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Mayor's message: City welcomes Washington Trust

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A rainy, metal-grey sky couldn't damper the enthusiasm of those who gathered recently for a "vault signing" at Washington Trust's second Warwick location, currently under construction at 1465 Warwick Ave.

The project gives new life to the parcel of land overlooking a pond that was the former location of Barry's nightclub, a longtime local favorite. Washington Trust razed the old building and is replacing it with an attractive, 4,270 s/f New England-style wood framed structure, with a small mezzanine for support functions that adds 1,090 s/f of space to the overall building. The branch is expected to open this fall.

Building systems, materials and construction techniques have been selected to respond to sustainable design practices and provide enhanced energy and environmental performance. The full-service branch will offer all of the conveniences customers need, including five walk-up teller stations, one of which will be ADA compliant; drive up and walk-up ATMs; multiple drive-thru lanes; night depository; and safe deposit boxes.

Founded by local Rhode Island and Connecticut merchants in 1800, the Washington Trust Co. is the largest independent bank in Rhode Island and the oldest community bank in the nation. Their first Warwick location opened in 2003 and was the company's first in the Kent County region and its northernmost Rhode Island location at the time.

Just as they are known for their attention to customer service, Washington Trust is also known for its deep community roots. They frequently support local organizations and events, such as musical festivals, as well as charitable causes, demonstrated by their annual peanut butter collection drive to benefit the Rhode Island Food Bank.

Warwick is pleased to celebrate Washington Trust's expansion in our city and know that they will continue to be a "good neighbor" to surrounding residents and businesses.

Scott Avedisian is the mayor of Warwick.

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