

# MAYOR KEN HOPKINS' NEWSLETTER



## Mayor's Message

Thank you for signing up for my newsletter! In these pages you will find info on the latest city news, upcoming events and programs happening in Cranston!

As we move forward together, my team and I are committed to keeping you informed about the latest happenings in our vibrant community. Stay tuned for more updates, events, and opportunities to get involved as we continue working together to make Cranston an even better place to live, work, and thrive.

Together, we are shaping a brighter future for all residents, and I am honored to serve as your Mayor.

## Mayor Hopkins Announces Start Of Knightsville Revitalization Phase Two

On Monday, March 25, I announced that the city is moving forward with "Phase 2" of the Knightsville Revitalization Project. Phase 2 is an exciting focus and opportunity to invest in the infrastructure of Knightsville.

Planned work will include new pavement, stamped concrete sidewalks, new street lighting, trees, and sitting benches. Work will also make the sidewalk areas ADA compliant for improved and safe pedestrian access.

When complete, the area will come alive as a must visit destination with an economic corridor to be enjoyed by residents and visitors to our restaurants and businesses. Our plans include sidewalk bump out areas to allow enhanced outside dining experiences to be enjoyed at Knightsville spectacular local restaurants.

The scope of construction work for Phase 2 will include Cranston Street from Vervena Street north to the Randall Street intersection. It will also include part of Phenix Avenue starting at the end of Itri Park and then cross over to Park Avenue and continue easterly towards Southern Street.

Foregoing major complications, it is scheduled to be complete by mid-December of this year. I thank neighborhood residents for their patience and cooperation during the construction process. We will work to minimize interruption and inconvenience for neighborhood residents, but the nature of the work will call for everyone's understanding and cooperation.

This latest revitalization project is just one more concrete example of my commitment to local businesses as reflected in the work already completed in Rolfe Square and Pawtuxet Village.

## Find Inside...

- State Mandated Property Revaluation Breakdown
- Cranston receives funds for PD K-9 vehicles
- Yard Waste Pick Up Starts April 8th - Must Know Info
- Storm Aid Available for December, January Events
- Events: Spring Concerts, Parks and Rec Programs, Shred Day
- Small Biz Social Media Workshop & Small Business Week



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## CPD Receives Federal Grant For K-9 Vehicles

Congratulations to our Cranston, RI Police Department on today's receipt of \$344,000 in government funding secured by Representative Seth Magaziner's office!

We are grateful to the Congressman, and State Rep. Jacquelyn Baginski, for their support securing this funding to replace four aged canine (K-9) transport and patrol police vehicles for three patrol dogs, as well as another critical member of our force - "CALI" the therapy-dog who comforts young victims of abuse in close partnership with the Hasbro Children's Hospital.

Our four-legged service members assist Cranston police officers in search and rescue operations of missing persons, search of property, and narcotic detection, among other essential duties.

I look forward to witnessing the work of our CPD and K-9 officers as we continue to strengthen the bond between our community and law enforcement.

## Lt. Gov Brings Resources to Cranston Senior Center

Thank you to Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos for stopping by the Cranston Senior Enrichment Center this morning to kick off your tour of senior centers across the state!

We are proud to support our senior population by connecting them with resources for: Long Term Support Services, Medicaid Food Assistance, Social Security, Home Care, Training & Employment, Transportation & more!

It's inspiring to see the care these organizations put into ensuring that our older residents have access to the services and assistance they need. Let us all remember, together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our senior community members.



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## Cranston Property Revaluation Notice

As required every three years by state law, Cranston has undergone a city-wide Property Revaluation, and has contracted Vision Government Solution, Inc. to complete the project.

Cranston Residents will receive a property assessment letter in the mail. Please refer to the information on the letter for any questions, such as scheduling a hearing regarding the new revaluation.

**DO NOT APPLY THE CURRENT TAX RATE TO YOUR NEW ASSESSMENT. THIS WILL RESULT IN AN INACCURATE CALCULATION OF FUTURE TAXES. THE NEW RATE WILL BE DETERMINED IN THE SPRING OF 2024.**

By law the city cannot receive more tax revenue because of revaluation. Citywide the total tax revenue will be the same. You can look up any property in Cranston by going on <https://gis.vgsi.com/cranstonri/> or google vision appraisal Cranston.

Residents may schedule a hearing through Vision Government Solutions by calling 1-888-844-4300 or going online to: [www.vgsi.com/schedules](http://www.vgsi.com/schedules)

**The deadline to schedule an appointment with Vision Appraisal is April 11. Then residents may contact the Cranston Tax Assessor's Office.**

Informal phone hearings will be held by appointment only. The Representative from Vision Government Solutions, Inc. will contact you at your scheduled time.

In-person hearings will be held at the Cranston Senior Center.





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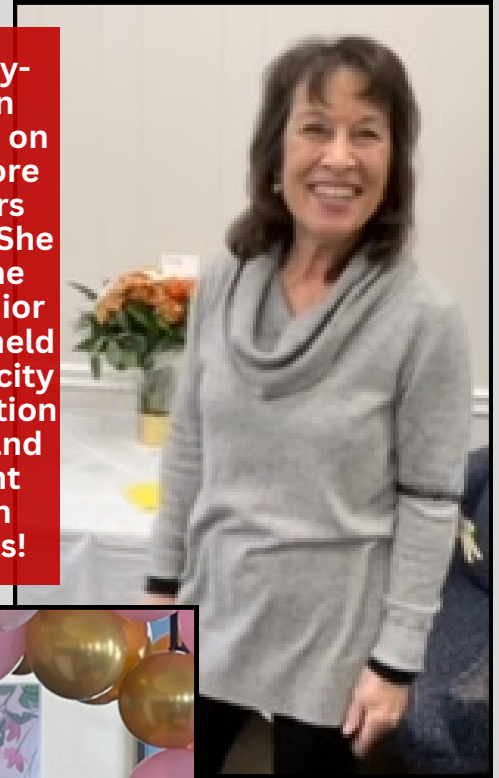
## Mayor Hopkins Visits Edgewood Highland Elementary During Reading Week

March 6th, 2024 - One of my favorite things to do is visit our young students in the city. This morning I had a blast reading to kindergarteners at Edgewood Highland Elementary. Thank you to all the students and faculty for letting me stop by!



## Congratulations to our recent retirees!

**Mitzi Crowley-Schortmann (right) retired on 3/18 after more than 30 years with the city! She started at the Cranston Senior Center, then held 25 years with city hall's Information Technology and Management Information Departments!**



**Francesca Solitro (left) retired 2/29, after nearly 25 years as the payroll and benefits clerk for Cranston City Hall!**

**We wish them both a joyful and fulfilling retirement!**





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## Mayor Hopkins Announces Start of Yard Waste Collection

Mayor Hopkins reminds residents that starting **April 8th, and lasting into mid-December, 2024**, Yard Waste may be picked up separately from other trash on regular collection days.

### What is Yard Waste?

Yard Waste is organic material such as, but not limited to, leaves, grass clippings, hedge clippings, brush and branches and other small vegetative material that may be naturally biodegradable. In the case of tree branches and shrubs, the length of these items shall not be more than four feet.

### What kind of container is acceptable?

Yard Waste must be placed in brown paper bags (no plastic bags) or corrugated boxes marked "Yard Waste" or barrels marked "Yard Waste." Branches must be bundled and no longer than 4-feet long and placed on the curb no later than 6:15 am on your collection day, but not before noon the day before.

Residents may call 401-780-3174 with questions.



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## Assistance Approved For Residents Affected by Dec/Jan Storms, Flooding



Mayor Ken Hopkins announced the Federal Emergency Management Agency and President Biden have approved the emergency declaration for December 2023 and January 2024 flooding events in Rhode Island.

Federal funding is now available to affected individuals and business owners in Kent, Providence, and Washington counties for damage from the Dec. 17-19, 2023, and the January 9-13 storm, which forced dozens of Rhode Islanders to evacuate their homes and apartments.

If your home or business was damaged during either storm, you can apply for assistance by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362), or going online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov).

### Steps to apply

- Visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov)
  - Click, 'Get Assistance' and 'Apply Online' in the drop down menu
  - Enter your zip code
  - Select the date of the disaster that affected you
- \*\*If you have losses in more than one event, you must complete a new application for each disaster\*\**
- Select your area (Providence' county for Cranston residents)
  - Follow final directions to file for property damage & other expenses

For IN PERSON assistance, representatives from FEMA & the SBA will be at the Cranston Public Library Central Branch (140 Sockanossett Cross Road) on the following days...

Monday 4/1 - 9 am to 5 pm  
Tuesday 4/2 - 9 am to 4 pm  
Wednesday 4/3 - 9 am to 5 pm  
Thursday 4/4 - 9 am to 5 pm

For updates on the Rhode Island response and recovery, follow the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency on Twitter at [twitter.com/RhodeIslandEMA](https://twitter.com/RhodeIslandEMA), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/RhodeIslandEMA](https://www.facebook.com/RhodeIslandEMA), or visit [www.riema.ri.gov](https://www.riema.ri.gov).





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# SPRING CONCERT SERIES

WILLIAM HALL LIBRARY AUDITORIUM  
1825 BROAD STREET, CRANSTON

SATURDAY, MARCH 30 - 2:30 - 3:30 PM  
RENAISSANCE V BRASS QUINTET

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 - 2:30 - 3:30 PM  
MYCHAL GENDRON CLASSICAL GUITAR

SATURDAY, MAY 11 - 2:30 - 3:30 PM  
JOE GODFREY JAZZ PIANIST

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12 - 6:30 - 7:30 PM  
SCOTT OUELLETTE CLASSICAL GUITAR

Concerts are free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

[cranstonlibrary.org](http://cranstonlibrary.org)



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## DID YOU KNOW RWU UC OFFERS

### Affordable and Accessible Education For **ALL CRANSTON RESIDENTS**

Presented by :



# 4/17/24



6:00pm- 7:30pm



William Hall Library  
1825 Broad St Cranston, RI 02905

### Featuring the following information:

Tuition Discount

Registration Process

FAFSA

Prior Learning Assessment

### Register Today



For more information or any questions  
Please Call 401-254-3838



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# MAYOR KEN HOPKINS' NEWSLETTER

# SHRED DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM @ CENTRAL  
Public Libray (140 Sockanosett Cross Rd)



***SHRED RI***

Generously sponsored by TW Financial Group, a financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, 888 Reservoir Avenue, Cranston.

There is no cost or obligation to attend. ShredRI and The Cranston Public Library are not affiliated with Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, Member FINRA and SIPC.



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## TENNIS IN THE PARK

Cranston Parks and Recreation is partnering with USTA to bring tennis instruction back to Cranston for students in grades 1 through 8. Group lessons will take place at the Cranston High School West Tennis courts starting May 11, 2024.

This is the perfect starter program if you want to get your child interested in tennis. There will also be enough new instruction to keep experienced players engaged.

Space is limited, and open to Cranston Residents only.

The Deadline to register is May 10, 2024.

Rackets will be provided to all registered participants courtesy of USTA.

**WHEN:** Saturdays from May 11 to June 22, 2024 (no session 5/25 - Memorial Day weekend)

**WHERE:** Cranston High School West Tennis Courts

Register NOW by scanning the QR Code or visiting:

<https://playtennis.usta.com/tennisintheparks/Coaching>

You MUST select 'Tennis in the Parks - Cranston, RI' to register by grade.





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## Cranston Parks and Rec Announces New Evening Yoga Program



Parks and Rec is proud to announce its new **EVENING YOGA** program focused on “relaxing evening yoga to loosen up and calm down!” Lessons will be led by Lawren Wellisch of Tidal Volume Yoga.

This series will be focused on using stretches, breathing techniques, and meditation to release tight muscles and slow down racing minds. The classes are designed as a series to help you work on releasing tension in a different area of the body and practice different relaxation techniques each week, but drop-ins also welcome!

Participants should be age 18 or older. No advance registration necessary. All experience levels welcome. Participants may bring their own yoga mat, or borrow one provided.

### WHEN?

**Mondays**

**April - 1, 8, 15, 29**  
(no class April 22)

**May - 6, 13**

**Time: 6:30pm - 7:15pm**

### WHERE?

**Pastore Youth Center, 155 Gansett Avenue**

### Cost?

**Suggested donation \$5 per class (drop-ins)  
or \$25 for the full series (6 classes)**

### What to wear?

**Comfortable clothes that allow you to stretch and move. Yoga is usually practiced with bare feet, but you are welcome to wear socks and/or shoes if you prefer.**



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## Mayor Hopkins Announces

# SMALL BUSINESS & SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP

Discover new opportunities and reach a greater customer base with this workshop focused on expanding your business' social media reach, Google Business Profile, and online presence at 3 pm, TUESDAY, April 16th at the Cranston Senior Center!

Hosted by Mayor Ken Hopkins, the Cranston Economic Development Department, & the U.S. Small Business Administration.



3 PM - TUESDAY  
APRIL 16, 2024



CRANSTON SENIOR CENTER  
1070 CRANSTON ST, CRANSTON

### REGISTRATION & SURVEY

Cranston business owners, scan the QR codes below to register for the workshop, and to complete a short survey about your business.

**REGISTER**



**SURVEY**



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## National Small Business Week

MAYOR KEN HOPKINS ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO  
SUPPORT THE CRANSTON BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO  
'SHOP SMALL' DURING  
**2024 NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK**

*April 29th – May 3rd*



Support  
**LOCAL**  
Business

**SUPPORTING SMALL, INDEPENDENTLY OWNED BUSINESS  
HELPS CREATE JOBS, BOOSTS THE LOCAL ECONOMY, AND  
KEEPS OUR COMMUNITY THRIVING!**



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## CRANSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE RECRUITMENT

# APPLY NOW

**Starting Base salary:  
\$57,629 with annual increases to \$83,148**

**Benefits:**  
Health & Dental coverage  
Pension Plan  
Paid time off  
Paid holidays  
Paid college tuition

**SEE FULL INFORMATION AT:  
CRANSTONPOLICERI.COM**



*Online Application:*

**POLICEAPP.COM/CRANSTONRI  
OR SCAN BELOW QR CODE**



*Application Deadline:*

**MAY 1, 2024**



**WOMEN AND MINORITIES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.**

**APPLICANTS FLUENT IN ENGLISH, AND ANY OTHER LANGUAGE, INCLUDING  
KHMER, ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY**



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## Cranston Neighborhood Tree Planting Program

Mayor Ken Hopkins announces the Cranston Neighborhood Tree Planting Program is accepting applications for 2024 spring planting. Funded by the West Bay Land Trust, the program is free to all eligible property owners.

[For more information and application forms:](#)

EMAIL - [cranstontree@gmail.com](mailto:cranstontree@gmail.com)

VISIT - [westbaylandtrust.org/cranstontree/](http://westbaylandtrust.org/cranstontree/)

CALL - (401) 941-1264

