



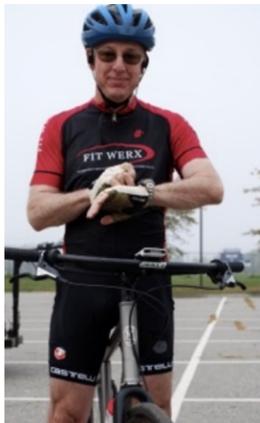
A SINGULAR GIFT



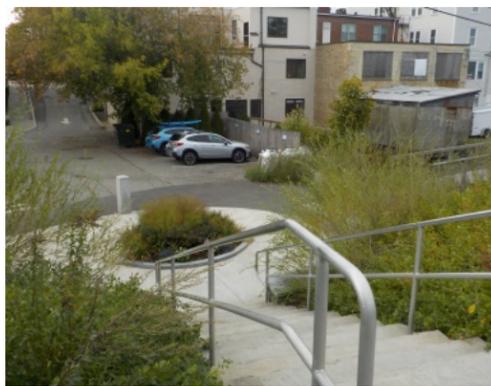
by Joe Steinberger

Bicycling Club Rides Again

The Rockland Bicycling Club held its second annual fun ride from Rockland South School to the iconic Marshall Point Light on Sunday (Sept 27). The ride followed 50 (round trip) miles of very scenic coastline. All had a great time and are looking forward to doing the ride again next year. The bike club wants to thank the Buzz and WRFR for their support. Join the RBC and follow us on Facebook.



photos by Ron Tesler



Terrance Pinto was born in Burlington, New Jersey and grew up there. After high school he joined the Army and served in Germany. On his return home he studied water treatment in night school while working for Burlington Public Works - for \$1.80 an hour. He eventually became Public Works director there and later became director in a larger town. He then moved to Florida where he worked in in both public works and private companies doing waste management. Twenty years ago he came to Rockland and became director of our sewage treatment plant - and a citizen of our city.

The treatment plant is on a corner of land on Lermond Cove, the most protected part of Rockland harbor. When Terry arrived, there was a tall fence closing the entire area to the public. On his own initiative, Terry moved the fence back to give the public access to a green space along Tillson Avenue, to what is now called General Spear Drive along the shore, with public parking and a park area and picnic tables along the water, to the now busy schooner wharf which he thus made possible, to a path along the north shore of the plant's land and down some steps to the parking area behind Main Street and the new foot bridge which continues the Harbor Trail along the shore.

Adding to this great gift to our city, Terry, again on his own initiative, built a public toilet on the treatment plant's land along Tillson Avenue, an attractive modern facility which his staff keeps clean and available year-round to the people of Rockland and to our visitors.

Terry's broad and generous view of his mission as a public servant and citizen is an example for all of us.



on the beach in Rockland



Port Clyde General Store Closes

An Opinion by Stephen Carroll

I generally start each morning enjoying a hearty breakfast and a cup of coffee while reading the latest news online from Village Soup. Steve Betts, the Courier's lead reporter, always has a full bushel of local content for my reading enjoyment, but his story on the Port Clyde General Store caught my attention. It has been announced by owner Linda Bean (of L.L. Bean fame) that the store will close October 12 and not re-open until Memorial Day. This I am sure will send shock waves throughout this tiny coastal fishing village, mainly because it is the only store in town. The next nearest store is five miles away in Tenants Harbor, also owned by Linda Bean. So during those long cold winter months residents of Port Clyde who for years counted on the General Store for all their basic needs as well as a sort of community center where friends meet over coffee and stories are told will be left, as they say: "out in the cold" along with the few employees (who all have been told they can work at the other General store). When asked for comment, Linda Bean, of course had none. As outlined in Steve Betts story, "It's challenging to run a general store in a coastal community profitably". Linda Bean who stormed into this small community a few years ago vowing to regenerate the lobstering business and save the town has caused a stir amongst the locals for what she has done and the manner in which she has done it. Most recently opening a Wyeth Center over the strong objections of the neighborhood. It seems "what Linda wants, Linda gets." As far as profit is concerned, I strongly doubt this lady who I imagine receives a monthly check larger than most companies make in a year, cares much about "profitably". When she bought the General store it was a well known fact around town that several others had been unable to "make a go" of it. Still, the feeling was at the time, here is a wealthy lady willing to help the community. This story was so disappointing for me in that once again we see a rich person blowing into town wanting to change everything just to suit their needs and then when the going gets tough they pull out fearing a change in their stock portfolio and leave the community worse then they found it. Many may recall here in Rockland several years ago the city offered incentives to Van Ballen company who build a giant warehouse in the industrial park and a few years later split town when a better deal down south came along. Us "Mainas" are a sturdy stock and we have weathered the changing winds brought by those like Linda Bean who come and go like so many politicians. It is sad to see a landmark like the Port Clyde General store go by the wayside, but we all have weathered many changes over the years especially this year. But as the old Mainers say: "Don't worry it'll all come out in the wash."

Broken Wing brings her brood for a breakfast of peanuts and pistachios. Peanuts are easily eaten. Crows consume the pistachios by gripping the nuts with their hooked claws while balancing on the backs of our patio furniture. Cirque de Soleil acrobats.

We celebrated our anniversary at home, covid-style, by having two excellent musician-friends, Vince and Glen, who played and sang blues and rock 'n roll in the living room while the four of us wore masks and we socially distanced in our dining room. A friend, via a drop-off delivery, catered our dinner: a whole herb roasted chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, two kinds of soup: squash and vichyssoise, a generous fall salad and a beautifully iced yellow cake with chocolate icing. One musician friend, shared stories about their financially limited honeymoon in Maine. His bride got sick, so while she slept, he watched "King Kong" on the motel TV. We concluded that instead of huge fancy weddings and expensive honeymoons, small, intimate weddings and poverty honeymoons guaranteed our long, loving marriages.

Finally, the Mechanic Street section of the Harbor Trail has been cleaned up. The public works department neglected their usual mowing; so two members of the trail committee were out there energetically wielding their weed whackers.

I was out on our porch when I heard a grey squirrel, head down, clutching the trunk of the big maple, whipping its tail and making a hoarse sound. I imitated the sound and we engaged in a call-and-response. Its odd what entertains me during covid.

We watched the first presidential "debate" that turned into a dumpster fire of such magnitude we were stunned and had difficulty getting to sleep afterward. Watching The Donald rage non-stop for 90 minutes was like watching an alpha male chimp roar while trying to intimidate his competitor. Its no wonder so many West Wing staff members have fled. It was beyond embarrassing to see a president use the high office in such a denigrating manner. The Fox moderator, Chris Wallace, was completely done in and overwhelmed. The Don has refused any debate changes. Biden should forego any other "debates." Repeating fire and fury, would serve no purpose and Americans would be grateful; except those who enjoy chaos and noise.

The rest of the world has been wondering what has become of our country.

Fog, rain and winds enveloped our mid-coast. Winds were so strong they blew over patio furniture and some plant pots. The wind must have originated in Cleveland.

Reading an article about the connections between dining in restaurants and getting covid just reinforces my decision to continue avoiding eating in restaurants vs. only curbside take-away meals. Inside, public dining will become only more challenging and risky as seasonal flu and cold weather arrive. Hunkering down until summer 2021 will be our plan. Only safe, nation-wide immunizations with continued use of masks, hand-washing, disinfecting, social distancing will mitigate the mutating virus.



Morning Mental Health on WRFR



Saturdays 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Hosted by Adrian Counce. Music from artists that you probably know, but never get any air time – and leaves you wondering why? All things obscure and strange. Songs that move you and make you think, such as: Pink Floyd, David Bowie to "Guns and Roses," and "Alice in Chains." A wide range of genres played with extreme change ups from one song to the next. Always a surprise with the... "Morning Mental Health," radio show."



ACTUALLY OUR FAMILY HAS NEVER BEEN HUGGERS I THINK WE'VE ALWAYS KEPT SOCIAL DISTANCE

BACK IN THE DAY BEFORE ANYONE TOOK CORONA FOR ANYTHING BUT A MEXICAN BEER WE DIDN'T WEAR MASKS...

WELL, FULL DISCLOSURE, THE TWINS ON A DATE, DID DO BATMAN & ROBIN FOR A FULL YEAR, IN COSTUME.

NOW THEY'RE GROWN THEY RIDE THEIR HARLIE'S TO STURGIS IGNORING ALL THAT SOCIAL STUFF. HECK THEY DON'T WEAR HELMETS, THEY SURE AS HELL DON'T WEAR MASKS —

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