# Smithfield Times



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Smithfield Times Our Magazine Is Back!

## Letter from the Editor



Brittni Henderson Editor

### Dear beloved Smithfield Times readers.

Spring has sprung and the *Smithfield Times* has officially been reborn! We truly appreciate your patience over the last three months and are so glad that you stuck around. In case we haven't met, my name is Brittni Henderson, and I am the new editor of the magazine. I have been contributing to this magazine in its current form and under previous names since 2012.

This magazine has taken me so many places around town, has introduced me to some amazing people, and now has welcomed me into the helm with open arms. I've taken a swim at dawn at Georgiaville Pond, I've interviewed celebrities (Hi, Sarah Potenza!), and I've highlighted more small businesses than I can count.

I moved to Smithfield in 1997 and started 3rd grade at Anna M. McCabe. I continued through the Smithfield Public School system and graduated from Smithfield High School in 2007. In the many years since high school, I've become a yoga teacher, social media coordinator, and writer. It still feels surreal to me that I am now editor of the very magazine that gave me a chance a decade ago. I am so extremely grateful for this experience.

Though some things have changed behind the scenes, not much will change in the magazine you know and love. We last saw each other via the December 2022 issue, so this month will be about catching up, freshening up, and gearing up for the months to come.

You'll see how Smithfield High School students are so versatile, being both champions and Tony-award-giving pupils. There is a bit of history, a Spring nature lesson, and a holiday book review that we couldn't leave out (it's too cute!). We can't forget an ode to Easter and a touching story about recovery. Finally, we pay homage and memorialize some friends and family we've lost in the last few months whose souls will remain with us forever.

Again, from everyone at the *Smithfield Times Magazine*, we truly love and appreciate you all so much! See you next month.

Warmest Regards, Brittni Henderson brittni@smithfieldtimesri.net

P.S.- We're on Instagram! Give us a follow @thesmithfieldtimesri

**Smithfield** *Times* 





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

Because of the ever increasing cost of long term nursing home

### Review Your Trust Annually To Protect Your Assets

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

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

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

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

- George M. Prescott

Courtesy of:

## George M. Prescott

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# Super Sentinels: SHS Football Team Wins It All!



### By Dan Pieroni

Effective team building is a process. This notion rings no truer than through the prism of athletics. Athletics is where a group of individuals of varying skills, shapes, and abilities come together towards a common pursuit of a shared goal – the opportunity to be labeled a champion forever. The process is often mired in hard lessons in losing that require great resolve and the ability to move on stronger than before

This is often harder than expected. In recent years, the football team did not let past losses define them. They understood that the only way to turn things around was to outthink, outwork, and outhustle other teams.

Enter: the 2022 season. The season began with a regionally televised spoiling of North Providence's new field. From there, Scituate, Davies, and Juanita Sanchez were left in the dust. There was no stopping this runaway train. By the time you caught your breath, the Sentinels had completed an undefeated regular season, and no one could blame them as visions of a state title danced in their heads.

The steady quarterbacking of Joey Smith; the tough powerful running of Ryan Flynn and Bradyn Shadoian; and the ability of the team to produce a timely touchdown or turnover when they needed it most were key in their reversal of fortune.

True to form, they also did not let circumstances beyond their control weigh them down, as evidenced by their semi-final playoff victory over Exeter/West Greenwich.

What did all this hard work, winning, and dedication mean for the legacy of Smithfield High School football?

See Sentinels, page 5



On November 19, 2022, in front of a packed house, they proved once again their knack for timely moments by scoring a pair of touchdowns in the last 4 minutes of the game. One of those touchdowns was scored on an interception return by senior safety AJ Hetu that effectively iced the game.

"I saw the ball in the air and acted on instinct," Hetu, a recent commit to Bridgewater State, told me.

That instinct won a championship, but there was still one hurdle to overcome. The annual rivalry game against North Providence represented an opportunity to come full circle and cap off an undefeated season. While it was true the challenging work had already been accomplished and this game did not mean as much in theory, you would be hard-pressed to find a Sentinel who felt otherwise.

Highlighted by touchdowns each by Flynn and Shadoian, and a beautiful touchdown pass from Smith to wide receiver Chris Currie, the 39-14 final cemented both an undefeated season and an place in Smithfield High School history.

For Flynn, this victory was even sweeter. He was the water boy for the last championship football team in 2015 and was now the star power running back and undeniable team leader. He will take his power running and tenacious attitude to Salve Regina University in the fall.

Coach Glenn Castiglia and the young men he was charged into molding into tough, skilled, and tenacious football players can now be known by one collective adjective – champions.









## Smithfield Classic Cars & Auto Sales Takes People Back to Their Youth

By: Berg's Eye Communications, Cumberland, RI. 401-365-2202 markb@bergseyeprri.com www.bergseyeprri.com

Dave MacDonald got the car "bug" from his father, Arthur, whom he worked side-by-side with on fixing classic cars. It was the start of a lifetime of enjoying, collecting, buying and selling vintage vehicles. He has collected dozens of cars over several decades. There is something about rebuilding such cars and seeing how they run and the reactions from other

collectors that gives him a rush. Growing up, the father-and-son team worked on and drove a 1931 Model A Car. They would buy the parts needed by selling other classic cars. Dave said he loves most cars, but he really enjoys BMWs and Ford pickups.

Fast forward to today. Dave still wants to help fuel his passion and aid others

with their antiques. That is his main reason for opening **Smithfield Classic Cars & Auto Sales**, where he and his growing staff buy, sell and fix up cars and trucks from yesteryear.

While his love of classic cars like Ford Pickups continues, David said there was another inspiration for opening up the business.

"My wife would wonder why I bought another car! I figured if I wanted to keep collecting cars, then I might as well open up a shop to buy and sell them," he said.

Located on Rte. 7 (specifically at 278 Douglas Pike, about one mile from Rte. 295) in Smithfield, the shop was once a Texaco Gas Station. When the property became available, MacDonald jumped at the opportunity.



Dave MacDonald, Office Manager Heather Manuppelli, and Steve Durand

The lot has roughly 30 antiques ready to view and purchase. The cars were made from the 1950s into the 1970's. Dave said these are the hallmark decades for such classic vehicles. He said cars back then housed high-powered engines that exuded maximum power. That would be the norm until the early 1970s, when the nationwide gas shortage paved the way for newer, fuel-efficient cars. Changes in decreasing engine power in 1972 signaled the end of manufacturing high horse-powered cars.

Certain types of vehicles are considered more appealing and in demand by collectors. MacDonald said older two-door Coopes are more in vogue than its four-door version. Mustangs from the 1960s and 1970s, Chevelles and Cutlasses are also highly sought after.

What constitutes a classic car? According to MacDonald, how pristine does the vehicle look? Does it have signs of rust, dents, scratches or failing framework? What does the odometer tell the buyer? How much work and restoration had been done? These details



1969 Chevrolet Nova



1962 Ford F-100



1956 Ford F-100 Custom

See Classic Cars, page 7

Classic Cars, from page 6

are important toward determining its true worth.

As for Dave's growing classic car collection, one can either find him involved with on-line auctions or attending live events. As with any auction or sale, he has an eye for what may be attractive for his clients.

"I may find something that appeals to me, but I usually find cars that someone I know would be interested in buying," he said. "At smaller events, I have a good idea which dealers are reputable and who to stay away from. However, it gets harder at larger events to do that. There is only so much you can see or do to make the purchase happen."

For those cars that may not be up to snuff, it provides the opportunity to fix it up to acceptable standards. It also means his antenna is heightened the next time he shops for new purchases.

Like the cars of the past, some 1980's cars such as the Camaro, BMW's, Mercedes and other muscle cars are now considered vintage. Those were iconic vehicles of the time that are poised for a comeback or possibly become increasingly valuable, he said.

For those who do not possess the liquid funds, Smithfield Classic Cars works with multiple financing companies geared toward collectors. They offer competitive rates for those invested in the classics

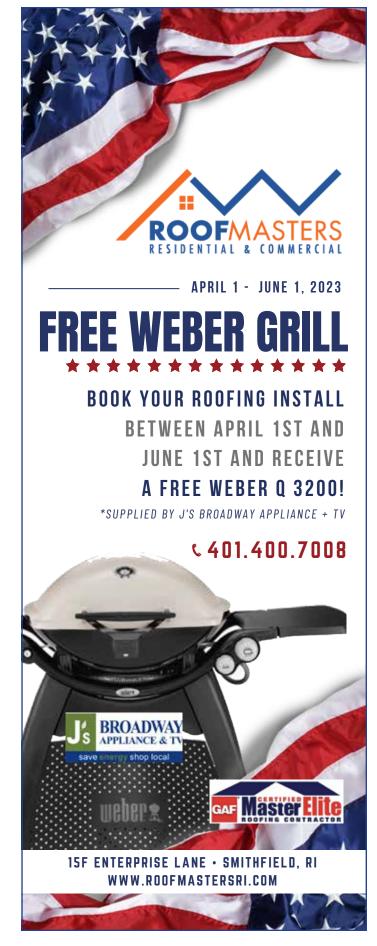
Smithfield Classic Cars Chief Mechanic, Steve Durand, has numerous years in working on classic cars. He previously worked at many dealerships and loves his cars. Smithfield Classic Cars offers mechanical repairs on your classic car also

The company is seeking a part-time salesperson to cover Saturdays and several weekdays. It's a chance to learn more about the business and work with other like-minded enthusiasts

Smithfield Classic Cars & Auto Sales is opened weekdays from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

For more details about the facility, including scheduling car care appointments and applying for the Sales position, please call Dave at 508-776-0593 or email him at dmacdonald@smithfieldclassiccars.com.

Further awareness of the company may found by visiting their website at www.smithfieldclassiccars.com.



### A Tale of Two Elves

### By Gabrielle Libutti

A festive Christmas sleigh that runs on a battery operated golf car, complete with elves, was one of the options Paul Borrelli, owner of Borrelli Event Services offered. Little did he know that one day, the sled and his elves would be the inspiration for the book "The Travels of Edith and Eddie Santa's Adventurous Elves".

Six years ago during a Christmas event at a winery, Borrelli was approached by curious kids who were eager to learn about the sled. They wanted to know how in the world the sleigh traveled without reindeer? Borrelli knew he had to think fast and informed them that it was a magic sleigh, capable of going anywhere, even without a team of reindeer! Though satisfied with that answer, the children pressed on. They wanted to know the names of the elves on the sleigh. Knowing he couldn't disclose his employee's real names, Borrelli told them "Edith and Eddie". After the event it occurred to him,

elves going on a magical adventure in a motorized sleigh could make a wonderful story. He started to write and write and write. As the story developed, he knew it was time to call in an illustrator. He searched diligently, much like the elves, in his story, searching for exotic ingredients for cookies. Eventually he connected with Ted DiLucia. DeLucia perfectly translated Borrelli's ideas into illustrations and just like magic, was part of the team. Then Covid struck and Paul's daughter came back home to live. His wife and daughter's ideas proved to be the secret ingredient, just what the book needed to be completed. Through the collaboration of Paul, Lucille, and Laura, a more intricate storyline, a new character, and delicious recipes were added to the story and the rest is history.

"The Travels of Edith and Eddie Santa's Adventurous Elves" follows the adventures of two elves, Edith and Eddie who are recruited by Uncle



Author Paul Borrelli reads to Avi Chobanian at Greenville Library's Christmas celebration.

Wisk, the North Pole's cookie baker, to fly around the world to discover new ingredients for cookies. The duo travel to Paris, France, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Egypt and more! Each stop, they gather new and delicious ingredients to bring back to Uncle Wisk. Following the incredible and educational story are recipes that include ingredients featured in the story. Borrelli made sure to let me know, his wife tested these recipes and they were delicious.

Senator David Tikoian stumbled upon Paul's book Saturday December 3rd when he attended the Snowflake Bazaar at Old County Road School to support everyone involved. He noticed his old friend sitting at one of the vendor booths Borrelli was eager to share the news of his new book. Tikoian said, "I immediately thought, "Wouldn't it be amazing if our local public libraries had a children's Christmas book, authored by a local resident available to loan to



Senator David Tikoian, Paul Borrelli and Library Director Dorothy Swain

See Tale of Two Elves, page 9

local children in our community." He continued, "Given the subject matter of the book and the nature of the Christmas Holiday season, things couldn't have been more perfectly aligned. It just seemed meant to be." With that, he purchased the books with the intent to donate them to the Greenville and East Smithfield Libraries Lasked Tikojan if he himself read the book yet and he responded, "Yes, I have read the book and also the cookie recipes in the back of the book. Now I'm anxious to have Karen or Farrah bake some of those delicious cookies." He emphasized the importance of supporting a local author for Smithfield and the community. It sends a powerful message to the children of Smithfield that they too could one day become a successful author. Tikoian noted the careful details that went into the geography aspect of the book that made the story not only enjoyable, but informational. As a final note, he said, "From my perspective, to have a local resident, one of our own so to say, author a book children in our community can enjoy and learn from is simply amazing and I'm honored to play a small part in making that resource available to our Public Libraries in town "

I myself read the book as well and loved every second of it. The story is fun, fantastical, and well written and very informational. The elves travel to countries that you wouldn't typically read about in children's books and gather unusual ingredients for their uncle. I thought the illustrations were incredible and really added to the story. While this is a great book for the Christmas season, the elves' nontraditional appearance will lend well to Borrelli's plans to expand on the adventures of Edith and Eddie

"The Travels of Edith and Eddie Santa's Adventurous Elves" is now available on the Barnes and Noble website, Amazon, and the Walmart website.





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## From the offices of Senator David P. Tikoian - Smithfield, North Providence, Lincoln And Representative Gregory J. Costantino - Lincoln, Smithfield, Johnston

### TIME TO ELIMINATE THE ESTATE TAX IN R.I.

By Senator David P. Tikoian and Representative Gregory Costantino

It has been said that nothing in life is certain except for death and taxes. However, it could be argued that taxes are more impactful, because the state continues to tax you after your death.

Essentially, the estate tax makes it difficult for you to pass a family business down generation-to-generation, effectively penalizing you for your hard work. It also unfairly singles out family businesses by serving as a deterrent to further invest and places an unfair economic burden on those small businesses.

So, what exactly is an estate tax? According to the IRS, it's a tax on your right to transfer property or wealth upon your death. Specifically, it's a tax on the total amount of your estate after all your creditors are paid, but before your heirs can receive their inheritance. In Rhode Island, estates are currently tax exempt up to \$1,733,264 and then

given an \$80,395 estate tax credit on the value beyond that tax exempted amount. This is not enough.

To help our residents, we have introduced legislation (2023-S 0526, 2023-H 5802) that would phase in an annual increase of the current state \$1,733,264 tax exemption over an eight-year period until it equals the federal exemption (currently \$12,920,000). This is good policy for Rhode Island, because estate taxes hurt a state's competitiveness as most states have been moving away from estate or inheritance taxes, or have raised their exemption levels. Examples include Delaware repealing its estate tax in 2018 and New Jersey phasing out its estate tax during that same time.

Bottom line, we owe something to our small businesses and those who have worked hard to hold on to those businesses for generations. We also owe it to our children to make sure



the legacy we leave them is not one that comes with an impossible price tag. It's hard enough doing business in Rhode Island and we don't need to increase that burden with an estate tax that discourages investment and drives high-net-worth business owners to other states.

The authors, Senator David P.
Tikoian (D-Dist. 22, Smithfield,
North Providence, Lincoln) resides in
Smithfield and Representative Gregory
J. Costantino (D-Dist. 44, Lincoln
Smithfield, Johnston), resides in
Lincoln.





## **Town Council Swearing** In Ceremony

The swearing in ceremony of Smithfield's Town Council Officers was held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at the Smithfield Sr. Center. New members John J. Tassoni, Jr., Rachel Toppi and Michael Iannotti were sworn in by the Associate Justice (AJ) Honorable Joseph A. Montalbano. Member Sean Kilduff was sworn in by Hon. Terrance Turner, and Michael Lawton who was voted in as President, was sworn in by his wife, Kelly. The post of Vice-President was undecided







## Ryan Strik Joins American Cancer **Society Cancer Action Network** to Lead Government Relations in Rhode Island

Smithfield native comes to the position from the office of Sen. Jack Reed

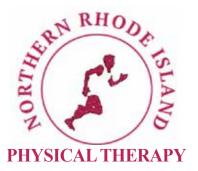
Ryan Strik has joined the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) as the government relations director in Rhode Island. In this role, Strik will lead ACS CAN's efforts in the state to advance legislation and public policies to reduce cancer.



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## **East Smithfield Neighborhood Center Renovation Project**

By Joe Siegel

The East Smithfield Neighborhood Center on Esmond Street is in the midst of massive renovations.

The building will offer recreational, youth, exercise, and health programs in the Community Services wing; a Community Food Pantry; new Smithfield Recreation Department offices to oversee public programs. including on-site events in the Main Hall; and a new Recreation Department conference room

Renovations will include exterior insulation, window and door replacement, siding, and roof replacement; upgrades to existing bathrooms; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance; touchless technology to include keyless entries, faucets, lighting and HVAC; updating all interior finishes and coatings, as well as all new electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems.

According to the Historic Preservation Commission, the building was constructed in 1851. The neighborhood center has served local residents in a variety of functions: from a church and meeting house in the early 20th century to the addition of a school wing and an expanded hall that was used as a silent movie theater. The facility also housed a public library, a bowling alley, and recreational facilities.

Last May, U.S. Senator Jack Reed and Congressman David Cicilline appropriated \$295,000 in designated funding for the building, which was forced to close in 2017 due to structural deficiencies. The East Smithfield Neighborhood Center Building Committee was then formed with the mission of restoring the building while

preserving its historical significance.

The Reed-Cicilline earmark builds on previous federal grants directed toward the project, including \$550,000 in American Rescue Plan Act spending and a \$295,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award that was set aside in 2021, bringing the total federal funding commitment for the project to \$1.14 million.

At a May 23 press conference, Town Manager Randy Rossi acknowledged it was a group effort to restore the building. Rossi thanked State Rep. Bernard Hawkins, D-Greenville, members of the Smithfield Town Council and Historic Preservation Commission chairman Robert Leach for being a "true champion of making this happen."

A new roof is being installed and the windows which had been present originally will be restored. The rafters in the main hall, which will accommodate as many as 150 people, were raised up eight inches.

Leach believes the result will be a "more open" building. The facility will be made available to a wide variety of organizations when completed. "The idea is that it's for everybody," Leach added

In addition to the interior renovations, the project includes improving a trail connecting the center

with nearby walking trails and pond at Esmond Park and Conservation Area. so residents can increase recreation outdoors.

The East Smithfield Neighborhood Center will also be part of an official historic district which includes the adjacent store house and Esmond Park. "For too long this historic building has sat idly by as the world around it has changed," said Town Council member Sean Kilduff. "I'm excited with what we've been able to accomplish under Mr. Leach's chairmanship and what is to come. This center will provide numerous services to the residents of Smithfield and is a long-overdue project in Esmond."







### Something Great Being Offered in the Town of Smithfield By Diane L. Marolla, LICSW, CFRC

The Town of Smithfield holds a special place in my heart. Being a graduate of Bryant University, Smithfield was my second home for four years of my life. I have fond memories of Parente's and Kirby's (yes, I did say Kirby's for you old timers like me). I remember the late-night runs over the border to North Providence to the Taco Bell. I am always astounded to see how much the town has grown. Although it has grown in population and with businesses, to me, it is still a small cozy place. It really is a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

Recently, I was told about something special in the town that is being offered to all Rhode Islanders. The program is being offered at Iron Clad Fitness for individuals with behavioral health disorders. The program is part of Move to Heal (Movetoheal.org) which was founded in May of 2021. The story of how the program started is truly amazing. Alexandria Hershman, the daughter of founder Ethan Hershman, began studying how combining exercise with mental health counseling improved the outcomes of individuals suffering from behavioral health disorders. Ethan has been in recovery for over 30 years. I recently met with Ethan, Alexandria, and Colleen Delaney to discuss how this program is changing the lives of others.

### Diane: Tell me why you started this program?

Ethan: I have been in recovery from drugs and alcohol for 30 years. When I got into recovery I was on crack and

drinking. I went to my doctor, and he told me, you are 30 years old, you have nearly had two heart attacks, you are malnourished, and you need to talk to a therapist. I listened to him. I joined a gym, joined AA, and I saw a therapist. I began to exercise and run in marathons. Over time I got healthier. When my daughter was getting her master's degree in psychology she did her thesis on the benefits of exercise, therapy, and nutrition. Ally was a spin instructor and getting amazing results with her participants in the program she ran as part of her study.

Diane: Ethan, this is truly the best model to keep people physically and mentally healthy. I admire your passion for turning your private trouble into a public issue.

Ethan: During my recovery journey, I have seen multiple relapses and deaths year after year. I always wondered why I am not relapsing. Colleen and I met through exercising, and we eventually opened a gym together. I never gave it a second thought that exercise helped my recovery. I realized that some people in recovery might not have the same resources. That is when I started offering an AA meeting after a workout in the gym that I owned. I had the resources to be part of a gym and go to a therapist and nutritionist. I thought to myself, "I want to offer this. I want to help people." I got Ally and Colleen together and pitched an idea that offered people free therapy, free nutrition counseling, and free workouts. We started Move to Heal in Greenwich, CT.

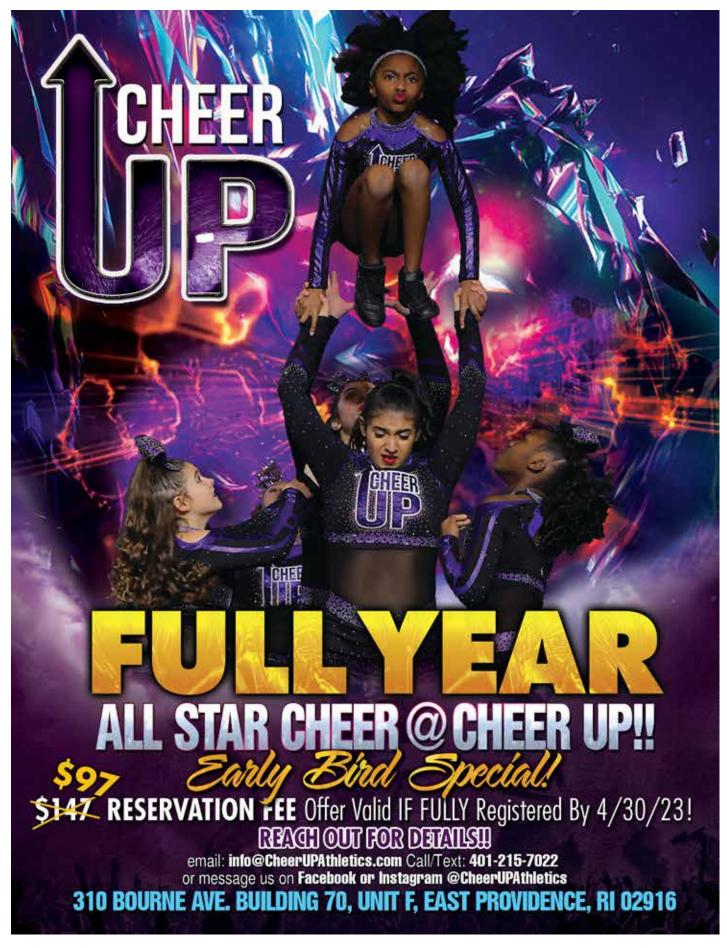
It became a smashing success in three months!

Diane: I heard the Smithfield program at Iron Clad is a success.

**Ethan:** The Rhode Island location in Smithfield has been hugely successful. We are pleased to say that we are serving 150-175 participants a week. Our organization sponsors gym memberships, nutritional counseling, and therapy. We are also doing surveys and working with a Ph.D. student from Columbia to study our results.

Move to Heal is looking for gyms to partner with in RI. They will pay for the gym memberships and work with the gym to promote the programs. If you are gym interested in partnering with Move to Heal, please go to their website and contact Colleen Delaney. They are also looking to partner with health insurance companies as well, so if you are a representative from a health plan, you want to talk with Ethan and his team. They also need people to run the programs and donations to keep them. If you are reading this article and feel you can help in any of these ways, please go to their website: movetohealct.org. They have great apparel on the website that you can purchase to support the cause,

Personally, I want to thank Chris Soucie, CEO of Big Fitness in Cranston, RI for telling me about this program. Chris can be reached at 401.203.5659. His store is at 999 Pontiac Avenue in Cranston



## **The Quiet Doers Among Us**

### By Harry Anderson

Here in North County are many quaintly called "villages": Greystone, Graniteville, Bridgeton, Hope, Foster Center, Harmony, Esmond to name some. Quiet dots on a map where quiet people live and die. Each village has a history, and some of them care enough about the past to preserve a bit of it lest it dissolves into oblivion. Quietly, such people have cleaned old cemeteries, restored decaying buildings, archived yellowing documents. Not among us anymore to be interviewed are Alyce ("Allie") Mack and Leon Gagnon, two of Harmony's quiet people who by dint of their sweat saved the Harmony Chapel (nee the Harmony Meeting House) from everlasting oblivion.

Today I learned of Leon's death. Earlier this year Allie had passed away. Of course, neither passing made it to the late night news. But both merit recognition, although I'm sure that neither would agree nor would they want that.

Both were charter members of the now defunct Friends of Harmony Village whose primary mission was to restore the Harmony chapel, a 200-year-old, white clapboarded, modest building on the south edge of Putnam Pike, heading west. Allie was a life-long care giver. Before retirement, she had worked as an LPN at Roger Williams Hospital and later continued giving a helping hand to countless others. When fire had consumed my house, for example, she toted back and forth baskets full of clothing that Pauline had salvaged from the ashes to wash them.

As president of Friends of Harmony Village, Ally indefatigably lead the small group of volunteers to complete its mission: she scraped and primed the

chapel's clapboards, found and installed shutters for its windows, baked apple pies and cooked the fixings for a fundraising ham and bean supper.

At her side worked Leon, who after retiring from years of driving an eighteen-wheel tanker truck with a cargo of volatile chemicals, had moved to Harmony to a ranch house on Edgewood Drive. He was proud to boast that in the many years of transporting a dangerous load across the Bronx, onto the George Washington Bridge, and to his New Jersey destination, never had he had an accident. A large man with a white beard and twinkling eyes, he played Santa Claus - waving from the rear of a fire truck to the delight of children.

Endowed with common sense and the strength of an ox, Leon solved problems popping up during the restoration of the chapel (such as reenforcing its sagging stone foundation). It was he who squeezed through the narrow entrance into its crawl space to lug out years of tossed-away detritus and carry it to Glocester's landfill.

Allie and Leon are gone now, but the old chapel remains. A visitor may sit in a crudely fashioned pew and imaginatively relive what might have happened in that unadorned room with a tin chimney down a rear wall, dangling over where an iron wood-burning stove may have been. The visitor may hear the early 19th century villagers' off-tune singing of, maybe, Abide with Me or on Christmas eve Away in a Manger; or the booming voice of a preacher's reading from Psalms. Then in (circa) 1870 when the chapel morphed into a school/ meeting house the visitor may see the heads of boys and girls bowed over their

primers and hear the voices of alarmed citizens who, after a neighbor's house burnt to the ground, met to plan for the making of a fire department.

The din of 21st century progress rumbles past the Harmony chapel on Putnam Pike. As its noise and uncertainties accelerate, mutely overseeing it all, smartly stands this small, hardly looked at building. Allie and Leon, knowing well the fact that if it were to crumble and its remains were to turn to dust like the bones of those buried in the cemetery in its back yard, what had bonded the village in 1830 would vanish into oblivion, forever. And they feared that to be a tragic loss.

Smithfield has the Smith-Appleby House and the Waterman Tavern, Burrillville the Bridgeton school, Foster the town house, Chepachet the Evans Road schoolhouse, the Reuben Mason House, and the Job Armstrong Store, Scituate the vacant Congregational Church, the back story to the preservation of each involving quiet people doing quietly vastly important work. With today's learning of the death of Leon and with the recent death of Allie, I felt compelled to write this piece, hoping to toggle the attention of my readers.

The quiet people among us who are selflessly preserving bits and pieces of their communities' history merit attention. Understanding that a solid foundation must be in place before a building process continues, Leon had steadied the stones beneath the Harmony chapel; and thus began its restoration. Not only has a relic been saved but also, symbolically, the values of a village.

## Ask an Expert

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

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



### Horsehair Plaster

Being at an age where I find myself more and more often starting sentences with the phrase "When I was growing up ...", sometimes coming across different items that we tackle on a day-in and dayout basis truly reminds me of something that I recall from "When I was growing up" which stuck with me for some reason back then and when I think back with what I know today, could definitely have been helpful to know!

One of these such items is a hole in the wall right behind a set of bunk beds which I shared with one of my brothers.

This hole seemed to resonate with me as the more something or someone touched it, the larger it seemed to get.

Not only that, but behind the hole was a series of wood slats, the hole did not seem to open up into some type of cavernous area behind it.

On top of this, I clearly remember some type of "fuzzies" being mixed in with the material the wall was made out of.



Horsehair plaster

Unbeknownst to me at the time, the product that our walls were made out of was horsehair plaster.

Horsehair plaster is made out of varying combinations of water, lime, plaster, sand, and animal hair – you guessed it – most often horsehair.

Sometimes the hair from other animals such as oxen, donkeys, and goats was utilized instead of horsehair.

Plants such as hemp, jute, reed, and straw have also been known to be used in place of the animal hair, the challenge with the fibers

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" - specializ-es 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 televi-sion 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!

from plants such as these though is that it is not as strong as the hair from the animals due to the protein-based qualities of the animal providing a stronger, more durable finish. Horsehair was the "go to" plaster for many years by many builders because it was so flexible in comparison to the other types of animal hair and plant fibers and the finish was much more uniform

These days, horsehair plaster is rarely utilized

In fact, there are few practicing tradespeople around that even know how to make it, never mind work with it once it is made.

From a historical preservationist standpoint, some jobs actually require horsehair plaster repairs to be conducted with actual horsehair plaster however, as the scopes of certain types of historical preservation projects require for the project being done to utilize all building materials that are as closely in-line with what was originally used as possible.

We are called on occasion to repair old horsehair plaster walls, such as the one mentioned from when I was growing up, utilizing modern day repair methodologies.

If we were called in today to repair the hole that was behind my bunk bed as I was growing up, the first thing we would do would be to carve out any of the loose plaster around the hole.

We would keep going until the perimeter of the hole was as stable as possible.

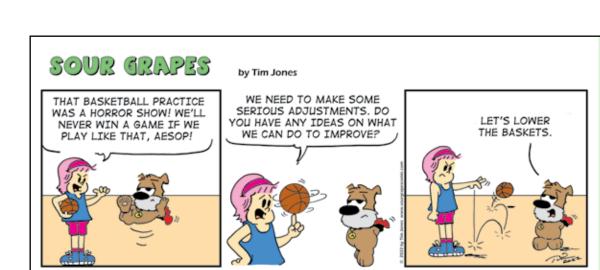
From there we would most likely stabilize the perimeter by screwing in plaster washers (see blog here: https:// lopcocontracting.com/a-trick-to-fixingfrustratingly-stubborn-plaster-failures/) around the actual hole.

Then we can cut a piece of drywall to fit as snugly into the hole as possible, tape the perimeter and any related seams with fiberglass mesh tape, and then utilize joint compound to work the plaster repair from there (apply the joint compound to seams and

perimeter, sand when dry, repeat until hole meets optimum smoothness).

After the repair is complete, things can be prepped, primed, and painted to the desired finish.

Although not old enough to have "When I was growing up ..." translate into a phrase which includes the actual common utilization of horsehair plaster in daily plaster operations, I am still old enough to remember the time when horsehair plaster and its associated repair challenges were much more commonplace than they are today, due to the overall percentage age of the housing where horsehair plaster would be more likely to be found being diluted with newer constructed homes and their associated more modern day building methodologies which shockingly – do not include horsehair plaster being used on a normal basis.







## Inside The Brown Bag | By Peg Brown

### **THE Bunny Revisited**

My favorite bunny ... no, not Bugs, or even Beatrice Potter's Peter Rabbit, and certainly not the hare on steroids in Alice in Wonderland. My favorite bunny weighed at least 8 oz., was made of solid milk chocolate, and always lost its ears before breakfast on Easter morning. A large chocolate coated vanilla cream filled egg was my next appetizer before breakfast. I am ashamed to say that I kept my belief in the Easter Bunny well into my teenage years – and Mother always went along with the ruse.

While Easter each year occurs on a different date, in our Western culture it always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25, or approximately seven days after the full moon. The arrival of Spring and the changing of the season is associated with rebirth and renewal, both closely linked with Easter celebrations around the world that center on the religious commemoration of the rebirth of Christ. But amidst those most serious religious observances and messages lies another more secular side of Easter popularized and commercialized as many of our holy days have become. Enter the Easter Bunny and the Easter Egg. Which is the most iconic symbol of the holiday?

There is well-documented historical evidence about both symbols' origins. It has been suggested that the symbols of the rabbit and the egg have roots in early Pagan rituals organized around the renewal of life and the goddess of dawn and fertility, who was often represented by both symbols. It is also suggested that early missionaries blended the Pagan rituals with Christian beliefs to attract new believers, thus resulting in the merging of the Pagan tradition with the resurrection of Christ.

The first mention of an Easter "hare"

(not bunny) appears in German literature in the late 1600s. The concept is thought to have been transported to America by Protestant Germans who settled in Pennsylvania Dutch country in the early 1700s, with the hare leaving treats only for children who had been judged "good" during the previous year.

The symbol of the rabbit or hare is also said to have religious connotations, as it was thought that the rabbit often reproduced in large numbers. The egg, also a sign of fertility, has in many cultures a significant place of respect. For example, in the Orthodox religion, one of the early traditions was the complete abstention from eggs during Lent – a fast broken on Easter morning with hard boiled eggs dyed red, a symbol of the blood Christ and the egg as a symbol of the empty tomb.

It comes as no surprise that the English candymaker Cadbury was to first to produce the candy Easter egg in 1875. They promoted their product by hosting an Easter egg hunt that today takes place in over 250 public areas in the United Kingdom.

The Easters of my youth were hardly unique. Our "Easter best" always included a dress coat, white ankle socks with ruffles, black patent leather shoes with ankle straps, white gloves, and a tiny corsage purchased by my father made with a fresh carnation centered with a pink rose.

We often used our hats from previous years, but they were always adorned with new grosgrain ribbons and sprigs of fresh spring flowers. Although Irving Berlin's hit of the 1930s, "Easter Parade" was still very popular, our small hometown never hosted an organized parade to

show off our Easter finery, but we did always walk to the town square after church to meet our neighbors.

Both my sister and I had hand-made straw baskets (mine was larger!), that we used each year, lined with a fresh bed of decorative grass, always green—never in the now popular pinks and yellows—which we placed at the foot of our beds on the night before Easter. The candy left by the bunny was always the same. The centerpiece was a large chocolate covered cream filled egg, surrounded with a chocolate cross, yellow peeps, marshmallow filled eggs, solid chocolate mini eggs in bright foil, a large sprinkle of jellybeans—and of course, the solid chocolate bunny.

It has been a tough winter everyone – continue the traditions of your youth. Enjoy a solid chocolate bunny or cream filled egg! (I now prefer dark chocolate – I am told it is healthier!)

### Author's Notes:

Based on June 2021 data:

- Americans spend about \$18 billion (about \$55 per person in the US) on Easter; the average person spends over \$150 for Easter related
- Approximately 180 million eggs are purchased to be dyed and decorated.
- Approximately 90 million chocolate bunnies are made world-wide each year, and 90% of Americans include them in their Easter baskets.
- Confession: My daughter just turned 51; I still send her an Easter basket.

## **Smithfield Public Schools District Strategic Planning Community Forum**

Thank you to all faculty, staff, administrators, students, parents, and community leaders who participated and volunteered their time during the Smithfield Public Schools District Strategic Planning Community Forum. It was a thought-provoking opportunity for all stakeholders to participate in the future trajectory of our public schools. - Senator David P. Tikoian











### The Chief's Corner

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

# Spring Cleaning Fire Safety Tips

Every season brings its own safety hazards. Spring is the time we traditionally clean up our homes or businesses. Here are a few things you can add to your list: Check your dryer vents and the hose/ pipe connecting the dryer to the outside vent. Clean out any lint. Simply cleaning the lint filter on the dryer is not sufficient to prevent dryer fires.

- Clean up clutter both inside your home/business and outside on your property. Know that the excessive accumulation of clutter is dangerous and does lead to serious fires.
- If you used a fireplace this winter, now is a good time to have it cleaned and inspected. Contact a licensed chimney professional.
- As always, make sure you check the batteries and test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Remember, you need to replace any smoke alarm older than ten (10) years and any carbon monoxide alarm older than seven (7) years.
- Use caution when fueling lawn mowers and other small engines. Store gasoline only in approved containers with the lids closed tightly, and never store the fuel anywhere in your home. Let hot lawnmowers and other equipment cool down before storing or refueling.

- Trim any trees or bushes that are close to your home. Trimming away any bushes or trees that are too close to your house creates a "defensible space" between your home and potential fire sources. Additionally, if you have dead or dying trees, now is an excellent time to remove them. Dead vegetation is highly flammable and can easily catch fire.
- Check your gas grill for rust, worn parts, grease, and other debris before use. Grilling is a popular spring and summer activity, but it's essential to ensure your grill is clean and in safe operational order before firing it up for the first burger of the season. Remove any rust, grease, or debris built up over the winter. Inspect all parts to make sure they are in good working condition. If you notice any worn parts, have them replaced. It's a great time to check your grill's propane tank for gas leaks.
- Move the grill at least 10 ft. away from the house before use. It's essential to keep your gas grill at least ten feet away from your home when in use. This will help prevent any accidental fires from happening. Additionally, make sure that the area around the grill is clear of any debris or flammable materials
- Make sure your home's address is visible from the street. If your

- home's address is not visible from the street, it will be difficult for emergency responders to find your home in the event of a fire or other emergencies. Make sure that your house number is visible and easy to read from the street. If you need to, repaint or replace your address sign.
- Outdoor Fire Pits The necessary safety precautions for an outdoor fire pit are much the same as for a grill, plus a few others:
  - ▶ Never leave young children unattended near a fire in the pit.
  - Fill a bucket with water and set it next to the pit before you even begin building the fire.
  - ► Avoid throwing leaves, pine cones, pine needles and paper into the fire. They catch fire quickly and can result in dangerous floating embers.
  - ▶ Unless there's an emergency, avoid dumping the entire bucket of water on the fire to put it out. Instead, spread the pieces of fuel as far apart as possible and gently sprinkle water over them until there are no more glowing embers. This prevents the scatter of embers and a thick cloud of smoke
  - ► Toast your marshmallows over the embers rather than the flames. This not only gives them that perfect golden crust, but prevents them from catching on fire.

## Celebrating St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day at the Smithfield Senior Center



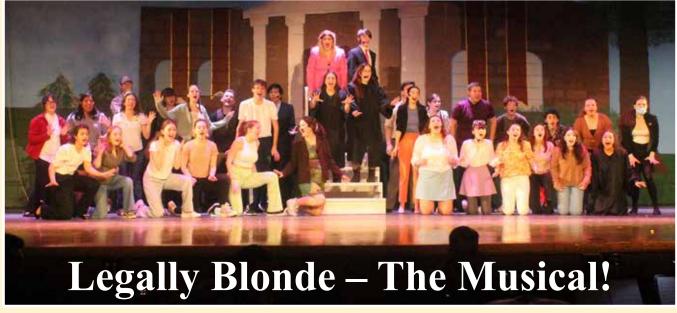
## In Our Community



## SHS Scoop

by Ellorie Corcoran





On the weekend of March 10, 2023, Smithfield residents had the opportunity to see the theater revived again at Smithfield High School for their annual musical. This year, students in the music department spent three months rehearsing and preparing Legally Blonde. Legally Blonde follows Elle Woods, played by Rosemary Fochler, who tries to win back the "love of her life," Warner Huntington III, played by Garrett Moroni. She works to get into Harvard Law to stay with him and continues to fight against stereotypes to prove herself. Legally Blonde is a comedy that battles stereotypes and empowers people to be who they are and not what others think they should be.

However, this was a very special year due to an exciting event that happened at the end of the Sunday, March 12th show. After bows, the cast stayed on stage, and the audience stayed in their seats. Rosemary Fochler handed out flowers to various adults who helped with the production, and then

Danny Roy, a supporter of the music department, called up Co-Direction and Music Teacher Katherine Young.

A chair was pulled up for her, and Roy invited a group of alumni to the stage. Each alumni member gave a brief speech about how Mrs. Young and the music department had impacted them, and there were no dry eyes in the house. It



Music Teacher, Katherine Young

See Legally Blond, page 25









Legally Blond from page 24

is clear from the way the students spoke so highly of Mrs. Young that she has impacted them and the school community in an impactful way. The cast, crew, alumni, and audience warmly honored this influential teacher and mentor.

Finally, the celebration of Mrs. Young continued with a very special surprise. Two alumni brought out an award for Mrs. Young as a gift of gratitude. Mrs. Young was in absolute shock as she accepted the gift, her heart clearly touched by the kind words and acts of her students and fellow music department supporters.

These students created their very own Tony Award.
They awarded Mrs. Young with the very first Smithfield
High School "Outstanding Achievement in Theatrical
Direction" trophy. Every show she has directed was
listed on the side of the award, with space for her to

continue adding to it in the years to come. Legally Blonde was not only a success, but created

opportunity to give appreciation and gratitude to one of the teachers who enhances Smithfield High School and by creating a positive environment for the arts. Mrs. Young has kept the arts alive at the high school and will continue to inspire students to appreciate and support the arts.

We thank you Mrs. Young – for all your dedication and love for the SHS music program!





Ask Our Attorney

Terrance N. Turner, Esq.

This legal column is only for purposes of general discussion of the law. It is not designed for purposes of legal advice for your own personal case, nor is any given. Discussion in this column should not be relied on without a consultation with your own personal attorney. No attorney-client relationship is established between the reader and Turner Law Offices.

### Lemons, Lemons ... What to Do With All These Lemons!

When God (or life) gives ya' lemons, well, make lemonade! Sounds easy enough, no?

Somebody, somewhere has given many of us lots of lemons during the last couple of years or so. When this occurs, it's usually well beyond our control or even knowledge until it actually hits us.

Lemons arrive in many different forms, often with different kinds of packaging: auto accidents, divorce, personal injuries, taxes, inflation, frazzled relationships, unexpected bills, poor job performance evaluations, noisy neighbors, dead batteries, bad transmissions, overseas viruses and a million-and-one other of life's little transgressions. Some are minor, even comical at times; others, much more serious, even life-changing.

The biggest lemon most of us have had to face during the past two or three years is that of the covid virus. You won't find much comedy in this lemon, that's for sure. Regardless of where it originated from (most researchers point to China) and whether it was an accidental 'escapee' from a lab or done with malicious intent for geopolitical purposes (the jury is still out on this), it effected the lives of people across the globe. Nearly every facet of everyday life has been impacted by covid, on a personal as well as on a professional level.

One of the most destructive effects of covid is the closure (some temporary, many permanent) of businesses across the nation, both small and large. It's pretty difficult, if not impossible, to manage and operate your business if you yourself and or your employees and staff are unable to continue to work regularly and consistently. Many a business were already hanging on by a thread, only to find out yet another employee would be out with covid. I will leave for a later discussion the question as to whether some employees stayed out of work due to real illness or because the government was paying them more money to stay home.

When push came to shove, many businesses made the decision to close down because they weren't solvent enough to pay their operating expenses. You can only take so many punches to the gut before you collapse on the mat. Ditto for many individuals across the nation. Finding themselves now out of work because their employer is no more, many average everyday working people (read: the rapidly disappearing American middle class) faced bills they couldn't pay and job prospects they couldn't count on. Double gut punch here.

These lemons brought many to contemplate what, just a few years ago, was unthinkable: bankruptcy. The whole concept of bankruptcy has fascinating cultural, political and ideological

components for someone interested in more than just how to file for it.

There are several different types of bankruptcy you can choose from if you have no other alternatives. These different choices are commonly referred to as 'chapters' since that's how they're identified under the federal law known as the Bankruptcy Code. This article discusses the most common ones generally known to the public: Chapter 7; Chapter 11; Chapter 13. These are the ones most often discussed with a client (individual or business) who's here at my law office looking for a 'way out' of a mountain of debt of one kind or another.

Clients are sometimes surprised that, rather than just jump into a bankruptcy filing from the get-go, I explore every conceivable possible way of avoiding it. Sometimes the client is successful in doing so, other times not, leaving bankruptcy as the only viable option. At the end of the day, of course, it's the client's decision to file bankruptcy or not, but at least I'm able to point out options they often have not thought of.

Especially if the outstanding debt the client owes is not really that much, he can consider things such as: simply

See Ask Our Attorney, page 25

working out repayment plans with creditors. Now on this option, many clients have admittedly tried this on their own already, but without success. On occasion, your lawyer may be a bit more persuasive at this and, in any case, is at least worth a try.

Another option that I've found most clients never think about is taking a loan on their life insurance policy(ies). Obviously, this presupposes that the client has life insurance to begin with and that it has a loan feature (many policies don't). I've found this a way out of bankruptcy for several clients over the years. It's amazing, really, the relief clients feel if they can avoid filing for bankruptcy. It's almost like giving them a new lease on life.

A second possible way out of

bankruptcy is to get an advance on earnings from your employer. Now, let's call a spade a spade: most employers aren't too inclined to do this. However, I've been able to arrange this for a handful of clients over the years. Another option, for clients willing to do so, is to sell off some of their personal property. This doesn't usually work with large debt, but with relatively small debt, it is sometimes just what the doctor ordered.

Savings bonds may have gone the way of high-button shoes and leisure suits, but with the older, more elderly clients, whom may have bought bonds years ago when they were much more common, I've found sometimes that they've forgotten that they even have them, sitting in a safe or maybe a bank safe deposit box. If you've got them, why

not use them to help get your debt under control without filing for bankruptcy.

The last option I'll mention here, due to article length limitations, is, ironically, borrowing money! Yes, you read that right, borrowing money from someone near and dear to you is actually, in my experience, the option clients consider more than any other option out there. Seems ironic, doesn't it, that you might avoid bankruptcy by borrowing money.

Stay tuned. I'll continue this in a later article.

-

Terrance N. Turner, HON. Turner Law Offices 401-499-7047 FAX 401-231-4511 turnerlawcenter@cox.net



## SMITHFIELD EARTH DAY 2023



### EARTH DAY LITTER CLEAN-UP

APRIL 22, 2023 9:00A.M.-12:00P.M. SIGN-IN/SUPPLIES AT THE DEEFIELD PARK CONCESSION STAND CLEAN UP LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT TOWN

INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, GROUPS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE. THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO MEET COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS. ALL CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 NEED TO HAVE AN ADULT CHAPERONE PRESENT TO PARTICIPATE.

TO REGISTER AN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP IN ADVANCE OR FOR QUESTIONS, EMAIL RECYCLE@SMITHFIELDRI.COM OR CALL 401-233-1034 X105

## Smithfield Broker Recipient of The Ben G. Mondor Award from the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce

Chris Whitten, Broker/Owner of Premeer Real Estate, recently received the Ben G. Mondor Award from the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce at the chamber's 32nd Annual Celebration held on February 28th at Bally's Twin River Lincoln Casino Resort. This award is presented annually to honor a Chamber member who exhibits the same philanthropic spirit that Ben Mondor, former owner of the Pawtucket Red Sox, had and who goes above and beyond philanthropically within the community.

Whitten was honored for his many contributions to the community including Premeer Gives Back (PGB), a program he launched in 2019 that donates \$150 of each successful closing to a local charity on the PGB beneficiary list. Since its inception in April of 2019, Premeer Real Estate has proudly donated \$71,250 for local charities and non-profit organizations through its Premeer Gives Back Program. A few of the local charities and organizations that have benefited from the Premeer Gives Back



**Chris Whitten** 

Program over the past three years include the Izzy Foundation, The CASA Project, Pawfect Life Rescue, Earth LTD, and Project New Hope.

"Even though this award has my name on it, it's shared equally with my amazing wife, Lindsey Whitten, our entire Premeer Real Estate family, and our beloved clients. They truly deserve the accolades!" said Premeer Real Estate Broker/Owner, Chris Whiten. "One person can only accomplish so much. But as a team, we can move mountains. Together, we can truly make a difference."

Premeer Real Estate was established in 2013 by its broker, Chris Whitten. It has three locations –Smithfield, RI, Uxbridge, MA and Auburn, MA and is licensed in RI, MA & CT. Premeer Real Estate specializes in making their

clients feel like family, and not just another business transaction. The REALTORS at Premeer Real Estate provide expert guidance and consultation during the real estate journey, while making it a stress-free and enjoyable experience. Chris Whitten was awarded Rhode Island's 'REALTOR of the Year' in 2021. For more information, please contact broker/ owner, Chris Whitten at 401.527.1004.





## The Nature of Things | by James Gass

### **Vernal Pools Are Unique But Fragile Oases**

Vernal pools are a unique and important wetland habitat found throughout Rhode Island, including Smithfield. They are isolated, shallow depressions in the woods that fill with snowmelt or rainwater in the spring, though some fill with rain or groundwater in the fall. Vernal pools can be as large as an acre or as small as a couple yards across, but the key feature they all share is that they dry up during the summer, so fish cannot live there. Without hungry fish, entire miniature ecosystems can flourish.

Rhode Island has several species of amphibians that use these ephemeral habitats to lay their eggs. Wood frogs, spotted salamanders, and marbled salamanders are all obligate vernal pool breeders, which means that although they live in the woods for most of the year, they need these pools to complete their life cycle. Gray treefrogs, spring peepers, American toads, and eastern newts will also use vernal pools to lay their eggs, but they are more likely to use permanent water bodies, such as ponds. How long a pool stays flooded determines which amphibians will be found there. The timing from when the eggs are laid, to the growth of the young and emergence from the pool, varies for each species. In our area, wood frog juveniles emerge in June, spotted salamanders, in August.

Wood frogs are the earliest obligate breeders to move into the pools, usually after the first warm rain in March (around 45°F). The mating call of the male wood frog sounds like a quacking duck. Spotted salamanders are second in, often converging on the pools in large



**Wood Frog By Jim Gass** 

numbers. Once in the pool, they engage in a behavior known as a "congress," where males court females in large, swirling swarms. Both species move on rainy nights.

Wood frogs engage in communal egg deposition. This is where many females lay their jelly-like egg masses in one large aggregation at the water's surface. Unlike wood frogs, spotted salamanders lay their eggs singly, but both species attach their globular egg masses to a submerged branch or some sort of aquatic vegetation. The egg masses for both look similar, but wood frog egg masses have dozens of more small, darkly colored embryos.

Marbled salamanders are less common in Rhode Island than wood frogs or spotted salamanders. They lay their eggs singly or in small clusters at the edge of a dry pool in the fall. The eggs do not hatch until covered in water, usually by late fall or early winter. The advantage to this is that by the spring, marbled salamander young will be further along in development than the other species, and will get first dibs on the food items in the pool. Sometimes their food is the other amphibian larvae.

Vernal pools can also have rich

invertebrate populations. Fairy shrimp, an ethereal species that resemble brine shrimp, are usually found in the more remote pools. The eggs of these crustaceans survive when being dried out in the summer, then hatch when the pool fills the following spring (diapausing eggs). Several species of caddisflies can also be found there, as well as damselfly and dragonfly nymphs, predacious diving beetle larvae, fingernail

clams, and backswimmers.

As development increases in Rhode Island, these fragile oases may be in jeopardy. The biggest danger to migrating amphibians is road density. Many are killed crossing streets while en route to their preferred pools. Wood frogs seem to be the most sensitive to this phenomenon. Research conducted at URI by Scott Egan found that egg mass abundance of wood frogs (but also spotted salamanders) decreased with even incremental increases of habitat loss. More needs to be done to protect areas with relatively low road densities if we are to maintain viable populations of these unique creatures.

The Wolf Hill Forest Preserve, managed by the Smithfield Land Trust, is a wonderful place to find egg masses and listen for wood frogs. There are several easy-to-find pools right off the trails. One is along the Ken Weber Trail, just south of where it meets the World War II Memorial Trail. Smithfield resident Jonathan Twining, who teaches biology at

See The Nature of Things, page 31



Strength in optimism. Hope in progress.

December 13, 2022

**Smithfield Times** Smithfield, RI

### Dear Editor,

Thank you for publishing the wonderful article about Terry Leary. Your critical support helps us fulfill our mission as we provide the support, education, and research that will help everyone impacted by Parkinson's disease live life to the fullest.

APDA recognizes that you have a choice in how you direct your charitable donations, and nothing is more important to us than ensuring that you are acknowledged for your efforts. APDA receives no government or other public funding, so the generosity of people like you is an asset as we fund science at APDA Centers for Advanced Research at eight of our country's most prestigious academic and medical institutions, and allows us to provide continuing support, education, and important programs to over 1 million afflicted Americans and their caregivers.

With my deepest thanks for your unwavering commitment and shared optimism that one day we will put an end to Parkinson's disease. Our work is not possible without partners like you and for that we couldn't be more grateful!

Warm Regards,

Michelle Mach

Rhode Island Chapter Coordinator

The Nature of Things from page 30

Eastern Nazarene College, installed an informational sign there with his students, who have been monitoring the Preserve's pools over the years.

The most active sites and the best ones

to visit are the two largest pools on the property. One is just below the Airmen Memorial plaque on the Memorial Loop, the other is directly across from the Mercer Lookout parking area. Small circular signs at all the pools

remind visitors to be respectful of the habitat, but you can access the shore at any of the locations and look in with binoculars. There should be plenty of egg masses and wood frogs to see!

## **Human Carrying Kites of the 1890s**

By Jim Ignasher

Can you imagine yourself standing in the middle of an electrical storm, rain pelting your face, gusty winds howling, and instead of an umbrella, you're holding a kite? Me neither, but apparently Benjamin Franklin did just that on June 10, 1752. Contrary to popular belief, he wasn't trying to "discover" electricity, but rather was attempting to illustrate that lightning was an electrical discharge. And by the way, his kite was never actually hit by lightning, for if it had Ben would have been toast

The experiment led Franklin to invent the lightning rod for the protection of tall structures, but this wasn't the only time in history that kites were utilized for practical and scientific purposes. The origin of the kite dates to ancient times, and they've been produced in various sizes and shapes over the centuries.

Franklin wasn't the only one to recognize their potential when it came to uses other than toys. One example was Professor J. Woodbridge Davis, of New York, who incorporated the kite in rescuing survivors from shipwrecks. His idea was to utilize a large six-pointedstar shaped kite to carry a line out to stranded ships foundering offshore. In April of 1893, he tested his idea when a kite was launched from the Brenton Reef Lightship off the Rhode Island Coast. The 25-mph wind easily carried it to shore a mile-and-a-half away, and the whole experiment took forty-one minutes.

In 1895 the Boston Aeronautical Society was founded at the Blue Hills observatory in Milton, Massachusetts. It was there that kite experiments were carried out to study meteorology and aeronautics. It was hoped that the society's kite designs might lead to airships capable of transporting humans. In one experiment conducted on July

21, 1896, several kites strung in tandem reached the amazing altitude of 7,200 feet – a world record for the time.

One member of the society was William A. Eddy of New Jersey, inventor of the "Eddy Kite." On May 30, 1895, he took the first kite-aerial-photograph by operating the attached camera remotely from the ground. In August of 1896 he took several aerial pictures of Boston, some taken from as high as 1,500 feet.

In the autumn of 1896, meteorological instruments were attached to a series of newly developed kites strung together to study high altitude weather. These kites reportedly reached an altitude of 9,000 feet!

While some studied weather, others envisioned kites large enough to carry an adult human. In 1902, several newspapers carried the story of a Boston couple, Daniel Rice, Jr., and his wife Almenia, who did just that. Both had been circus performers, he a clown, and she a balloonist - aeronaut. In the summer of 1901, he'd constructed a kite made of wood and canvas that was fourteen feet tall and fourteen feet wide, capable of lifting his 125-pound wife. The apparatus reportedly made its successful inaugural flight from the roof of a hotel at 144 Tremont Street in Boston, however Mrs. Rice was not aboard, and instead the kite carried a weight of 125 pounds.

Mrs. Rice eventually flew in her kite, thus making her what the press called "the first woman in the world to navigate the air with a kite as a craft."

Another member of the Boston Aeronautical Society was Charles H. Lamson of Maine who constructed a massive kite known as "The Lamson Airship", capable of carrying a

150-pound person. In August of 1896, he sent it aloft carrying a human dummy. Unfortunately, the wire broke when the kite reached 600 feet, but he'd set a record for the largest kite ever flown, and

the heaviest weight to the highest altitude by a kite

What made Lamson's Airship unique was that he'd installed



levers to control the "wings", thereby allowing the "pilot" to control the descent and land safely should the wire connecting the kite to the ground suddenly break.

There were others who experimented with human-lifting kites such as the United States military. The military saw the practical applications for forward observers and artillery spotters who would no longer be required to find high ground or tall structures to report enemy movements. The army had been using balloons for such purposes since the American Civil War, but kites were easier to transport and deploy. However, the advent of airplanes made the whole idea obsolete.

Kites large enough to carry human cargo require a lot of area to gain the required lift, and those mentioned here pale in comparison to what is said to be the largest kite in the world; the Al Majd Kite, which flew in Beijing, China, in 2018. It has a massive 8,769 square feet of fabric and is 216.5 feet long by 131.2 feet wide.

Something to ponder the next time you

## Revive the Roots – Community Seed Exchange

Was held Sunday, March 12 at Mowry Commons in Smithfield. Members from the community came together to plant seeds in preparation of spring. Seeds and resources were provided by Revive the Roots, Providence Seed Library, Sanctuary Herbs, Freed Seed Federation, and Young Farmers Network. All seeds (and people) were welcome!

Photos courtesy of Mark B. Carrier











### East Smithfield Public Library

50 Esmond Street, Smithfield, RI 02917 Contact: Frank Floor - 401-231-5150 x5; Bethany Mott - 401-231-5150 x2



### **Children's Programming:**

**Tiny-Tots Story Time:** (children 18 months to 3 years old)

Tuesday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Preschool Story Time:** (children ages 3 to 5 years old) Wednesday mornings from 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Bookworms Book Group:** 

Thursday, April 6th @ 4:30 p.m.

Saturday Specials: April 1st @ 10:30 a.m. – Easter Egg

Hunt; and April 15th @ 10:30 a.m. – Family Story Time.

**BINGO and Popcorn:** 

April 10th from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Project Chick (Casey Farm)** 

Tuesday, April 11th @ 2:00 p.m.

Pajama Story Time:

Thursday, April 13th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Arts and Crafts Club:** 

Monday, April 17th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Yoga for Kids:

Monday, April 17th @ 10:30 a.m.

Middle School Book Group:

Wednesday, April 19th @ 3:30 p.m.

"Books Are Fun!" Book Group:

Thursday, April 20th @ 4:30 p.m.

**Kindergarten Countdown**:

Thursday, April 20th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

### **Young Adult Programming:**

**Fantasy Map Building:** 

Tuesday, April 4th at 4:00 p.m.

**Crafternoon: Squeegee Painting:** 

Tuesday, April 18th @ 3:30 p.m.

**High School Book Group:** 

Friday, April 21th from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Creative Writing Workshop:** 

Saturday, April 22nd at 11:00 a.m.

### **Adult Programming:**

**Drop-In Tech Help:** 

Every Monday @ 11:00 a.m.

Virtual Game Night:

Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m.

Walk & Talk Book Chat:

Thursday Mornings @ 11:00 a.m.

**Introduction to the Cricut Maker 3: Heat Transfer Vinyl:** 

Saturday, April 1st @ 1:00 p.m.

Adult Craft: Marbled Shaving Cream Eggs:

Monday, April 3rd from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Matinee Movie: Wednesday, April 5th @ 1:00 p.m.

Card Club: Thursday, April 6th @ 5:30 p.m.

**Introduction to 3-D Printing:** 

Monday, April 10th and Monday, April 17th @ 6:30 p.m.

Intro to Bloxels: Tuesday, April 11th @ 6:00 p.m.

**Knitting and Crochet Group:** 

Tuesdays – April 11th and 25th at 6:30 p.m.

3Doodler: Learning How to Draw in 3D!:

Wednesday, April 12th and Wednesday, April 19th from

3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Introduction to the Cricut Maker 3: Basic Vinyl:** 

Thursday, April 13th from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Little Bits: Tuesday, April 18th @ 5:00 p.m.

**Introduction to the Cricut Maker 3: Infusible Ink:** 

Thursday, April 20th from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**Tabletop Game Night:** Thursday, April 20th @ 6:00 p.m.

Cricut Club: Saturday, April 22nd @ 1:00 p.m.

**Craft – DIY Candles:** 

Monday, April 24th @ 11:00 a.m. and Tuesday, April 25th

@ 6:00 p.m.

Fantasy Book Club: Monday, April 24th @ 6:00 p.m.

**Introduction to Sphero Edu:** 

Monday, April 24th @ 5:00 p.m.

**Lego Brick Films:** Tuesday, April 25th @ 6:00 p.m.

Thursday Night Book Club:

Thursday, April 27th @ 6:00 p.m.

### **Friends of the Library Events:**

**Annual Spring Egg Hunt:** 

Saturday, April 1st @ 10:30 a.m. outside the library.

25th Annual Plant Swap & Sale:

Saturday, April 22nd in the library parking lot.

Coffee, Cake & Conversation Book Group:

Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Little Free Food Pantry: Open during library hours.

Future Jewelry Sale: FOL Accepting donations of

costume and fine jewelry for future jewelry sale.

*Email Contact:* friends.east.smithfield.library@gmail.com;

next meeting: Saturday, April 8th @ 1:00 p.m.



### **Greenville Public Library**

573 Putnam Pike, Greenville, RI 02828 Contact: Cassie Patterson • 401-949-3630 ext 117 greenvilleasstdirector@gmail.com • greenvillelibraryri.org



Greenville Library Annual Poetry Contest Poets of all ages are invited to enter the Greenville Public Library annual poetry contest, presented in partnership with the Woodland Whispers Committee. Poets may submit their poems from April 3 through April 14. Poets may submit their poems in person at the library, by mail, or through an online form on our website at greenvillelibraryri.org. All poets will be invited to share their poems at a poetry reading and reception at the library on Saturday, April 29 at 1:00 pm. The winners will be announced at the reception. Refreshments will be served.

### **Children's Events:**

### **Spring Storyhour:**

Registration Week: 4/17 - 4/22 Sessions: 4/24 - 5/22 American Girl Book Group: Monday, April 4 at 4:15 pm **STEAM with Miss Hailey-Rose:** 

Wednesday, April 5 at 4:15 pm

Chickenology with Isabella and Savannah Vargas:

Saturday, April 8 at 2:00 pm Game Day Every Friday:

Drop in anytime between 2:30 and 4:30 pm. Play board games! Bring a friend or make a new one.

Money Smart Week | April 11- 15: Estimation Fun! School Vacation Library Fun: Week of April 10 - 14 PAWS to Read – Monday, April 10 at 6:00 pm

Big Nazo's Station Creature - Helmet - Mask Making-**Situation:** Tuesday, April 11 from 11:00 – 2:00 pm **Project Chick:** Wednesday, April 12 at 10:00 am

Family Program

**Sensory Storytime:** Thursday, April 13 at 4:15

Hubbub Bowl Game Program: Friday, April 14 at 10:00 am

Earth Day: Seeds in Jars and Dirt for Dessert:

Saturday, April 22 at 1:00 pm

Share a Graphic Novel Book Group:

Tuesday, April 25 at 4:15 pm

**April is National Poetry Month** 

Children of all ages are encouraged to add a poem they have written to the children's room poetry tree!

### **Teen Events:**

**Magic: The Gathering (Grades 6-12)** Monday, April 3, 6:00-8:00 pm

**Board Game Hangout (Grades 6-12)** 

Thursday, April 6, 3:30-4:30 pm

**Teen Advisory Board (Grades 6-12):** 

Monday, April 10, 6:00-7:00 pm

Let's Play Pokémon (Grades 3-12):

Tuesday, April 11, 3:30-4:30 pm

**Therapy Dog Hangout (Grades 6-12):** 

Wednesday, April 12, 6:00-7:00 pm

Cozy Craft: Bohemian Yarn Wall Hanging (Grades

Thursday, April 13, 3:30-4:30 pm

Teen Bake Off: Cinnamon Rolls (Grades 6-12):

Saturday, April 15, 9:30-10:30 am

The Middles: STEAM Mystery Engineering Challenge

(**Grades 4-6**): Monday, April 24, 6:00-7:00 pm Cozy Craft: Mindful Coloring (Grades 6-12):

Thursday, April 27, 3:30-4:30 pm

Virtual Community Service Hours (Grades 6-12):

Visit our website to fill out an online application: https://

greenvillelibraryri.org/teens/volunteer.

### **Adult Events**

Please register online on our event calendar at greenvillelibraryri.org or by calling 401-949-3630.

**Virtual Book Chat**: Thursday, April 6 & 20 at 6:00 pm **Coffee & Books**: Wednesday, April 12 at 10:30 am Monday Matinee: Monday, April 24 at 2:00 pm **Knitting Mavens**: Every Tuesday at 6:00 pm Mystery Book Club: Tuesday, April 4 at 1:30 pm

Picnic Table Reads Book Club: Thursday, April 20 at 1:00 pm Home Sweet Home Book Club: Monday, April 24 at 6:30 pm Join us from home for our Zoom book club. Check our

website for this month's book selection.

Paint and Chillax With Sylvia Delaney

Monday, April 17 at 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

### First-Time Homebuyers Workshop

Monday, April 17 at 6:00 pm

Learn about the newest Rhode Island down payment assistance program and see if you qualify. The RI Statewide DPA Grant offers a \$17,500 grant to first-time homebuyers in Rhode Island. Please register.

See Greenville Public Library, page 37



## **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:

### **Emmanual:**

Say hello to Emmanual - he is pure love. This big, beautiful boy is very sweet, social and enjoys his playtime. He is FIV positive. Feline immunodeficiency virus does not require special food or medicine. He has a compromised immune system and due to this, it takes him a little more time to get over



something, like a cold for example. Emmanual also has a bit of a stuffy nose. His nasal passage has a small fracture. He can be sneezy and runny sometimes. This also gives EMMANUAL the cutest little snore.

### MAKO:

Mako is a 5-year-old neutered male with the most striking markings. Up to date on shots.

FIV Positive. Mako loves to purr and he also loves receiving attention throughout the day. He does NOT get along with other cats. Mako has been around a dog and seems fine with that. When his foster mom first took



him home, he was nibbling a bit. Over time, he has relaxed and enjoys his days sitting on his perch basking in the sun. Mako would love nothing more a forever home all to himself with the right family willing to give him a chance.



### JAZZ:

Meet Jazz! Jazz is a cat with a very special circumstance. She was found living in the streets as a cat that is front declawed and already spayed. It is clear she once lived in a home. As you can imagine, she was somewhat angry and defensive when she arrived here. She can be temperamental at times, and she does not like other cats. Jazz needs a quiet home with someone that will give her the time and space to allow her to come to them. Jazz has made amazing improvements here at the Cat Center



and she is ready for the next chapter in her life.

### 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.

### https://www.communitycatcenter.com/adoptions.html

A no-kill shelter is an animal shelter that does not kill healthy or treatable animals even when the shelter is full, reserving euthanasia for terminally ill animals or those considered dangerous to public safety.



### Greenville Public Library

573 Putnam Pike, Greenville, RI 02828 Contact: Cassie Patterson • 401-949-3630 ext 117 greenvilleasstdirector@gmail.com • greenvillelibraryri.org



Greenville Public Library from page 35

**Bone Builders:** Every Monday at 11:00 am Every Friday at 1:30 pm\* Drop-in, no registration required!

No class on Friday, April 28. The Library will be closing early at 1:00 pm.

**Exhibits: Giles Cloutier:** April – May 2023 Local artist Giles Cloutier will exhibit his paintings at the Greenville Public Library through April and May. Cloutier's exhibit will include a selection of oil, acrylic, and watercolor paintings.

A former Greenville resident, Cloutier has exhibited

in Rhode Island, including the Cranston, Cumberland, Warwick, and Woonsocket public libraries. He is a member of the Wickford Art Association and exhibits annually at the Wickford Art Festival. He has also exhibited at the Warwick Center for the Arts.

Cloutier's love of art started as a child and he began oil painting in the early 1980s. Following an illustrious career in the national and international tech industry, Cloutier was encouraged to pursue his artistic passions in retirement by his wife. Cloutier believes "there is something spiritual that happens while painting. I am fortunate. I have experienced that many times."



### Happy 14th Birthday Brady!

Brady is an energetic Jack Russell Terrier that celebrated his 14th birthday in February. This spry-yet-old-soul loves long walks around the neighborhood, meeting the local dogs, and howling at the sirens of police cars in the distance. He recently traveled to Naples, Florida with his parents Karen and John, truly living his retirement years to the fullest! Brady is the only pet in the family and loves being the king of the house. Cheers to many more years for Brady!

We LOVE pets at The Smithfield Times. Let's celebrate our furry, squirmy, or scaley friends every month. Submit a brief description and photo to brittni@smithfieldtimesri.net to be featured in the May issue of the magazine. Submissions might also be used on our Instagram.



## Smithfield Times Recipe Swap

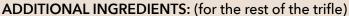
### **Lemon-Berry Trifle**

Submitted by Nik Delfino @bakedpvd

Send us your favorite recipe for a chance to be featured in the May issue! Email submissions to brittni@smithfieldtimesri.net

### **INGREDIENTS:**

- Freshly made lemon curd (makes about three cups)
- 1/2 cup of lemon juice, freshly squeezed (from about 4 lemons)
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 stick unsalted butter, room temperature
- 5 large or extra large eggs, room temperature
- pinch of kosher salt



- 1-2 store-bought pound cakes or angel food cakes (use 1 for smaller groups, up to 6, 2 for larger groups.
- 1.5x Lemon Curd recipe if you're making a larger dessert)
- 1.5 2 lb. assorted berries of your choosing, washed and dried (strawberries, blueberries, raspberries - anything you like!)
- Whipped Cream (store bought or homemade)

### METHOD OF PREP

- 1. To make the lemon curd (this will need to be done at least one day in advance of assembling your trifle), start by beating together the butter and sugar in a stand mixer fitted with paddle attachment or with a hand-held mixer. Beat until thoroughly combined, 1-2 minutes.
- 2. Reduce the speed of your mixer and add your eggs, one at a time, waiting until the first egg is incorporated until mixing in additional eggs.
- 3. Add salt and lemon juice and mix until combined. At this point the mixture will look curdled. Don't panic!
- 4. Transfer your mixture to a medium sized pot. Cook over medium-low heat, stirring the mixture constantly, but gently. Be sure to scrape the bottom as sides of the pot as you stir.
- 5. Cook the lemon curd until the mixture reaches a temperature of 170 degrees fahrenheit, starts to thicken and can coat the back of a spoon.
- 6. Transfer lemon curd to a bowl, lay a piece of plastic wrap directly over the lemon curd and put in refrigeration to cool overnight.
- 7. The day you're serving your dessert is when you'll want to assemble the trifle. Start by washing your berries and cutting up any larger berries. Set aside.
- 8. Dice your pound cake or angel food cake. Set aside.
- 9. Start to make your layered dessert in a large, preferably glass, bowl. Start with a layer of pound cake pieces, then a layer of lemon curd, a layer of berries and finally, a layer of whipped cream. Continue in this manner until your bowl is filled, ending with whipped cream as your final layer. Garnish the top with additional berries or mint. Refrigerate until ready to serve (preferably later that same day, cake pieces may get soggy if the dessert sits for too long).

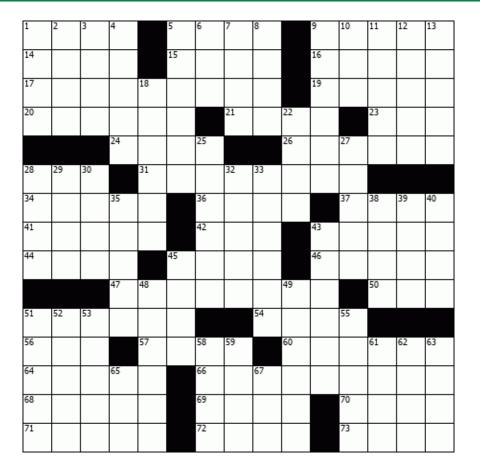




## Crossword Puzzle

### **Across**

- 1. Flightless bird
- **5**. Ray
- 9. Hot sauce
- **14**. Grand
- **15**. " upon a time..."
- 16. Sends forth
- 17. Tavern employee
- 19. Fork features
- 20. Rains ice
- 21. Religious subgroup
- 23. Goodness!
- 24. Bangkok native
- **26**. Vacation spot
- 28. Golf goal
- **31**. Nearly a score
- 34. Suspect's story
- **36**. Gradual
- 37. Common contraction
- **41**. Sudden fright
- 42. Ancient
- **43**. Goodbye (Fr.)
- 44. Invites
- 45. Pet pest
- 46. Memorize
- 47. Rug type
- 50. Bossy Stooge
- 51. Worked for
- **54**. Shade sources
- **56**. Wind direction (abbr.)
- **57**. Sharpen
- 60. Contaminates
- 64. See eye to eye
- 66. Escapade
- 68. Santa
- 69. Fleshy fruit
- 70. Thought
- 71. Belief
- 72. Picnic nuisances
- 73. At no time, in verse



### Down

- 1. Society gals
- 2. Milky gem
- 3. Desperate
- 4. Eight musicians
- 5. Tiny tree
- **6**. Discontinue
- 7. Experts
- 8. Insignificant
- 9. Small sofa
- **10**. French buddy
- 11. Jargon
- 12. Direct
- 13. Item of value
- 18. Cultural

- 22. Ship's company
- 25. Shoe part
- 27. Disparaging
- 28. Dad
- **29**. Lamenting cry
- **30**. Skating arena
- **32**. Actress Barkin
- **33**. Until now (2 wds.)
- 35. Buffalo
- **38**. Thailand, formerly
- **39**. Roman tyrant
- **40**. Ditty
- **43**. Rock's Brothers
- 45. Dog's name

- 48. Prepare leftovers
- 49. Modifies
- **51**. Put into effect
- **52**. Right
- **53**. Showed again
- **55**. Peaceful protest (hyph.)
- **58**. Wine-producing valley
- **59**. Adam's garden
- **61**. Bare
- 62. Lumber source
- **63**. Char
- 65. Poetic "before"
- 67. Cauldron



## The Ghost Of Hopkins Mill

By Thomas D'Agostino

www.tomdagostino.com

## **Dudleytown**; Part I

A deserted settlement deep in the woods of western Connecticut has been the subject of writings, short stories and even movies. Owlsbury was once the more common name for what we today call Dudleytown. The abandoned settlement is said to harbor demons, evil spirits, negative energy, and a host of other foreboding horrors that have caused people to either shun the area, or at present, risk being arrested while searching for the now forbidden ghost town. There are many narratives regarding the area and the negative energy that abounds within. Many have sworn to the old tales while others brush them off as legends created to scare the meek

Dudleytown is nestled on a plateau in the middle of three mountains and a hill. The original owner, Thomas Griffis, took deed to the area in 1738. Abiel and Barzillai Dudley, both soldiers in the French and Indian War, took title to a parcel of land in 1747, "on the road from the meeting house to Mr. Griffis." This would soon become known as Dudleytown. The Dudley family was said to have brought a family curse over from England where several of their ancestors were executed for various plots against the government.

At one point thirty-five families called Dudleytown their home. Names like Carter, Jones, Tanner, Dibble, Rogers and others, unknowingly made history by settling in the small town. The chief product was charcoal, for the area was heavily wooded.

It cannot be precisely discerned when

the horror stories about Dudleytown began to circulate. The 1938 Federal Writer's Project book on Connecticut gives the abandoned village but a small paragraph within its pages and not much more. It mentions the trail where hikers traverse to "the dead end and mystery of Dark Entry...no other road, other than a pack horse trail ever penetrated this forbidding region."

The writer continues;

"Tradition tells of a man, who with his wife, built a cabin in this wilderness. After an absence of two days, in which he tramped to the village for supplies, he returned to find his wife a raving maniac, driven mad by some terrifying experience which she was never able to relate "

The narrative most likely concerns Dr. William Clarke and his wife. The doctor bought a piece of land in Dudleytown and built a cabin as a summer retreat. He became one of the founders of the Dark Entry Forest Association, a group of people who bought land in and around Dudleytown to preserve the former settlement and woods around it. The entry in the book also states that there are graves deep in the woods of those who have gone in and died of starvation or an accident. The writer refers to the place as Dark Entry or Owlsbury but never once mentions it as Dudleytown. The term Dark Entry referred to a forty foot tunnel that ran from the road to the cellar of a home. Unfortunately, both are long gone but the name has stayed on creating ominous visions for those who read of the lost town.

One very famous account is that of Richard Brophy, the last inhabitant of Dudleytown. Brophy left his land in 1901 after his house burned to the ground. Before that, his sons disappeared after they were caught stealing sleigh robes, and his wife died of consumption shortly after. It is alleged that the man showed up at the local tavern half insane jabbering about half man- half animal cloven hoof beasts chasing him off his property. After that, he was never heard from again.

People suffered strange calamities while living in the cursed village. One of the Dudley brothers was found hacked to death near his home, another mysteriously fell from a ladder, one more died while visiting a neighbors home. These and many more were attributed to the curse and the demons. both visible and invisible that were said to inhabit the land.

Tales of people going insane ran rampant. Abiel Dudley was one of those who went mad, but he also was about ninety years old when he was considered feeble of mind. William Tanner was another Dudleytowner that was considered to have become feebleminded. He lived to be one hundred and four years old. Several other accounts tell of Dudleytowners going mad after witnessing what they called wild half human beasts. Dr William Clarke's wife was another as previously stated, but records indicate she died in a New York hospital from a physical illness. Part II next month.



## Obituaries





**Christopher O'Neill** 11/21/2022 www.winfieldandsons.com



John F. Murphy, Jr. 11/26/22 www.thequinnfuneralhome.com



Yolanda L. (Longo) Colanduono 12/1/22 www.thequinnfuneralhome.com



Cynthia C. (D'Amico) Clegg 12/6/22 www.thequinnfuneralhome.com



Gary T. LaFrance 12/9/22 www.thequinnfuneralhome.com



Frank Bursie 1/17/2023 www.maceroni.com



Caroline Silva 1/18/23 www.legacy.com



**James Raymond Tallman** 12/8/22

James Raymond Tallman passed away at his house in Lake Worth, Florida surrounded by family on December 8, 2022. Jim earned his wings, as he earned all his worldly honors, with extreme

fortitude and dignity.

Born in Providence, Rhode Island on June 21, 1959 to Robert J. Tallman, Sr. and Elizabeth A. (Mainey) Tallman. Jim grew up in Smithfield, Rhode Island graduating from Smithfield High School and Rhode Island College. Jim's small-town roots did not keep him in Little Rhody for long. After graduation, he began a lifetime of traveling and adventure throughout the US and Europe forging life-long friendships all along the way. Jim touched everyone with his humor, kindness, musical talent and unrelenting selflessness.

Jim's career as an executive in the hospitality industry allowed him to indulge his passions for entertaining, fine dining, and travel. Most of all, Jim loved the opportunities to meet new people and make new friends. Although his career took him to many places across the United States, for Jim, San Diego was home.

Jim will be forever missed by his siblings Maureen (Jim) Cotter, Patricia (Dan) Schumacher, Cheryle Tallman Short, Betsy (Joe) Short, Rob (Pam) Tallman, Karen Tallman Petroni, twenty nieces and nephews, twenty-eight grand nieces and nephews, two great grand nephews and all those whose friendship Jim so treasured.

Jim's family is planning a Celebration of Life event to be held in Narragansett, Rhode Island in early 2023. Donations in Jim's memory can be made to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation at https:// themmrf.org.

## Smithfield Times



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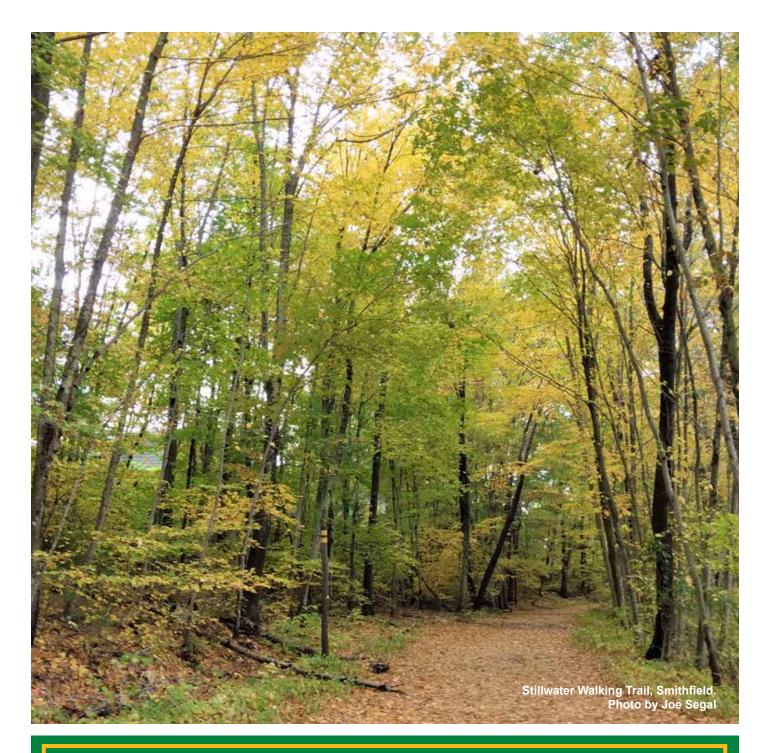
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The Smithfield Times does not assume any financial responsibility for typographical error in advertisements that have received final approval or are submitted camera ready.



Chickens from Revive the Roots, Smithfield. Photo courtesy of Mark B. Carrier

### **Answers to Crossword Puzzle from page 40.** D Α 0 s Ι R Т Ε N Ε Ε E s s Ε C G Ε Т Ε н Α 1 Ε S N Ν E E E N w s 0 I S N L 1 В I т o Α N I L D D I Ε U S s E K L E R Α 0 1 E D Ē Ĺ М Е Α R N S Е н 0 Ν т s N 1 Ν G R Е E E P R Α E Α N E



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