

## Mayor's message: Vacation in Warwick this summer

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With financial concerns causing many people to re-think vacations to far-away locales, the city's Department of Tourism, Culture and Development (TCD) is working with local organizations and businesses to "Celebrate Warwick."

Our city is home to over 2,000 restaurants, coffee shops and delis that offer menus to suit every taste and budget. With 39 miles of coastline and a number of establishments along the water, Warwick's a popular summer destination for locals and visitors alike. The Oakland Beach seawall, park and beach areas bustle with activity all season long. In addition to several family-friendly festivals held throughout the summer, antique car shows on Tuesday evenings and a July 3 fireworks display attract thousands to the neighborhood each year. Long-established favorites, such as Iggy's Doughboy and Chowder House and Timmy's One Bay Ave., are popular spots for those looking to enjoy a good, affordable meal and fantastic views of the ocean. This year, newcomers Marley's On the Beach and the Carousel Grille have recently opened and nicely complement this seaside community.

From Pawtuxet, the city's northernmost village, to the Potowomut peninsula, other river- and ocean-front venues maintain a loyal following, with affordable mid-week dinner specials, live entertainment and welcoming atmospheres.

TCD is also collaborating closely with our Department of Parks and Recreation to promote our family-friendly, affordable summer programs, recreational facilities, marinas and our salt- and fresh-water beaches. Our summer concert series is held throughout July and August at a number of outdoor locations throughout Warwick. Also, to the delight of hundreds of canoeists and kayakers, the state's first official canoe launch has opened and provides access to a six-and-half-mile stretch of the lower Pawtuxet River on the Warwick/Cranston line.

With a wide variety of recreational opportunities, special events, dining options, beautiful views, historical sites and affordable accommodations available for out-of-town visitors, there's much to celebrate, and enjoy, in Warwick this summer.

Scott Avedisian is the mayor of Warwick.

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