



# DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER

## August 28, 2026

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### Celebrating the life of Dolly Parton

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# January 19, 1946 - August 25, 2026





Today, we celebrate the remarkable life of Dolly Parton. Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this sad time. Beyond her incredible musical legacy, she leaves the lasting impact of **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**, the non-profit book-gifting program she founded 31 years ago. Because of her, over 3 million young children across five countries have received books each month. Dolly's generosity inspired the **Bazarsky Family Foundation** to bring the program to **the MLK Community Center** where over 5,000 Newport County children have benefited.

Dolly continues to inspire us even now. The day after her passing, Newport County parents enrolled 24 children in our Newport chapter of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. We know she is smiling down on these kids as they begin their journey as young readers. **If you have a child five years old or younger, you can sign up with the button below to get a book a month free of charge in the mail.**

***Thank you, Dolly. The world will never forget you.***

**Sign up for Imagination Library!**

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## **We sang our hearts out at the MLK!**

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Our first-ever karaoke competition this week was so much fun! We had 15 singers lined up for the competition and three judges who ranked each performance based on vocals, stage presence, and lyrical execution. We had a four-way tie, so the finalists performed a second song so the judges could crown the winner.

**Congratulations to our friend Lily Ferreria for being the first MLK Karaoke Champion!**

Our amazing friends from **Sing Your Heart Out Co.** helped make this event possible by volunteering their time and services to the Center. Our clients loved every minute and asked if we could do karaoke again before the night was even over! The smiles and vibrant energy were contagious.

***Check out the video below for a recap of the night.***



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## Intergenerational fun at Lunch & Learn

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This month's Senior Lunch & Learn program made an adorable exception to the "55 and Up" rule for some intergenerational fun.

Our friend Revka from [\*\*Revka Dance\*\*](#) choreographed a performance with our Preschoolers based on one of their favorite stories, [\*\*A Rainbow of My Own\*\*](#) by Don Freeman. While our littlest learners spent the first few weeks of August rehearsing, the 55 & Up Club worked on the backdrop for the performance by creating a banner based on the art from Freeman's book.

Last week, our preschoolers performed their dance for our seniors at Lunch & Learn and then everyone sat down for a delicious meal of fish and chips. It was incredibly heartwarming to see our littlest learners interact with the 55 & Up club. What a wonderful example of our community coming together!





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## Summer Camp Adventures Continue

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We cannot believe this was the last week of summer camp. Our campers were so incredibly busy soaking up all the island (and beyond!) has to offer that we are still reporting on last week's adventures. We will recap the last week of camp in next week's newsletter, so stay tuned!





Our campers venture far and wide across Aquidneck Island on their adventures, and this summer they ventured off-island. They journeyed over the Mt. Hope Bridge to Bristol, Rhode Island, to visit the [\*\*Audubon Society of Rhode Island\*\*](#) and [\*\*Coggeshall Farm Museum\*\*](#).

Our friends from the Audubon Society often visit our kids at the Center with animals from their Wildlife Refuges. The kids loved being able to visit their hiking trails and get more hands-on experience with the wildlife and bird watching trails of the East Bay.

At the Coggeshall Farm Museum, our campers traveled back in time to experience the daily life of tenant farmers on 18th-century salt marshes in Bristol. What an incredible experience!



Locally, the kids visited Miantonomi Park in Newport's North End with **Newport Tree Conservancy**, a local non-profit dedicated to supporting the health of trees in our city. The kids learned about the types of trees in the park, got up close and personal with insects, and learned how important they are to our ecosystems.

Each Summer, our friends from **Save the Bay's Hamilton Family Aquarium** welcome our kids to learn about the local marine life in Narraganset Bay. They love the hands-on experience of the touch tanks, where they can interact with snails, crabs, dogfish sharks, and more.

We are grateful to all the generous community partners who have made this such a memorable summer for our campers.

## Support MLK Summer Camp





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## Registration for The Kids' Wonder Lab is open for Fall 2026 Sessions

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Do you have a child aged 18 months to four years old? Haven't had a chance to experience the sensory learning activities offered in The Kids' Wonder Lab yet? Good news: **Registration is open for our new Fall 2026 sessions!**

We are opening the program to two sessions that will run for 10 weeks every Monday, free of charge. **The first session runs from 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., and the second runs from 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., starting Monday, September 14.**

In The Kids' Wonder Lab, kids learn and develop social and developmental skills with play that draws upon their senses. They will learn through sounds, touch, taste, smell, and vision with light tables, kinetic sand, water-based activities, music, and more.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
COMMUNITY CENTER

&

The Bazarsky Family  
Foundation

*Present*



The Kids' Wonder Lab

**Free of charge every Monday**

9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.



**Immersive experience for Kids  
ages 18 months to 4 years old**



**Enhance developmental and  
social skills through sensory play**

**Registration required:**



**401.846.4828 x124**



**epatel@mlkccenter.org**

**Register Now!**





DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
COMMUNITY CENTER

&

La fundación de la  
Familia Bazarky

*Presentan*



**Gratis todos los lunes**

9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.



Una experiencia inmersiva para niños  
de 18 meses a 4 años.



Mejorar las habilidades sociales y de  
desarrollo a través del juego sensorial.

**Registro Requerido:**



401.846.4828 x124



epatel@mlkccenter.org

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## Welcoming Gail and Jay to the MLK Board

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We are excited **Jay Lasky** and **Gail Woodworth** have joined our Board of Trustees. Their commitment to the Center will help us build a stronger community. This week, the board gathered to welcome them, shown below.

*Pictured below from left to right: Nancy Horsey, Kim Cummins, Tara Brennan Primis, Theresa Wosencroft, Gail Woodworth, John Thompson, Jeff Brooks and Deanna Conheeny. Two men in front row, in blue shirts, from left, David Wendell and Jay Lasky. Not shown: Sebastian Moore and Orlando Zambrano.*



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## It's Time 2 C.H.I.M.E at the MLK

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# Time 2 C.H.I.M.E

*Every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month from 2 - 2:45 p.m.  
at the MLK from September 2026 - June 2027*



FIND HEALING AND JOY  
THROUGH MUSIC!



Trained professionals from List Academy of Music will lead participants through musical sets with hand chimes.

These interactive ensembles promote healing and quality of life for seniors, those with traumatic brain injuries, or neurological disorders.

**To Register:**



401.846.4828 x122



mdixon@mlkccenter.org

20 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd. Newport RI



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COMMUNITY CENTER

LIST ACADEMY  
*of Music*



Starting in September, **List Academy of Music** will be at the MLK for the new Time 2 C.H.I.M.E program on the **first Thursday of each month from 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.**

The program utilizes hand chimes for participants to engage in interactive music ensembles that promote healing and joy for seniors living with Alzheimer's, Dementia, and Parkinson's, as well as anyone diagnosed with PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, or neurological disorders.

Hand Chimes are easy to use and a lot of fun! Can't make it in September? **Don't worry! You can sign up any time. To register, please click the button below.**

**Register Now!**

# Tiempo para el Carillón

*Cada primer Jueves de mes de 2 - 2:45 p.m. en el  
MLK de Septiembre de 2026 a Junio de 2027*



¡ENCUENTRA SANACIÓN Y ALEGRÍA  
A TRAVÉS DE LA MÚSICA!



Profesionales formados de List Academy of Music guiarán a los participantes a través de conjuntos musicales con campanillas de mano.

Estos conjuntos interactivos fomentan la curación y la calidad de vida de personas mayores y de quienes sufren lesiones cerebrales traumáticas y trastornos neurológicos.

**Registrar:**



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LIST ACADEMY  
*of Music*

# A great night of dinner and BINGO with the MLK Board and Staff

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Thank you for joining us Wednesday night for this month's MLK Friends' Dinner, served by our Board of Trustees with MLK Staff. We had a lovely time enjoying a meal of chicken parmesan, lasagna, and more followed by a fun game of BINGO. See you at next month's dinner!





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# New Mobile Food Pantry Location: Meadowlark Park

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Attention, residents of Meadowlark Mobile Home & RV Park!

Your location is now on the Mobile Food Pantry calendar, and we will visit you once a month with fresh produce, meat, nonperishables, toiletries, pet food, and household items.

**Our first visit will be on Thursday, September 17, from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Make sure you download our September Hunger Relief calendar** at the bottom of this newsletter to stay updated on our programs!



# NEW LOCATION!!



## MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Attention residents of Meadowlark Mobile Home & RV Park! The MLK Mobile Food Pantry will now visit once a month with fresh produce, meat, nonperishables, toiletries, pet food and household items.

### NEXT VISIT

**Thursday, September 17, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.:**  
**Meadowlark Park, 132 Prospect Ave. Middletown RI**  
***Residents Only***



# ¡ NUEVA UBICACIÓN!



## DISPENSA MÓVIL

¡Atención a los residentes de Meadowlark Mobile Home & RV Park! La Despensa Móvil de Alimentos de MLK visitará ahora una vez al mes con productos frescos, carne, productos no perecederos, artículos de aseo, comida para mascotas y artículos para el hogar.

### PRÓXIMA VISITA

**Jueves, 17 de Septiembre, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.:**  
**Meadowlark Park, 132 Prospect Ave. Middletown RI**  
***Solo Residentes***

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## AARP at Senior Lunch & Learn September 2

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The poster features a background image of a community center with people seated at tables. Overlaid on this are several graphic elements: a logo in the top left with a laurel wreath and 'SINCE 1921'; a large title 'SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN' in white and yellow; a crossed knife and fork icon with the text '55 AND UP CLUB' in the top right; a central yellow box with event details; a large red 'AARP' logo in a white circle; two yellow callout boxes with star icons; a location pin icon with address details; and contact information at the bottom.

**SENIOR  
LUNCH & LEARN**

**Join the 55 and Up Club on Wednesday, September 2, at noon for a delicious lunch and an informative presentation from our friends at AARP.**

**AARP®**

**Open to adults 55 and up!**

**Free to Newport County residents**

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center  
20 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd, Newport RI 02840**

**Email: [mdixon@mlkccenter.org](mailto:mdixon@mlkccenter.org) 401-846-4828 ext. 122**

Our pals from **AARP** will visit the 55 & Up Club at Senior Lunch & Learn next **Wednesday, September 2, from noon to 1:00 p.m.**

AARP will lead a discussion on resources that help older adults live with the agency and quality of life they deserve.

And of course, as always, there will be a delicious lunch provided.

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# Reminder: MLK Adult Clothing Drive and Giveaway

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The Adult Clothing Drive continues and the Giveaway is right around the corner.

You have a few days left to bring your donations to **Channing Memorial Church** and **St. John's Evangelical Church**, as the deadline is Sunday, August 30.

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far and who is planning to donate this weekend! **As a reminder, we will only accept shoes that are new and unused.**

**The Giveaway event will be held on Monday, August 31, from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** We hope to see you there!

# ADULT CLOTHING DRIVE AND GIVEAWAY

The MLK Community Center will collect and distribute new or gently used adult-sized clothing for Newport County.

*We will accept only new, unused shoes.*

## DONATION SITES

### Channing Memorial Church

131 Pelham St. Newport RI

*Drop off anytime!*

### St. John's The Evangelical Church

61 Poplar St. Newport RI

*Guild Hall, Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.*

*Sun. 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

## DISTRIBUTION EVENT

### MLK Community Center

20 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd. Newport RI

**Mon., August 31, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m**



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COMMUNITY CENTER



# COLECTA Y DISTRIBUCIÓN DE ROPA PARA ADULTOS

El Centro Comunitario MLK recogerá y distribuirá ropa nueva o de segunda mano de talla para adultos para el condado de Newport.  
*Solo aceptaremos zapatos nuevos y sin usar.*

## SITIOS DE DONACIÓN

### Channing Memorial Church

135 Pelham St. Newport RI

*¡Dejarla cuando quieras!*

### St. John's The Evangelical Church

61 Poplar St. Newport RI

*Guild Hall, Mar. - Vie. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.*

*Dom. 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

## DISTRIBUCIÓN DEL EVENTO

### MLK Community Center

20 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd. Newport RI

**Lunes, 31 de Agosto, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m**



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**Beep! Beep! Here Comes the Mobile Food Pantry!**

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# MOBILE FOOD PANTRY TRACKER



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COMMUNITY CENTER

The Mobile Food Pantry is coming your way! Here are next week's Mobile Food Pantry Locations:

**Tuesday 9/01/2026:**

- Tiverton Housing Authority, 99 Hancock St. Tiverton RI 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Hancock Estates, 345 Tiverton RI 1:30 p.m. – 2 :30 p.m.
  - Residents Only

**Thursday 9/03/2026:**

- Pemberton Apartments, 45 Pemberton Ave. Jamestown RI 12:00 p.m. – 1:00
- Bayside Village, 143 Third St. Newport RI 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

*All are welcome. You do not need to reside in the neighborhood to use the Mobile Food Pantry, **unless otherwise advised**. Please remember to bring your reusable bags.*

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## Download Our Monthly Calendars

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[Download September Community Programs Calendar in English](#)

[Descargar Calendario de Programas Comunitarios de Septiembre en Español](#)

[Download September Hunger Relief Calendar in English](#)

[Descargar Calendario de Combatir Del Hambre de Septiembre en Español](#)

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### Our Contact Information

\*{{Organization Name}}\*

\*{{Organization Address}}\*

\*{{Organization Phone}}\*

\*{{Organization Website}}\*

\*{{Unsubscribe}}\*

**Volunteer**

**Give**



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