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By Scott Avedisian - Two family-owned businesses celebrate 50th anniversary

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In recent weeks, two small, family-owned businesses, both located in the northern part of the city, have celebrated their 50th anniversary: Suburban Pharmacy, established by the late Thomas and Anna Shanos and now owned by their son, Nick, and Rick's Auto Body, run by the Piscione father-and-son team - both named Ronald.

Both companies are known for their friendly staff, quality service, and a commitment to their customers that goes well beyond formal business transactions - things the owners say have helped them to attract, and retain, a loyal following through the decades. Their ability to keep pace with and adapt to changes in technology - and improvements and evolutions within their respective industries - has also helped their continued growth and success, particularly with increased competition and in a challenging economy.

We wish the Shanos and Piscione families continued success in the years to come.

As we celebrate these impressive milestones, our Department of Tourism, Culture and Development has launched a seasonal campaign to promote Warwick's entire, diverse business community, as well as the number of high-quality items made right here in Warwick. The "Shop Local. Shop Warwick" promotion encourages residents to patronize area merchants and highlights a listing of locally-made items as unique gifts for the holidays. Print ads, website promotion and a partnership with business leaders to publicize the concept are part of the marketing component for this campaign.

On behalf of the staff in the mayor's office and our Department of Tourism, Culture and Development employees, I wish all of you a joyous and memorable holiday season and a New Year filled with hope, prosperity and good health.

Scott Avedisian is the mayor of Warwick.

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