

COMPLIMENTARY

APRIL 2020

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# Smithfield Celebrates 50 Years of Earth Day With Its Annual Clean-up – *Volunteers Invited to Pitch In*

By Ron Scopelliti

Three days after the 50-year anniversary of Earth Day, the Town of Smithfield will celebrate the milestone with its annual town-wide Earth Day Clean-up. The cleanup will be held on April 25, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to noon, starting at Deerfield Park.

Volunteers are invited to assemble near the park's concession area at 9 a.m. to pick up their cleaning supplies before heading out to their clean-up areas where they will collect whatever litter and refuse they may find. Both groups and individuals are welcome.

"We assign sites throughout town and people take their own cars and go to the sites," said Smithfield Recycling Coordinator Melissa Chaput. Volunteers bag their debris, which is later picked up by workers from the town's Department of Public Works (DPW).

While the original Earth Day in 1970 was aimed largely at college students, Smithfield's Earth Day Clean-up welcomes all ages. Anyone under 18, however, does have to have a chaperone. Chaput said the areas are based partially on age, ranging from easier "kid-friendly" sites to more challenging areas reserved for adults.

The organizers also try to work in an educational element to each year's

event. This year, students from Smithfield High's National Honor Society will be helping with some hands-on Earth Day activities for families.

"We usually get about 120 or so volunteers," said Chaput. Last year, the count numbered 137; 56 adults and 81 children. The groups represented included the Smithfield Conservation Commission, Smithfield DPW, Smithfield Recreation Department, Smithfield Rotary Club and Rotary Interact, Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts, Girls Scouts, the National Honor Society, and the National Junior Honors Society. When the day was done they had collected three tons of debris and 10 tires from roadways, parks, and trails throughout town.

"It's usually around three to five tons of trash," Chaput said of the annual collection. After it is gathered, she said, "the DPW guys go around and collect all the trash, we bring it back here to a segregated dumpster, and that dumpster is tipped for free at [Rhode Island] Resource Recovery."

If participants want to request a particular spot, or are planning to bring a large group, it's suggested that they register in advance by calling 233-1034, extension 105, or e-mailing [recycle@smithfieldri.com](mailto:recycle@smithfieldri.com).



A Girl Scout troop, for instance, has already chosen to work in Esmond Park, because it's a good, safe area for younger children. As *The Smithfield Times* went to press, there was also an effort in place to offer online registration on the town's web site. In most cases, Chaput said, registration isn't required.

"Come on down – that's what the majority of folks do. Some come because they know their groups are coming, but there's a good amount of folks who just walk up."

Though the trash haul may be heavy, the organizers try to lighten the mood with food donated by local businesses.

"In the morning we try to have donuts," Chaput said, "and in the afternoon we try to have something when (the volunteers) come back." Last year, food was donated by Café Such A Bagel, Dunkin' Donuts, Pizzeria Uno, and Cabot Creamery.

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*Continued from page 3*

Supporters who came through with other resources last year included the Narragansett Bay Commission, Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful, Smithfield EMA, MEGA MTG Disposal, and Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation. Business volunteers came in from Alltown Realty, Adler Construction, and Peloquin and Sons.

Even those who aren't available on April 25 may still be able to play a part.

"If people can't do it on Earth Day," Chaput said, "they can do it somewhere around them. We keep that dumpster for a little while, so if a business wanted to take part, they certainly can, and if they want to do it during their work day, they can do that."

*For more information, or to register for the Earth Day Clean-up, e-mail [recycle@smithfieldri.com](mailto:recycle@smithfieldri.com) or call 233-1034, extension 105. For more information on the history of Earth Day, visit [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org), the official site of the Earth Day Network.*

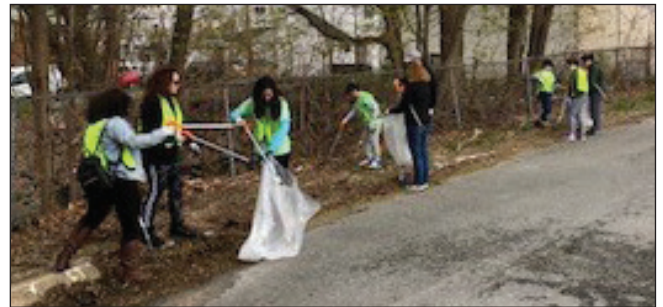


Photo credit, including cover: Sandra Archille



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

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.

## *Review Your Trust Annually To Protect Your Assets*



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**  
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# Push-Up-A-Thon Raises Awareness For People Living With Bleeding Disorders

By: **Brittni Henderson**

On Saturday, March 14, Mastery Martial Arts partnered with the New England Hemophilia Association (NEHA) to raise awareness and crucial funds for those living with a bleeding disorder in New England. Students and family members participated in a Push-Up-A-Thon at each of the eight Mastery Martial Arts locations in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, including the location on Cedar Swamp Road in Smithfield.

Amidst major concerns due to the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States, many participants logged their push-ups virtually, by recording themselves in a Facebook or Instagram post, and tagging friends to encourage them to participate. After the guidelines put into place per Governor Gina Raimondo, no location will have more than 100 people on site during this event. The hope is to keep a sense of normalcy, continue to focus on their mission, and keep participants safe as of utmost importance.

Mastery Martial Arts had a goal of doing 20,000 pushups in one day to support each of the 20,000 people living with hemophilia in the United States. Each student will choose a personal goal on how many pushups they want to do and ask their friends and family to donate \$1 per pushup. The hope was to raise

\$20,000 for those living with hemophilia. 100% of the funds raised will support NEHA's programs and services.

Antony Pezzillo, Chief Instructor at Mastery's Johnston location, has been involved with Mastery Martial Arts since his childhood. Pezzillo started when he was 10 years old as a white belt and is now a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt and Chief Instructor at 34. As a person living with hemophilia, he has seen firsthand how important proper treatment can be for bleeding disorders.

Mastery Martial Arts currently has roughly 2,000 students, and of them, 20 are living with a bleeding disorder. Treatments for bleeding disorders are very expensive. The average cost of treatment for a person with hemophilia can reach about \$350,000 per year. With



complications, expenses can surpass a million dollars annually. NEHA's Emergency Assistance Fund may be used to cover expenses like utility bills, transportation to and from medical appointments, rent, and food. Over the past five years, NEHA's Emergency Assistance Fund has provided over \$40,000 to families experiencing financial hardships. Every dollar that is raised at this event will go directly to families with bleeding disorders in need.

*Continued on page 6*



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NEHA is dedicated to improving the quality of life for persons with bleeding disorders and their families through education, support and advocacy. NEHA has assisted and advocated for all persons with inherited bleeding disorders in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont since 1957.

Bleeding disorders are a group of conditions that inhibits blood from clotting properly. Improper clotting can cause heavy and/or prolonged bleeding after an injury, surgery, or during menstruation. Bleeding disorders are usually genetic and are not contagious. Bleeding disorders can be very serious and often require treatment and lifestyle modification. Although there are many different types of bleeding disorders, some of the most common are: hemophilia A (factor VIII deficiency), hemophilia B (factor IX deficiency), hemophilia C (factor XI deficiency), and von Willebrand disease (vWD). There is no cure for hemophilia or vWD.



Photo credits: Albert Tavakalov



# Forgotten Industries of Spragueville and Mountindale

By Jim Ignasher

Spragueville is an area of Smithfield with no clearly defined borders located on the Greenville side of town. It includes the Gallagher Middle School, and extends eastward down Spragueville Road to Mountindale Road, then follows Mountindale Road to where it crosses the reservoir at the bottom of Wolf Hill. On the opposite side of the water is another undefined area that in the 1800s was known as "Mountain Dale". One wouldn't know it today, but there was a time during America's Industrial revolution that the area was a

bustling commerce center.

Spragueville was settled in 1733 by Abraham Smith who erected a grist mill and two houses. However, the area is named for Thomas Sprague, a former sea captain who came to Smithfield nearly a century later. Sometime after 1824 Sprague built a large granite cotton mill which measured 80 by 120 feet, and established "T. Sprague & Sons". According to old maps of the town, the mill stood on the north side of Mountindale Road in the area now occupied by present-day Richard

Street. The mill originally drew its power from the Stillwater River, but in 1870 steam turbines were installed.

In 1847 the mill was purchased by Wanton Vaughan who incorporated under "The Granite Mill Company". The enterprise later passed to Christopher Vaughan, Esquire, who became the sole proprietor.

The mill was part of what was known as "The Granite Mill

*Continued on page 8*

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Estate”, on which property also sat the private homes of the Vaughan family and possibly lodging for some of the workers.

The Granite Mill Company was very successful, and by the 1870s had 112 looms and 5,000 spindles in operation. However the mill fell inactive from 1886 to 1889.

By the 1890s the mill was back in operation under the direction of the Mercer brothers. What ultimately became of the mill is uncertain, but no remains of it can be found today.

Another large mill which once existed in the area was the Mountain Dale Hosiery Mill, which as its name would imply, was in Mountindale. According to old maps it stood to the south side of Mountindale Rd. at the base of Wolf Hill. The remains of this mill can still be seen today.

The hosiery mill was owned by William Steere of Greenville, and then others over the following years.

Mills would at times become inactive for various reasons, from low water levels and machinery problems, to fluctuations in cotton prices.

On March 31, 1871, the following news snippet appeared in the Woonsocket Patriot. “The Mountain Dale Hosiery Mill, which has been stopped for more than two years, has

been recently leased by Pierce Kane, Esq., of Saratoga Co., New York, and he is now starting it up. He will make a class of goods similar to those formerly manufactured at the same mill by Wm. A. Steere.” At some point afterwards the property came to be operated by J. P. & J. G. Ray, (Full names unknown), but it appears that the

junction of the Stillwater River and Reaper’s Brook. Smith and Harris manufactured parts for cotton mills such as spindles and shuttles which were needed for the many textile mills being built along the Blackstone Valley.

In the days before modern refrigeration people kept food cold with ice, which made “ice harvesting” a lucrative business. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century a large ice house belonging to the East Providence Ice Company stood on the shoreline of the reservoir at the bottom of Mountindale Road.

The “harvesting” took place during the winter, when the water froze thick enough to support men and horses. Ice saws were used to cut blocks of ice which would be brought to the ice house and taken inside by on a conveyer

mill once again fell idle, and shortly before midnight on November 1, 1877, it was destroyed by fire. The loss amounted to \$9,000, and the property was not insured.

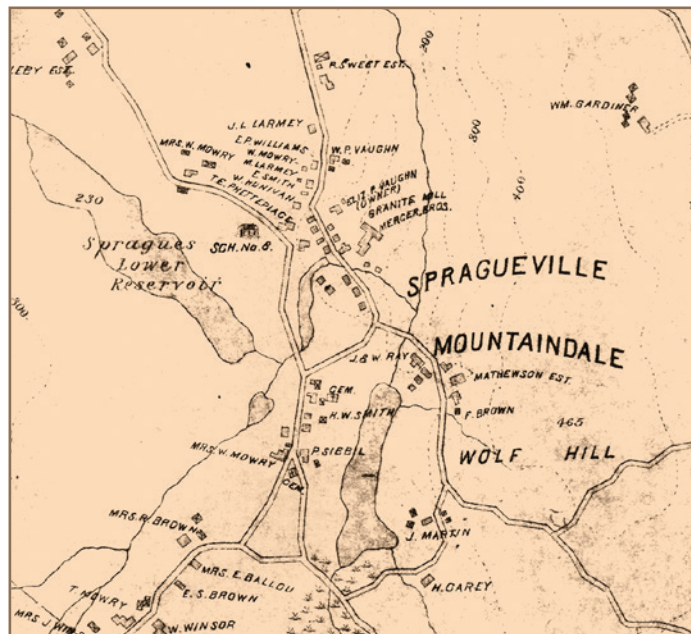
The mill was evidently rebuilt for it and three other large buildings next to it were still indicated on 1895 maps of Smithfield. Today these structures are gone.

A lesser known Mountindale enterprise involved a small factory established by Waterman Smith and Thomas Harris in the 1820s, which is said to have been located near the

belt. There workers would pack the ice in sawdust which helped to prevent melting, and the ice house itself was constructed with thick walls also insulated with sawdust.

The East Providence Ice Company went out of business sometime during World War II, as did many other ice businesses with the advent of electric refrigerators.

Today a modern industrial park is located in the heart of Spragueville, but unfortunately the historic factories which gave the area a page in Rhode Island history are gone.





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### Three more Smithfield Police Officers receive bulletproof vests thanks to a generous donation.

Thanks to Dave's Towing of Smithfield, three additional officers have received Angel Armor rifle rated vests through the Shield616 program. Pictured here with Adam Lavoie of Dave's Towing are two of the officers who benefited from this donation. They are Officer Neil Marcoccio (L) and Detective Christopher McIntyre (R). For information on how you can donate a bulletproof vest, visit [www.shield616.org](http://www.shield616.org).



# A Tribute to My Best Friend

by Sophia DeJesus



*To my best friend who never failed to make me smile. To the girl who was positive no matter what, who did her best to be kind to everyone, and who made connections with anyone at any time, I miss you. I know our friends and your family misses you too.*

On March 1st, 2020, my best friend, Gisela Carrier, passed away. To hear that my best friend of just about seven years was gone, didn't make sense. There was no way that even after beating leukemia twice, she was taken by a car crash. In my head, there was just absolutely no way that it was true.



However, after hearing from her family and reading article after article about the horrific accident,

it finally hit me. This was real life, and it was time to accept the news.

Everyone that knew Gisela, knew what a beautiful person she was.

Not only talking about her looks either, but everything about her was beautiful. She was the type of person that could connect with people wherever she went. Though shy and sometimes a little awkward, she was kind to everyone. She had a way of making every situation funny, even if they weren't. I remember sitting in my freshman English class with her, giggling about absolutely nothing, yet being unable to stop. Oh the agony that we caused our teacher and classmates.

She was the type of girl to spread positivity and help others before herself. Always putting her friends first, Gisela was the girl that everyone trusted because we all knew that she'd stay loyal to her friends no matter what. She was unapologetically herself and did what made her happy despite what others thought.

For those that had the privilege of meeting Gisela, they know how amazing and truly bright she was. She had a way of making everyone smile and feel just a bit happier. My best friend was kind and loved by so many.

The connection that she formed with our classmates from LaPerche especially, is something magical. Again, she was loved by everyone. It's not something I can even explain either, it's just something to be felt.

She loved cheesy rom coms, the sun and beach, baking cookies, horrible jokes, and spending time with the people who loved her most. We shared the best laughs and always had so much fun together. Our running joke was that we'd be roommates in college and adopt a ton of dogs, just to be crazy dog ladies in our 20's. Memories like those are the ones I'll treasure and hold onto forever.

In writing this, I hope to capture who Gisela was. I want people to know how special she was. She impacted the lives of so many and inspired me every day. Losing my best friend has been the biggest heartbreak in my life so far, and I want to honor her memory in any way that I can. Forever "besties," Rest In Peace, Gisela Nicole Carrier.

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# Ask an Expert

My name is Tom Lopatosky. I'm the President of LOPCO Contracting ([www.LopcoContracting.com](http://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](mailto:tom@LopcoContracting.com) or call 401-270-2664. Thanks in advance for taking the time to read this column!

## When is Rotted Wood NOT Really Rotted?

As the old saying goes, "If I had a nickel for ..."

In this case the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of this sentence would be "... every time someone told me that they had rotted wood that needed fixing, I would be a rich man!"

So then ...

If I had a nickel for every time someone told me that they had rotted wood that needed fixing, I would be a rich man!

One would think that if someone had rotted wood that needed to be corrected, it would be just that, rotted wood.

Technically this is true.

However, our office constantly fields calls asking for help fixing some type of rotted wood situation where the wood, it turns out, is not really rotted.

I do not blame the person reaching out to us in this situation though.

Many times, people are explaining things to the best of their ability and they simply do not know how to describe what they need fixed other than something being "rotted".

There are other times, when, even we as Contractors, are fooled.

Sometimes wood appears to be rotted, but when we go to check it, it is actually not rotted.

*Continued on page 12*

## About Tom Lopatosky



Tom Lopatosky has run his own carpentry and painting business in Providence 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 the PDCA and RIBA (Rhode Island Builders Association). Tom has often had weekly 'Home Improvement Tips' that have aired on the radio on 630 WPRO AM (during the weekday morning news) and on television on WPRI 12 (during the Saturday & Sunday morning news).



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Properly identifying rotted wood can be a tricky thing.

There are also many times when something appears to be perfectly fine, but when we hit the area with some type of tool, our tool goes right through the wood and it is rotted to its core.

Because wood often rots from the inside out, this situation happens more often than you might think.

I believe it is VERY important to inspect the exterior of your home or

business for areas that may appear to be rotted, at least twice per year (once in the Spring & once in the Fall).

It is very important that an effort is made to diagnose these types of situations, as rotted wood trim or finished siding can lead to rotted structural wood behind it.

Rotted wood can also attract carpenter ants, termites, etc. because of how much it holds moisture.

Rotted wood can also encourage mold and mildew growth because of

this type of dampness.

Although upon inspection, what appears to be rotted wood may not end up being rotted at all, I would strongly suggest that you err on the side of caution, however, and examine your home or business' exterior every so often as thoroughly as possible.

If you would like some help or guidance in this area, please feel free to reach out to me (my contact info is at top of this column) and I would be more than happy to assist you!

## EASTER WORD SEARCH



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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

### WORDS

APOSTLES  
BASKET  
BONNET  
BUNNY  
CANDY  
CARROT  
CELEBRATE  
CHICK  
CHOCOLATE  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH  
CROSS  
DAFFODILS  
DUCKLINGS  
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PEEP  
PRAYER  
RABBIT  
RESURRECTION  
RISEN  
SAVIOR  
SPRING  
SUNDAY  
TOMB  
TREATS  
WORSHIP





# The Chief's Corner

By Robert W. Seltzer, BSEE, EFO, MPA  
Smithfield Fire Department Chief

With all of the disease issues we have endured this past winter, a high number of flu cases and the coronavirus outbreak, it is important to remember that universal precautions can be administered to reduce the spread of viruses regardless of the type.

For the typical flu season, the single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated each year, but good health habits like covering your cough and washing your hands often can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu.

For the flu and all other diseases that are spread by human contact such as hand shaking, sneezing, and coughing, follow these guidelines to reduce your chance of contracting a disease.

- **Avoid close contact.**  
Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- **Stay home when you are sick**  
If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will

help prevent spreading your illness to others.

- **Cover your mouth and nose.**  
Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Flu and other serious respiratory illnesses, like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), whooping cough, and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), are spread by cough, sneezing, or unclean hands.
- **Clean your hands.**  
Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- **Clean and disinfect.**  
Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu or other viruses.

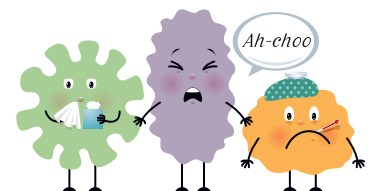
Some additional precautions may be taken at the workplace.

- Find out about your employer's plans if an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs and whether flu vaccinations are offered on-site.

- Routinely clean frequently touched objects and surfaces, including doorknobs, keyboards, and phones, to help remove germs.
- Make sure your workplace has an adequate supply of tissues, soap, paper towels, alcohol-based hand rubs, and disposable wipes.
- Train others on how to do your job so they can cover for you in case you or a family member gets sick and you have to stay home.
- If you begin to feel sick while at work, go home as soon as possible.

You are an important part of reducing the spread of germs. Following some simple precautions like handwashing and vaccinations can help reduce the spread of disease. More importantly, such behaviors can significantly reduce the chance of you becoming ill.

Information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.





# IMHO | by Ron Scopelliti

## Rock Steady

There's so much going on in the world right now that it sometimes overwhelms me. Populism, plutocracy, climate change, violence over fast-food chicken sandwiches – trying to understand it all just makes my head spin. More and more I find myself thinking of a line from a Frank Black song: “This world is a rock that’s spinning so fast, it’ll give you jim-jams”

In my case, however, it’s not the spinning of the rock that’s giving me jim-jams – it’s the activity of the people on the rock. I’ve decided that every now and then I need to focus less on the people, and more on the rock itself. So I recently started to learn more about geology.

Have you stopped reading yet? I only ask because when I start talking to people about my newfound

fascination with rocks, I usually get the same reaction as when I tell them that my favorite Eddie Murphy movie is “Bowfinger.” But there’s so much fascinating stuff right under our feet, I can’t believe I’ve spent so many years ignoring it.

I was much more in touch with geology during my elementary school days, when I dreamed of being a paleontologist or an archaeologist, and digging up the Olduvai Gorge with Louis Leakey. I also spent many days in the woods looking for interesting rocks, or sorting through the rubble that was leftover when they were blasting to make way for Rte. 295 to find quartz crystals.

Despite this interest, I was still clueless in many respects. For instance, I didn’t realize how close

the White Mountains were until I was 10 or 11 years old. Up to that point, I only associated “White Mountain” with the truck that Jimmy the Ice Cream Man used to drive through town. To this day, seeing Mount Washington makes me crave peach ice cream.

But anyway, I think that was around the time my fascination with rocks began to wane, being replaced by a growing obsession with technology and computers. And even though I spent a good portion of my twenties going to the rock-climbing Mecca of the Quincy Quarries, I pretty much ignored the geology, and focused on getting from the bottom to the top without my friends accusing me of “hangdogging,” or using the much-maligned “Acme knee hold.”

### SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones





My ambivalence started to change a couple of years ago when I visited the only major outcrop of our state rock – “Cumberlandite.” In his book, “Rhode Island Geology for the Non-Geologist,” the late Brown professor Alonzo W. Quinn refers to Cumberlandite as “a real odd ball.” In other words, it fits in perfectly with our state’s reputation.

Since my trip to the outcrop, I’ve been poking around numerous books and web pages, and developing a whole new appreciation for how complicated the local geology under our feet is, and how many interesting facts it holds. For instance, I didn’t know that the columns of Providence’s Arcade and the stone for the First Unitarian Church both came from the Snake Den area of Johnston.

And I never realized that we were once part of a microcontinent called Avalonia, that included all of Rhode Island plus parts of other New England states, as well as sections of Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and several mainland European countries. Somewhere in the midst of the tectonic pinball game that formed our current continents, Avalonia split, leaving an ocean between the halves. I’m still consulting various books to work out the details, and to further understand my own little corner of Avalonia known as the Esmond-Dedham subterrane. It’s good to know that my home village is known for more than its blankets and its legendary bunny.

Funny how my attempts to get in touch with bedrock has led to me

sitting behind my computer with a mouse in one hand and a coffee cup in the other. My research into geology has led me to a whole new lexicon involving moraines, eskers, and outwash plains. It’s taken me through a labyrinth of granite, gneiss, and quartzite, and, of course, opened up a whole world of schist.

One of my goals for this spring is to break free from the computer and do some genuine rock-hunting and Earth-walking. I already have spots around Lincoln Woods and Diamond Hill picked out to visit. And I might even head up to the White Mountains for a couple of days. I wonder if there’s any place up there that serves good peach ice cream?



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# Inaugural SHS Sentinel Legacy Gala Held in Memory of Doreen Nicholson

By Marilyn A. Busch

On Saturday, February 29, 2020, the Smithfield community gathered throughout the halls of the Smithfield High School for the Inaugural SHS Legacy Gala held to honor Doreen Nicholson, a mother of four who passed away unexpectedly in August of 2018 from heart complications. Organized by Nicholson's daughter Jessica who is a senior at SHS and her fellow National Honor Society members, the event was held to bolster awareness of dangers of heart disease and support the mission of the Southern New England American Heart Association.

The inaugural Legacy Gala event was an unqualified success, both in attendance and the amount raised for the cause. The event raised over \$15,000 and the organizers expect they still may receive future donations to their cause. The group is still accepting donations online at <https://ahaprovidence.ejoinme.org/SmithfieldHSLegacyGala>.

A beloved mother of four, Doreen Nicholson was well known throughout the Smithfield community, due to her many hours of selfless volunteering with the local PTA, coaching, volunteering, and more.

Her daughter Jessica says, "She was an incredible person who had a significant presence in the community. She was involved in everything that she could. Doreen was an incredible mother and friend, she accepted everyone into our home and was like a second mother to many," adding, "Doreen gave her family and community more than they could have ever asked for."

The organizers for the Legacy Gala planned for 300 attendees but were surprised to see more than expected during the afternoon. "It was such a great event," states Jessica, "and it surpassed our expectations." The February event included live performances on the SHS Auditorium Main Stage from members of Smithfield High School Chorus, Sentinel Singers and the cast of the upcoming



Photo credits: Albert Tavakalov



spring musical, *Guys and Dolls*, all under the direction of Music Teacher Katherine Young.

Throughout the school, attendees could find many heart-healthy demonstrations, including Johnson & Wales University's "Chef Jon" teaching about healthy cooking options, and the Smithfield YMCA, One Cycle and No Risk Crossfit offering fitness demos.

The Gala food vendors were plentiful and included offerings from almost two dozen local businesses, including Amy's Apples, Biagio's Pizzeria, Chelo's Hometown Bar & Grille, Chili's Grill and Bar, Condesa Restaurante, Crepe Corner, DePetrillo's Pizza & Bakery,



Greenville Inn, Ivy and Lace Bake Shop, Jaswell's Farm, KFC/Apple Valley, Laura's Bar and Grill, Rachel's Table, Ralph's Catering, Simply Elegant Flowers & Chocolate, Smithfield Fitness, Special Signal Fire Association, Tavolo Tuscan Grille, Thirsty

Beaver Pub & Grub, Uno Pizzeria and Grille, Wright's Dairy Farm and Bakery and Yacht Club Soda. Smithfield area sponsors that contributed to the event's overall success included Chelo's Hometown Bar & Grille, DAB Entertainment/Media Services, Falvey Linens, Lorraine Fabrics, Michael's, Mother Nature's Florist, Quality Rentals, Simply Elegant Flowers, Smithfield EMA, Smithfield Fire Department, and Stop & Shop Smithfield. Jessica Nicholson is grateful for how the community came together to remember her mother's legacy and support the American Heart Association. "I couldn't be happier about how everything turned out," adding, "It was a perfect way to honor my mom."



## Meet Ginger!

Ginger is such a happy girl! She is curious, loves to play with toys, snuggle on the couch, and always seems to have a twinkle in her eyes. She was found on the streets with her brother Fred, hungry and searching for food. Both pups are now in RI and looking for a loving home! Ginger is house trained, crate trained, and loves other dogs! She loves to swim and go for long hikes. If you are interested in meeting these two amazing pups, please fill out an application at [www.abandoneddogsofri.com](http://www.abandoneddogsofri.com)



## Sweet Isabo!

This lovely girl loves people including kids and good with small pets (with a slow intro). She is house trained, crate trained, and understands that when she is in a head halti, she is "working". Although she loves to play, she has a balanced energy level and certainly enjoys lazy time on the couch.

Isabo is fully vetted and spayed. She is currently staying at ADRI Adoption Center & Pet Services until she finds a forever home. If interested in meeting her, please fill out an application at [www.abandoneddogsofri.com](http://www.abandoneddogsofri.com)





# The Nature of Things | by James Gass

## Be on the Lookout for These Invasive Pests

A global economy has many benefits but also certain disadvantages, such as the accidental introduction of invasive insect pests through shipping material or other means. These insects are usually not a problem in their country of origin, but any natural control mechanisms that limited their populations in their homeland often doesn't exist in the places they are transported to. Their populations then explode, wreaking havoc on native plants and agricultural crops. There are three destructive invasive pests that have recently been introduced to the United States, and it's just a matter of time before they arrive in Rhode Island (one of them is already here). Unfortunately, only one can be effectively eradicated.

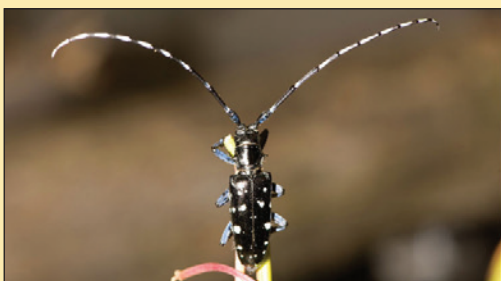
Native to China and Korea, the Asian Longhorned Beetle (or ALB) was first discovered in Brooklyn, New York in 1996. It arrived as larvae in solid wood packaging material. It was later found in other parts of New York, as well as New Jersey, Massachusetts, Illinois, Ohio,

and Ontario. ALB has been largely eradicated in North America but the Ohio and Massachusetts infestations are ongoing. It is of concern because its preferred host are maple trees, which threatens the maple syrup industry based in Vermont and Quebec. The larvae are particularly destructive. It is estimated that if left unchecked, ALB could destroy 30.3% of all urban trees and cause \$669 billion in economic loss. But since it has a 2-year life cycle spent mostly inside the tree as larvae, it is possible to successfully eradicate this pest. Infested trees are removed and chipped, killing the larvae. ALB has not yet been found in Rhode Island.

ALB has several native look-alikes including the Spotted Pine Sawyer, which is not considered a pest and only feeds on dead pine trees. Adult pine sawyers emerge in May and June, ALB adults do not emerge until July-August. So if you see a beetle that you think is ALB any time before July, it is likely a pine sawyer. Also, pine sawyers have a white spot on the base of their necks, ALB does not.

Native to northeastern Asia, the Emerald Ash Borer (or EAB) is a species of "jewel beetle" that was first detected in southeastern Michigan in 2002. It was found in Rhode Island in 2018, and is now in 35 states including parts of Canada. Like ALB, it came to this country through solid wood packing material presumably from China. It attacks ash trees, and tens of millions of ashes have been already been killed or infested by this prolific agricultural pest. In forests, biological control is being used by the USDA to knock back high EAB populations, and in urban and suburban settings, insecticides such as Imidacloprid or Dinotefuran have proven to be effective. These are fast-moving insects. Populations can move 2-50 miles a year, which makes them nearly impossible to eradicate.

Of all the insects mentioned in this article, the one most potentially devastating to United States agriculture is the Spotted Lanternfly (or SLF). Native to China, India, Vietnam and eastern Asia, it was



Left to right: Asian Longhorned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, Spotted Lanternfly. Photos courtesy of USDA.



first found in Berks County Pennsylvania in 2014 and has now spread to New Jersey, Virginia and Delaware. It is a species of sap-feeding leafhopper that has a wide range of hosts including wild and cultivated grapes, stone fruits (such as peaches, nectarines and plums), willows, and various hardwoods. Tree of Heaven is also apparently important to this insect, but exactly why remains unclear. In Korea SLF has 67 host plants, many of which also occur in the US. This pest ravages the grape, fruit tree and logging industries wherever it is introduced. It damages plants by direct phloem feeding but also damages leaves and fruits of host plants because of the mold that grows on its excretions, or honeydew. Unlike most other insects that lay their eggs only on their host plants, SLF lays its eggs anywhere, and the egg masses are non-descript and difficult to detect. The main concern is accidental transportation of this pest to other states due to egg masses laid on trucks or cars. Their eventual arrival in Rhode Island is likely.

More information on the life histories of these pests, what to look for (damage, egg sites, etc.), and control methods can be found at [www.dem.ri.gov/programs/forestry/forest-health/index.php](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/forestry/forest-health/index.php) and [www.nrs.fs.fed.us/disturbance/invasive\\_species](http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/disturbance/invasive_species).

If you see any of these insects this summer or the damage they cause, contact the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) at 508-852-8090, or Cynthia Kwolek at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management at 401-949-1770.

It's usually the average citizen that first finds a new invasive pest.



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# Stargazing | by David A. Huestis, Historian, Skyscrapers, Inc.



## Supernova Deferred (for now), Easter and a Meteor Shower

As 2019 came to a close, the news media sensationalized a story about Orion's bright star Betelgeuse. The headlines were certainly designed to get one's attention. Betelgeuse was about to go supernova. However, the star's behavior was really old news that was recently enhanced by new observational data. You see, Betelgeuse is a red super giant star (20 times more massive than our Sun and approximately 1000 times larger) that is indeed nearing the end of its life cycle. And with a star this massive, the result will someday be a supernova event.

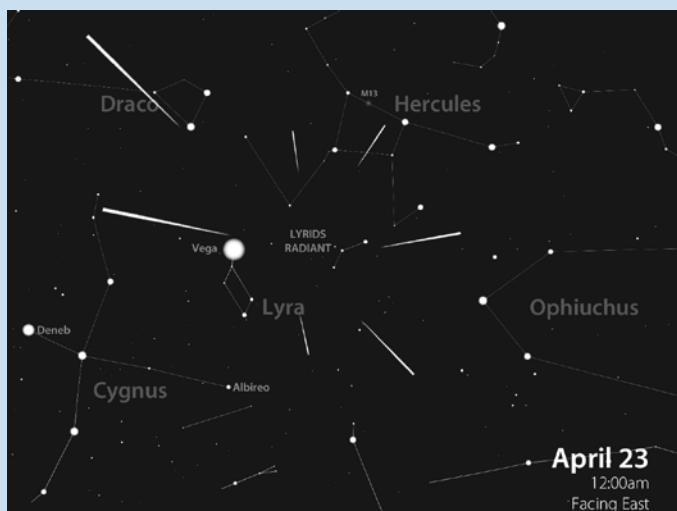
Betelgeuse is a known variable star, which pulsates back and forth about one full magnitude (brightness scale) in a 425-day period. What happened more recently is that the

star dimmed a little more than usual, by about .2 of a magnitude. An imaging technique using radio waves revealed Betelgeuse appeared to be lopsided, but this discovery turned out to be a huge dust cloud blocking some of the star's light from reaching us. In fact, Betelgeuse has shed off great shells of its outer surface several times in the past, typical activity for these stars as they "burn" through their supply of nuclear fuel. Speculation arose that Betelgeuse's grand finale was soon at hand.

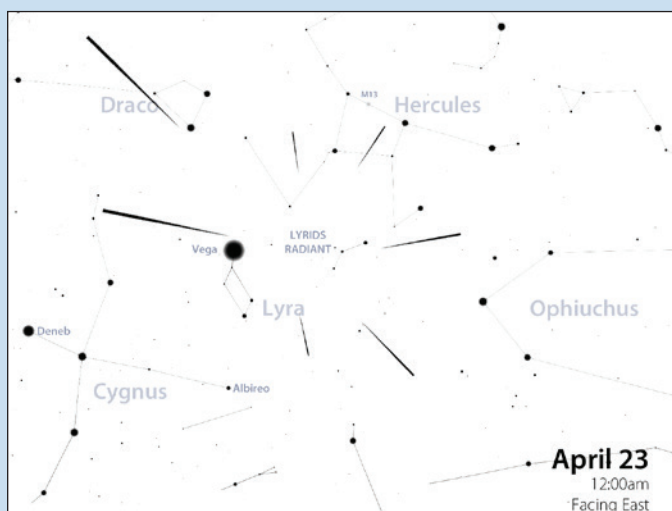
However, every article I read succinctly stated the event could happen soon, or 100,000 years from now. While it is inevitable that Betelgeuse will go supernova in the future, we needn't worry. Fortunately, at its distance of about 700 light

years from the Earth, we will not suffer from any hard radiation effects. The supernova will be at least as bright as a Full Moon and will be visible in broad daylight. About a day before we see the visible light from the supernova event our Earth will be bombarded by a harmless hail of neutrinos and gamma rays. That onslaught will be our advance warning system that Betelgeuse the star has met its demise.

Just as I began to write about Betelgeuse's potential imminent demise, new data revealed that Betelgeuse began to brighten once again during mid-to-late February (much like it has in the past). Astronomers will certainly keep monitoring Betelgeuse with their instruments in the hope of capturing



April Lyrids Dark



April Lyrids Light



the death of a star. If it happens within our lifetime, I hope it occurs when the constellation of Orion is above our horizon. The sight will be spectacular.

### Easter Observance Determination

Many religious celebrations are determined by astronomical circumstances. Easter is no exception. But because our secular calendar is not in sync with the motion of the heavens, Easter can occur as early as March 22 or as late as April 25. The general rule is: Easter will fall on the first Sunday after the Full Moon on or next after the vernal equinox (spring –March 19, 20 or 21). However, if the Full Moon occurs on a Sunday, Easter is celebrated on the following Sunday. This scenario happened in 2001.

However, there is a caveat to that rule that I only learned about back in 2018. Because the date of the vernal equinox does vary year-to-year, the determination for the Easter date depends on the “ecclesiastical approximation of March 21 for the vernal equinox” according to <https://www.timeanddate.com>. This stipulation holds true even if the vernal equinox falls on the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of March.

Therefore, for 2020, using March 21 as the date for the vernal equinox, the next Full Moon after March 21 will be on April 7 at 10:35 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time) this year. Therefore, Easter will be celebrated on the following Sunday, April 12.

### April Lyrids Meteor Shower

It’s been a while since Mother Nature has afforded us a decent display of shooting stars. Clouds or bright moonlight have often conspired to prevent us from watching “burning rocks” falling from the sky. However, on the night of April 22-23, between midnight and dawn, the annual April Lyrids meteor shower will reach its peak of activity. The Lyrids are actually the oldest known shooting star display, having been observed by Chinese astronomers on March 16, 687 BCE. Being such an old display, the number of meteors populating this stream of particles has greatly diminished. However, with good sky conditions and no interfering moonlight, perhaps up to 20 meteors per hour can be counted from dark sky locations.

These swift and bright meteors disintegrate after hitting our atmosphere at a moderate speed of 29.8 miles per second. They often produce luminous trains of dust that can be observed for several seconds. The Moon will be new on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, so it will not interfere whatsoever with this year’s shooting star display.

The Lyrids appear to radiate outward from an area of sky on the Lyra-Hercules border near the bright star Vega, which will be about 45 degrees (halfway between

the horizon and zenith) above the eastern horizon at midnight and well placed for observing. Let your eyes roam the heavens while facing this general direction. Remember, even though you can trace the dust train left by a Lyrid meteor back to the radiant point, members of this shower can appear anywhere in the sky. The Lyrids are a fairly narrow stream of particles, so don’t expect many to be seen before or after peak night. It is produced by dust particles left behind by comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher,

When the skies are clear be sure to visit the local observatories to explore the splendor of the heavens. Seagrave Memorial Observatory (<http://www.theskyscrapers.org>) in North Scituate is open every clear Saturday night. Ladd Observatory (<http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Physics/Ladd/>) in Providence is open every clear Tuesday night. The Margaret M. Jacoby Observatory at the CCRI Knight Campus in Warwick (<http://www.ccri.edu/physics/observatory.htm>) is open every clear Wednesday night. Frosty Drew Observatory (<http://www.frostydrew.org/>) in Charlestown is open every clear Friday night.

*Keep your eyes to the skies!*

David A. Huestis

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# Senior Scene | by Paul V. Palange

With stories concerning the spread of the coronavirus dominating the news, you might have missed developments surrounding other matters that impact us older adults and our families and friends.

For example, the U.S. Senate has unanimously passed the Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease Act. The legislation introduced last year by Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine), Bob Casey (D-Pa.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and Doug Jones (D-Ala.), would ensure the availability of certain programs and services for

people with Alzheimer's by allowing patients younger than age 60 to access them. The bill has been sent to the House of Representatives. After passage there, it will go to the president to be signed into law.

According to Collins, the majority of people suffering from Alzheimer's are 65 and older, and access to available programs and services for the disease often reflect that threshold. Due to their age, younger onset patients can face additional barriers to access the services they need to cope with their

disease. When enacted, the legislation will ensure that all patients with Alzheimer's or other dementia, including those younger than 60, and their caregivers will have access to the care, support and resources they need.

Collins is a founder and co-chair of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, and she had key elements of the onset bill included in the Older Americans Act (OAA) before it was reauthorized recently by the Senate. The legislation would allow the National

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Family Caregiver Support Program and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to serve patients younger than 60, and the bill addresses a key recommendation by the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease to provide additional services to younger adults with Alzheimer's or a related dementia.

The Senate reauthorized and strengthened the OAA by unanimously approving the Supporting Older Americans Act. As is the case with the onset legislation, the bill has to be passed by the House and signed into law by the president.

Since 1965, the OAA has supported and improved the lives of seniors – particularly those who are low-income – through programs that promote nutrition, improve transportation options, support caregivers, offer employment and community service opportunities and prevent abuse and neglect, according to Collins. The law was last reauthorized in 2016.

The Senate deserves credit for putting partisanship aside and passing the Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease Act and renewing the OAA. Alzheimer's and related dementias are devastating, and it's inexcusable that patients younger than 60 and their caregivers are denied treatment or support. People suffering from Alzheimer's, regardless of their age, need every possible resource to slow down the progression of a disease that strips away their lives layer by layer.

In the meantime, caregivers, who are frequently friends or relatives of patients, are often pushed to the brink of physical and emotional exhaustion as they comfort and care for victims and help them stay afloat in an ocean of confusion and uncertainty.

Issues such as those will be addressed and discussed at the Alzheimer's Association Rhode Island Chapter's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Caregiver's Journey scheduled for April 23 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. During the forum, which is also open to health care professionals, attendees will receive tips and tools they can use in a home or facility setting, according to Donna M. McGowan, executive director of the R.I. chapter. In the conference brochure, she states there are more than 23,000 Rhode

*Continued on page 24*



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Islanders living with Alzheimer's and some 53,000 family caregivers. Also, there are hundreds of professional caregivers who are on the front line facing the challenges brought on by the disease.

When I published the Senior Digest monthly newspaper, I attended several of the association's forums. I found them informative and recommend that caregivers take in this year's conference if it is held. There is no charge for caregivers, but health care professionals must pay \$150. To register for the conference, which must be done by April 10, and for more information, go online to [alz.org/ri](http://alz.org/ri).

Speaking of caregivers, Sen. Collins reports that OAA programs served 700,000 caregivers last year alone and provided seniors across the country with 358 million meals. The Supporting Older Americans Act would:

- Reauthorize the OAA for five years with funding levels that better meet growing needs, including a 7 percent increase in the initial year and 6 percent increases annually for the remainder of the authorization.
- Extend the RAISE Family Caregivers Act for an additional year.
- Extend the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Council for one year.
- Improve the availability of transportation resources to seniors.
- Enhance flexibility for states to better address the needs of grandparents raising grandchildren.
- Increase the focus on addressing detrimental impacts of social isolation.
- Advance support for age-friendly communities.
- Improve elder abuse prevention activities through increased outreach and education activities.
- Increase transparency of home-modification opportunities for eligible older adults.
- Upgrade data collection methods to understand unmet needs in nutrition programs.
- Promote multigenerational programming.

The Senate deserves credit for passing those bills. Let's hope our government also takes the necessary action to end the coronavirus pandemic as quickly as possible.

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# Community *Events*

**The Greenville Public Library Poetry Contest:** From April 1-15, poets of all ages can submit their work to the library's third annual poetry contest. Each poet may submit one poem for consideration. Poets may use any poetic form. There is no minimum length, but poems may not be longer than one typed page. One winner in each age category (children, young adults, adults) will be selected by the Woodland Whispers Committee. All poets will be invited to a poetry reading and reception on Sunday, April 26th at 2:00 pm. Poems may be submitted online via the library's website at [www.yourlibrary.ws](http://www.yourlibrary.ws) or dropped off at the library at 573 Putnam Pike Greenville, RI.

## Save the date!

### RI Quilt Show – Quilters' Vision 2020

Narragansett Bay Quilters Association (NBQA) Quilt Show – Quilters' Vision 2020 will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m at North Kingstown High School, 150 Fairway Drive, North Kingstown, RI.

Admission \$8.00. Children accompanied by an adult – free.

Over 200 quilts, plus many other quilted items will be featured. All will be part of this juried show. A show for everyone includes a 20-20 Vision members exhibit and a special exhibit by the Modern Quilters of RI. For those who like to shop, multiple vendors from many states feature many quilting tools, fabrics, patterns and samples. New products and gift items for all.

For new ideas, be sure and see the Quilting Education Exhibit and Quilting Demonstrations. Comfort Quilts will be on display.

If you like to take a chance and help out our charitable causes, we have a beautiful raffle quilt. Themed raffle baskets and a silent auction to benefit the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, MA.

Lunch and snacks are available all day. Plenty of free parking and the show is completely handicapped accessible.

CONTACT: Barbara Stetson, Publicity Chair

Tel: 401-647-3616

E-mail – [bstetson@cox.net](mailto:bstetson@cox.net)

NBQA website – [www.nbqa.org](http://www.nbqa.org)







# Inside The Brown Bag | By Peg Brown

## The Question – Where You Were Then ...?

Hitler rose to power – Pearl Harbor was bombed – man first walked on the moon – Kennedy, Kennedy and MLK Jr. were shot – the towers came down ...

More importantly, “What were you thinking? How did you feel? How did it change your life?” Or simply, directly ask, “Tell me what you remember.”

Social media has encouraged our younger generations to share their stories, (often more publicly than we’d like), but those of us of a certain age were raised in a time when memories that were shared with family were mostly those that were happy. We lived closer to home, gathered for dinner almost every night, sat around tables at holidays, and were rarely distracted by the television or radio. Most frequent interruptions to those family meals were telephone calls – and most of us knew never to call at meal time unless someone was dying. You would think then, that our generation, would know a great deal about how our parents and grandparents felt, what obstacles they overcame, or what concerns they had. If you had a family anything like mine, that was not the case.

A recent *Wall Street Journal Article*, “A Parent Talk, Before It’s Too Late,” (March 2, 2020), suggests our time in running out to know our closest as something other than mom and dad, grandmother and grandfather ...

The popularity of DNA testing kits has certainly opened the opportunities to trace our genetic code, culture, health risks and

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“What do  
you want to  
know or  
understand –  
before it’s  
too late.”

---

heritage. Ancestry.com boasts of having access to more than **15 billion genealogy records**. The Church of the Latter-Day Saints has for decades lead the country in providing information to families seeking their “roots.”

All three if these services are excellent at providing information

about great-grand relatives. What they can’t reveal is what your parents might have been like before they became “mom” and “dad.” Even the most widely watched PBS program, “Finding your Roots,” can’t answer these questions for their celebrity guests.

There are many challenges to having these conversations with family members today. Many of us don’t live in their “home town.” However, according to that demographic study done by the Pew Foundation in the past decade, four in ten have never left where they were born – they might have been more likely to have had these conversations already.

What obstacles besides distance, have impeded these conversations for most of us? There can be many. Some parents are comfortable just telling the happy stories, many were raised in an environment when few talked about “feelings”, some might think their lives haven’t been accomplished or interesting enough. More often, dementia or the inability to communicate are the culprits. And although our relatives are living longer lives, these two demons are often part of that aging process. As lucky as I was to have two

*Continued on page 30*

parents, an extended family, and a small-town upbringing, there are things I knew about my family anecdotally, but never directly asked about. Such as:

- Mom and Dad were high school sweethearts – they went to the junior prom together, what was their relationship like as teens?
- When Pearl Harbor happened, what kind of feeling did dad have about been drafted out of high school as an 18-year-old?
- Were there other “loves” in either of their lives?
- Why did they marry so young, have three children while dad was in college on the GI bill, and how did they cope with no visible means of income during this time?
- They lost an infant son at age 22 and 24 respectively (between my sister and I). I never asked about that event – even though every Memorial Day we put Lilies of the Valley on a tiny grave

marked simply “Baby Cordwell.”

- What did they think when they sent me off to a southern Pennsylvania college when I was just 16?
- Did they have other aspirations both personal and professional?
- What disappointed them? Were they proud of their children?
- And as Seinfeld would say, “yada, yada, yada.”

And now, they are gone. And I am getting old and clearly more nostalgic. And yet, even though I only have one daughter, I am more aware than ever that I too have shared very little – and continue to hold tight to most “personal” information. Maybe ... it’s that old mother flaw of over-protection.

Maybe that’s what limited what I know about my parents.

For those for whom it’s not too late to have “The Talk,” there are many vehicles on the market to make those conversations easier. Catalogs sell endless types of diaries in which your relatives can record family stories; you can purchase one of those DNA kits for a relative or yourself and the results might open up a dialogue; new technology exists such as a free app that gives hints and directions for recording family stories provided by StoryCorps, a nonprofit oral history project.

What do you want to know or understand – before it’s too late.

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# 50 Years Ago | Jim Ignasher

APRIL 1970

On March 30, the area was blanketed with several inches of snow.

The Smithfield Lions launched "Operation Clean Waters", which was a large scale community effort to clean up decades-old trash and refuse from local waterways and ponds. Help was enlisted from the Elks Club, the Smithfield Jaycees, the Smithfield Boys Club, various scouting organizations, and private citizens. The campaign was chaired by Leo Bouchard, a well-known conservationist from Smithfield. The clean-up operation was a huge success.

Richard M. Johnson of Greenville was promoted to sergeant in the U.S. Air Force.

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SP/4 Gary S. Charnley of Esmond was serving in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinance Company in Germany.

Airman 1/c Alan Seward of Esmond was home on leave for two weeks.

Russell W. Turner of Greenville was promoted to Major in the U. S. Army.

SP/4 Stephen M. St. Jean of Stillwater Road returned home after a tour in Vietnam.

Army Sergeant Thomas St. Jean was serving in Germany.

PFC Allen H. Uttley of Greenville was serving in Korea.

The Smithfield Easter Egg Hunt was reportedly a "chaotic success", with more than 500 youths participating.

A local car dealership was selling a 1969 2-door Chevrolet Impala, with a V-8 engine, power steering, radio, white wall tires, and hubcaps, for \$2275.

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Lisa Palimeri of Brownie Troop 744 of Greenville received an award for winning the Smokey Bear Poster Contest. The award was presented by the Apple Blossom Garden Club on behalf of the Rhode Island Federation of Junior Garden Clubs, which sponsored the contest.

Girl Scout Troop 894 of Esmond held a bowling party at the Esmond Recreation Hall.

Boy Scout Troop 3 of Greenville camped overnight at the Buck Hill Management Area.

Boy Scout John Riley of Greenville Troop 4 was elevated to Eagle Scout.

On April 11, the ill fated Apollo 13 moon-mission was launched from Cape Kennedy. The following day the crew reported a problem and

*Continued on page 32*

the moon landing was cancelled. Six harrowing days later the crew landed safely back on earth.

A ceramic show was held at Rhodes on The Pawtuxet in Cranston.

Members of a ceramics class from St. Aloysius in Greenville entered and won awards for their work.

Those who received trophies included Steven Berouty, Paul Dowdell, James Dumas, Ronald Lariviere, William Wilding, Eugene Kirby, Anthony Wilding, Barbara Allen and James Allen.

The class was taught by Sister M. Ralph, R.S.M., and Howard Clark.

On April 15, a ground breaking

ceremony was held at the future, (now present) site of the Bryant University Unistructure. The public was invited.

It was also on April 15 that a local fundraising campaign was begun to raise money to build a large and permanent Boys Club. Phase One was to raise \$50,000 to construct the initial building. Phase Two, which would begin in 1974, hoped to raise another \$75,000 to add a gymnasium. Phase Three, scheduled to start in 1978, would be to raise \$150,000 for the construction of an Olympic sized pool.

History has shown that the entire project was completed, and the

building still exists today as the Smithfield YMCA.

On April 18, the Greenville Water district held its annual meeting at Anna McCabe School.

The Smithfield Jaycees sponsored a health fair at the Smithfield High School. Attendees were offered free chest x-rays, diagnostic tests, and eye exams.

Hearthside Bowling Lanes, (which was once located next to the A&W on Rt. 44), was taking registrations for their first annual bowling tournament which was to be sponsored by the Smithfield Recreation Department.

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# Payne's Picks | By Sarah Payne

April 2020



## TV Release

### *After Life* (Season 2) – April 24

While I typically use this space to preview the month's new movie releases, April is looking a bit dull. We're past the Oscars hump and haven't quite hit summer blockbusters. I couldn't find any movie interesting enough to feature here. However, that doesn't mean you can't get excited about a brand-new season of *After Life* on Netflix. The first season premiered last March and it's super bingeable – just six episodes, each about 20 minutes long. Ricky Gervais produces and stars in the series about a man mourning the sudden death of his wife. In true Ricky Gervais style, the humor is deadpan and it's somewhat dark, but what most surprised me is its heart and ultimate hope for the goodness in humanity. I actually forgot about *After Life* until Ricky's amazing opening monologue as host of the Golden Globes this year – rightly calling out every hypocrite in Hollywood. I was reminded of how much I love his wit and bravery in standing up to the “establishment.” From his work on *The Office* to his stand up, Ricky has been nothing if not consistent. I'm looking forward to seeing what he

brings us next. And if you're looking for someone entertaining on Twitter, I highly recommend you give him a follow too.

## Movie Reviews



### *The Invisible Man*

Were you a fan of Peggy on *Mad Men*? I found myself equally frustrated and fascinated with her character, and I think much of the credit for the depth of Peggy belongs to Elisabeth Moss. She is a talented actor, and watching her in *The Invisible Man* reminded me of that all over again. She plays a victim of domestic abuse who finally manages to escape her abuser, only to find out he later committed suicide. She is then tormented by an invisible being she believes to be her ex-boyfriend. *The Invisible Man* is pretty terrifying. I found myself holding my breath and gripping my seat through most of the film. I even saw New York Times article that was titled: “I'm a Grown Man, and ‘The Invisible Man’ Made Me Scream.” Sure, the premise of a man inventing technology to make himself invisible is a bit farfetched, but it is a fun ride watching Moss eventually take on her abuser after her torment and seek her own form of revenge.

### *To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You*

I'm fully aware that the sequel to a popular film about teenage romance is hardly everyone's cup of tea. But we all have our guilty pleasures, right? Mine is *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*, which came out on Netflix in 2018, along with its sequel *To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You*. At the end of the first film, the bookish and nerdy Lara Jean Covey finally admits she has feelings for Peter Kavinsky, the guy she pretended to date to make his ex-girlfriend jealous. The sequel is all about what happens after the butterflies and the not-knowing-where-you-stand feelings settle – when you have to figure out what it means to be in a relationship. It's corny and girly and I love to watch the chemistry between Lana Connor and Noah Centineo, the two leads.

## TV Review

### *Better Call Saul* – Season 5

Last month we were blessed with the return of *Better Call Saul*. We also learned season six – one more season – will be the last. This is inevitable, considering the cast is

*Continued on page 34*

Continued from page 33

now 12 years older than when Breaking Bad first premiered. Just like with Breaking Bad, the show seems to be approaching a tipping point where all of the decisions each of the characters has made are coming to a head. Storylines are converging and I can't wait to see who will make an appearance from the Breaking Bad universe. Kim Wexler, played by Rhea Seehorn, is hands-down my favorite character on the show. You have to wonder what kind of woman would choose to be with someone like Jimmy McGill (Saul Goodman). What's cool about this show is you get to see their shared history and how they each evolve as a lawyer on a very different path. Sometimes their morals clash so much, you wonder how they can stay together. But then Kim will make a decision that shows her loyalty to Jimmy and ultimately her questionable morals. I hope we learn more about her backstory this season and what makes her tick.

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**George P. Tessier**

March 6, 2020

[www.robbsfuneralhome.com](http://www.robbsfuneralhome.com)



**Talia A. Shaw**

March 12, 2020

Daughter of the late

James Dragon and Pamela Shaw.

Granddaughter of Rita Dragon,

niece of Susan Packer and

Thomas Dragon, all of Smithfield.

A celebration of her life will be held at

a later date. For condolences visit

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