



THE JAMESTOWN PRESS

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U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 5
Jamestown, RI

www.jamestownpress.com

Volume 18, Issue 23

A weekly newspaper serving Conanicut Island

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Deer blamed for health problems

By Dotti Farrington

About 45 people attended the Town Council's workshop on deer last Thursday during which problems of too many deer and too many deer-related diseases were discussed. No decisions were made at the Sept. 15 meeting. Further council and committee talks are planned.

Council President David Long ran the meeting as a fact-finding session, with little debate on issues allowed or offered after he set the tone.

Human health concerns seemed to dominate people's

interest. The talks included information about other diseases as well as increasing cases of Lyme disease as they were related to deer-carrying ticks.

One aspect of the workshop, and repeated references since, was that white-footed mice cause the infection of deer tick larva (young ticks). Those larva become the adult ticks that live on the deer and pass the disease to humans and, occasionally, to pets.

"We need a better mouse trap," someone in the audience quipped.

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Boat permit proposal to get Town Council review

By Sam Bari

At the Sept. 14 Harbor Management Commission meeting, the issue of dinghy permits for boats stored on town property was again raised, this time by Harbormaster Sam Paterson.

His report concluded that more than adequate room was available on town properties that were being used for this purpose.

However, at last month's meeting, Town Council liaison Julio DiGiando brought to the commission's attention that all town properties where dinghies were being stored did not require permits.

Police Chief and Interim Town Administrator Thomas Tighe, the commission's executive director, advised that the Town Council needed to be involved. Tighe suggested that the matter should be brought to the attention of the council to get its approval for proceeding with charging for permits at all town properties.

Harbor Commission Chairman Jim Archibald moved to put the issue on the agenda for the next council meeting. He went on to say that a document needed to be

See "Permits" on page 14



Work is expected to begin next week on the demolition of the old Jamestown Bridge, more than a decade after its use was suspended because a new bridge was built.

Photo by Jeff McDonough

Say goodbye to the old J'town Bridge

Work to demolish bridge begins Monday

By Donna K. Drago

Demolition is scheduled to begin next week on the old Jamestown Bridge. The state Department of Transportation has awarded a \$19.45 million contract to Cashman Equipment of Boston.

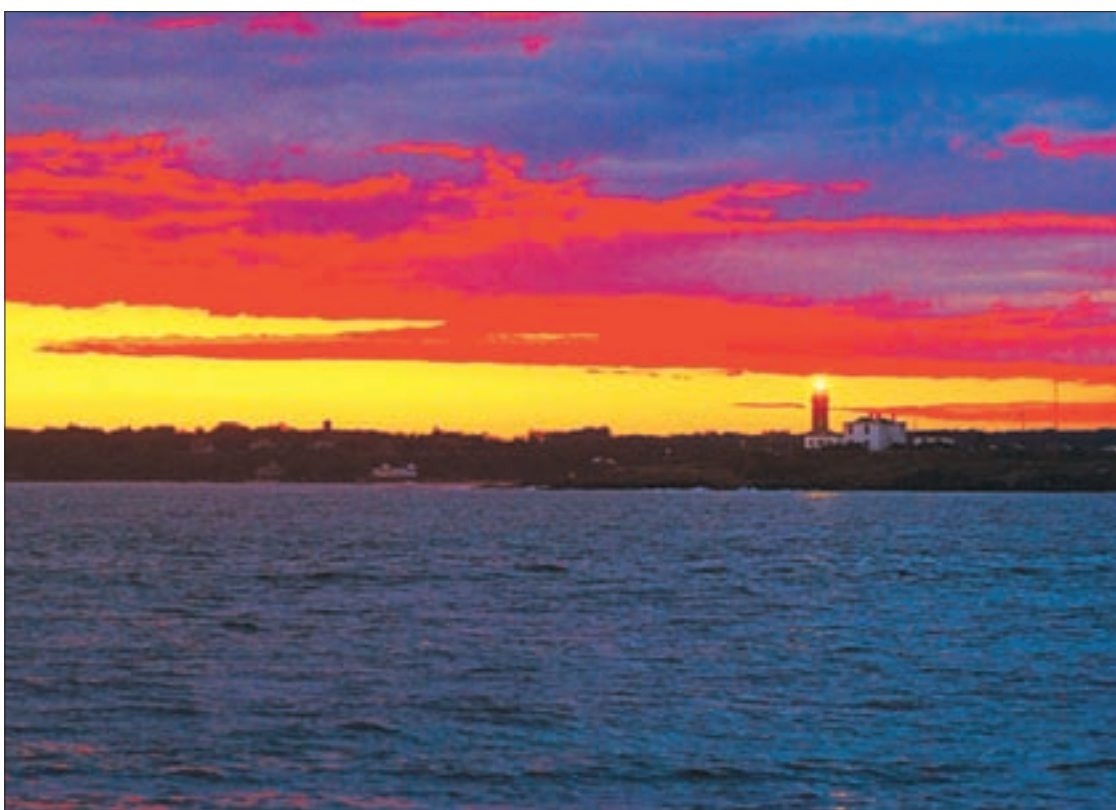
The bridge has been abandoned since the opening of the new Jamestown Bridge in the fall of 1992.

Kazem Farhoumand, DOT's deputy chief engineer, said that Cashman, the low bidder on the work, has "extensive experience in heavy marine demolition and construction," and that they will also use sub-contractors on the job "with other expertise."

First on the agenda is preparation of the site, Farhoumand said, adding that in order for heavy equipment to access the bridge from both sides, vegetation will have to be cleared and roads will have to be regraded to accept the large trucks. This work is slated to begin on Monday, "hopefully," Farhoumand said.

Cashman will set up a field office on the North Kingstown side, between the new and old bridges, which they will use until the contracted completion date of

See "Bridge" on page 16



Beavertail sunset

"Red sky at night is a sailor's delight," so the saying goes. This colorful sunset over the Beavertail Lighthouse suggests fair weather ahead. Photo by Don Miller

Minor changes made to water regulations

By Dotti Farrington

In less than an hour, Town Council members Monday breezed through their monthly meeting of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners, reviewing activities, receiving reports, and taking only one vote of any consequence: changing two regulations by relatively minor factors.

After a public hearing on the regulations before an audience of one resident, the councilors agreed to change the formula for adding municipal water hookups and to extend a \$50 rebate for installing water-saving devices until the end of November.

One regulation originally provided that expanding or changing property use affecting the municipal water supply was allowed as long as water use did not increase by more than the highest amount used in the previous three years. That was changed Monday night

to a water-use amount that does not exceed the average use of the previous three years.

The councilors were concerned that an applicant seeking a change could run up the use in the most recent year and they saw the possibility as a waste of water and a perversion of the intent of the regulation that is meant to restrict additional water use as much as possible.

Although such expansion has been sought in the past year by about a half dozen property owners, none has been identified as having acted to misuse the regulation. The councilors said that they realized the possibility of misuse during their review of the variations in the ways of making calculations involved in the water regulations, and that they believe this week's change will make the

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