

Island police department launches its own Web site

By Donna K. Drago

The Jamestown Police Department this week launched its own Web site that is accessible through the town's Internet site at www.jamestownri.net/police.

Acting Police Chief Lt. Bill Donovan credited Officer Derek Carlino with designing and compiling information for the site that can answer frequently asked questions, send e-mail to every member of the force, and notify residents in advance of potential parking bans, like in the case of closing roads for fireworks or parades.

Under the frequently asked questions link, residents can learn

how to get a VIN check for a registration, or find out how to get help installing a child safety seat. There is also information about being fingerprinted to fulfill employment requirements and how to obtain accident reports.

"We'll try to keep the information updated," Donovan said, noting that when there is a question not listed on the Web site, residents are always invited to call the station for information.

The site includes information about all the equipment owned by the department, which currently includes a fleet of nine Ford cars and trucks, as well as two boats operated by the harbor master's

office.

There is a section on animal control that tells residents what to do if they lose their pet, as well as what will happen to the pet if it is picked up by the animal control officer, Donovan said.

The site also notes that when a dead animal is found on someone's property, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to dispose of it, but when animals are suspected of being rabid, they are the responsibility of the animal control officer.

Donovan said that crime and arrest records will not be available on the Web site.



Where in the World is the Jamestown Press?

Jim and Maribeth Traer visited children and grandchildren in Viterbo, Italy, over the Christmas holiday. The photo was taken on the steps of the Papal Palace.

Count the island birds this Saturday

By Donna K. Drago

This coming Saturday a group of hardy souls will get up at sunrise and get out in whatever the weather may bring for the purpose of counting birds.

Yes, counting birds.

Candy Powell, a longtime birder and organizer of Jamestown's annual bird counts, said that the tradition of a "Christmas Bird Count" was started more than 100 years ago by an Audubon Society chapter, and the tradition continues around the country, with local chapters counting all the birds they can find on a specific day and reporting them in.

The count does not have to be on Christmas Day, but it is usually held within 10 days on either side of the holiday, Powell said.

In Jamestown, the count typically draws between 12 and 15 birders, but Powell said that novice birders are welcome. It's a good chance to learn from experienced birders, Powell said, adding, "That's how we all learned."

The winter bird counts usually include about 65 to 75 species, depending on weather conditions and the number of expert birders who turn up to count, Powell said.

Seabirds and ducks like eiders, goldeneyes, harlequins, and mergansers are usually the stars of the winter bird counts, according to Powell.

They spend the winter hanging around just offshore on Beavertail and also at Ft. Wetherill, and Mackerel Cove, she said.

Loons and grebes are usually

seen as well, Powell noted.

To participate in the count, people can either show up at the police station at 7 a.m. to be broken into groups that will patrol five areas of the island, or they can count the birds that appear at their home feeders and call them in to Powell.

For anyone participating in the count, Powell advises to wear warm clothes, waterproof shoes or boots, and bring a pair of binoculars and a field guide.

Call Powell, at 423-1492, or Evelyn Rhodes, 423-1254, for more information.

Small business breakfasts scheduled by Jamestown Chamber of Commerce

The Jamestown Chamber of Commerce will host a breakfast series geared to the needs of small business owners this winter.

The first session, called "Jamestown & the NCCVB," will be held Thursday, Jan. 19, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the Bay Voyage, 150 Conanicus Ave.

Evan Smith, president and CEO of the Newport County Convention & Visitor's Bureau, and a resident of Jamestown, will discuss opportunities with the NCCVB to promote Jamestown businesses. Additional sessions will be held in February and March with dates to be announced.

Dealing with tax and legal issues, the February

session is called "Should I Incorporate?" and the March session will be titled "Working with Rhode Island's Small Business Support Organizations."

All sessions are open to the public and cost \$7.50 for Jamestown chamber members and \$15 for non-chamber members. A buffet breakfast will be served and is included with registration. Pre-registration is required and payment by cash or check may be made prior to each session or at the door.

Visit www.JamestownRiChamber.com for more information or call the chamber at 423-3650.

Support the island's Food Pantry!

Save The Bay's 2006 seal watch cruise season begins

Save The Bay Rose Island Seal Watch Cruises aboard the Alletta Morris offer an up-close look at the winter seals of Narragansett Bay.

Each cruise includes a lecture by a Save The Bay educator. Binoculars are provided so participants can get to know the sleek visitors who make the rocks off Rose Island their winter playground.

Cruises depart from Bowen's Wharf in Newport on Saturday, Jan. 14, at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 15, at 1 p.m., and Monday, Jan. 16, at 1:30 p.m.

The cost is \$20 per person, \$15 for Save The Bay and Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation members, seniors and children ages 6 to 12.

Reservations are recommended. Call 324-6020 or e-mail seal-tours@savebay.org

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