

Mayor Picozzi and Warwick Sewer Authority Announce Scholarship Recipients

Warwick Mayor Frank J. Picozzi and the Warwick Sewer Authority (WSA) are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2026 John A. Caruso Scholarship Awards.

This year's scholarship recipients are **Tate Payne, Maia Costa, and Jaylene Le** from **Toll Gate High School**, **Chloe Atwood** from **Pilgrim High School**, and **Hayleigh Fife** from **Ponaganset High School**. Each of these fine young college bound students will receive a one-time \$2,500 scholarship award.

Mayor Picozzi stated "These students have already accomplished so much, and this scholarship is just one milestone in what I'm sure will be very bright futures. Warwick is proud to play a small role in supporting their journey. I look forward to seeing where their talent and determination take them."

The scholarships have been given annually since 2003 in honor of the late John A. Caruso, a longtime chairman of the WSA Board. The scholarship is open to college-bound, High School Seniors who are residents of the City of Warwick and are attending a public school within the State of RI. Recipients are chosen each year based on certain criteria, including grades, letters of recommendation, participation in extracurricular/community activities and financial need. A panel comprised of WSA staff reviews the applications and determines which applicants will be the recipients of the scholarship awards.

Funds are administered through the WSA's Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP), which was established in the early 1980's as required by the federal government. In an effort to protect the sewer collection system, treatment facility, Pawtuxet River and Narragansett Bay, the IPP ensures that wastewater discharge permits are in place for all Warwick based industrial, commercial and food service facilities that discharge wastewater into the sewer system. Facilities that violate conditions contained within their permit are subject to fines. Most permit infractions are inconsequential, sporadic, non-compliant events constituting minor penalties (\$50 - \$100). These minor infractions, however, escalate when a facility is identified as a repeat violator. Each year, the IPP reserves a portion of the collected fine money for the scholarship program.

"From its inception in 2003 to the present day, the John A. Caruso Scholarship Award program has distributed \$117,400 among seventy-two of Warwick's most exceptional, and very grateful, high school graduates," said BettyAnne Rogers, Executive Director. "Given the ever-increasing cost of higher education, the scholarship money is greatly appreciated by these students. We're thankful that we can take a 'negative-fine' and turn it into a 'positive-scholarship'."