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There were plenty of brave souls to take the New Year's Day plunge at Mackerel Cove.

Photo by Don Miller

## Penguins plunge to welcome new year

39° air and 48° water  
— Let's go swimming!

By Sam Bari

An estimated 600 to 700 participants took the challenge and jumped into the frigid Narragansett Bay waters in the 30th annual Penguin Plunge at the Mackerel Cove town beach on New Year's Day, all for a good cause — to raise funds for the Special Olympics.

The swimmers, stripped down to bathing suits with a few young ladies sporting bikinis, counted down the last 10 seconds in unison before the fire horn wailed at high noon, signaling the throngs to

See "Penguins" on page 11



Nate Wigton and Oliver Allaux, both of Jamestown, are all smiles after their New Year's Day plunge.

Photo by Andrea vonHohenleiten



A sea of humanity prepares to make the run to the water. Photo by Michaela Kennedy

## Suspicious death under investigation

By Donna K. Drago

As of Wednesday morning the Jamestown Police Department was still investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of Maurice Grandmaison, 62, of the Jamestown Village Apartments.

Grandmaison's body was found by police after they received a 911 call at 7:35 p.m. on New Year's Eve. It has not been determined who made the call.

Sgt. Frank Watson said yesterday that there were enough "suspicious circumstances" surrounding the death to warrant further investigation. He said the Rhode

Island State Police are assisting Jamestown in the investigation.

Major Stephen O'Donnell of the state police said that they are waiting on a full report from the medical examiner's office before determining the cause of death. O'Donnell did not know when the results would be available, he said.

O'Donnell noted that there were no weapons found in Grandmaison's apartment.

During the investigation, Watson said that they talked to resi-

See "Suspicious death" on page 9

## Town solicitor to clarify council open forum rules

By Dotti Farrington

The new year is opening with more decrees about an already confusing set of rulings on what public officials can or cannot say in response to comments made by residents during the "open forum" portion of public meetings.

Rather than say something that might be illegal in terms of discussing items not listed on the agenda, Jamestown town councilors have been limiting themselves to responding to everything with nothing more than a simple "Thank you."

Not all councilors or residents

like this lack of dialogue, or agree that is protective of the public's rights.

Now Town Solicitor J. William W. Harsch has reported that he is preparing a slightly looser — but not by much — interpretation of the rules governing public officials speaking to citizens during open forums at public meetings. He said he is preparing a legal opinion on the matter, and he plans to present it at either the Jan. 9 or Jan 23 council meeting.

"I don't like the law the way it

See "Rules" on page 12



### Donations of history

This hand-carved model ferry boat (above) and chowder ladle have been donated to the Jamestown Historical Society. See the story on page 13