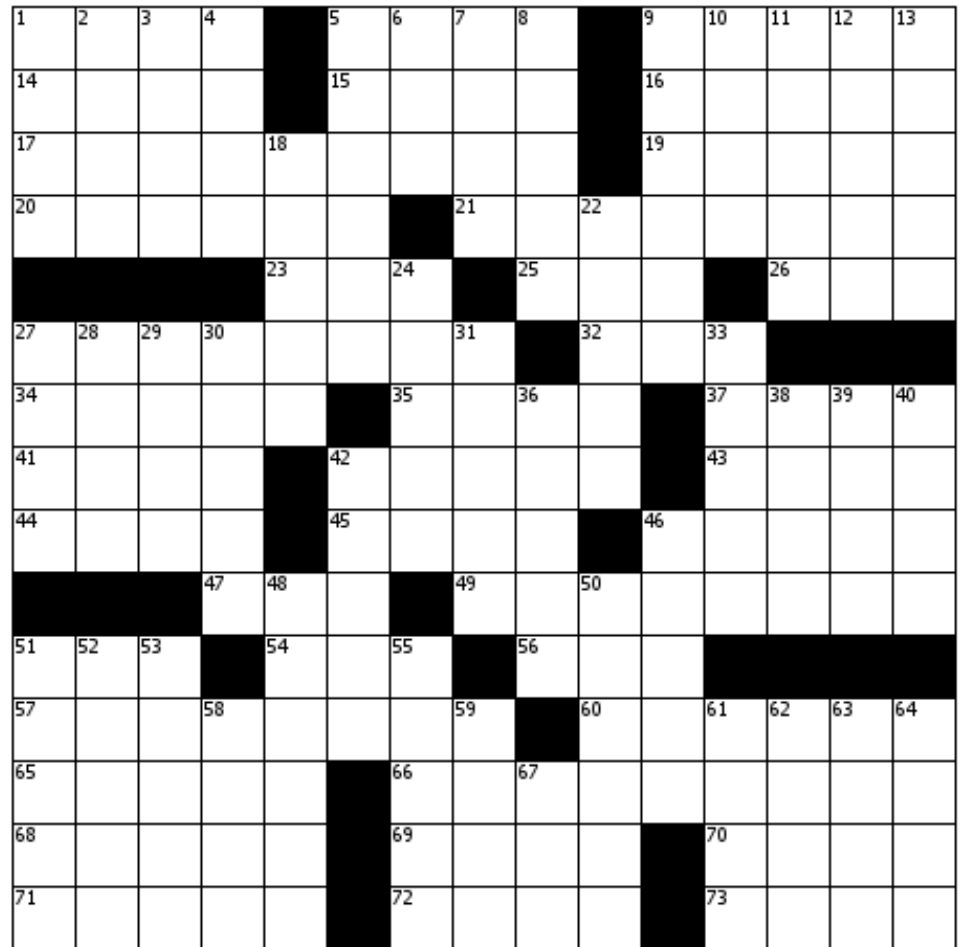
"I would consider it a privilege to serve the residents of our Town, working hard to ensure we have a town which is a desired place to live, raise a family and also enjoys a strong sense of community. I respectfully ask for your vote on November 3, 2020 and look forward to meeting many of you during the campaign."

CONTACT: David P. Tikoian
CELL: 401-524-7083
EMAIL: DPT63@COX.NET

Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Vegas machine
5. Cultivate
9. Curvy letters
14. Guided trip
15. Locale
16. Animated
17. Determine for sure
19. Warning alarm
20. Microwave again
21. Disperses
23. A Stooge
25. Compass dir.
26. Coloring fluid
27. "Scarface" gangster (2 wds.)
32. 2nd amendment lobby
34. Paper quantities
35. Calendar number
37. Invitation inits.
41. Detective's assignment
42. Positive responses
43. Citi Field predecessor
44. Reach
45. Some poems
46. ____ beef
47. Performed
49. Might
51. Tavern
54. Winter mo.
56. Urge
57. Texas city
60. Go off the tracks
65. Juliet's beloved
66. Kid's stipend
68. Moon's path
69. Actor ____ Penn
70. Hearty soup
71. Advertising lights
72. Catholic leader
73. Cow crowd



Down

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Celebrity | 22. Rice and Frank | 48. Dolts |
| 2. Be defeated | 24. Terminated | 50. Redecorated |
| 3. That hurts! | 27. Circle sections | 51. Red ____ (fighter pilot) |
| 4. Birch or spruce | 28. Jump | 52. Love, Italian-style |
| 5. Skin art | 29. House (Sp.) | 53. Stallone character |
| 6. Pension plan (abbr.) | 30. Make right | 55. Hold tightly |
| 7. Hawaiian necklaces | 31. Slackens | 58. Bridle strap |
| 8. Spear | 33. Fiery felony | 59. Bread topping |
| 9. ____ Bunny | 36. Irritable | 61. Reckless |
| 10. Cut | 38. Thick carpet | 62. Poker fee |
| 11. Fathered | 39. Suit item | 63. Bakery employee |
| 12. All | 40. Trail | 64. Bawdy |
| 13. Perceive | 42. Alpine call | 67. Lick up |
| 18. Highway entrances | 46. Modernize | |

Answers to puzzle on page 40.




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The Nature of Things

by James Gass

Return of the Dragons

When I was young, our friends would often come up from the city to visit. On warm summer days, large brightly-colored dragonflies would patrol our backyard for insects, lazily flying back and forth. I thought they were harmless until one day our urban friends informed us that they were in fact devil's darned needles, that they had a nasty sting, and that they might even sew our lips shut. I was very careful not to get too close to any dragonflies after that.

There are many myths and legends about dragonflies, mostly based on fear or ignorance. An early American folk tale warns children that if they misbehave, a dragonfly will sew their eyes and ears shut. They are known as "horse stingers" in England and the Netherlands. There's even a myth that says if a dragonfly hovers over a fisherman, he will have good luck.

The ancient Chinese didn't think much of dragonflies. To them, dragonflies represented the impermanence of summer, feebleness and instability. To the Japanese however, they were a symbol of victory, agility, and courage. Dragonflies appear in much of 11th century Japanese art, including sword hilts and arrow quivers.

Japan is also known as Dragonfly Island, or Akitsushima, named by its first Emperor, Jimmu. Akitsu is old Japanese for the word tombo, meaning dragonfly. Shima is Island. In ancient legend, Jimmu was on top of a mountain surveying what is now Japan. He remarked that it resembled the heart rings of two dragonflies mating. A mosquito then tried to bite him, but a dragonfly appeared and swiftly killed it,

so he named the island in its honor. During the annual Obon festival in Japan, families gather for several days during the summer to honor their ancestors. It has been a custom for over 500 years. It is believed that during this time the spirits of the dead return to visit their relatives, and that dragonflies are the incarnate souls of the deceased. Catching dragonflies at this time is strictly forbidden.

Dragonflies are one of the oldest forms of winged insects. Their fossil record goes back over 300 million years and includes griffinflies, which were their larger ancestors. One species of griffinfly that lived during the Permian period (*Meganeuropsis permiana*) was the biggest insect ever. It had a wingspan of over two feet and a body over a foot long. There are currently 3,000 species of dragonflies worldwide and about 200 species in New England. In Rhode Island, there are 91 species, mostly Darners and Skimmers. Darners are the larger of the two.

Dragonflies and damselflies are in the order Odonata, which is Greek for "toothed one," a reference to their serrated mandibles. Though similar, damselflies differ from dragonflies in that they are smaller, more delicate, and fold their wings over their back when at rest. Dragonflies rest with their wings stretched out horizontally. Damselflies also have a weak flight pattern, dragonflies are much stronger fliers. Like birds, many odonate males are more colorful than the females, and are also territorial.

Dragonflies are expert aerial predators. They have two sets of strong, flexible



Female Halloween Pennant, by Caoilinn Gass

wings that move independently of one another, allowing them to fly very quickly in any direction, including backwards. They can also hover. Dragonflies grab insects with their legs in mid-flight and then scoop them into their mouths. Their heads are dominated by two very large compound eyes, which not only give them excellent peripheral vision and high sensitivity to movement, but also color vision. Unlike other insects, dragonflies utilize an asynchronous rowing motion in flight. Most other insects use a symmetrical back-and-forth stroke.

Dragonflies lay their eggs in water or nearby vegetation and have an aquatic nymph stage which can live one to five years, depending on the species. The nymphs are also predatory, eating a variety of aquatic invertebrates. Darner nymphs will also eat minnows, tadpoles, or whatever they can catch (and will bite if handled). After emerging in the summer, most dragonflies live for only several months, but there are some longer-lived species including common green darners, that actually migrate.

When the birding action starts to fizzle out in late July and early August, I go

looking for dragonflies. They utilize a variety of habitats but a pond or marsh is always a good place to find them. On a recent walk at Audubon's Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife refuge in Smithfield, I saw common green darners, eastern amberwings, blue dashers, slaty skimmers, and widow skimmers all at the same pond. In the fields there I saw autumn meadowhawks. Fort Nature Refuge in North Smithfield has three ponds and is a good place to find twelve-spotted skimmers, common whitetails, Halloween pennants, and many, many more. But if you go looking for dragonflies, be very careful not to misbehave...

Check out: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/wrisum18.pdf>



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Audubon Society of Rhode Island

New! Audubon is offering small group nature explorations designed with safety in mind. Get up close with some cool marine critters, learn all about the world of pollinators, net some amazing insects, or head out on a bird scavenger hunt!



Rhode Island COVID-19 safety guidelines will be followed for all programs.

Small groups are led by Audubon naturalists. Family units are encouraged to participate together. Masks and social distancing are required. Participants must bring their own masks. Advance registration is required, and a parent or guardian must accompany children. Visit the events calendar at www.asri.org for safety guidelines and to register.

Bugliest Bugs – Tales & Trails!

Two Locations Offered - Bristol & Smithfield, RI
Dates and Locations Listed below
August 4, 18, 19, 2020; 10:00 - 11:00 am

Enjoy an engaging story all about bugs then go investigate field, forest and garden to look for wiggly, squiggly, wormy, squirmy insects and other critters. Nets, bug boxes, field guides and magnifiers will be available. Wear sturdy shoes, bug spray, sun protection and bring a water bottle. Walk will be less than a mile. Families will go home with an activity. For safety guidelines and advance registration, visit the events calendar at www.asri.org.

- Audubon Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
- 12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI
August 4, 2020
 - Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium
1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI
August 18, 19, 2020

Fee: \$10/member adult/child pair, \$5 for each additional member; \$15/non-member adult/child pair, \$7 each additional non-member. Children 3 years and under are free. Ages: Appropriate for children ages 3 ½ to 5 with other family members welcome. Register through the events calendar at asri.org.



Summer Wildflowers with the Newcomb's Guide

Audubon Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
Smithfield, RI
August 8, 2020; 2:00 – 4:00 pm

On languid summer days, the wildflowers fill the meadows and forest edges. Come to Audubon and learn to use the Newcomb's Wildflower Guide, a great resource for identifying all types of herbaceous wild plants. Bring your own Newcomb's Guide or buy one here. We'll also have copies on hand to try. Come wander on the wildlife refuge learning to identify different

plants and flowers. Wear closed-toe shoes. Sunscreen, insect repellent and a hat are recommended. For safety guidelines and advance registration, visit the events calendar at www.asri.org.

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI
Fee: \$10/member; \$14/non-member.
Ages: 14 and up. Register through the events calendar at www.asri.org.

Paint & Sip – Owls

Audubon Nature Center & Aquarium, Bristol, RI
August 8, 2020; 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Create your own beautiful painting while enjoying a glass of wine! No artistic experience necessary – we'll lead you through the creative process with step-by-step instruction. Start with a blank canvas and leave with your own masterpiece! If you had fun at a previous class, note that a new design will be used – so join us again! Registration is required. For safety guidelines and advance registration, visit the events calendar at www.asri.org.



Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium,
1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI
Fee: \$35/member, \$40/non-member.
Ages: 21 and up. Register through the events calendar at www.asri.org.

Bird Scavenger Hunt with Audubon

Three Locations Offered:
Bristol, Smithfield, Exeter, RI
Dates and locations listed below
August 10, 11, 12, 14, 2020; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Audubon loves birds! Join an expert for an all-about-birds scavenger hunt! Look and listen for birds in a variety of habitats, and learn about all kinds of bird nests, behaviors, foods, songs and calls. Binoculars and field guides will be

available or bring your own. Wear sturdy shoes, bug spray, sun protection and bring a water bottle. Walk will be one mile. Families will go home with an activity. For safety guidelines and advance registration, visit the events calendar at www.asri.org.

- Audubon Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI
August 10, 2020
- Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium
1401 Hope Street, Bristol, RI
August 11, 12, 2020
- Audubon Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge
99 Pardon Joslin Road, Exeter, RI;
August 14, 2020

Fee: \$20/member adult/child pair, \$7 for each additional member; \$25/non-member adult/child pair, \$10 each additional non-member. Children 3 years and under are free. Ages: Appropriate for children ages 6 to 11 with other family members welcome. Register through the events calendar at asri.org.

Raptor Meet & Greet

Two Locations Offered; Bristol & Smithfield, RI
Locations and Dates listed below
August 11, 12, 20, 2:00 – 2:30 pm

Come meet Audubon birds of prey! Observe a hawk or owl up close with an Audubon naturalist and learn more about their amazing adaptations for survival. Ask questions, take photos and share your own encounters with wildlife. Learn what you can do to help protect these species. Hands-on activities are part of the fun! Explore the wildlife refuge before or after the program. For safety guidelines and advance registration, visit the events calendar at www.asri.org.

Audubon Powder Mill Ledges
Wildlife Refuge,
12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI
August 11, 2020



Exploring Wetlands

Audubon Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
Smithfield, RI

August 20, 2020; 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Join an Audubon naturalist to discover what creatures live in wetlands! Dip your net into a swamp to find water bugs and look for frogs, turtles, and birds. Have fun while learning about the critters that make wetlands their home. Families will go home with an activity. For safety guidelines and advance registration, visit the events calendar at www.asri.org.

Audubon Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge,
12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI;
Fee: \$20/member adult/child pair, \$7 for each additional member; \$25/non-member adult/child pair, \$10 each additional non-member. Children 3 years and under are free. Ages: Appropriate for children ages 6 to 11 with other family members welcome. Register in advance through the events calendar at www.asri.org.

Audubon Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife

Refuge, Smithfield, RI

August 22, 2020; 10:00 – 11:30 pm

Come frolic and explore in the meadow on a lazy summer's day. Nets and magnifiers will be available as well as other fun items to explore with. Look for butterflies, flowers, insects, birds, toads and other critters that live in the meadow. Wear a hat, sunscreen and insect repellent and lightweight long pants, socks and closed-toe shoes. For safety guidelines and advance registration, visit the events calendar at www.asri.org.

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI
Fee: \$5/member child; \$7/non-member child. Ages: 3 and up. Register online through the events calendar at www.asri.org.



Wild Mushroom Workshop: Take the Mystery Out of Mushrooming

Audubon Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
Smithfield, RI

August 29, 2020; 10:00 – 2:00 pm

Join Audubon for an introduction to mushrooms and fungus. Learn how to identify mushroom groups and species that grow in the area. Start inside with a presentation on mushroom identification and view wild mushrooms on display that were collected from other areas. Next, venture out for a hike in the woods with an expert guide to find mushrooms growing in the wild. Please note: Collecting mushrooms on Audubon properties is prohibited. Wear closed-toe shoes, socks and long pants and dress for the weather. For safety guidelines and advance registration, visit the events calendar at www.asri.org.

Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge
12 Sanderson Road, Smithfield, RI
Fee: \$30/member, \$40/non-member. Ages: Adult. Register online through the events calendar at www.asri.org.

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Inside The Brown Bag | By Peg Brown

The Pandemic Revival (of the All-American Drive-In)

Not drive-in religious celebrations, drive-in medical clinics, or drive-in, drive-thru dining ... but the drive-in known to us of a certain generation characterized by a large screen, stuck in a field outside of town, showing – honestly – Grade B movies. Who could have anticipated that in this age of streaming services, Apple TV, Netflix, Amazon Prime and any number of other on-line venues, that Americans might actually once again pile in a car and drive to an open field to watch a movie?

According to recent reports, that's exactly what is happening – as all things that smack of nostalgia and support social distancing are viewed with renewed affection. When Gov. Andrew Cuomo, leader of one of the most hard-hit states, said in May, "Talk about going back to the future ... Back to drive-in movie theaters – I'm OK with that." The drive-in thus received official approval as a "low-risk recreational activity."

Perhaps the Governor didn't know that the drive-in is truly an iconic American invention. There is evidence that a partial drive-in existed in Guadalupe, NM, as early as April of 1915, premiering a spaghetti western, "Bags of Gold." It closed just one year later. A second attempt at viewing movies from a car was carried out in 1921 in downtown Comanche, TX, with cars parked bumper to bumper on the main street. However, the prototype that resulted in the first American patent of the drive-in concept occurred more than a decade later.

According to legend, in 1932 Richard M. Hollingshead, Jr., heir to a chemical

plant business in Camden, NJ, created the "modern" drive-in model out of necessity. Apparently, his mother was, let's just say, unable to fit in a "regular" movie theatre seat. Richard plunked her into the front seat of his auto, nailed two sheets to trees in his back yard, placed a 1928 Kodak projector on the hood of his car, a radio behind the sheets and Wa La, family problem solved, iconic American invention created.

Hollingshead's concept, patented in 1933, debuted in Pennsauken Township, NJ, with 400 40'X50' inclined dirt spaces, showing the British film, "Wives Beware," for 25 cents a car. Key marketing language: "The whole family is welcome regardless of how noisy the children are." Between the 1930s and World War II, drive-ins spread slowly across the United States. Interestingly Rhode Island had one of the first 10 to open in the US in 1937 – The Providence Drive-In opened in July of that year.

For us, the post-war Baby Boomers, the drive-in was a family ritual. Spurred by the post war boom in the sale of cars, the growth in young families, the continued need to be frugal (entertainment requiring no baby-sitters), children were dressed in their pajamas, piled into the auto, and transported to the edge of town where they could access a playground (there were always swings), run around, be treated to concession junk food (popcorn was 10 cents), and fall asleep listening to the voices of Cary Grant or John Wayne echoing through a small tin speaker hanging on the driver's side of the roll down window.

As teenagers, drive-ins became, well,



something different. Cars now provided perfect cocoons for first dates.

I'm not sure I remember any films I saw in the 1960s at the drive-in, but I do recall it was a place for making out, hanging out, checking out who was dating whom for discussion in the girls' bathroom on Monday morning, and, of course, ordering hot dogs from the concession, and washing them down with purloined contraband beer under the cover of steamed up windows. Little wonder that drive-ins developed less flattering labels, such as "passion pits".

As parents in the 1970s and 80s, the advent of cable, VCRs, movie rentals, the energy crisis, day light savings time, urban sprawl, shopping malls, and the increase in the price of large lots of land, essentially eliminated drive-ins as a form of family entertainment. Coupled with the growing questionable reputation of many drive-ins resorting to the R and X rated films to survive, the drive-in died not so slow a death. There have been revivals. Boutique drive-ins with food trucks have opened, nostalgia has driven some renewed interest, but most of the existing drive-ins are in the weather-friendly South and Southwest. The challenges for success are not only the cost of land, but the enhanced technology that can require expensive digital equipment.

The most recent attempt at pulling people back to the drive-in venue was a simulcast of a Garth Brooks concert in 300 theatres on June 27, 2020 (\$100 a car). Billed as an opportunity for artists to "get back to playing live music

without the uncertainty of what would be the result to us and the community,” it received mixed reviews. Apparently singing “Friends in Low Places” in the front seat of your car just wasn’t quite the same as blending your voice with 10,000 others.

Will COVID 19 contribute to a sustained revival? Not according to one article which recently stated: “Drive-ins are an exercise in desperation rather than nostalgia.”

Author’s notes:

- During the peak of drive-in popularity, Rhode Island had 15. We are now down to two – the Rustic Tri View Drive-in just off route 146 in North Smithfield, and the Misquamicut Drive-in Theatre in Westerly. According to the website, The Rustic, opened in 1951, charges \$27 a car, and provides sound through FM radio. Misquamicut, not quite so traditional, has been showing largely classical and second run movies fairly consistently in the summer since 2013 for \$15 a car, using stacked cargo containers as a screen. Both RI drive-ins should be called for updated schedules.
- The high-water mark for drive-ins came in 1958 when over 4,000 were operating in the US. In 2019, according to the United Drive-In Theatre Owners Association, there were just 305.



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Quiche Lorraine

Ingredients:

- 1 9-inch unbaked pie shell, chilled
- 2 tbs. Butter or margarine
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 12 slices bacon
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups light cream
- $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp. salt
- pinch nutmeg
- pinch cayenne pepper
- $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp. pepper
- 1 cup grated natural Swiss cheese (1/4 lb.)

Directions:

Saute onions in butter until soft, but not brown. Fry bacon until crisp. Drain and break into small pieces. Combine eggs, cream, salt, nutmeg, cayenne and pepper. Beat with rotary beater until well mixed. Sprinkle pie shell with bacon. Spread sautéed onions over bacon. Cover with grated Swiss cheese. Pour egg mixture in carefully. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 300 degrees and bake 40 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Serve at once, cut into wedges.
 Makes 6 servings.



Suggested Menu:

Quiche Lorraine
 Tomato Salad (olive oil & parsley)
 Bread Sticks
 White Wine



Stargazing

by David A. Huestis,
Historian, Skyscrapers, Inc.

A Shower of Stardust Prospects for the August Perseid Meteor Shower

After more than 45 years of enjoying the splendor of the heavens, I still look forward to a simple yet rewarding observing experience watching “burning rocks” falling from the sky. I’m referring to a meteor shower. There are about a dozen major meteor showers and hundreds of minor ones. During August we are fortunate to encounter the second most productive (the December Geminids are better) meteor display of the year – the Perseids. These meteors are a stream of particles stripped off Comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle’s surface by the solar wind and left in orbit around the Sun. Annually the Earth passes through this stream and we experience a display of shooting stars.

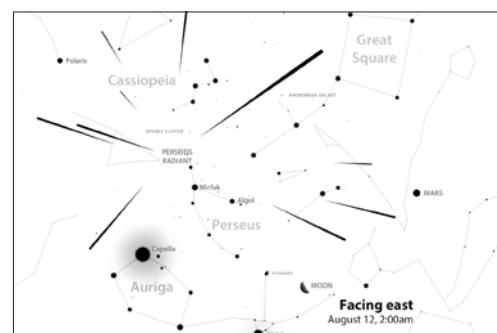
For 2020 the Perseids peak on the night of August 11-12, with the best time to observe as many meteors as possible between midnight and dawn. This shooting star display is the northern hemisphere’s most widely observed meteor shower because people spend more time with outdoor activities during late summer. Unfortunately, a last quarter Moon rises around midnight not far from the radiant point in the constellation Perseus from where the meteors appear to emanate. The Moon’s brightness will somewhat reduce the number of meteors to be seen. While the Perseid shower can produce between 60 and 90 meteors per hour, around southern New England we can usually expect to see no more than 60 shooting stars per hour. Moonlight will further reduce that number this year.

The Perseids, no larger than a thumbnail, blaze across the heavens at 134,222 miles per hour and completely disintegrate as they plunge through our atmosphere. In fact, J. Kelly Beatty,

senior editor of *Sky and Telescope Magazine*, makes this analogy. “The little nuggets in Grape-Nuts cereal (see accompanying photo) are a close match to the size of particles that typically create meteors in our atmosphere.” The Perseids are usually green, red or orange in color. And some members of this shower are bright and often produce exploding fireballs. Also, fireballs may be more prevalent as we approach morning twilight. Why? At that time, we are hitting the meteor stream head-on! Maximize your viewing opportunity by finding a dark sky location well away any from light pollution.

The best way to observe any meteor shower is to get comfortable on a chaise lounge or blanket. During the Perseids you must protect yourself from the hungry mosquitoes. (Last summer the EEE virus prevented many of us from observing the Perseids. I prefer the cold December Geminids any day!) Perseus is well up in the northeast sky after midnight. Use the accompanying sky map to locate this star pattern above the northeast horizon. If you can identify the constellation of Cassiopeia, which looks like an “M” or “W” tipped sideways, then you’re close enough. As Perseus rises higher the number of meteors will increase. Don’t simply concentrate your gaze in that direction. The meteors can appear anywhere in the sky, so constantly scan as much of the heavens as possible without straining your neck. If the weather cooperates and you have the time, continue your observing session until dawn’s early light overwhelms the stars.

If the weather does not cooperate or you



are unable to observe on peak night, try your luck on the nights before and after. You won’t see 60 meteors per hour, but you may catch a couple of dozen or so. And if you happen to see a stationary meteor (think about it – it’s headed directly at you), don’t forget to duck!



And finally, while you are out there under the stars please take notice of Jupiter and Saturn. They will be located to the east (left) of the teapot asterism that is the constellation Sagittarius. Next month I will provide a brief observer’s guide to these beautiful distant worlds.

Keep your eyes to the skies.
David A. Huestis

1 Image and quote used with permission.

MINI TEAM

AGES 5-8

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Remembering the Disco Era

By Jim Ignasher

By a show of hands, how many besides me once enjoyed “disco dancing” in the 1970s? Come on, I know there’s more of you than that out there. I thought so.

I understand the reluctance to admit it, for it was a time when men wore platform shoes, Polyester bell-bottoms, and wide-lapel shirts, and ladies fashions had issues too. Then there were the hairstyles where guys looked like they’d stuck their head out of a car window at 100 mph, and women sported big hair and “disco curls”. When I see photos of myself from those days of yore, I want to go back in time and say to my younger self, “What are you thinking?” What were any of us thinking?

Satire aside, I actually have fond memories of what’s referred to as “The Disco Era”, the height of which came into being in the late 1970s. Perhaps the movie which best defined the time was “Saturday Night Fever”, released in 1977 starring John Travolta who played a store clerk who was a disco sensation on weekends. The movie’s soundtrack included such hits as “Stayin’ Alive”, “Night Fever”, and “You Should Be Dancing”, by the Bee Gees, “Disco Inferno” by The Tramps, and “A Fifth of Beethoven”, by Walter Murphy, just to name a few.

It’s interesting to note that according to Wikipedia, the movie was based on a 1976 magazine article about New York disco night life written by a rock journalist who in 1996 admitted that the story was a complete fabrication.

“Saturday Night Fever” was filmed in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn, at a club called “2001 Odyssey”, which after the movie’s release became one of the most popular disco destinations in the tri-state area.

Even more famous was “Studio 54” located in Manhattan. The club, which had once been a television sound studio, opened in 1977 and in a short time became what was perhaps the number one disco in the country. Clientele included the rich and famous, and the parties inside became legendary. People would stand in line for hours, some wearing outlandish outfits, others scantily clad, all hoping to catch the eye of doormen and be allowed entry. Sometimes pretty girls were told to leave their dates behind, and they did, just for the bragging rights of saying they’d been there.

The word “disco” by the way, derives from the word “discothèque”, which refers to a time when round Vinyl records, “discs”, were played by disc-jockeys in nightclubs for musical entertainment.

“Saturday Night Fever” wasn’t the only movie to feature a disco theme. There was also the musical comedy “Thank God It’s Friday”, and the lesser known “Disco Fever”, both released in 1978, as well as “The Music Machine”, and “Disco Godfather”, released in 1979. Then there was “Can’t Stop The Music” released in 1980 starring “The Village People”.

Two other movies, “Roller Boogie” and “Skatetown”, both released in 1979, highlighted the brief fad of “roller disco” which involved disco dancing on roller skates. (Yep, that was really a thing.)

I wonder how many people in their 60’s today are being treated for old roller disco injuries suffered in their youth.

I suppose one could say disco music came in three forms; the radio version, the club version, and the novelty version.

Songs played on the radio generally lasted between three to four minutes, but the club versions could go on for ten minutes or longer. A case in point was “Love to Love You Baby” by Donna Summer which played for almost seventeen minutes, and was considered to be quite racy for the time.

Novelty disco songs were meant to be funny, yet they still had a great beat to dance to. Perhaps one of the best known was “Disco Duck” by Rick Dees and his Cast of Idiots, which featured a Donald Duck voice with back-up singers. Another was “My Name Is Eugene”, by Crazy Joe and the Variable Speed Band, which was about “a cool dude in a loose mood” who couldn’t get a date no matter how hard he tried. And then there was the country-western song “Disco Sucks!” by Chuck Wagon and The Wheels.

Some claim the end of the Disco Era began on July 12, 1979, (a.k.a. “Disco Demolition Night”), when a collection of disco records were blown up with pyrotechnics as part of a publicity stunt at Comiskey Park in Chicago. The event culminated in a riot as people rushed onto the field after the detonation.

Disco officially died in the early 1980s, and while some said “good riddance”, others mourned its passing. Now, decades later, the discos are gone, but fans can fondly recall younger days when they could still dance the night away and “get down” with their “bad selves” without needing a chiropractor in the morning.



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Payne's Picks | By Sarah Payne

August 2020

Movie Releases

All I See Is You – August 8 (Prime)

Blake Lively and Jason Clarke star in this psychological romantic drama directed by Marc Foster (*Monster's Ball*, *World War Z*). The film originally premiered at the 2016 Toronto International Film Festival and then was released to just 250 theaters in October 2017, which may explain why you've never heard of it until now. Lively plays a blind woman who regains her sight after surgery and discovers unsettling details about her life with her husband (played by Clarke). In 2017, Emily Yoshida at *Vulture* called it "One of the Strangest, Most Satisfying Surprises of the Fall," and continued, "as a psychological not-quite thriller, it's consistently entertaining; as a visual exercise, it's more adventurous than most would be." Jeannette Catsoulis of *New York Times* wrote: "'All I See Is You' is halfway through before something resembling a plot kicks in, and even then this limp, shape-shifting psychodrama proves unable to sell it with anything approaching coherence."

Antebellum – August 21

As of this writing, *Antebellum* is set for wide release this month, four months after it's originally planned release. Although, given the social and racial unrest that's been playing out in the news these past few months, the timing may have worked out perfectly. Janelle Monáe plays an author who finds herself trapped in a horrifying reality on a plantation in the antebellum South. In an interview with *The Hollywood Reporter*, Monáe said, "This is a project that is so of the times. I knew the responsibility and the weight of it, and I knew what

this character was going to have to go through physically and emotionally." Speaking about how triggering the experience of filming was, she noted, "I brought all of my ancestors home with me. And we were filming most of the stuff at night on a plantation, and I felt everything."

Movie Review

The Dressmaker – Prime

Theaters are only just starting to get back up and running, which means I had to rely solely on streaming services to get my new movie fix this past month. The first one I watched was 2015's *The Dressmaker*, starring Kate Winslet and Liam Hemsworth. Despite the A-list actors, you've probably never heard of it because the film only had a theatrical release in Australia and New Zealand. Though it received mixed reviews, *The Dressmaker* earned 13 nominations from the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards. Winslet plays a dressmaker who returns to her small Australian hometown to take care of her ailing mother and take revenge on the people who accused her of murder as a young girl and banished her from her home. I really enjoyed the quirkiness of the film – the trendy 1950s fashion juxtaposed with the bleak Australian desert. Hemsworth plays Winslet's love interest, and I was pleasantly surprised by their chemistry on screen.

Although the premise is dark, the execution is fun and campy.

Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga – Netflix

Will Ferrell and Rachel McAdams' latest film seemed to drop out of the blue without much fanfare on Netflix last month. *Eurovision Song Contest* is a comedy about two aspiring Icelandic musicians who land the opportunity of a lifetime to compete on Eurovision. If you've seen any of Ferrell's movies, you have a pretty good idea of what you're getting into. I chuckled a couple of times, but the humor is definitely juvenile. I also find it a bit odd that Ferrell is 52 years old and still playing the bachelor living at home, struggling to leave the nest. How much longer is he going to be able to keep up this schtick? Between the non-stop poking fun of Icelandic stereotypes and the lack of chemistry between Ferrell and McAdams, I give this movie a hard pass.

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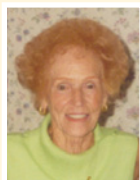
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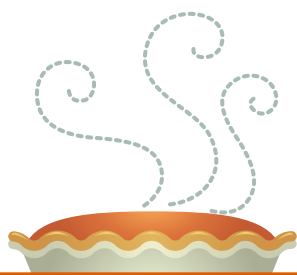
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