‘An honorable torch to carry’

By RORY SCHULER

The path was a little bit easier while he was with them. Now that he’s gone, the journey is harder, but the mission has never been more important.

Sallyann DiIorio held a collage of photographs of her son. Simultaneously, she both smiled and cried, looking down at Matthew’s face.

“It’s not as easy, but it’s important to keep going, because Matthew would want that.”

Ready to go!

By RORY SCHULER

Residents of the Starr Street neighborhood heard a loud explosion Friday, and then a series of smaller blasts.

Flames and dark clouds stretched into the sky above J&S Scrap Metal & Recycling Inc. at 36 Starr St., and a pillar of black smoke could be seen from Route 295.

“We had reports upon dispatch of possibly multiple explosions,” Johnston Fire Chief Peter J. Lamb said Tuesday. “It could have been one, and there could have been others while we were responding.”

Two Johnston firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion at the scene, but both have made a full recovery, according to Lamb.

“It sounded like a bomb went off,” said Mary Ann Tooher, who lives at 29 Starr St. “This whole house shook. I couldn’t figure out what it was. Then I heard the sirens and the fire trucks. When I looked out, I could see all this horrible black smoke across the street.”

Amazon details to be released, debated at public hearing

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston will host a public hearing and special meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 15.

The town’s residents have been eagerly awaiting details regarding “Project Schooner,” a huge Amazon distribution facility proposed for a 195-acre parcel of land off Hartford Avenue, near the road’s intersection with Route 295.

If built, and opened, the facility will be owned and operated by Amazon, the online mega-retailer.

A preliminary site plan has already cleared the Johnston Planning Board, but tax breaks and other related contingencies between the town and the company have yet to be resolved or discussed in public.

The meeting will be held at the Johnston High School Auditorium, 345 Cherry Hill Road.

The Johnston Town Council will hold the public hearing to consider authorizing a tax stabilization agreement between the town and Amazon.com Services, LLC/Owner Amazon details to be released, debated at public hearing

FA-MILY: Sallyann DiIorio, family friend Vincent LaFazia, Jack DiIorio and Michael Crawley, have committed to continue raising money for FARA following the death of Matthew DiIorio in July. This is the 11th year raising money for the PA advocacy group, but the first time holding events since losing Matthew to the disease.

(Y Sun Rise photos by RORY SCHULER)

Explosion at scrap yard fire follows neighborhood broil

By RORY SCHULER

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Two Johnston firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion at the scene, but both have made a full recovery, according to Lamb.
By PETE FONTAINE

“Always remembered, never forgotten!”

Those words filled the air last Friday morning at Johnston Fire Department headquarters on Atwood Avenue when the close-knit brotherhood came together to honor a late firefighter, Richard R. Gemma, on the exact day of his tragic and unfortunate passing back on Aug. 27, 2019, from fatal injuries he sustained in a motorcycle accident in his native city of Cranston.

Gemma’s parents, Richard and Kathy Gemma, headed a large group of people for the second annual memorial service, which was organized by Richard Boehm, the JFD’s battalion chief of fire and safety, and began inside in front of the late firefighter’s still-full locker before going outside.

“Richard will never, ever be forgotten,” Boehm began. “Thank you for sharing Richard with us. He has been missed very much and we still talk about him often.”

Boehm then called upon Father Richard Narciso, pastor at St. Robert Bellarmine Church and the department’s chaplain, who delivered two blessings — one in front of Gemma’s locker and the second outside at the Snow Fountain Weeping Cherry Tree, which was planted in July 2020 and serves as an everyday memorial for the 45-year-old firefighter.

“As firefighters, we live by the mantra that we will never forget our fallen members,” Fire Chief Peter Lamb said. “When we planted this tree, we did so with the intent that the tree would continue to grow and be present well into the future as a reminder of our brother Richard.”

The chief then paused before adding: “During these difficult times we now live in, and people do not always treat others as they should, we are reminded by Richard’s tragic accident that life changes in an instant. As we leave here today we remember Richard and we should all live our lives to the fullest and create memories with our families that will last forever.”

The late Gemma’s mother, Kathy, said: “We still miss him terribly. This is difficult, but my husband reassured me it’s an honor they do every year in his memory.”

That’s why firefighters as well as friends offered kind words to his parents, daughters Siobhan and Gianna and son Antonio prior to Boehm inviting the family to have a special photo taken in front of Engine 3, the JFD truck Gemma worked on before his passing.

As Boehm aligned the family, he reminded several attendees: “Richard’s dad is a retired member of our department, and Richard was a funny guy to work with and always there if you needed someone. He was a good firefighter and we all knew he would have our backs in a fire.”

The late Gemma, Boehm said, “was a charitable person; he adopted families on his own as well as donating to [fire union Local] 1950 to adopt even more families. That’s why we all say Richard Gemma will always be remembered and never – ever – forgotten!”

MEMORIES & BLESSINGS: At left is the late Richard Gemma’s still-full locker inside JFD headquarters, which serves as a reminder and memorial to the late firefighter. Above, St. Robert Bellarmine Church Pastor and JFD Chaplin Father Richard Narciso delivers the second of two blessings during last week’s tribute.

‘Still miss him terribly’

Two years after crash, family and colleagues honor fallen Johnston firefighter’s memory

RICHARD’S RIG: Antonio, Siobhan, Kathy and Richard Gemma stand beside Engine 3, the JFD truck that the late Richard Gemma was assigned to until his fatal motorcycle accident in 2019. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)
Defenders of Animals honors five with Humane Hero Award

BY MERRI R. KENNEDY

Defenders of Animals Inc., which began a 43-year journey of caring for and defending the rights of animals in April of 1978, held its 27th annual Homeless Animals Day/Candlelight Vigil on Aug. 21 at Sprague Mansion in Cranston. He is one of the five individuals who received Humane Hero awards at the 27th annual Homeless Animals Day/Candlelight Vigil on Aug. 21 at Sprague Mansion in Cranston.

During the Aug. 21 event, attendees were able to purchase handmade bags and as well as participate in a raffle that yielded more than $300.

Defenders of Animals promotes adoptions made through municipal animal shelters and local organizations. It assists with the spaying and neutering of pets, as well as ensuring pets are up-to-date vaccinations and are microchipped. Additionally, the group has endorsed the animal organization on the national, state and local level.

Around July 2021, the Johnston Police Department was at the Governor Sprague Mansion to perform an inventory scene to tow the vehicle. Prior to the inventory, the driver was identified as Rashad L. Glenn, of 228 Baker St., Providence.

At this time, an additional Johnston Police cruiser arrived at the Governor Sprague Mansion.

Glenn was handcuffed and placed in the back of a cruiser prior to being transported to Johnston police headquarters for processing.

A RILETS check revealed Glenn’s license was also suspended, according to the police incident report. Further investigation revealed this was allegedly Glenn’s third and subsequent misdemeanor charge. Glenn was issued a Third District Court warrant for failure to appear with a Suspended License.

The marijuana found was measured in ounces, and determined to be a large amount of a green leafy substance, later positively identified as marijuana by the NARC-II test kit, according to the police incident report. "Also located in the vehicle during the inventory were more individual packing bags and concealed in an Amazon Delivery bag," according to the police incident report. "The items were seized on the scene and brought back to headquarters for processing, according to police.

Also recognized by Defenders of Animals was Patricia A. Tabella, that joins by, from left, Bruce Lossini, William W. O’Brien, Robin Aptt, Tonya C. Keegan and Patricia Kohler. (Sun Rise photo by Steve Popeil)

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Also recognized by Defenders of Animals was Patricia A. Tabella, that joins by, from left, Bruce Lossini, William W. O’Brien, Robin Aptt, Tonya C. Keegan and Patricia Kohler. (Sun Rise photo by Steve Popeil)
SEASONAL SIGNS: This is the large banner draped across the fence at Our Lady of Grace Church on George Waterman Road in Johnston, which also features 40 sponsorship banners for the Roman Catholic parish’s 101st Feast and Festival. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

Our Lady of Grace set for 101st Feast and Festival

BY PETE FONTAINE

It’s a feast and festival unlike any other, an event that’s been going on for decades at Our Lady of Grace Church in Johnston. And it will be back beginning next Thursday, Sept. 9, and continuing through Sunday, Sept. 12.

Countless people will tell you it’s one of Rhode Island’s best-end-of-summer events, especially when it comes top home cooked Italian foods, Don DePetrillo’s delicious doughboys, family fun and those always popular carnival rides and games of chance.

The Feast and Festival at the Roman Catholic Church is held each year in honor of La Madonna della Difesa. This year’s event will also serve as a terrific tribute to two of Our Lady of Grace’s most cherished parishioners.

“Our 101st feast is an exciting time for our parish, especially after such a tumultuous time over the past year,” said the Rev. Pete J. Gower, the church’s pastor. “However, everyone here at Our Lady of Grace is still saddened because of the loss of two giants, Joe ‘Joe Q’ Quartino and Carol Cambio, who were so very dear to our hearts and worked so hard in so many different ways, but especially the feast.”

Quartino served as the feast’s long-time co-chairman, while Cambio was an admired chef who many praised for coordinating some of the state’s best homemade Italian food. Gower said Quartino “worked diligently in so many ways at the church and during our feasts. He was with us for many, many years as a custodian taking care of all the needs of the parish facilities and also spending hours and hours when it came close to the feast. Joe Q worked with all the volunteers making sure the kitchen staff was in place the food ready to cook.”

Cambio, Gower said, “would combine her cooking skills for our menus that made our festival so successful.”

“They’re going to be deeply missed by the parish and we honor them this year knowing that from that place in the eternal life they’ll be looking down upon us and blessing us, as we thank them so very much for everything they’ve done and they are tremendously missed,” he added.

When the Feast and Festival begins next week at Festival Field off Sheridan Street in Johnston, JoAnn Burley will be co-chairing the event. She has taken on Quartino and Cambio’s roles.

“She’s doing a tremendous job, working many, many hours to keep everything running smoothly while coordinating purchasing food, paper goods and lining up cooks and other parishioners to ensure the success of the 2021 feast,” Gower said. “I really like all that she’s doing, but most of all she’s another example of why our parish is so vibrant.”

With that, Gower said the Feast and Festival observance will actually begin Wednesday, Sept. 8, with a Mass at 6 p.m. followed by a 7 o’clock candlelight procession and rosary.

“Everything will swing into high gear next Thursday, Sept. 9, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. with carnival ride Rock & Roll Amusements for kids of all ages and our famous Italian American-themed food booths,” he said. “Our 101st feast menu will range from a plate of macaroni and meatballs to sausage, rabe sandwiches, arancini (delicious rice balls), calamari, polenta, sausage and pepper sandwiches topped off on Sunday and a full lasagna dinner.”

He added: “No food trucks he like you’ll find at other feasts, with everything lovingly made by our talented chef volunteers. And get this – no food item costs more than $10. Beer and wine will be served in the Beer Garden underneath the Big Top.”

There will be entertainment each night with Timeless on Friday night and Saturday evening until 11 p.m. Sunday’s entertainment will run from noon to 4 p.m. featuring Second to None. Sunday’s schedule will begin with a solemn Mass at 10:30 a.m. in honor of La Madonna della Difesa followed by a procession of our parish’s patroness through nearby streets with an honor guard provided by the Johnston Police Department.

Admission is free and all events will be held rain or shine. All community members are welcome.

Sunday will be special with the grand raffle drawing featuring $5,000 in prizes to be drawn in the afternoon. Tickets can be purchased at the church after weekend masses. For more information, please call (401) 231-2220.

MIGHTY MEMORIALS: At left is a special sign made in memory of the late Joe “Joe Q” Quartino, the man for all seasons and reasons at Our Lady of Grace Church who served as co-chairman of the feast for many, many years until his unfortunate passing last year. At right, Carol Cambio, the long-serving chef for Our Lady of Grace Church’s Feast and Festival, is remembered by this memorial sign that’s attached to the wall by the entrance to the parish.
Set for fifth year, Goodfellas Motorcycle Run gets boost from generous donor

By PETE FONTAINE

Excitement is everywhere — especially at 1 Victory Mount in Johnston and 533 Eddy St. in Providence.

The buzz, as some people are calling it, is because even before kickstands go up on Saturday, Sept. 18, at Strings Bar and Grill at 183 George Waterman Rd. in Johnston, the fifth annual Goodfellas Motorcycle Run will raise a record donation for nationally-acclaimed Hasbro Children’s Hospital.

We raised $16,000 from last year’s run and that’s our most ever,” Cal Calabro, the Goodfellas popular treasurer, offered. “But this time, we’ll go way over that amount — we hope.”

For starters, as Calabro explained, “We had four major donors — AGI Construction, Rosciti Contractors, Bob Calabro, and Michael Dee and Michael Metropoulos, Paul Jorge Roque, Tim Davey and Nicholas Paul DeStefano.

We invited Bruno Ramieri to Johnston for over 30 years, also wanted it known: “As I said, I decided to help Hasbro in her memory. It’s all systems go for the Goodfellas Motorcycle Run, which will be held in memory of the late Anthony Edward Calabro, Freeddy Benedetti, Sueann DeStefano and Paul Jorge Roque, Tim Davey and Nicholas Paul DeStefano and will result with an extraordinary donation in memory of the late Pauline Ramieri.

Registration for the family-friendly event is $20 per rider and $20 passenger. People can start signing up at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 18 at Strings Bar and Grill, which is owned and operated by Stephanie Harris, who last year rolled out the red carpet for all bikers, riders and family friends.

Kickstands, Benedetti and Calabro announced, will be up at 11 a.m. and continue for approximately 90 minutes into Connecticut then back to the unique motorcycle club’s new clubhouse at 1 Victoria Mount in Johnston for food, live music and a special ceremony that will be emceed by a man many bikers will attest is a "great, great Goodfella — Bruno Ramieri!"

We’ll kick-off the day with a morning round and afternoon round of golf followed by a special evening reception at beautiful Greenwich Bay.

This is our largest fundraiser we have done during the year to benefit our programs and services.

Retina Consultants

Altim Pani, MD is pleased to announce that

Scott H. Greenberg, MD has joined the practice specializing in diseases and surgery of the retina and vitreous.

Referrals welcome.

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401-658-0047 Cumberland

Solar Work is Licensed Electrical Work

Before you hire anyone to install solar on your home, business or property, be certain to verify that all the installers* are Rhode Island licensed electricians or indentured electrical apprentices in proper ratio, as required by Rhode Island State Law.

There are significant fines to the employee and the company who violate the law which may also delay or stop your project until it is in compliance.

If you know of a violation please call the Rhode Island Department of Labor Electrical Inspection and Investigation Department

Office 401-462-8571

Mobile 401-207-7636 (voice or text)

All calls are strictly confidential

*All ranking, panels, piping and wiring require a Rhode Island licensed electrician or a registered indentured apprentice, in proper ratio, working under the supervision of a licensed electrician.
EDITOR’S NOTE: On Wednesday, Sept. 1, Johnston’s kids returned to school amid a world in relative chaos. Masked and ready to learn, the youngsters said good-bye to nervous loved ones and escaped to the peaceful confines of academia. No more distance learning meant a long-awaited return for many to the classrooms, and most of the town’s children were less nervous than their parents. The Johnston Sun Rise put out a request for First Day of School Photos, and we were overwhelmed with more than 50 submissions. Every single one deserves a spot in this edition, but alas, there was not enough room. So, please, if you don’t spot your favorite pupil on the pages of this week’s edition, do not fret. We will find space next week, or in an upcoming edition, for the rest. We called and you answered. And the Johnston Sun Rise thanks you all for your replies. In the meantime, check our website, johnstonsunrise.net, for a huge photo gallery. And if you didn’t get your child’s First Day Photo to us yet, there’s still time. Email submissions to the editor at roys@rhodybeat.com.

Welcome back!

Nayrah & Nina Salgado, fourth-graders at Thornton Elementary School

Kenny Davila, a fourth-grader at the Brown Avenue School

The Brown Avenue bus stop crew waits for transportation in the steady drizzle.

Breonna Carleton started the fifth grade at Winsor Hill

David Fontaine started first grade at Windsor Hill Elementary

Dante Ferranti and Alex Mrozewicz started fifth grade at Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary School.
This bunch of boys were ready for their first day of middle school.

Lucas Marcaccio posed with his dog Angilly before his first day of second grade.

Zoey Molina started the third grade.

Siblings Evan Perron, a new sixth-grader, and Ariana Perron, a new eighth-grader, prepared for a new year at the middle school.
BACKYARD SPACE
The Elephant Trunk Nebula

By Lucas Maguire
Special to the Sun Rise

The Elephant Trunk Nebula is located in the constellation Cepheus and is about 2,400 light-years from Earth. It is a dense elongated cloud of gas that contains some early protostars that have been forming for quite some time.

Before shooting some Ha the other night, I took about an hours worth of RGB to give the stars a more natural look. Used an unusual channel combination method from various methods I've learned, and like the look of the stars and nebulosity in this HArgb composition. Shooting during full moon phases arent ideal conditions, clouds in New England have been a real buzz kill. Hopefully the fall weather brings at least a steady flow of clear nights.

(Image courtesy Luc Maguire)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lucas "Luc" Maguire captured this image from his backyard in Johnston. He will be submitting his deep space images to the Sun Rise for publication each week. Maguire's photography can also be found at his Instagram account @oceanstateastro and his Twitter feed @OceanStateAstro.
**Public must stay informed of political redistricting**

Although the average voter may not spend much time thinking about redistricting—the process by which legislative districts are drawn and redrawn based on things like population fluctuations and the changing demographics of communities—they remain an important part of our electoral process with tangible societal impacts.

The 2020 Census, delivered late due to COVID and the attempts of the Trump Administration to cut the process short entirely, has revealed data that, although Rhode Island’s population has grown overall from 10 years ago, many communities saw significant declines in population on stagnant, near zero growth.

Warwick serves as an example of this fact. Although its overall population stayed basically flat, increasing by 131 residents from a decade ago, three of the five districts that lost the most voters are found in Warwick, which includes a 940-person loss from Rep. David Bennett’s District 20, a 616-person loss from Speaker K. Joseph Sheare’s District 33 (down 552 people), and State Democratic Party Chair Rep. Joseph McNamara’s District 19 (down 154 people). The only two Senate districts to lose population came from Warwick as well.

Warwick citizens will certainly form their own opinions as to why the populations of places like Johnston (up 799 residents) and Cranston (up 2,547 residents) are growing while Warwick is flatlining, but just as important as targeting a reason for the population change is recognizing the role voters play in helping their elected officials accountable for their constituents as those constituent bases change with the redistricting process.

No one will know what the new state legislative districts will look like until the redistricting process has been approved forward, but it will be important for voters to learn about it. Knowing who your local representatives are is an important step in being an informed and engaged citizen.

For districts that have gained or lost a significant amount of population, particularly, transparency, as will all government processes, will be key to ensure that the redistricting effort does not alter or give inordinate amounts of power to any one political group or faction within any one party. True democracy comes when the most possible representatives of each community are at the table.

We look forward to seeing the recommendations put forth by the redistricting advisory commission, and hope that the public will be able to monitor the process from beginning to end, to ensure that the politically poisonous act of redistricting does not take away the spirit of competition and democratic ideals that elections are meant to foster and maintain.

Saul Anuzis is president of 60 Plus, the American Association of Senior Citizens.

**Governor, as your doctor and a Rhode Islander, I think it’s time to get this dance over.**

By Tim Jones

Governor, as your doctor and a Rhode Islander, I think it’s time to get this dance over.

I just hope we don’t become so numb to it.

But we weren’t so close.

I’ve got a good feeling we won’t.

In the last couple of years, the world has really changed, Aesop.

Life has become so difficult, just in the way we interact with each other.

Someday we’ll be back. Right?
Sun Rise Scoops

BY MERI R. KENNEDY

Temporary closure at Johnston Indoor Recreation Center

The Johnston Indoor Recreation Center will be closed for repairs and maintenance through Sept. 13. If the work is completed before Sept. 13, the Parks and Recreation Department will post the reopening date on its Facebook page.

Beer Garden and music in Garden City

Join Garden City Center and Aevio Ristorante for a fall beer garden (if you won’t miss the beer garden) at Aevio beginning at 4 p.m. Each Friday, Sept. 3, 10, 17 and 24. Narragansett Beer, Newport Craft Brewing and Whalers Brewing Company will be the tap part in the Beer Garden.

The schedule is Sept. 3-5, 7 p.m.; Sept. 10, 12, Narragansett Beer; Sept. 17-19, Newport Craft Brewing; Sept. 24-26, Whalers Brewing Company.

Hours are Fridays from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 7 p.m. Live music and bites from Aevio, located in your favorite Rhode Island home-away-from-home. The beer Garden is open and there is no cover charge. Seating is available on a first come, first served basis and operating hours will be weather permitting. Customers must show a valid ID and be 21 years of age to purchase an alcoholic beverage.

RI State Police
Citzens Academy now accepting applications

Have you ever wanted to go in a police officer’s shoes at the Rhode Island State Police? Applications are now open for the 2021 Rhode Island State Police Citizens Academy. The six-week academy meets every Monday from day 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 27 through Nov. 1.

The curriculum includes briefings and hands-on experience in officer safety, traffic control, evidence collection, interview and interrogation, police reports, defense, domestic violence investigations, police policies and procedures, mental illness and victim assistance, and investigative techniques.

Seats are limited and applications must be received by Sept. 17. Apply today. For additional information or to apply online, visit ow.ly/ty0YB50FLZIF. For more information, contact Tedd Yorkwoodburychurchri@gmail.com.

Rock & Rhymes Music Fest

On Oct. 3, the group Hey from Rhode Island, the Midnight Callers from New York City, and Soul Box and the Delusters from New York will perform at the 10th annual Rock & Roll Music Fest to benefit children in treatment at the Shriners Hospitals for Children. In Boston, cost is $50 per person. The event will be held at Rhode Island Conservatory, located at 657 Broadway, at 7 p.m. on Oct. 5. For tickets, please visit the follow-eve’s Facebook page or visit eventbrite.com.

Community Walk to fight hunger

A walk to call attention to food insecurity and raise funds for local pantries is being planned by a group of area churches, including: Woodbury Union Church, Lake-What Baptist Stthed, St. Kevin, and St. Mark’s.

The walk will be held on Sat-

10, 16. An informational planning meeting will be held on Sept. 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. at 106 Woodward Union Church at 38 St. James Ave. in Cranston. The event is open to the public and pantries interested in participating are invited to call (401) 479-8232 or email woodenchurchri@gmail.com for more information.

Reunion for Mt. Pleasant High School Class of 1970

The 50th Reunion for Mt. Pleasant High School will be held on Oct. 29 at the Santa Maria DiPrata Society, located at 29 Walnut Grove Ave. in Cranston. The event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are $50 per person and can be purchased at 401-220-0856 or Joan LaVallether at 401-570-1900. (Please RSVP by Octo-

ber 5, 2021)

Church seeking vendors for Holiday Bazaar

Our Lady of Grace Church, located at 4 Lafay-
tte St. in Johnston, would like to invite vendors to partici-
pate in its Holiday Bazaar on Oct. 17. There will be craft-

evs, vendors, a penny social, food and more. For infor-
mation, contact Pat Leon at (401) 576-7992.

Bowl for Kids’ Sake

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island will host its annual Bowl for Kids’ Sake (BFKS) event on Saturday, Sept. 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bowlerama at 386 Bovard Ave. in Cranston. Participants can sign up by visiting onkids.com/bikerbliss2021.

Friends of the Mohr Library

Friends of the Mohr Public Library is a nonprofit cor-

poration dedicated to Mohr Library. Members of the Friends plan and run book sales and fundraising activities to allow Mohr Library to increase services and donations. The Friends welcome new members who are willing to support efforts through donations, memberships, or through volunteering. To find out more contact, mail library director at 231-480 (press ‘7’)

SunriseScroops@aol.com. Photos in jpeg format are ac-
cepted and news can include academic news and non-profit events as well as virtual events. Email submissions for publication in our columns in the Johnston Sun Rise. Please take a day and a few minutes to send us your information; we require any further information.

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Notice
Special Meeting

Agenda

September 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. - Johnston Council

The Johnston Town Council shall hold a special meeting on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Johnston High School Auditorium, 443 Cherry Hill Road, Johnston, RI 02919.

Pledge of Allegiance

Resolution 2021-29: Public Hearing; Tax Stabilization Agreement: The Johnston Town Council will conduct a public hearing pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 44-3-9 to authorize a Tax Stabilization Agreement ("Agreement") between the Town of Johnston and Amazon, Inc.


Resolution 2021-31: Community Partnership Agreement: The Johnston Town Council shall vote on a Resolution authorizing the Mayor, Joseph M. Pollicut, to enter into a "Community Partnership Agreement" by and between the Town of Johnston, Rhode Island, and the Johnston Learning Partnership, LLC for planning and running events as well as virtual events.

Resolution 2021-32: Trip-Party Constitution Cooperation Agreement: The Johnston Town Council shall vote on a Resolution authorizing the Mayor, Joseph M. Pollicut, to enter into a "Trip-Party Constitution Cooperation Agreement" by and between the Town of Johnston, Riverplace Water Property LLC, and the Rhode Island Waterway Association, Inc. (including the creation of a real estate services business for recreation purchased by Buffalo South Bay, LLC). Per Order of the Johnston Town Council, located at 137 Scituate Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919.

Resolution 2021-33: Job reciprocation Agreement: The Johnston Town Council shall vote on a Resolution authorizing the Mayor, Joseph M. Pollicut, to enter into a "Job Reciprocation Agreement" by and between the Town of Johnston, Johnston and Amaranth, LLC for the purpose of allowing the two parties to execute the concept of the "coaching" design and constructed improvements to certain portions of Hartford Avenue in the Town of Johnston, Rhode Island. The...
A petition was circulated on Wednesday evening and a zoning violation was recorded.

And eventually, the scrap facility's zoning was changed to residential, which Cadieux applied for rezoning of the residential property at 31 Starr St. in Johnston.

Cadieux asked the Johnston Planning Board to change the residentially zoned property to an industrial plot, but the request was so far, not been granted.

“I tried to have my day on this rezoning, to give me more space to make it easier to do,” said this week. “I wanted more space, to get the customers out of the street, not just to have scrap in the house or anything like that, to make the operation go easier.”

Since the zoning change has not been granted, he said in the process of clearing the residential property of the facility since he took it over Friday.

“Once Jeff clears that space, to make the operation go smoother,” Cadieux said.

Lamb said the state Fire Marshall’s Office has joined the investigation, because an issue with the business not accepting pressurized gas cylinders is under investigation. The investigation may face citations for improperly storing the cylinders. Lamb said, however, that pressurized gas cylinders, acetylene and/or oxygen cylinders, are not dangerous if properly stored. The initial explosion could have been caused by compressed gas cylinders in the scrap itself, Lamb said.

Lamb said the department called in mutual aid from Providence and Cranston, and about 25 firefighters were on the scene battling the blaze, which took several hours to bring under control.

“Did we have a couple firefighters treated for heat exhaustion,” Lamb said. “We called in the City of Providence, for an aerial truck, because we determined the safest thing to do was apply water from above, without putting our personnel on the fire.”

Due to the day’s high temperatures, the department also requested a large air-conditioned truck from the Cranston Fire Department, to use as a “rehab truck” where firefighters could cool down and re-hydrate.

“Fighting this fire was labor intensive,” Lamb said. “We were members who were wearing their gear, wearing their airpacks, we had to shorten their work cycle.”

Cadieux said the fire’s origins are a mystery, and that it’s the first blaze at the facility since he took the business over from his mother 16 years ago.

“It was just an accident,” he said. “Don’t know what it could have been. Something popped. Fire started, we put it out as fast as we could.”

Cadieux insisted the business would reopen soon, and he dismissed assertions by neighbors that the business is a neighborhood nuisance.

“It was something minor,” he said. “There were no injuries, no damage to the building. It’s kind of a bad situation, the positive outcome is that it will get more clean, more organized, we’ll implement new rules. We need to get some new staff here that actually want to work.”

Neighbors have complained of scrap piled high, and sprawling across both the scrap yard property and onto the residential property.

“I spend my winters in Florida, and when I came back in May, I have this six-foot-picket fence outside my window,” said Tooher, who lives next door to 31 Starr St. “The fence was put up to block the scrap that’s piling up out side. I look out my window and it’s like living in a prison.”

Tooher was one of more than 20 local residents who signed a petition aimed at clearing the site of excess scrap.

“My wife was very upset,” said Tony Palma, who lives nearby at 26 Delbra St. “I was at work. She called me. She was so scared that the house was shaking.”

Palma said Cadieux has his positive traits, but the business has detracted from the residential aspects of the neighborhood.

“The owner’s a wonderful guy, but it’s too messy,” Palma said. “It’s a lot of mess over there. I spend so much money fixing my house, but it’s a mess over there. I don’t have nothing against him. I just wish he would clean it up. It’s too big.”

Cadieux blamed some issues at the facility on staffing shortages caused by the pandemic.

“It’s been difficult with the coronavirus per se, people getting paid to sit home to work,” Cadieux said. “Going forward I plan on running a clean shop.”

Cadieux said he provides a valuable service, scrapping metal to keep it out of the landfill. He said his customers have told him they’re upset the operation has been ordered to cease.

“I’m very easy going and understandable,” Cadieux said. “I don’t want to impose on anybody. But I do want to operate a business, like I have for years now.”

Cadieux said he has been informed by Civito that the 31 Starr St. property must be cleared of scrap. Approximately five employees work for J&S Scrap Metal & Recycling Inc.

“It’s a stressful situation,” Cadieux said. “It will take a few days to clean up. However, we are looking to get back open.”

He dismissed complaints by neighbors.

“They don’t work hard like I do every day; they don’t know what it takes to run a scrap metal business,” Cadieux said. “Anybody who has questions or concerns, I would rather they come to me, so I can solve the problem.”

Cadieux said he will no longer accept pressurized gas tanks with loads of scrap, and that he only accepted them in the past as a favor to customers.

“All cylinders have been removed,” he said. “If we get any more, they will be stored in a container and shipped out imme-

“Thank goodness it wasn’t windy,” Tooher said. “I believe that fire could have been a lot more dangerous.”

Cadieux insists the ex- plosion and subsequent fire were an isolated inci-

“After 16 years of running (J&S), to have one little accident,” he said. “I think that’s pretty good.”

According to the legal notice, the Rhode Island DOT “has agreed to contribute state funds, not exceeding two million se-

“A Tri-Party Construction Coordination Agreement” between the town, Bluewater and DPI/Prete Engineering Associates, Inc. regarding the development of a retail distribution center on real estate purchased by Bluewater.

“The Parties are entering into this Tri-Party Construction Con-

Cadieux also pitched a “Sub-

Polsiena also pitched a “Sub-

According to the legal notice, the Rhode Island DOT “has agreed to contribute state funds, not exceeding two million seven-

Johnston Sun Rise
Friday, September 3, 2021
Matthew DiIorio passed away on the Fourth of July at age 40 after a long battle with Friedreich’s ataxia (FA), a debilitating neurodegenerative disorder.

“Now, without Matthew, the fight continues. ‘That was Matt’s wish, a number of years before he passed away,’ said Michael Crawley, Matthew’s lifelong best friend. ‘That’s an honorable torch to carry. He continues to inspire us all. I was just lucky enough to be his best friend.’

Crawley has been helping the DiIorio family with their fundraising efforts for years. On Saturday, Sept. 18, Rhode Island College will host the 12th Annual Race for Matt & Grace, a fundraiser for FARA (Friedreich’s Ataxia Research Alliance). Crawley and the DiIorio’s have again organized the event, which immediately follows a golf tournament held two weeks ago in Matthew’s honor.

‘People have been so generous and so forthcoming,’ Sallann said. ‘And it has been extraordinary from the beginning.’

More than 5,000 people in the United States suffer from FA, a rare, debilitating and progressive neurological disease, for which there is currently no cure. Members of FARA hope to change that.

Events like the Race for Matt & Grace raise money for research and awareness of the disease.

Matthew DiIorio, a Johnston native, was diagnosed with the illness in 1994, at the age of 13. About four years later, FA began to take its toll. In 2009, DiIorio became a tireless advocate for FARA. He and his family and friends worked hard to raise nearly $1 million over the past 11 years for FARA and others who suffer from FA.

‘That’s the thing that has propelled me the most over the past six weeks,’ Crawley said. ‘I wouldn’t allow my mind to believe Matt wouldn’t be here, even though I knew it was a possibility. It was and continues to be my honor to carry his mission forward.’

Donations can be made in Matt’s memory to FARA in support of the Race for Matt and Grace. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18. The 5K run, walk or roll is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. A party will be held immediately following the event at the Rhode Island College Rec Center.

More information can be found at www.curefa.org/rfmg (checks to FARA may be mailed to 533 W. Uwchlan Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335; reference RFMG).
Sports

Panthers hungry to finish job

By ALEX SPONSELLER

After a multi-year playoff drought, the Johnston football team would get back on track last spring and roll to the Division III Super Bowl against Coventry. The Panthers return much of the same core, but also lost a few key pieces including top receiver Thomas Zednik, who will be playing for UMass Dartmouth this fall.

UP THE GUT: Johnston’s Steven Finegan picks up some yards at practice. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

A few thoughts on football

It’s my favorite time of year: football season. It is great to be back, especially during the fall. I know, it’s still summer for a few more weeks, but the trees are starting to turn ever so slightly, the days are getting a wee bit shorter, and football is in the air.

Like every year in high school football, we have teams that are going through different things. Some veteran-laden teams, some youngsters, some coming off of big years, some looking to take a step forward. I am so excited to get back to work and feel the true Friday night lights again.

Spring football scratched that itch and gave the kids something to be happy about, but this is truly what football is all about. Let’s take a look at where our teams stand as we head into the 2021 fall season:

Bishop Hendricken

The Hawks rolled to another state championship last spring against rival La Salle. It was a great game in which Hendricken trailed at half and had to dig deep. It did just that and made it look easy in the second half to run away with the victory.

Now, this season, the Hawks should once again be in the state championship mix. The biggest question in my opinion comes in probably the least talked about position in football: the offensive line. Hendricken lost multiple linemen including All-State selection Chris LoPresti. The Hawks are known for their size up front, and although they always have the depth to plug in holes, that depth will be tested this fall, for sure.

Hendricken will roll out David Lynch at starting quarterback after he was the backup/spot starter last year. He’s got a quick release and can sling it, but he may have half a second less to deliver than he enjoyed last season.

Hendricken also lost All-State running back Isaiah Emmanuel. Let’s see who will step in to fill that power rushing role.

Coming back is Brandyn Durand, who put the team on his back in the second half of the state championship and is a multi-sport force. He should once again be a nightmare for opposing defenses on the defensive line.

Hendricken is always a contender. The Hawks have the talent and depth, as well as a full-proof system put in place by head coach Keith Croft. This team thrives on consistency and should once again be in the mix as the top unit in the state.

Pilgrim

After claiming its first football championship in over 40 years in 2019, the Pats were bumped up a division while also losing a massive core in the spring. Pilgrim felt the effects of each and stumbled to a winless spring campaign.

There was a realignment in the RII recently which sent Pilgrim back down to Division III. It is a tough situation to gauge if you ask me.

If you took the 2019 Pilgrim roster, I absolutely feel that it could be a contender in Division II. When the media top-20 poll came out each week, I included the Pats in the...
Panthers

(Continued from page 13)

anxious to hit the field. “We’re pretty confident even though we lost some guys. We’re going to need some guys to step up, especially the seniors. We are still going to be fast and explosive, but it’s going to be a challenge since we lost some fire power. We went to the Super Bowl last year, so we’re hungry to get back there and to hopefully win,” said senior quarterback Hunter Remington.

Receiver Joey Acciardo will take on a larger role this fall as the team reloads following the loss of guys like Zednik, and he is excited to compete and prove that the Panthers were not a one-hit wonder. “It puts some more pressure on me, but I am ready to take it. I have been waiting for my senior year for a long time, playing with my dad on the sidelines, waiting for that time to come. Now we’re here, and I have a big role to play. Me and Hunter have got to get it going and make sure we’re on the same page,” said Acciardo. “With the loss last year, it has given us motivation to get back to the same place. We have to show teams that we are the same group and we’re not just talk and we’re here to win. We are going to need everyone to step up as leaders instead of just a few guys like it was last year.”

Although Johnston has a few things to sort out, senior Ryan Schino feels that the Panthers are ready to go, and have a new air of confidence that they had not felt until this offseason. “It’s a lot different. Last year we were coming in as underdogs with nothing to lose. This year, there’s a little more pressure on us to get back to where we were last year and hopefully win this time. We have done a great job adjusting, everyone has to do a little bit more but I think it has helped us all come together,” said Schino. “We are very motivated, especially now that we know what it takes to get there and have tasted it. We want to get there even more and win it.”

TALKING STRATEGY: Head coach Joe Acciardo coaches up players.
Pitch

(Cont. from page 13)

...quarterbacks in the spring, West used multiple quarterbacks in the first half. As a result, West was not able to establish a rhythm on offense. This was...
“I will always be prepared for anything that may come my way now and I can thank Troop 2, Bristol, Rhode Island,” said Nathan Simas, who worked on a fishing line receptacle project as part of his Eagle Scout journey.

Nathan built and erected five line receptacles in his home town of Bristol, RI. The locations were Mount Hope Boat Ramp, Independence Park, The Narrows, Bristol Marina, and the State Street Dock.

The project was funded in part by a $500 grant from the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation. Nathan said, “The goal of my project was to make Bristol a cleaner environment for fisher men and women of all ages. I had seen large amounts of monofilament line being left at precious local fishing spots. Monofilament line can take up to 600 years to degrade. Most sea life and land life don’t live anywhere close to 600 years so I would have the opportunity to change how long they may be living by setting up a simple and cost effective fix.”

“I think my main takeaway was that no matter how much the Eagle Scout project is a huge deal. Being able to help my community and make it a more fishing friendly environment is a bigger help than any rank that Boy Scouts could provide for me.”

Bluefish blitzes, best in years

Anglers have been treated to an abundance of bluefish of all sizes this week. Bluefish provide a great fight for anglers and it treated properly after catching them they make for excellent table fare. The coastwide regulation for bluefish is three fish/person/day.

This week we caught fish in schools from 18 inches to 30 inches. Most were caught on the surface during feeding frenzies (when bluefish push and trap bait close to shore or up on the surface where they have nowhere else to go). To experience what a feeding frenzy or blitz is like, view a video by Mike Laptew at www.youtube.com/watch?v=gd9k_1NC15A&t=34s.

The fish were in the mid to lower portion of the East and West Passage of Narragansett Bay north and south of Gould and Hope Island, off Quonset, Jamestown and many other places. All the fish were chasing good size peanut bunker (immature Atlantic Menhaden). They were coupling them up when brought on deck. Bluefish eat ½ times there wait every day, so they never stop feeding.

The lures of chose were small shiny lures that mimic this bait and flash in the water. Lures such as Kastmaster, Deadly Dick and Yo-Zuri Crystal Minnows worked well this week. Honestly they were biting almost any lures we put in front of them including epoxy jigs.

Here are some tips for fishing bluefish blitzes:

• Use metal leaders when fishing for blues, a few bass with some real gator blues. The largest sized blues I have seen in the bay in quite some time. Attention to the fish before commencing casting prevents anglers from getting hooked and slipping on the deck.
• When you catch a bluefish you are keeping, bleed the fish by cutting it under the gill and putting in a five-gallon bucket upright so it bleeds out. Once dead put in an ice/salt water brine solution for the remainder of your trip.
• Striped bass, bluefish and false albacore, Harrison Catch of Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly said, “Slot limit fish (28 to less than 35 inches) were being caught all along the beaches Monday morning with anglers tossing their lures into the frothy surf.”

Tautog. Allen Newell of Red Top Sporting Goods, said, “We have had a strong tautog and black sea bass bite on Buzzards Bay.”

EAGLE SCOUT: Nathan Simas of Bristol with friend Nathan Dieterich. Simas built five fishing line receptacles as part of his Eagle Scout journey.
By PAM SCHIFF

These days, it can be hard to make plans months in advance. Oak Lawn Elementary School student Ryan Golditch had to do just that earlier this year when offered the chance to attend the Envision Junior National Young Leaders Conference, which was held in July in Washington, D.C. He had been nominated for the conference by his fifth-grade teacher, Theresa Vessella.

“I found out around January first that she had nominated me. Because I was nominated, I was automatically accepted into the program,” Ryan said. “We were told there was a very high demand for the program, so I told my mom to enroll me right away.”

Ryan was not only the sole student from Cranston, but also the only attendee from Rhode Island.

“Ryan’s maturity, critical thinking and problem solving-skills made him an excellent candidate for the program,” Oak Lawn Principal James Zanfani said ahead of Ryan’s attendance at the program. “He will represent Oak Lawn, Cranston as well as Rhode Island as he works with other young leaders from around the country. I just know he will learn so much and do amazing work.”

Ryan and other attendees – middle school students in grades six through eight – had the chance to spend six days in and around the nation’s capital working on solutions to issues facing the country. They also had the chance to visit numerous historic sites.
A Change of Season
In Return of Flowers, Nature and the Inspirational Thought...

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By JENNIFER COATES

For Darlene Fleming, inspiration comes from sources all around her, from the delicate wings of a butterfly to the bold colors of flowers which bloom all around her to her faith in God. She draws inspiration from the perfect symmetries that exist in nature and from the imperfections that exist in that same nature. She surrounds herself with the beauty of the natural world which she then translates into her signature pieces of floral art.

When Darlene Fleming was in the height of her career in retail, she honed her talent for creating unique silk floral arrangements while at her job. When her life took a turn a few years ago, her love of this creative work continued and evolved into the home-based business she runs today. Her business is called A Change of Season.

As a floral designer, Darlene will make silk flower arrangements for every occasion, for every corner of your home and for every season! In her words, Darlene explains: “I believe every season deserves a new look!” Whether it is an autumn wreath complete with woodland creatures, a sparkly Christmas tree bedecked with doves and poinsettias, or a sentimental display for a gravestone, Darlene can make it just for your needs. She regularly updates her creations to reflect the season and to keep it timely and fresh.

There are several things that make Darlene’s work so recognizable. She can take an otherwise unrelated collection of flowers and greenery and make them into something colorful, bright, and most importantly, personal. When Darlene makes her customized arrangements and artwork, she takes extra time to learn about the recipient. She asks, do they love sports? Food? Travel? Animals? Do they have a hobby or a passion? What makes them special and one-of-a-kind? Taking this information, Darlene takes her arrangements to a new level by personalizing them with trinkets, notions and accessories that reflect that recipient and their loves and passions.

Darlene’s talents extend beyond silk floral arrangements and into your live gardens! She will transition your containers and garden boxes from summer to autumn (and more!) Out go the geraniums and in come the autumn leaves, pumpkins and gourds! She is also a skilled photographer who also sells magnets which showcase her photography work and inspirational messages.

After years of self-discovery, Darlene does everything with a purpose. In her words: “It took me 20 years to get to where I am today. I am still learning and growing.”

Over those years, Darlene’s work has been admired and followed by many loyal customers who can now find A Change of Season at local craft fairs such as the upcoming Johnston Apple Festival in September and the Scituate Art Festival over Columbus Day weekend.

To see updated samples of Darlene Fleming’s work, visit A Change of Season on Facebook or call her at 401-741-2579. She looks forward to seeing you at these popular autumn festivals!
Today, most people live rather hectic lives. Many people you speak with may tell you they divide their day between working, raising kids, exercising, taking care of the house, and the pets, cooking and finding little time they have left to get together with family and friends. Because everyone’s schedule is so full, many people use the excuse that they don’t have time for yet another appointment, especially a doctor’s visit, especially if they’re not sick or injured. The fact of the matter is, having and keeping annual meetings with your primary care provider is essential to maintaining long-term good health and living a longer, happier, better quality of life.

Primary care providers responsible for managing your health throughout your lifetime are the backbone of today’s healthcare system. While it may seem redundant to have your weight, blood pressure, eyes, hearing, and reflexes checked every time you visit your primary care provider, these routine health screenings can help your doctor and you identify any health issues or concerns early on before something becomes either a nuisance or worse, a life-threatening problem. Early detection for any condition or illness can potentially save you from discomfort, physical pain, and suffering, or even death. And, with early detection, your doctor can prevent you from spending unnecessary money on treatments. Your primary care physician will actively work with you to identify any risk factors you may have, and help you manage common ailments, as well as chronic diseases.

Having a primary care physician you feel comfortable with is essential, as this is the person you’ll be having conversations with about all of your healthcare concerns, including some issues that you may feel are too personal to discuss with others. Feeling at ease with a doctor you respect, and trust will give you the confidence to ask the crucial questions you need answers to. Make sure your doctor is easy to talk to and is interested in hearing what you have to say.

Your primary care physician may also discuss with you how changes in your lifestyle, behaviors, nutrition, or exercise may benefit you, or recommend prescription medications or procedures, to help you meet your healthcare needs and goals.

Whether you feel perfectly healthy or have a healthcare concern, you can think of your primary care physician as a one-stop shopping. Your appointment opens a wide range of programs and services to you via referrals. One day you may need to make an appointment to learn why you’re hearing is not as good as it used to be, or you have a dark spot on your skin that doesn’t look right to you; either way, your primary care physician can assist with pointing you in the right direction.

See your relationship with your primary care physician as an investment in you, your health, and your well-being, as well as a promise to your family that you will do everything within your power to live a long, healthy, and productive life with them.
INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Shop Locally!
By Travis Landry
Auctioneer & Specialist
Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers
Cranston, RI

I will admit, the majority of the collectibles articles I write for this column primarily focus on the rare, expensive, and if a toy factory sealed. While items in the best of the best condition always bring the most amount of money, there is still a market for opened, loose, and even incomplete toys or just the accessories themselves. This is because not every collector can afford to spend $200, $600, or $5,000 on a factory sealed Star Wars figure or G.I. Joe. But they can afford a near mint $60.00 Boba Fett that’s in pristine condition just out of the package. The tip here for collectors and pickers alike are that loose toys are everywhere in the wild. Yard sales, flea markets, and auctions are the perfect spot to find a box full of G.I. Joe, Star Wars, or He-Man. Even if they are covered in dirt, mouse excrement you name it! People go crazy for this stuff, don’t sleep, and leave money behind just because something is dirty.

So, you’ve gone out and bought a massive random selection of toys. Now what? Now the fun begins. Turn on that computer and start researching. It might be overwhelming at first but every figure, blaster, or sword you identify is more money in your pocket. There are people who make their entire lively hood off of Star Wars and Transformers accessories. If you don’t believe me, just go to a real toy show and see the people who sell parts. It is a whole economy in itself. If you have the time and energy, it is a great way to have some fun and make some dinero. Loose toys, they need lovin’ too.

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE: TUESDAY AT 10 AM
Ryan, his dad, Jason, and mom, Lynnda, drove to the dad, program, which was held July 18-23. They were based out of College Park, Maryland, at the Marriott on the campus of the University of Maryland.

After registration and check-in, the program started right away. Students were broken into two groups, with approximately 20 children in each group. Ryan was placed in the James Madison group, and they worked with the Eisenhower group.

We played ice breaker games, and then broke into leadership focus groups. The groups were mixed of boys and girls and mostly sixth-graders and a few upper grades," Ryan said.

After dinner there were more games and a formal introduction and welcome from Envision staff.

We were given a pre-program assignment to get "feedback for emerging learners," Ryan said. "We had to talk to five mentors. I picked my principal, Mr. Zanfini; my rabbi, Yossi Laufer; my two older brothers, Jeffrey and Ethan; and Mrs. Scappatticci, another teacher at Oak Lawn."

Ryan had specific reasons for picking each mentor.

"I chose Mr. Zanfini because he is my principal and someone who has helped me throughout my years at Oak Lawn," he said. "He always took the time to meet with me if I had an issue. Rabbi Laufer has instilled in me the confidence to do more and be the best at whatever I want to achieve. He is someone I look up to in my community. Ethan has been the oldest brother, Jeff has been someone I admire and wish to follow in his footsteps in being successful in my future career. Ethan has been a role model for me in academics and has shown me how to be disciplined. Mrs. Scappatticci, another teacher at Oak Lawn,"

Another project they worked on was "Voices of Change" project – identify a societal problem, research and write a trifold presentation. "We had to do a Voices of Change project – identify a societal problem, how to correct it," Ryan said. "We needed to do a trifold presentation. This was in the Education and Equity group. We focused on kids with disabilities. Our solution was to educate the people about how the kids need more accessible and easier for students with needs."

Another project they worked on was politically based.

"It was called 'My Day in Office.' It was an election simulation. The top three people would be elected," Ryan said. "I made a campaign poster, with the slogan 'Don't be crying, vote for Ryan.' We had to make up a skit, form a campaign team. Then we showed our posters and performed. I was elected president, second place was vice president, and third place picked what they wanted to be."

For the rest of the week, Ryan was placed in the James Madison group, and they worked with the Eisenhower group.

"More than a learning experience, it was also a social experience for Ryan," he said. "He talked a lot about being president ... it was a maturity experience. He became more involved. I really connected with the program, he experienced camaraderie, he made bonds and contacts with kids all over the country."

Ryan also had positive feedback.

"I got a lot out of it – leadership traits, being around other high achieving kids, more self-confidence," he said. "I was invited to come back next year. My favorite part was being elected president and meeting other people, from all over the country."

Ryan is looking forward to starting the new school year as a sixth-grader at Hope Highlands Middle School. He has his mind set on attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study AI engineering.
"I got vaccinated so I could visit my mom and dad." -Daniella

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