

Letters

Continued from page 6

experience in the not-too-distant past, with parents on this island who exhibit what I like to call the my-child-could-not-have-possibly-been-involved syndrome, I suggest you engage in some frank discussion with your kids regarding such behavior and its consequences. And remember, kids will not always tell you the truth when their familial survival instinct kicks in.

So, if anyone knows something about these thefts, I'd certainly hope you'll do the right thing. And I don't mean 'rat out' your friends or accomplices. Rather, simply return the items to where they were taken from and refrain from such irresponsible and, yes, criminal behavior in the future.

**Kevin A. Somerville
Jamestown**

Island cleanup slated

Two sure signs of spring — the return of the ospreys and the Earth Day Shoreline Cleanup. This is a reminder to all Jamestowners, that Earth Day 2006 is fast approaching.

Please mark your calendars for the annual Jamestown Earth Day Shoreline Cleanup on Saturday, April 22, co-sponsored by the Jamestown Conservation Commission and the Conanicut Island Land Trust. This is a great way to get outside and enjoy the clean, crisp spring air while doing something beneficial for the community. The cleanup has been a huge success over the years and has shown that this event does make a difference in keeping our environment clean.

The Community Center has become a gathering spot for this first rite of spring and turnout for the cleanup has been great for the past few years. Once again the cleanup will be framed with coffee and donuts in the morning and lunch provided by the Land Trust in the afternoon.

Please show your support for the environment and show the rest of Rhode Island how important that environment is to us! It's a great way to start spring and see your friends and neighbors after a long winter!

**Tom Johnson,
Jamestown Conservation
Commission**

**My hero,
now an angel**

My son Michael will never be forgotten. He fought a courageous battle with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. When he was a young boy and still

walking, he enjoyed life to the fullest without knowing what was in front of him. None of us knew. At age 5, he was diagnosed with this terrible terminal disease called Duchenne. With no known cure, it slowly takes away all of the muscles' abilities. Through numerous operations, being confined to a wheelchair since age 8, never to walk again, he still never complained. He was also hit by a car on Narragansett Avenue and broke both legs when he was in his young teens. Last year, at Easter, his lift malfunctioned. He tipped over strapped into his electric wheelchair, and we all thought he would not have recovered. However, with the staff at Newport Hospital and the expertise of Dr. England, Mikey had recovered and gave us one more year to enjoy his presence. He still never complained. He was a true warrior. He was by far my hero, my son, Mike Jr.

My wife Cynthia and I would like to personally thank all the people who lit up Mikey's life and made his dreams come true: Mikey's brothers and sisters, Ammie, Paul, Cyanna, Alexis, and Jordan; his family, on both sides, and friends

We would like to thank all my past and present employers for their support, General Dynamics, Island Rubbish Service, R.I. Air National Guard, and the Newport/Pell bridge, and any others along the way. Let us also thank his best friends Gil and Sammy, Sam and Patty, the VonHoffer's, Joey, Howie, Steve, and Slick.

We would also like to thank all of Mike's doctors, especially Dr. England and the Jamestown Emergency Medical Services for all the times Mikey needed their services; the PAC, Joe M., Elsie M. and Joan D.; Make A- Wish Foundation; Mission of Hearts, Newport Grand; Peter and Bobby Farelly, Jim Carey; and all the people who had previously donated to Mikey's causes especially when we fund raised for a handicapped van. We would also like to thank Wendy R., Kelly S., and Tammy F. for all their help with our little ones and all their love and support. To all of you who reached out to us in this most tragic time, thank you!

We followed through with Mikey's wishes and donated all of his medical equipment and his van to children in need of them through the M.D.A.

Michael Turillo, Mike's dad

Raptor thanks

On behalf of the Conanicut Island Raptor Project, we would like to thank all those who made this past "osprey weekend" a real success. Thanks to the Jamestown Education Foundation and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island for providing the

funding to bring Rob Bierregaard up from North Carolina. During his visit, Rob gave three terrific presentations about Conanicut and the osprey satellite tracking program. He spoke to over 250 students and teachers at the Jamestown School on Friday.

Thanks to Sam Fox of the Audubon Society for bringing a live great horned owl to the school presentation. Rob gave another presentation that evening at the Jamestown library to over 70 people, and on Saturday, he spoke at the Audubon Society of Rhode Island's annual Birdfest Conference.

In all, we raised awareness about ospreys, and told Conanicut's story to over 400 people. Conanicut's parents even arrived from their winter down south in time for the weekend festivities. Conanicut will not return until next spring.

A special thanks to Kate Petrie and her family for organizing the guess-when-the-osprey-will-return contest. The winner of the contest was Kim Chandler, who estimated the ospreys' arrival time to within two hours! We would also like to

thank the Jamestown Press for its support of the weekend's activities.

Finally, a very special thank you to Rob Bierregaard for his great talks and his willingness to become so involved with our project.

Thanks Rob!

**Betsy Gooding
and Chris Powell,
co-chairs, Conanicut Island
Raptor Project**

Alternatives to hunting

Regarding the article in the March 16 edition of the Press, on the Wildlife Committee's report and recommendations on the large deer population on Jamestown, I have a few comments.

They seem to focus primarily on hunting with no in-depth consideration of alternative measures to deal with Lyme disease, ticks, gardens, and landscaping damage and other important concerns, dismissing these as too time-consuming, too expensive or impossible.

Hunting is not the answer and will not cut the deer population signifi-

cantly any time soon.

We need to work on the problems in other ways as soon as we can to lessen the impact of Lyme disease, on us, etc., and to make it easier for us to live with deer. The state Department of Environmental Management and the hunting community emphasize the problems and a looming crisis to justify their heavy promotion of the "sport" of hunting being the imperative course to take. I have learned by reading up on the subject, that deer ecology and population dynamics are complex. There are too many variables involved to predict herd size well.

Some communities have used alternative ways to mitigate deer situations similar to ours. In my opinion it would be in the town's interest to further investigate the ways other places co-exist with deer and minimize the problems.

The Humane Society of Jamestown has a good deal of information now and would be glad to help obtaining more.

**Joan Stickley
Jamestown**

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