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55 YEARS

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## **2017 was definitely a benchmark year for our city - by Scott Avedisian**

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Scott Avedisian, Mayor of Warwick

It's hard to believe that the 2017 is about to come to a close. Amid all the hustle and bustle of the holidays, it's important to give thanks for the abundant blessings that we have received during this year, and look for all the happiness and good things that a New Year brings.

With several major hospitality initiatives already completed, including Proclamation Ale's new brewery and tasting facility across from the Interlink Train Station and completion of a \$3.7 million pedestrian enhancement within City Centre, along with the construction of the new \$23 million Hyatt Place Hotel, and additions to RI mall, including new restaurants and stores, the city continues moving, showing vibrant economic growth.

Tourism continues to remain one of the driving forces behind Warwick's prosperous economy, which is reflected in the economic progress of our hotel community. Currently, the city of Warwick has the most hotels in the state, offering visitors a choice of 16 facilities, soon to be 17 with the addition of the Hyatt Hotel slated to open in 2018. This will add another 125 rooms in Warwick, bringing the total room count to 2,358.

Going through a number of major changes, T.F. Green Airport has undeniably positioned itself as "one of the country's most attractive and convenient airports," as named by Conde Nast Traveler Magazine based on their 2017 Readers Choice Award Survey. And, with the recent safety enhancements and runway expansion complete, we look forward to continuing to partner with the Airport Corporation and other stakeholders to ensure that T.F. Green Airport remains a top rated airport and driving factor in growing our local economy.

It's exciting to continue to see positive changes occur at iconic Rocky Point, which continued to thrive as a destination for both visitors and residents alike this summer with lots of activity including the return of "Movies in the Park," food trucks and family friendly concerts. And in July, we unveiled 10 new signs that showcase Rocky Point's history. The installation of these signs adds an additional aesthetic benefit to the revitalization of the grounds and offers visitors a unique and interesting way to experience the history of the park.

This was definitely a benchmark year for our city. I'm confident 2018 will carry on our current momentum and Warwick will continue to be the best place in Rhode Island to live, work, play and stay!

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to thank our city employees for their dedication to our city, all of whom work very hard to ensure our community is the best and safest place to live, work and raise a family. Special thanks to our great community, from our businesses, to veterans and active military personnel, non-profits and individuals who step forward without hesitation to lend a helping hand, and expect nothing in return. It's for sure, no accomplishment can be achieved without the caring and dedicated people coming together for common cause.

Scott Avedisian is the mayor of Warwick.

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