

# MAYOR KEN HOPKINS' NEWSLETTER - MAY 2024



## Mayor's Message

Dear Residents,

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter! Within these pages, you will find the latest city news, and details on upcoming events in our community.

I encourage you to stay tuned for more updates and exciting events.

Together, we are shaping a brighter future for all residents of Cranston, and I am honored to serve as your Mayor.

## Find Inside...

- Cranston High School Graduation Ceremonies
- Memorial Day Celebrations
- Gaspee Days 2024
- New Business: Mak Mak Eatery
- CPD Officers Swearing In
- Reading Week 2024

## Congrats Grads! Cranston Class of '24!

It was my honor to join the graduates and families of Cranston High School East and West as mayor, after having worked as an educator for many years.

To the graduating class of '24, I cannot wait to see your future accomplishments. As you embark on this new chapter in your lives, remember to hold onto the friendships and memories you've made during the last four years.

Each one of you has the potential to achieve great things, so believe in yourselves and never be afraid to chase your dreams!

The City of Cranston is behind you every step of the way, and we are excited to see your next endeavors filled with success, joy, and endless possibilities!



**Congratulations to Junior Joaquin-Hernandez of Cranston East and Sarah Chin of Cranston West as recipients of the 2024 Mayoral Scholarships!**

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## 109-Years-Young

I had the honor to meet 109-year-old Henry Polichetti - one of the oldest living American WWII veterans and men in the US, as well as a life-long Cranston resident!

It was a true joy to speak with this local hero around his birthday about his military service and time raising his two daughters with his wife Eleanor. Thank you to Henry and his family for inviting me to spend time with you.



## Rolling Remembrance

I was invited to participate in the 9th annual Rolling Remembrance at PepsiCo in Cranston!

The entire journey consists of 64 stops throughout different regions of the country honoring military heroes. Here in Cranston, we honored local WWII Veteran George Silva!



The stop in Cranston came near the end of this year's 14,000+ mile cross-country journey.

55 PepsiCo drivers – who are also military veterans – are participating in this relay transporting an American flag first flown by the U.S. military during combat in the hopes of raising awareness of which raises funds for Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation, an organization providing college scholarships and educational counseling to children who lost a parent in the line of duty.

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*On May 19th, I delivered a proclamation from the City of Cranston declaring the start of the 2024 Gaspee Day celebrations!*

*Thank you to Representative Joseph McNamara for participating, and to Mayor Frank Picozzi who delivered his own proclamation for our neighboring City of Warwick.*

*A special shout out goes to Jerry Peshka, one our great employees at Cranston City Hall, who was elected to the role of Gaspee Committee president for his second time ahead of this year's ceremonies!*



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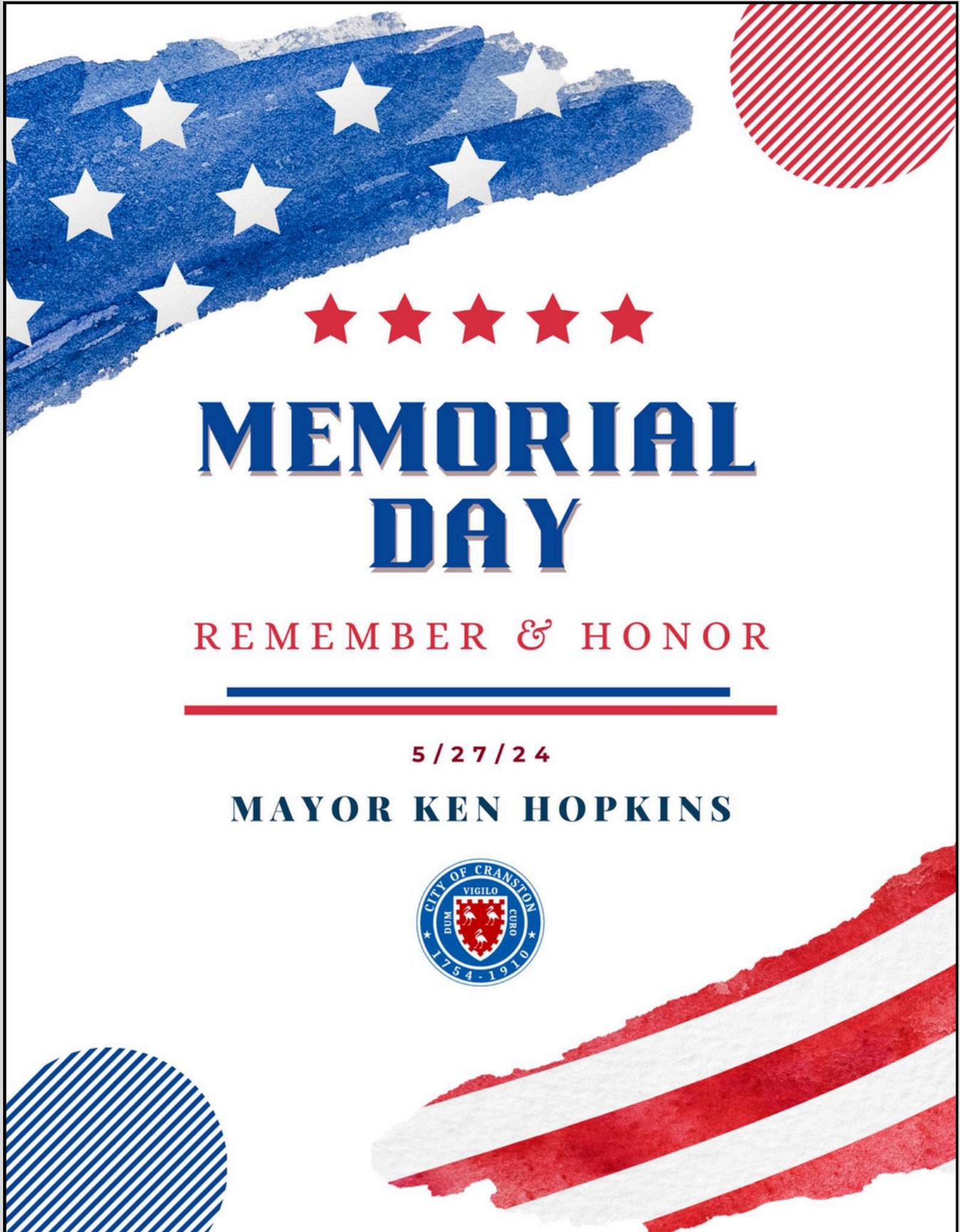
*Congratulations to the newest officers of the Cranston Police Department!*

*Officers Justin Patalano, Aidan Reardon, Kenneth Alexander, Michael DiOrio, Kyle Higgins, and Bethany Trombino graduated with their academy class on May 24th, and were sworn in at Cranston City Hall in front of family, friends, and fellow officers on Memorial Day, May 27, 2024.*



*As well, Sergeant Sasson-McHugh was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, and Detective Anthony Massimino and Inspector Wayne DeCosta were promoted to the rank of Sergeant. We also celebrated retiring Dispatcher Steven Pecchia for his 33 years of service to the CPD!*

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# MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER & HONOR

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5/27/24

MAYOR KEN HOPKINS



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On May 24th, the City of Cranston and Cranston Public School Department held their annual Memorial Day celebrations at Park View and Hugh B. Bain Middle School. Every year, at this time, our students, faculty, and families gather to pay tribute to our service members and to commemorate the sacrifices they made in the name of duty, honor, and country.

Our annual gatherings here in Cranston are a small tribute in the larger tapestry of national pride.



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## New Business Opening: Mak Mak Eatery

Makmak Eatery held their grand opening at 650 Oaklawn Avenue on May 30th! Stop by to support husband and wife owners Crystal and Micheal Kudzma and their family, and enjoy a delicious meal!



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## Reading Week 2024

It was a busy Reading Week visiting students all across Cranston this year! It's always a pleasure to see our teachers in action, and to speak with the bright minds of Cranston's future generations!

Reading Week is more than just an event; it's a celebration of learning, growth, and the power of education. We are incredibly proud of our students and teachers for making this week such a memorable experience year after year as we remain committed to fostering a love for reading and lifelong learning in our community!

