

JEMS hold annual meeting

Jamestown's new Emergency Medical Services, formerly the Jamestown Ambulance Association, held its first annual meeting on April 25 to elect new officers.

They are Rick Hodges, director; Clement Napolitano, deputy director; Marlene Murphy, treasurer; Lee Engle, supply officer; Sharon McNeil, training officer; and Agnes Filkins, secretary. Jim Filkins continues as the organization's administrator, a two year position.

The Friends of the Jamestown Fire and Ambulance held a brief reception before the meeting to honor the 12 people who successfully completed their emergency medical technician's training. They are: Linda Brown, Lauren Beck, Dan O'Neil, Jim Plaziak, Darcy Magratten, Lennart Nilsson, Tom Rezendes, Andrew Rushton, Jan Stone, Guy Settipane, Amanda Wernick, and Richard Ventrone.



First responders graduate

These members of the newest graduating class of EMTs lost half the group when an emergency call sent many of them scrambling to deal with a car accident during their graduation party. From left are Linda Brown, Jim Plaziak, Jan Stone, and Guy Settipane.

School survey now out to parents

By Donna K. Drago

The School Committee unveiled its school survey at its May 4 workshop.

School Superintendent Kathy Sipala congratulated the committee, and especially members Julia Held and Julie Kallfelz, who co-chaired the effort to create a survey to solicit input from parents and the community on what to do with the Lawn Avenue School building in light of declining enrollment. Sipala also credited secretary Isabel Jepson with her major cleanup effort of the schools' database, which will be used to send out the surveys.

The survey was e-mailed Monday to parents of students in both the elementary and middle schools and mailed to parents of high schoolers and to those parents who do not have an e-mail address on file.

Among the questions, the simple survey asks parents to choose which of the following factors they would consider most when forming a preference for "the future location of Jamestown's 6th, 7th and 8th grades."

The choices include: academics, athletics, connection to community, cost, other extracurricular activities, and social issues.

Parents are asked to choose

between three answers for whether they would "prefer" the island's middle school children to remain in Jamestown, move off-island, or if they have no preference.

Spaces are available for parents to give personal comments related to the future of the middle school.

Sipala said that she would be sending parents two reminder e-mails to make sure that as many people as possible receive and return the survey quickly.

The members of the school board decided that they would like to hear about preliminary findings of the survey at their June 1 workshop.

Another survey, which asks similar but different questions will be inserted in an upcoming edition of the Press to solicit input from the community at large on how people feel about moving the island's middle school students.

Teachers and students will also be surveyed, with students participating in an interactive session with the school board before the end of this school year. The School Committee discussed ways to get information from teachers, which School Committee Chairwoman Cathy Kaiser, a teacher herself, called

"the front line and the ones who will do the job" of transitioning students to a new or different school setup.

"We want them to know that the School Committee wants to work with them," Kaiser said about teacher input.

If anyone does not receive the school survey this week, they should call the Lawn school at 423-7010.

New boat ramp in use at Ft. Adams

A new 52-foot courtesy dock is now open at Ft. Adams State Park, adjacent to the boat ramp.

Built by Narragansett Dock Works, Inc. of Narragansett, the new dock was funded by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Federal Aid grant of \$46,208.

MOTHER'S DAY is Sunday, May 8th!

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"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect."
 -John Quincy Adams

"Imagination rules the world."
 -Napoleon Bonaparte
 [speaking on this occasion without any tie to reality]

"Give us the luxuries of life and we'll dispense with the necessities."
 -Oliver Wendell Holmes

"What is genius - but the power of expressing a new individuality."
 -Elizabeth Barrett Browning

For a sobering dose of hard reality, read Edward Achorn's op-ed piece in the *Projo* of May 2, 2006, on the absolute cynicism and folly in the Providence Preservation Society's recent honoring of disgraced ex-Mayor Vincent Cianci.

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JAMESTOWN BRIDGE 1940 - 2006

Second Detonation
Target Date: Tuesday, May 16

The demolition of the old Jamestown Bridge continues. A controlled explosion, resulting in the demolition of the two deck truss spans, located on either side of the span detonated in April, and potentially the two central supporting piers as well, is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 16, 2006.

The new Jamestown-Verrazzano Bridge (Route 138) will be closed to traffic that day between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Motorists are advised to seek alternate routes and to avoid the area if at all possible during the closure time.

The detonation will be broadcast live on Cox Digital Cable Channel 124 and will be webcast as it occurs at www.dot.state.ri.us.

The demolition is subject to change by adverse weather or safety concerns.

Rhode Island Department of Transportation

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