

# The Smithfield Times


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Photo submitted by Tom and Becky Winfield

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## Common New to Medicare Questions

### When does medicare start?

At age 65 you are eligible for Medicare regardless of whether you are taking Social Security income benefits. Some people also qualify earlier than 65 due to a disability or illness.

### Is it mandatory to go on Medicare when you turn 65?

No, but there are significant penalties for late enrollment unless you have other creditable medical coverage, such as from a large employer.

### How do I get Medicare?

Social Security offers you a quick online application for Medicare that can be completed in fewer than ten minutes. You do not have to be receiving income benefits to get Medicare. Just visit [ssa.gov](http://ssa.gov) and follow the links about applying for Medicare. (We can help you with this process.)

### How do I know when I should sign up?

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

Because of the ever increasing cost of long term nursing home

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

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

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

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

— George M. Prescott

Courtesy of:

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# Those Were the Days in Smithfield!



## “Pop” Back in Time

By Gabrielle Libutti

1970. An important time for 455 Putnam Pike, also known as The Apple Valley Cinema. Big movies hit the big screen during this time like *Jaws*, *Star Wars*, and *The Aristocats*. The tiny cinema tucked away in the corner of the Apple Valley mall was a popular choice for first dates and the place to hang out with friends on the weekend. Families would go together every week, and it was a known spot where rival towns met to fight. Everyone knew everyone which either made it really easy, or really difficult to sneak into R-rated movies. It was the time of 70 cent movies and cheap snacks. While there were many options for an after-movie snack, McDonalds right around the corner was the go to choice.

I reached out to members of “Growing Up in Smithfield”. A Facebook group for residents of Smithfield both past and present to connect and reminisce. I asked for stories and memories about the theater and I received many great responses from members, excited to share their stories and the impact the little cinema had on their lives. Here are what a few of them said:

Julie Williams said, “I snuck into *JAWS* after my parents warned me not to do “anything stupid” when dropping me off on yet another Sat 7pm movie showing! I slept on the floor in their bedroom for weeks after that” Todd Ryone chimed in, “Loved

that place! My mom would drop off my brother and I with some friends on a hot Saturday in the summer. Gave us a few bucks and that would allow us to watch a few movies and buy popcorn and a soda. I think the movie would cost about .70?” and followed up with, “When I was in my teens I hung out with some older guys and we got free movies if we cleaned up after each movie.”

Mike Mazzone shared his fond memories of the theater, “ have great memories of the Apple Valley theater. It was the place to go every Friday and Saturday night. It's the place I had my first date. It was also a place where town rivals didn't always get along.”

Ward Harrison shared a heartfelt memory about the cinema. My Dad took me to see *Star Wars* at Apple Valley cinema one Saturday in May, 1977. I was 8-years old! I remember the guy behind the counter selling us popcorn saying “I’ve seen it 4 times already, it’s going to change the movie industry!”

I didn’t know what that meant but my Dad said “that means it’s going to be good!” It was, and I was hooked! We went to see the next three together and he remained a fan until he passed away in 1993! To this day I can’t drive by that building without thinking about my awesome Dad and that fantastic night!”

Paul Luongo commented on his time

as an employee, “I was an usher at the theater. First patrolling the traffic in the unpaved lot. Then working inside and escorting patrons to a seat, into the movie in a semi-lit room. We would have to escort patrons out of the building if they were inebriated.”

“Our only competition was an old cinema in Centredale. There was a drive-in years before where the Rt. 44 and Rt. 295 highway is now. That was torn down in the early 1970s. Pretty cool job and I became a big movie fan ever since.”

Thank you to all who took time to comment on the post. I wish I could recount all the memories shared with me, and at the end of the day, one sentiment was shared unanimously, the cinema played a huge role in the community and in the lives of everyone who walked through the doors.

The legacy of the cinema continued up until it unexpectedly closed its doors in 2010. Many memories were made, my own included. I remember my mother taking eight-year-old me to see the *Curious George* movie in 2006 and to *Hannah Montana: The Movie* in 2010. Both times were followed by a hearty meal at Chelos. Every time I drive past the plaza, I remember the quality time I spent with my parents there. I look fondly back on the cinema and I’m glad so many others share the same feelings towards it. The Apple Valley Cinema, gone, but certainly not forgotten.



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- Responsibly expand the Town's commercial tax base to lessen the financial burden on the residential homeowner.
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- Increase recreational opportunities for our residents.
- Work with the Smithfield Land Trust to protect our open space and trail systems.
- Maintain Senior Tax Freeze.
- Collaborate with Town Grant Writer to increase grant opportunities in the Town of Smithfield.



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I respectfully ask for your vote on November 8!

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# New MakerSpace at East Smithfield Public Library

By Joe Siegel

The East Smithfield Public Library opened their brand-new MakerSpace on July 18. The room on the building's second floor is designed as a place where you can exhibit your creativity by making buttons, keychains, cookie cutters, jewelry, magnets, T-shirts, and even customized wedding invitations. There's a 3-D laser printer, a laser cutter, a laminator, and a sewing machine. Cynthia Muhlbach, the Library Director, said the MakerSpace has been in the works for three years.

"The purpose is how to teach people how to make things," Muhlbach said, noting libraries are not just for reading or listening to books on audiotapes. Users will be required to sign a liability waiver before being allowed to use the equipment. Muhlbach said there will be classes to teach people how to use the equipment. Patrons can also schedule a training session with library staff.

The MakerSpace will be open in the afternoons and evenings only. Library staff will be on hand to assist people with the equipment.

In addition:

- Makers must have a valid photo ID, or library card from an OSL member library.
- Scheduled Library programs have priority, followed by patrons who have made a reservation ahead of time. If the MakerSpace room or its equipment is not reserved, it will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to staff availability.
- All patrons aged 13 and up may use the MakerSpace equipment independently after being trained in person and certified on each piece of equipment. Patrons aged 12 and under may enter the MakerSpace if supervised by an adult at all times.
- If the MakerSpace or its equipment is found to be damaged or missing when a patron is finished using it, that patron may be subject to a fee.
- Equipment in the MakerSpace may be used only for lawful purposes. The public will not be able to create material that is prohibited by local, state or federal law; a weapon or parts for weapons, and obscene or otherwise inappropriate for the library environment.

**The East Smithfield Public Library is located at 50 Esmond Street. For more information, visit [myespl.org](http://myespl.org) or e-mail: [maker@myespl.org](mailto:maker@myespl.org).**





# SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE



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Richard — ★ ★ ★ —  
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**11AM-12PM - GROUP PRIVATES**

## MONDAY:

**7PM-8PM - BEGINNER TUMBLING (NO BACK HANDSPRING)**

**8PM-9PM - ADVANCED TUMBLING (MUST HAVE BACK HANDSPRING)**

## WEDNESDAY:

**6:30PM-7:30PM - CONDITIONING**

**7:30PM-8:30PM - TUCKS & UP (MUST HAVE TUCK)**

## THURSDAY:

**7:30PM-8:30PM - BEGINNING TUMBLING (NO BACK HANDSPRING)**

**8:30PM-9:30PM - ADVANCED TUMBLING (MUST HAVE BACK HANDSPRING)**

## FRIDAY:

**6PM-7PM - STRETCH/FLYER CLASS**

## SATURDAY:

**9AM-10AM - BEGINNING TUMBLING (AGES 10 & UNDER)**

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# ★ Your Smithfield Endorsed Republican Candidates ★



From left to right:

- ★ Rachel Toppi - Town Council ★ Brian Rea - State Representative, District 53
- ★ Amanda Fafard - School Committee
- ★ Peter Trementozi - State Representative, District 44
- ★ Susan Grenon - Town Council ★ Michael Iannotti - Town Council
- ★ Jessica Sala - School Committee ★ Paul Santucci - Senate, District 22
- ★ Richard Iannitelli - School Committee

*Together, a better Smithfield  
Together, a better Rhode Island*

Paid for by the Smithfield Republican Town Committee

# 50-years Ago – September 1972

by Jim Ignasher

Steven Neri of Tarklin Road enlisted in the United States Army.

Airman 1/c David Lariviere of Esmond was serving in the U. S. Air Force.

S/Sgt. Donald C. Shaw of Esmond was serving as a weapons specialist with the U. S. Air Force at Sawyer AFB in Michigan.

Navy Petty Officer 2/c Joseph F. Greene of Spragueville was training at the Quonset Naval Air station.

Boy Scout Troop 76 of Greenville, under the leadership of Orlando Spinella, volunteered to take part in cleanup efforts along the banks of the Blackstone River.

Boy Scout troop 14 of Greenville held their monthly meeting in the Masonic Hall in Greenville.

The Smithfield Boys Club, (Today known as the Smithfield YMCA) was still under construction, and was reported to be 75% completed.

Marilyn Maltais of Esmond was crowned “Beach Queen” at the conclusion of the summer swim program sponsored by the Smithfield recreational Department.

On September 5, the Smithfield Raiders pre-teen football team beat the Lincoln Falcons 30 – 0.

In 1972 the East Smithfield Library was housed in the left side of the Esmond Recreational Center. The right side, which had contained bowling alleys was renovated, to provide

larger space for the library. Shortly after the renovations were completed, a group of teenaged volunteers helped to move 7,500 books, as well as tables, chairs, shelves, file cabinets, and assorted other items from the left side of the building to the right. The entire process took only two-and-half-days.

A local auto dealership was attempting to clear out their used car inventory. A 1971 Mercury Capri could be had for \$2,195; a '71 Ford Ranch Wagon for \$2,950; a 1970 Plymouth Fury for \$1,450; and a 1968 Volkswagen convertible for \$1,177.

On September 23, the Smithfield Jaycees held a Monte Carlo Night at the Waterman Lake Pavilion, which included gaming tables, roulette wheels, and dice games. Free beer and sandwiches were provided.

It was also on September 23 that annual “Apple Harvest Outdoor Art Festival” was held at Waterman Field in Greenville, sponsored by an organization known as Art Group '70.

Deborah Cimaglio of Greenville won first place in the Burrillville Arts Festival in the teenage oil painting division.

On September 26, the Rotunda, the translucent dome at the center of the Bryant College Unistructure was dedicated the “Koffler Rotunda” in honor of Sol Koffler, a benefactor to the college. Koffler, a Polish immigrant, came to America and established the luggage company known as American Tourister.

The residents of the Greenville Manor held a picnic sponsored by the tenants association.

*See 50-years Ago, page 13*

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## SHS Senior Specialties

On August 19, Smithfield High's seniors officially welcomed their final year of high school with a treasured, annual tradition: Senior Sunrise. In the early morning hours, while it was still dark, the senior class gathered at Narragansett's Town Beach and watched the sun rise together- marking the start of their Senior year and the end of an unusual high school experience.

For the Class of 2023, bonding is needed. After Covid brought an abrupt end to in-person learning during freshman year, hybrid learning and a canceled semi-formal during their sophomore year, and junior year's Winterball postponed to March, the class has experienced disruption and separation throughout high school. Now, as they enter their

final year of high school the class is excited and committed to preserving SHS's Senior year traditions so they can end high school the way they began: Together.

Senior Sunrise is just one important tradition. Another much-anticipated event happens in November, and work is already underway. The Annual Fashion Show serves as a fundraiser for Senior Prom, and gives seniors the opportunity to humorously reflect on their time at Smithfield High. True to its name, seniors model prom attire, however the event quickly takes a turn toward the funny when members of the class perform live skits about their time at SHS. Fashion Show also includes the "Senior Dance" which is choreographed by seniors and performed at the beginning and end

of the show. This event is open to the entire school and community, and is a great way for all students to laugh about life as a high school student at SHS.

There are other, meaningful traditions sprinkled in throughout Senior year, however Senior Sunrise and the Annual Fashion Show lay the foundation for a senior year filled with experiences that will turn into treasured memories. Memories that will no doubt be reflected upon during the class's final senior year tradition in June: Senior Sunset, where they once again gather at Narragansett's Town Beach- this time, to watch the sun set on their last days of high school, and last days together before they take their next steps into the future.

### 50-years Ago, from page 12

Old stone bank was offering 6% interest on savings accounts.

The popular long running television shows: *The Walton's*, *The Bob Newhart*

*Show*, *The New Price Is Right*, and *M\*A\*S\*H*, made their first network television appearances in September of 1972.

Hit songs of September 1972 included "Brandy (You're a Fine Girl)" by Looking Glass; "Long Cool Woman in a Black Dress" by The Hollies; and "Back Stabbers" by The O'Jays.

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# Liar, Liar Pants on Fire

By Diane L. Marolla, LICSW, CFRC

Lately, the topic of people who lie and why they do it has been coming across my radar screen both professionally and personally. As a therapist, the topic of lying comes up in individual, couples, and family therapy. Personally, I like many of you, I have been on the receiving end of someone's lie. I think we can all agree that being on the receiving end of a lie feels awful. When we are lied to, particularly by someone who claims to care about us, we immediately start doubting whether anything that person says is true. Trust with that person can be destroyed and building that trust up again is difficult. As I always say a lie is never good, and the truth always comes out in the end. Lies create a toxic relationship with ourselves and others.

## Why do people lie?

Before I get into the reasons why someone lies, I think it is important to define what a lie is. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary a lie is to "make an untrue statement with an intent to deceive and to create a false or misleading impression." Simply stated, a lie is a conscious decision to deceive. We can all think of examples of when we might have lied. Perhaps it was in a job interview or on our resume to try and get a job. Maybe we lie about how much money we have or make. Maybe we lied we were sick to get a day off from work. These are just a few examples of a lie. All people, at one time or another have lied to someone about something.

In general, people lie because at some time in their life, they have been taught that telling the truth is harder for them. They have been punished for telling the truth. They also believe that lying saves the other person from being hurt. For example, when a partner cheats on

their spouse/significant other, and they lie when confronted, they truly believe they are preventing the other person from being hurt from their actions. They also lie in this situation because they fear the consequences of being exposed.

In a 2017 article in *Psychology Today* *6 Reasons People Lie When They Don't Need To*, David J. Ley Ph.D. lists the following reasons why people lie:

1. The lie matters to them.
2. Telling the truth feels like giving up control
3. They don't want to disappoint you
4. Lies snowball
5. It's not a lie to them
6. They want it to be true

I recently asked a friend, who habitually cheats on his partners, if he has ever been in an honest relationship with another woman. He told me no. He also told me that he knows how to cheat on his partner. And ultimately, he does. Why? Because when he gets caught by his partner, she breaks up with him and then immediately takes him back. He in turn, goes back to cheating again. The cheating works for him, as he maintains a relationship and gets continued gratification by cheating with others.

## What percentage of people tell the truth?

In Christian L. Hart's article in *Psychology Today*, *Some Lie a Lot*, studies that have been done show, most people are honest. He goes on to say in this 2019 article, that very young children don't lie, lies increase during adolescence, and then they decline as we reach adulthood. In his studies of those individuals who he deemed as habitual liars, they had "low self-esteem, high "Machiavellianism, low

in conscientiousness and openness to new experiences, and they view lying as acceptable behavior".

## What should I do if someone I care about lies to me?

Ultimately, that is up to you. If you continuously ignore the persons lies, then they will keep doing them to you as you are rewarding the behavior. Professionally and personally, I always call out the lie, and explain to them that lies, in the future, will not be tolerated. If they lie again, then I call it out again, and tell them that I can no longer have a relationship with them. I have this approach for the following reasons:

1. I want to give the person a chance to correct the behavior.
2. If they don't correct the behavior, then I give the message that the behavior will no longer be tolerated by ending the relationship. This gives the individual a consequence so that perhaps at some point in their life, they can work on being honest with others. Ultimately, someone who is a pervasive liar needs professional help. They need to examine why they do it, and what tools/strategies are needed for them to stop doing it.

## Is there such a thing as a harmless lie (aka white lie)?

In my opinion, no. Ultimately, when we lie, we only hurt ourselves. It is healthier to tell the truth. When we lie, we create unnecessary stress and anxiety for ourselves and others. I truly believe in what my 9th grade science teacher, Mr. DiPrete, used to say to us as students "the truth will set you free." If you find yourself always lying, get professional help so that you can ultimately live a healthier life.





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## PRESS RELEASE



David P. Tikoian

David P. Tikoian, a lifelong resident of Smithfield, former Rhode Island State Trooper and North Providence Police Chief, is seeking your support for Senate District-22 which represents the Town of Smithfield as well as portions of North Providence and Lincoln.

Tikoian, a current member of the Smithfield Town Council, stated, "Once elected to the Rhode Island Senate I will continue to utilize the same strong fiscal oversight ability that guided me to make prudent decisions on behalf of taxpayers as member of the Town Council. It is imperative the expenditure of taxpayer dollars is scrutinized in order to stabilize the cost of living, keep Rhode Island affordable, retain jobs and expand the Rhode Island economy." For the full article, please go to [smithfieldtimesri.net](http://smithfieldtimesri.net)



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## SOUR GRAPES

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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!



## Why Does Wood Turn Gray?

Every once in a while, we get a call from someone who recently noticed exterior natural woodwork at their home begin to “gray out”. It does not matter whether it is a deck in their backyard or siding on the outside of their home, it could be either or, but the question is still the same.

Typically, the question is framed out somewhere along the lines of, “I had my \_\_\_\_\_ cleaned and sealed not too long ago, why has it already turned gray?” Even without seeing whatever it was that was treated, I already know the answer.

The scientific answer would be “Radiation from the sun’s ultraviolet rays breaks down the lignin in the cellulose structure on the surface of the wood causing photo chemical degradation (source: *Timbertown*).” The answer in more layperson’s terms would be “the sun is the culprit”.

This can be a very disheartening occurrence to go through, particularly if you have put a whole lot of time and effort into restoring your natural wood deck/siding/etc. The process of getting wood to its natural state can often be painstaking.

First, it needs to be cleaned and then prepped to varying degrees (elbow grease, elbow grease, elbow grease ...) before it is ready for its finish.



Then, applying the finish can be cumbersome in and of itself, especially if the finish is being applied by brush. Therefore, as you can imagine, the

graying out process can be super frustrating to endure.

Our approach for protecting and treating natural wood decks, siding, and the like would be to first clean the surfaces we will be applying our system to, prepping as necessary, then applying 2 coats of C2 Clear Guard, and then 1 coat of Wolman Clear Water Repellent.

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*See Ask An Expert, page 19*

### About Tom Lopatosky

Tom Lopatosky has run his own RI-based painting and repair business since 1995; LOPCO Contracting – the “Personable, Particular Professionals” – specializes in exterior & interior painting and carpentry. 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. You can catch Tom LIVE on the radio EVERY Saturday, 2pm-3pm, on 630 WPRO AM (99.7 FM) during his weekly ProTalk Home Improvement Radio Show!



protection to the cell structure of the wood and the Wolman creates a bit of a "Raincoat" to help the wood actually shed water and prevent moisture from penetrating its surfaces.

This is an AWESOME system (I personally believe the best-of-the-best!), but even with this being the case, it will NOT prevent the surfaces that are treated with it from graying out.

I always coach our clients that the way the natural wood surface looks after it is washed, is the way that the natural wood will look after our system is applied to it. The process we utilize (as described here), dries to an "invisible" finish and does NOT tone the wood whatsoever.

The only way to prevent the wood from graying out is by using a product that is more of a wood toning stain containing ultraviolet ray protection and which has an entirely different application process associated with it. One has to be extremely careful however of which stain they choose for their natural wood (if they should elect to travel this route), as any type of film-building application at all could result in some pretty ugly peeling down the road.

Whether it is an aged pressure treated wood deck, clear white cedar shingles, or any type of related wood structure that is built outside and exposed to the weather in one way, shape, or form, the expectation should be there that if being left "natural" it should not be a question as to whether or not the wood will gray out, but rather how long it will take to do so.

This time element is not something that is easily defined as there are a number of factors involved. Realizing this inevitability though, allows you to plan for the graying out process to begin at some point in time, rather than being under the false assumption that any type of "clear" treatment will allow the wood to maintain its natural look for anywhere near the length of time that you are envisioning it doing so.

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# An Afternoon With “Alice” ...

By Peg Brown

You don't have to jump down the nearest rabbit hole to experience Alice in Wonderland's famous tea party ... just drive to Val's British Tea and Pie Shop in Greenville, pop in the door and be transported to another time in history where life was punctuated by English fine bone china, tea and tiers of savories and sweets. Only after you have been greeted by realistic facsimiles of Queen Elizabeth and Prince William, inspected the hundreds of pieces of English china on display, and been seated at the pristine table, truly set for a queen, can you completely leave your hectic world behind for a few hours. Opened this spring by Sharon Thompson and her husband Jon, this destination for an afternoon of luxury, a party or a shower, has already become so popular that reservations are absolutely required.

An interview with Sharon revealed a no less fascinating journey than the story of tea and afternoon tea itself. The history of Brits and their tea includes hundreds of years of cultural shifts as tea moved from a beverage consumed almost exclusively by the aristocratic class in the 1600s to the Lipton tea bags of today. Long before tea became synonymous with the English, it had been consumed on the continent largely as a medicinal remedy. When Charles II of England was presented with over two pounds of tea by the British East India Company in 1660, his new Portuguese bride, Catherine of Braganza, served it at her wedding, making it a “court beverage.” It was but a few years until aristocrats, mostly women, were

offering tea to afternoon visitors. When milk and sugar were introduced (and there is debate about whether, how and when to add one or the other to the tea), it solidified its base in high society because of the costliness of these two items.



The increase of the availability of tea in the 18th century led to the opening of London's first tea shops. Among the first to open was Thomas Twining's tea shop in London, a site that can be visited today. By the mid-century, over 6 million pounds were being imported from Canton – a phenomenon that led to growth of porcelain factories producing tea services much like those displayed at Val's. Before the end of the 18th century, tea became an absolute necessary part of everyday life across all classes.

“Tea is meant to be bitter, just as beer is meant to be bitter. If you sweeten it, you are no long tasting the tea, you are merely tasting the sugar; you could make a very similar drink by dissolving sugar in hot water.” *George Orwell, A Nice Cup of Tea, 1947.*

In my interview with Sharon, I immediately received an important lesson in nomenclature. I, like many, were calling what she served “High Tea,” when in fact high tea refers to a meal more like a dinner, most common in the working classes of Britain, Northern England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

What you'll experience is “Afternoon Tea,” traditionally served until 4:00 pm – more or less intended as a “snack” to carry you over until dinner, traditionally eaten much later in Europe. According to history, the concept of afternoon tea was introduced around 1840 by Anna Maria, Duchess of Bedford, who was looking to have something light to eat in the afternoon on her

visit to Belvoir Castle.

However, make no mistake. Don't even have breakfast before you go! Everything on your traditional three-tiered presentation tray is made fresh daily, by Deb herself, and always includes finger sandwiches, savories, scones and sweets made from traditional recipes. Along with your choice of dozens of teas, clotted crème and jams, you will be served a lesson in how one

*See Afternoon with Alice, page 23*



should work up the tier, the reason for the order of consumption, and an explanation of the etiquette that should be employed.

Sharon's and Jon's professional journey to this new endeavor has, as with most of our careers, a long and winding path. Deb was born in Fulham, SW London, into a family of seven, her mother the oldest. She attended Church of England schools, where even at the age of six, she was introduced to the rituals of afternoon tea that was prepared for the Board of Governors. She recalls cleaning wine glasses and setting formal tables throughout what we would consider her elementary school years.

From age 11 until age 18 a core part of her school curriculum lay in developing cooking and sewing skills, which as she remarked, came in quite handy because her mother "hated to cook." However, interestingly, Sharon's career was not in culinary arts, but in the creation of high-end draperies for clients, many of whom because of their status in England, she was reluctant to reveal. When she moved to the US in 1987, she and her husband Jon, whom she met on a blind date, opened a private business in high-end window treatment design, all sewn by hand. (The draperies in her shop are her creation.) She recalls, not always too fondly, the days when they

were carrying 12- foot custom made valances up several flights of stairs in New York City and in cities all over the country, including into the homes of prominent individuals in Rhode Island.

Her mother, Valerie, had always encouraged her to open a tea shop, an idea Deb resisted until after her mother's death. The shop, opened in honor and in memory of her mother this spring is the fulfillment of her mother's dream and encouragement. Valerie's portrait appropriately dominates the entrance.



#### Author's Notes:

- A quotation from Val's British Tea and Pie Shop Web Site: "There are few hours in life more agreeable than the one hour dedicated to afternoon tea."
- Interesting parties recently hosted at Val's: a bridal shower with a Bridgerton theme, complete with costumes required. And a reception for a couple who was recently married in North East England at a castle where Henry VIII is said to have brought the ill-fated Anne Boleyn.
- Val's British Tea and Pie Shop, located at 466 Putnam Pike, 401-618-5537, is open Thursday through Sunday. Check the web site for available times and reservations. Also, be sure to scroll through Deb's guide to Tea Etiquette, the Afternoon Tea menu, and highlights of her personal journey. You'll be well prepared for your Afternoon Tea experience – and you won't even miss the Mad Hatter and White Rabbit!



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The Rhode Island Council of the Arts has awarded The Glocester Scarecrow Festival a grant this year. The festival will take place on Saturday, October 15 in Chepachet Village. The Chepachet Grange and the Glocester Libraries are the co-sponsors of the festival, and the money will be used to offset part of the expense for this year's live music. As of this date Lainey Dionne, John Fuzek, Bob Drouin, Will Worthy, Nolan Leite, Gooseberry Road and the Bel Aire's on will be performing. Music will be placed along Putnam Pike at different locations and times to provide music throughout the afternoon. Pony rides will be held at the Chepachet Baptist Church and face painting at The Creative Room, 10 Money Hill Road.



The Chepachet Fire Dept will be serving clam cakes and chowder and other food trucks will be parked along the Scarecrow route.

The Glocester Scarecrow Marketplace which is sponsored by the Glocester Recreation Department will be located at the Kent Field Pavilion during the Scarecrow Festival. Featuring 36 vendors with handmade, homemade items, honey, photography, jewelry, wood items, sweets and more - located at 1111 Putnam Pike! Not Your Average Popcorn and Barbara's Quick Lunch Food Truck will be parked in the Pavilion parking lot. The Scarecrow Marketplace will be open 11 am - 4 pm.



# Michael Iannotti

## SMITHFIELD Town Council



- Assistant U.S. Attorney for 30 years.
- Asset Forfeiture Money Laundering Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice, 2007-2009.
- Smithfield Financial Review Commission, 2014-2019.
- Smithfield Charter Review Commission, 2019-2020.
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### PRESS RELEASE



Kate Zimmerman

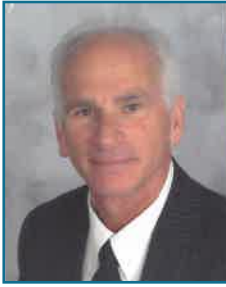
Budget and Financial Review Board chairperson Kate Zimmerman has declared her candidacy for Town Council. Zimmerman, who is married to her husband Greg a lifelong resident of Smithfield, has resided in the Town of Smithfield for fifteen years and has several children in the Smithfield school system. She is currently the owner and President of RockPoint Wealth Management and has been in the financial planning profession for over twenty years. Kate is also actively engaged in the Town of Smithfield. Zimmerman stated "If I have the privilege to serve on the Smithfield Town Council I would apply the knowledge that I have acquired during my tenure as the chair of the Smithfield Budget and Financial Review Board to provide the necessary financial oversight to our Town's municipal finances to ensure that our resident's tax dollars go as far as possible.

### PRESS RELEASE



Jessica Sala, Richard Iannitelli and  
Amanda Fafard

We're in This Together! Jessica Sala and Amanda Fafard join forces to earn nominations for the Smithfield School Committee. That is the platform Jessica Sala and Amanda Fafard are using to earn your votes before the September 13 primary. They are each running to win one of the three vacant Republican nominations and participate in the general election on Tuesday, November 8. The three winning Republicans will oppose three Democratic and one Independent challengers to fill the three open seats. Republican Incumbent School Committee Member Richard Iannitelli is seeking re-election. He is running on the Republican side also hoping to join Sala and Fafard as the third Republican candidate after the primary. Along with Fafard and Sala, Iannitelli is the third Republican-endorsed candidate in the race. For the full article, please go to [smithfieldtimesri.net](http://smithfieldtimesri.net)



# Ask Our Attorney

Terrance N. Turner, Esq.



## Hi Neighbor, Have a Gansett

Neighbor disputes can be among the most vexing and protracted in the legal system. If only it were as simple as greeting the offending neighbor with a “Hi Neighbor, have a \_\_\_\_.” (fill in the blank with whatever.) Unfortunately, such neighbor disputes are rarely resolved this easily.

However, if and when possible, I’m a big believer in resolving this type of issue with a little old fashion, face to face, hard-nosed, man to man bargaining (or negotiating) at the outset. If not successful, engaging the assistance of a neutral third party with ‘no dog in the race’ might save the day. This could be another neighbor whom you both like and trust, or maybe a golfing buddy, or your CPA or whomever, to act essentially as a mediator. Only as a last resort would I advise retaining the service of an attorney. Even at that, most attorneys won’t just go ahead and file a lawsuit immediately, unless there is a statute of limitations issue. Rather, things should start out with a letter from your attorney, ‘testing the waters’, to see if an amicable solution can be worked out with your offending neighbor.

You may wonder why neighbor disputes are so trying and difficult to resolve. Well, recall the adage, ‘A man’s home is his castle’, one of the most well known phrases in the English language. It goes a long way toward explaining some of the difficulty revolving around neighbor disputes. A home is usually the single most expensive purchase most people will make in their lifetime. Human nature being what it is, most of us don’t take

kindly to a neighbor doing something to our property. It doesn’t take much to ‘get our dander up’ when it comes to our home, yard, garden, apple trees, fence, shed and the like. It is said that, second only to protecting our family and loved ones, people will go to extreme lengths and take extreme measures to protect their property and assert their property rights.

Common neighbor problems and arguments frequently arise from fence issues; ‘trespassing’ dogs; snowblowers blowing snow onto adjacent lots; water runoff flowing from one yard into another; barking dogs; overhanging tree branches; windblown leaves; late noisy parties; clusters of cars parked in front of someone else’s house; the list is endless.

Besides the factor of human nature mentioned above, another thing that can make neighbor disputes complicated and difficult is the sheer number of rules, regulations and laws that may apply to any particular dispute. This is one reason why there are no two neighbor problems exactly alike; everyone is unique. Depending, of course, on the specifics of any particular problem with a neighbor, there may be local ordinances applicable to it; you could be looking at state statutory provisions; if the property is near wetlands or other protected real estate, then DEM regulations might come into play; if the property is adjacent to a federal highway, federal laws and EPA rules might be involved; if the ‘offending’ neighbor or estate is in administration or probate process, you might even

wind up having to deal with that; even homeowner’s insurance might have to be dealt with at some point.

“He who hesitates is lost.” There’s much truth and wisdom to this when it comes to neighbor disputes. Most of these kinds of legal problems are subject to time periods by which, or within which, the ‘victim’ neighbor must act to protect his interest. If you wind up having to utilize the services of an attorney, he’ll know and be familiar the applicable time requirements, or he’ll need to research the law to educate himself.

If you have a neighbor dispute, actual or impending, face up to it without delay. Keep accurate, dated and detailed records; take and safely store photographs and videos\* if this makes sense depending on what the problem is.

\*A word of caution here, however; be discrete and demure when taking photos and the like; don’t do so in a manner that, ironically, will offend your neighbor and only exacerbate the problem.

Surveys or the lack thereof; law enforcement’s role if any; and Court injunctions are beyond the scope of this column but will be addressed in a later article.

➡ **Terrance N. Turner, Esq.**  
**Turner Law Offices**  
**2 North Candy Court**  
**Smithfield, RI 02917**  
**401-499-7047**





# Payne's Picks

By Sarah Payne

September 2022



## Movie Releases

### Blonde (Netflix) – September 28

Ana de Armas stars as Marilyn Monroe in this upcoming film based on the 2000 novel “Blonde” by Joyce Carol Oates. The film has garnered a lot of attention for its NC-17 rating, the first of its kind for Netflix or any other streaming platform. De Armas also received some backlash for her accent (being from Cuba) and how it bears little resemblance to Marilyn’s iconic, breathy voice. However, de Armas told The Times of London: “It took me nine months of dialect coaching, and practicing and some ADR sessions [to get the accent right]. It was a big torture, so exhausting. My brain was fried.” Brad Pitt, a producer on the film, also came to her defense, telling ET: “She is phenomenal in it. That’s a tough dress to fill. It was 10 years in the making. It wasn’t until we found Ana that we could get it across the finish line.”

## Movie Review

### Persuasion (Netflix)

I’ve been a diehard Jane Austen fan since my senior high school thesis, where I wrote about three of her novels – including “Persuasion.” I love that the stories and perspectives of an 18th-century novelist still resonate today, inspiring film and television adaptations. The latest adaptation from Netflix – *Persuasion* – scored a 32% from critics and 66% from audiences on Rotten Tomatoes. I can see how an Austen purist might scoff at an American actor (Dakota Johnson) playing the main character rather than a British actor. That doesn’t bother me as much as the forced insertion of modern-day colloquialisms (like “he’s a 10” or “in your dreams”). The pace of the film is slow, which might also be a detractor for viewers, yet it actually matches the pace of

the novel (if memory serves me). It’s no *Pride and Prejudice*, but Austen fans will appreciate the familiar themes around societal obligation and politics that dominated this time period.

## TV Reviews

### Better Call Saul – Season 6

At the time of writing, I’ve seen all but the final episode of the final season of *Better Call Saul*. The latter half of the season feels more like an homage to *Breaking Bad* than any other season of this prequel (especially with Aaron Paul and Bryan Cranston cameos). Jimmy’s transformation into Saul isn’t nearly as explosive or exciting as Walt’s was when he “broke bad.” *Better Call Saul* has always had a distinctly different tone. It’s a slow burn, one that pays off especially for dedicated fans of *Breaking Bad*. It’s about noticing the details and knowing the end is near, but being unsure how the writers will take us there. While it’s bittersweet watching the end of an era, I can’t wait to see what series creator Vince Gilligan puts out next.

### The Terminal List (Prime) – Season 1

Chris Pratt executive produces and stars in this show about Lieutenant Commander James Reece, whose platoon of Navy SEALs is ambushed while on a mission. The show is based on a series of novels by former Navy SEAL Jack Carr. If you’re into thrillers and lots of action, this show is for you. Publications like The Daily Beast and Slate.com have written scathing reviews, claiming it’s pushing a particular political agenda (something I haven’t yet witnessed, although I haven’t watched the whole season yet). Carr claims the negative press is because “there’s not this woke stuff that’s shoved into it.” Check it out and decision for yourself!



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# Inside The Brown Bag

By Peg Brown

## The American Cube



No, not the Rubik's Cube that consumed so much of your time in the 1980s (which I am betting is still in some drawer waiting to be solved), but rather the less colorful ice cube that requires no thought at all to put to good use. It is rare in America to hear your bartender ask, "shaken or stirred?" (Unless you're a James Bond look-alike.) It is rarer still to be asked, "with or without ice." For those who have traveled in Europe, ice for drinks is usually available only on request.

I'm of the age when ice cubes were made in metal trays which almost always resulted in chips flying everywhere when the releasing lever was pulled. Those of another generation may remember putting a sign in the window so that the ice man would use his unwieldy tongs and carry a block of ice to your flat.

The use of ice for various purposes dates to ancient times. There is evidence that Persia for example build ice houses or "pits" to store food and drinks even earlier than the Romans, who often brought ice down from the mountains and stored it in caves or underground cellars. When ice was available, however, it was used much in the same way we still use it to treat aches, swelling, and high fevers. If drinks were served cold in early cultures, it was often because they were stored in snow or ice caves, and not diluted when served.

Leave it to inventive Americans to change the prevailing culture. While the first known recipe for "cocktail", published in 1862, called for water as a cooling ingredient; by 1865 the publication of *The Bar-Tender's Guide*, specified ice a key component in

creating previously unknown cocktails that incorporated fruit among other ingredients.

Before the availability of widespread refrigeration in the early 20th century, ice was harvested from frozen lakes, and throughout Europe and America, storage continued to be in cellars, caves or specially constructed ice houses. (Check out the first scene in *Frozen* to witness Norwegians harvesting ice from lakes.) And as a child of the St. Lawrence River, this process provided my grandparents with their earliest form of refrigeration. If you've ever watched *The Honeymooners* or toured antique shops, you have encountered those early ice boxes which held an ice block in an upper insulated compartment and, when the ice melted and dripped into a tray at the bottom of the "appliance," food stored in the center compartment was chilled.

However, for most of the 19th century ice was a luxury, especially in our most Southern states and in tropical island with which we traded. An enterprising Bostonian business man changed all of that when in 1806 Frederick "The Ice King" Tudor and his brother decided to make money by shipping ice to the Caribbean. Early attempts were a financial disaster. An article in a Boston from 1806 reported, "No joke. A vessel has cleared at the Custom House for Martinique with a cargo of ice. We hope this will not prove a slippery speculation."

It was America that also shipped ice to England in the 19th century. A young Englishwoman touring the US in 1840 remarked, "Of all the luxuries I enjoyed in America, I most enjoyed the ice ..." (Sarah Maury, 1840s)

As Americans began to enjoy icy cocktails, they also developed a taste for frozen desserts such as ice cream.

By 1862, with Jerry Thomas' publication of that *Bartender's Guide*, the simple and extravagant cocktails described all required the addition of ice. America had changed thousands of years of practices and legends centered around the use of ice **IN** beverages.

But creativity with iced drinks did not end in the 19th century. A modern trend in "ice cubes" is being led by Japan whose inspired bartenders have begun to carve ice into "jewels" which an emphasis on precise shape – now being imitated by bartenders around the globe.

### Author's Notes:

- The Rubik's Cube, invented in 1974 by a Hungarian sculptor and architect, was marketed largely by the Ideal Toy Company in the 1980s. Although its popularity waned, the 21st century has witnessed a resurgence. In 2003 the World Cube Association began competitions. The world's record holder is Du Yuheng who took 3.47 seconds to solve the puzzle in 2018.
- Interestingly, and somewhat humorous, is a line in the 1835 Gunn's Domestic Medicine which recommends a glass of strong whiskey or brandy (when laudanum is unavailable) to treat those who drank too much water to cool down.
- We were recently charged an extra 50 cents in Florida to have ice in our drinks. Honestly!



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# Community Cat Center



**The *Smithfield Times Magazine* and the Community Cat Center are working together to find loving homes for kitties that are currently living in their shelter. Here are their stories:**

**TURLES:** Introducing Little Miss TURLES, a six-month-old black and tan tiger who arrived at the CCC with a number of issues. A botfly which had burrowed behind her ear was removed, a foreign body was embedded above her eye, and she was boney due to parasites. Since being spayed, vaccinated and time spent in a loving foster home, TURLES has blossomed and found her “inner kitten” again. She is ready to find her very own forever home where she is hoping to have lots of playtime, cuddles and love. In spite of all she’s been through in the outside world, TURLES has adjusted to a sweet, gentle kitten who loves to play. In fact, you will find she entertains herself for hours on her end with her toys!



**BLACKIE:** Say hello to the one-and-only Blackie. This handsome, charismatic boy has it all going for him – affectionate and confident. He is a BIG TALKER, and he



will make you smile with all the stories he has to tell! Blackie is approximately 2-3 years old and has a silky black coat with piercing green eyes. With his striking looks and sweet demeanor, he will seek your attention and charm you every chance he gets. Prior to arriving at the CCC, Blackie was found outside very thin, drooling and not eating. He was diagnosed with Glossitis which made it painful for him to eat. Blackie has made a complete turnaround and is happy and healthy. His prescription diet should be continued long term. Blackie, who enjoys playing and exploring, is in search of his forever home. He will let you know how grateful he is!

**ARCHIBALD:** Meet the amazing Archibald! One look into his big, round golden eyes will have you mesmerized. This guy has had a pretty rough life on the streets which cost him his ears. Finally, someone helped and just in the nick of time. After a long recovery and time in a loving foster home, Arch is ready to find a place to call his very own. Archibald was taking insulin injections, but on an appropriate diet, he no longer needs the insulin. Life on the street may have cost this guy his ears, but he is still a good listener!



**All cats adopted from the Community Cat Center have been spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped.**

If you are interested in adopting any of the cats featured in this article, please submit an application today which can be found in the link below. The CCC will only be accepting pre-approved applicants for meet and greet appointments once the completed application has been received.

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## Terrific Tuna Patties

Submitted By: Ann Marie Agugiaro, Greenville, RI

### Ingredients:

- Two 5 oz. cans of tuna in water
- 1 -1 ½ cup Italian breadcrumbs
- Two eggs
- Minced celery and onion (to taste)
- Capers (optional)
- Salt and pepper
- Parsley flakes
- Basil
- Drain tuna completely.



In large bowl, mix tuna with breadcrumbs, eggs and seasonings and form patties  
Coat patties with additional breadcrumbs on each side and refrigerate for one hour to set.  
Sauté in 2 tablespoons Olive Oil and brown on each side. Drain excess oil on paper towel.  
Serve with tarter sauce.

Yields 6 patties

## Community Cat Center Success Stories

"MARTIN" has since been adopted. "Martin the Magnificent" was originally featured in the JUNE Issue.

MARTIN, who has been with the CCC since December, has been patiently waiting for his forever home. MARTIN has met his match in his lovely new owner and companion, Micheline, shown in the photo.



# Reuben Jenckes's Black Horse Tavern Ghost

By Thomas D'Agostino

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

This is an old ghost story dating back a few centuries. It is typical of the romantic tales of haunted places that Rhode Island has become famous for. This account has been told and retold in several antiquated tomes. A tavern called the Black Horse once stood in the middle of Scituate Village in Rhode Island. A man named Reuben Jenckes owned the establishment and was cordial to all who entered its door, whether it was food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty or lodging for the weary.

As the story goes, the ghost of a Narragansett Indian haunted the building out of embarrassment for an event that took place many years before while he was alive and visiting the hostelry. Some claim he also haunted the Black Horse Tavern because he preferred the nearby Pine Tree Tavern in life and wanted the business to migrate there.

The ghost haunted the family in the form of strange dreams. He would be seen by various family members in their dreams, pointing to someplace on the property before slowly walking toward where he was pointing. The vision was often followed by some sort of horrific nightmare.

One of the main recipients of the ghostly dreams was Rueben Jenkes's daughter, Lucy. He often appeared to her while she slept, pointing toward the carriage house. In her dream, she would be compelled to follow him, but he would either vanish before reaching the

destination of his quest, or she would suddenly wake up.

One night, she saw the man in her dreams, but this time, she did not wake up and could follow him as he moved toward the carriage house, with each turn, pointing the way. The ghost led Lucy Jenckes to a loft in the carriage house where a coffin lay in the rafters. The next day, Lucy ventured into the loft where she spied the coffin she had been led to in her nightly vigil. She slowly ambled, towed the box, and opened it. Inside she found a dressmaker's doll with its hair cut off. That is when an old tale came to light.

It is rumored that the Indian tried to scalp the doll in a drunken state, thinking it was a rude person who would not return his conversation. Thoroughly embarrassed by the act, the Narragansett chose to take his business down the road to the Pine Tree Tavern. The next night, the ghost requested that she remove the doll from the crime scene. She removed the doll, and the haunting supposedly ceased.

Guests of the tavern still insisted the man was making his presence known, as many were jolted out of sound sleep in the night by frightening war cries. Some claimed to be

pulled out of bed by the hair.

The tavern was used as a meeting house and local social place. The second floor held ample amounts of revelers until all hours of the night. There were other tavern owners, so the exact timeline of the haunting is unclear in records but is said to have taken place before the 19th century.

Deeds to such small towns with farming origins can become quite vague. What is clear is that licenses, which read for "Tavern, Ale, and Victualing House," were handed out to early settlers like the Potters, Manchesters, Smiths, and Hopkins in the mid-18th century. Reuben Jenckes probably owned the Black Horse after 1800.

The structure is no longer a tavern, and various owners have experienced some strange occurrences or nothing. Whether the ghost still wanders the confines of the structure is a matter of conjecture. The building has long been renovated and sits on the corner of Danielson Pike and Route 116 (East Road).

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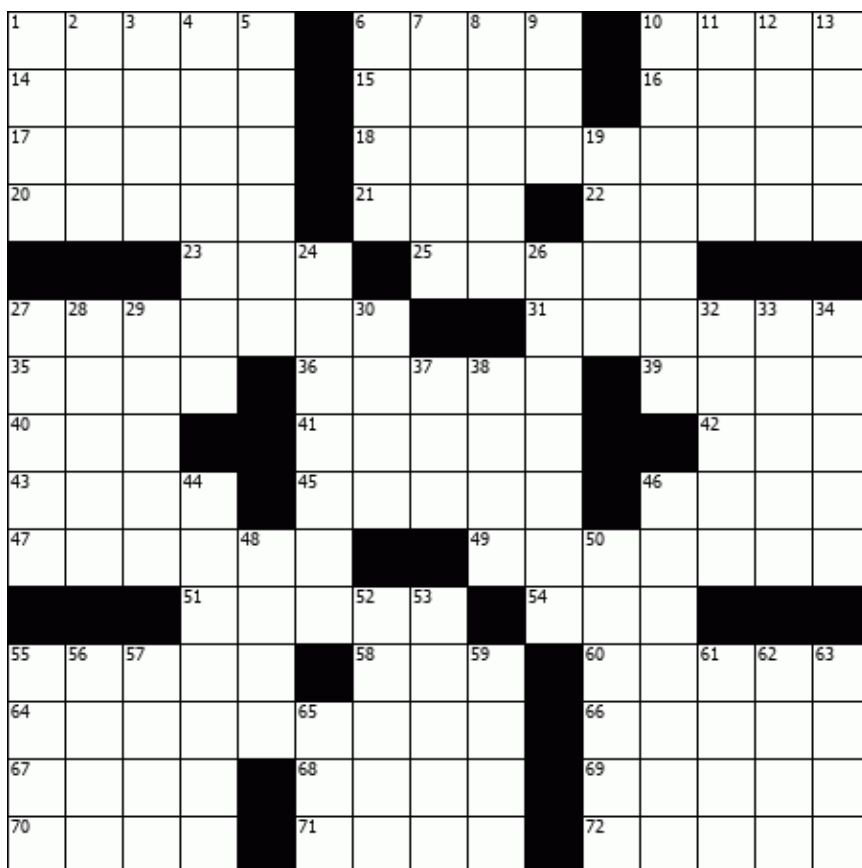
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# Crossword Puzzle

## Across

1. Monastery head
6. Flagmaker Betsy \_\_\_\_
10. Folding beds
14. Mea \_\_\_\_
15. Hero's tale
16. Hawaiian island
17. More faithful
18. Devoted
20. Paid out
21. Metallic rock
22. 19th letters
23. Gobble up
25. Grown-up
27. Decorated
31. Scheduled
35. Memorable periods
36. Combine
39. Grease
40. Distress inits.
41. Oyster's treasure
42. \_\_\_\_-gallon hat
43. Wallet stuffers
45. "Sesame Street" character
46. Harbor
47. Annoy
49. Casual tops (hyph.)
51. Oscar, e.g.
54. \_\_\_\_ Juan
55. Start of a Dickens title (2 wds.)
58. Conger
60. Mixed greens
64. Unhappy
66. Boutique
67. Caribous' kin
68. New York baseball team
69. Caesar's language
70. Bird's abode
71. Lamenting cry
72. School assignment



## Down

- |                               |                        |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Performs onstage           | 19. ____ phone         | 46. Festive candy containers |
| 2. Belch                      | 24. Type of paint      | 48. Wide-spouted pitcher     |
| 3. Sad                        | 26. Futile             | 50. Bother                   |
| 4. Can ____ (kitchen devices) | 27. Fable writer       | 52. Rise up                  |
| 5. Plaid                      | 28. Male bee           | 53. Letter before epsilon    |
| 6. Renovate                   | 29. Desert springs     | 55. Preacher's word          |
| 7. Soap ____                  | 30. Forest creature    | 56. Floor piece              |
| 8. One-____ (biased)          | 32. Private teacher    | 57. Inquires                 |
| 9. School subj.               | 33. Critic Roger ____  | 59. Not as much              |
| 10. Of the seashore           | 34. Fender dimples     | 61. Plenty                   |
| 11. Stable morsels            | 37. Hurried            | 62. Diva's song              |
| 12. Biblical "you"            | 38. Abrasive particles | 63. Refuse                   |
| 13. Foam                      | 44. Most trite         | 65. Physicians' org.         |



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# The Nature of Things

by James Gass

## Squirrels I Have Known

Are you hearing scurrying sounds in your attic? It could be mice, could be a chipmunk, it could also be a flying squirrel or a red squirrel, if you live in the woods. If you have birdhouses in your yard, they might take up residence there too.

When I was refuge manager for the Audubon Society of Rhode Island in Smithfield, we lived in company housing. It was in the woods, a nice little ranch at the end of a long, winding driveway. We used to see all kinds of wildlife there, but perhaps the most interesting and amusing inhabitants were the squirrels. We had flying squirrels, red squirrels, and of course, gray squirrels. Fortunately for us, the flying and red squirrels preferred to live in the birdhouse in the back yard instead of our attic.

Flying squirrels are more common than you might think. Since they are small, shy and nocturnal, they are difficult to see, but some biologists think they are actually as abundant as grey squirrels. There are two species of flying squirrels found in New England: northern and southern. The one in our area is southern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys volans*). Northern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) occur primarily in northern New England, but not Rhode Island.

As you probably already know, flying squirrels don't actually fly. They glide from tree to tree with the aid of a loose membrane between their front and back legs. According to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, they can travel up to 150 feet during a single glide. They can also change direction in mid-air by shifting their legs and altering the angle of their rudder-like tail.

One evening I went out into the back yard of our refuge home to fill the bird feeder. It was dusk. While there, I heard the scampering of tiny nails running up the side of the house. I couldn't see what it was because I didn't have a flashlight. I decided to wait to see what it might be. After several minutes, I saw a tiny figure glide swiftly down from the roof to the bird feeder. Then another. And another. Flying squirrels were sleeping in the birdhouse during the day and foraging at the feeder at night.

I decided to feed them peanuts. I'd put six or seven on top of the fence near the opening of the birdhouse and they would pop out, grab the peanut and pop back in, just like one of those toy banks where you put a coin on the lever and a little squirrel pops out and grabs it. When it got dark they would emerge and glide around the yard, deftly zooming around tree trunks and branches. They were there for several years until a red squirrel evicted them.

I have a soft spot for red squirrels. They're scrappy little buggers. Pound for pound they are probably the toughest of all the squirrels. Anyone who goes woods-walking knows that if you are in a red squirrel's territory you're going to get an angry, chattered scolding. Reds typically live in coniferous forests making their nests in hollow trees or holes in the ground, and sometimes in birdhouses.

One day I watched in amazement as two gray squirrels decided to gang up on a red squirrel on our fence. I don't know what they were thinking, but it didn't end well.



They were on either side of it with the red squirrel caught in the middle. Anytime one of the grays advanced toward the red, it charged back at them. They took turns trying to get at it but each time the red squirrel beat them back. They finally gave up.

The red squirrel that moved into our birdhouse had a litter of babies. She would go out to forage and then three little heads would poke out of the opening waiting for her return. Once they tried to follow her. She quickly grabbed them and shoved them back in, one by one, head first. One baby wasn't so lucky. She had it by its midsection and when she tried to shove it back into the opening, it didn't fit because it was sideways. She tried this forcefully several times until she finally got it right. I thought it was pretty funny, but the baby squirrel probably didn't.

I hadn't seen a flying squirrel for quite a while until last winter. I couldn't understand why I was putting out suet in the evening and then a quarter of it was gone by the morning. I finally saw the culprit one night, sitting high up on a branch. I nailed a plastic cup to the tree and filled it with peanuts every evening. It would be empty next morning. It was great to see this unique and secretive critter once again.



# The Days of Town Sergeants and Constables

By Jim Ignasher

On the afternoon of June 26, 1855, the battered body of a 22-year-old man was found along the shore of the Blackstone River near the Globe Bridge which in those days connected Smithfield to Woonsocket. Coroner Spencer Mowry examined the body and determined that the man had been murdered. Investigation revealed he was last seen alive on the Smithfield side of the bridge, visiting what could politely be called a “red light district” which existed at the time.

In 1855, Woonsocket was still a village within the town of Cumberland, and its southern border was denoted by the Blackstone River. Across the river lay the fledgling mill villages of Globe, Bernon, and Hamlet, all (then) located in Smithfield.

Law enforcement in northern Rhode Island during this era was haphazard at best. Both Woonsocket and Smithfield had police constables who came under the direction of a town sergeant, but these men didn’t perform police duties in the way we think of officers doing today. They didn’t wear uniforms, and most didn’t even have badges. And they didn’t regularly patrol a beat or answer “calls” the way their modern counterparts do. When it came to pay, some may have received small stipends, but more often than not they were paid from fees collected for serving legal papers and warrants, or for guarding and transporting prisoners to court.

Constables received their appointments by elected town officials, and their tenure was subject to change with new administrations. There was no training for the job, and forensic science as we know it today was non-existent. Thus when it came to the discovery of the murder victim, determining what happened rested with the Coroner, who impaneled a Jury of Inquest. If this crime was solved, it’s not recorded.

On March 17, 1730, the newly established town of Smithfield held its first town meeting during which town officials were elected. Uriah Mowry was chosen Town Sergeant, and three constables were appointed. What Smithfield lacked in population at the time it made up for in land, for at the time of incorporation the present day municipalities of North Smithfield, Lincoln, Central Falls, and Woonsocket south of the Blackstone River were all part of Smithfield. Therefore, it seems laughable that keeping the peace was left to only four officers.

The system of employing town sergeants and constables had been carried over to the colonies from England, and Smithfield retained a constabulary into the 20th century. Smithfield town sergeants were appointed by the town council for one year terms ending in November. Constables were also appointed at that time from a list of names submitted by the town sergeant. The town sergeant also had the authority to temporarily appoint special constables in the event more manpower was needed. These special constables would be paid by the day.

There were also constables who carried specific titles such as “Special Constable to Prosecute Tramps”, or “Special Constable to Enforce Bird Laws”, each of which were paid fifty dollars per year.

In 1914 there was an up-tick in crime in the Georgiaville and Esmond neighborhoods prompting residents to petition the town council for night patrolmen. The request was eventually granted, but the constables only patrolled on alternate weekends and were paid a flat rate of \$100 a year. Meanwhile, the town sergeant was authorized to regularly patrol Greenville on weekends for \$200 per year. This was the first time regular police patrols began in Smithfield.

There was no police headquarters at that time, and any prisoners were lodged in one of two make-shift jails known as bridewells. One bridewell was in Georgiaville and the other in Greenville. Town records show constables were paid extra to guard, feed, and transport prisoners to court. Documentation exists that indicates these bridewells were in use as late as 1937.

In 1915 Smithfield began to move away from a constable system to an organized police department. Over the next few years more night patrolmen were added, the town sergeant was referred to in council records as “Chief of Police”, and by 1919 officers began wearing uniforms for the first time. By 1922, the Smithfield Police Department consisted of a chief, six regular officers, and twenty-six constables.

In 1923 the town purchased its first police motorcycle, and Officer Robert E. Tobin became the town’s first motor patrol officer. He was paid one dollar an hour to enforce traffic laws.

In 1937, the town council passed an extensive police ordinance which outlined duties, pay, and rules and regulations of the police department. At that time Alfred N. Lacroix was appointed Smithfield’s first full-time chief with a yearly salary of \$1,450.

Although the town council had established a police department via ordinance, it wasn’t until 1950 that the Rhode Island General Assembly passed an act which created the full-time and permanent police department we know today.





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Wednesday, September 14 at 10:30 am

### Home Sweet Home Book Club

Monday, September 26 at 6:30 pm

## Astronomy Program: Planetary Defense

Wednesday, September 14 at 6:30 pm

Planetary defense is critical for our survival. 66 million years ago the Earth was struck by an asteroid that wiped out 75% of all life on Earth, including the dinosaurs. An explosion of a small asteroid in the atmosphere above Siberia on June 30, 1908, is known as the "Tunguska Event"; the energy from the explosion killed reindeer and flattened an estimated 80 million trees over an area of 830 square miles. On February 15, 2013, a much smaller object exploded over Chelyabinsk, Russia, causing damage to structures but thankfully no loss of life. We were lucky that time. Near-Earth objects (NEOs) are asteroids and comets that orbit the Sun, but their orbits can bring them into Earth's neighborhood - within 30 million miles of Earth's orbit. In January 2016, NASA reorganized its Near Earth Object Observations Program and established a Planetary Defense Coordination Office.

Join Bryant University Astronomy Instructor Sandi Brenner for a look at what is out there and what is being done to help keep Earth safe. The program will include a preview of the DART mission, NASA's first test for planetary defense, expected to arrive at its target asteroid system near the end of September. Space is limited. To register, visit the event calendar at [greenvillelibraryri.org](http://greenvillelibraryri.org) or call 401-949-3630.



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# A View From the Cheap Seats

Dan Pieroni



Russell's Legacy is proof that an unfortunate wrong can be made right. Bill Russell died July 31st.

If you are basketball fan, Celtics fan, and you respect the dignity of all humankind to live free towards a path of enlightenment and self-actualization, this should come as sad news.

That was my initial thought when I heard the news. My only knowledge of Russell came from reading about him or watching grainy film of him after the fact. My youth left me no choice but to view him as some sort of mythological figure that could be admired from afar.

I knew he won eleven championships, in thirteen years. I knew in 21 elimination games in college and as a professional, he never lost one of them, and I knew that the immortal Sihugo Green will forever be a footnote in basketball history as the man who was drafted right before the greatest winner that the game has ever known.

What I did not know was how Russell felt underappreciated by a fan base who nowadays lionizes people like Pedro Martinez, David Ortiz, and Paul Pierce as civic heroes for their accomplishments on the field or court as well as off of it.

Podcaster Bill Simmons opened a rebroadcast of his program with a sad truth that reinforced Russell's resentment over being taken for granted by Celtics fans and the city of Boston. Bill Russell spent the last four decades of his life living on Seattle's Mercer Island, about as far away from the city where he experienced his greatest triumphs as he could get.

Simmons went on to say that when he was lucky enough to spend two days with

Russell in 2012, Russell maintained that he did not care about Boston anymore. To him, Boston was more of a hockey town, and he remembered times in which the Celtics played important elimination games in an arena that was less than 70% full.

The slights go deeper than that though. He also remembered the skepticism over being named the first black coach in the NBA and the closed-mindedness of people who incorrectly believed a white man would never take orders from a black man of authority. Perhaps most haunting is that Russell remembered the racism he experienced from people who wrecked his house, broke his trophies, and had the nerve to defecate on his walls.

As I listened to these facts, I could not help but express shock and dismay over how an athletic hero in Boston was treated so horribly because he was black and successful. Six MVPs, eleven championships, and this was the thanks he got for all those athletic thrills? Can you blame Russell for wanting to isolate as far away from Boston as he could under the circumstances?

Russell's true legacy extends far beyond the hardwood, as along with Jim Brown and Muhammad Ali he was at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement amongst athletes. Russell had unwavering self-pride and awareness that every speech, march, or action he performed would be under the scrutiny of those who disagreed with him. Still, he pressed on, telling the oppressed that there was no ceiling to what they could accomplish, and to not let anyone define them or their legacy.

His willingness to speak out against racial injustice won him the admiration of

other African Americans dignitaries such as Jackie Robinson, who asked him to be a pallbearer at his funeral, and President Barack Obama, who awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

This all brings us to today. On August 1, writer Louis Young suggested the NBA should retire Russell's number permanently across the league since Russell was as Jackie Robinson was impactful to his sport promoting athletic excellence and speaking out for social justice.

While this is a noble and sensible gesture, I offer two counterarguments: First, Russell was not the first black player in the NBA, (Chuck Cooper) or arguably its most impactful, (Michael Jordan.)

Second, this represents revisionist history, which I believe few, if any people are alive to benefit from such changes, and for the wrongs it seeks to make right cannot erase the past completely.

Such a stance begs the question of why President Obama urged the city of Boston to erect a statue to Russell when no one had the foresight to do so for years after he retired. Make no mistake, Russell's legacy cut deeper than any statute or award ever good and should be treated as such.

I think the NBA would do well to adopt a social justice initiative designed to promote fair hiring practices and minority ownership named in his honor. It will serve as a reminder of what he fought for and the slights he suffered to make the game and the world a better place.

# Obituaries



**Paula Andreozzi**  
July 6, 2022  
[www.maceroni.com](http://www.maceroni.com)



**Elliott M. Fox, Jr.**  
August 2, 2022  
[www.trippfuneralhome.com](http://www.trippfuneralhome.com)



**Ann Marie (Quartino) Torregrossa**  
August 2, 2022  
[www.robbsfuneralhome.com](http://www.robbsfuneralhome.com)



## Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 36.

A	B	B	O	T		R	O	S	S		C	O	T	S	
C	U	L	P	A		E	P	I	C		O	A	H	U	
T	R	U	E	R		D	E	D	I	C	A	T	E	D	
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N	E	S	T			A	L	A	S		E	S	S	A	Y

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