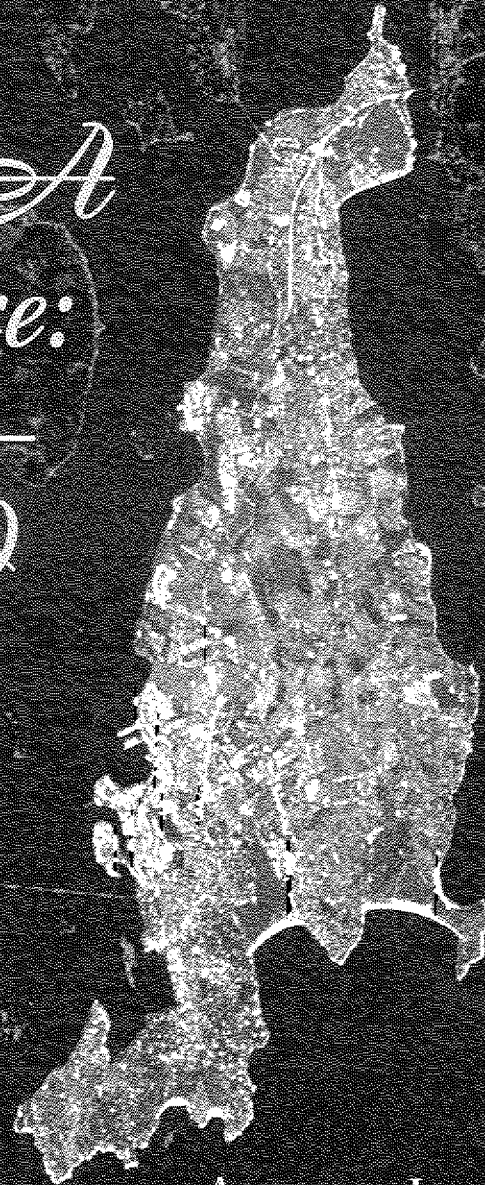


*Shaping A
Future:*

*Aquidneck Island
Achievements*

1997-2002



AQUIDNECK ISLAND PARTNERSHIP

A project of URI Coastal Resources Center/Rhode Island Sea Grant

RIU-G-02-001 C2

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Aquidneck Island Partnership Coastal Management Report # 3308

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AQUIDNECK ISLAND PARTNERSHIP

A project of URI Coastal Resources Center/Rhode Island Sea Grant

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Page 6: Photo by Ann Madden

Page 7: Bike photo courtesy of Coastal Resources Center; Perrotti Park sculpture photo by Sue Kennedy; Fort Adams photo by Sue Kennedy; group photo courtesy of Norman Bird Sanctuary

Page 8: Photo by Monica Allard Cox

Page 9: Thames St. photo by Monica Allard Cox; lighthouse photo courtesy of Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation; Rose Island photo courtesy of Puffin Enterprises

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Page 11: Student photo by Sue Kennedy; community police photo by Sue Kennedy; child photo courtesy of Norman Bird Sanctuary; chef photo by Melissa Devine

Page 12: Festival photo courtesy Rhode Island Tourism Division; child photo courtesy of Sullivan School Family Center; house photo courtesy of Church Community Housing Corporation; Church Community Housing Corporation staff photo by Sue Kennedy

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Page 14: Photo courtesy Rhode Island Tourism Division

Page 15: Anechoic chamber photo courtesy of Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC); Elms photo courtesy Rhode Island Tourism Division; skater photo by Monica Allard Cox

Page 16: Inset photo by Elizabeth Matthews; sailboats photo courtesy of International Yacht Restoration School; lobsterman photo by Elizabeth Matthews

Page 17: NUWC engineer photo courtesy of NUWC; farm photo by Sue Kennedy; business-woman photo by Sue Kennedy

Page 18: Background photo by Elizabeth Matthews; inset photo courtesy Puffin Enterprises

Page 19: Bicyclist photo by Celeste Allard; walker photos by Sue Kennedy; RIPTA photo by Monica Allard Cox

Page 20: Plane photo by Sue Kennedy; Ochre Court photo by Sue Kennedy; students photo by Sue Kennedy; RIPTA photo by Monica Allard Cox

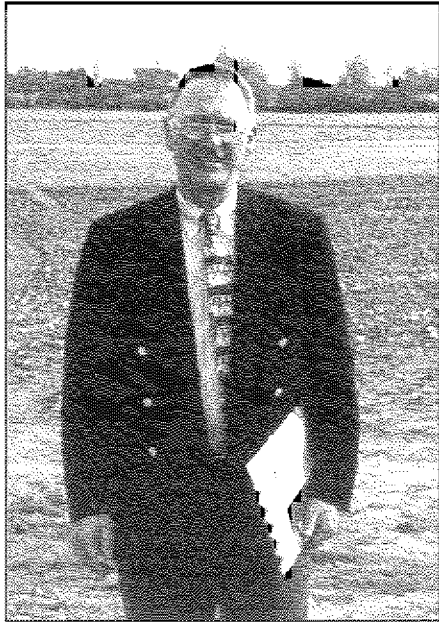
Page 21: Photo by Ann Madden

Inside back cover photo by Celeste Allard

*Shaping A
Future:*

*Aquidneck Island
Achievements*

1997-2002



Peter Merritt,
July 15, 1943–June 15, 2000

Shaping a Future: Aquidneck Island Achievements, 1997–2002 is dedicated to the memory of Peter Merritt, whose vision raised islanders' awareness of land, social, economic, and transportation issues. Merritt was one of the people who helped make the idea of protecting resources a goal for all islanders. As a founding board member of the Aquidneck Island Land Trust, Merritt played a key role in preserving open spaces and cultural sites that are intrinsically Aquidneck Island. He served on the boards of Child & Family Services and The Foundation For Newport, and was a principal of the Newport Appraisal Group. In recognition of his ability to find creative solutions to difficult problems, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management awarded Merritt the 2000 Alfred Hawkes Award for environmental achievement. The Aquidneck Island Partnership dedicates this publication to Merritt, honoring his vision and the steps being taken to achieve it.

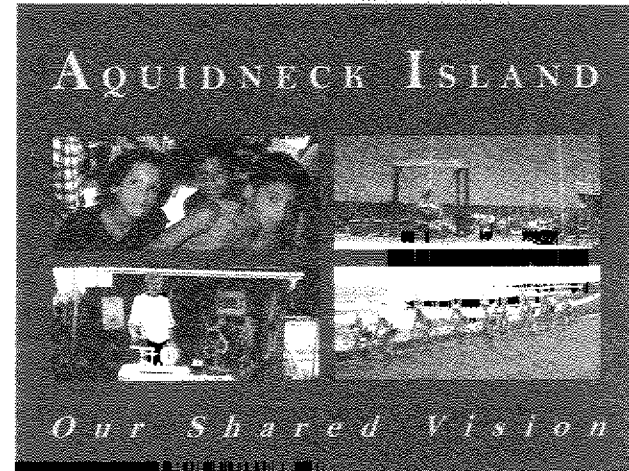


Aquidneck Island: Shaping a Future

In the last decade, development pressures have made island residents more aware of the limitations of their island boundaries. In 1997, Aquidneck Islanders undertook a community visioning process to determine those attributes of their island that they wanted to enhance and preserve for future generations. People sought to preserve land and public access points, attract good jobs, improve transportation, enhance neighborhood safety, prepare for an aging population, and provide quality education and health care. These desires are captured in the 1999 publication *Aquidneck Island: Our Shared Vision*.

Shaping a Future: Aquidneck Island Achievements 1997–2002 documents the progress islanders have made towards their vision by highlighting recent accomplishments in four key areas identified in the *Shared Vision*: a Livable Landscape, Social Well-being, a Strong Local Economy, and Multiple Modes of Transportation.

These stories show how individual accomplishments can collectively improve community life. For those who would like to join in these efforts, or for more information, contact the organizations listed beginning on page 22. Those who would like to create and implement a guiding vision for their own communities can now look to Aquidneck Island's example.



Preserving the island's unique character and quality of life



The 2001 People's Choice Award Winners:

Leaders of the Aquidneck Island Shared Vision

As the culmination of the 2001 Aquidneck Island Celebration, a month-long series of events showcasing the accomplishments islanders have made towards achieving their shared vision, the Aquidneck Island Partnership hosted a reception to honor the winners of the People's Choice Awards. The winners are models of the progress being made by the community since 1997 to preserve or enhance natural, social, and economic resources on Aquidneck Island.

John Tucker: Tireless Volunteer for Transportation and Zoning Issues

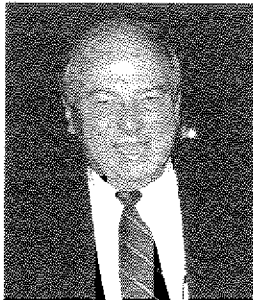
As a member of the Middletown Planning Board and Middletown Comprehensive Plan Committee, John Tucker has addressed island-wide transportation issues, organizing a demonstration and successfully lobbying island communities to fund a bike map. The Middletown resident is working to create an Agricultural Zone for Middletown.



John Tucker,
Middletown resident

Dr. Robert Quigley: Leader for Islandwide Coordination and Municipal Cooperation

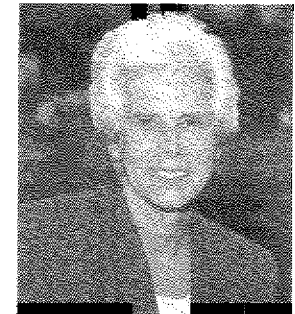
Dr. Robert Quigley's efforts on the West Side of Aquidneck Island have advanced island planning and brought divergent groups together. A member of the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission (AIPC), vice chair of the Rhode Island Transportation Advisory Committee, and a Portsmouth Planning Board member, Quigley has encouraged cooperation and special initiatives among Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth, and Naval Station Newport. Quigley, a Portsmouth resident, has helped create statewide interest in, and support for, the island's regional planning approach.



Dr. Robert Quigley,
AIPC West Side Master
Plan Task Force Chairman

Salve Regina University: Students Hop RIPTA Buses and Cut Traffic Congestion

To alleviate traffic congestion in the city, Newport's Salve Regina University banned its boarding students from keeping cars on campus and partnered with the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) to turn school identification cards into RIPTA bus "passes." Students now take RIPTA trolleys and buses to classes and downtown, as well as to other colleges and destinations.



Sister M. Therese Antone,
President of Salve Regina
University

Glen Manor House Authority: Self-supporting Historic Home Enriches Island Culture

Island residents recognized Glen Manor House Authority volunteers for saving the Glen Manor House, a historic manor that would likely have been torn down or converted into town houses if left unattended. Volunteers, armed with a clearly defined vision and action plan, formed the authority in 1975, and by the late 1980s had obtained the money and expertise needed to preserve the manor. In 2000, the house authority, through tours, special events, and facility rentals, supported additional refurbishing of the property and contributed \$96,000 to the town of Portsmouth general fund.



David Hunter, Chairman
Glen Manor House
Authority

Preserve access to the coast and link open space areas



Livable Landscape

Link open space areas so that individuals may walk or ride their bikes from one end of the island to the other

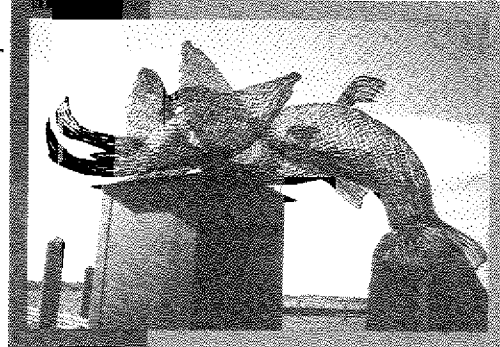
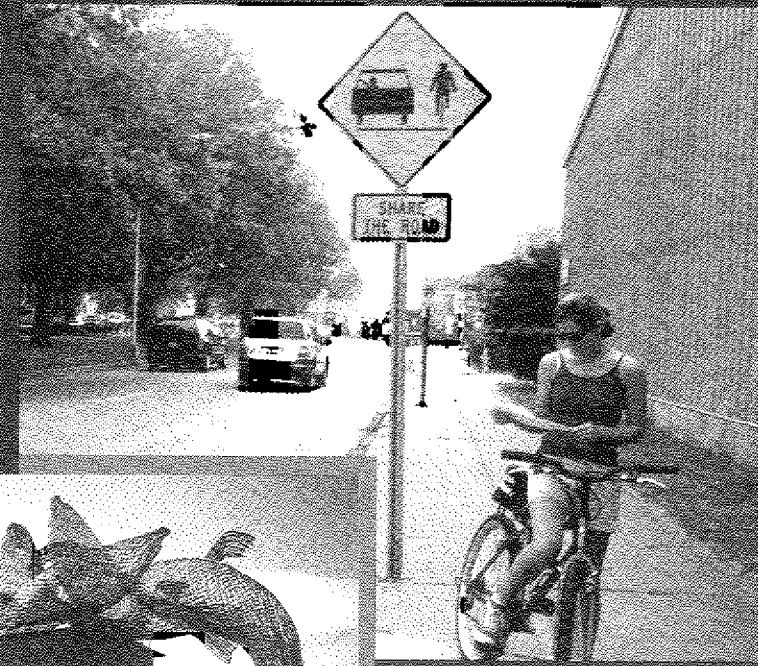
Island Accomplishments

- During the spring of 1999, the Aquidneck Island Partnership (AIP) led island municipalities in the development of the *Aquidneck Island Land Conservation Strategy* to achieve land conservation and transportation goals.
- The Aquidneck Island Land Trust (AILT), supported by municipalities, community organizations, and property owners, has permanently protected nearly 895 acres, buffering drinking water sources and linking parcels within the Sakonnet Greenway. The AILT mission is to permanently preserve 2,000 acres by 2005.

Preserve access to the coast, including harbors, coves, and beaches, so that people may swim, fish, or enjoy the incredible sunsets and coastal breezes

Island Accomplishments

- Local neighborhood groups, municipalities, and state agencies increasingly partner on efforts to improve access to the coast at some of Aquidneck Island's 50 public access points by maintaining public piers, boat ramps, and beach and park areas such as Sachuest Point and Perrotti Park.
- Fort Adams is the largest coastal fortification in the United States. The Fort Adams Trust will be investing more than \$1.5 million in state and federal funds for the first phase of the restoration of this National Historic Landmark. This work will enhance educational, cultural, and interpretive activities for visitors.
- Friends of the Waterfront, supported by Newport, City Year Rhode Island, and neighborhood groups, organized a volunteer effort to renovate Newport waterfront areas and segments of the Harbor Walk and Cliff Walk. The organization continues to improve and maintain public waterfront property and public access areas.





*Oakland Forest
preservation saves
rare beech tree
habitat*

Encourage development that complements the island's New England character

Island Accomplishments

- Middletown adopted a Town Center Overlay District Zoning Ordinance to ensure building projects in this developed area reflect, rather than undermine, the town's ties to its colonial and rural past.
- Newport revised elements of its comprehensive plan and produced several master plans to achieve balanced land use and development in residential and business areas. One example is the Ranger Road Master Plan, which is guiding the creation of an education and government complex on former Navy property.
- Portsmouth designated property transfer fees to a dedicated open space fund totaling \$600,000, placed a cap on residential development to encourage managed growth, and explored the creation of a "Green Development" ordinance to mandate significant open space in residential areas.

Livable Landscape Stories

Aquidneck Island Land Trust: Oakland Forest Preservation Effort Saves Rare Beech Tree Habitat

In 1999 the Aquidneck Island Land Trust quickly mobilized a preservation effort to save Portsmouth's Oakland Forest, which was to be bulldozed for housing development. The AILT worked with the town, spearheading a fundraising program that generated widespread community support for preserving a habitat that includes rare centuries-old American beeches and protects an island drinking water source. On January 13, 2000—the day the development firm was to receive permission to build—the AILT negotiated a \$1.5 million deal with the developer to buy the forest and an adjacent meadow.

Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation: Beacon Land Saved for Public Benefit

Supporters cheered the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation in 1993 when it re-lit its refurbished namesake beacon, creating a unique cultural and historical site for those eager to experience a starkly beautiful coastal landscape without the luxury of city-supplied electrical power. Buoyed by the lighthouse's public debut, the foundation



launched a preservation plan for all of Rose Island. Through another extensive campaign, the foundation amassed over \$600,000 in state and private funds and recently bought most of Rose Island's 17.5 acres. By collaborating with Newport, which owns the remaining 1.5-acre lighthouse property, the foundation developed a management plan for the island. With its rich military history and critical habitat for migratory marine birds, Rose Island is now protected by a plan that preserves its historic and environmental integrity, maintains its lighthouse, and offers educational opportunities and access to all who visit its windswept shore.

*Newport County Chamber of Commerce:
Smart Growth Preserves Green Space from Sprawl*

The chamber started to convince retailers in 1998 to pass up developing "green" areas and move into existing buildings instead. Working with municipalities and developers, the chamber recently matched several major retail projects to suitable sites, with stores such as Walmart and Super Stop & Shop locating at the Newport Mall. Other stores such as Marshalls, Ocean State Job Lot, and McDonald's opened at Middletown's RK Shopping Plaza, a project celebrated as a significant step forward for island land preservation.



Building a sense of community: Helping islanders achieve home ownership



*Church Community
Housing raises affordable
housing from the ashes of
abandoned buildings*



Social Well-being

Build a sense of community through neighborhood collaboration

Island Accomplishments

Police departments have created and improved programs, such as Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Middletown, the Camp Wave summer youth program in Newport, and Citizens' Police Academy in Portsmouth, to enhance neighborhood safety and strengthen communication with residents. Police departments mentor teens and assist families of at-risk youth, assigning community police officers to neighborhoods and apartment complexes to improve communication between residents and law enforcement.

The Norman Bird Sanctuary developed a "Keepers of the Island" curriculum in partnership with the Middletown and Newport school departments to encourage children to become stewards of the natural environment in their own neighborhoods. Schools involved include Dr. M. H. Sullivan Elementary School and Frank E. Thompson Middle School in Newport and the John F. Kennedy Elementary School and Joseph H. Gaudet Middle School in Middletown.

Invest in education programs that help children become healthy, successful, and resourceful citizens

Island Accomplishments

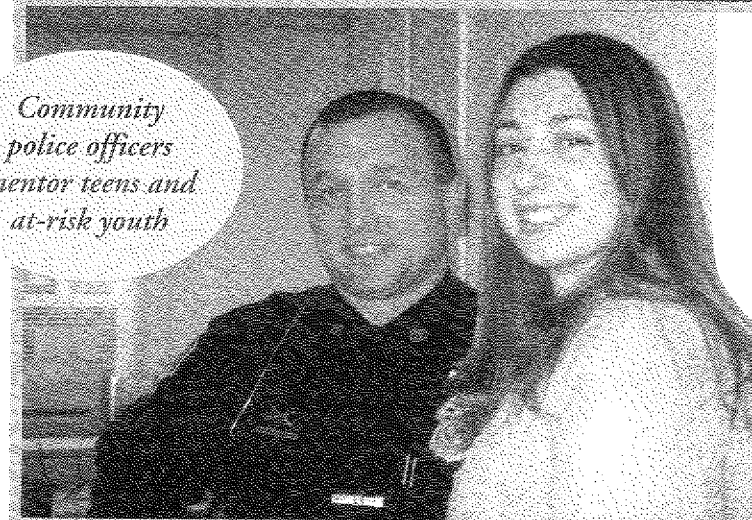
New Visions of Newport County, Newport Partnerships for Families, and Newport public schools place family service coordinators in all four Newport elementary schools and Thompson Middle School to connect with teachers and school staff to support children's learning.

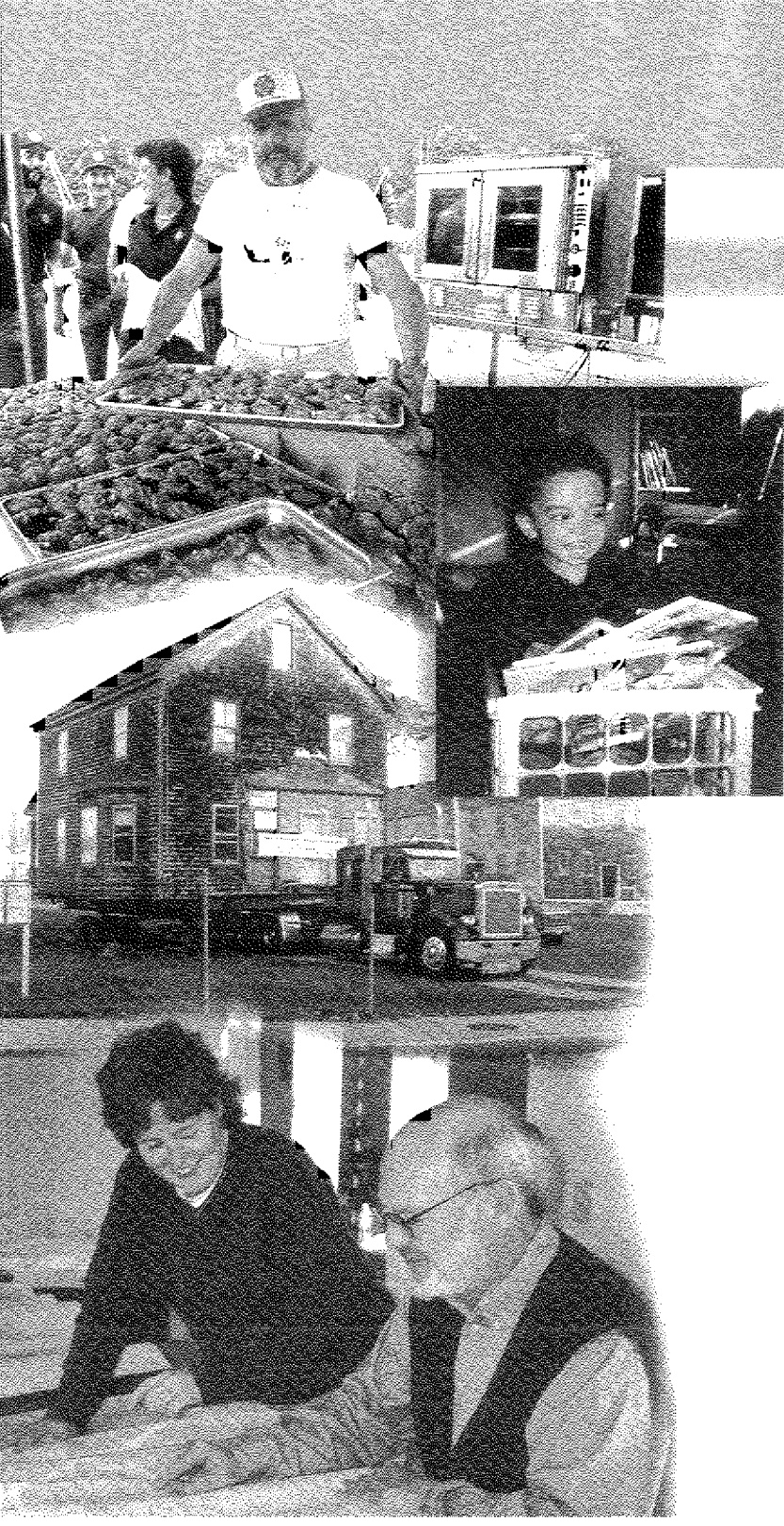
Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth are in the top third of Rhode Island municipalities that ensure that their disadvantaged pre-schoolers—more than 70 percent—are enrolled in Head Start childcare and education programs.

Newport County Career and Technical Center in Newport annually provides skills training to more than 200 island students, preparing them for jobs in such fields as automotive technology, marine trades, advertising and graphic design, hospitality and tourism, culinary arts, fashion design, healthcare, woodworking, cosmetology, and construction technology.



Community police officers mentor teens and at-risk youth





Celebrate the history of the island by enhancing cultural activities

Island Accomplishments

The Arts & Cultural Alliance of Newport County promotes and supports an increasingly vibrant local arts community.

Heritage festivals such as the Portuguese Cultural Festival, the Black Ships Festival, and the Kinsale Ireland Festival of Fine Food celebrate diverse cultures from Japan to Ireland and beyond. Events such as Opening Weekend at Fort Adams and the Sail Newport Family Sailing Festival raise awareness of the island's colonial and maritime history.

Social Well-being Stories

Church Community Housing Corporation: Helping Islanders Achieve Home Ownership

Island families are facing escalating housing prices and are competing with students, tourists, and short-term island residents for fewer available rental properties. The Church Community Housing Corporation (CCHC) has adapted its programs over three decades to meet the changing needs of island families pursuing home ownership. In the last decade alone CCHC has helped more than 100 island families buy homes and 400 families secure \$3.5 million in home improvement loans. Working closely with municipal governments, CCHC offers programs on personal finance and finding a home.

Sullivan School Family Center: Community Fabric Strengthened Through Family Education

The Sullivan School of Newport represents one of two Rhode Island school districts in 1998 to secure a federal grant to establish a community learning center. Operating under the philosophy that children, especially disadvantaged youth, perform best in schools that embrace family learning opportunities, the Sullivan School designed the center to help families access education, health, recreation, and financial programs and services. Since then, the Sullivan School Community Learning Center has grown from serving 25 to 75 percent of the school population.



*Middletown Historical Society: Windmill Rescue
Generates New Interest in Local Heritage*

While negotiating the sale of their Portsmouth property, the Boyd family came to the bleak conclusion that their windmill, an island fixture since 1810, would face destruction under a new owner. Aware of the Middletown Historical Society's search for a windmill to represent the town's agricultural history, the family donated their mill to the society in 1990. The society, local government, and a host of community members began the collaborative restoration effort in 1995, culminating in a police-escorted convoy that transported the sectioned windmill to Middletown's Paradise Valley Park for re-assembly in 1998. Now, the society offers the educational program "WOW: Wonderful Old Windmill," sponsors public events, and continues to raise funds to create a trust for the windmill's perpetual care.

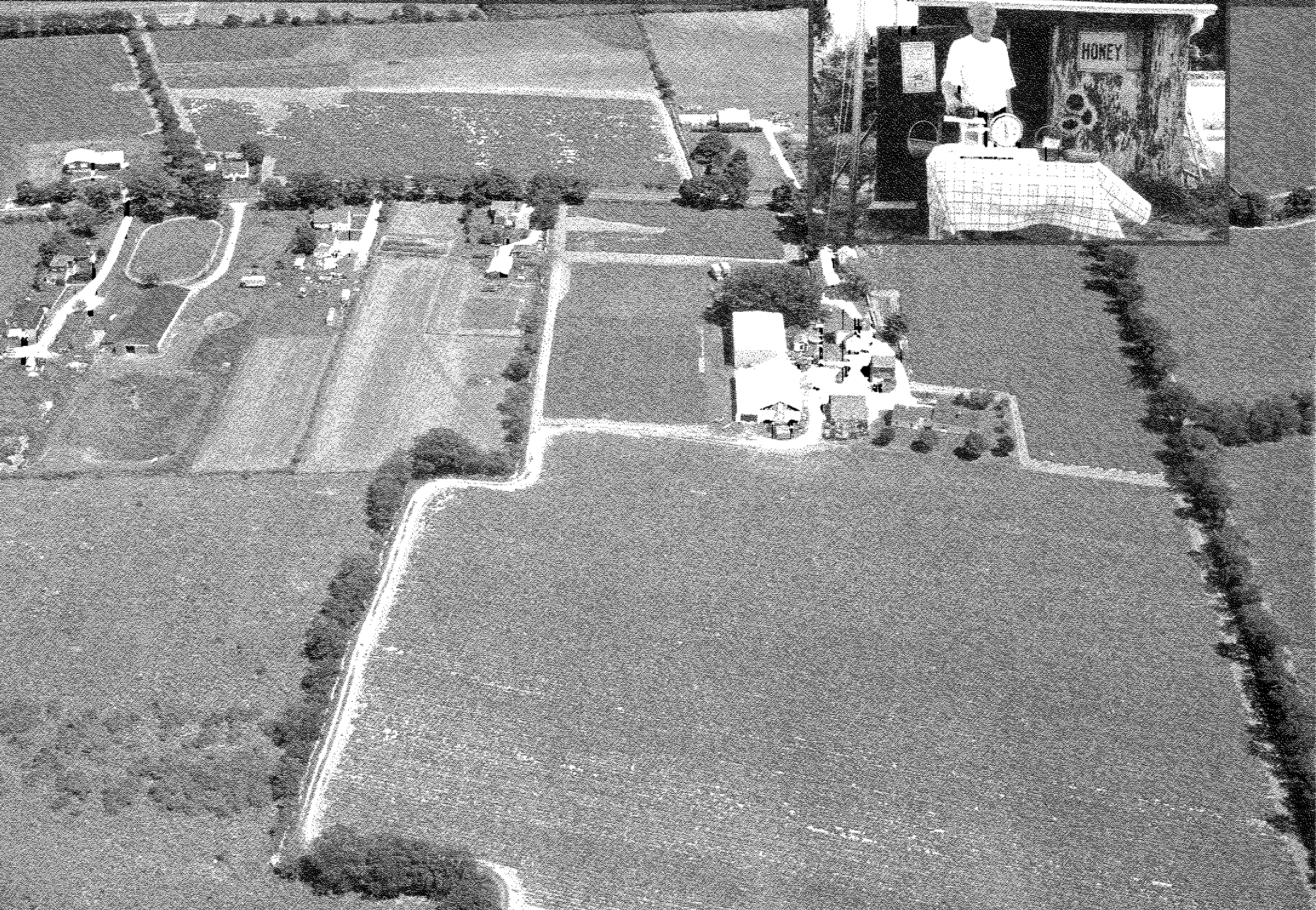


*Child & Family Services of Newport County:
State Partnership Strengthens Families*

Serving as a center for community involvement for 135 years, Child & Family Services of Newport County (C&FS) recently facilitated a system of care for children in state residential programs. The newly formed Resource Management Network brings together C&FS; the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families; the Key Program; Communities for People; and the Providence Center to ensure that children are raised in nurturing homes. Initially serving 63 youngsters ages 13 to 17 in 2000, the network now serves 80 children. C&FS offers programs in child care, elder support, counseling, substance abuse prevention, diagnostic assessment, transitional housing, child welfare, and workforce development.



The island economy should be based in part on farms



A Strong Local Economy

The island economy should be based on high-tech, low pollution industries...

NUWC's Radio Frequency Anechoic Chamber is used for testing submarine equipment

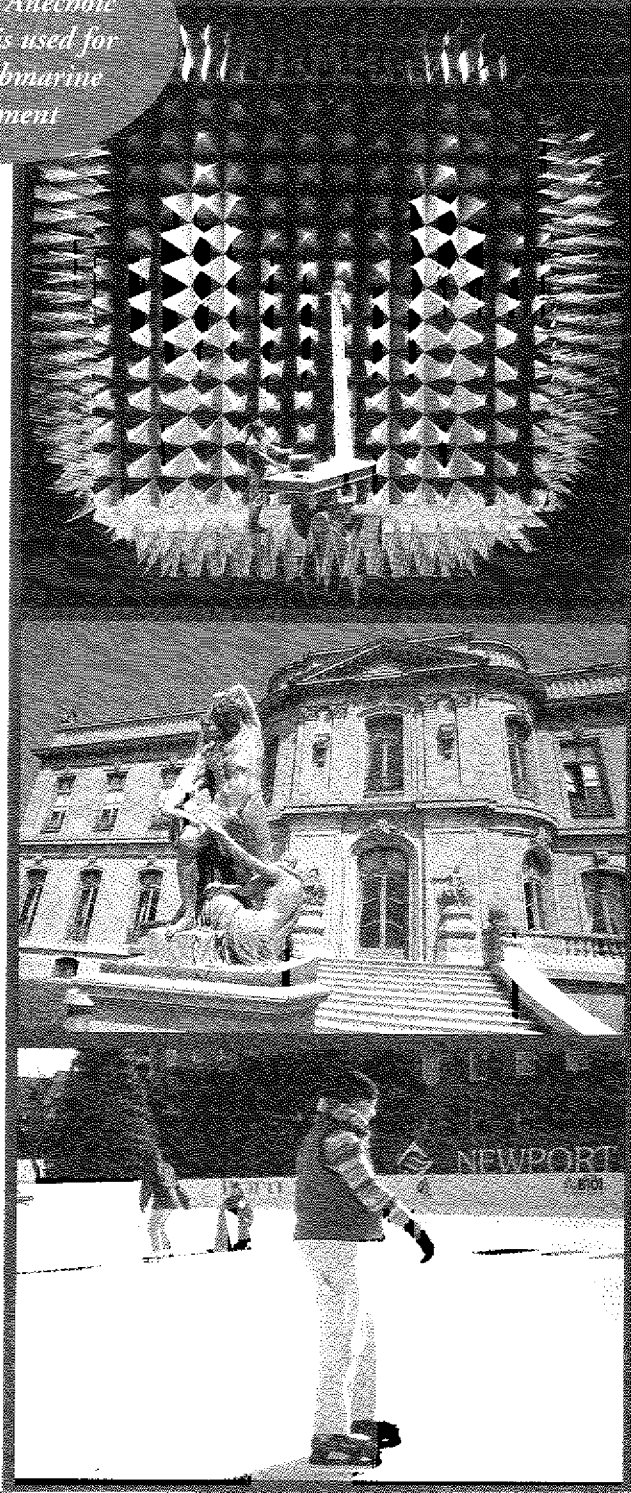
Island Accomplishments

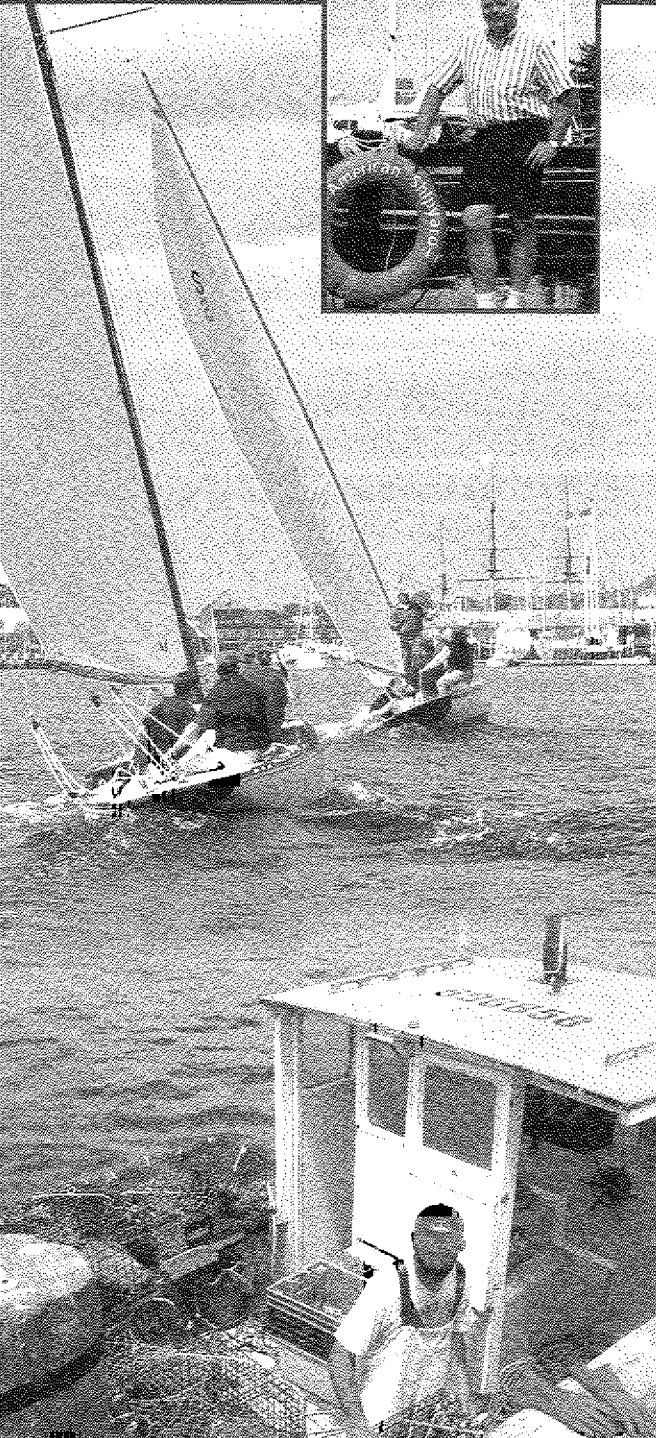
- Municipalities have recognized the technology strengths of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport (NUWC) and the Raytheon Company and are working with the state, the Newport County Chamber of Commerce, and the private sector to further build significant software, engineering, and related technology clusters.
- The Newport County Chamber of Commerce has advocated for legislation that would exempt research and development businesses from paying sales and use taxes on certain consumable goods. It has recommended that the state phase out the Rhode Island capital gains tax on assets held for six years or longer to foster an economic climate that attracts technology firms and other businesses.
- NUWC Division Newport and private technology firms on the island have participated in state programs supporting partnership efforts between government institutions that develop technology and island businesses that create products that use this technology. The division's work with the Rhode Island Slater Centers for Ocean Technology, Interactive Technologies, and Design Innovation resulted in the formation of two new companies in 2001 and the transfer of technical expertise to local companies.

...The island economy should be based on tourism that enhances the island's charm and livability...

Island Accomplishments

- Middletown and Newport jointly explored opportunities to increase municipal portions of state funds generated by local hotel tax revenues. The partnership strengthened communication between Middletown, Newport, and state government officials and laid the groundwork for future discussions regarding state and local collaborative efforts to enhance the island economy.
- The Newport County Convention & Visitors Bureau worked with island businesses and organizations to promote cultural and recreational opportunities that appeal to residents, including family-based activities at the new Born Family Skating Center and winter evening open houses at the Elms Mansion that are sponsored by the Preservation Society of Newport County.





The island economy should be based in part on active farms...

Island Accomplishments

- Island farmers and winemakers have tapped into a new source of revenue by marketing their products and services to off-season visitors.
- Island farmers have used research conducted by the Aquidneck Island Partnership and Rhode Island Sea Grant/URI Coastal Resources Center on the economic benefits of open space to build legislative support for programs that promote active farms. The Rhode Island Center for Commercial Agriculture worked with farmers on diversifying crops and marketing products to suburban and urban customer bases.
- Farms such as Sweet Berry Farm and Quonset View Farm invite customers to pick their own strawberries, flowers, and Christmas trees, decreasing labor costs and providing popular tourism activities. Other farms sell flowers and hanging baskets, while vineyard proprietors offer tours, tastings, and autumn harvest events.
- The Highland Farm corn maze annually draws more than 10,000 customers who meander through fields patterned after farm animals, such as the 2000 "Moo-linnium Cow" and the 2001 Rhode Island Red Rooster.

...The island economy should be based in part on marine trades

Island Accomplishments

- Marine trades have grown by partnering with federal, state, and local officials on economic programs. These businesses generate tax revenues for communities, attract engineering and graphic-design firms to the island, create jobs for skilled tradespeople and technology professionals, and provide training opportunities for school-to-career high school students.
- The Rhode Island Marine Trades Association (RIMTA) successfully lobbied the Rhode Island General Assembly in 2001 for legislation allowing maintenance dredging of clean marine businesses such as boatyards and yacht clubs. The effort fostered discussion about potential opportunities to make maintenance dredging affordable for businesses and raised public awareness of environmental benefits of responsible dredging, such as salt pond flushing.

- RIMTA advocated for a 1999 federal designation that forbids boats from discharging waste in Rhode Island waters. Aquidneck Island businesses, such as Goat Island Marina, Newport Yachting Center, Bowen's Wharf, Long Wharf, and Ida Lewis Yacht Club, installed pump-out stations. The designation makes Rhode Island the only coastal state with a no-discharge policy.

Strong Local Economy Stories

NUWC: Building a Technology Industry Through Private Sector Partnerships

The Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) is fueling a technology community on the island that is attracting businesses; generating jobs for more than 2,000 engineers, scientists, and technical professionals; and boosting local and state economies. In recent years, the Technology Transfer Office at NUWC has collaborated with private industry and academic institutions to create new technology products, such as innovative medical devices. NUWC also works with state and federal offices to encourage businesses to apply for contract work. Such efforts have enabled NUWC to award \$53 million in contracts to 100 island companies, many of them technology firms.

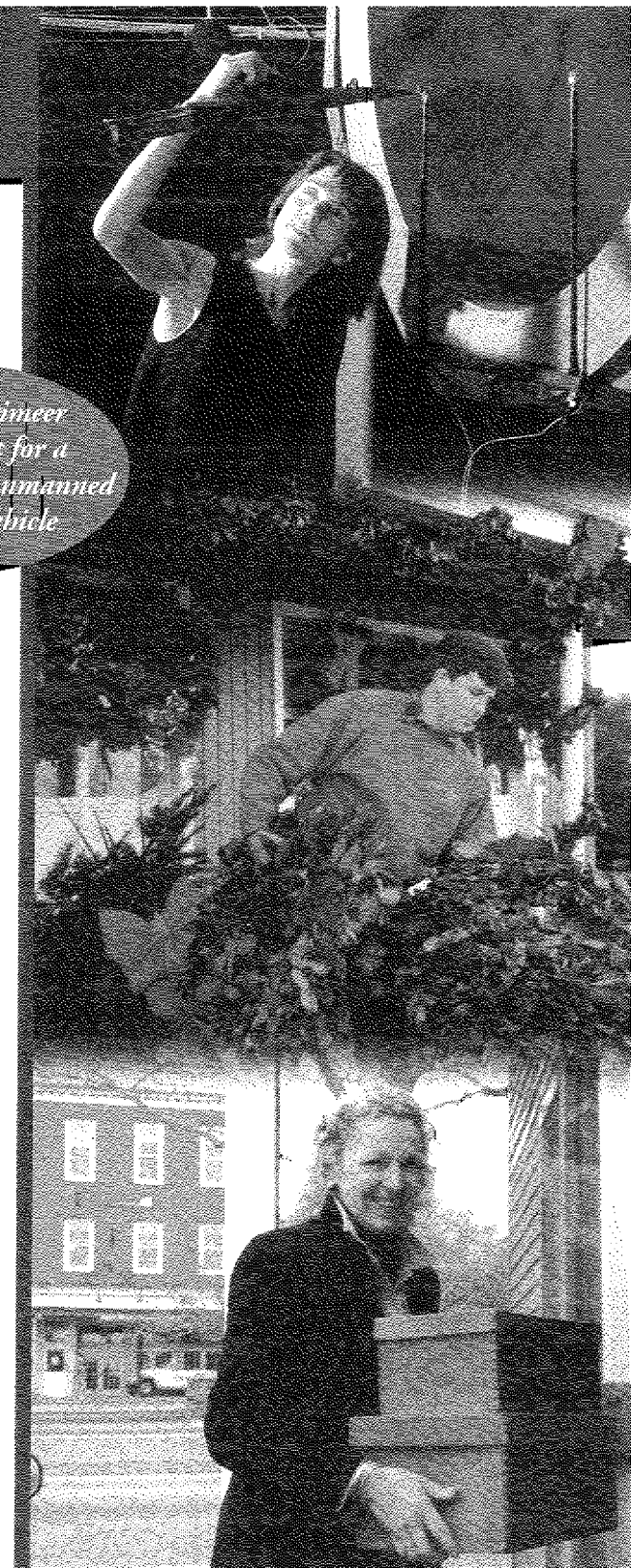
Family Commitment to Farming Nourishes Economy and Protects Open Space

For the DeCastro family of Portsmouth, farming is a family tradition providing fresh, affordable food for island residents and protecting island open space. What began as a small, roadside farm stand in the early 1960s has grown into a nearly year-round operation filling its greenhouses with homegrown flowers, vegetables, cornstalks, and Christmas wreaths. The family recently purchased a 90-acre farm on Middle Road and gave up development rights on the property to ensure that it remains open space.

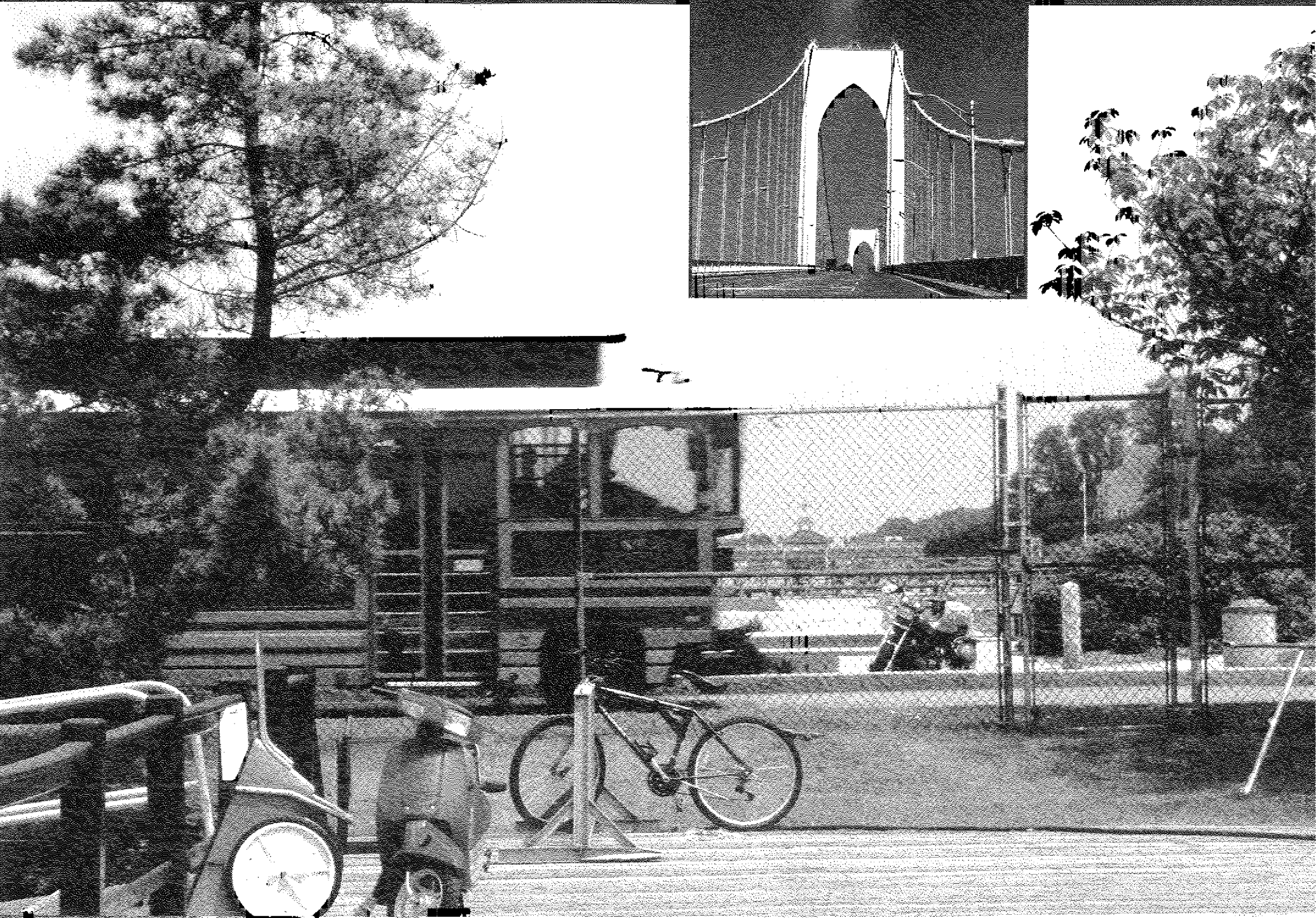
Public Trust Law Supports Waterfront Business and Public Access

With the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association as its chief advocate, a 2000 state law was created to ensure that taxes on waterfront businesses remain applied only to above-ground properties, not on property located under water. The law incidentally promotes public access, as many businesses allow visitors access to docks and other shoreline property. If businesses sold their properties for home development, this access could be compromised.

NUWC engineer sets up a test for a future concept unmanned undersea vehicle



Improving modes of transportation and creating alternative means of commuting



Multiple Modes of Transportation

Improving modes of transportation to reduce congestion and air pollution

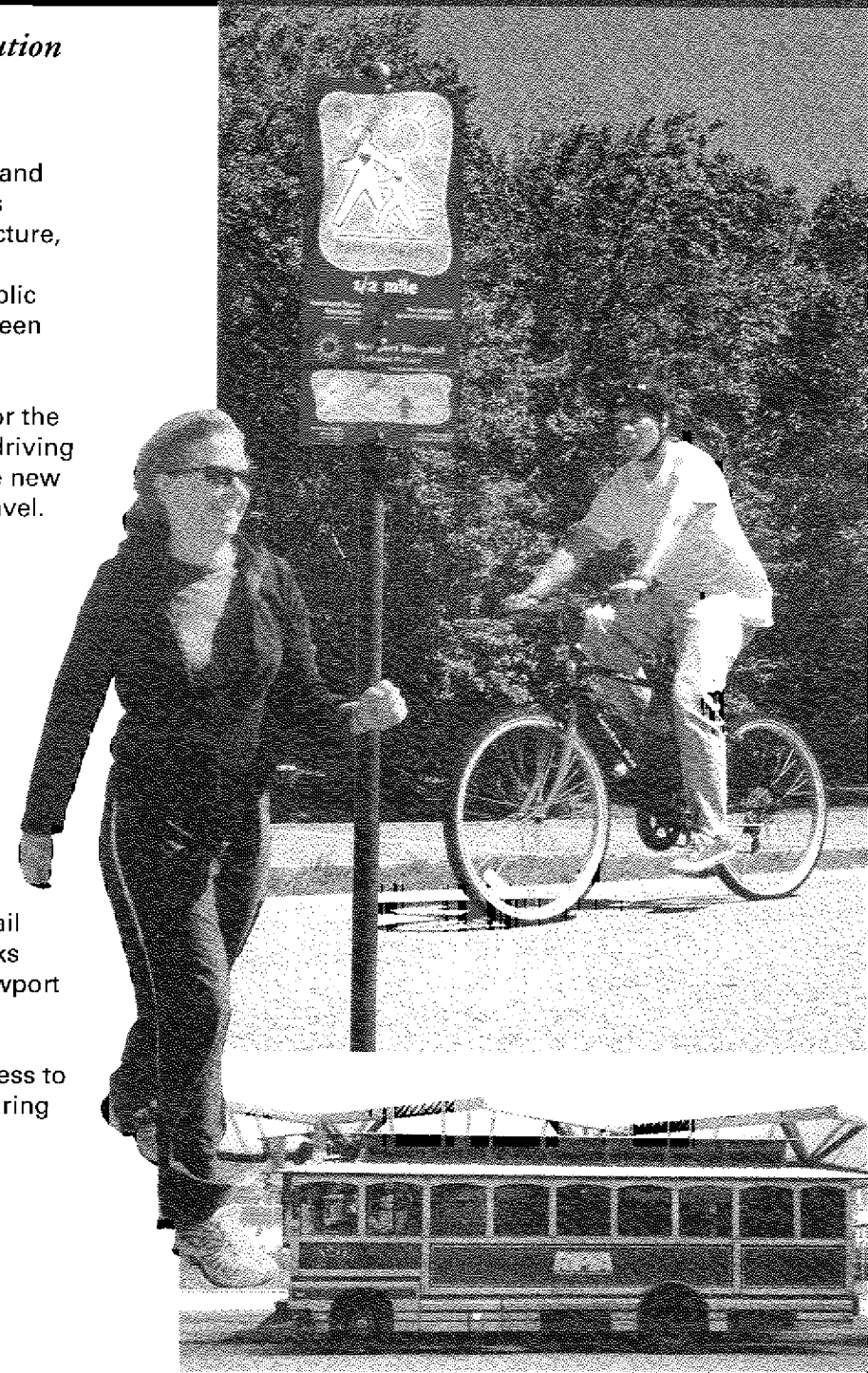
Island Accomplishments

- The Foundation For Newport is working with the city of Newport and state and federal agencies to implement the 1997 Newport Harborfront Plan, which is designed to reduce traffic congestion and enhance transportation infrastructure, tourism management, economic development, and historic preservation in Newport. Implemented plan elements include a new marine terminal; a public pier and harbormaster station at Perrotti Park; scheduled ferry service between Newport and Providence; and enhanced RIPTA trolley service.
- Newport's transportation advisory committee created a signage program for the city that directs visitors to local attractions and parking areas and reduces driving time, alleviating seasonal traffic congestion. The program complements the new natural gas trolley service that is an alternative to individual automobile travel.

Connecting bike paths and sidewalks to allow residents alternative means of commuting to work

Island Accomplishments

- Residents, students, municipal officials, open space advocates, and historical society members are working together to develop alternative transportation opportunities, such as a cross-island trail.
- The city of Newport teamed up with University of Rhode Island landscape architecture students and Rhode Island Sea Grant extension agents to develop a preliminary master plan with residents' input for the Newport Trail project, a portion of the proposed cross-island trail. The plan won high marks from expert landscape architects who critiqued the final product, which Newport is now finalizing and working to implement.
- Trail systems, such as Middletown's Path to Health, offer residents easy access to mapped exercise routes and opportunities to walk to and from work and during lunch breaks.

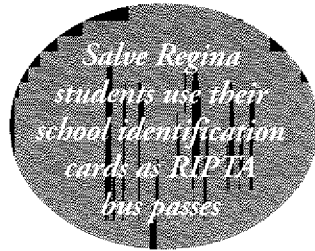




Multiple Modes of Transportation Stories

Island Pilots Fly High with Three Hawks Partnership

As the number of small planes available for rent dwindled at the Newport State Airport in Middletown, local pilots banded together to make sure at least one aircraft would be located at the airfield to serve area renter pilots and their passengers. In 2000, the Three Hawks Partnership was created. That year the partnership purchased the last available renter plane at the airport, a 1981 Cessna 172 Skyhawk. Having built a customer base of renter pilots, the partnership is now able to support two instructors who teach primary flight training. With the 55-year-old airport facility and taxiways recently upgraded to serve the growing transportation needs of residents, corporate clients, and tourists, the Hawks say they see blue skies ahead for their plane rental program that benefits pilots, pilots-in-training, and passengers alike.



Municipalities Unite to Secure Funds for Islandwide Transportation Modeling Program

The three island municipalities worked together in 2000 to leverage more state and federal transportation funds than they could secure separately. With assistance from the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, the municipalities secured \$60,000 in public and private funds to purchase and implement the state's first computerized transportation modeling program. The commission, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, and the Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program are creating a regional transportation model that will be incorporated into state transportation planning systems. With training, members of island municipal planning and engineering departments will be able to use the program to create scenarios demonstrating impacts of potential development on the island transportation network.



RIPTA: Vintage Trolleys Transport Tourists and Cut Traffic Congestion

To reduce traffic congestion and pollution in downtown Newport and add appeal to public transportation, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA), the city of Newport, and The Foundation For Newport launched a RIPTA vintage trolley program for Newport in 2000. Designed to look like antique trolley cars, five specially outfitted RIPTA buses quickly became a popular, economical, and environmentally clean way for riders to reach key attractions and destinations. Today natural gas-powered trolleys serve thousands of passengers annually and decrease vehicle congestion and exhaust fumes in downtown Newport.

Aquidneck Island Partnership

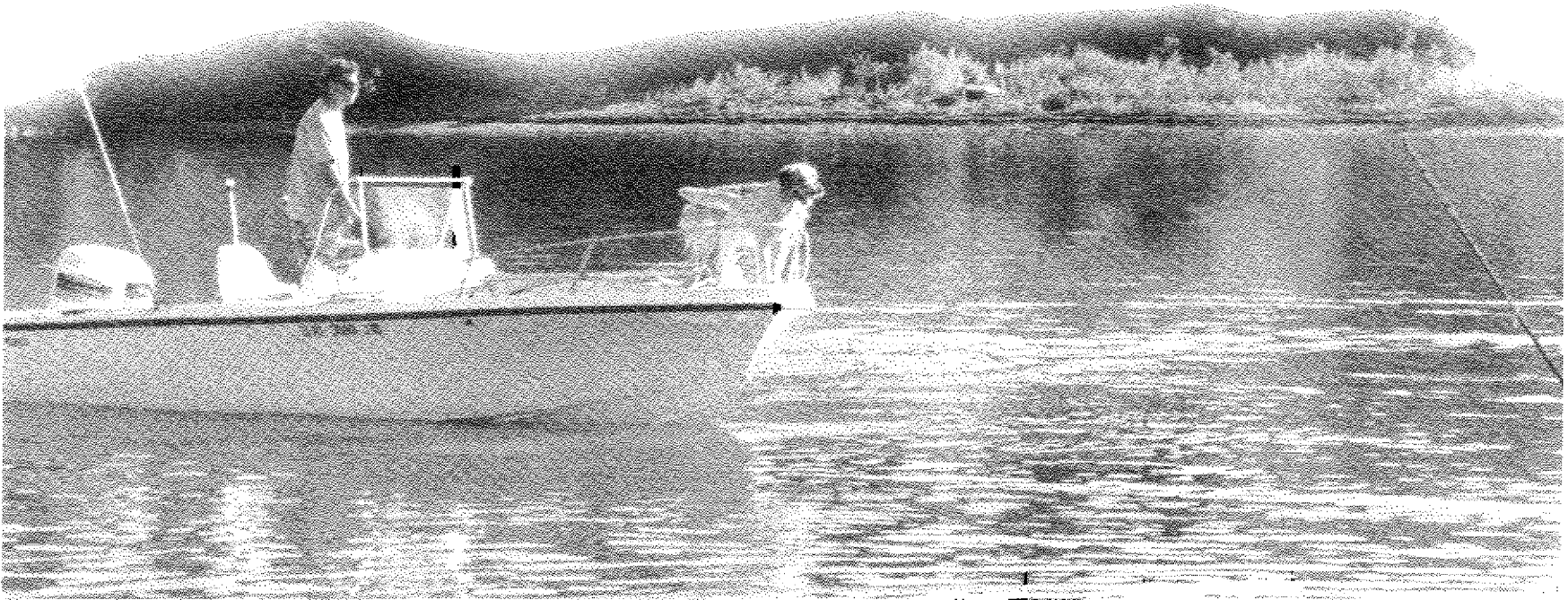
The Aquidneck Island Partnership is a collaborative of local organizations committed to fostering economic development that enhances the natural and social resources of the island. The partnership's goal is to identify islanders' common interests and to implement activities that protect the island's unique character and quality of life.

The partners are: Aquidneck Island Land Trust, Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, The Dunn Foundation, East Bay Economic Initiative, Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District, The Foundation For Newport, Green Light Foundation, Middletown, Naval Station Newport, Newport, Newport County Board of Realtors, Newport County Chamber of Commerce, Newport County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Norman Bird Sanctuary, Portsmouth, Preservation Society of Newport County, R.I. Center for Commercial Agriculture, Rhode Island Sea Grant/URI Coastal Resources Center, Salve Regina University, Save The Bay, Sierra Club/Rhode Island Chapter, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region I.

For more information on the Aquidneck Island Partnership, please contact:

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<http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/scc/>



Organizations Shaping the Future on Aquidneck Island

Aquidneck Island Citizens Advisory Board works to restore the land encompassing Naval Station Newport to serve Newport County community needs, participating in the cleanup process by sharing information and community concerns with the station's Restoration Advisory Board, relevant state and federal agencies, and other community groups. (401) 849-4215.

Aquidneck Island Growers' Market offers locally grown produce and other products. (401) 848-0099.

Aquidneck Island Land Trust is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the open space and natural character of Aquidneck Island. (401) 849-2799. <http://www.aitl.org>

Aquidneck Island Planning Commission promotes effective regional planning for Aquidneck Island. (401) 849-4027. <http://www.aquidneckplanning.org>

Center for Economic and Environmental Development at Roger Williams University brings environmental, economic, and educational professionals together in a neutral setting to develop solutions for problems facing East Bay communities. (401) 254-3108. <http://www.rwu.edu/about/building/ceed.html>

Child and Family Services of Newport County offers child care, clinical counseling, transitional housing, a residential volunteer program, elder support services, substance abuse prevention and education, and child welfare services. (401) 849-2300.

Church Community Housing Corporation of Newport County is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping low and moderate-income Newport County residents find safe, decent, and affordable housing. (401) 846-5114.

Conservation Law Foundation helps New England residents protect land, air, and water and restore the health of communities, while achieving appropriate and sustainable growth through a blend of legal advocacy, scientific resources, and economic innovation. (617) 350-0990 or (401) 323-7608. <http://www.clf.org>

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center offers educational, social, and recreational opportunities to people of all ages and cultures. (401) 846-4828.

East Bay Educational Collaborative supports personnel development to create world-class educators and institutions, and provides cost-effective administrative services to better serve selected special needs populations. (401) 245-4998.

East Bay Economic Initiative is a partnership of government, private organizations, and businesses dedicated to promoting economic development and creating jobs in the marine industry of Rhode Island. (401) 847-7757. <http://www.riboats.org/ebei.html>

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District is a division of state government that promotes soil, water, and resource conservation. (401) 624-7490. <http://www.prism.net/ericd>

Environmental Council of Rhode Island provides policymakers and the public with informed opinions and position statements on policies and laws that affect the environment. (401) 621-8048.

Fort Adams Trust is a nonprofit organization that directs and supports the stabilization, restoration, maintenance, and operation of Fort Adams as a historic site. (401) 841-0707. <http://www.fortadams.org/trust.htm>

The Foundation For Newport is dedicated to fostering fundamental improvements in Newport and Aquidneck Island that have the power to significantly enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. To help implement such projects, the foundation is building a support coalition among business, government, and community leadership. (401) 849-3390.

Friends of the Waterfront is committed to protecting public rights-of-way, historical uses, and waterfront views, and promotes increased public access to Newport's waterfront. (401) 847-1355. <http://www.newportwaterfront.org>
<http://www.cliffwalk.com>

Grow Smart Rhode Island brings together diverse interests to protect and improve Rhode Island's quality of life, economic vitality, and environmental health and the unique character of the state's historic cities, towns, and villages and of its farms, forests, and open spaces. (401) 273-5711. <http://www.growsmartri.com>

Keep It Clean Day is a community event organized every August to provide residents of the Newport Housing Authority with the opportunity to become involved in their neighborhood. (401) 847-3134.

League of American Bicyclists promotes bicycling for fun, fitness, and transportation and works through advocacy and education for a bicycle-friendly America. (202) 822-1333. <http://www.bikeleague.org>

Maritime Preservation Alliance is a nonprofit organization that brings together waterfront users to promote the welfare of traditional maritime trades and the recognition that the waterfront is a viable economic entity. (401) 849-6856.

Town of Middletown (401) 847-0009. <http://www.middletownri.com>

Middletown Historical Society works to retain the historic character of Middletown through the preservation of historic documents, artifacts, and sites. (401) 849-1870.

Middletown Public Library provides books and other materials, as well as computers with Internet access, to patrons, and offers programs for children and adults. (401) 846-1573. <http://204.17.98.73/midlib>

Narragansett Bay Wheelmen is a bicycle club serving Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. (401) 351-3055. <http://www.nbwclub.org>

National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program works with local citizen groups and state and local governments to revitalize nearby rivers, preserve valuable open space, and develop trail and greenway networks. (617) 223-5203. <http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/rtca/index.htm>

National Railroad Foundation and Museum is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and operation of historic railroad equipment, and the preservation of Narragansett Bay and the surrounding environment. The foundation operates the Old Colony & Newport Scenic Railway. (401) 624-6951. <http://www.ocnrr.com>

Naval Education and Training Center prepares U.S. military, civilian, and international military members to successfully carry out their duties with or in support of combat-ready Naval forces. (401) 841-1171. <http://www.cnet.navy.mil/netc>

Naval Station Newport maintains and operates station facilities and provides services and materials to support operations for tenants and visiting fleet units, among others. (401) 841-3538. <http://www.nsnpt.navy.mil>

Neighborhoods of Rhode Island encourages neighbors to live, work, and play together as a means of sharing resources and tapping the benefits of intergenerational living. (401) 847-5708.

New Visions for Newport County is a local community action agency that provides health and human service programs to low-income children and families. (401) 847-7821. <http://www.newvisionsri.com>

City of Newport (401) 846-9600. <http://www.gonewport.com>
<http://www.cityofnewport.com>

Newport County Chamber of Commerce provides business information seminars, site selection and relocation assistance, tourism information services, health care programs, and assistance programs in financing and government affairs. (401) 847-1600. <http://www.newportchamber.com>

Newport County Convention & Visitors Bureau is the official tourism, marketing, and sales organization for Newport County. (800) 976-5122. <http://www.gonewport.com>

Newport County YMCA provides recreation and fitness programs as well as community outreach activities for islanders of all ages. (401) 847-9200. <http://www.newportymca.org>

Newport Historical Society collects documents, records, and artifacts that relate the history of Newport County to the public. (401) 846-0813. <http://www.newporthistorical.org>

Newport Hospital offers a wide range of health care services including a birthing center, inpatient mental health programs, diagnostic imaging, occupational health, state-of-the-art surgical facilities, and outpatient and emergency services. (401) 846-6400. <http://www.lifespan.org/partners/nh/>

Newport Housing Authority helps low-income Newport residents find affordable housing and provides housing assistance and financial planning education. (401) 847-0185.

Newport Partnership for Families develops and maintains a coordinated network of services to improve the lives of children and families in the city of Newport. (401) 849-9243.

Newport Public Library provides information, materials, and resources to support lifelong learning. (401) 847-8720. <http://204.17.98.73/NptLib>

Newport Residents Council provides a voice for the residents of the Newport Housing Authority and is committed to providing opportunities for increased resident participation in decision-making processes. (401) 849-7321.

Newport Tree Society is a citizen volunteer organization that works to protect, maintain, regenerate, and expand the urban forest. (401) 847-2081 or (401) 848-6496.

Norman Bird Sanctuary is a 450-acre wildlife refuge offering more than seven miles of hiking trails and a wide variety of educational programs for all age groups. (401) 846-2577. <http://www.normanbirdsanctuary.org>

Partnership for Narragansett Bay is a stakeholder group created as a result of the 2000 Narragansett Bay Summit to promote integrated planning for the future of Narragansett Bay; to protect, restore, and improve the Narragansett Bay ecosystem; to foster informed, science-based decision-making; and to pursue sustainable economic development of the bay. (401) 222-3961 ext. 7271. <http://www.ci.uri.edu/Projects/PNB/>

Town of Portsmouth (401) 683-2101. <http://www.portsmouthri.com>

Portsmouth Action for Youth provides activities, events, and an after-school program for local children. (401) 683-1990.

Portsmouth Free Public Library provides resources and materials to meet the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the town's residents. (401) 683-9457. <http://204.17.98.73/PorLib>

Portsmouth Historical Society, Inc. is a nonprofit volunteer educational organization devoted to the preservation of Portsmouth's historical buildings, sites, and artifacts. (401) 683-9178.

Preservation Society of Newport County preserves and protects 11 historic properties and landscapes and works to enhance awareness of the state's architectural and social history. (401) 847-1000. <http://www.newportmansions.org>

Restoration Advisory Board collects community comments on environmental cleanup and restoration actions at Naval Station Newport. (401) 841-3538. <http://www.nsnpt.navy.mil/>

Rhode Island Center for Commercial Agriculture provides farmers with advice on farming techniques and informs them of advances in the industry. (401) 874-7142. <http://www.rifarmer.org>

Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council is the state regulatory and management agency responsible for the preservation, protection, development, and restoration of the coastal areas of Rhode Island, and for designating rights-of-way to the coast. (401) 222-2476. <http://www.ocrm.nos.noaa.gov/czm/czmrhodeisland.html>

Rhode Island State Council on the Arts is charged by the state legislature to stimulate public interest and participation in the arts and to serve as the liaison to the state arts community. (401) 222-3880. <http://www.risca.state.ri.us>

Rhode Island Department of Education works through the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education to provide high-quality elementary, secondary, and higher education for state residents and to enrich the intellectual, economic, social, and cultural life of the community. Elementary/Secondary: (401) 222-4600. <http://www.ridoe.net/default.htm>; Board of Governors: (401) 222-2088. <http://www.ribghe.org/default.htm>

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is the agency charged with managing, protecting, and restoring natural resources in the state, and with advocating a conservation ethic among Rhode Island citizens. (401) 222-6800. <http://www.state.ri.us/dem>

Rhode Island Department of Health is charged with preventing disease and protecting and promoting the health and safety of Rhode Islanders. (401) 222-2231. <http://www.health.state.ri.us>

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training provides programs and a coordinated system for workforce development to serve state residents, improve the economy, and enhance the quality of the life for Rhode Islanders. (401) 222-3600. <http://www.det.state.ri.us>

Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation is the state's principal housing agency that helps low- and moderate-income Rhode Islanders find affordable houses and apartments. (401) 751-5566. <http://www.rihousing.com>

Rhode Island Department of Transportation is the state agency charged with providing and maintaining Rhode Island's multi-modal transportation system. (401) 222-1362. <http://www.dot.state.ri.us>

Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation is the state's economic development organization and is charged with overseeing business development, financial services, urban initiatives, the Export Assistance Center, Quonset Davisville Port & Commerce Park, federal procurement, tourism, the Film & Television Office, and the Sports Council. (401) 222-2601. <http://www.riedc.com>

The Rhode Island Economic Policy Council is a non-profit corporation composed of members from business, labor, higher education, and government. The council provides objective economic analyses for Rhode Island and develops creative strategies to address them. (401) 521-3120. <http://www.ripolicy.org>

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is a statewide, non-profit organization that provides information on child well-being, stimulates dialogue on children's issues, and promotes actions to improve the health, education, safety, and economic security of Rhode Island's children. (401) 351-9400. <http://www.rikidscount.org>

Rhode Island Marine Trades Association is a membership organization that advocates for the interests of the marine trades industry. (401) 885-5044. <http://www.rimta.org>

Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority provides public transportation on buses and trolleys in Rhode Island. (401) 781-9400. <http://www.ripta.com>

Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation is the state agency dedicated to providing the public with environmentally sound programs and facilities to manage solid waste. (401) 942-1430. <http://www.rirrc.org/site/home>

Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program conducts scientific research, education, and extension projects designed to help people better understand and use ocean and coastal resources. Rhode Island Sea Grant's extension program focuses on coastal management, and fisheries, aquaculture, and seafood safety and quality. (401) 874-6800. <http://seagrants.gso.uri.edu>

Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program prepares, maintains, and promotes plans for the physical, economic, and social development of the state, and coordinates the actions of state, local, and federal agencies and private individuals within the framework of the state's development goals and policies. (401) 222-7901. <http://www.planning.state.ri.us>

Rhode Island Transportation Reform Alliance is working to build a statewide system of transportation alternatives. (401) 521-4734. <http://www.sierraclubri.org/transportation/index.htm>

Rhode Island Water Resources Board is charged with managing the development, utilization, and conservation of state water resources. Its primary responsibility is to ensure that sufficient water supply is available for present and future generations. (401) 222-2217 or 2218. <http://www.webster.wrb.state.ri.us>

Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation preserves and protects the historic Rose Island Lighthouse and the approximately 17 acres surrounding it. (401) 847-4242. <http://www.roseislandlighthouse.org>

Saint Joseph's Church of Newport provides food for the underprivileged and a place for companionship, offering a soup kitchen and food pantry. (401) 847-0065.

Salve Regina Alcohol Abuse Partnership includes local representatives who address the problems of abusive and underage drinking. (401) 341-2207.

Salvation Army provides a food pantry, soup kitchen, energy payment assistance, after-school and before-school programs in Newport, a visitation program, music instruction, youth programs, counseling, and Sunday Bible studies. (401) 846-3234. <http://www.salvationarmy-ri.org>

Save The Bay / Narragansett Bay Station is the Newport office of Save The Bay, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that the environmental quality of Narragansett Bay and its watershed is protected and restored. (401) 324-6020. <http://www.savebay.org/visitus/baystation.htm>

Sierra Club - Rhode Island Chapter supports conservation campaigns on Rhode Island environmental issues, including intermodal transportation and the reduction of urban and suburban sprawl. (401) 521-4734. <http://www.sierraclubri.org>

Southern Rhode Island Collaborative Education and Training Center coordinates efforts that give students academic credentials and certification of work-skill competencies to help them succeed in the workplace. (401) 295-2888.

University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center is dedicated to developing strategies for the effective management of coastal environments. (401) 874-6224. <http://crc.uri.edu>



*The future of
Aquidneck Island—
the quality of its neighborhoods,
businesses, schools, and landscapes—
is a gift to the children
of the island.*

"If you put your mind to it, anything's possible. When the Glen Manor House Authority was formed years ago, it faced the tough job of bringing a culturally and historically important piece of property back from the brink of condemnation. It took hard work and some creativity by a determined group of people, but today, we've got a beautiful manor house and grounds that are self-supporting and even give funds back to the community. It's a win-win for everyone, and we think others can do the same as we did"

David Hunter, *Chairman*

Glen Manor House Authority and Portsmouth resident

AQUIDNECK ISLAND PARTNERSHIP

A project of URI Coastal Resources Center, Rhode Island Sea Grant

