

3rd Quarter 2023

WQRC (7 a.m.) / WOCN (8 a.m.) / WFCC (6 a.m.) / WKPE (5 a.m.)

Segment times 17:30 unless otherwise indicated.

July 2 - Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Author Kristan Higgins

Program description: Author Kristan Higgins joins Sunday Journal to discuss her new book, “A Little Ray of Sunshine.” The story follows a bookstore owner whose life is upended when the boy she gave up for adoption 18 years prior comes back into her life. The book is set in Wellfleet, and features locations and culture from across the Cape region, pulled from Higgin’s own experiences in the area.

Program Title: COVID Relief Allocation

Program Description: As COVID emergencies are rescinded and more relief funding is directed toward businesses, Barnstable County Assistant Administrator Vaira Harik looked back on taking on the Assistant Administrator role during the pandemic. Originally joining the county as a policy and data analyst in the Human Services Department, Harik stepped into her role as Assistant Administrator in Summer 2021, bringing with her prior experience as a Public Health Director in Cochise County, Arizona. When recalling the County’s decision to choose her from what she described as a deep and talented pool of candidates, Harik credited her ability to anticipate and breakdown relevant data in a timely fashion, likening her role to that of a funnel by which to streamline data to help town and county officials coordinate effective responses to pressing issues. “Our fifteen towns are robust, responsible, talented, good at what they do, and great partners for us as a County,” said Harik. “But there are roles that our County Government is able to take of a regional nature which I think assists our towns, and that remains a boon to our region.”

Program Title: Big Nick’s Ride

Program Description: Big Nick’s Ride for the Fallen on July 16 is the 14th edition of the largest Memorial Motorcycle Ride on the Cape and Islands and will see over 1,000 participants. The event will be held rain or shine. Founder of the ride and Fifth Barnstable State Representative Steven Xiarhos is looking forward to the special event and the many people who can be remembered and represented. “There will be over a thousand motorcycles. We start with

the ceremonies, National Anthem, we read all the names and ring a bell after each name. The Wampanoag Indian tribe this year are our special guests,” said Xiarhos. The route will start at the Barnstable County Sheriff’s office and move to MacArthur Boulevard before switching to Sandwich Road along the Cape Cod Canal then on to Route 6A through Bourne, Sandwich, Barnstable, and Yarmouth. Xiarhos and the community understand how big the event can be and how much support they receive each year making it a big part of the region. “We start with very serious ceremonies, we ride, and then we end and try to celebrate these lives. As we remember Nick’s last words “don’t worry about me mom I’m living the dream” and we want everyone to live their dreams,” Xiarhos said.

July 9 - Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Title 5 Changes

Program Description: Title 5 septic regulations are going to become stricter soon, potentially requiring residents to make \$30,000 to \$50,000 upgrades to their systems, but local water experts say that there is financial help out there. Barnstable County Wastewater Division Director Brian Baumgaertel said the county’s recently revamped Aquifund was designed specifically to help alleviate the water quality issue gripping the region. The initiative provides low-to-no interest loans for those who meet certain criteria. “The key qualifiers for the lowest interest rates are both being in the correct income brackets and then also being part of some sort of a nitrogen reducing town wide solution, so you’ve been told by your town ‘you shall do this now’,” said Baumgaertel. Individuals will only have to upgrade if they live nearby sensitive watersheds and if their local town does not show it is working on solutions like sewerage. “Right now, anybody who installs a septic system to replace a failed system I think you can get up to a \$3,000 credit and the state is looking to increase that, I believe, to \$18,000 per household,” said Baumgaertel. “It can be a pretty substantial savings.”

Program Title: Shark Research Update

Program Description: As the summer months continue on the Cape & Islands, local researchers are putting an emphasis on improving methods to deduct the most information from sharks as possible in the region. Techniques and equipment are being used to maintain the relationship between researchers like Caroline Collatos, research assistant at the New England Aquarium, and the sharks they study on top of giving the most information possible. “We use circle hooks, which are the legal requirement, and are proven to actually promote the shark’s health through the catching experience. Rather than a J-hook,” said Collatos who is also a PhD student at

UMass Boston. The researchers make sure to time the “fight time” as they attempt to keep all interactions with bringing the sharks to the boat or shoreline to around five minutes. Collatos and her colleagues measure the sharks, ID the species and sex, as well as draw blood and tissue samples, before implanting the subject with an external identification tag that can help give information over many years. “The tags that I put out in my sharks, that ‘E-ZPass’ system of tags that I put out. Those tags will last 10 years, so if I’m putting out tags now, in 2033 we can still be detecting my same fish,” Collatos said. With the potential of growth within the project for many years, researchers like Collatos believe this is the best method to continue studying and identifying new information about all species of sharks.

July 16 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Woods Hole Film Festival

Program Description: The 32nd Woods Hole Film Festival will show over 110 films from 19 countries at multiple locations in the Falmouth area from July 29 to August 5. Films will screen in person at Redfield Auditorium, and Cornelia Clapp Auditorium, in Woods Hole, and the Simon Center for the Arts and Morse Hall at Falmouth Academy, and most films will also be available to stream on the Festivals virtual platform from August 6 to 13. “Based on attendance at our winter/spring ‘Dinner and a Movie’ series, we are expecting to have sold out screenings once again, which is very encouraging,” says Founder and Executive Director Judy Laster. “More filmmakers are also expected to attend in-person, making it possible for filmmakers and audience members to engage with one another in an intimate way, similar to the kind of festivals we presented prior to the pandemic,” Laster said. The daily film screenings will be accompanied by Q&A’s with filmmakers, but this year will also include workshops, panel discussions, parties featuring live music, and an awards ceremony. There will be 45 feature length films and 66 short films chosen from over 1000 submissions. The festival is supported by grants from the Mass Cultural Council, Cape Cod 5, Martha’s Vineyard Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, Woods Hole Foundation, Arts Foundation of Cape Cod, the Falmouth Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation, and YouthInk.

Program Title: Heritage Museums and Gardens

Program Description: Heritage Museums & Gardens recently announced its capital campaign that aims to raise \$11.5 million to support the design, construction, and outfitting of the new Welcome Center. Plans for the new center include an 8,000 square foot facility which Anne Scott-Putney, President and CEO of Heritage Museums & Gardens, believes will help the facility in many ways. “Our vision for the new Welcome Center is to provide our visitors with a gracious

and inviting welcome to Heritage, that truly allows them to decompress from whatever travel they may have endured to get here,” Scott-Putney said. With space for gathering areas for groups, expanded ticketing space, and a Visitor Services Center for orientation and information gathering, the new facility will change the entire outlook of the area. Scott-Putney believes that with this addition the Museum & Gardens will be more inviting and allow for a new experience upon arrival. “The vision is to provide a more welcoming experience, rather than simply a transactional experience as they enter,” said Scott-Putney. Nearly seventy percent of the fundraising goal has already been achieved as the organization has sought support from community members, businesses, and philanthropic organizations.

July 23 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Falmouth Gets New Town Manager

Program Description: Newly hired Falmouth Town Manager Mike Renshaw is now 6 weeks into his role and starting to work towards his goals and changes. Renshaw has taken over for former Town Manager Julian Suso and has said he has minimal problems acclimating back into a coastal environment. “It’s been a fantastic transition, my first experience working in the Commonwealth. I do have coastal management experience, for about six years I worked in Camden County North Carolina Outer Banks community. I was looking at this stage in my career for an opportunity to get back to coastal management and that kind of vibe and environment,” said Renshaw. One of the major differences has been the amount of summer visitors to the town causing an abundance of traffic in the area, which is different from what he was used to in North Carolina. As Renshaw looks to hit the ground running, the new Title 5 regulation changes will give him an opportunity to effect change right away as he believes there are two options available to the town. “The first involves a kind of best practice, best standards septic system treatment. That burden would fall primarily on the 13,000 home owners. The other option is that the town itself would apply for watershed permits to be able to treat the nitrogen primarily through wastewater treatment,” Renshaw said. A costly endeavor either way, Renshaw did state that there are ways to renew the watershed permits to extend them, but all options would be considered a multi-decade plan.

Program Title: General Gary Brito

Program Description: General Gary Brito, Commanding General of the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command and Cape native, joins Sunday Journal this week to talk about the path that led him from his hometown of Hyannis to commanding officer in the military. He also discusses the command's 50th anniversary, as well as what it was like being back in his hometown for a recent ceremony to recognize the U.S. Army's 248th birthday. The event took place at the John F. Kennedy Memorial in Hyannis. The Army's New England Recruiting Battalion was on hand for the event, as they also swore in future soldiers into the service.

August 6 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: New Alzheimer's Drug

Program Description: After evaluating the size of the region it serves, the Cape and Islands District Attorney's office is seeking a bigger budget from state officials. DA Robert Galibois said that nearby region Northampton has a significantly bigger budget, despite having roughly the same annual population as the Cape and Islands. The Cape and Islands and Northampton both have an annual population of about 260,000, but that swells considerably in the summer months for the local region. Galibois added that he learned about the difference when following up with Northampton DA David Sullivan after being sworn in January. "His budget is \$8.5 million, or 60 percent higher than what we have. That certainly led to conversations about what types of services he is able to provide for his constituents and I'm saying of course we're not able to provide, simply because we do not have the funds or the ability to do so," said Galibois. He says he has taken up the issue with regional lawmakers who have all expressed support. "We for the first time—at least my understanding for the first time—had the entire Cape-wide delegation just a couple weeks to strategize about how we can bring in additional resources to the Cape and Islands DA's office. So we can bring the same level of services that are prided about in western Massachusetts."

Program Title: Cape Cod Real Estate Update

Program Description: The Cape's red-hot real estate market has shown signs of cooling, says local real estate experts. During a meeting of the Barnstable County Commissioners, Barnstable County Register of Deeds Jack Meade said the office's budget is down 2 percent as the COVID-era real estate boom begins to slow. The revenue drop led to the office being unable to fill two planned positions, but even so, Meade says an abrupt fall is unlikely. "We have seen a significant increase in property values, now I think we're going to see some retrenchment on that going forward, but I don't think the retrenchment is enough to seriously go below the numbers we're talking about. Cape Cod is an attractive place," said Meade. The office is expecting \$14 million in revenue for this year, though Meade said the spring tends to be a doldrum for real estate sales. He added that the County should expect even less next year: \$13 million. Commissioners said that the prices may be tapering off, but affordable housing still remains a major challenge for the region. "Yeah they're high. There were a lot of big transactions here in Wellfleet. I was shocked at some of the house prices, which is making me nervous because we don't want to be Nantucket, where they have a \$3 million median house price," said Lyons. Commissioner Ronald Bergstrom echoed the statement, saying that prices have climbed significantly in his home of Chatham, as well.

August 13 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Habitat for Humanity

Program Description: Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod recently announced the promotion of Tara Cronin to the position of Director of Resource Development. Cronin has worked with the organization for the past six years as both a volunteer and the Community Relations Manager. "I'll be really concentrating on a lot of fundraisers. We have some events coming up, we've got a bike ride on the canal called the ride for homes, we've got a golf tournament coming up. Lots of little fundraisers to help us continue building houses on the Cape," said Cronin. Cronin said she has personal knowledge about affordable housing on Cape Cod. "About 15 years ago, we bought an affordable home on the Cape, and my family would not be on the Cape. I certainly wouldn't be working with the organization without that affordable home and we bought it as a re-sale," Cronin said. During her tenure, Cronin has helped expand the organization's volunteer corps and community outreach programs while working with many community groups and local businesses with the goal of getting more affordable homes for families on Cape Cod. Prior to joining Habitat for Humanity in 2017, Cronin worked in fundraising and marketing for the A.L.S. Family Charitable Foundation.

Program Title: Red Cross Hawaii Response

Program Description: Amid the tragic Hawaiian wildfires, Maui County recently raised the number of confirmed deaths to 80, and Governor Josh Green warned that the toll would likely rise as search and rescue operations continue. To assist in the efforts, the Red Cross of Massachusetts is working to provide assistance. As Massachusetts residents return from vacations at the location while others wait to hear about loved ones caught in the situation, Kelly Isenor, Director of Communications for Red Cross of Massachusetts, said the organization is doing what they can to help. “If you’re on the Cape, if you have a loved one in Hawaii that hasn’t made contact with you yet, you can call 1-800-Red-Cross, choose option 4 and you’ll be led through some voice prompts to get to the Hawaii wildfires. You can speak to one of our volunteers and tell them as much as you can about the loved one you haven’t heard from,” Isenor said. The fires nearly wiped out Lahaina, the historic town of 13,000 people, and were still not fully contained as of Friday night, August 11, on some parts of the island. Volunteers from the Red Cross of Massachusetts like Isenor, are helping support those affected by the wildfires by helping oversee shelters that have been set up on the island of Maui. “Something that I don’t think anyone really ever made clear to me until I saw it in person is that shelters are not just for sleeping. People can go for a couple hours to just charge their phones, have a snack. There’s really a lot of activity that goes into these shelters,” said Isenor. An updated damage assessment released overnight by Maui County of the Lahaina fire’s destruction shows that more than 80% of the 2,719 structures exposed to the fire were damaged or destroyed, the vast majority of them being residential.

Program Title: Shark Population Increasing

Program Description: Marine experts believe rising ocean temperatures are causing an increase in shark sightings along Cape Cod beaches. Shark populations around the region had been much smaller, said Boston University Professor Mariah Tinger, before local and state officials had to step in to change the course of the species. “They were decimated by about 70 to 90% prior to the 1990s when a legislation was put in place to stop allowing hunting and harvesting of the great white sharks,” said Tinger. As numbers of sharks continue to rise in the popular summer destination, officials are focusing on spreading awareness to avoid possible incidents involving the animals. Environmental researchers like Tinger, are continuing to educate the public on warning signs of sharks in the area, including avoiding swimming where seals are present and taking note of flocking birds just above the water. But she also said sharks are not interested in harming humans. “You have about a one in 3.75 million chance of dying from a shark attack. You are more likely to die from a vending machine accident, actually twice as likely to die from a vending machine accident, as you are of being killed by a shark,” Tinger said. The more information provided to the public will lead to less incidents and more awareness of the potential

dangers involved with a rising population of sharks. Tinger believes that state officials should continue pushing the agenda of shark knowledge to keep residents safe and secure.

August 20 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Cape League Recap

Program Description: As the Cape Cod Baseball League season nears its end, inclement weather throughout the summer has forced adjustments to the schedule, but has not slowed down rising attendance numbers for the league’s fans. Most recently, the tornado warnings and large amounts of rain forced the league to postpone two playoff games, but Michael Lane, Director of Public Relations, believes they are past the worst weather and ready to finish strong. “It took a couple double headers, it took a couple off days taken away having to play a make up game, but looking ahead towards the forecast it looks like now that we’ve gotten past this one second round rain out, we are going to knock on wood and hope that we should be good down the stretch and get through the championship without any more weather issues,” Lane said. The championship series is currently scheduled to start on August 10, but could be pushed back to August 11 depending on the outcomes of games. Despite the inconsistent weather and rescheduling, the league has seen its second highest attendance ever recorded, which Lane says has the league in a great spot post COVID-19. “Last year we had 329,000 fans come out during the regular season, this year we had 318,000 fans come out during regular season games. Prior to that the highest we have had on record was 287,000,” said Lane. With fans packing each stadium for the majority of games this season, it’s clear that the Cape League has returned to its pre-COVID days as a staple of Cape Cod entertainment.

Program Title: Seaside Le Mans

Program Description: The beneficiaries of this year’s Seaside Le Mans charity race have been revealed. Race planners announced Tuesday night that money raised during the event will be distributed to Alzheimer’s Family Support Center, Cape Cod Healthcare, the Cape Cod Tech Foundation, Penikese Island School, and Sharing Kindness. Those five organizations will all be taking part in the race, which has helped raise close to \$9 million since its inaugural running in 2001. The event will be held on September 9 at the Mashpee Commons, as F1-style karts take to the quarter-mile track.

August 27 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Cape Cod Gateway Airport

Program Description: More investments in green energy are coming to the Cape Cod Gateway Airport. The state has issued a Request for Response for a potential smart microgrid at the Hyannis site. An almost \$2 million grant has been awarded by the federal government for the planning of the initiative that would generate and distribute clean energy at the site. State officials said the grid would handle the charging of electric ground vehicles such as buses, and eventually would charge future electric aircraft. Congressman Bill Keating said in a statement that the project is an example of the state's commitment to renewable energy, adding that the local transportation center is integral for the region's economy.

Program Title: Backpack to School Program

Program Description: The increased cost of living has made back to school a time of great stress for many local families. On average, school supplies for each child costs about \$125 (about \$100 for elementary school and \$150 for high school). That is why the Homeless Prevention Council (HPC) is partnering with the Seamen's Bank, Staples in Orleans, Nauset Marine and the Orleans Police Department for its 22nd Annual Backpack to School Program. In 2022, the Homeless Prevention Council distributed 327 backpacks to children, which was a 15 percent increase from 2021. This year, the organization is anticipating a 10 percent increase on top of that – or 360 student/family requests. The expected cost of this year's program will rise to \$45,000. "Backpack to School provides customized backpacks and school supplies to children on the Lower and Outer Cape. The Council has reached out to the school districts and found out what students in each grade will need and is building the bags accordingly," said Hadley Luddy, CEO of HPC. Families in need who would like to participate in this year's Backpack to School Program should call HPC's office at 508- 255-9667 and ask for the intake coordinator. Your contribution will make it possible for HPC to purchase supplies and other necessary items for each student. Thank you for coming together in supporting the most vulnerable in our community so our local students can feel prepared and thrive.

September 3 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Cape Cod Community College

Program Description: At the recent Barnstable County Commissioners meeting, Cape Cod Community College President Dr. John Cox spoke about neighboring parcels of land and the need to have more local control over their use. During his presentation, Dr. Cox discussed the sub-parcels that were pooled together when the Mid-Cape highway was built, and what the college has done to gain control over the outcome of the 21.45 acres. “We’ve gone through the administrative transfer, we’ve had the title searches completed, and we’re now at the point where we had the public hearing and we’re seeking the time constraints to work through the rest of the process,” said Cox. He also said the property has been maintained and cared for by the college, as it has trails and is used for outdoor classrooms as well. “We’re optimistic this process will be completed by the end of August, and the property will be shifted over as the owner of record. Meaning the board of trustees would have more say over the future changes of the purpose,” Dr. Cox said. Cox said there are no plans to change the land, but if there ever were they would go through a public process that would include legislation. The motion brought forth at the meeting was to authorize the execution of a waiver to reduce the 120 day notice requirement to 30 days. The motion also included the transfer of the land from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and delegating responsibility for control to Cape Cod Community College. A unanimous decision in favor of the motion was given by the Barnstable County Commissioners.

Program Title: Cape Cod Dredge Program

Program Description: In the midst of rebuilding the Barnstable County Dredge Program with new equipment purchased using grant funding, the organization is also looking to fill holes in their staff for upcoming projects. The ideal department size is dictated by the budget that the Dredge Program receives, but Ken Cirillo, Director of the Barnstable County Dredge Program, says that they will be looking to fill key openings for the future. “Ideally, we would have seven crew, a superintendent, two levermen, and four deckhands. That’s what we should have but right now we are down three positions. We’re down a maintenance engineer, and two deckhands,” Cirillo said. One of the major upcoming projects will be work done on the Mashpee approach channel, which will allow for better boat travel in the area along with helping the prevention of erosion to the region. The open positions that the Dredge Program currently have will accrue sea hours for those looking to apply to other maritime jobs that require certain qualifications, says Cirillo, who understands the importance of building a resume. “It’s an absolutely fabulous job for the right person who wants to be able to go out in the water and see the results of the work. Every single day we produce something. You’re getting your hands dirty, you’re working out on

Program Title: Steamship Authority Electric Buses

Program Description: In a step towards more green transportation, the Steamship Authority has officially cut the ribbons on three new electric buses that will be used to ferry customers to and from off-site parking lots to its Hyannis and Woods Hole ferry terminals. The three, 40-foot long buses, including the necessary charging infrastructure, were purchased from BYD North America in January 2021 for approximately \$3 million. The price was offset by two grants the Authority received totaling \$875,000. “Welcoming these buses into service is an important first step of our region’s journey into the transition to cleaner transportation options,” Davis said at the ribbon cutting ceremony Tuesday. “We are excited to be the first of what will be many agencies and municipalities making these investments in the coming years.” Each bus can carry up to 60 passengers with 35 total seats and has an operating range of 225 miles. Steamship Authority representatives said they are also investigating green technology for their ferries, including potential hybrid engines.

September 10 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Cape Cod Broadband Access

Program Description: Cape Cod leaders have their eyes set on expanding broadband access and digital equity for the region. Cape Cod Commission Deputy Director Steven Tupper told Barnstable County Commissioners that they are working on regional broadband assessments including both a municipal and state focus. The assessment will examine fixed and mobile broadband networks in the region to find gaps in access and then make recommendations on policy and program options for local leaders. The results of the study we presented later this year and in early 2024. Recent speed and access tests were timed to coincide with the busy summer season to better assess broadband performance during peak usage by local residents as well as businesses. Additionally, the increase in year-round residents during the COVID pandemic has created a higher floor of broadband usage as remote work, public meetings, and telehealth become commonplace.

Program Title: Cape Playhouse New Director

Program Description: As the new Artistic Director of the Cape Playhouse, Eric Rosen, gets settled into his new role, he’s already got his eyes on future plans for the organization that he believes will be very popular. Rosen is planning for long term events including the date of July 4, 2027 which is the 100th anniversary of the Playhouse, and he believes will be a monumental

moment for the organization. “What do we envision the Playhouse being? How are we celebrating in three or four summers and what are we doing that night? How does every decision that I make between now and then get us closer to a goal of restoring the Playhouse to its preeminence in American theater,” Rosen said. He continued to say that the tradition of art on Cape Cod dates back to the beginning of the 20th century and one of his major goals is to keep the Playhouse at the center of that conversation. Though Rosen did say that he has been thinking hard about long term plans, he has also been planning short term events that will be announced this Fall. “I’ve been hard at work pouring over numbers and trying to figure out what has worked in the past and what will work in the future. I’ve been reaching out to artists and finding out things that can happen this summer, so it’s really hitting the ground running on October 1st, and I’m ready to go with the season announcements,” said Rosen. Rosen will begin his tenure as the Artistic Director officially as he said on October 1, and the organization is excited to see what he has in store for their future.

September 17 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Great Day at the Gateway

Program Description: The Cape Cod Gateway Airport in Hyannis will hold their second annual “Great Day at the Gateway” event on Saturday, September 23, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. as a part of their Gateway Airport Event Series. Throughout the year the airport does several different events that are catered to aviation education, said Airport Manager Katie Servis, that bring the community to the airport and this is one of the largest events they do. “This is really a time for us to really nurture the spirit of flight and aviation and to honor our Military,” said Servis. With the robust military presence on Cape Cod, Gateway Airport believes it is important to highlight them and educate the region on different aspects of aviation. This year the event will have a special guest speaker who Servis says will speak about the Coast Guard and their mission for the future. “Our guest speaker is Captain Rob Potter of the U.S. Coast Guard, he will give some insight as to what he does for the Coast Guard, what his position is as the 21st Commanding Officer for the U.S. Coast Guard at Air Station Cape Cod,” Servis said. She went on to state that Air Station Cape Cod’s operations span from the U.S. and Canadian border down to New Jersey as well as approximately 1,300 miles off shore. Food and beverage vendors for the event include Veteran’s Lunch Box, Island Cafe & Grill, Good Times Cape Cod Ice Cream, Mom on the Go, Brews and Cips, Cape Cod Beer, Cape Country 104. The event will also have military drill team performances and free flights for kids aged eight to seventeen with a pre-registration requirement.

Program Title: Eversource Goes EV

Program Description:

Eversource continues to work on reducing the carbon footprint on Cape Cod, where scientists claim that vehicles are responsible for 40% of emissions. Sean Tully, manager of electric mobility at Eversource, says that they are looking to focus on electrification and decarbonization for the future as they try to reduce the impact of vehicles in the region. “We’ve done that over the past five years, through our first phase of our make ready program which is really focused on commercial and industrial public charging, to really address the range anxiety. We have a lot more exciting opportunities and solutions coming to our customers across our electroservice territory in Massachusetts,” Tully said. Across Eversource’s service territory there are approximately 4,200 charging stations that can be utilized for electric vehicles currently and in the future. Tully says that about 20% of the total investment that Eversource has made was in environmental justice communities to help enable charging for those areas. “A lot of the environmental justice communities are in the Barnstable and Hyannis area, and a great majority of the charging stations that were installed on the Cape and on Martha’s Vineyard were mainly municipal projects. Some examples are the Barnstable County Offices and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute,” said Tully. He went on to say that they are also currently working with MassDOT to put charging stations at rest stops along the highways of Cape Cod to continue the push for less overall greenhouse gas emissions coming from the region.

September 24 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: K-9 Relief Fund

Program Description: The annual Cape & Islands Police K-9 Relief Fund Motorcycle Run is scheduled for this Saturday, September 30, starting at 11 a.m. in Dennis. Riders can participate for \$20 a rider and \$10 per passenger to help the cause which Joe Ambrosini, Cape & Islands Police K-9 Relief Fund founder, says makes an important difference for the animals that do so much for their community. “When the dogs retire the departments don’t pay for them anymore, the burden is on the handler. The dogs retire and they go home and live another four or five years. This organization that I founded, when the dogs retire and you take them home, you bring them to the vets and we pay the bills,” Ambrosini said. He continued saying that the donations help these animals turn into house pets with the same love and care that other dogs normally receive. Ambrosini started the fund realizing that the K-9s do not receive anything when they retire like an officer would and he believes that should not be the case. “These dogs, they’re athletes, they train hard, they work hard, they sleep hard, their hours are lousy just like the officer. They deserve something, I feel they deserve something,” said Ambrosini. The relief fund

has allowed the organization to help 13 to 14 dogs annually with their medical bills and though it is not a cheap endeavor, Ambrosini says it is a very rewarding one.

Program Title: Cape Cod Commuter Rail

Program Description: Local legislators are calling on the MBTA to establish commuter rail service between Boston and Buzzards Bay, with potential plans to extend it to even more Cape Cod towns including Barnstable. State Representatives Dylan Fernandes and Kip Diggs co-filed the bill that would direct the authority to establish the route within one year of passage, with a required study of the infrastructure needed to potentially bring the service to further towns like Sandwich, Yarmouth and Barnstable. Fernandes said that potential route schedules would be required to align with the commuting patterns of residents, rather than being geared towards bringing tourists on Cape. According to the 2021 Cape Rail Study, bringing commuter rail to Buzzards Bay would reduce emissions by 3,400 metric tons of CO₂ – equivalent to eliminating almost 9 million miles driven by gas cars.