

Street Sights

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Residents Call For Rent Stabilization at Providence City Hall Rally



Protestors demand rent stabilization challenging landlords to prioritize affordable housing over profit. As advocates speak out against skyrocketing rents and housing instability, they emphasize the need for community support to fight for change. Photo: Steve Ahlquist

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Last week I visited some encampments in Providence. It was the coldest day ever and I was freezing. We were trying to encourage them to go to a shelter but it was a daunting task.

Some would not hear of it. I became frustrated when they said no. But then one person said, "Janice, if I leave all my stuff it will be gone when I come back." Then I got it.

Some didn't like shelters and have had bad experiences. Others were stubborn thinking they could weather the storm. How many times has this happened to so many where they lost all their belongings, the only belongings they have?

Police have destroyed encampments for no reason with no consequences and they have lost all if not most of what they have. The weather has flooded many places. Leaving them with drenched clothes and in some cases destroying their tents, and other items important to them. It is so difficult to replace items that they have. Many times nearly impossible.

So I am asking all those who receive funding to help the unhoused. Why not offer storage to them? A place that will give them some peace of mind if they do decide to go inside or go to a meal kitchen, or the Doctors. Wouldn't that help them immensely? There are so many obstacles to being unhoused. Let's work together to help our sisters and brothers.

Are you interested in sharing your story and receiving a \$\$ stipend for your time? Yup, that's YOU. We still need a few more people who are currently unhoused. Your time is valuable and we respect what you have to say. If you are interested and for more information, please contact us at streetsights@gmail.com today.

OUR MISSION

Street Sights serves as a forum for advocates, homeless, and formerly homeless people, students, state officials, and the general public to share accurate and honest information about issues relating to homelessness. Our goal is to shed light on a subject not often addressed and, to some degree, ignored.

CONTACT US

To submit any articles, photos, artwork, poetry, advertisements, or comments please contact us via Email: streetsights@gmail.com, Phone: 401-499-3596, or Standard Mail: Street Sights 162 Orms Street, Providence, RI 02908. **All Articles are due by the 20th of each month.**

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"This rally is just the launch," said Providence City Councilmember Miguel Sanchez. "This is going to be a fight. So I would say get the boxing gloves ready, folks."

By Steve Ahlquist

"I've heard about opposition and fear from landlords arguing that they should be able to raise the rent to whatever they want to cover, the cost of increased taxes or maintenance prices," said Nina Harrison, Policy Director at the Economic Progress Institute (EPI), who spoke at the rally. "However, it does not seem that landlords are basing rental increases on these costs. [Under state law] the property tax in Rhode Island is capped at four percent per year. They can't increase it by more than four percent per year. I don't see why homeowners should be entitled to more financial protection and stability than vulnerable renters."

"Our homes and neighborhoods set the stages for our lives, and housing instability affects almost every facet of our lives, including health, educational outcomes, economic mobility - even your lifespan," continued Harrison. "Rhode Islanders value family safety and fairness, but our policies and laws do not always reflect those values... Evictions are not only catastrophic for families, they're catastrophic for communities. They're usually seen to increase crime and disinvestment in communities. As Rhode Islanders continue to struggle, we've also seen a huge increase in homelessness..."

"The rents in this state are ridiculous. Nobody can afford this unless you're making a hundred K, and that's a problem," said Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE)'s Kinverly Dicupe, acting as emcee, as the rent stabilization rally got underway. "People live in shitty housing. It's disgusting and they have to pay \$2,000 for that. That's why we're here today to start pushing back against these greedy landlords finally. We don't need these people. These people don't build the housing. They just have the capital to buy it and it's time for them to go."

"This is something that we're going to need the community - people power - behind," said Providence City Councilmember



Nearly 100 people rallied outside and inside Providence City Hall on Thursday evening to demand that the city institute an annual four percent cap on rent increases. Photo: Steve Ahlquist

Miguel Sanchez (Ward 6), the only elected official to speak at the event. "We know what the special interests - the housing lobbyists - bring to the table, but I'd rather have people power all day any day. This rally is just the launch. This is going to be a fight. So I would say get the boxing gloves ready, folks."

"We call on Mayor Brett Smiley and the city of Providence to 'freeze rents, not people' until we have rent stabilization," said Sucely Murillo, an organizer with POWR (Providence Organization of Workers and Renters). "We demand immediate help to [end] rent increases to prevent evictions of working-class families like mine. Rents must be frozen and lowered. High rents shouldn't evict people into homelessness."

"This is going to be a hard fight," said Jai Chavez from the Independent Socialist Group. "We have massive lobbyists against us, and as I think has been said by several speakers, we should see rent stabilization as step one, a very important step one, to stop the bleeding that is these massive skyrocketing rents, but it's just that - it's step one."

"We need massive raises in the minimum wage. We need to revitalize old buildings that are being left decrepit and turn them into permanent affordable housing. Not affordable the way the Superman building means but actual, real affordable housing that regular people, regular workers, including those who don't have any income, can have. We need to be rehousing our

unhoused brothers and sisters who are currently freezing on the streets as we speak, while the governor and our local city politicians do nothing to help them."

"We need to tax these so-called nonprofit universities -like Brown, like Johnson and Wales - that have been buying up massive amounts of housing stock in this city, and force them to use it to house people who need housing and use the taxes they aren't paying to help fund more housing."

"We also need straight up housing to not be a commodity. It should not be something that people are profiting off of. It should be a right that people have, that people should have a right to live and exist and safety."

"I want to talk about a massive issue that is plaguing our community - the lack of the fundamental right to stable and affordable housing," said Jordan Garces, Secretary of the Rhode Island Democratic Socialists of America. "Rent stabilization is not just a buzzword. It is going to be the lifeline for our community. The unchecked rise of rent is suffocating the essence of what it means to have a home in this state. This is not just an economic issue, it's a matter of basic human dignity. People are facing the choice between having a roof over their heads or having food on the table and that is ridiculous..."

"I want to be clear, the fault does not lie with any single person that has been kicked

out of their home. The landlords will tell you, 'You've got to work harder, go get a second job.' ... I want people to envision a future where landlords are not a thing... They don't provide anything. All they're doing is just taking your hard-earned money and they're going to make you feel like you're the issue for not working hard enough. And what are they doing? Literally nothing."

"Housing is incredibly important to me, mainly because growing up in this state, my family was always housing insecure," said Kinverly Dicupe. "After the 2008 crash, it was a monthly struggle to decipher how we were going to pay rent for that month, mainly because jobs pay very little nowadays, especially if your parents are immigrants and they have a language barrier."

"We eventually had to move into public housing... and it saved us from homelessness, in part because public housing is essentially already rent-controlled and stabilized and they can't charge you more than 30% [of your income]. I'm eternally grateful for that because we were the kind of family who would've been on the street if not for that subsidy."

"Some folks talk about how nobody wants to live in public housing. That's news to me considering we have massive wait lines for public housing across the state. People wait five years to get into public housing. The truth is no one wants to live in a \$2K month apartment that is falling apart and not up to code. That's truly what nobody wants. People have mushrooms growing out of their ceiling, lead in the paint, hazardous stairs, infestations - you name it. [There are] dangerous landlords, especially if you are a single mother. And of course, after dealing with all that, you have to shack up with randoms just to afford your rent."

"What kind of society are we building when most people make around \$40,000, but you need to make 80,000 to rent an everyday apartment? Who is this for? Who are these policies for? Who are these luxury apartments that we keep building and granting tax breaks for? It's for deep-pocketed developers. We all know what it is - and many of them are not even from the state."

"Let it be known that this housing crisis is only going to be solved by us everyday people who struggle under the tutelage of those who have it all and yet hunger for more. These

landlords and corporations blackmailed the public threatening to pull capital out of our state if we the people use democracy to solve the problems that we face. And to that, I say, "Good riddance, get the fuck out."

"I want you to think about who builds the homes they sell for \$600,000. That's what they were selling a home in Pawtucket for. Who builds the apartments they rent for \$2,000? The people who do the actual building are the carpenters, the builders, the people in the trades, and the people who struggle to survive themselves who at the age of 50 find their bodies sore and broken down by the labor they've supplied to our society. The workers build the homes and the speculators rake in the profits."

"In times past, folks would tell young folks, 'If you don't want to pay rent, just buy a home. Your mortgage would be lower than the rent that you're paying.' But with the home prices being what they are today, they're way out of range for the average wage earner. It's not even a possibility anymore in this state. To think you can own a home in this climate feels like you're in the movie Parasite. A spoiler's coming if you haven't watched it. The son deludes himself into thinking that he could afford the home his dad resides in. The son is poor and will never land a job that can afford him a home - that's easily over a million dollars."

"It reminds me of a conversation I recently had with my father that caught me off guard. My dad has always dreamed of buying a home in this country, the way many people do, because it's the American dream. I had this

conversation with him and he said, "I want to buy a house before I die and I need someone to believe in me. Just tell me that you believe in me. I need someone to say that."

"And it sucks because I want to believe - in my heart and in my soul I want to believe. But I know the numbers and I know that for a working family like ours, we'll probably never own a home. At least not in this state. But that's what life is like for most working people, right? That's why we're here today - to advocate, to fight together - so that our dreams will become one and climb the obstacles that individuals cannot."

"There's power in numbers and we know we're the majority. We have the numbers here. We need to exercise that power and our strength to begin to chip away at a housing crisis that has devastated a lot of people in the state and which has turned our state not into a shining city on the hill, but into a graveyard for the dreams of the people who live here."

"It's time for rent civilization and much more." After the speaking portion of the event ended, Andira Alves, an organizer with the Rhode Island Party for Socialism and Liberation led a march inside Providence City Hall.

A bill before the General Assembly H7049 "would limit rent increases to no more than four percent annually and would provide tenants with a civil action to recover damages for any violations." There does not seem to be an appetite at the General Assembly to pass such a bill, but the housing crisis is dire, and worsening.



The call for housing justice echoes through the rally as the community fights for fair and stable living conditions. Photo: Steve Ahlquist

Emergency Covid Housing Opportunities

It has been three years since House of Hope CDC first introduced the concept of an emergency shelter village to Rhode Island. Since then, the demand for additional shelter and for a better way to house those in deepest need has only grown. Homelessness has increased by over 70% in our state since 2019.

ECHO Village was developed in response to that demand – a dignified and safe alternative, where those experiencing homelessness can go to be sheltered from the elements, receive comprehensive social services, and restore their hope.

“House of Hope is firmly rooted in the belief that housing is a basic human right,” said House of Hope Executive Director Laura Jaworski. “The construction of ECHO Village is a critical first step in creating a safe, stable, and dignified space for those experiencing homelessness while moving towards housing. We are thrilled to achieve this first milestone.”

“I’m thrilled to welcome ECHO Village to the North End—a compassionate and innovative solution to address homelessness in our community,” said Providence City Councilor Justin Roias (Ward 4). “In the North End, we’ve seen a concerning rise in homelessness, and the proposal to convert state-owned vacant land into a winter pallet shelter community aligns with my commitment to supporting unhoused neighbors in need, especially during the cold winter months. Rapidly deployable pallet shelters represent a dignified approach to providing housing, a vital measure in reducing homeless encampments in the North End and ensuring the safety of all our neighbors.”

We at House of Hope CDC are so excited to share with you, our supporters, that ECHO Village is coming to Providence in early 2024!



Homes RI Presents Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025

UPDATE

In case you missed it, we sent a letter to Governor Dan McKee before the budget was released affirming our priorities for Fiscal Year 2025, which reflect our commitment to expanding housing opportunities for all Rhode Islanders. We requested that the following transformational investments be included in Gov. McKee's FY25 budget proposal:

- **A General Obligation Bond of at least \$250 million to fund capital costs of construction and preservation of long-term affordable homes for low-income and moderate Rhode Islanders;**
- **At least \$12 million to establish an Emergency Rental Assistance program for Rhode Islanders with short-term financial crises;**
- **At least \$1.6 million to continue legal assistance to tenants to aid in the prevention of homelessness as currently proposed by the Department of Housing;**
- **At least \$21 million for down-payment assistance to support first-time and first-generation buyers in achieving their aspirations to own a home;**
- **At least \$10 million for home repair programming to ensure the long-term viability of our existing housing stock, as proposed by the Department of Housing; and,**
- **Fully funding the implementation of a statewide mandatory rental registry as required by RI General Law § 34-18-58.**
- **Homes RI is a collaborative effort of local nonprofits, housing organizations, and community stakeholders, created to shine a spotlight on the need for increased investments in community development and affordable homes across Rhode Island.**

Homes RI is managed by the Housing Network of Rhode Island. For more information, contact Katie West at kwest@housingnetworkri.org

The R-Line is Crucial to Providence and a Model for RIPTA

BY PATRICIA RAUB AND BARRY SCHILLER
THE PROVIDENCE EYE — JANUARY 24, 2024

The R-line Broad/North Main was created in 2014 by combining the old Route 11 (Broad Street) and 99 (North Main) lines. It goes from its terminus on Broad Street near Montgomery Avenue, along Broad Street to Kennedy Plaza. It goes then by the railroad station and up North Main Street to the new Pawtucket-Central Falls transit center, all the way to its terminus on Roosevelt Avenue near Slater Mill and City Hall in Pawtucket. What sets it apart from other bus lines is its frequency and length of service hours each day.

On weekdays, the R-line operates about a hundred trips each way from about 5:00 am until well after midnight. Most of the day, service is every ten minutes, so having a schedule isn't really necessary. However, after about 7 pm, the evening trips are about twenty minutes apart. On weekends, there are over 60 trips in both directions every fifteen minutes, again, dropping to every 20 minutes in the evenings.

The R-line makes the trip from Kennedy Plaza to the Pawtucket Transit Center in about nineteen minutes (six minutes faster than the #1 Route that goes along Hope Street). It gets to the Broad Street terminus in about twenty minutes. By comparison, the MBTA commuter rail trip from the Providence station to the Pawtucket Transit Center is about six minutes, but it goes only about 20 times/day on weekdays. Transit advocates hope to see a fare product that would allow rides on either the

bus or train depending on whichever is more convenient. Representative John Lombardi (D-Providence) has introduced legislation to facilitate this plan.

Joe Cole, a member of the Amalgamated Transport Union's executive committee and a driver himself, comments, "It's tough for drivers to keep to the 10 minutes between buses. You can't predict delays caused by traffic and other things that come up." He adds, "Now that Broad Street has been redesigned so that there's only one lane each way, there's more traffic congestion, and buses run slower." On the other hand, the R-line is the first in the system with Transit Signal Priority, where drivers can extend green lights to speed up trips.

Some R-line riders have complained about delays. Jane Pellegren, a regular rider on the route, told us, that although she "loves the route," she finds that it's "just....not reliable. I think it needs to run consistently every 10 minutes, and it simply runs closer to every 20 which is really not helpful when using it to commute, or to go to a train that leaves at a specific time." Another rider, Greg Gerritt, asserts that the R-line "has been great. I live right off North Main Street, and it is nearly always on time and swiftly takes me all across town." Amy Glidden, another rider who actually bought her house because it was on the R-line, says, "I never have to check a schedule during the day on weekdays, just walk out and

it's there. I can take it straight to downtown and go out on weekends. It's very convenient." Amy concluded, "I wish all lines were like the R-line!" And the other riders agreed.

The R-Line shelters and bus stop signage have been specially designed and branded. Some of them are beginning to need renovation, but that will have to wait until RIPTA first addresses more serious shelter problems elsewhere.

RIPTA staff indicates more electric buses will be used on the R-line in 2024. These buses have no tailpipe diesel exhaust, good news for cleaner air in the congested neighborhoods these vehicles travel through. But electric buses are much more expensive to buy and, due to limited range and charging times, a November 2023 RIPTA capital funding report noted that RIPTA may need two electric buses for every diesel bus they retire. Public support for electric buses can help keep this goal on track.

In the closing days of the 2022 Rhode Island legislative session, in the wake of the pandemic, lawmakers voted to fund free fares on the R-line for about a year. According to Senator Megan Kallman, a sponsor of the legislation, the purpose was to determine if the elimination of fares would enable buses to speed up their travel times, something that might persuade more people to take the bus



Specialized bus shelters on the R-Line denote neighborhood features. The one at Public and Broad Streets has a pew for seating and a “stained glass” panel to honor the former Beth-El Synagogue nearby.

Photo: Tony Sager

instead of driving, thereby cutting down on auto emissions. Because the R-line already had a high ridership, the data obtained from this pilot would be more meaningful than the much smaller free fare pilot in Central Falls then underway. Since R-line buses travel through several low-income neighborhoods, this route was also chosen since it would “give a leg up” to riders who were spending a disproportionate percentage of their income on transportation.

The pilot began on September 1, 2022, and ended last October 1, to the disappointment of its riders. (See the Providence Journal’s opening day coverage.) In reviewing passenger trends at the six-month mark during the pilot, RIPTA reported in March 2023 that there had been a 40% increase in riders on the line. According to Joe Cole, the free-fare pilot was well-received by drivers, since it cut down on boarding time and potential confrontations with passengers over fares.

The legislature maintains interest in free rides on RIPTA, but with service cuts looming next year from the “fiscal cliff” due to the running out of Federal Covid relief funds and the decline of the gas tax, free fares will likely not be a funding priority.

Implementing the Transit Master Plan would replicate the advantages of the R-line: more frequency, longer service hours, better bus stops, and quicker trips on eighteen other routes, including those along Chalkstone Avenue, Manton Avenue, Cranston Street, and Elmwood Avenue.

GET INVOLVED: The Save RIPTA! Campaign is advocating for more funding to make these improvements possible and help people get across the city reliably and economically while supporting the environment at the same time.

Important Information for RIPTA Low-income Pilot Bus Pass Holders

By Pam Jennings

In January 2023, RIPTA launched Phase 1 of a pilot program to provide no-fare bus passes for low-income individuals who do not qualify for existing transit assistance programs. RIPTA enrolled 775 individuals in the pilot program, aged 6 to 65, with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, who did not qualify for any existing transit benefit program.

Twelve partner organizations assisted with the enrollment effort, enabling participants to access unlimited travel on RIPTA’s fixed-route network through January 31, 2024. Phase 2 of the Low-Income Pilot Program begins on February 1, 2024, and ends on April 30, 2024.

Current pilot participants who enrolled in Phase 1 who want to continue receiving this transit benefit must make contact with one of the organizations below by Friday, February 9, 2024: Those who applied during events organized by Mathewson Street Church, Church Beyond Walls, Amos House, Crossroads RI, House of Hope, and the RI Coalition to End Homelessness or at the Cranston Street Armory should contact Mathewson Street Church directly to request a renewal. Those who applied through a local community action program (CAP agency) should contact them directly.

Mathewson Street Church is located at 134 Mathewson Street in downtown Providence and is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9 am-2 pm. Please bring your current pilot bus pass with you. In addition, you can call 401-331-8900 or email msumc.rides@gmail.com



*Rest In Peace, Stan Kapelewski,
our Founder.*

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Submit your poems or artwork by:
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Street Sights, 162 Orms Street
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You must include your name,
email address or phone number.

**All articles and poems
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If You'll Only Let Him In

By Betty Hughes

Once my life was filled with burdens
I was laying down with sin
Then I cried Lord Jesus help me
Now I'm happy once again
Jesus Jesus savior savior,
he has done so much for me
Paid my Ransom gave me freedom
died from me at Calvary
I was selfish I was greedy
Had no thought for others cares
Until Jesus came unto me
Taught me how to love and share
Lonely days of deep confusion
and frustration filled with strife
gold and silver were my idols
earthly pleasures were my life
Are you weary heavy hearted?
Do you live your life in sin?
Meet my Jesus he will save you
If you'll only let him in.

If You Could See Hope

By Kenny Drysdale

I held the curves of nature
in the palm of my hand,
from a cold sky,
casting shadows, clarifying
the light, buttery fires
spreading forth, touching
hearts. A velvet signal grows.
Climbing the steps of dreams
into the door of tomorrow
drowning out the sorrow
by the sea with the sun.
Extract the seed
from the light,
place it in your palm,
feel the curves of nature.
Become a beautiful flower,
absorbing the cold dawn
held tight, in the light
you never noticed before.

Why?

By David Eisenberger

Why does anyone love me
when I come with risk?
That is the question posed
when an answer must come quick

Yet I wonder here...what can I offer?
Why does anyone have faith in me?
Questions continue to be asked
When you age...it's hard to clearly see

See that there is a beauty and fulfilled
Only when it is much more than...simply why?
I have survived the beaten path...forget glory
In the arms of love then...love is worth a try

So can you guide me...take me to love's heaven?
Used to it here... if it doesn't materialize
Do more than whisper sweet nothings baby
Can I find it now...why baby...show me some surprise

You Are My Everything

By David Eisenberger

Baby you are my everything
With all my heart, soul and desire
I thank God above for sending me
an angel who I more than admire

For my prayer finally was answered
Now I can not believe my very eyes
How someone as beautiful as you
can love me and that is a surprise?

Baby you are my everything
My love, life and my very breath
I want to spend all my days with you
Please show me what happens next?

Yes so much I need to hold you tight
Just feeling the warmth of you there
Just kissing your sweet lips of wine
It has to be for eternity a love to share

Well I can express here without a doubt
that you can even make this heart sing
I can also say from the bottom of my heart
"I love you baby for you are my everything"

The Sacred Art

By Jamiel Conlon

The trees speak to me
they show me the way
they show me that I can breathe
and live another day
I am grateful for the trees
that give me breath for life
and with that I am filled with joy
this breath a precious delight
I am grateful for the sea
for the crashing of the waves
for the seagulls that cry
and the children that play
and to live another day
On sandy beaches we walk
we talk about our lives
we watch the sun lower its head
as the colors touch our eyes
Its moments like this
we feel the presence of God
to be here in this space and feel
to walk about with joyful hearts
and to allow our hearts to heal
To be alive is to be here and now
and not anywhere else can life be found
And to live each day as if it were our last
while listening to the silent sound
God speaks in the wind
He speaks in the trees
He speaks in our hearts that beat
until death do we part
we carry in our hearts
the love that is our sacred art.

Whispers

By Jim Goulet

Make room for the longings of your dreams listen with all your heart to
The whispers in your soul,
Find the calling of your true art
and make the search your life's goal
Although the cares of life will take their toll
In you there lives a great potential
Some hidden talent is aching to come out
Listen hard to the soft whispers of your heart Before life is over do not doubt
that those soft whispers can contain a seed of greatness,
Like a butterfly waiting to come out
or a damned River waiting to be freed.

VA Providence Welcomes New Women Veterans Program Manager

The VA Providence Healthcare System has announced that Joanne Barrett, RN, BSN, has been named the Women Veterans Program Manager. Barrett is a Veteran with 24-years of service in the Rhode Island Air National Guard as a combat medic and a nurse. She has also been working at VA Providence since 2009, in various roles such as medical technician, Intensive Care Unit nurse, and Operating Room / Patient Acute Care Unit nurse.

"Joanne Barrett brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and passion to her new position," said Lawrence Connell, VA Providence Healthcare System Director, "we're extremely pleased she is in this role."

Barrett aims to inform women Veterans about the many programs and benefits that VA Providence offers, such as:

- Women's primary care in Providence, Middletown, New Bedford, and Hyannis, with designated women providers who offer comprehensive and gender-specific care
- Family planning and preconception counseling, menopause care, mental health treatment, osteoporosis screening and management, and more
- Preventive care including cancer screenings and immunizations
- Telehealth, gender affirming care, weight management, nutrition, and wellness programs

Barrett says she is eager to hear from and help women Veterans with any questions, concerns, or feedback they may have. Her contact information is: Joanne Barrett, RN, BSN, Women Veterans Program Manager, VA Providence, 830 Chalkstone Ave, Providence, RI 02908, Phone: 401-273-7100 ext. 16191, Email: joanne.barrett1@va.gov

Faith Unsheltered: A Journey from the Streets to Strength

By James Logan

As the first light of dawn breaks through the tree line just outside of the city, I find myself standing at what feels like the edge of a new beginning. I am starting to thank God for waking me up despite my living conditions. Being homeless has been a relentless challenge, a constant shadow that looms over every step I take towards hope.

Yet, amid this struggle my newly found faith has become the anchor that keeps me grounded; a source of strength that I draw from each day. This unwavering faith, much like the hope we hold onto as described in Hebrews 6:19 serves as an anchor for my soul, firm and secure, guiding me through the storms of life and reminding me that there is always a beacon of hope on the horizon.

I have started reaching out to shelters in the area asking for help not just for a place to stay, but for guidance and resources to rebuild my life. With each visit and conversation, is a step out of my comfort zone, a practice in humility and trust. It is not easy admitting I need help, and I have come to realize that this vulnerability is not a weakness but a testament to my strength and my faith. I am also beginning to volunteer at this same shelter and it has given me a unique perspective.

Sharing my story, I connect with others who are walking through their valleys of shadows. In their faces, I see my own reflections of despair and hope. These moments of connection are deeply humbling, reminding me that my journey is not just about finding my way out of homelessness but about how I can be a beacon of hope for others, even in my situation.

My faith has taught me to see the value in every day and to find gratitude in the midst of hardship. I am still journaling, capturing my thoughts, prayers, and reflections. It has become a vital part of my daily routine, a space where I can lay down my burdens and find peace in God's promises.

This practice reminds me of Philippians 4:6-7, which encourages us "not to be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present our requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus". In this way, my journal becomes not just a record of my days but a testament to the peace and strength found in living out this scripture.

There are days when doubt creeps in, when the reality of my circumstances feels overwhelming. I question why I am in this situation, what I could have done differently, and whether I'll ever find my way out. Yet, it is in these moments of weakness that my faith becomes my fortress. I remind myself that my journey is not walked alone; God is with me, guiding me through each challenge.

Isaiah 41:10 echoes deeply in my heart, So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. This promise reassures me that no matter the depth of my doubts or the scale of my circumstances, I am never alone. God's unwavering support is always with me, guiding my steps and fortifying my spirit.

I would like to encourage all my good brothers and sisters who are still in the struggle with this scripture: I can do all this through him who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13, NIV). This verse has become more than words to me; it is the affirmation of my faith, the promise that I hold onto in my darkest hours. It reminds me that my strength does not come solely from within, but from my faith in God who empowers me to face each day with courage.

As you face your own journeys, remember that the strength we need is always within reach, promised by God to those who seek Him. May you find your own affirmations of faith that hold you steady through the storms, as I can do all things through him who gives me strength has done for me.

A press release from the ACLU of Rhode Island:

The report offers a series of recommendations designed to promote meaningful public input at council and school committee meetings without unduly burdening the public bodies.

By Steve Ahlquist
January 19, 2024
steveahlquist.substack.com

The ACLU of Rhode Island released a report today detailing the written public comment policies of every city and town council and school committee across the state, finding that, while most council and committee meetings include at least some time for public comment, residents may be prevented from speaking by policies that contain overly restrictive time limits, rigid sign-up requirements, or “decorum” rules that may unconstitutionally restrict speech. The report offers a series of recommendations designed to promote meaningful public input at council and school committee meetings without unduly burdening the public bodies.

The report examined the policies both substantively - such as whether there were limits on what a member of the public could talk about - and procedurally, including the length of time allowed for comments and whether advance notice was required for a person to speak. The report includes detailed appendices, providing information about the public comment policies in each municipality and school district.

“The ability to share one’s opinion at a public meeting is a core feature of our democracy. This report should make it easy for officials and the public to evaluate current practices and consider ways to improve their policies and promote public participation.”

- ACLU of Rhode Island Executive Director
Steven Brown

Some highlights from the report include the following:

- Four public bodies - the Providence City Council, North Providence Town Council, Little Compton Town Council, and New Shoreham School Committee - appear to offer no public comment period as a matter of routine during their meetings.
- About one-fifth of city and town councils and school committees set very brief overall periods for public comment - some as short as 15 minutes - that, at least on paper, have the effect of vastly limiting the number of people who can speak when important issues affecting the community are being considered.
- About one-fifth of all city and town councils and a third of school committees limit individuals from commenting on topics depending on whether they appear on the agenda. The report notes that “barring members of the public from speaking on any matters that are not on the agenda means that a public body can avoid certain relevant topics that the public is concerned about by simply not including them on their meeting docket.”
- Many city and town councils and school committees prohibit any discussion of “personnel” or have broadly worded “decorum” rules, banning remarks that are deemed to be “personal attacks” or “uncivil,” “derogatory,” “impertinent,” or “inappropriate,” to cite a few. The report argues that these limitations “raise substantial free speech concerns.” Last year, for example, the ACLU sued the Warwick City Council when a resident was barred from speaking during a public comment period after he sought to raise ethical concerns about a council member.
- Some public bodies enforce strict advance sign-up requirements, including the Johnston Town Council which requires a prospective speaker to sign up at least five days in advance of the meeting.

In explaining the importance of robust public comment policies, the report emphasizes that: “For elected officials, while these public forums may sometimes be burdensome and time-consuming, and occasionally even infuriating, to sit through, it is a fundamental component of public service. Indeed, it could be argued that public comment is an essential feature of local democracy and one of the best ways to promote both civic engagement and a connection between public bodies and the communities they serve.”

The report concludes with a series of recommendations, urging municipalities and school districts to reexamine their existing policies and make changes to remove unduly restrictive procedural or substantive limitations on public comment periods to ensure that residents have a fair opportunity to have their voices heard. The recommendations include: removing limits on the content of comments based solely on whether the topic appears on the agenda, generally scrapping overall time limits on public comment periods while setting reasonable limits on how long any individual can talk, allowing people to speak even if they fail to sign up in advance to do so, and eliminating unconstitutionally vague and broad “decorum” restrictions on speech.

The report also welcomed corrections and additions to its data, noting that the ACLU obtained the information by relying on the published agendas of the public bodies and rules governing the conduct of their public comment period that could easily be found on their websites, noting that such policies should be readily available to residents. The report, compiled by ACLU of RI staff members Megan Khatchadourian and Zoe Chakoian, complements one issued by the ACLU in May of last year that examined the post-Covid remote meeting policies of the same councils and committees.



Steve Ahlquist is a progressive reporter based in Providence, RI

Living Loved

The title of this article comes from what a dear friend of mine says, and writes on emails and cards (yes, there are still some of us who send them): “Live Loved!” Sue’s words have grown on me—in me, more correctly, in conjunction with some of the events and changes of the last few years.

Here is a question which I hope starts dialogues—within, and with others, namely, “What does it mean to live as if I am loved?” We hear so much about “Loving one another.” Is it possible to do one without the other? What examples are there of those who “live loved?” Does it depend on people in our circles, and how might the “Voice of Shame” act as a “filter” in our minds, and even our souls?

What comes to mind is the word “Beloved...” “Be-Love-d” It is described as one who is “dearly loved”, in contrast to referring to a person as “a loved one.” It is said to have been deeper, and more intense than the other.

One example I witnessed was the annual Providence Rescue Mission banquet late last year. My mother and I attended; we both were so moved by the testimonies we hear on these occasions. These are stories of recovery; they are not just detoxing in their addictions. These men and women all emanated gratitude, for the unconditional loving care they received, within an environment of discipline, responsibility, and grace. This is a faith-based treatment program. These “graduates”, all of whom have found a calling on and purpose in their lives are sharing what they received with others. They live knowing they are loved, by God, others, and now themselves.

People who read this paper know how much the Psalms and other Scriptures mean to me. King David, once a shepherd in his family, experienced God while watching and caring for sheep. It was then he seemed to understand that the Lord was his Shepherd. Psalms 23 is an account of his role as a recipient of God’s care, protection, and provision for him. Some of the benefits he mentions are: “He makes me lie down in green pastures... He refreshes my soul...He guides me along the right paths...You anoint my head with oil...” This is a “He “ and “I” relationship, with David receiving love. Actually, “David” means “Beloved of God!”

At the age of eight, I read *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams. It contains the conversation between the brand new toy Rabbit and the old and wise Skin Horse, whom he asks, “What is Real?” He is told it is “something you become;” He adds, “By the time you become Real, most of your hair has been loved off, your eyes have dropped out...” (and other things that would not have appealed to the unhandled rabbit (or an eight-year-old reader, more than sixty years ago). You will have to read the ending yourself. Enjoy.

This “becoming Real” reminds me of another “growth process”, which I read about in the Book of Ezekiel (not far from the story of the “Dead Bones” coming to life, in response

to the breath of God’s Spirit. The Jewish people who had been in captivity were given a message by God, first to the Prophet: They would have “hearts of stone” replaced by “hearts of flesh.” They would receive this miracle of God’s love. So, for however long they remained in captivity, they would know they had not been abandoned nor forgotten. The same is true, hundreds of years later; it is something we can all experience. The Skin Horse had also said that being Real “does not often happen to “people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or have to be carefully kept.” Does that sound like the “heart of flesh” vs the “heart of stone?” (These are not really “hard” hearts which the Bible may describe as those who choose hatred, injustice, etc.) So many of us may become stuck in phases of grief, or stored trauma.) So, a “Heart of Flesh”, like many processes of healing, takes Courage (according to the variety of books on this subject).

Speaking of bravery, my second article for *Street Sightings* was in the February 2022 issue; it was called “A Heart of a Different Color,” following the article about Heroes in general, with emphasis on war veterans, and included first responders—and all the families and friends of these men and women.

The Heart depicted in that article is Purple. It goes to those who have been wounded or die in war. Now that our Armed Forces and other Civil Service agencies recognize PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), it seems that those who carry “Invisible Wounds” merit being honored this way. They do, in the hearts of the “Beloved” of these men and women, and in all who recognize their sacrifices.

There is hope for all who find it difficult or seemingly impossible to believe he or she is not loved—or is “un-love-able.” That is the “Voice of Shame” which comes from a hissing serpent, in whom, as Jesus says, “There is no truth.” So, in the words I received from a beloved friend, “Live Loved !”

Grace and Peace.



Shelley Turner-Riley
is a columnist for
Street Sightings RI

Help Us Help Others

FOR SALE: Homeless Calendar of Newport RI (first of its kind). Prayer for the Homeless CD Rev Walter Smothers & McKinney Shelter Singers. For copies of both call the Housing Hotline 401-846-4896 or stop by at 40 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd.



Housing Hotline
2024 Homeless Calendar
401-846-4896
9:00 - 3:00 Daily
Evenings and Weekends When Necessary

If You Don't Know, Now You Know

By Pastor Brian Archibald

It was brought to my attention that there are some who don't think that *Street Sights* is having an effect in our community. They feel like we are just another paper like all of the others. Well, to those who feel that way, I have decided, with the blessings from other staff members to give you, the readers who doesn't believe what we do here is important, just how important it is. If you don't know, now you know.

The first series of articles that I would like to focus on is about women in our community. Women who have and are struggling with addiction, homelessness, have family members who are suffering through and with their loved ones, and the message of hope that they have for other women who need a message of hope.

Alicia L. Rosa is one phenomenal example. She is struggling with a son who is dealing with addiction and a daughter who is homeless. She shared with me that she lost her support system when the church she had been attending closed. For a long time she went from church to church looking for the support she had when she was at her church.

It needs to be said that Alicia, during this time was dealing with her own issues, (i.e. mental health) that she was fighting through. So much so, that at times she said that she didn't know whether or not she was coming or going. She said that there were times when she couldn't communicate or share what she was going through with anyone. Her struggle was not only her children and her own health, but there was a 'spiritual'

struggle going on as well. She shared with me the pain and the anguish that she was suffering through, which it seemed that there was nowhere to turn.

Every day she was fighting just to make it past another day. Her emotions were all over the place. As we talked about her struggle and the things that had been affecting her, I could see the pain in her eyes as she reflected on her past. Listening to her share her story took me to a place that made me shiver inside. Just imagining being in her position. Imagining how I would feel if my kids were going through the things her children were, and having to be that strong individual who has to keep it together because she is the mother, the strength, and the leader of her family. She was the one who had to set the example, or everything could come tumbling down even more than it already has. That is when her faith came into play.

She also shared with me that when she was almost at the end of her rope, God sent her the key to unlock the door to her freedom from her struggles. One which was the catalyst for the path that she longed to get back to. Her uncle Jorge S. invited her to The Church of the Master. She told me that once she got there, she knew that she was home.

She found the love and the caring of a community who wanted nothing more than to see her grow back into and be the woman that she knew inside that she had always been. And now that woman was being nurtured and cared for by a community of men and women who understood her struggles and



Alicia L. Rosa, a beacon of hope in our community.

was there to help her fight for, and to grow into the woman that she knew that she could be for herself, for her children and for her community.

Today Alicia is an example to be modeled after and looked up to. She is always helping one person or another who is in need. She's faithful to her church and the new family that she has found there, and her only wish. Her only goal is to be there for her children. To be the example that they need in her. To be there for other women who are struggling like she is. To show people that with the right support and love from a community that cares can go a long way to becoming a strong, caring, and healing individual. This is the message and purpose of *Street Sights*...

...If you don't know, now you know.

May is Mental Health Month 2024 State House Date Announced this Week!



Millions of Americans and thousands of residents of Rhode Island are living with mental illness. Each May, MHARI, and individuals, agencies, and organizations across the State and the entire country, observe Mental Health month. We do so to fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families.

Join MHARI at the State House on May 1, at 1 PM in the State Room (2nd floor) to kick off May is Mental Month.

Love and Ashes

By Pastor Linda Forsberg

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14: Valentine's Day. Many people have been talking about how weird that is. The meanings of the two days seem to be completely opposite: romantic love, roses, chocolate, versus repentance for our sins, ashes, and giving something up for Lent.

I want to invite you to think about how maybe the two days are in fact deeply connected. Have you ever been miserable on Valentine's Day? I know many single people, and married people too for that matter, who feel deeply lonely on Valentine's Day. They feel as though the rest of the world is giddy with love, while they are alone, depressed, and wishing love had found them.

I myself had that kind of Valentine's Day for many years. Ash Wednesday, on the other hand, is an invitation to new life! On Ash Wednesday we hear the sobering words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." We are also invited to "repent," which literally means "to turn." On Ash Wednesday, we are invited to turn from our "sins," which means anything that is turning

us away from God and the fullness of Life God desires for us, and to "turn back" or "return" to God, and the new and resurrected life to which God invites us.

The 40-day season of Lent is about turning more and more toward God so that at Easter we can rise with Christ to the newness of life. Recently I was watching a television program about astronomy. The program said that throughout history humans have been drawn to the stars. There is something about the night sky that has a deep pull on our hearts, on our souls.

This program said that the stars fill us with longing because we are made of the very same substance as the stars. We are made of "stardust." That made me think of Ash Wednesday in a whole new way: "Remember that you are stardust, and to stardust you shall return!" The season of Epiphany that we are in right now is all about stars. It is about the Magi following the star to the Christchild. In fact, Jesus Christ is called our Morning Star.

So, maybe Ash Wednesday and Valentine's

Day are not that far apart after all. Maybe on Ash Wednesday we can remember that we are of Christ, our Morning Star, that we are of stardust, and to stardust we shall return. Maybe we should remember that in Christ the Star, the Light of our Lives, married or single, we experience a Love that is far more than roses and chocolate.

In God, who is Love itself, we experience a Love that is without limits. No matter what you have done or failed to do, God loves you. God created you from that Love and from stardust, to reflect the Light and the Love of God. Ash Wednesday, and the whole season of Lent, draw us back to the greatest Love there is: God's unconditional Love for you.

FYI: I will be in Kennedy Plaza administering ashes on February 14 from 8:00-9:30 am.



Pastor Linda Forsberg is the Missioner of the Church Beyond the Walls

QUICK AND HEALTHY FOODS TO GRAB ON THE GO!

Eating well on the go can be hard. Here are a few tips to try to make the most nutritious choices!

<p>Fruits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole fruit like grapes, apples, bananas, or oranges • Canned or single serve fruit and applesauce • 100% juice • Dried fruits such as raisins 	<p>Protein</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuts and seeds • Peanut butter • Hard boiled eggs • Canned fish (tuna, salmon, sardines) and chicken in water • Low sodium canned beans & bean dip
<p>Vegetables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single serve 100% vegetable juice • Cherry tomatoes • Salsa • Canned vegetables, low sodium or no added salt 	<p>Dairy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single serve pudding or yogurt • Shelf stable nonfat or low-fat milk • Single serve string cheese
<p>Grains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail mix • Whole grain crackers • Instant oatmeal • Cereal or granola bar • Popcorn or baked chips 	<p style="text-align: center;">FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE INFORMATION!</p> <p> @RISNPEd URI_Nutrition_Ed URI Nutrition Community Nutrition Education RI </p>

1-877-FOOD-URI
 web.uri.edu/snaped

This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

BETTER LIVES

Rhode Island

NEW LOCATION

12 Abbott Park Place, Providence

Open Mondays 3-7 pm
Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9-1 pm

Friday Meal Site:
134 Matthewson St. 3-5:30 pm

Bringing Hope to the Homeless and
Food to the Hungry Since 1974

PAWTUCKET:

Holy Family Parish
195 Walcott Street (401)724-9190

Salvation Army Pawtucket Corps' Food
Pantry 102 High Street (401)723-9533

St. John the Baptist Food Pantry
69 Quincy Avenue (401)722-9054

Living Hope Assembly of God
100 Broadway (401)723-2039

Woodlawn Baptist Church
337 Lonsdale Avenue (401)724-6390

Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center
75 Benefit Street (401)724-7170

St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry
690 Newport Avenue (401)723-5632

WARWICK:

Westbay CAP Market Place 211
Buttonwoods Avenue (401)732-4660 ext.140

Cornerstone Church Food Pantry
1990 Elmwood Avenue (401)781-6121

St. Rita's Church Pantry
722 Oakland Beach Avenue (401)738-1800

PROVIDENCE:

John Hope Settlement House Pantry
7 Thomas Whitten Way (401)421-6993

Our Lady of the Rosary
Food Pantry Wed Sat
17 Traverse Street (401)453-0174

SVDP St. Raymond's Church
1240 North Main Street (401) 351-4224

St. Edward Food & Wellness Center
1001 Branch Avenue (401)621-3827

Camp Street Ministries Food Pantry
190 1/2 Camp Street (401)421-5474

Mt. Hope Neighborhood Association
199 Camp Street (401)521-8830

SVDP Holy Name of Jesus Food Pantry
99 Camp Street (401)277-9053

Community Food Share First Unitarian
Church 1 Benevolent Street (401)457-7149

Community Action Partnership of Prov
Interim House 49 Trenton Street
(401)831-4570

Providence Assembly of God Pantry
353 Elmwood Avenue (401)461-7210

St. Charles Pantry SVDP
178 Dexter Street (401)273-1108

Interfaith Food Ministry
95 Hathaway Ctr #61 (401)461-1773

Salvation Army Providence Corps' Food
Pantry 386 Broad Street (401)831-1119
Dinner 4- 5pm

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries
747 Broad Street (401)461-7509

West End Community Center Pantry
109 Bucklin Street (401)781-4242

Assumption of the BVM Church
791 Potters Avenue (401)941-1248

Operation Compassion Church of God
297 Elmwood Avenue (401)275-2326

Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher
Pantry 100 Niantic Avenue (401)621-5374

St. Peter & St. Andrew Food Pantry
70 Pemberton Street (401)272-9649

Gospel Tabernacle Outreach Pantry
45 Oakland Avenue (401)454-0988

Church of God Shalom
145 Chad Brown Street (401)421-5112

Pantry Rudolph Tavares Community Center
263 Chad Brown Street (401)455-3890

Federal Hill House Pantry
9 Courtland Street (401)421-4722

PICA Olneyville Food Center
261 Manton Avenue (401)521-5639

SVDP St. Anthony's Church
549 Plainfield Street (401)943-2300

Silver Lake Community Center
529 Plainfield Street (401)944-8300

St. Thomas Church
65 Fruit Hill Avenue (401)272-7118

CRANSTON:

Edgewood Pawtuxet Food Closet:
Transfiguration Church
1665 Broad Street (401)461-3142

Haitian Baptist Church of Rhode Island
12 Lincoln Avenue (401)944-1440

SVDP Emergency Food Center
181 Princess Avenue (401)946-5291

NORTH PROVIDENCE:

Tri-Town Community Action Agency
33 Maple Avenue (401)519-1916

Allendale Baptist Church
545 Woonasquatucket Avenue (401)231-7669

EAST PROVIDENCE:

East Bay Community Action Program
Pantry 100 Bullocks Point Avenue (401)437-
1000

JOHNSTON:

St. Robert's Food Closet
1804 Atwood Avenue (401)231-4987

St. Rocco's Food Pantry
926 Atwood Avenue (401)743-3983

RIVERSIDE:

Good Neighbors
55 Turner Avenue (401)433-0045

BE SURE TO CALL IN ADVANCE
FOR ANY INFORMATION AND
APPOINTMENTS AS SOME THINGS
ON THIS LIST MAY BE OUT OF DATE

**PLEASE NOTIFY STREET SIGHTS IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR INFORMATION ADDED.
CONTACT US AT STREETSIGHTS@GMAIL.COM**

RHODE ISLAND MEAL SITES

BE SURE TO CALL IN ADVANCE FOR ANY INFORMATION AND APPOINTMENTS AS SOME THINGS ON THIS LIST MAY BE OUT OF DATE.

Providence Area Meal Sites

Northern RI / Blackstone Valley

Newport County

BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER
SUNDAY	<p>Mathewson Fellowship Breakfast Service 8 am - 9 am followed by Camp-style Family Breakfast 9:15 am - 10:30 am</p> <p>St Anthony Parish 1st and 3rd Sunday 12:30 - 1 pm</p> <p>Judy's Kindness Kitchen at Crossroads (Sept to June) 10:30 am - 11:00 am</p>	<p>Salvation Army 4 pm - 5 pm Closed first Sun. of the month Food Pantry every Wednesday 9 am - Noon</p> <p>Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm</p> <p>St Patrick's 4 pm - 5:15 pm doors open at 3:30 pm</p> <p>Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm</p> <p>Reaching for the Fringe 5 pm - 6:30 pm</p> <p>City Meal Site, Inc. 4 pm - 5 pm</p> <p>Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm</p> <p>Impact Center/Assembly of God 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm</p> <p>Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm</p> <p>St Charles Church 4:15 pm - 6 pm</p> <p>Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm</p> <p>Victory Assembly of God 5 pm - 6 pm Last Thurs. of the month</p> <p>Better Lives RI 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm</p> <p>Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm</p> <p>Epiphany Soup Kitchen @ St. Stephen's Church 2:30 pm - 4 pm</p> <p>Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm</p>
MONDAY	<p>Amos House 7 am - 8 am</p> <p>McAuley House 8 am - 9:30 pm</p> <p>Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm</p> <p>McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm</p> <p>Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm</p>	<p>Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm</p> <p>McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm</p> <p>Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm</p>
TUESDAY	<p>Amos House 7 am - 8 am</p> <p>McAuley House 8 am - 9:30 pm</p> <p>Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm</p> <p>McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm</p> <p>Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm</p>	<p>Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm</p> <p>McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm</p> <p>Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm</p>
WEDNESDAY	<p>Amos House 7 am - 8 am</p> <p>McAuley House 8 am - 9:30 pm</p> <p>Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm</p> <p>McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm</p> <p>Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm</p>	<p>Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm</p> <p>McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm</p> <p>Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm</p>
THURSDAY	<p>Amos House 7 am - 8 am</p> <p>McAuley House 8 am - 9:30 pm</p> <p>Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm</p> <p>McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm</p> <p>Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm</p>	<p>Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm</p> <p>McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm</p> <p>Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm</p>
FRIDAY	<p>Amos House 7 am - 8 am</p> <p>McAuley House 8 am - 9:30 pm</p> <p>Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm</p> <p>McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm</p> <p>Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm</p>	<p>Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm</p> <p>McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm</p> <p>Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm</p>
SATURDAY	<p>Church of the Master Meal site 15 Valley St is closed for the Summer Will reopen September 10th</p> <p>Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm closed first Sat of month</p> <p>Church beyond the Walls 2 pm</p> <p>St Edward Kitchen 12 - 1pm (2nd & 4th Sat starting 10/18)</p>	<p>Epiphany Soup Kitchen @ St. Stephen's Church 2:30 pm - 4 pm</p> <p>Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm</p>

BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER	
SUNDAY	<p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 7:30 am - 8:00 am</p> <p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 7:30 am - 8:00 am</p> <p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 7:30 am - 8:00 am</p> <p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 7:30 am - 8:00 am</p> <p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 7:30 am - 8:00 am</p> <p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 7:30 am - 8:00 am</p>	<p>Help the Homeless RI 12 pm - 1pm (Bouley Field)</p> <p>Help the Homeless RI 1 pm - 2 pm (Pawtucket - when winter shelter is open)</p> <p>St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church 12:30 pm - 1 pm (third Sunday of the month only)</p> <p>St George's Episcopal Church 2 pm - 3 pm</p> <p>New Beginnings 11:30 am - 12:45 pm</p> <p>St John The Baptist 11:30 am - 12:45 pm doors open at 9:30 am</p> <p>New Beginnings 11:30 am - 12:45 pm</p> <p>New Beginnings 11:30 am - 12:45 pm</p> <p>New Beginnings 11:30 am - 12:45 pm</p> <p>New Beginnings 11:30 am - 12:45 pm</p> <p>St Luke's Episcopal 11 am - 12 pm 2nd, 4th Thursday</p>	<p>Help the Homeless RI 5 pm - 6 pm (Pawtucket) when local shelter is closed</p> <p>Matthew 25 Center hosted by The River UMC 4 - 7 pm</p> <p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm</p> <p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm</p> <p>Feed My Sheep 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm 3rd, 4th, 5th Tuesday only</p> <p>Matthew 25 Center hosted by The River UMC 4 pm - 7 pm</p> <p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm</p> <p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm</p> <p>St. Luke's Episcopal 5 pm 1st, 3rd Thursday</p> <p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm</p> <p>Matthew 25 Center 11 am - 2 pm</p> <p>Park Place United Church 4 pm - 5 pm</p>
MONDAY	<p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 7:30 am - 8:00 am</p> <p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 7:30 am - 8:00 am</p>	<p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm</p> <p>Feed My Sheep 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm 3rd, 4th, 5th Tuesday only</p>	
TUESDAY	<p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 7:30 am - 8:00 am</p>	<p>Feed My Sheep 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm 3rd, 4th, 5th Tuesday only</p>	
WEDNESDAY	<p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 7:30 am - 8:00 am</p>	<p>Matthew 25 Center hosted by The River UMC 4 pm - 7 pm</p>	
THURSDAY	<p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 7:30 am - 8:00 am</p>	<p>St. Luke's Episcopal 5 pm 1st, 3rd Thursday</p>	
FRIDAY	<p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 7:30 am - 8:00 am</p>	<p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm</p>	
SATURDAY	<p>Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 10:30 am - 11:00 am</p>	<p>Park Place United Church 4 pm - 5 pm</p>	

BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER
SUNDAY		<p>Salvation Army 4 pm - 4:45 pm</p>
MONDAY	<p>MLK Center 7:30 am - 9 am</p> <p>St. Joseph's 11:30 am - 1 pm</p>	<p>Trinity Church 5 pm every 4th & 5th Monday each month</p>
TUESDAY	<p>MLK Center 7:30 am - 9 am</p>	<p>Emmanuel Episcopal 5 pm first Tuesday every month</p>
WEDNESDAY	<p>MLK Center 7:30 am - 9 am</p>	<p>United Baptist 12 pm every 2nd & 3rd Wednesday each month</p>
THURSDAY	<p>MLK Center 7:30 am - 9 am</p>	<p>MLK Center 11:30 am - 1 pm</p>
FRIDAY	<p>MLK Center 7:30 am - 9 am</p>	<p>Salvation Army 4 pm - 4:45 pm</p>
SATURDAY		<p>Community Baptist 4:30</p>

PLEASE NOTIFY STREET SIGHTS IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR INFORMATION ADDED.
CONTACT US AT STREETSIGHTS@GMAIL.COM