



Submitted photos

Wet Power Washing visited the West Warwick Housing Authority's Clyde Tower last week to clean the 11-story building.

TAKING FLIGHT

Housing Authority cleans Clyde Tower with help of a drone

WEST WARWICK — Most residents were startled, at first, to see a large drone flying around their 11-story tower on Main Street last week.

The contraption looked more like some menacing insect seeking its prey.

But the drone was innocuous. A contractor deployed it to help remove years of built-up dirt and algae that had collected on the surfaces of the town's tallest building.

The housing authority sought bids from many contractors, but none had bucket trucks that could reach the top level of the tower part of the building. That is when Wet Power Washing of East Providence stepped up with their drone service.

The drone is entirely made from carbon fiber for lightweight operation. It has six carbon fiber blades and a gyrosopic controller to keep the drone level. It could ser-

vice the entire building.

Total drone lift payload including drone, hose, liquid in hose, is 55 pounds. The soft wash solution is fed up a lightweight hose to the drone where it is sprayed out of an extended nozzle on the underside. The drone's onboard camera allows the operator to see where the drone is spraying, and they can adjust the spray area.

"I am just amazed at the technology we have available to do these types of tasks," said Lori Ruggieri, West Warwick Housing Authority commissioner and president of the Clyde Tower Tenant Association. "I was mesmerized."

Brian Osberg Jr., the housing authority's facilities manager, had his doubts at first.

"I was not convinced they could get that high on the building, but the owners asked us to give them a chance," he said. "The job was well done."

