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JULY 2021

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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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# In Our Community



Randy Burt Beard and Gerry Savoie made this Tree of Life chainsaw carving for the students at R.C. LaPerche elementary school in Smithfield. Richardson sawmill donated the logs for this event. The bench was donated by the 5th grade class. Photo courtesy of Albert Tavakalov.



Group photo above: Vito Vecchitto, Sophia DeJesus, Maegan Grant, Lucas Dimanna

Photo booth: (from left to right) Victoria Richard, Bailey McGarry, Sophia DeJesus, Hallie Brown

Couple photo: Sophia DeJesus, Vito Vecchitto

Note: Sophia DeJesus is a contributing writer for *The Smithfield Times*







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# South County Summer Strategy



By Thom Cahir

This is no normal summer in the Ocean State. Not unlike cicadas emerging after a long slumber, the first couple of warm weekends after COVID restrictions have been relaxed proved tourists were ready to flood the south coast. However, beaches are crowded, some businesses are still hiring, and many students haven't returned to the local job market yet; so be patient.

Plan your trip, don't think you can be spontaneous. Remember how you made the trip as a kid with your parents or grandparents; leave early with the cooler willed with food, drinks and blocks of ice. Get to the beach early and take an umbrella. If you arrive before the beaches open, places like Java Madness in Wakefield, The Food Truck on 91 in Wood River Junction, Meldgie's Diner in Pt. Judith, Sweet Cakes Bakery in Peace Dale, and the Weekapaug Inlet near Misquamicut all open early.

The first week of June all three beaches, and the breachway in Charlestown were filled and parking lots were closed by 11 a.m., and many other state and town beaches nearby filled up shortly afterwards. If you know you don't like it crowded at the beach, plan early in the week to leave early and make a reservation for lunch at one of the great nearby beach bars, or hit a clam shack like Iggy's, Monahan's, Champlin's, Cap'n Jacks or George's.

Oh, and don't toss out that ice in your cooler. Make it a point to bring home some of South County's farm fresh produce. Stop at one of the nearby farm

stands and load up on the local favorites of the season. Clark Farms in Matunuck and Quonnie Farms in Charlestown, both on Route 1 near the beaches, or Manfredi Farms in Westerly at 59 Dunn's Corner-Bradford Rd.

Now, the beach isn't all there is to do in Washington County, if you're more inclined to take advantage of the great outdoors there are plenty of hiking trails, bike paths and ponds, rivers and lakes to challenge anyone with a sense of adventure or just looking for a day experiencing nature. South County is criss-crossed with hiking trails, many parts of nature preserves like Trustom Pond in South Kingstown and Ninigret Preserve in Charlestown. There are also bike lanes and paths throughout several of the towns, and both systems, hiking and biking are easily navigable by downloading several free apps to any smartphone. If you can't transport your own bikes, you can always rent one at Stedman's Bike Shop on Main St. in Wakefield, or NBX Bikes on Boston Neck Road in Narragansett. If you're looking to rent a kayak, in Westerly give Watch Hill Outfitters a call at 596-7217 and they'll take care of you; or in Narragansett book online with Narrow River Kayaks, and make sure you reserve ahead of time.

And, if you are going to head down later in the day to catch a sunset or get dinner, make sure you have a reservation because plenty of people will be trying to avoid the traffic home by getting dinner at a place like Spain in Narragansett, The Weekapaug Inn or Ella's in Westerly, The Cove in Charlestown, or The 210 Oyster Bar in Wakefield.

Not to mention, there are other fun

activities after dark on the weekends in South County, starting on Friday nights. First are the stargazing opportunities every Friday night at Frosty Drew Observatory at Ninigret Park in Charlestown. It is kid-friendly, and they do suggest a \$5 donation, but once they reach 250 participants, they will limit attendance. All weekend long, Friday through Sunday, the Misquamicut Beach Association shows movies or streams concerts at the Misquamicut Drive-In during the summer months. You can check out their website in advance to see what's playing and decide if you'd like to go old school to watch a movie.

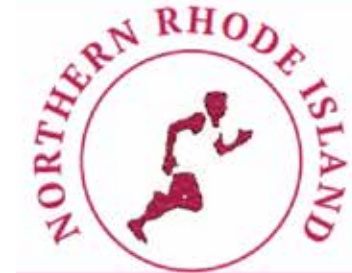
It goes without saying that there are plenty of places along the water to get a bite or a drink after dark, like The Windjammer or Paddy's in Misquamicut, The Bridge in Westerly, The Ocean Mist in Matunuck, 1230 Ocean Bistro in Pt. Judith, or The Coast Guard House. It won't take much planning to go out drinking, except when it comes to the drive home. Local police officers in South County are vigilant when it comes to impaired driving, so be mindful if you do end your night this way.

Enjoy your trips to South County this summer, plan them well and please spend

your money with local merchants who have been hit hardest the past year; and please stay safe on the roadways, things tend to slow down the further south you drive in Rhode Island.



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# 7 Ways to Get Your Child or Student to Read More

By Paul Lonardo

## 1 – Lead by Example

If your children see you reading, they will be more inclined to read themselves, especially if they see that you are genuinely engrossed in a book. By explaining what you like about a particular story, in essence you are encouraging them to pick up a book without having to force them to read. Plenty of studies have shown that forcing students to read something that they have little interest in is likely to result in students not reading books at all. The enthusiasm that you show for a book alone could spark a child's interest. But it is not a bad idea to read books yourself that are written for the age of your child. You might even be pleasantly surprised how well-written and entertaining many young adult, middle grade, and even children's book are for any age reader.

## 2 – The Broccoli Principle

Similar to foods children don't like to eat, like broccoli, or whatever vegetable it might be, the best way to get them to eat it is by giving them small portions. It makes sense. Whatever they eat will be better than nothing, so give them a small portion to start off. Even a little bit will benefit them. Take the same approach with reading. Set aside some time every day for reading. However long it might be, it is better than nothing. You may be surprised what even this minimal effort will accomplish over time. Maybe it's just a chapter at night, but if a book really takes root with your child's imagination, they may want to read multiple chapters each day to find out what will happen next, and before you know it, fifteen minutes a day could quickly extend to twenty minutes, twenty-five, or more on certain days. And that is something you have to look at as a victory.

## 3 – Chose Books With a Subject Matter That Interest Them

This may be obvious, but it's really

important. Everybody has an interest or two, and you know your child better than anyone. Find out what they are into. Whether it is a nature, animals or magic, plots in stories involve a wide variety of subjects and interests. It doesn't even have to be fiction. A nonfiction book that become an enjoyable experience achieves the goal you are seeking, which in this case is getting your child to go from not reading at all to reading something on a regular basis.

When my son was younger, it was a challenge to get him to read anything that wasn't required. For me, as a writer, this was a real dilemma. Like any parent in this situation, I had to find ways to get him to read more. I knew the two things he liked more than anything was baseball and creepy stories, anything in the *Goosebumps* and *Scooby-Doo* vein. My new novel, *The Goblin Pitcher*, is a kids' book that I wrote with him in mind. Hopefully, it will be of interest to other finicky readers.



## 4– Visit Libraries and Bookstores

Visit as many as you can. Finding topics that your child is interested will be a cinch if you show them that there are ample books on whatever subjects that matter most to them. Watch them explore and see what sections they gravitate to. The library/bookstore experience is made easier these days with the children-friendly themes and attractions you are likely to find inside as well as outside, where there is often a playground.

## 5 – Start Small

Lengthy books can be intimidating and a turn off for young people who do not read a lot. Start with chapter books or



short novels. It tends to be easier to draw beginning readers into narratives of shorter stories. Everything happens faster, and there are few if any subplots to detract from the main action, which was why they chose the book to begin with.

When I began writing, I eased into it by writing short stories. This is not something all writers do, of course, but for me it was easier than jumping into writing a full-length book my first time out. Graphic novels are a great way to introduce young readers to books. They are illustrated, but there are story lines and plots to follow just as there are in traditional novels.

## 6 – Based on a Novel

Take your child to the movies. Yes, that's right, the movies. Whether in the theater or at home. Pick a movie that your child likes and has seen before, or one you know they will enjoy. The only thing you must do is make sure the movie was based on a book, the more popular the better, and preferably one that can be enjoyed at any age, such as *The Wizard of Oz*, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* or *Lemony Snicket's A Series Of Unfortunate Events*. If your child liked the film, it might just be enough to get them to seek out the original source to learn even more about the characters and storylines that did not make it into the film.

## 7 – Read, Read Again

It's okay to read the same book twice, or even multiple times. If a child enjoys a book, there's nothing wrong with them reading it as many times as they want. It's all about reading and enjoyment.

These are my humble suggestions to get young people interesting in books. You might have some other ways, but whatever it takes to ease children onto that road to discovery and fascination, you will be initiating an experience that they will enjoy for a lifetime.

# 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!



## What is Drip Cap?

Door, window, and water table (aka skirtboard) areas are parts of your home that are potentially prone to water infiltration if their installs are not conducted correctly.

Compounding their already natural vulnerability as a possible location of allowing water into your home, is the horizontal tops of the trim in each of these types of areas. If these are not properly protected, they are an inviting entry point to any form of moisture that would like to make its way inside. These areas are all obviously “open” areas of your home without the door, window, or water table taking up the corresponding space!

So how does one guard against moisture coming in from the tops of these areas? The answer would be with the proper installation of a type of flashing known as drip cap. Drip cap can come in various sizes, depending upon the thickness of the piece of trim that it is being put in place to protect. One can make drip cap themselves if they are handy with a metal-bending brake.

Above doors and windows, the drip cap is placed above the top of the top-most piece of trim of the door or window (the piece that horizontally travels across the door or window). If you were to look at a side profile of a piece of drip cap, it has the appearance of looking like the side profile of a chair,

except without its rear back legs.

Imagining this, the horizontal portion of the drip cap sits on the top of the piece of trim one is working to flash. The top of the drip cap is tucked into the back side of the siding directly above the piece of trim that is being flashed.

The bottom of the drip cap comes slightly down in front of this piece of trim – this allows for the “drip” of any moisture that hits the top of the piece of trim as it is prevented from working its way behind the trim and made to shed off the front of it.

These days, drip cap is most commonly made out of aluminum but it can also be made out of copper or plastic as well. Another possible material that

drip cap can be made out of, and how it usually was done “back in the day”, is lead.

When lead used to be the more common material to make drip cap out of, it tended to be positioned a little different than today, as many times the lead did not extend over the edge of the trim that it was being installed over.

I have never been a big fan of stopping at the edge, as I feel more comfortable knowing that any moisture hitting the top of a piece of trim we are installing has a clear path to be allowed to “drip” off of it. Believe it or not, in the field we come across many cases of non-existent drip cap, this is quite annoying.

*See Ask an Expert, page 13*

### 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.



When we find a scenario like this, our attention is often drawn to these areas due to wood that has rotted away in some capacity and in backtracking to figure out the cause, we discover that the drip cap is not properly where it should be.

Drip cap is EXTREMELY important! If it is not accurately in place above door, window, or water table areas, rotted wood is something that is bound to happen and is never a question of “if” but “when” the moisture being

allowed to penetrate the backside of the trim, will rear its ugly head, in the by-product of these rotting wood situations that could have easily have been prevented.

## ***From Tom Lopatosky:***

One of our readers submitted this to me and I’d like to share it with you ...

### **Tales of “warranty” concerns for the homeowner:**

The first word of caution is “lifetime”. Whose lifetime? The homeowner? The small business service provider? The material provider? The corporate parent or franchisor? When determined, then the next step is to evaluate the terms and conditions. Yup, you must read the fine print!

### **Two examples:**

1. Now let me “ply” you with a “gem” of a story. You may have to “mastic”ate this one for a while. This involves a vinyl siding application with a transferable “lifetime” (material only) warranty. The siding was installed by an experienced contractor (now a mayor) some years ago. It was installed on the home, appurtenant structures and a shed. The siding exhibits distinct whitish spots randomly over various surfaces (some are insulated walls, some are unfinished (garage)). Some walls both insulated and uninsulated have no spots. The local sales representative of the product was called to look at the problem. He deferred to corporate.

Three independent experienced, well known contractors subsequently evaluated the installation. Panels were unzipped. Installation was confirmed to be correct. All three recommended filing a defective material claim. The detailed warranty claim procedure was followed. Pictures of all surfaces, diagram of the buildings and their exposures, calculation of square ft of material deemed defective, copy of the deed, etc. were submitted.

Now the kicker – the manufacturer denied the claim because they cannot guarantee the installation.



The homeowner is very dissatisfied with the remote escape clause and lack of ownership of the problem and would discourage anyone from doing business with that “gem” of a company!

2. A “lifetime” exterior surface coating promoted as technically superior because of its ceramic properties.
  - a. A local homeowner paid \$\$\$\$ for this exterior surface coating relying on the lifetime warranty. Some years after application, the coating has failed. The small business that was the franchisee applicator has gone out of business. The national corporation does not have any local representative. No worries though for the national corporate parent who can simply escape the “lifetime warranty” liability by claiming any or all of the following improper conditions.
    - i. Unsoundness of substrate
    - ii. Surface preparation
    - iii. Material application, etc
  - b. Result the homeowner is very likely on the hook with very limited recourse.



## IMHO | by Ron Scopelliti

### Some kind of nature

I'm happy to say that, as of May 30, I'm fully vaccinated, and I've never enjoyed getting a vaccination as much as I did when I got my COVID shots. It made me feel like part of something bigger; it made me feel connected with the world. Then, of course, the side-effects hit, and it made me wish the world never existed. But they lasted less than a day, and pretty soon I was looking back at them as reassurance that my immune system still has some fight in it. I felt like sending my antibodies a thank-you card, but they probably would have rejected it and sent it back to the post office.

Re-connecting with my immune system brought to mind a wider change that I've seen in myself lately: Even though I spent so much time inside during the pandemic, it made me feel more in touch with nature. Part of this was because the crisis brought our most fundamental human needs to the forefront – things we take for granted, like breathing, eating, and drinking. Making a weekly run to the grocery store during the first days of the lockdown, and not knowing if there would be bread or milk, put me in mind of our hunter-gatherer forebears, who'd wander off into the wilderness hoping to find sufficient edibles to hold them over until the next trip. Of course, I wasn't faced with the fear of starvation, but the fear of having to use condensed milk in my coffee wasn't trivial.

And then there's the social aspect. We're always referred to as social animals, and, to a large extent, the pandemic robbed us of that label. If social distancing went on for much longer, I worry that we might have

become intuitively anti-social animals. I have to admit that having people stay six feet away from me wasn't such a bad thing, and when people violated my six-foot space, I tended to get unduly territorial. If someone got too close to me in line at Target, I'd revert to the sort of defensive attitude that I imagine Neanderthals had when Cro-Magnons started closing in on their territory. If social distancing had gone on much longer I could see myself turning into one of the ape-men from Kubrick's "2001", and looking for a thigh-bone to swing at encroaching humans.

So more than ever, I have the urge get in touch with my Paleolithic self; to wander out in the woods and re-establish the connection to nature that I've been well on my way to losing. I don't want to sound like some old dude who starts every sentence with "back when I was young," but Esmond was a much more natural setting when I was a kid. My parents grew up in Providence and later lived in North Providence, and I remember them telling me how their decision to buy a house in Smithfield in the late fifties had relatives wondering why they wanted to move "out to the sticks."

There was some truth to what their relatives were saying, even when I was growing up in the early seventies. Before Rte. 295 turned the town into a major crossroad for consumers, my section of town really was a backwater, bordered by a fringe of woods and a brook. Back then, the part of Esmond Street that runs from Dean Avenue to Rte. 44 didn't exist. Instead there was an open field that connected with



Thibodeau's Farm, and offered access to the so-called Indian Caves behind Club 44. This access required you to know one of the three ways to get across Hawkins Brook, but that was pretty much common knowledge for any kid in my neighborhood. We were stereotypical Mayberry bumpkins, fishing, catching frogs, and building tree forts.

By the end of the decade, however, I'd already started spending more time in front of a computer screen than hanging out in the woods. Even though I never stopped hiking and climbing, and later added mountain biking and kayaking, these activities are now "special events" rather than things I do on even a weekly basis. But my now-robust immune system is encouraging me to spend more time in Smithfield's remaining natural areas, so don't be surprised to see me on Stump Pond or Wolf Hill. Keep in mind though, that you should approach with caution, because I'm still unduly defensive about my six-foot radius, and I just found out that Amazon sells full-sized PVC replicas of human thigh bones.



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# Smithfield High Students Bring Back the Music



By Joe Siegel

The students of the Smithfield High School Music Department performed at the Spring Concert held on Wednesday, May 26. It was their first live music performance in over a year. The ensemble that performed included the SHS Chorus, the SHS Band, the Sentinel Singers, and the Jazz Band.

The concert featured a mix of classic and newer songs, including: “What Shall We Do With A Drunken Sailor,” “Stand Up” from the film, “Harriet,” “The Storm is Passing Over,” – a gospel tune, “Crocodile Rock” and “Uptown Funk.”

“They so missed being on the stage and performing together,” said Sandi Brenner, a parent and member of the Smithfield High School Booster Club. “It was an absolutely wonderful evening.”

“(Because of Covid), last year the (seniors) didn’t get to have their last concert,” Brenner continued. “At least this year they got their last concert. They were able to get on the stage and play to their heart’s content.”



The concert also honored the graduating seniors, as well as the Induction of students into the Tri-M Music Honor Society, and the Induction of Mr. Gaston Malloy into the SHS Music Department’s Legion of Honor. “Our chapter of the Tri-M Music honor society is in its fifth year at SHS,” explained Katherine Young, a music teacher who serves as choral director. “It’s a student-run organization focusing on leadership and service. Students need to keep a high GPA, complete service projects, and attend monthly meetings. This year they created a virtual holiday concert

for local nursing homes along with various other small projects.” Malloy is a retired music teacher and SHS Music substitute.

“He’s been a huge supporter of our students over the years and certainly deserved to be recognized,” Young said. “He has taught private lessons to our students and visits frequently with great resources.”

The band and chorus also performed outdoor concerts on May 21 at two local

*See Smithfield High School, page 17*

senior citizens' homes – The Village at Waterman Lake and Cortland Place. “It was a warm-up for the concert,” Brenner said. “It was the first time that they played anywhere in over a year.” “It was really nice,” Young said. “The residents seemed to enjoy it.”



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# *An Interview with* **Smithfield Land Trust's Barbara Rich**

**By James Gass**

## **Tell us a little about yourself.**

I grew up in New Jersey and went to college in upstate New York. I lived in Chicago for three years and moved to Rhode Island in 1977. I got married in 1993 and moved to Smithfield at that time.

## **Tell us about the Smithfield Land Trust. How does it differ from the Smithfield Conservation Commission?**

The Smithfield Land Trust was created in 1999. Some of the founding members were Robert Wroblewski, Gerard Hamel, Ken Weber and Ann Marie Aubray.

Its mission is to preserve and protect open space, wetlands, water bodies, ground and surface resources, farms, historical or cultural places of interest, scenic views, unusual, exceptional or exemplary natural habitats, and to provide opportunities for research and education on land trust properties while securing goals set forth by the town's Comprehensive Plan.

We protect about 1,060 acres in town with 21 properties. They range from 6 acres to over 300 acres, the largest being The Wolf Hill Forest Preserve.

The Conservation Commission is a separate entity. They also protect and preserve open space but have smaller neighborhood properties that provide access to their Seven Walks in Smithfield. We work closely with the Conservation Commission. Some of our properties are joined.

I joined the Land Trust around 2006. I was concerned about the Mall at the Crossings and the way the decision was made to move forward with the project. I felt it was important to protect Smithfield's farms and natural areas.



**Barbara Rich**

The residents of Smithfield (with 65% approval) supported a bond issue of about \$5,000,000 to allow the Land Trust to protect Smithfield's natural places and farms.

## **Tell us about some of the properties that the Land Trust has acquired.**

The original members of the Land Trust created a map of the town to identify areas of concern. The idea was to enhance and connect larger tracts, or green spaces. The other concern was our farmers. We have some of the state's best farm lands.

We preserved the Judson Property on Williams Rd. with a grant from RIDEM. It was once called Maple Lane Farms and is a beautiful property that abuts Stillwater Pond.

Another concern is our watershed. By protecting land, we protect ponds and streams which are vital to the environment and our quality of life. Smithfield is part of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed. Our ponds provide huge economic benefits to the town.

## **What are your proudest achievements at SLT?**

I am most proud of the protection of our farms. We helped Blackbird Farm,

Steere Orchards and Jaswell's Farm. The purchase of the Matteo Farm on Swan Rd. was important. We leased the land to the Jaswells.

## **What are some challenges that the Land Trust faces?**

A big challenge always is competing with developers, but development and land preservation can work together. The Town has a conservation development ordinance in which open space within large developments must be part of the project. We have a comprehensive plan that creates goals and plans for the town.

## **You are also president of the Rhode Island Land Trust Council. What do they do?**

The Land Trust Council is a coalition of Rhode Island's land trusts both municipal (like Smithfield) and nonprofit, with a mission of conserving land to protect special places within our communities. The Council represents land trust and land conservation interests throughout the state, facilitates collaboration and connects leaders with training and guidance resources. They also provide assistance to help land trusts achieve their goals and ensure sound stewardship and permanent protection of these special places.

The Council has helped the Smithfield Land Trust with programs, stewardship workshops, digitizing records and getting baseline documentation for properties and



*See Smithfield Land Trust, page 19*



management plans. We are currently participating in a Terre Core project sponsored by the Council to digitize the boundaries of all of our properties.

There are 42 land trusts in our little state. Many are all-volunteer (like Smithfield). It is a large task and we are working together to protect all of the special places in our communities.

Land Trust Days is a program sponsored by the Council and we have participated for many years. We are planning several walks this summer. We anticipate inviting people to our Latham Brook Preserve (we are starting to create trails there) and maybe a farm tour. Stay tuned. We are participating in new program by the Council called RI Walks, which will be launched soon.

We need volunteers to help us with property management, educational programs, and scout adventures. Please contact us at: [LandTrust@smithfieldri.com](mailto:LandTrust@smithfieldri.com)

Stay tuned for Land Trust Days notices. We also work with Revive the Roots who have volunteer programs and we will post information on our Facebook page, or you can sign up with them to get information.

**Any big events coming up this summer?**

**How can people get involved?**



## Payne's Picks | By Sarah Payne

### July 2021

#### Movie Release

##### The Tomorrow War – July 2021

The week of June 22 was designated “movie week” in an effort to draw people back to the theaters. Have you seen anything on the big screen this year? I’m making every attempt go and support the industry, but July is looking light when it comes to blockbusters. The only somewhat interesting film I could find is *The Tomorrow War*, starring Chris Pratt as a dad drafted to fight in a future war. Games Radar reported that it was originally set for a theatrical release, but then it was acquired by Amazon to debut on Prime Video. Director Chris McKay spoke with Total Film magazine about his inspiration for the alien creatures: “I wanted them to look ancient. I wanted them to look hungry: bony, skeletal ... I wanted them to look weird, where you’re a little bit repulsed but a little bit fascinated by them.”



#### Movie Review

##### Wrath of Man

Ever since he played the hilariously obtuse and ultra macho Rick Ford in *Spy* (2015), I became an instant fan of Jason Statham. In fact, the second sentence of his Wikipedia entry perfectly sums up why he’s a joy to watch on film: “He is known for his action-thriller roles and portraying tough, irredeemable, and Machiavellian characters.” Those are true words – and *Wrath of Man* is no exception. Scott Mendelson reported on Forbes that *Wrath of Man* has earned more than almost any other non-franchise/non-ensemble Statham action movie. In it, Statham plays a new cash truck driver with a mysterious past. He’s joined by a stellar cast, including Josh Hartnett and Scott Eastwood. What I love most about it is the way director Guy Ritchie plays with time. Throughout the film the audience sees scenes played out from multiple characters’ perspectives; it’s reminiscent of Christopher Nolan’s style of storytelling. If you’re looking for a film that keeps you entertained and on the edge of your seat, I highly recommend *Wrath of Man*.

#### A Quiet Place Part II

It’s not often that a sequel lives up to its predecessor, but *A Quiet Place Part II* comes incredibly close. It was also the biggest movie release since the pandemic began, grossing \$175 million worldwide. Picking up where *A Quiet Place* (2018) leaves off, *A Quiet Place Part II* follows a family fighting to stay alive in a post-apocalyptic world inhabited by blind aliens. Emily Blunt as the mother takes more of a backstage role as Millicent Simmonds and Noah Jupe, who play her children, each find their own independence and strength. I particularly enjoyed Simmonds’ performance as a deaf actor. In promoting the first film, co-screenwriter Scott Beck said: “We always had a deaf character in the script, but John really pushed for them to hire Millicent ... She came to set and taught everyone sign language. It was really amazing and brought an extra depth to the film.” The scenes filmed from Simmonds’ perspective are completely devoid of sound, so the audience is put in a similar position. It adds an element of depth and a little bit of extra horror, too.



# Health Awareness

by Diane L. Marolla, LICSW

## What will be our new normal?

**If we do this together, by July the 4th, there's a good chance you, your family, and friends will be able to get together in your backyard or park and celebrate Independence Day."**

**– Joe Biden, President of the United States of America**

During this pandemic I have done my best to stay as informed as possible to keep myself healthy. One decision I have been conflicted about was getting vaccinated. I am not an "anti-vaxxer", nor am I a Trump supporter. I am neither a Democrat nor a Republican as I don't fit in either category. When I go in the voting booth, I vote my conscious.

My body has anaphylactic allergic reactions at times. It always has. Sometimes I know the source of what causes the reaction, and sometimes I do not. I recently had to start carrying an EpiPen as I had a severe reaction to something unknown. In addition to my allergic reactions, the ongoing politics of this virus was also slowing me down from making this decision. Since the vaccine became available, I have been sifting through information to read up on the vaccines and side effects. This was not an easy task since what is reported is biased. It took me many months of me contemplating about whether to get the vaccine.

Recently, I sat down with a former public health expert, Joel Cohen, CRA to get an unbiased, experts opinion about the vaccine, and how he is living now that restrictions are lifted. Joel, now retired, had an impressive career in public health. Born and raised in South Providence, he was the first in his family to go to college. He received both his bachelor's and master's degree from URI. Prior to his career in public health, Joel taught middle and high school in RI and in CT.

In his late 20's he realized his love was medicine and science and went back to school at Yale's School of Medicine. He has held many positions including working for the VA Department of Medicine and Public Health Service in Washington, DC. He also was the Assistant Provost for Research at Brandeis University. He is responsible for getting the license and patent for Smart Balance margarine. He worked at Children's Hospital in Boston and RI Hospital. As I interviewed Joel, his wife Pam, joined us. Joel is one of our gems in RI who has a wealth of knowledge. When I discovered he was my neighbor; I couldn't wait to pick his brain about COVID 19.

***Diane: Where were you when you first became concerned about the pandemic?***

Joel: We were scheduled to go on a cruise. Pam was packing. I was watching the news. I had this feeling that something wasn't good. I had a bad feeling. Nothing was publicized at this point. We cancelled our cruise on February 15th, 2020. We started to isolate then. The last time we were in a restaurant was March 1, 2020.

***Diane: I was concerned about how quickly these vaccines were available to us, can you shed any light on why?***

Joel: The vaccine was in development for twenty years for the development for Ebola.

***Diane: I am concerned that we are lifting restrictions too fast, how do you feel?***

Joel: I think in the Northeast, our vaccination rates are good. There are areas in the country that the unvaccinated rates are high. I think in the summer we will be fine. In the fall, we will get flu, and maybe a resurgence.

***Diane: I'm still going to live the "COVID life" until the end of this year. I will still wear my masks indoors. I am still limiting who I am with and where I go.***

Joel: If I go in somewhere, I will wear a mask. I don't need to, but I am being cautious. We can't isolate forever. Some people are vaccine hesitant. The only way to get through this to get more and more people vaccinated. The fewer people who are unvaccinated reduce the possibility of the COVID jumping from person to person. We must do this everywhere. Not just in RI and the US. We must do this around the world. The more COVID 19 is around it develops variants. The variants may get to the point where they are not controlled by the vaccine.

As far as people who ask me about the vaccine, I am still a social worker at heart. I don't tell people what to do. I tell them to do their research, talk to their doctor, and make a decision that is best for them. Specific to me, I decided to get the vaccine.



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# When lilacs last in the door-yard bloom'd.

By Peg Brown

*And the great star early droop'd in the western sky at night,  
I mourn'd – and yet shall mourn with ever-returning spring ...*

**– Walt Whitman, summer, 1865, on the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865**

As I approached the soldiers' encampment on May 16th, led by Capt. Richard Henry Toller Adams, Signal Officer, Army Corps, and Lt. Edmund Burke, we skirted a mature, fully bloomed lilac bush. I could only think how appropriate this setting could be. The event, held in conjunction with the opening of a new Smith-Appleby Exhibit of Smithfield's role as an important link in the east coast railroad system of the 1870s, was a fully staged Civil War encampment including Union and Confederate soldiers and their civilian followers who had turned the lawn of Smith-Appleby into an authentic 1863 Civil War venue.

My escorts were in reality Ted Urbanski, Willington, CT, in his role as Chief Signal Officer, and Daniel Costa-Dupre, North Providence, in his role as Lt. Burke, whose character had enlisted at age 16. When I questioned enlistment at such an early age, Lt. Burke responded, "You only had to have two things to join the ranks – be over sixteen and have two opposing teeth so you could bite the tip off the rifle cartridge."

The encampment was a tribute to the critical role the signal corps played on both sides during the war, featuring the technology that the 2nd RI Signal Corps helped to pioneer and implement. An Army surgeon, Major Albert J. Myer, is credited with founding the signal corps in June of 1860 when he finally convinced the US House of Representatives to approve \$2,000 for the "manufacture or

purchase of application for field signals." Congress also approved one additional staff person for the Army to oversee the Corps.

The early Civil War signaling system relied on an elaborate code using flags. However, the tasks assigned to this unit including battlefield observation, intelligence gathering, and direction for the artillery, required a better system. The technology advanced rapidly, allowing telegraph "trains" (aka horse-drawn carriages) to travel long distances, and string "flying telegraph lines" transmitting information as far as 15 miles. As Lt. Burke explained, telegraph coders that could fit in a pocket (like a cell phone!), allowed individuals to scale a pole and tap into any line, usually along key railroad routes.

As with modern technological advances, special training was required. Both the Union and the Confederacy were forced to recruit officers from other tasks to be trained. In total, the Union eventually fielded 1,500 members of the signal corps; the Confederacy, 3,000. The Union strung over 53,000 miles of wire, allowing for the rapid transfer of information to Washington, DC. Lt. Burke cited, for example, the list of casualties from Gettysburg could be received at central headquarters in as little as 12 hours.

Also travelling with the troops were "sutlers" or "contractors" who often paid a bribe to be allowed to provide items not issued by the armies. These could include brandy for the officers, beer for the enlisted, paper, pen, powdered ink, utensils, and canned vegetables. Portraying a sutler at the Smith-Appleby encampment was Steven Salisbury a descendent of Salisbury family from Worcester whose ancestral home is now a museum. As with many of the

reenactors, Steven often assumes other historical roles for other reenactments. For 46 years, he has been playing roles from the French and Indian War, King Philips War, and the War of 1812 among many others.

In 2011 there were over 30,000 individuals who participated in Civil War reenactments. Over 50,000 participated during the 150 Anniversary of the start of the war. Reenactors also often appear in movies, such as Gettysburg. As the film director stated, "they not only come with their costumes and weapons, but also with the stuff in their hearts and their heads."

## Author's Notes:

- The Signal Corps motto: "You can talk about us, but you can't talk without us."
- Charles M. Latham, a member of Providence High School's 1859 graduating class, was a member of the US Signal Corps. He was given a medal for bravery when he and 13 other Signalmen were sent to the Dakota Territory. During battle he was wounded in the heel and died of lockjaw in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.
- The 2nd RI Volunteer Infantry Regiment fielded 409 men at the Battle of Gettysburg. One was killed, five wounded and one reported missing.
- During the battle of Gettysburg, the Signal Corp largely provided battlefield observation. There is a monument to the Army Signal Corp at the site of Little Big Horn.
- There are several Civil War cemeteries in Rhode Island including RI Veterans' Cemetery and a cemetery in Pascoag.



# All Aboard! New Exhibit at Smith-Appleby House

The exhibit, assembled and curated by key volunteers, Sandra Achille and Deb Cote, includes photographs, ephemera, and artifacts documenting the important role the railroad played in the growth of Smithfield mills and businesses during the last 20th century. The railroad connected commerce throughout the state, including Esmond, Georgiaville, Stillwater, Smithfield and Wallum Lake with a terminus in Springfield. As Sandra mentioned, with the railroad system a letter from Rhode Island could reach New York City in just 3 days. A tour of the fully restored Smith-Appleby railroad flag stop station, relocated from the corner of Brighton Road and Farnum Pike in 1975, reveals a hole in the roof through which telegraph wire was strung. Additional information, including several articles and all photographs can be found on the Smith-Appleby web page. To view stories and photos related to the train station exhibit, click on Historical Photos and Articles and scroll down to Transportation.



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Lorenzo Achille with his mom, Sandra.  
Sandra is a contributing photographer  
for *The Smithfield Times*.



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Wishes**  
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Photos courtesy of Albert Tavakalov and Sandra Achille



# Inside The Brown Bag

By Peg Brown

## The Great American Summer Tradition – Camp!

One might almost claim that summer camp is a purely New England tradition. And after a Covid-19 hiatus, most summer camps will be once again welcoming children and teenagers to the “wilderness,” complete with camp fires and the ubiquitous s’mores.

There has been a historic belief that time in the outdoors contributes to character building. One has only to review ancient literature to find the Spartan’s example of sending 12-year-old males out of the city to test their qualifications as potential warriors and citizens in good standing. (Young men who gave up were not allowed full citizenship.)

While the first resident camp for children is said to have originated in the Alps in 1876, Americans can claim early experiments that centered around authors like David Thoreau’s beliefs in the importance of the lessons of nature as early as the 1830s and 1840s. Our country’s first overnight camp is also said to have been found in Pennsylvania in 1876. The goal of the North Mountain School of Physical Culture was not that different than that of the early Spartans: take “weakly boys,” mostly from the city, and turn them into self-reliant and healthy young men. There is evidence that as early as 1861 a prominent abolitionist may have had the same goals, using trapping, hunting, boating and fishing as measures of character and survival skills.

The concept of summer camp spread slowly. By 1900 there were only about 100 camps nationwide, including those that were organized just for girls. Most of those early camps were in New England, and by 1918 over 1,000 had been founded. In post-World War I France’s state-controlled summer camps often focused on children who had grown up

during the war. However, in the United States, the central focus continued to revolve around developing self-confidence and self-sufficiency, healthy bodies, and a strong sense of community.

New England was also the site of the oldest camp for Black children in the US: Camp Atwater, founded in 1921 in Massachusetts, still operates today. Another New England camp milestone was the founding of a camp for girls, Camp Walden, Denmark, Maine, by two sisters who had to have their brother sign for the property as women couldn’t own real estate. When the New York City based sisters were asked, “What are you doing, you’re going to take care of 30 girls in the woods by yourselves?” Their answer: “Don’t be silly, we’re going to teach them to take care of themselves and each other.”

Certainly, the founding and expansion of the Boys’ and Girls’ Scouts’ organizations, YMCAs and 4-H clubs fueled the growth of camps. However, among the strongest influences on the proliferation of summer camps were changes in society. One key milestone was the elimination of child labor in 1938. More Americans moved to cities, more parents worked long hours, and camps, including those founded by churches, “sought to save kids from the streets and get kids in major cities back to nature.”

FDR’s New Deal programs funded camps for children, and the post-World War II mentality that childhood should be a time of innocence laid the foundation for camps as we know them today. Even the Mickey Mouse television program touted the value of camp.

Modern trends in summer camps have

evolved around special themes and educational programs. Camps for STEM, arts and music, computer technology, athletics, cultural and environmental education have continued to respond to our ever-evolving interests. It is suggested that summer camp may even be an attractive way to force children to escape technology and screen time.

While summer camps today might not echo the “Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh” of 1963, you can be sure that children write at least one or two letters home hoping for reprieve. In a very short time, however, parents usually don’t receive any mail from their little camper at all.

### *Author’s Notes:*

- Unlike during Covid, during the Spanish Flu parents sent their children to camp in an effort to avoid the crowded cities.
- The earliest surviving film promoting Girl Scouts, “The Golden Eaglet,” was filmed in 1918.
- Camp Walden was the site of the 1998 film, “The Parent Trap,” starring Lindsay Lohan.
- American camps continue to respond to emerging needs. In 2008 the first sleepover camp for transgender children, Camp Aranu’tis, was founded.
- In 2013, the American Camp Association, reported that there were over 12,000 camps (including overnight and day), 14 million campers, over 1.5 million employed and was thriving as an \$18 million business.
- I spent my summers in the family camp on the St. Lawrence River. No indoor plumbing, no water except what was pumped from the river, no television, and no telephone until after I was 16. PS. I read a lot.







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# 50 years Ago – July, 1971

by Jim Ignasher

DC/1 Dennis J. Layfield, (United States Coast Guard), of Greenville, completed his service in Vietnam and was assigned to a military recruiting station in Rhode Island.

Staff Sergeant Benjamin Crossman, Jr., of Greenville, was home for thirty days before his deployment to Vietnam.

U.S. Air Force Captain Anthony J. Fascitelli, Jr. was serving at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi.

James Coupe of Spragueville was honorably discharged from the U. S. Air Force after serving four years with the Strategic Air Command.

The 44th annual Ancients and Horribles Parade was held in Glocester.

Ground was broken for the construction of the Smithfield Boys Club at the bottom of Deerfield Drive. Today the building is occupied by the YMCA.

The advocacy group, “Citizens for the Preservation of Waterman Lake”, held a meeting at the Lakeshores Community Hall to discuss issuing boat stickers for those authorized to use the lake, weed control, and the possibility of having local police patrol the lake with a boat ten to twelve hours a week.

In the early 1970s there was a proposal to construct an interstate highway, (I-84), across northwestern Rhode Island to Connecticut. While some were in favor of the idea, others were against it. Locally, a group calling themselves “Stop I-84 Inc.” was established to prevent the highway from being constructed. In July of 1971 the group elected its first officers. History shows the Rhode Island portion of the highway was never built

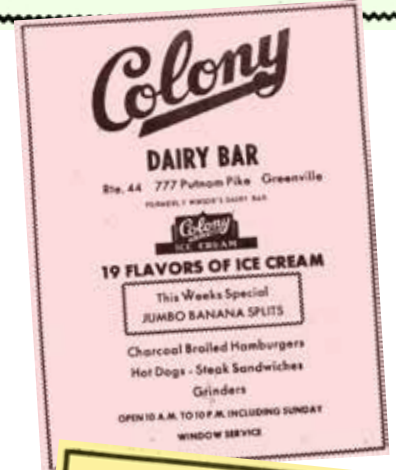
Members of the charitable organization known as “The Cranford Club” were honored for their volunteer work at Zamborano Hospital in Burrillville. They included: Viola Glasheen, Edith Scully, Hattie Knuschke, Cora Hopkins, Mrs. E. Spenser, Mrs. E. Knuschke, Mrs. A. Jordan, Mrs. M. Flynn, Mrs. M. Petersen, Mrs. M. Emma, and Mrs. I. Suppich.

If one went to the Apple Valley Cinema in July, 1971, they would have seen “Klute” a crime drama starring Donald Southerland who plays a detective investigating a missing person’s case; or “Ryans Daughter”, a romantic drama set in England during World War I; or “The Andromeda Strain”, a sci-fi thriller involving a group of scientists trying to stop the spread of an extraterrestrial killer virus.

On July 15 the “Smithfield Neighborhood Association for Progress” held a meeting at the Esmond Recreation Center. On July 19, the south tower of the World Trade Center in New York City reached its maximum height of 1,362 feet making it, and the north tower at 1,368 feet, the two tallest buildings in the world at the time.

On July 26 the Apollo 15 moon mission was launched from Cape Kennedy in Florida. The crew consisted of David Scott, Alfred Worden, and James Irwin. Scott and Irwin became the first men in history to drive a motor vehicle, (the lunar rover), on the surface of the moon. Out of safety and necessity, the total distance traveled was only 2.5 miles. The rover still remains on the moon to this day.

On July 27th a special state election was held to determine if a sewer line extension should be constructed from Cumberland,





down Route 116 into Smithfield, and ending at Harris Road. The cost was to be borne by those who would be utilizing the line, and not Smithfield taxpayers. People's Bank was offering a set of six reversible Rhode Island scenic placemats for only \$1.99 contingent to opening a savings account with fifty dollars or more.

On July 31, the Blue Gill Derby, sponsored by the Slacks Reservoir Improvement Association, was held at Slacks Reservoir. The event included fishing, swimming, and row boat contests with trophies awarded to the winners.



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On Sunday, August 1st, David's Foundation will kick off its

### **31 Days of Prizes Fundraiser!**

A chance to win one daily prize during the month and then all ticketholders are eligible for the grand prize of \$1000 on August 31st

Ticket  
Price  
\$50

### David Louis Cunha Foundation 31 Days of Prizes - August 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 \$100	2 \$50 Spain Gift Card	3 \$40 Edible Arrangement \$10 Culinary Affair	4 \$50	5 Coach Wristlet \$25 <u>Cucina Rustica</u> Gift Card	6 Melvin Tire Pros Oil Change \$10 Dunkin' Gift Card	7 Crystal Lake Golf Course for 4 Mon-Thurs only
8 \$100	9 Roch's Gourmet Basket (Delivery Included)	10 \$50 Contempo Hair Salon	11 \$50	12 \$25 Coast Guard House \$25 Robert Anthony Salon	13 \$50 Matunick Oyster Bar	14 Party Fire <u>Weekend</u> Rental Cauldron Fire Kit 1 container of wood
15 \$100	16 \$25 Gift Card Mike's Kitchen \$25 Gift Card Cornerstone Pub	17 \$50 Gift Card Rivers & Rhodes	18 \$50	19 Village Paws Bath or Haircut \$25 Stop & Shop Gift Card	20 It's Your Body Symphony 1-Hour Reflexology Session	21 Broadway Tire 4-Wheel Alignment
22 \$100	23 \$50 Gift Card Strings Bar & Grill	24 \$50 Gift Card Salon Serendipity (any service) by Carolyn Paradis	25 \$50	26 \$25 Gift Card Culinary Affair Restaurant \$25 <u>Sorleya</u> Nail	27 \$30 <u>Cucina Rustica</u> \$20 Mulberry Vineyard Wine Tasting (4)	28 It's Your Body Symphony 1-Hour Swedish Massage
29 \$100	30 <u>Herbs &amp; Mylk</u> Basket	31 Grand Prize \$1000				

*A chance to win one daily prize during the month. All ticket holders are eligible for the grand prize of \$1,000 on August 31.*

Tickets are on sale now! Please contact Cheryl Cunha @ 401-419-2100 or Peter Cunha @ dlcf2015@gmail.com for more information or to purchase tickets.  
Or visit davidlouiscunhafoundation.org. Thank you!

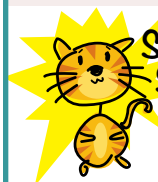


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# The Nature of Things

by James Gass

## Yes, they are everywhere. And no, they are not cats.

A few years ago I was at the Fort Nature Refuge in North Smithfield taking a morning hike. Returning on the blue trail, I spotted something moving around the base of a large white pine tree not too far up ahead. As I got closer, I saw a fairly large animal with uniformly dark brown fur start to climb the tree. It also had something in its mouth.

Was it a raccoon? A house cat? Its fur was too dark to be a raccoon, and seemed too big to be a house cat, although it had a tail like one. As it reached the top of the pine, it set what it had in its mouth on a branch (the leg of a skunk) and glared at me. I was at the bottom of the tree and could see the animal more clearly now. It had the face and paws of a bear, but the body and tail of a cat. It was a fisher. Although it was a treat to see one so close, it was clearly annoyed by my presence, so I left it in peace to eat its breakfast.

Fishers are widespread in Rhode Island, but that was not always the case. They prefer large tracts of dense forests, which around 200 years ago covered almost 95 percent of the state. When the colonists arrived, clearcutting for farming, widespread forest fires and over-hunting drove the fishers up into northern New England. They became virtually extirpated from the state.

Over the last several decades, forest restoration, suppression of fires and science-based wildlife management has allowed fishers to return to southern New England. DNA studies indicate



Fisher Cat

that New Hampshire was the source of the current population. In Rhode Island, fishers are found in Providence, Kent and Washington counties, and have recently become established in Bristol County and portions of Newport County. They are not on any of the islands in Narragansett Bay or on Block Island. I have seen fisher tracks everywhere I hike in Rhode Island, including the Powder Mill Ledges Wildlife Refuge, right here in town.

Fishers have a reputation for ferocity and if cornered can hold off several dogs. When angered, they show their teeth, growl and hiss and arch their backs like a cat, which may have earned them their nickname “fisher cat.” They are not cats, but are in fact members of the weasel family

(Mustelidae), which includes weasels, badgers, otters, ferrets, martens, minks, and wolverines. They have a wedge shaped head with a pointed muzzle, large rounded ears and stout, muscular legs with long, sharp claws used for climbing. They have dense dark brown fur and a long, bushy tail.

Active both day and night, fishers travel a wide and regular circuit in search of food, denning in hollow logs or in crevices in rock outcroppings along the way. Like all mustelids, they have twin scent glands at the base of their tail that emit a musky odor which they use for marking territories, but it’s not as powerful as a skunk’s. Fishers are solitary animals except during the

*See The Nature of Things, page 33*



breeding season, which is in late April.

Equally at home on the ground or in trees, fishers are opportunistic predators and consume any animal they can capture and kill. Squirrels, along with small mammals such as mice, voles, and chipmunks make up the bulk of their diet. They also eat small birds, amphibians, fish and a variety of fruits and berries, as well as carrion (the one I saw probably had a piece of road-killed skunk in its mouth). Fishers are also one of the few known predators of porcupines, which they dispatch by quick, repeated blows to the victim's face and head. The porcupine is then consumed from the underside, avoiding the sharp quills.

There are many misconceptions about fishers. People often assume that if their cat did not come home it was killed by a fisher. "That's an urban legend," according to Charles Brown, Principal Wildlife Biologist at DEM. "A male fisher ... is certainly capable of killing a housecat ... but cats are much more likely to be predated by coyotes," he says. Analysis of the stomach contents of road-killed fishers that were first returning to the state in the 1990s found that none had eaten any domestic animals. But they might get into your chicken coop or grab a free-ranging bird, Brown notes. And the "screaming" call heard during spring and summer nights is actually made by red foxes, not fishers. Fishers do not pose a threat to humans.

Laken Ganoë is a doctoral student at URI leading a three-year study of fisher populations in the state. She plans to place tracking collars on them to monitor their movements. If you see a fisher with a collar, report it at <https://www.lakenganoë.com/fisher-report-line.html>.

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# The Smithfield Chemical Company

By Jim Ignasher

There's a well maintained wooded path that connects the ball fields of the Smithfield High School with Deerfield Park. Along that path is a bridge which spans the gentle moving Stillwater River, and if one looks carefully along the park side of the river, especially after the leaves have fallen from the trees, they will see the remains of old cement building foundations. The ruins are what remain of the former Smithfield Chemical Company, a once thriving complex of three buildings which came to an unfortunate end.

In a time long before computer digitized images, the Smithfield Chemical company processed old photographic film which included photo negatives, x-rays, and discarded cinema movie reels, the by-product of which was Nitrocellulose, also known as "flash cotton" and "gun cotton", which is extremely flammable. Those who worked at the company knew the dangers of working with such materials and tried to be as careful as possible, but accidents still happened.

Perhaps the worst accident occurred on April 26, 1949, when Prescott Jones, a 22-year-old chemist and recent graduate of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute was fatally injured in a flash - fire. He'd been working in a building which once stood in the area of the high school ball fields near Pleasant View Avenue. For reasons never determined, there was a fiery explosion, and Jones emerged badly burned. He died a few hours later at Roger Williams Hospital.

Just ten days later on May 4th three men were working together in another



**Part of a building foundation of the former Smithfield Chemical Company.**

building when someone dropped a metal barrel on a concrete floor which created a spark that ignited some Nitrocellulose. An instant later there was a bright flash followed by an explosion. All three men were injured, but two of them ran from the building with their clothing ablaze and dove into the Stillwater River. Fortunately all three recovered.

Meanwhile, the building, which measured 30 by 30 feet, was reportedly "a seething mass of flames" by the time the first fire engines arrived. As firemen began to attack the flames a truck parked at the loading dock containing barrels of lacquer suddenly exploded, but luckily nobody was hurt. The blaze was so intense that firefighters from Georgiaville and Harmony were called in to assist, and 2,000 feet of hose was laid to draw water from the river to fight the blaze. The building was not insured.

Another fire erupted on April 23, 1956, which led the roof of one of the buildings to collapse. Fortunately in that instance a strong breeze was blowing which carried the heat and embers away from an area where barrels and solvents were stored.

Although the building suffered several thousand dollars worth of damage, there were no injuries. An article about the fire which appeared in The Observer stated, "the fire was one of several over the past years at the plant."

The Smithfield Chemical Company is said to have been established in 1949 however, the company is indicated on George E. Mattson's 1947 map of Smithfield. A newspaper article

from the Woonsocket Call indicates there was another company which occupied a two-story wooden structure on the same site in the 1930s known as the Sheliod Manufacturing Company which produced lacquer paint and also dealt with Nitrocellulose. And like the Smithfield Chemical Company, it too experienced misfortune.

On July 29, 1931, an explosion occurred on the second floor of the building and flames quickly broke through the roof. High winds carried hot embers along Pleasant View Avenue starting several secondary fires. In one instance firemen carried a bedridden woman from her home as the wooden roof of her house burned. Her home was saved, but an outbuilding was lost. Fire companies from as far away as Fruit Hill and Centerdale responded to assist.

The Smithfield Chemical Company continued operations until 1964. Over time, the former chemical company buildings were eventually leveled and forgotten.

Fast forward to July of 2003 when

*See Smithfield Chemical Co., page 35*



the town of Smithfield was in the preliminary stages of upgrading the trail between the high school and Deerfield Park. The U. S. Department of Environmental Protection was brought in to evaluate the area due to concerns of possible ground contamination. EPA Investigators subsequently discovered a large

underground tank containing a petroleum product. When work was begun to remove it three additional tanks were discovered. None were reported to be leaking, and all were mitigated.

Today recreational fields occupy either side of the river, utilized by

people who might never guess what once occupied the area. And with the passage of time the ruins of the former chemical company have become part of the wooded landscape – almost camouflaged and nestled amidst the underbrush, and will likely remain for generations to come.



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# Nix's Mate

By Thomas D'Agostino  
[www.tomdagostino.com](http://www.tomdagostino.com)

As the sun recaptures the sky glistening over Boston Harbor, a lonely monument stretches from the briny deep to greet it. Its intention is to warn mariners of the rocky reef it lay perched upon, yet many consider it a burial marker for those whose souls lie unseen beneath the pressing waves. It is the last vestige of an extinct isle where lay buried among its remains, the bones of many a pirate whose fate was sealed by the hangman's noose that hung portentously from a scaffold on the highest point of the rocky atoll. The misty spirits still pervade the quarter, and a curse rendered from the lips of an innocent man, remain as the only other testament to the existence of Nix's Mate.

It is believed that the island of Nix's Mate received its name from an incident in 1636 when Captain Nix set sail with his crew. Once at sea, the captain was ruthless and unsympathetic with his band. Woe to those who stood beyond his favor: for he would flog them on the deck, or chain them in the hold as a message to all of his absolute authority. At some point, the crew had taken enough abuse and mutinied while the ship was docked near the island in Boston Harbor. A harbor watch heard some dreadful cries from the vessel and rowed out to investigate. There, they found the captain viciously murdered in his bunk. During interrogations, the crew pointed the finger at the first mate. Their stories were close enough in detail to convict the naive sailor and he was found guilty of murder. Punishment for mutiny and murder was death by hanging, and so befell the fate of the first mate.

Forever swearing his innocence, he



Island of Nix's Mate

was rowed out to the little island where the hangman awaited. As the rope was slipped around his neck he began to vehemently cry for true justice to be served upon the men that carried out the evil deed. The crowd that had gathered for the hanging was moved by his sincere convictions. They knew the scurvy brethren he was cohort with were guiltier than he. Still, the powers that ruled ordered the execution to prevail. Before he hung from the gallows he made his final plea, "God show that I am innocent! Let this island sink and prove to these people that I have never stained my hands with human blood!"

As his words trailed off into the void, so did the sound of the rope ringing taught, creaking to and fro from the scaffold. The Magistrate thought justice was served but it was only beginning. Many more pirates would feel the wrath of the gallows on Nix's Mate. It was customary in those days to suspend the executed from chains at the gibbet near the entrance of the city as a warning of the intolerance of criminal discretion. Those who entered the Boston Harbor would pass by Nix's Mate and get a glimpse of the destiny that befell many a freebooter as the hardened flesh fell from their long forgotten bones. Soon the bones of

those left on the gibbet would crumble themselves and fall below to join the pile of others, who heeded not the grisly warning of ill will. The island literally became a graveyard of pirate remains.

Slowly, the claws of white and water began to claim the boulders and bones. Though the hanging of pirates and rogues continued, it was evident that the isle was diminishing in size. At some point it was noticed that all but the hill where the gibbet stood had mysteriously succumbed to the sea. Old timers remembered the cursed words that permeated the air on that fateful day when Nix's first mate went to the gallows. Before anyone could remember much more, the island vanished into the deep, and the curse was fulfilled. The curse and island of Nix's Mate would seal the fate of men, innocent or guilty, never more.

Now, only the cries of innocence and mercy pervade the air surrounding the monument where the small island once jutted from the sea. Are they the cries of pirates gone to the gallows, or the caws of a lonely gull? Row out to the marker and listen closely, or look into the deep where the bones of those who paid a dear price for their dealings lay, but do not rest in Davy Jones Locker along with both Nix's Mates.



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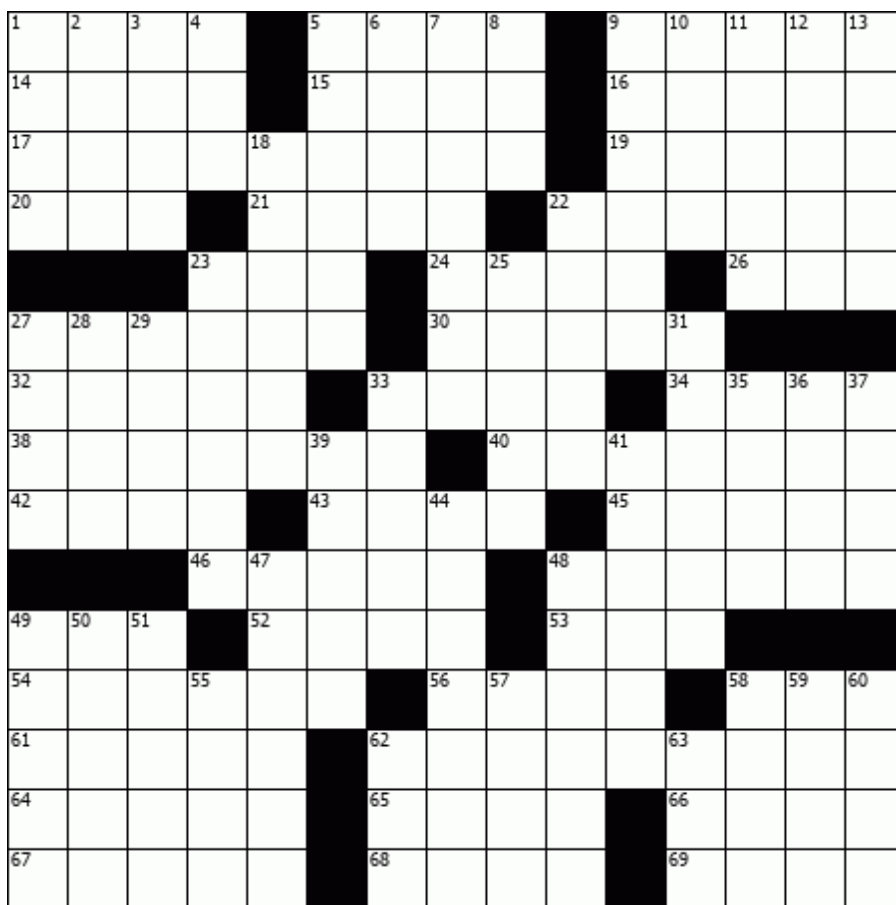
### How can my toilet be leaking, I see no water?

Leaking toilets are usually transparent to the homeowner. The leak takes place in the back portion or closet of the toilet, some leaks can be heard and some cannot be heard. Routine annual inspections of the closet are recommended. Usually a small adjustment or \$10 repair kit is all that is necessary to repair the toilet.

# Crossword Puzzle

## Across

1. She, in Lyon
5. Nursery item
9. Out on \_\_\_\_ (2 wds.)
14. Kite feature
15. Delicate fabric
16. In the area
17. Plotted
19. Inclined
20. Truman's monogram
21. Critic Rex \_\_\_\_
22. Capital of Austria
23. Lion's lair
24. Skinny
26. Used a stool
27. Most feeble
30. Slackens
32. Marry clandestinely
33. Play personnel
34. Sch. groups
38. Ted Kennedy, e.g.
40. Capital of Kenya
42. Wound remainder
43. Treaty
45. Golfer \_\_\_\_ Woods
46. Upper body
48. Real \_\_\_\_
49. Above, poetically
52. Game fish
53. Grant's foe
54. Go over again
56. Cultivate
58. In the past
61. Search blindly
62. Vague
64. Helpers
65. Beheld
66. Nevada city
67. Necessities
68. Important times
69. Water vessel



## Down

1. Engrave with acid
2. Vietnam's neighbor
3. Pocket fluff
4. Raised railways
5. Customer
6. Seldom seen
7. Summer drink (2 wds.)
8. Sleeping spot
9. Like Swiss mountains
10. Traditional knowledge
11. Sacred images
12. Heavenly food
13. Lamb's sound
18. Adjusted beforehand
22. View
23. Go away
25. Common contraction
27. Smaller amount
28. Actor \_\_\_\_ Baldwin
29. Da Vinci's " \_\_\_\_ Lisa"
31. Elf
33. Uncouth
35. Roman garb
36. Spur on
37. Beget
39. Actress \_\_\_\_ Winfrey
41. Pronoun
44. Kevin \_\_\_\_ of "Dances with Wolves"
47. Become fixated
48. Burstyn and DeGeneres
49. Church instrument
50. Ghostly
51. \_\_\_\_ Island
55. Imitated
57. Conception
58. Afresh
59. Cowboy \_\_\_\_ Autry
60. Bloodhound's clue
62. Take advantage of
63. Indignation

Answers to puzzle on page 42



## Recipe Swap!



### Pasta Salad

#### Ingredients:

- 1 12oz bag of tri-color pasta
- ½ cup of D.E. Vine Honey Balsamic Vinaigrette Salad dressing
- Chopped veggies of choice (carrots, tomatoes, zucchini, summer squash, cucumbers)
- 2 -3 tablespoons Grated Cheese
- McCormick Salad Supreme Seasoning
- Salt/Pepper
- Olive oil

Cook pasta until tender

Rinse with cold water

Add 2 tablespoons of olive oil to prevent sticking

Cool in refrigerator

Mix chopped veggies with chilled pasta

Blend in Salad Dressing and mix well

Add grated cheese, dash of Salad Supreme, salt and pepper

Mix well

Chill until ready to serve

Be sure to taste test!



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Refill up to 5 quarts of oil  
Installation of New Oil Filter,  
Check Antifreeze, Belts & Hoses

Not valid on synthetic and diesel oil changes.

**\$25.00 Total**  
"Out The Door"

**FREE**

**CHECK ENGINE  
DIAGNOSTIC**

Regular Price \$25

**Save \$25**  
**A/C**  
**Recharge**

Regular price starts at \$120

**FOUR WHEEL  
ALIGNMENT**  
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Regular Price \$79.95

**Coolant Flush**  
**\$89.00**

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with new Coolant

Regular Price \$149

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Brake repair work  
over \$250

Cannot be used with  
any other coupon.

**\$10 off**  
**Full Synthetic**  
**Oil Change**

**\$50 off any**

General repair work  
over \$250

Cannot be used with  
any other coupon.

# Town of Smithfield Collection Schedule 2021-2022



Bulk Collection
Holiday
Special Events  
Metal & Appliance Collection
Lawn & Leaf Collection Weeks
Christmas Tree Collection Weeks

July '21	August '21	September '21
<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div> <div>1 2 3</div> <div>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</div> <div>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</div> <div>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</div> <div>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</div> </div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div> <div>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</div> <div>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</div> <div>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</div> <div>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</div> <div>29 30 31</div> </div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div> <div>1 2 3 4</div> <div>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</div> <div>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</div> <div>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</div> <div>26 27 28 29 30</div> </div>
October '21	November '21	December '21
<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div> <div>1 2</div> <div>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</div> <div>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</div> <div>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</div> <div>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</div> <div>31</div> </div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div> <div>1 2 3 4 5 6</div> <div>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</div> <div>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</div> <div>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</div> <div>28 29 30</div> </div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div> <div>1 2 3 4</div> <div>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</div> <div>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</div> <div>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</div> <div>26 27 28 29 30 31</div> </div>
January '22	February '22	March '22
<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</div> <div>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</div> <div>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</div> <div>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</div> <div>30 31</div> </div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div> <div>1 2 3 4 5</div> <div>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</div> <div>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</div> <div>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</div> <div>27 28</div> </div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div> <div>1 2 3 4 5</div> <div>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</div> <div>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</div> <div>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</div> <div>27 28 29 30 31</div> </div>
April '22	May '22	June '22
<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div> <div>1 2</div> <div>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</div> <div>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</div> <div>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</div> <div>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</div> </div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div> <div>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</div> <div>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</div> <div>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</div> <div>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</div> <div>29 30 31</div> </div>	<div>S M T W T F S</div> <div> <div>1 2 3 4</div> <div>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</div> <div>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</div> <div>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</div> <div>26 27 28 29 30</div> </div>

## Holiday Schedule:

When an observed holiday falls on a normal collection day, collections will be delayed by one day for remainder of the week. The following holidays will result in delayed collections:

Victory Day  
 Labor Day  
 Columbus Day  
 Veteran's Day  
 Thanksgiving Day  
 Christmas Day  
 New Year's Day  
 Martin Luther King Day  
 Presidents Day  
 Memorial Day  
 Independence Day

## Special Events:

Mattress/ Box Spring Recycling  
 (by appointment only),  
 Electronics Recycling, Sensitive  
 Document Shredding, & Rigid  
 Plastic Recycling:

To be held at Smithfield DPW  
from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

July 17, 2021

October 16, 2021

March 12, 2022

## 2022 Earth Day Clean-Up:

To Be Announced

Call (401) 233-1034 x105 or  
 email: [recycle@smithfieldri.com](mailto:recycle@smithfieldri.com)

For updates and current event information.

To report a missed curbside pick-up please contact **Waste Management (800) 972-4545**.

To schedule Bulk, Metal and Appliance pick-ups please contact **Waste Management (800) 972-4545**. Bulk, Metal and Appliance collection appointments must be called in before 11 a.m. the day before the collection. Pick-ups are scheduled on a first come first service basis.

To review current recycling information please visit the Town's webpage: <http://smithfieldri.com/recycling/>

Compost to reduce your household waste by almost 20%! Bins available for purchase from the DPW & RIRRC.

Consider donating gently used household items to those in need. Please visit the Town's webpage to view our Donation Database.

REDUCE – REUSE – RECYCLE





## RECYCLING TIPS

**Plastic Rule:** Any plastic container up to 5 gallons in size can be placed in your recycle cart. Please empty and rinse. Place plastic caps and covers back on the item they came from.

**Glass Rule:** Bottles and jars only. Empty and rinse. Separate metal lids from glass jars.

**Metal Rule:** Cans, foil and lids. Empty and rinse. Bunch up foil. Do not flatten cans.

**Paper and Cardboard Rule:** Paper and cardboard (flattened) and cartons. There is a cardboard only dumpster for large pieces of cardboard, at the Smithfield DPW, available from 7:30-3:00 M-F.

- Please do not place plastic bags in your recycle bin. No plastic bags, bags of bags or recycling inside of bags.
- Plastic shopping bags should be brought to a ReStore Container, available at most markets.
- Clothing and shoes should not be placed in the recycling cart. Please deposit clean clothing in one of the clothing donation boxes around town. They will even accept ripped or stained clothing, as long as it has been washed.
- Large rigid plastic items (lawn furniture, toys, etc.), electronics, tires, mattresses and box springs are recycled during town sponsored drop-off events, see calendar for dates.

## Special collection by Appointment ONLY

<https://www.smithfieldri.com/recycling/whitegoods-electronics-recycling/> or call 401-233-1034 X105

This is a list of common items under the categories to select for collection:

### Metals & Appliance (RECYCLE)

hot water heater  
air conditioner  
refrigerator  
weed whacker  
metal tools/electronic tools  
treadmill  
bikes  
metal swing sets  
microwaves  
metal patio umbrella (remove fabric)  
metal file cabinets  
metal desks  
metal shelf  
dehumidifier  
washing machine  
clothes dryer  
dish washer  
gas grill (no propane tank)  
stove  
metal fire pit  
metal furniture (remove fabric)

### BULK ITEM (TRASH)

vacuum cleaner  
wooden furniture  
upholstered furniture  
hot tub cover  
vertical blinds  
strollers  
pool floats  
toddler and crib mattresses  
futon mattresses  
carpet (cut, rolled, tied in 3 ft. sections)  
pool liner and cover

**Please do not place plastic bags in recycling carts. No plastic bags, bags of bags, or recycling in bags.**



**IMPORTANT**

## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Tim Jones – Cartoonist

# Obituaries



**Elaine M. Najarian**  
5/15/21  
[www.andersonwinfield.net](http://www.andersonwinfield.net)



**Pamela A. Griffin**  
5/27/21  
[www.delaneyfuneral.com](http://www.delaneyfuneral.com)



**Thomas A. Benoit**  
6/1/21  
[www.thequinnfuneralhome](http://www.thequinnfuneralhome)



**Norman J. Derosier**  
6/9/21  
[www.thequinnfuneralhome](http://www.thequinnfuneralhome)

## The Smithfield Times

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Tim Jones – Cartoonist

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### Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 38.

E	L	L	E		C	R	I	B		A	L	I	M	B
T	A	I	L		L	A	C	E		L	O	C	A	L
C	O	N	S	P	I	R	E	D		P	R	O	N	E
H	S	T		R	E	E	D		V	I	E	N	N	A
			D	E	N		T	H	I	N		S	A	T
L	A	M	E	S	T		E	A	S	E	S			
E	L	O	P	E		C	A	S	T		P	T	A	S
S	E	N	A	T	O	R		N	A	I	R	O	B	I
S	C	A	R		P	A	C	T		T	I	G	E	R
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G	R	O	P	E		U	N	D	E	F	I	N	E	D
A	I	D	E	S		S	E	E	N		R	E	N	O
N	E	E	D	S		E	R	A	S		E	W	E	R



A woman with brown hair, wearing a blue beanie, a red long-sleeved shirt, and brown work overalls, stands in a workshop. A respirator mask is hanging from her neck. The background shows a workshop environment with a dark blue tarp on the left and a workbench with paint cans on the right. The entire image is framed by a thick orange border.

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