

The **Wickford** *Way*

A Monthly Newsletter For The Residents Of The Wickford Area • April 2021



meet the
Klievers

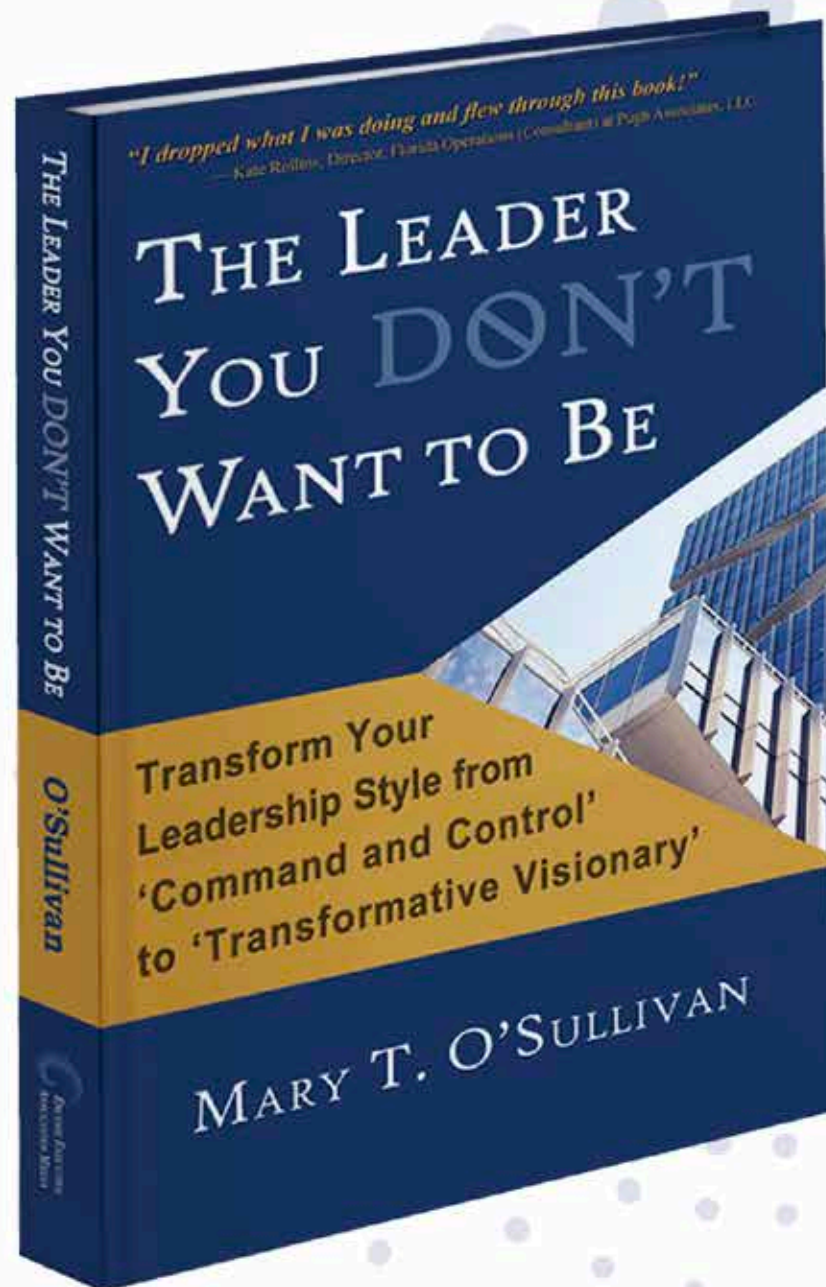
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Your Stories. Your Photos. Your Community.



MARY T. O'SULLIVAN

LEADERSHIP COACH AND EXPERT



LET'S GET SOCIAL



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This book is a daring callout to today's business leadership. Mary O'Sullivan is throwing down the gauntlet by saying it's beyond time for today's leaders to throw out the "Chieftain commands all" mentality and embrace 21st century thinking. When this happens, leadership can create great companies with great cultures that hire and guide great employees - who then create great results.

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The residents of the Wickford area!

We are always looking for residents to follow up on leads, find great stories, and send us ideas. Let's celebrate the great things happening in our community! No contribution is too small. Please email

WickfordWay@n2pub.com with your pictures, suggestions, or requests.

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NOTE: When community events take place, photographers may be present to take photos for that event and they may be used in this publication.



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ABOUT JOHN THOMAS CUNIC

John Thomas Cunic, a North Kingstown resident, is a certified educator and administrator. He brings 20+ years of experience in both higher education and secondary education as a former teacher, Director of College & Career Readiness, and Assistant Principal.

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focus on graduating seniors



Class of 2021!

The Wickford Way Magazine would like to do a tribute to all our graduating seniors in the July issue.

We would like all of the graduating seniors who receive *The Wickford Way* magazine to be featured in our July issue. Please have them email us a favorite photo of themselves. Along with this, please include four to six sentences on their high school accomplishments and plans after graduation. Please email this to **WickfordWay@n2pub.com** no later than May 30.

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summer internship opportunities

THE WICKFORD WAY IS HIRING

for Summer Interns

Summer is on the way and we are excited to begin taking applications for summer interns with *The Wickford Way*. We are looking for high school or college students for part-time internships. The position will be responsible for sourcing neighborhood articles focusing on families, kids, pets, and residents here in *The Wickford Way* neighborhoods. This is a paid position and perfect for a student who is interested in gaining experience in journalism and writing. Interested applicants should send an email to Tanja at tanja.carroll@n2pub.com for consideration.



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note from your publisher

Welcome to the April Edition

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the April edition of *The Wickford Way*! Spring is finally here and we are so excited to celebrate with some neighborhood stories to bring our community together. Hopefully, lots of our community will be vaccinated soon so that we can bring the community together by offering neighborhood events!

If you are new to the neighborhood, our monthly publication is designed with the purpose of helping neighbors get to know each other by sharing stories, photos, and articles all about kids, pets, and family life right here in the Wickford area. Please send us your photos of enjoying the outdoors this month! Also, we are gearing up for the July edition where we share our neighborhood high school graduates so send us your graduate's photo for inclusion in the July edition!



Thanks for being such a wonderful, helpful community. We love sharing your stories and creating a unique neighborhood publication each month. We look forward to hearing from you!

Tanja Carroll

meet your neighbors

Written by **Elizabeth McCabe**

Photos by **Josh Edenbaum Photography**



With Wickford businesswomen Lori Lyons and Julie Beebe as they start an April 2020 Facebook Live wagonette ride to showcase what merchants were selling online. Photo by Josh Edenbaum Photography.



Photo by Josh Edenbaum Photography.



Lenny. Photo by Josh Edenbaum Photography.

SAY HELLO TO THE KLIEVER FAMILY!

Meet Julie and Jack Kliever. They reside on W. Main Street with their two cats, Dora and Moose. In 2018, they moved to Wickford and it's home sweet home.

Julie says, "We've previously lived in three different states and in two other towns in Rhode Island before moving to North Kingstown. We've been fans of Wickford since we started living in Rhode Island in 1988. When an opportunity arose for us to rent the first floor of 75 W. Main St., we jumped at the chance, and have been even happier here than we ever imagined. The charm of this historic town combined with the ability to walk to shops, restaurants, library, drug store, grocery store, the harbor, the beach or the woods makes us feel as if we live in a storybook."

Julie grew up in Bucks County, PA. After attending the University of Michigan as an undergrad, she went to the University of Rhode Island to obtain a Master of Library and Information Science.

Jack spent his childhood in Brooklyn, NY. He attended Swarthmore College for his undergraduate degree and Salve Regina University for his Master of Criminal Justice Degree.

Julie says, "Both of us had completely different careers earlier in life. Jack was a hydrologist, and I was a network engineer."

For her current profession, Julie is a librarian at Providence College. She's volunteered with public library groups around the state, and also donates time to local get-out-the-vote efforts.

Jack is a retired Sergeant with the Newport Police Dept. Currently, he is the Vice President of the Wickford Village Association, Secretary of the Wickford Advisory Committee, and

a member of the Executive Board of the NK Democratic Town Committee. He has been a volunteer for various first-responder organizations, most recently with the RI Disaster Medical Assistance Team, which has been providing COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics.

Julie and Jack own two Percheron draft horse geldings (neutered male horses) named Lenny and Eddie. "The boys" reside at the historic Hazard Farm on Boston Neck Road, which has been restored in recent years by the Hoopes family.

A Love of Horses

"We've both loved horses our whole lives," smiles Julie. "We met in 1985 at a horse farm in Kingston, NY. I was boarding my horse there, and Jack was the hired help. It sounds like a sappy Hallmark movie, but it's true."

Back then, they never would have guessed that their love of horses would turn into a viable business, but it has.

Jack explains, "Our business, New Deal Horse and Carriage, began as 'New Deal Farm' in 1996. The name arose when we built a new house with an in-law apartment for Julie's mom, Jean, which subsequently gave us all a 'new deal.' At that time we owned two Belgian draft horses and only knew how to ride them, not drive them."

Fortunately, they were extremely lucky to strike up a friendship with the late Jim Timpson, who lived with his wife Doris on Stony Lane. Jim worked for the NK School Dept., but also owned big draft horses and had a lot of old-time farming skills.

Jack says, "He became our mentor and teacher as we learned how to harness and drive our horses. (Some folks may remember that Jim started the "hayrides with Santa" tradition for the Wickford Festival of Lights, which is now something we do. Whenever we have our horses in the Village, we think of Jim.) We started out driving just for the fun of it, occasionally being asked to provide a hayride for a birthday party. But demand for our services kept increasing and soon we were hired for school and town events around the state."

In 2003, Jack and Julie acquired a fancy white carriage and began offering horse-drawn transportation for weddings. Then in 2017, they bought a 10-passenger black "wagonette" which they began using for history tours of Wickford with NK Town Historian Tim Cranston. The clip-clop of the horses' hooves combined with Tim's expert narrative of (in his words) "Ye Olde Quaint and Historic" transports everyone back in time. In addition to tours of Wickford, Tim has narrated their rides through Quiddnessett, Hamilton, and even after-dark "ghost tours" through Elm Grove Cemetery.

Although COVID-19 brought their business to a halt, Jack and Julie took time to reinvent themselves, especially when they realized social-distancing restrictions weren't going away any time soon.

Last summer they began offering half-hour carriage rides through the village on occasional Saturdays, limited to four people from the same household/family. These rides became so popular that they started scheduling them every weekend, and by October, they could not keep up with demand and had a wait-list.

Julie says, "We did over 140 Wickford carriage tours by the time we paused for a break after Valentine's Day. With weddings and group events still on hold, we plan to restart Wickford carriage rides again sometime in April." Julie and Jack also donate carriage rides as silent-auction raffle items for North Kingstown fundraisers.

Outside Interests

When they aren't working, Jack and Julie like to vacation. Where do they go? They like to visit anywhere in Vermont and Quebec City. To relax and unwind, they like to "take a motorcycle day ride on a sunny day to a historic New England town, then stroll around and compare it to Wickford!"

Jack is also a rugby fan and played for several years in Newport. He's also a certified rugby referee. Julie is a "wanna-be" quilter who would love to devote more time to it one day.

Other pastimes include rooting for the Red Sox and Patriots, even when they lose. Julie and Jack also like going out to eat together. Julie shares, "We are die-hard 'eat local' advocates. We love Mickey's Pizza, Tate's Italian, Wickford on the Water, Gardiner's Wharf, Tilly's, The Provisioner Deli and Oak Hill Tavern, Alma's and Shayna's Place to name a few."

We are honored to feature Julie and Jack Kliever in this month's issue. If you see them out and about, be sure to say hello. They would love to meet more friendly folks in Wickford (and that means you!).



Would you like to meet your neighbors? Let us showcase you and your family! Contact WickfordWay@n2pub.com to be featured.



Horse whisperer Julie with Lenny. Photo by Josh Edenbaum Photography.



Eddie. Photo by Josh Edenbaum Photography.



Jack and Julie Kliever. Photo by Terri Freedman.



History tour with town historian Tim Cranston on Brown Street. Photo by Julie Beebe.



Happy Spring!

We hope this year brings us new opportunities to reconnect with our loved ones and the outdoors as this season brings with it warm weather and lighter days!

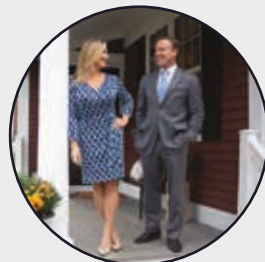
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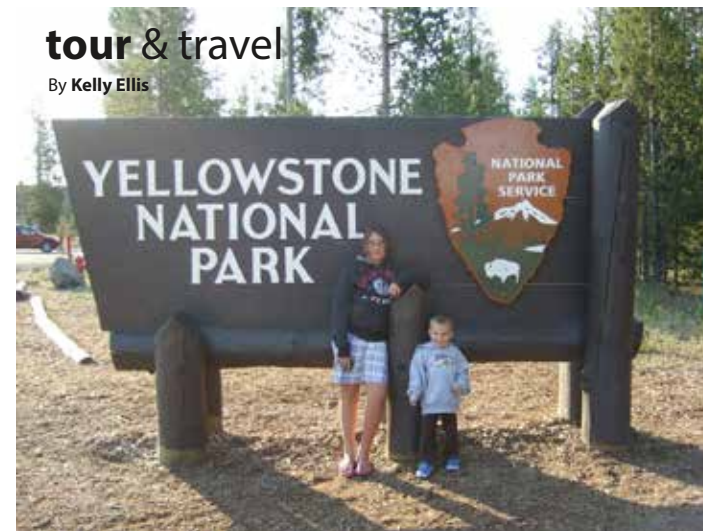
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tour & travel

By Kelly Ellis



Daughter Gabby and son Sam.



Kelly's husband Brian, with daughter Gabby and son Sam at Crystal Cove State Park in California.



Yellowstone National Park

memories are sharp and that is what vacations should be about, making memories!

Here is the basic itinerary I set up for our big trip out west. We flew to Orange County California and spent a few days at Disneyland and also visited Crystal Cove State Park. Then flew to Salt Lake City, UT. From there we drove to the West Entrance of Yellowstone National Park and spent a few days exploring the park. On our last day at Yellowstone, we drove down to the South Entrance and on through the Grand Tetons and all the way back to Salt Lake City. Lastly, we flew home from Salt Lake. It was a fabulous trip chocked full of memories and one that was easy to set up.

Vacations are not all about where you can go but mostly about the memories you make when you go. Make the memories count.

Don't forget to send me a picture of you on your favorite vacation. If you don't have a picture or haven't been to your favorite place yet, no problem. Draw me one. Get the kids involved. Have fun with it, then email your picture to me by May 1 with a little blurb about your spot. The winner will be featured in the June travel column and will win a neat little prize!



Feel free to share your travel stories, ask your travel questions, or request a destination that you want to know more about. Simply send your questions to kelly@mustlovetravel.com and you may be featured in a future issue!

Make it about the MEMORIES!

The biggest question I've been asked lately is "with all the COVID restrictions, where can we go?" The answer to this is a little complex. There are lots of places you can go but it depends on how comfortable you are with traveling in general. Do you feel ok with flying or do you want something more local? One place that is the answer to the question no matter your comfort level is State and/or National Parks. Now is the time to really explore this country we live in.

One of my favorite of the parks is Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park. The scenery and wildlife are so different from what you see here in New England. I remember the Paint Pots, Old Faithful. Mammoth Hot Springs and Grand Prismatic Springs. Did you know there is even a Grand Canyon in Yellowstone? My pictures certainly don't do it any justice but my

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Written by Elizabeth McCabe

MoMu Home Staging

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MoMu Home Staging's many projects have included the staging of Lathrop Farms model home in Westerly.



MoMu Home is MoMu Home Staging's latest venture. Their online store features handmade products from all over the globe.



Todd Mueller and Michele Morrocco, the duo who makes up MoMu Home Staging and MoMu Home.

Every step in life prepares us for where we are today. Michele Morrocco and Todd Mueller with MoMu Home Stagers are truth of that fact.

Meet Michele

Michele grew up in her father's construction business. Early on Michele learned the basics of home design and construction. These skills learned early have been essential in Michele's contribution to MoMu Home Staging.

“I learned so much about home construction from my father's business. Homes are in my blood. I love everything about home design, architecture, and construction. My father's passion became my passion,” says Michele. In college, Michele studied business which she applied to the corporate world. Later Michele, a native Rhode Islander, decided to change her career path and entered the medical field and became a surgical technician.

Michele resides in Chepachet, Rhode Island with her husband Bob. Michele and Bob recently became grandparents for the first time when their son Robert and his wife Falan gave birth to their son Jagger.

Meet Todd

Todd grew up in Michigan where most of his family still resides. Before moving to Rockville, RI, five years ago, Todd resided in Southampton, NY. Todd resides with his partner Christopher at their home in Rockville.

After receiving his degree in economics and marketing from Michigan State University, Todd began his career in retail. For several years Todd worked as a retail buyer and visual merchandiser for a family-owned business. After 10 years, Todd accepted a position with Pottery Barn and Williams Sonoma as a district visual manager.

This position took Todd to New York. After leaving the corporate world he moved to Rhode Island.

Todd explains, “My career has always been in the retail world with an emphasis on visual merchandising and design. I found my real passion working in the home furnishing sector. This work experience has given me valuable tools in interior design and visual presentation.”

From Real Estate to Staging

Two are better than one when it comes to staging homes. Michele and Todd, who have known each other for 10 years, worked in real estate sales together before transitioning to staging.

While in the real estate sector, Michele and Todd decided to put their talents together and form MoMu Home Staging, LLC. They became certified through the Association of Staging Professionals and are members of the International Association of Home Staging Professionals.

The name MoMu comes from two first letters of Michele and Todd's last names, Morrocco and Mueller. Today MoMu Staging is a full-service staging company. They explain, “Staging your home is important when it comes time to sell your home. We focus on showcasing the best your home has to offer to potential buyers.”

MoMu Home Staging offers consultations that give the client a list of things to prepare their home for listing. MoMu will also help their clients execute those recommendations from the consultation.

“If you need help, we will assist the client in carrying out the tasks that we recommend,” says Michele. MoMu Home Staging will also help once you move into your new home by offering advice on furniture placement and design advice.

Setting Themselves Apart

What sets MoMu Home Staging apart from other home stagers are the years of experience that Michele and Todd have.

“Our mission is to offer creative, professional, and innovative home staging services to homeowners,

real estate agents, and home builders. Our goal for our clients is to achieve a higher resale value and achieving a reduced listing time. We will strive to consistently work in our clients' best interests and offer the best value and exemplary customer service,” says Todd. “With our years of experience, we achieve this for our clients.”

Tips for Homeowners

Looking to stage your home? Remember that home stagers are in the business of depersonalizing a home.

“Home staging is not interior design. Home staging creates a space that makes it easier for potential buyers to see them living in that space. We will make recommendations to remove personal items, rearrange furniture, change paint colors and remove clutter that might potentially turn a buyer away,” says Michele. “You need to listen to the home stager with an open mind. Remember you are leaving this home for another so your personal taste needs to leave when we make our suggestions.”

Staging can be done through cyber consultations and distance communication, which is ideal during COVID-19.

MoMu Home

MoMu Home Staging also created MoMu Home, an online store that offers all types of products for the home including home decor, bed and bath, and kitchen accessories. These unique products are hand-made and come from all over the world, everything from hand-carved

olive wood serveware to handwoven Turkish towels and linens. “I really feel that 2021 will continue to be the year of the home. It's a great sign that the COVID numbers are decreasing but I think that during this time period, people have rediscovered the comforts that their home has and want to continue enhancing their surroundings,” concludes Todd. You can access MoMu Home through MoMu Home Staging's website.

For More Information:

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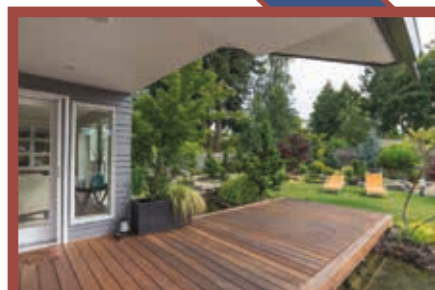


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MEET Easter BUNNIES, Pippin & Merry

Family member names: Emilia and Victoria Cormier
Pet's name: Pippin and Merry
Type of animal/breed: Lion Lop Rabbits
Male or female: both male
Pet's age: 6 months

Where/why did you get your pet? While these two buns joined the Cormier household around the same time, they were from different homes. We met Pippin's breeder through her Facebook page called RI & Vermont Holland Lops. But Merry's parents were owned by a teenager in Cranston who didn't realize she was housing male and female rabbits together and ended up with a litter. While they both have similar breeding, they took different characteristics. Pippin has the more traditional lion mane, while Merry is more of a lop. One of the other bunnies in Merry's litter actually looked a lot like Pippin.

Is there a story behind its name? Being fans of the *Lord of the Rings*, we named our two buns after the mischievous hobbit brothers from the trilogy. This resonated well with our family.

Anything special or unusual about them (talents/quirks)? Both buns have sweet dispositions and love their zoomies and binkies.

But we have noticed that, while Merry has problem-solving tendencies (i.e.: "how can I get on top of that dresser where my hay is stored? I'm sure I can find a way!"), Pippin has been dubbed the 'goof-bun' whose antics include jumping out of arms into a wastebasket.

What do you like best about your pet? As noted, these rabbits are both endearing, soft, and amusing pets. They love to explore, bounce, eat hay, and nibble lettuce. One of our favorite Pippin behaviors is giving little "kisses" when being cuddled.

Any funny stories? Like I said, Pippin jumped into a wastebasket. He also regularly jumps on top of his cage and then sits there, looking perplexed as to how he got there and apparently not sure of how to get down. One night, Merry's cage was inadvertently left open. He somehow managed to find his way on top of the dresser where he could freely access hay and food pellets. The next morning, he was found feasting on hay and pellets that had been knocked off the dresser and spilled across the floor.

How spoiled is your pet? Our buns get daily helpings of fresh veggies, including arugula and spring mix. They are each given regular time to wander out of their cages where they can sniff, explore and run. They also get plenty of pets and cuddles, of course.

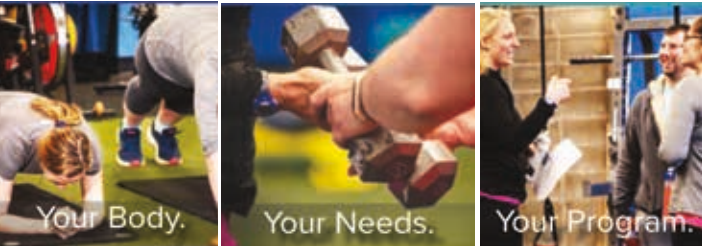
What else should we know about your pet and/or how your pet has enriched your home/family? Introducing bunnies to our family during the pandemic has been really beneficial. Given that we have been spending so much time at home, it's great to have the new relationships and for the girls to benefit from the responsibilities of animal care.



We would love to feature your pet in an upcoming issue. Send us an email: WickfordWay@n2pub.com.



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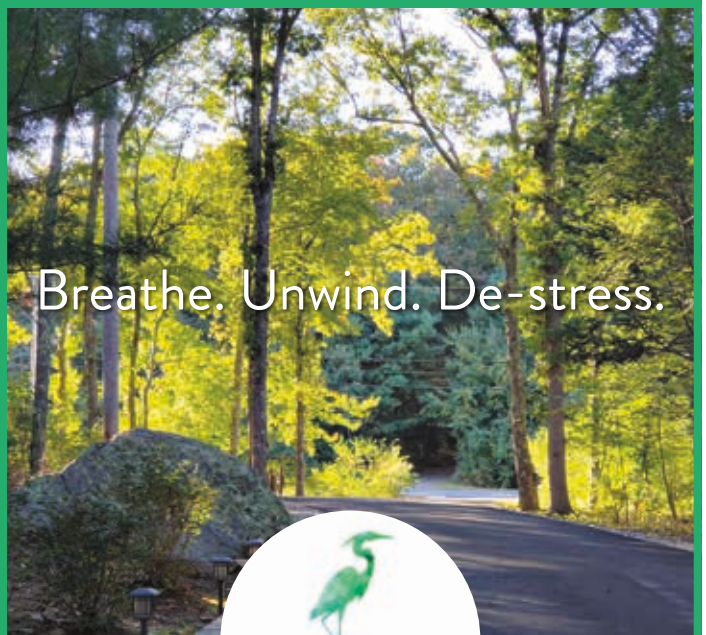


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keeping the arts alive in wickford

Written by **Nora Hall**



Ed and Nancy Sherman

NANCY SHERMAN, a major contributor to the arts

Born and raised in Wickford, Nancy Whyte Sherman has a long family history of commitment to the sea and to the arts. She's also a quintessential citizen who delights in contributing to her community in many ways.

As a child, Nancy attended Wickford schools, learned to sail in Narragansett Bay at an early age, and got to know just about everyone in the village. Gifted with a lovely voice, Nancy attended URI as a music major, moved to Providence, then Harmony, RI, to teach elementary grades music and the humanities. Upon meeting her soon-to-be husband, Ed, Nancy moved back to Wickford where they married, bought a house two doors down from her birth home, and eventually introduced their son, Mason, to the joys of Wickford.

Like Nancy, Ed was drawn to the sea and the arts. He enjoyed the fact that, while serving as a crew member on Nancy's father's boat, he lived in a museum of sorts. His rented space in Paule Stetson Loring's art studio and buildings on the property were filled with the artist's stunning watercolors and editorial cartoons.*

Since her return to Wickford, Nancy has served on numerous town committees. As a member of the HistWick Board, she helped enact changes in Wickford that made the Village an even nicer place to live. Eventually, Nancy also joined the North Kingstown Arts Council and became instrumental in helping grow and improve the quality of programs offered to the community. She now serves as a most effective Chairperson.

Known best for its summer concerts on the beach, the Arts Council offers an array of programs for a varied audience and supports many local, historical, and educational organizations.

One program Nancy created and will happen again this spring is ArtVenture. Its goal is to invite people to historic sites and hiking trails throughout town to enjoy nature while searching for art treasures buried along the way. **

The complete offering of programs supported by the Arts Council is too large to list here, but a small sampling includes a documentary on Wickford aired on PBS***, support of a creative dramatics program for elementary students, a speaking series on the impact of art on society and a creative art program that teaches students to create beauty while giving back to the community plus many programs at local historical organizations.*

*Paule Loring was a wonderful, quirky local artist you might enjoy learning about. For more info see Loring, <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/remembering-artist-paule-stetson-loring-1899-1968-kenneth-proudfoot/>
**For more information on programs sponsored by the NK Arts Council, visit www.nkartsCouncil.org.
***To view the documentary, go to YouTube: Wickford Walk: A New Way to See a Historic Town

Nora Hall is a Wickford Resident who enjoys writing about people and their experiences. Her most intense writing project was the creation of the book, *Survive Your Husband's Retirement*, written shortly after her own husband retired.



If you know a Wickford artist that you would like to see in this column, please email Nora at norahall@verizon.net.



Summer concert at the town beach.



Dramatics program

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ask the expert

Written by Micheline Gauthier, Au.D.,
Doctor of Audiology and Owner at Atlantic Audiology.

Can facemasks
Complicate
our hearing?

Dr. Gauthier wearing a clear mask.

To say this last year has brought us many changes would be the understatement of the century. Although we anticipate that we will start to see more semblance of normalcy as time goes on, one of the things that will likely remain for some time is the ever-controversial mask mandate. Has anyone else noticed that it's difficult to hear and understand others when they are wearing masks?

Little did we all realize how much we rely on visual cues for effective communication. Non-verbal cues like smiling, frowning, lip shape, and lipreading are all part of everyday communication for all of us and we get almost NONE of that when a mask is in the way. We also experience a significant reduction in volume and clarity of voices due to the sound-dampening effects of the mask.

No population has been more significantly impacted by this than those with hearing loss.

When we lose our hearing, our brain starts to shift over to taking more stock in the visual cues mentioned above to help fill in any gaps that hearing loss might create in the conversation.

So how do we improve communication with masks? They're not going anywhere any time soon, so here are a few tips:

1. Let the person you're speaking with know that you have trouble hearing. Keeping your communication partner informed will

likely improve their patience and willingness to help you hear better.

2. If you wear hearing aids and notice that you have trouble hearing well in the grocery store or at the pharmacy, consider increasing the volume on your hearing aids by a notch or 2 prior to entering this establishment. It will give you a bit of an advantage to hearing those socially distant voices better. If you don't have access to the volume on your devices contact your audiologist to see if this is an option that is available to you with your devices.
3. If you're interacting with family or friends, ask them to wear a clear-front mask (see photo) that allows for use of those all-important visual cues. Have the masks available for them to wear.
4. Last but not least, be patient with yourself! We have enough to be stressed about this year.

If you still find yourself having lots of difficulties even after implementing these strategies, perhaps it's time for a hearing evaluation or a check-up for your hearing aids. Please don't hesitate to contact us at 401-942-8080 or visit our website at **www.atlantic-hearing.com**.



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These wide stripes were inspired from a striped wallpaper sample board from a local Benjamin Moore dealer! With painter's tape and a chalk line, Lori matched the paint colors and did it herself.



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Feel like luxury with a big fluffy bath towel, a scented candle, and some light reading material.



Don't forget the essentials to a good soak. Pamper yourself with a charcoal face scrub and whipped body cream.

Rest. Relax. Recharge. That's exactly what Lori Lyons, owner of Beauty and the Bath, had in mind when she purchased her charming 1934 cottage nestled on Wickford Cove over 20 years ago. One of the first projects Lori rolled up her sleeves to get started on was remodeling her bathroom.

"The clawfoot soaking tub was the only thing salvaged from the original, not-so-pretty bathroom. I had the tub sandblasted and resurfaced and created a 'bump out' to surround it with natural light and pretty windows while increasing the square footage of the room," says Lori.

Handmaking the window valances and matching chair cover from a vintage floral Waverly fabric, Lori created a light and breezy feel to her remodeled bathroom. She comments, "My goal was to make the bathroom reflect the classic and romantic feeling of my home and be true to its 1930s Americana feeling."

"It's my favorite room and truly my escape from life's daily stresses," smiles Lori.

Want to transform your bathroom into your spa sanctuary? Start with decluttering and cleaning to put your mind in a calm state. Purchase some attractive storage bins to stow items. Second, create a glowing vibe. Light candles and dim the lights to soothe your mood. Choose a lavender candle for a soothing ambiance; the calming fragrance is relaxing.

Lori adds, "Put on some peaceful sounds. Transport yourself to a place of inner peace with music that relaxes and nurtures you." Don't forget to treat yourself to a little bubbly. Self-care and pampering are important. A good, old-fashioned bubble bath that produces long-lasting bubbles is worth every penny. Lori says, "I call it free therapy and I promise, no one ever regrets taking a long hot soak in the tub." Enhance your "me time" with an inflatable bath pillow to rest your head and neck.

Last but not least, surround yourself with luxurious necessities. Nice, fluffy towels, soft bath rugs, a thirsty robe, and pretty slippers to slip into post soak are the icing on the cake. Select simple, chic accessories that make you happy.

You can follow @beautyandthebathri on Instagram to find their sassy products, daily inspirations for a luxurious lifestyle, and a peek into their modern apothecary in the heart of Wickford Village where they're celebrating 35 years in business this year!

They're open 24/7 at www.beautyandthebath.com or email Lori@beautyandthebath.com with any questions.

Life is too short to be stressed. Remodel your bathroom to relax and unwind.



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A small clam basket to stow extra toilet paper can enhance your bathroom.



Zachary Cooney, Owner of Precision Edge Landscaping



sponsor spotlight

Written by Elizabeth McCabe

Precision Edge Landscaping

A Cut Above the Rest

Looking for landscaping? Consider Precious Edge Landscaping, owned by Zachary Cooney. This local business started seven years ago and Zachary has built his business, one satisfied client at a time.

“We attend to residential and commercial landscape needs, fall and spring cleanups, and have much experience in the completion of hardscape projects including installation of walkways, patios, fire pits, and retaining walls,” says Zachary. “In the winter we offer commercial plowing.”

Currently, Zachary is accepting new residential and commercial accounts and is happy to provide references.

The Quest to Be the Best

“One unique quality of my business is my tendency for perfectionism,” says Zachary. “My team and I are not finished with a project until it satisfies my taste for precision.”

A genuine people person, Zachary enjoys being with people, communicating with them, traits that he has had from an early age. He explains, “My fulfillment in landscaping comes from communicating with my customers to understand their project vision, expanding their knowledge of possibilities, and wraps up with a completed project that suits my taste for precision and quality.”

Zachary encourages his customers to follow their dreams for designing an outdoor area into a space that they enjoy, whether a space for gathering with family and friends or the perfect get-away niche for solitude and relaxation.

Zachary adds, “Also take time to locate that landscape/hardscape business owner who is the right fit, someone you can communicate and connect with and offers knowledge related to their project needs. This will make your vision become a reality.”



COVID-19 Safeguards

“A positive effect of COVID-19 has been an increased interest in completing home projects and improving the appearance and usability of outdoor areas,” says Zachary. “Another effect is the concern of the transmission of the virus.”

Zachary and his dedicated team take all necessary precautions to safeguard their customers. They wear masks when in close contact. Hand sanitizer is also stored in each truck.

“My landscaping/hardscape teams have access to water and soap for handwashing during the day. The trucks are also disinfected nightly,” adds Zachary. Social distancing is also effectively adhered to since landscaping is an outdoor profession.

Zachary’s Background

“I grew up in the rural area of Exeter and have lived in Exeter all my life. My family includes my mother Christine Slater-Cooney (a school speech pathologist), my father Kevin Cooney (machinist), and my younger brother Riley Cooney (criminal justice student),” says Zachary.

Living in the country, Zachary has always enjoyed outdoor activities and sports. He has fond childhood memories of spending summers at the beach, camping, hiking, and fishing. Throughout the year, he and his brother played many sports, with hockey being his passion. Although he lived in Exeter, Zachary attended The Coventry Vocational High School, which was a perfect fit offering hands-on learning and hockey.

Zachary’s passion for the outdoors was evident at an early age. He comments, “From the start, I have always had lots of energy and am happiest when working outdoors. In elementary school, I helped my father with lawn care and outdoor projects such as

designing and building a fishpond. For my 10th birthday, I asked for a weed whacker. Soon other family members and friends invited me to help with projects such as outdoor house painting and land clearing. When not at the hockey rink, working outdoors became my devotion. I completed my first hardscape project the summer of my ninth-grade year when a hockey friend and I installed a patio made of natural stones for my grandmother. Her patio is still in use today.”

The idea of being an entrepreneur was sparked from many sources. His family always encouraged him to pursue his interests, many of whom were business owners, including his grandfather Richard Slater Sr. (M and R Connections), his uncle Andrew Slater (Slater’s Exeter Auto Repair), and his great-grandfather George Baker (Rubber Covered Products).

“My family not only inspires me, but their experiences and support as entrepreneurs have been invaluable,” shares Zachary.

Another guiding factor in becoming an entrepreneur was Zachary’s decision to change course and attend the Coventry Vocational Program. He comments, “It was a great experience that solidified trade work as my career path and sparked my thoughts of owning my own business. My graduation gift was a secondhand Ford F350 (Old Bessy), which I drove to my graduation ceremony. That summer I applied for my contractor’s license, obtained insurances, and established my landscape/hardscape business.” The rest is history.

Life is too short to have an unkempt lawn. Enhance your curb appeal with Precision Edge Landscaping. They are a cut above the rest!

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financial fitness

By Edward Jones

TAX-SMART INVESTMENT Moves for Higher Earners

If you earn a lot of money, you may also pay a lot in taxes – a fact that's particularly relevant now, as we are well into the tax-filing season. At this point, there's not a lot you can do to affect the outcome for the 2020 tax year, but if you want to change your tax outlook for the years ahead, you can make several moves.

Here are a few “tax-smart” investment strategies to consider:

- **Put as much as you can into your 401(k).** By contributing pretax dollars to a traditional 401(k), you'll reduce your taxable income, and your earnings can grow tax-deferred. If you have a Roth 401(k) option, you'll put in after-tax dollars, but your withdrawals – earnings and contributions – will ultimately be tax-free, as long as you've had your account at least five years and you're older than 59 ½ when you start taking money out. In 2021, you can put up to \$19,500 into your 401(k), or \$26,000 if you're 50 or older. However, depending on your employer's plan, you may also be able to contribute additional after-tax

dollars, so check with your plan administrator about your options.

- **Review Roth IRA strategies.** As a high earner, you may face limits on what you can contribute to a Roth IRA, which, like a Roth 401(k), offers the potential for tax-free earnings. You lose eligibility to contribute to a Roth IRA if your adjusted gross income equals or exceeds \$140,000 (single filers) or \$208,000 (if you're married and file jointly). Through a “back-door” Roth IRA conversion, though, you could make after-tax contributions to a traditional IRA and convert it to a Roth. This strategy could be advantageous if you expect your tax rate to be higher when you retire. Consult with your tax advisor to determine if this move is appropriate for your situation.
- **Look at municipal bonds.** Because interest payments from municipal bonds are typically exempt from federal taxes, and often state and local taxes, too, these bonds can be attractive to investors in the higher tax brackets. Income from some types of municipal bonds may be subject to the alternative minimum tax (AMT), so, if you end up having to pay this tax, you'll want to be clear about what types of bonds you're purchasing.
- **Consider investing in tax-efficient mutual funds.** When most mutual fund managers buy and sell the individual investments within their funds, such as stocks and bonds, they are primarily interested in trying to achieve the goal of the fund itself – growth; growth and income; and so on. However, many of their trades have tax consequences. But managers of funds billed as tax-efficient will consciously try to minimize the moves that can generate taxes.
- **Follow a buy-and-hold strategy.** If you're frequently buying and selling investments, you could incur sizable taxes, especially if you sell investments you've held for less than a year, in which case your profits would be taxed at your ordinary-income tax rate. If you sell investments you've held for more than a year, you'll be assessed the long-term capital gains rate, which will likely be lower than your individual tax rate.

Your financial and tax advisors can help you determine if these moves make sense for your needs. If they do, you may want to start incorporating them into your long-term investment strategy.

Feeling like you paid too much in taxes this year?

Contact your financial advisor today to learn about investing strategies that could benefit you.



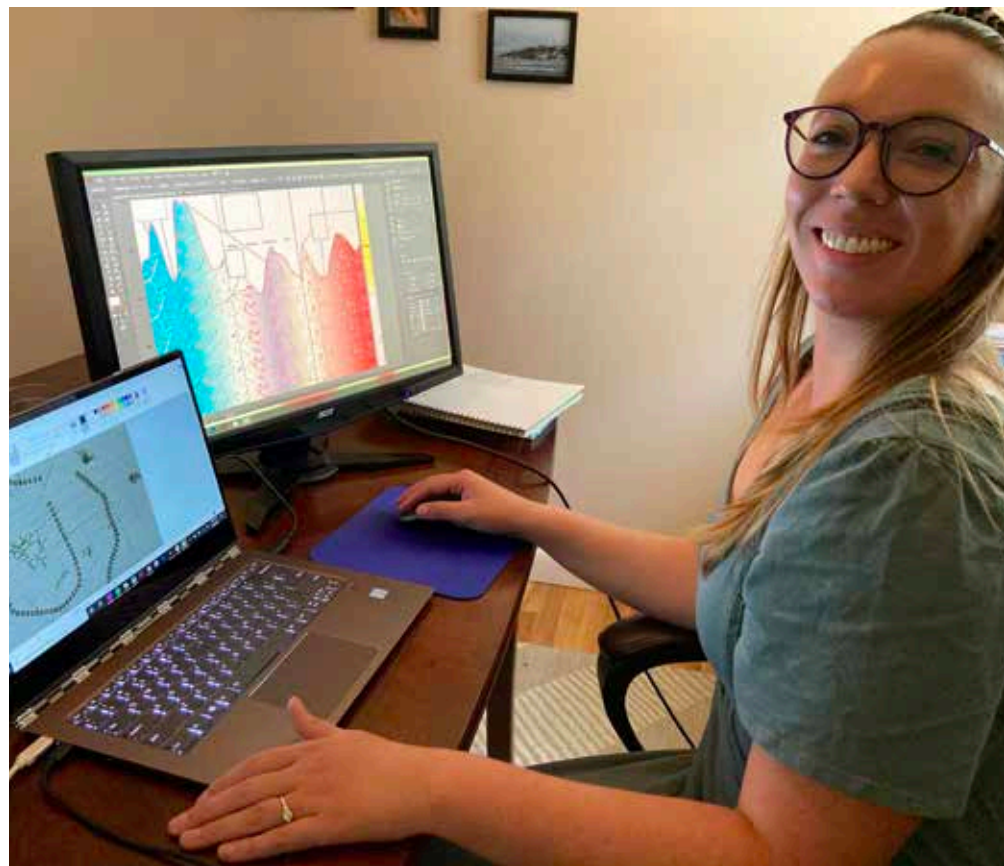
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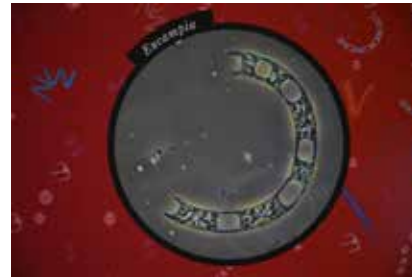
Ronda Warren is your Wickford neighbor and Edward Jones financial advisor. She's looking forward to answering any of your financial questions.



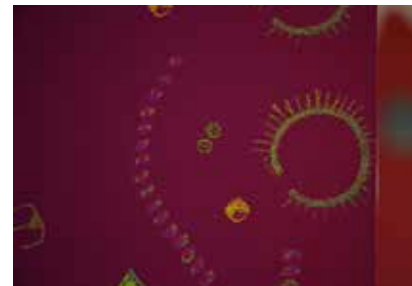
Patricia Thibodeau designing the plankton wallpaper.

keeping it local

By Patricia Thibodeau, PhD



Microscopic image of a plankton collected from the Narragansett Bay Plankton Time Series and used to inform the illustrative graphics of the plankton wallpaper (shown behind the microscopic image). The image is of a plankton called Eucampia. Photo credit: Stewart Copeland.



Zoomed in on the photograph of the illustrative plankton images featured on the plankton wallpaper. Photo credit: Stewart Copeland.

At a far glance, the shape and color of the panels change over-time. The color change from blue to red illustrates a long-term seawater warming trend recorded in Narragansett Bay since the 1950s. The change in shape indicates a long-term decline in plankton abundance as well as shift in the distribution of plankton abundance over the different decades. Shifts in plankton timing and abundance have important implications when we think about the fish in Narragansett Bay that depend on plankton for food. At closer inspection of the wallpaper, there are patterns of plankton in which the types and sizes vary throughout the year from winter to summer to fall.

The process of collaborating with Attias to develop this wallpaper showed Thibodeau the strength and power of visualizing scientific data through an artistic lens. Thibodeau's wallpaper shows that by visualizing plankton data through art, there's much more to Narragansett Bay than what appears on the surface. The wallpaper will be on display at the North Kingstown Free Library during the month of April.

Thibodeau is funded by Rhode Island EPSCoR, National Science Foundation Award #OIA-1655221. A video describing the project is also available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISWNk_xtHso. More information is on the Narragansett Bay Plankton Time Series available at <https://web.uri.edu/gso/research/plankton/>.



Rafael Attias <https://rafaelattias.com/>



Thibodeau's plankton patterns. Photo credit Stewart Copeland.

PLANKTON MATTERS IN WICKFORD

Sometimes the smallest things turn out to be the most important. This is certainly the case in the ocean where plankton, microscopic passive drifters, produce up to 50% of the air humans breathe and are the primary food source for the sea life humans enjoy eating. Right outside Wickford's backdoor in Narragansett Bay, plankton make up a foundation of this critical ecosystem. The waters outside Wickford Harbor are also home to one of the longest plankton time series in the world! Beginning in 1959, this time series is invaluable because of its length and sampling frequency, and it now allows scientists at the University of Rhode Island to answer important questions about plankton dynamics and ecosystem change.

But who are these plankton? These elusive drifters are not often seen by the naked eye yet have a profound impact on the ecosystem of Rhode Island. To showcase the uniqueness and importance of the plankton collected through this time series, Dr. Patricia Thibodeau, a scientist at URI's Graduate School of Oceanography and Wickford resident, collaborated with Rafael Attias, a Senior Critic from the Rhode Island School of Design and fellow Wickford resident, to create giant 8'x 3' hanging panels of plankton wallpaper. Thibodeau used original microscopic images of plankton from the time series and converted them into illustrative graphics that she could then create repetitive patterns of through adobe illustrator. Thibodeau also used the actual plankton abundance data to showcase observed patterns in plankton timing for each decade.

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Real Estate RESOURCE

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Address	Neighborhood	Beds	Baths	SqFt	Current Price
1340 1376 Tower Hill Road	Wickford	4	1	1,950	\$1,995,000
100 Phillips Street	Wickford	2	2.1	2,182	\$679,000
42 Pleasant Street	Wickford	2	2	1,267	\$579,900
31 Sherman Street	Wickford	3	1.1	844	\$365,000
25 Thomas Street	Wickford	3	2	1,524	\$339,900
231 Haverhill Avenue	Wickford	4	2.1	1,578	\$499,900
879 Tower Hill Road	Wickford	3	2	1,386	\$349,900
435 Wickham Road	Wickford	4	2.1	3,038	\$810,000
77 Tower Hill Road	Wickford	4	1.1	2,296	\$539,900
210 Ten Rod Road	Wickford	3	1	960	\$450,000

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RESIDENT BUSINESS GUIDE

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ART

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ART CLASSES

Harbor Creative Arts

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John Cunic
jcunic@compasseducationri.com

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Nicole DeVecco Kim
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FASHION DESIGN & MANUFACTURING

The Martini Factory

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smoore@randallrealtors.com

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Tate's & Micky's

Karen Bruno
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kelly@mustlovetravel.com
mustlovetravel.com/kelly

WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Wickford Wealth Management

Joseph Kolb
(401) 273-7300
joseph@wickfordwealth.com
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Attention Wickford area residents: Do you own or run a business? To have your business featured in the resident business guide in an upcoming issue, please send me an email at tanja.carroll@n2pub.com.




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local happenings

NORTH KINGSTOWN RECREATION DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO OFFER PROGRAMMING FOLLOWING ALL COVID GUIDELINES.

North Kingstown Recreation brings you an April vacation full of activities. Programs being offered and are opened for registration include grades 4 and 5 Rollerskating trip to United Skates on the blue bus, a family paint afternoon in collaboration with Create

Studios offering many ceramic pieces to choose from, Busy Bodies Open Gym for kids 18 months to 5 years, Revenge of the Toxic Robots: a virtual Earth Day Program, and a Mother's Day Make and Take at the Community Center.

Information for all these programs and registration can be found at <https://nkrec.recdesk.com/Community> and spots are limited so don't wait.

Other opportunities in April include our "Be Safe When Home Alone" Course which helps kids gain the confidence to take that big step, more Busy Bodies Open Gyms, Adult Stretch and Stride on Friday Mornings, and Women's Golf Instructional League at NK Golf Course.

Ongoing through July is the Take it Outside Contest. Rediscover North Kingstown and all the beautiful recreational and scenic areas our town has to offer.



historic wickford photo trivia

Provided by **Tim Cranston**, Town Historian

CAN YOU ANSWER THE QUESTION(S) BELOW THE FEATURED PICTURE?



After more than 120 years as a grocery store of one sort or another, this fine building still serves the residents of the Wickford area in another capacity. Where is it?

Congratulations!

Celia Gelfman guessed the February photo trivia of the home on 75 West Main St. correctly and won a \$25 gift card to Shayna's!



Last month's photo: This oyster shell pile would have been found at Pleasant Street Wharf at the very end of Pleasant Street.



Please submit your answer no later than May 1 and we will select one of the correct entries to win a gift card to one of the Wickford shops or restaurants. Please send your guess to wickfordway@n2pub.com.



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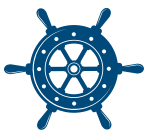
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