

MAYOR KEN HOPKINS' NEWSLETTER



Mayor's Message

Dear Residents,

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter! Within these pages, you will find the latest city news, details on upcoming events, and information about the programs happening in our community.

I encourage you to stay tuned for more updates and exciting events. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for all residents of Cranston, and I am honored to serve as your Mayor.

Find Inside...

- 12-year-old Receives Civilian Bravery Award
- Maritime Pipe-Fitting Career Pathway Launch
- May 19th - Cranston Spring Fest
- Memorial Day City Hall Closure Notice
- May 23 - Small Business Workshop
- Earth Day and Arbor Day Events Recap
- Bike Path and City Playground Improvements
- New Businesses & Business Spotlights

CPD Annual Memorial Ceremony

On Friday, May 10, many gathered for the Annual Cranston Police Department Memorial Ceremony to honor and recognize police officers' dedication and heroism. Beautiful tribute was paid to past officers and their families.

I am constantly inspired by the courage and dedication members of law enforcement display each day when they put their lives on the line to keep Cranston safe.

Let us continue to draw strength year-round from the proud example our officers set and uphold their values of service, integrity, and compassion in our daily commitment to protecting and serving the people of Cranston.

Together, we will build a community that honors their sacrifice and upholds the principles of justice and unity that our officers so valiantly defend. Let us work hand in hand to create a safer and more just world for future generations.



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Mayor Ken Hopkins presents an award for Civilian Bravery to 12-year-old Seraphina Contugno with CPD Chief Col. Michael Winquist.

Civilian Bravery Award

The Cranston Police Department and I recognized 12-year-old Seraphina who, on the evening of March 18, 2024, took courageous and quick action in waking her family and alerting emergency personnel to an active fire and events at a home next door - keeping others safe from potential danger.

The CPD invited Seraphina's family to headquarters for her to receive a civilian award for bravery. Seraphina's bravery serves as a shining example of selflessness and community spirit. The City of Cranston is proud to honor a hero who, at 12-years-old, showed that age is no barrier to making a difference.



Cranston Bike Path Renovations Near Complete

Paving and improvement work for Cranston sections of the Washington Secondary Bike Path is targeted to be complete in June!

Cyclists and pedestrians can look forward to a smoother and more enjoyable journey along the path with these improvements..

RIDOT began preliminary work on the bike path in April. Work has included drainage enhancements, repairs to washouts, striping, fence replacements, erosion controls, and improvements to pedestrian signals and ADA ramps at street crossings.

Throughout the summer, work will continue on bike path sections within the Towns of Coventry and West Warwick and the City of Warwick.

At my encouragement, work in Cranston is being completed first to allow maximum use of the bike path during the 2024 Spring and Summer seasons.

While the construction may lead to temporary closures during weekday nights, the long-term benefits of a revitalized and safer bike path far outweigh the inconvenience. This revitalization effort promises to provide a renewed space for outdoor recreation and leisure for all to enjoy for years to come.



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New Maritime Pipe-Fitting Pathway at Cranston East

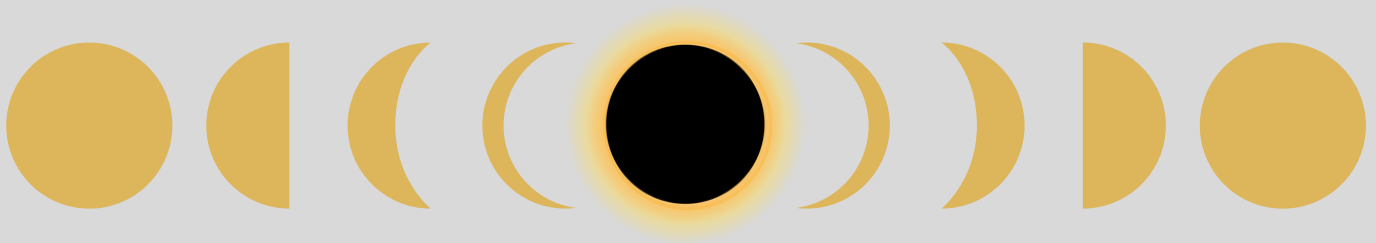
In April, we celebrated the official opening of the new plumbing and pipefitting CTE space at Cranston High School East. This pathway program will prepare students for careers in maritime pipefitting - many of the students in the program already have job offers with Electric Boat upon graduation!

The Cranston Public School program has partnered with Electric Boat and received Department of Defense funding from Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance (SENEDIA) for new equipment allowing students to complete real-world, hands-on projects in plumbing/pipefitting.

A special recognition goes to instructor Chris Richards who trained with Electric Boat himself to become certified to lead this brand-new maritime pipe-fitting program!



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On April 8, the Cranston Public Library hosted a Solar Eclipse Viewing Party with hundreds of residents in attendance! Thank you to our Cranston Library employees for putting together this fantastic community event!



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Thank you to all of the volunteers, from the Edgewood Waterfront Preservation Association and other organized groups to the individuals across our city, who participated in Earth Day clean ups! Volunteers led multiple efforts to beautify parts of our city, including along Meshanticut Lake State Park and Stillhouse Cove this Earth Day!



Volunteers, including Mayor Hopkins, Councilmembers Chris Paplauskas, Nicole Renzulli, and Richard Campopiano at Meshanticut Lake State Park on Earth Day.



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Arbor Day Celebration at Brayton Park

We held a wonderful Arbor Day ceremony at Brayton Park with the RI Tree Council Governor Dan McKee, Senator Jack Reed, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and members of Oaklawn Elementary School's fourth-grade class!

I'm proud to announce that Cranston was named as a 2023 USA Tree City by the national Arbor Day Foundation Tree City Program in honor of our city's commitment to effective urban forest management. During our Arbor Day ceremony, students planted a tree to solidify Cranston's commitment to protect our urban forests, improve our climate resilience, and maintain a high quality of life for all to enjoy.

With these objectives in mind, I proudly signed a proclamation recognizing TODAY - April 26, 2024 as Arbor Day, and urge all citizens of our great to city to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and to plant trees to promote the well-being of this and future generations...



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Cranston Arts Commission Forum, Recruitment

On April 17, we held a Community Forum for the Arts with the Cranston Arts Commission (CAC). It was a great discussion with those in attendance generating ideas about how the city and commission can work together to promote Cranston's culture and history through public art. I also presented the commission with a check for their annual funding! Thank you to CAC Chair Danielle Izzi for co-hosting!

If this work interests you, the volunteer-run CAC is looking to recruit up to six more members for it's 12 member board! Learn more about how to get involved as a volunteer or submitting artist by visiting www.cranstonartscommission.org/home



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Playground Improvements Underway Across Cranston

While students were out for school vacation in April, city workers were hard at work installing new playground equipment and refurbishing parks across the east side of the city. The Edgewood Highland Elementary School and Smith Street playgrounds were among the first to undergo these improvements! I'm grateful to our Cranston Parks and Recreation and Cranston Community Development departments for the manpower and CDBG funds supporting this work!



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New Business Openings

Many new businesses have opened or moved to Cranston in the last few weeks, check out this list of new business locations to visit and show your support!



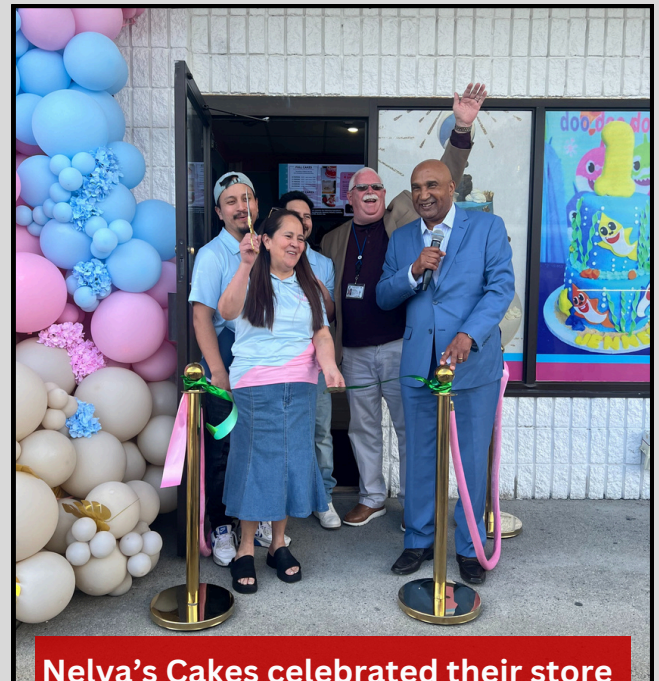
Pickleball Citi, owned by husband and wife Dr. Debra Cohen and Russell Johnson is now open at 60 Walnut Grove Ave!



We welcomed Greater Providence Board of Realtors to their new office at 1169 Park Ave!



Marasco's Bar & Grille is open for business at 1458 Park Ave!



Nelva's Cakes celebrated their store opening at 39 Phenix Ave with friends and family!



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Business Spotlights



I was treated to a recent tour of Falvey Linen & Uniform Supply with Councilman Chris Paplauskas - a former employee of the company!

It was a pleasure to speak with Jim and Kaitlin O'Hara who have employed more than 200 people at their Cranston location on Burnham Ave. as a four-generation, family-owned business!

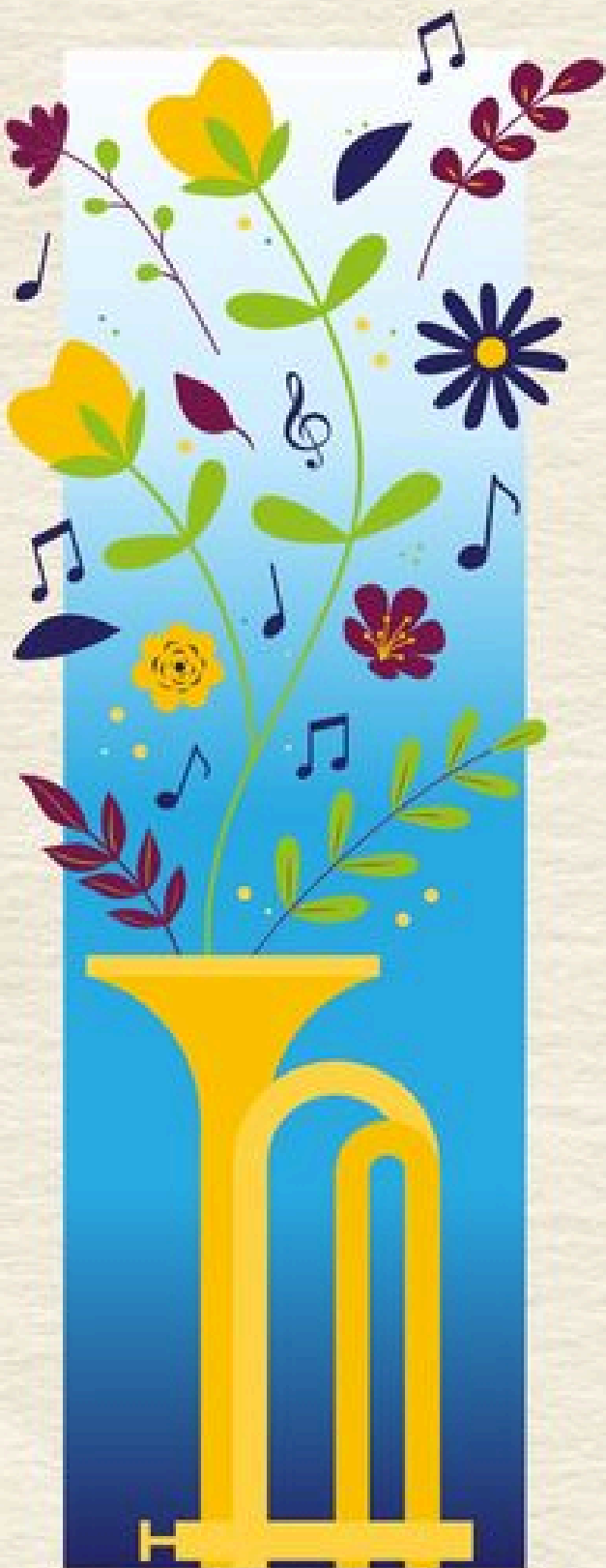


April 30th marked the last day of service for Edgewood Market, which first opened back in 1958!

I stopped by to wish a happy retirement to owners Greg and Steve Suvajian, who took over the business from their father, as they celebrate an end to their decades of service at 1043 Narragansett Boulevard!



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SPRING CONCERT SERIES

WILLIAM HALL LIBRARY AUDITORIUM
1825 BROAD STREET, CRANSTON

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

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

This concert series is funded by the DeGuilio Family
Concerts are free and open to the public. Registration is not required

cranstonlibrary.org



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HAPPY
Mother's Day

On this special day, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation and admiration for the invaluable role all mothers play in shaping our lives and our communities.

**MAYOR
KEN HOPKINS**

5/12/24



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The poster features the City of Cranston seal on the top left and the Cranston Police RI badge on the top right. The main title 'CRANSTON SPRING FEST' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title, it states 'BROUGHT TO YOU BY CRANSTON POLICE, CITY OF CRANSTON & OCEAN STATE FOOD TRUCK FESTIVALS'. The event details are 'ROLFE SQUARE MAY 19TH 10-5 PM'. A central graphic shows a circular arrangement of food trucks with the text 'FOOD TRUCKS & CRAFT VENDORS' and 'ADDITIONAL PARKING BEHIND CITY HALL'. To the right, it lists 'LIVE MUSIC', 'BEER GARDEN', 'POLICE DEMOS', and 'KIDS AREA'. A 'MASTER OF CEREMONIES' graphic is also present.

CRANSTON
SPRING
FEST

BROUGHT TO YOU BY CRANSTON POLICE, CITY OF CRANSTON & OCEAN STATE FOOD TRUCK FESTIVALS

ROLFE SQUARE
MAY 19TH
10-5 PM

FOOD TRUCKS & CRAFT VENDORS

ADDITIONAL PARKING BEHIND CITY HALL

LIVE MUSIC
BEER GARDEN
POLICE DEMOS
KIDS AREA

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Cranston SpringFest 2024!

10am, Sunday May 19th, on historic Rolfe St.



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[CRANSTONRI.GOV/MAYOR-NEWSLETTER/](https://cranstonri.gov/mayor-newsletter/)

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SMALL BUSINESS & SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP

Mayor Hopkins invites you to 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 11 am, Thursday, May 23 at the Cranston Senior Center!

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

REGISTRATION

Cranston business owners who plan to attend are asked to scan the QR code below or visit <https://bit.ly/44P4S1b> to register.



11 AM - THURSDAY
MAY 23, 2024



CRANSTON SENIOR CENTER
1070 CRANSTON ST, CRANSTON



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City Hall Closed May 27.

Mayor Ken Hopkins reminds residents Cranston City Hall will be closed Monday, May 27, 2024 for observance of

★ **MEMORIAL DAY** ★

Due to the holiday, waste management services will be delayed. If your regularly scheduled trash collection day falls on or after a holiday, all pick-up days will be delayed one day for the rest of the week.

If your regular collection day is:
Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri

Your collection day for this week will be:
Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat



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ALL AGES



FREE BOOK FAIR

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 | 4:30 - 6:30 PM @ GOVERNOR SPRAGUE MANSION

Everyone who attends this event may choose a free book to keep! Browse a beautiful selection of free books in a historic mansion and learn about the library's summer programs for all ages. You can also play lawn games and listen to old-fashioned music from Fiddle 'N Fun. Then cross the street to Cranston Fire Department Station 3 to enjoy refreshments, learn about resources from community partners, and check out the fire trucks.

You may park in the dirt parking lot at the rear of the fire station.

This event is sponsored by the Cranston Public Library, the OneCranston Health Equity Zone, the Cranston Family Center/COZ, the Cranston Historical Society, the Cranston Public School Librarians, and the Cranston Fire Department.

Governor Sprague Mansion, 1351 Cranston St. Cranston, RI



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