

KENT COUNTY DAILY TIMES

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FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018 | VOL. CXXVI NO. 107 | WWW.RICENTRAL.COM | 75 CEN

HOUSE IN ORDER



Submitted photos

West Warwick Housing Authority staff members pose for a photo with employee of the year, Charlene Fraser, at center, during a recent meeting held by the authority to celebrate staff members, residents and other individuals or groups that have contributed their efforts over the past year.

West Warwick Housing Authority celebrates service

WEST WARWICK – The West Warwick Housing Authority recently held its annual meeting, where it presented five “Community Partnership Awards” to groups or individuals that assisted the housing authority in promoting its mission, and also honored the authority’s employee of the year.

Among the groups who were honored with community partnership awards were:

- Dunkin Donuts – both the Main Street and Washington Avenue stores – were recognized for their generous donations of coffee, donuts and pastry for events conducted at the housing authority’s two elderly developments.

- Two residents at West Warwick Manor were recognized for their monthly meal for residents on the last Saturday of the month when funds are scarce for some residents. Known as the Manor Dinner Club, residents Paula Labrie and Joan Card feed 50-80 residents monthly.

- Another awardee was Eileen McNeilis, who resides at

Clyde Tower on Main Street. She was recognized for her Meals with Eileen, which provides hundreds of meals throughout the month for residents. McNeilis cooks and prepares the meals herself with assistance from other residents.

- The fifth partnership award was presented to the University of Rhode Island’s Program for Community Health Nursing, which regularly conducts blood pressure and blood sugar screenings at the two elderly developments. Tom Stednicki, an instructor for the program accepted on behalf of the program.

The housing authority also recognized Charlene Fraser, the authority’s facilities manager as its Employee of the Year. Executive Director Stephen J. O’Rourke said, “Charlene has done an outstanding job in a nontraditional role for a woman.” He thanked her for her outstanding performance over the previous year.

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Commissioner Card presents the “Meals with Eileen” award to Eileen McNeilis.

Housing

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At the conclusion of the awards ceremony, O’Rourke distributed a 200-page annual report on operations to the Board of Commissioners. He stated, “This report clearly shows the achievements we have realized over the last year.” He thanked the board, staff and residents for their efforts.

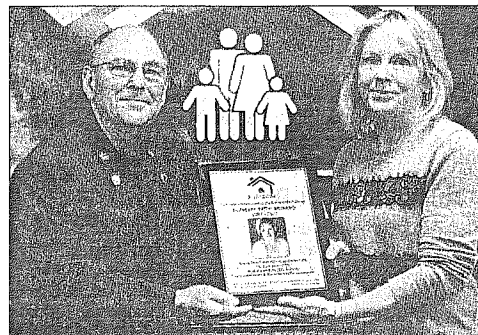
The housing authority’s chairman, Tom Zampa, expressed his appreciation to

his colleagues on the board and the staff for their hard work. Vice Chairwoman Debra Tocco recognized and thanked Town Councilman John D’Amico for attending the meeting.

During the meeting, a plaque was unveiled dedicating the board room in memory of Elizabeth “Betty” Brunero, who died last December. Brunero served on the Board of Commissioners for 10 years. Her daughter Carol Hoxie, a new commissioner on the board, accepted the plaque.



Vice Chairwoman Debra Tocco presents a partnership award to Thomas Stednicki, an instructor with URI Community Health Nursing.



Commissioner Tom Zampa and Commissioner Carol Brunero-Hoxie hold an “In Memoriam” plaque honoring former Commissioner Elizabeth “Betty” Brunero for her service and dedication at the West Warwick Housing Authority.