

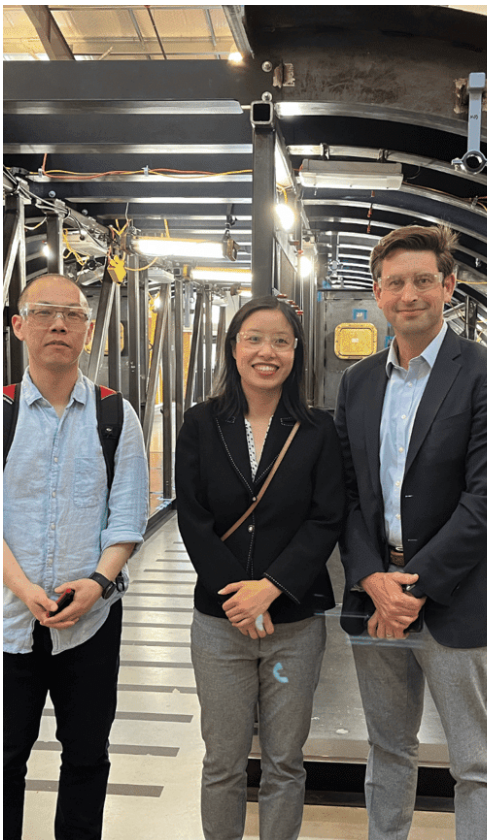
VICTORIA GU

State Senate
— District **38** —

August Updates & Town Hall August 3rd

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I'm so glad that the latest heat wave is over. I've been splitting my time between my part-time day job, solving constituent issues, preparing for our town hall, and trying to sneak in some beach time. The town hall is tomorrow, so I hope to see you there!



Let's Talk about Education & Workforce Development

RI State Senator **Victoria Gu**,
RI Representative **Sam Azzinaro**,
RI Commissioner on Postsecondary
Education **Shannon Gilkey**, School
Committee Member **Leslie Dunn**,
Reps from URI & CCRI & Westerly
High School

Thursday Aug 3rd 6-7:30pm
Westerly Education Center
23 Friendship St, Westerly
victoria4ri.com/town-hall

Other News



Gift Card Fraud Warnings Now In Stores

I started working on fraud legislation in collaboration with AARP Rhode Island because constituents brought up the issue to me that more and more people, particularly seniors, are losing their hard-earned money by falling victim to scams. We're glad to see local stores implementing the gift card legislation I sponsored (Representative Julie Casimiro was also the House sponsor). It was signed into law just this past June. This is just the first step in raising consumer awareness, and we will continue improving these education efforts. In the meantime, you can help by making sure people in your family are informed about tactics that scammers use to defraud people.

Past Meetings / Events



RI Housing Presentation to Westerly Town Council

As a renter up until recently, I've seen how competitive it is to find a place to live year-round in South County. To continue our conversations about affordable housing, I invited RI Housing to come down to Westerly on July 10th to present all the new housing funds and technical assistance opportunities that towns can apply for after we passed the state budget. You may watch the presentations below:

[Presentation Part 1](#)

[Presentation Part 2](#)

I also invited RI Housing to come present to the Charlestown Town Council, so stay tuned!



Touring the Pawcatuck River

Under a federal act the Pawcatuck river has been designated Wild & Scenic, and only 1% of streams in the US achieve that designation. We saw herons, turtles basking in the sun, and more. There is a stewardship council and resources to protect the natural, cultural, and recreational values for the enjoyment of present and future generations. I will definitely be coming back to go kayaking!

Some fun facts about the Pawcatuck River:

- The longest Wild and Scenic River System in New England with 110 miles
- 75% of all animal species found in RI occur within this watershed
- 70% of globally rare and 63% of RI's rare species and natural community occurrences are found within this watershed
- The darkest sky region between Washington DC and Boston

Also pictured: Mary Scialabba (Westerly Town Council)

Read more: <https://wpwilddrivers.org/>



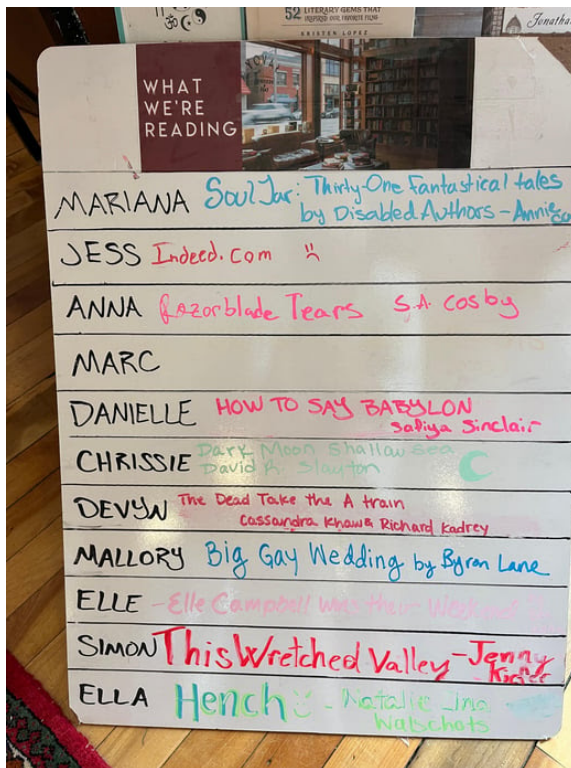
Governor McKee Visit

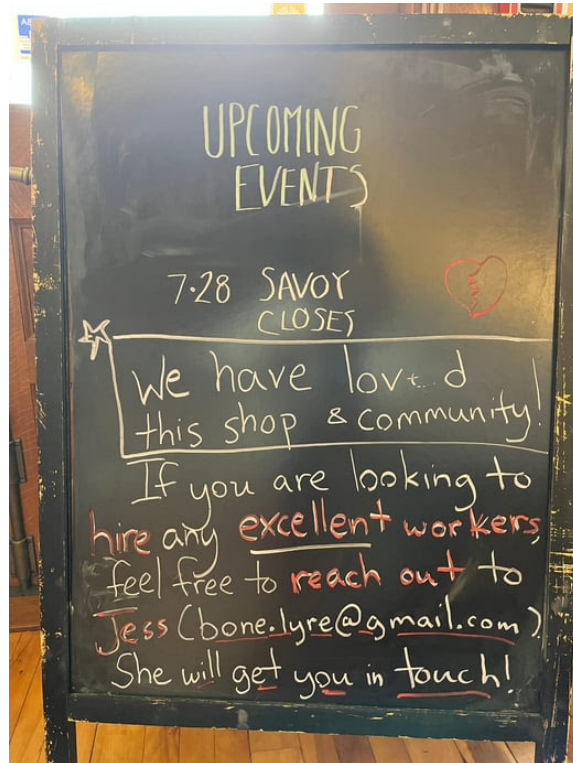
Pooch's Pour House, clam chowder, and a short history of Westerly ghost tour - It was great seeing the Governor and I appreciated the inclusion of funds for afterschool learning and town-led education partnerships in his budget. Looking forward to exploring some partnerships locally!



Charlestown Democratic Town Committee

Speaker of the House Joe Shekarchi made his way down to Charlestown on July 19th to discuss the legislative session that just ended. It was a great turnout and people asked a lot of good questions about the recently passed housing legislation, ADU's (accessory dwelling units), the Bottle Bill study commission, and the Airbnb study commission. See below for more events & speakers.





Saying Goodbye to Savoy Bookstore

I'm incredibly sad to see one of my go-to bookstores/cafes in the area close. Folks, some amazing workers are looking for jobs now that [Savoy Bookshop and Cafe](#) has closed. If you know of any places looking to hire, please reach out to Jess (bone.lyre@gmail.com) and she will get you in touch with the others

Upcoming Events / Places I'll Be

- Aug 10th-12th: National Conference of Environmental Legislators (NCEL) Forum in Indianapolis: I'm looking forward to exchanging ideas with legislators from other states on a variety of environmental issues, learning about effective solutions, and collaborating on an agenda for a healthier planet and healthier people
- Wed Aug 16th 8am: My usual monthly/bimonthly conversation with Frank Prosnitz on WBLQ Radio (1230AM)
- Wednesday August 16th [Charlestown Democratic Town Committee](#): 'How a Bill Becomes Law in RI' presented by Deb Kopech, co-founder of the South Kingstown Huddle.
- Commission Meetings: I'll be visiting some local town commissions, particularly affordable housing commissions, to keep up to date with what they're planning and share any relevant state resources. If you'd like me to join a meeting, please reach out! victoria4ri@gmail.com
- September 21st [Charlestown Democratic Town Committee](#): Jed Thorpe, Executive Director of Clean Water Action-RI, will talk about PFAS in our water and the future of the Bottle Bill.

Friends of Victoria Gu, PO Box 116, Charlestown, RI 02813, United States, 4013880696

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