



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

May 2023

Volume XXXV No. 6

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

May

Sunday, May 14

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum
open

Plant Give-Away for
Moms!

EPHS Art Exhibit

1:30 pm

Hikes at Hunts

Meet at the Gazebo

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Family Games

65 Hunt's Mills Road,
Rumford, RI

Saturday, May 20

10:00 - 12:00 pm

Littleneck Cemetery

Cleanup

Self guided walking tours

June

Sunday, June 11

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum
open

EPHS Art Exhibit

65 Hunt's Mills Road,
Rumford, RI

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Historical Society
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President's Letter

by Cheryl Faria and Jeff Faria, Co-Presidents

We're now heading into the welcome summer season and continue to have lots of great things going on! Here are some of the highlights.

John Hunt House Museum

On Sunday, April 16 we held our monthly Open House. We again had tours of the museum guided by our wonderful team of docents. Our researchers Sandra Turgeon and Tom Warzeka, again used Ancestry, Family Search and Find a Grave in the Education/Research Center to help visitors with genealogical research. Kate McGovern, our new Volunteer Coordinator, welcomed visitors in the Gazebo to talk about volunteer opportunities. Ernie Germani led the monthly hike of the ground and Rickard Smith of HomeSmart Professional Real Estate sponsored a most welcome 'Coffee and Hot Chocolate Bar' in the Gazebo. In addition to doing all of this again during the May 14 Open House, we will have plants and seedlings to give away.



Unveiling of the New Welcome Sign

On Sunday, April 15, we unveiled the new sign at the entrance to the Hunt's Mills Heritage Park. We were honored to have Mayor Bob DaSilva and David O'Connell greet the crowd and participate in the unveiling. Other dignitaries in attendance were Laura McNamara, Executive Director of the East Providence Chamber and Bill Fazioli. The Hunt's Mills Heritage Park and the John Hunt House Museum are located on 44 acres at the beginning of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.



The Gazette

Is published by the East Providence Historical Society eight times a year

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 Deborah Ormerod *1st Vice President*
 Eric Underhill *Recording Secretary*
 Dorothy Thornley *Treasurer*
 Pat Henry/Sandi Barber *Corresponding Secretary*

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 Nancy Moore *Preservation*
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 Deborah Ormerod *Website Manager*

Some More Scenes of the Unveiling Of The New Welcome Sign



Co-President Cheryl Faria and Major Bob DaSilva are getting ready to unveil the new sign



Some of the dignitaries attending the event: Laura McNamara, Mayor Bob DaSilva, Bill Fazioli and David O'Connell



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

Opening the Community Gardens



On Saturday, April 14, we welcomed Community Gardeners back to their garden plots. There are 26 raised bed gardens and 23 of last year's 26 gardening groups from last season returned for another year of growing. Three new garden groups joined us from the 'Wait List'.



The Garden Center

We are fortunate to have a team of 17 URI Master Gardeners and Community Gardeners working to start seeds in the Garden Center again this year. From late February through May they meet in groups of 2-3 every morning to grow seedlings for the Community Gardeners and the Community! On Saturday, May 13 they will be giving out seedlings to the Gardeners.



Changing of the Guard: Our Gazette Gets New Leadership

It has been our privilege for the past 14 years to have the talent and dedication of Reinhard Wohlgemuth as print/layout editor of the Gazette. Many of you have remarked about the vision he has had for setting our submissions clearly and with wonderful photos, some of which he has researched himself. As we have said many times, "He makes us all look so good!" As of the June issue, Reinhard will pass the hat to Eric Underhill (secretary EPHS). We have been working with both of them this spring as Eric learns the ropes. Copy editor, Nancy Moore is the continuous strand for this changeover and will remain in this role. Carole DiFabio has been looking over Miriam Kenney's shoulder and is comfortable enough to take over her position. We thank Miriam for her many years of dedicated service. Carole and her crew will continue to get the Gazette out to you as we also switch from printing at Reinhard's church to a local print service. So we have decided that this is a time to ask our members if there are changes they would like to see in the Gazette. Are the issues we raise timely for you? Are there issues you would like covered? Is the format one we should continue? Are there items that need to be included? You can submit your comments on our website and they will be forwarded to the Gazette staff. As always, your silence will mean your approval!

Slate of Candidates for June Election

Co-Presidents: Cheryl Faria/Jeff Faria
 1st Vice President: Deborah Ormerod
 Corresponding Secretary: Sandi Barber
 Recording Secretary: Eric Underhill
 Treasurer: Margaret Dooley

Newman and Littleneck Cemetery Cleanup and Stone Restoration

12 people showed up at Newman on Wednesday April 12, to learn techniques for cleaning and restoring these precious old stones. See the flyer below for opportunities to do this preservation at Littleneck Cemetery in May

Thoughts on the Barrington/Veterans' Parkway

by Nancy Moore

The irony of the view from my room on the 8th floor of RIH was not lost on me: I had flashed my lights from Fort Hill/Bold Point at the Hasbro kids over the past years. Now I was flashing from the other side. But I was unprepared for the sunrises over the Vets Parkway – glorious magentas with yellow and purples and the black bulb of the EP water tower hovering like a UFO looking to set down at Metacomet. As the days deepened I realized that I had been given an outlook on the work of Alfred Law Olmsted that I couldn't get any other way. Looking beyond the parking lots, roadways and pipelines on my side of the Bay over the various blues of the water, I watched the Parkway side turn from brown to spring greens. I could imagine that by leaf out, the thousands of cars traveling daily would barely be visible from that room. The difference in land use was incredible.

I have known since we moved to East Providence in the late 70's that the Vets Parkway (originally called the Barrington Parkway) from Bold Point and Green Jacket Shoal to Pawtucket Avenue is a treasure – 1.5 miles of road winding the bluff along our shoreline. In 1910, City fathers took the long view with Olmsted, Jr. and amazingly, 100 years later it is pretty much intact. There are many secure protections in place at State level which have kept the Parkway free of traffic lights, curb cuts and other intrusions found in modern road design. But in 1991 another symbolic protection was voted upon at the City and State level: National Register status. For some reason the National Park Service never received this application, something that was not noticed until 30 years later as Metacomet Country Club went on the market and the possible impact on the Parkway was looked into. Another round for submission has passed without the Parkway making it to the NPS. With Olmsted's 200 birthday last year, there is a national movement to celebrate the company's works, many in the Boston area. If for symbolic/celebratory purposes only, our precious Barrington Parkway needs to be included in the National Register of Historic Places. And any developer who proposes building on the land below the bluff needs to be taken at sunrise to room 801 at RIH.




Ancient Littleneck and Littleneck Cemetery

Wednesday May 10 10:00-11:00
Littleneck Cemetery gravestone cleaning demonstration and self guided tour.

Saturday May 20 10:00-12:00
Littleneck Cemetery clean up and self guided walking tour. Please bring rakes, loppers, trimmers if possible.

Dates to Remember

May 8 Art Reception

East Providence High School art students presenting their work

May 10 Littleneck Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning Demonstration

10:00-11:00 am Gravestone cleaning demonstration and self guided tour

May 14 Open House (Mother's Day)

1:00-3:30 pm Museum and Education Center open and **Plant Give-Away for Moms**
 1:00-3:30 pm East Providence High School Art Exhibit
 1:30 pm at the Gazebo: Hikes at Hunt's
 1:00-3:00 pm Family Games

May 20 Littleneck Cemetery Clean Up

10:00-12:00 am Cemetery clean up and self guided walking tour

June 11 Open House

1:00-3:30pm Museum and Education Center Open
 1:00-3:30 pm East Providence High School Art Exhibit
 1:30 at the Gazebo: Hikes at Hunt's
 1:00-3:00pm Family Games

June 12 The 90th Anniversary of the CCC & Its Work in RI

PowerPoint presentation by Marty Podskoch


6:30pm Weaver Library

2nd Annual EPHS Student Art Show

We welcome back the High School student artists to Hunt's on Mother's Day and June 11. Last year's impressive display by the students of teacher Jade Sisti brought in many visitors. Don't miss this excellent work!

*The East Providence Historical Society and
The East Providence High School Art Department
Present:
Historical Architectural Landscapes and the
Wildlife that Surrounds Them*

*Student work will be on display May 14th and June 11th (1:00-3:30)
Art Reception will be **May 8th 1:00pm to 3:30pm**
at
East Providence Historical Society
65 Hunts Mills Rd, Rumford*



The 90th Anniversary of the CCC & Its Work in RI

By Marty Podskoch

Editor's Note: Most of us will remember former member Leo Caisse. Leo passed away a few years ago due to complications from COVID, but had given us a presentation about the CCC and its work in RI. Although Leo had no personal experience serving in the CCC, his father had joined the Corps and served in various states of the Nation. His father's stories inspired him to research and photograph the remnants of their works in Rhode Island.

The color image below is from Leo, Marty provided the b&w photo.



Ski run at Diamond Hill State Park, originally built by the boys from Primrose

On June 12 at 6:30pm, the East Providence Historical Society and the Weaver Library will co-host author and historian Marty Podskoch who will give a Power Point presentation on the 90th Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps Camps and work in RI.



The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) began on March 31, 1933 under President Roosevelt's "New Deal" to relieve the poverty and unemployment of the Depression. CCC camps were set up in a few Rhode Island towns, state parks, and forests. Workers built trails, roads, campsites, and dams, stocked fish, built and maintained fire tower observer's cabins and telephone lines, fought fires, and planted millions of trees. The CCC disbanded in 1942 due to the need for men in WW II.

In Rhode Island seven CCC camps were established: Westerly/Burlingame in Charlestown, Greene/Mt. Vernon in Foster, Hope Valley/Arcadia in Richmond, Putnam/Washington State Park in Glocester, Kent/Nooseneck in West Greenwich, Escoheag/Beach Pond in Exeter, and Woonsocket/Primrose in North Smithfield.

Marty Podskoch is a retired teacher and the author of 11 books: Adirondack Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: Their History, Memories and Legacy of the CCC; Fire Towers of the Catskills: Their History and Lore, Adirondack Fire Towers: Their History and Lore, the Southern Districts; Adirondack Fire Towers: Their History and Lore, the Northern Districts, Adirondack Stories: Historical Sketches; 101 More Adirondack Stories: Historical Sketches; The Adirondack 102 Club: Your Passport and Guide to the North Country. He also writes a weekly column called "Adirondack Stories," in five Adirondack newspapers. He has written three travel books: The Adirondack 102 Club, The Connecticut 169 Club and the Rhode Island 39 Club.

He is presently gathering information on the CCC camps in VT and MA for a future book. Podskoch is keenly interested in meeting individuals who may have CCC stories and photos to contribute to his next book. Those that have information should contact him at 860-267-2442 or podskoch@comcast.net



During the summer of 1935 the Woonsocket/Primrose camp enrollees lived in Army tents in in North Smithfield, RI. These enrollees are waiting in the chow line with their mess kits for supper.

Lorenzo Harry Frisiello & K Duxbury Collection

Marty Podskoch
43 O'Neill Lane
East Hampton, CT 06424
860-267-2442
<https://martinpodskoch.com>

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 2023 calendar year.

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

Angel Cabral	Dotty Thornley
Cheryl and Jeff Faria	James N. Viara
Laurie and Bill McWeeney	Lois Williams
Barbara Rix	

Crescent Park: \$500-\$999

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Vanity Fair Park: \$200-\$499

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Thank You!!

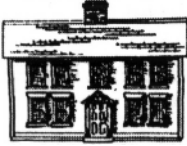
If there are any errors or omissions in this list, please let Cheryl Faria know so we can correct it for the next issue of The Gazette.

Call 401-419-8682 or email
cherylafaria@verizon.net

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Spring is an exciting time to be installing new plants and shrubs in your garden. Please consider the mature size of the plant when designing or modifying your space. Often smaller shrubs quickly outgrow their space if planted too densely.
- Most perennials and roses require full sun, which is six or more hours of sun to thrive. Notice shade created once trees leaf out in late spring in your yard and gardens.
- Watch for winter moths and tent caterpillars as well as gypsy moths this month. Reversing duct tape along your tree trunk a few feet above the ground can delay the crossing of these caterpillars, allowing you to collect them. You can drop them into soapy water or feed them to a local fish pond.
- Salt marsh, wheat, and straw are better garden mulch than grass because their seeds won't sprout. Grass clippings are good, but may add seeds to the soil, causing more work later. Moderation of any mulch is advised.
- By this time your cool weather crops should be directly planted in your garden. Carrots, lettuce, chard, beets, and cabbages. All will grow in cooler weather! Please stop by our next Hunt House Open House on May 14, for seeds, seedlings, and even some Mother's Day flowers!!



John Hunt House


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

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