



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

May 2022

Volume XXXIV No. 6

Dedicated to Preserving the Heritage and Enjoying the History of Our City

May

Sunday, May 8

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum open

Exhibit:

Historical Architectural Landscapes

EP High School Art Exhibit

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Art Reception

1:30 pm

Hikes at Hunts
Meet at the Gazebo

1:30 pm

Rumford Junction Band
Playing at Gazebo

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Family Games

June

Sunday, June 12

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum open

July

Sunday, July 10

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum open

CONTACT US AT:

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Historical Society

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President's Letter

by Cheryl Faria and Jeff Faria, Co-Presidents

Spring is now fully in bloom. It's wonderful to see all the new growth and feel the warm sunshine again!

John Hunt House Museum

We had our second Open House of the season on Sunday, April 10th. It was a beautiful day and we had over 200 visitors on the property to visit the Museum, play colonial games on the front lawn, look at the Fish Ladder, work in the Community Gardens and walk the property. Many Museum visitors admired Jesse Albright's extensive collection of East Providence documents and photos.

The next Open House will be on Sunday, May 8 from 1-3:30pm. We have a new display in the Exhibit Room of artwork done by students in the East Providence High School Art Department called 'Historical Architectural Landscapes.' There will be an Art Reception from 1-3:30pm, during the Open House.

In addition to the tours of the museum, guided by our knowledgeable docents, the library in the Education Center, staffed by historians Sandra Turgeon and Tom Warzeka, will be open. We will also have the monthly 1:30pm 'Hikes at Hunt's Mills', led by Ernie Germani and Alex Kemp and children's colonial games on the lawn in front of the Museum. Weather permitting, we will have the Rumford Junction Band again playing in the Gazebo.

Pat Henry Award

We are proud to report that Pat Henry was honored during the Open House by Mayor Bob DaSilva as one of the City of East Providence's Remarkable Women! Pat is a member of the EP Historical Society as well as two garden clubs. Before her retirement, she was a nurse for 45 years. In her free time she enjoys gardening, baking and quilting. She goes to the gym almost every morning, is a greeter at church every day and never forgets a birthday! On Tuesday, May 3rd there will be a celebration at City Hall, hosted by the Mayor, for Pat and other Remarkable Women.



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The Gazette

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- Eric Underhill *Recording Secretary*
- Dorothy Thornley *Treasurer*
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The East Providence Historical Society
and
The East Providence High School Art Department
Present:

Historical Architectural Landscapes

Student work will be on display May 8th and June 12th
(1:00-3:30)

Art Reception will be May 8th 1:00pm to 3:30pm

At the
East Providence Historical Society
65 Hunts Mills Rd, Rumford



**The East Providence
Historical Society**

is dedicated to preserving the heritage
and enjoying the history of our city.

**If you are not a member we
invite you to join now.**

Annual dues are \$25 individual, \$35
family or business, or a Life
Membership for \$250.

Please make check payable to:

East Providence Historical Society

and mail membership form to

East Providence Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, RI 02916-4774

Membership Form

New

Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

\$25 Individual

\$35 Family/Business

\$250 Life

Presidents' Letter

From page 1

Community Gardens

Most gardeners from the 2021 growing season have sent in their renewal contracts and the 26 raised bed gardens behind the John Hunt House Museum are once again sold out. We will be having a Community Garden Season Opening Event on Saturday, April 30 to welcome all of the gardeners to the 2022 season.



Seed Starters



We are fortunate to have a team of URI Master Gardeners and community gardeners working to start seeds in the Garden Center again this year. Teams of 2-3 gardeners have been meeting from 9:00am-12 noon most weekday mornings. On Saturday, May 7, we will have seedlings to give away to the Community Gardeners.

Jeff Faria and Ivan Colon have installed new grow lights and the Garden Center now has four beautiful new windows and is full of seedlings.



Heritage Gardens

We had our first gardening session in The Heritage Gardeners on April 5th to maintain the four gardens that surround the Museum. We will be meeting on Tuesday, May 3rd from 4-7:00pm for our second 'Wine & Weeding' gardening session of the season. We garden from 4-6:00pm and then adjourn to the Gazebo for a potluck dinner. Anyone is welcome to join us!

WINE & WEEDING



Home School Group

On Friday, April 22, we hosted an educational program for a home-school group of students. Led by Kara Evans, Nancy Moore and Jack Richer, the children had a map making session in the Education Center where they made maps of the trails and then walked along the hiking trail. They also learned about eating food that had over-wintered with Count Rumford and visited the Fish Ladder with Keith Gonsalves.



Barrington Parkway – Part 2



The current view of the Veteran's Memorial Parkway from Watchemocket Cove to Fort Hill. The Metacomet Country Club on the east side is gone by now as are the oil tanks once located on the sandy field on the west.

Last month we published Part one of the 1991 nomination of the Barrington Parkway (Veterans Memorial Pkwy) for National Register status. This nomination was approved at the State level but

never sent on to the National Park Service which handles the Register of Historic Places. It is our intention to have the State resubmit this nomination in 2022. If you missed Part one and the amazing archival photos by Jess Welt: <ephist.org> Gazette/March 2022

Excerpts from the Second Annual Report of the Metropolitan Park Commissioners

The proposed boulevard as outlined in the Olmsted Report was to run from Watchemocket Square in East Providence to Pomham Station and continue through the center of Riverside across Bullocks Cove and terminate at the end of Nayatt Road in Barrington. A spur road was proposed which would cross Bullocks Cove over a second bridge and connect Narragansett Terraces and Crescent Park to the new road.

Taking of private lands were outlined and planning for the first section of Barrington Boulevard were begun in 1910. The Olmsted firm, working in conjunction with Providence engineers, developed 245 plans for the road,

including taking lines, grades, road layout, cross sections, profiles, construction plans, and planting plans.

Work on the parkway continued from 1910 to 1920 on "Section 1 - from Watchemocket Square to Vanity Fair" (near the Pomham Club).

The only planting plans which are extant for the parkway show the Norway maples planted in 1920. It is difficult to determine how much of the planting outlined by Olmsted in his letter actually was installed. The firm was acting as consultant to the Metropolitan Park Commission's engineers and construction crews. No formal planting plans or lists exist for the parkway as most of the work was conducted on a verbal basis or handled in a letter.

The Barrington Parkway, as the road became known, was renamed the Veterans Memorial Parkway. Today there are no pedestrian

Continued on page 6

Map of Proposed Barrington Parkway Improvements



Barrington Parkway

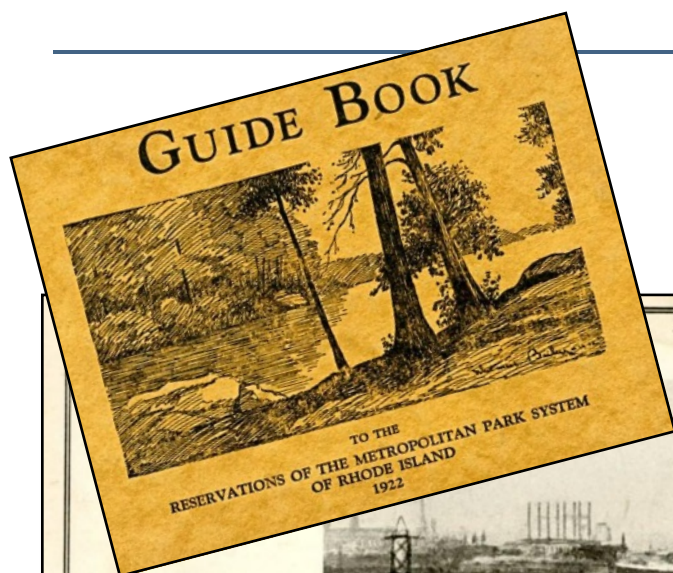
From page 4

walks lining any portion of the parkway. A small park was developed at the summit of Fort Hill which includes a parking turn off, grove of trees, and a memorial marker commemorating the fort. Squantum Woods Reservation was developed in the 1930's near the Squantum Club. Shown in a sketch map of 1938, many of the improvements as a roadside picnic area took place with WPA money. Residential neighborhoods and the Metacomet Golf Club line the inner (east) side of the parkway. Most of the west side of the parkway between the road and the bay is lined with gas storage tanks, screened in several places by lines of deciduous trees along the edge of the roadway. Squantum Woods Reservation (the picnic area), the grounds of the Squantum Club/Emma Bradley Hospital, and the parking area on Fort Hill are the only landscaped, open lands with uninterrupted views of the Bay.

Despite the commercial infilling along the parkway, the road retains its overall design intent and purpose. Beginning at the southern end of Watchemocket Square, the parkway gently winds its way along the upper crest of a steep bluff that overlooks Narragansett Bay. It gradually descends the southern end of the bluff to cross Watchemocket Cove, then ascend the next hillside to Squantum Woods and Bradley Hospital. South of the Hospital, the road blends into the multiple access Pawtucket Avenue, and the landscaped, park-like effect of the parkway is lost to the more congested in-town road. The road is heavily traveled during rush hours with traffic going to Providence from East Providence and Barrington. The Department of Environmental Management, current managers of the area, maintain the roadway and its associated plantings and picnic area. The parkway represents one link in the chain of parks, parkways, and open space which were proposed for the metropolitan Providence area in 1906 by the Olmsted Brothers and the Metropolitan Park Commission.

Source: Second Annual Report of the Metropolitan Park Commissioners (containing the Olmsted Brothers report on a metropolitan park system), 1906; Olmsted archives client job number 3506 (Barrington Boulevard) includes plans and correspondence.; Olmsted archives client job number 3500 (Metropolitan Park Commission), includes early proposals, maps, plans and correspondence; Department of Environmental Management plan archives - many maps of the parkway and its improvements, 1910 - present; East Providence Rhode Island (Statewide Historical Preservation Report P-EF-l)





A page from the Metropolitan Park System Guide Book of 1922. Enjoy the caption, especially the speed limit for the parkway!



View of Providence Harbor from Fort Hill

Barrington Parkway Reservation

110 Acres

LOCATED in the town of East Providence, this reservation consists of a winding parkway drive, beginning at Second Street and Warren Avenue and continuing over Fort Hill, follows the high land overlooking the eastern shore of Providence Harbor for a distance of two miles. There are many vantage points from which to view Providence and its approaches, the lower Seekonk River and upper Narragansett Bay. There is also a thickly wooded glen in the vicinity of Kettle Point and a short stretch of water front in Long Rock Cove. Autoists may use this drive in preference to the Warren and Pawtucket Avenue route. The speed limit is 20 miles per hour and commercial vehicles are absolutely prohibited from using the parkway. This reservation may be reached by the Riverside and Crescent Park cars from Providence, and the Providence, Warren & Bristol trains from stations south of East Providence.

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Although the days are warming, it is best to wait to transplant tomatoes and other tender vegetables until the soil has warmed to 50°. Keep them watered in a warm sunny location until Memorial Day, or even early June. They will thank you!
- Rotating vegetable plants in the garden is recommended but not really practical in most home gardens. One method of confusing pest insects, is to mix up your planting areas if you have room. Try a cucumber or tomato plant in your flower bed!
- Leave spring bulb foliage until it yellows to promote stronger bulbs next spring.
- Plant bush type cucumbers, pumpkins and even summer squash in patio containers. Check out our seedlings at the Hunt House Museum on Mother's Day!
- Our URI Mastergardener volunteer program is flourishing this year! Our garden seed starting volunteers have started many vegetables and flowers that we will be giving away at the open house on Mother's Day! We have logged hundreds of volunteer hours, producing seedlings for the community gardens and the public. I call it, "germination to graduation!" Our volunteers have nurtured thousands of seedlings and when we give them away at "graduation", they will go on to "college" and produce lots of vegetables for you!

Welcome to Our New Members!

- Heather Andrade
- Matthew Burns
- Mary-Beth Hoxie

Visit us regularly and enjoy the fun, fellowship, and educational opportunities the Historical Society offers.



Preservation News

Our news this month focuses on the Sowams Heritage Area Project whose mission it is to bring attention to the lands extending from the Taunton River to Narragansett Bay, south to Aquidneck and north through the Attleboros, the ancestral lands of the Indigenous peoples in this area. This area was called Sowams by those tribes who called it home (and still do) for 10,000 years, principally the Pokanoket Tribe. The arrival of Europeans in 1620 set in motion an inexorable change in the perceived use/ownership of land, animal husbandry, farming and rights of way use. The friction between the two cultures persisted through 1675, culminating in the King Phillip's War. The Sowams Project puts a spotlight on study/inquiry in depth of those 100 years and it publishes a review of articles, discussions and local on-site visits twice a month. Coordinator David Weed has announced that the Project has received 501C-3 status enabling it to apply for grants. And the first grant it has received is coveted indeed: \$25,000 from the National Trust, a highly sought after prize.

Congratulations to this group. There are seven Sowams Project sites in EP. Stop by the Historical Society to pick up information and a map. <sowamsheritagearea.org>

EP Council Resolution

East Providence has joined Barrington and Warren in acknowledging the City as being part of Sowams, homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe. By unanimous vote, the EP Council passed a resolution on April 5th, declaring:

“East Providence is one of several Rhode Island cities and towns within the Sowams Heritage Area; and Sowams is the ancestral home of the Pokanoket tribe, where they lived and thrived for the nearly 12,000 years between the last glacial retreat and the establishment of European colonies in New England; and Sowams is historically significant as a cultural nexus between Indigenous and European peoples.”

Also included is the following to be displayed at all future Council meetings:

“Welcome to Sowams, the ancestral home of the Pokanoket people for ten thousand (10,000) years prior to settler colonization. We pay tribute to the tribal elders and people of this community who served and continue to serve as stewards of the lands and waterways of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. We recognize the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous People and their traditional territories. We acknowledge that our community was a part of the larger ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe/Pokanoket Nation.”

For the full article by Mike Rego <mrego@eastbaymediagroup.com> Post - April 14, 2022
<https://www.eastbayri.com/stories/council-acknowledges-east-providences-historic-sowams-area-ties,102703?>



Members of the Pokanoket Massasoit Ousamequin who attended the April 5 City Council meeting acknowledging East Providence as the tribe's ancestral home in the Sowams area included (from left to right) Lee "Brave Heart" Edmonds, Donald "Strong Turtle" Brown, Tracey "Dancing Star" Brown, Dr. William "Winds of Thunder" Guy, Elsie "Sunflower" Morrison, Dr. David Weed and Harry "Hawk" Edmonds.

Photo by Laura Mcnamara

Hunt's Mills Park: \$1,000+

P.T. Barnum and Patricia A. Anthony	Laurie and Bill McWeeney
Cheryl and Jeff Faria	Dotty Thornley
Pat Paulson McGrail	James N. Viara
	Lois Williams

Crescent Park: \$500-\$999

Nancy Allen	Nancy and Dan Moore
Roy and Claire Anderson	Woods Heating Service
Jacqueline and Lee Ashcraft	

Vanity Fair Park: \$200-\$499

Richard R. Bushnell and Paula Perkins	Elizabeth Ingraham
David Czerwonka	Colin P. Kane
Carole DiFabio and William Litchman	Julie Lundgren
Virginia Neves Gonsalves	Pat Paulson McGrail
Darryl Hardern	Jack and Kathy Richer
	Washington Trust

Boyden Heights Park: \$100-\$199

Leroy and Karen Anderson	Michele Kazarian
Peter G. and Sandra M. Barilla	Dave and Eleanor Kelleher
Barbara Barnes and Beverly Pettine	Miriam Kenney
Patricia C. Birkes	Valarie J. Lawson
James Boyd	Ann Linde
K. Eric Crook and Joanne Perella-Crook	Tracy Moline
Romeo DaSilva	John and Elaine Puhacz
Bill Fazioli	Michael and Norma Reynolds
Wendy Edwards and Gerald Mischak	Ken and Barbara Rix
Frederick F. Harrop	Ed and Paula Serowick
Gordon R. and Wendy L. Wood-Hubbard	Bruce H. Tanner
	Charlene Underhill
	David Weed
	Margaret Wieboldt
	Kevin Zona

Friends: \$25-\$99

American Ring Company	Ngina Johnson
Helen Archibald	Thomas J. Lavin III
Sandra Barber	Ruth McCarthy
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council	K.A. McGovern
James Robert Boyd, Jr.	Jayne Poland
Ivan and Malinda Colon	Alicia and Tom Ramian
Jane Dennison	Mark Saunders
Helen Dooley	Bonney B. Sevellon
Christine Ellis	Barbara Simon
Gil Fletcher	Betty Stoner
Pam and Paul Goulet	Meredith Swan
Pat Henry	Jean and Gary Zunda

The Historian's Circle

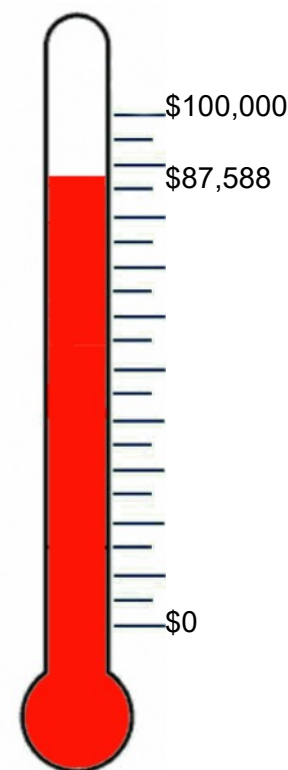
Thank you to those who donated to our Annual fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you are helping the Historical Society meet our annual, strategic and endowment goals for the 2022 calendar year.

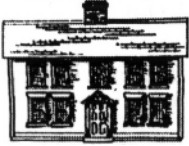
Thank You!!

If there are any errors or omissions in this list, please let Cheryl Faria know so we can correct it for the next issue of The Gazette.
401-419-8682
cherylafaria@verizon.net

EP Historical Society Endowment!!

We have set a goal to raise \$100,000 to establish an endowment for East Providence Historical Society. So far we have raised \$87,588 towards that goal.





John Hunt House

East Providence Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916

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