

VICTORIA GU

State Senate — District 38 —

**November Newsletter,
Rail Listening Session on Dec 10th**



Happy Thanksgiving!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Westerly Democrats' community food drive on Saturday, November 1st as we head into this season of Thanksgiving. I was especially moved when one person filled up a shopping cart at Aldi's and brought it straight to the parking lot to donate. Witnessing that generosity reminds me what Thanksgiving is truly about: gratitude, compassion, and showing up for friends, family and community.

Have a restful and warm Thanksgiving!

Victoria Gu

Help us bring commuter rail to Westerly!

RIDOT Rail Plan *Public Listening Session*

DATE:

Wednesday, December 10th

TIME:

6:00-7:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

**Westerly Public Library
(2nd Floor Auditorium)**



To **RSVP** and find out more ways to help, visit
www.westerlyrailadvocates.com

**Action Alert: Make your voice heard at
RIDOT's Rail Listening Session Dec 10th**

I invited the RI Dept of Transportation to come down and do a listening session/outreach in Westerly to get people's ideas and feedback for the future of the rail station! It's scheduled for **Wed Dec 10, 2025 6-7:30pm** at the **Westerly Library auditorium**. Let's pack the room in support of platform upgrades and commuter rail- RSVP at www.westerlyrailadvocates.com

RSVP and Submit Questions

Charlestown Special Town Council Election on December 2nd

Special Election Alert

Following the passing of Councilor Rippy Serra, Charlestown will hold a special election on December 2nd to choose another town councilor.

Important actions to take if you want to vote:

- View or update your voting address at vote.ri.gov
- Decide how want to vote:
 - Early in-person at town hall during normal business hours (deadline Dec 1st 4pm; [information here](#))
 - In-person on December 2nd at your polling location
 - By emergency mail ballot ([application here](#); deadline Dec 1st 4pm)

Alert for all voters in Rhode Island:

The Secretary of State's office is conducting voter list maintenance: If you're a registered voter in Rhode Island, you should receive a letter asking you to review the voter information on file. If it's correct, you don't need to do anything. All changes should be made at vote.ri.gov by choosing "View/Update My Voter Record" or via mail using the envelope enclosed in the mailing. For more information about the mailing and voter list maintenance, please click [here](#).

Charlestown Breachway Permanent Fix Underway



Thanks to Charlestown staff's timely work & advocacy of state legislators and RI Dept of Environmental Management (DEM) and CRMC, our RI state budget passed in 2025 included \$5 million for the Charlestown Beachway permanent fix, which builds on the earlier emergency fix and is in addition to the \$2 million set aside for dredging.

Rough timeline:

- The reconstruction project will begin with site mobilization by the middle of October and full construction underway around November 1st with work taking place 24/7 after that time.
- The dredging of the beachway itself will begin around the end of December and last for approximately 30 days.
- There will be heavy equipment on site from November 1st through approximately February 1st, and the project is expected to be completed by April 1st

[Link to Beachway FAQ](#)

Meeting with Congressmembers about Artificial Intelligence, Digital Policy

I was on Capitol Hill last Monday with other state legislators as part of a bipartisan, national push to ensure that states can continue to respond to rapidly evolving AI technologies (like ChatGPT) and pass common-sense guardrails to protect our residents. Just a few risks that the RI Assembly took action on in 2025 include:

- election misinformation (deepfakes)
- sexually explicit deepfakes of people

Senator Reed released [a statement](#) against this attempt by some Congressmembers and the Trump administration to stop states from passing bills on artificial intelligence. We thank him and all our Congressmembers for their leadership.



Meeting about Rural



Transportation, Utilities

We had a good listening/brainstorming session in Charlestown with community volunteers who brought up stories like: a mother who lost her job because her car broke down and she couldn't get to work in Westerly. With upcoming changes to Medicaid & SNAP benefits that will require work/community service hours, people who don't have transportation will likely lose those benefits.

Solutions being explored at the town/state level: renting or purchasing a van and having town volunteers/staff do pickups on demand; coordinating with other nonprofits that do transportation for specific reasons; learning from or adding onto [RIPTA's statewide paratransit pilot program](#) for people with disabilities.

Supporting the Jonnycake Center @ Westerly Lions, Westerly Rotary Pasta Dinner

Westerly Democratic town councilors, school committee members, and I attended the pasta dinner at the Westerly Calabrese Club to support the Jonnycake Center's Emergency Fuel Fund, and the turnout was fantastic. The Rotary Club of Westerly and the Westerly Lions Club sponsored the



event, and local restaurants even donated ice cream and dessert, making it an incredible community effort to benefit our #NeighborsInNeed.

*WESTERLY DEMOCRATS
CHRISTMAS PARTY*

*Save the
Date!*

10 DECEMBER 2025

5:30-7:00PM

RSVP

WESTERLYDEMS@GMAIL.COM



Heating Assistance & 80-100% Off Weatherizing Your Home

Schedule your Energy Audit

Rhode Island, like a number of other states, has a free energy audit program that works in two steps 1) the free energy audit identifies places in your home that would benefit from air sealing, insulation, and more. 2) the program pays for 80-100% of the cost of doing the weatherization work. Every Rhode Island homeowner (and tenant, with landlord permission) can request their audit and benefit from these energy savings. Schedule your audit at <https://www.riseengineering.com/residential/get-started> or through RIEnergy's website

Know someone in need of emergency assistance to pay for heating oil/fuel? A couple places to contact are:

- Westerly: **Jonnycake Center of Westerly**
- Charlestown: The Charlestown Senior Center
- South County towns: **Tri-County CAP** for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) applications, Heat Pumps and Weatherization, and Emergency Boiler Repair

[View email in browser](#)