

Viewpoint

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the town's hopes for the park. As the chair of the current Master Plan Committee, I believe Don Sharp has done a masterful job in helping us clarify and realize our goals.

The intent of this plan was clear: to improve access and use of this area for Jamestowners, primarily, as well as other users. We wanted to create a park of which Jamestown could be proud. To do so requires the re-organization of the RV campground. Currently, from Memorial Day to the beginning of October, the RV park sprawls all over the hill north of the batteries. The plan proposes shifting the campground to the east side of the hill and condensing it. The campground, which has suffered from neglect by the town, would have new electrical and water hookups, a separate access road and landscaped amenities. The west side of the hill, which is essentially the top of the hill, would become a park, a green space with views west, south, and north of Narragansett Bay. The current road that brings you into the park would be extended from the area by the Rembijas Pavilion to the current western-most road of the campground leading down to the boat ramp and pier. Other roads at the top of the hill would be eliminated. Tent camping would be re-organized and expanded to two sites, one near the batteries at the top of the hill and the other by the park's entrance.

This re-organization of the physical space is the major component of the plan, but it also includes many other features. It calls for the renovation of the Rembijas Pavilion and Battery Whiting, both of which could become facilities that bring in significant revenue. It includes new restrooms and upgrades to existing facilities, such as the gatehouse, as well as the creation of a maintenance facility for the recreation department, which currently keeps its equipment on the lawn by the park's entrance. Repairs to the boat ramp are currently proposed by the harbor commission, but the plan goes further to recommend a sailing facility to be located near the ramp. The pier would be upgraded and its outer reaches reserved for fishing. Parking would be re-organized and both the south and west facing beaches would be protected. Trees and shrubs would be planted throughout the park.

The town has already begun some of these efforts. Earlier this year, the town planner applied for a grant from state Department of Environmental Management for improving parking, restrooms, and protecting the beaches. Over the past 10 years, Fort Getty has contributed millions of dollars to the town of Jamestown, and received very little in return. It is a resource that pays for itself and a resource that deserves our attention. Please help us to make it a park of which we can all be proud.

Mary Meagher,
chairwoman,
Fort Getty Master Plan
Committee

Letters Continued

ple claim to collect sums arising out of a mutual termination of the contract. His case could have been presented and decided in two hours before a single arbitrator. The town chose to throw gasoline on a lighted match by assaulting Siegmund's competence and by subjecting him to seven or eight days of repetitious and irrelevant testimony. Due to the amount of the counterclaim, the case was heard by three arbitrators at a combined hourly rate of approximately \$750. And the arbitrators did not have to articulate their disenchantment. They expressed it by awarding Siegmund legal fees. As anyone with any familiarity with the court system knows, attorney's fees are awarded against a party only for bringing the most frivolous of claims. As a result of the town's reckless behavior, the town must now pay out approximately \$200,000. So much for technicalities.

Mark E. Liberati,
Jamestown

Fire department gives thanks

We, the Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank Trattoria Simpatico for hosting the Third Annual Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department Auction and Star Chef Dinner on May 1. It was a wonderful evening of fine dining

for fire volunteers and patrons as well as a beautiful auction and raffle items. First, we would like to thank the fine Rhode Island chefs who served up an amazing, delectable five-course paired-wine dinner: Jonathan Cambra (the Inn at Castle Hill), Brian Ruffner(L'Osteria), Ted Gidley (Clarke Cooke House), Joseph Hafner (Gracie's), Michael Civali (Bay Voyage Inn), Jeffrey Carroll (Napa Valley Grill), William Starks (Salvation Café), Richard Allaire (L'Epicurio), David Deen (the White Horse Tavern) and, finally, Kevin Gaudreau of Trattoria Simpatico. Special thanks to Michael Westcott (Summerhouse Productions) for filming chef greatness and phenomenal teamwork in action

Further, we would like to send our appreciation to the local businesses and residents who donated dynamite items for the auction and raffle: Phyllis (Simpatico Catering), Bob Recchia (Malo & Recchia Accountants), little Caleb Barclay de Tolly and his mom Amy, Steve (Island Rubbish Service), Bob and Jane Mead (super Red Sox tickets!), Donna & Greg (East Bay B & B), Steve and Maria (Slice of Heaven), Bill & May (Conanicut Marine Services), Tricia and Chuck (Tricia's Tropicgrille), the Jamestown Golf Course, Jack (Detect Fire Alarms), Cathy (Cathy Jamieson Salon), Anita

(Anita Haircut), Don (Don Miller Photography), Dureen Bryer, Chris (REMAX), Mary (View This!), Frank & Paula (Grapes & Gourmet), Bank of Newport, Deb (the Purple Door), Michael (the Oyster Bar), Ace's Pizza, the Bryers (Central Garage), Kerry (KLS Construction), McQuade's market, the Portuguese American Citizens' Club, Chris (Kismet Marine), Freddie (House of Pizza), Tim (Baker's Pharmacy), Atty. Kenny Bond, Steve (Jamestown Hardware). This auction was made possible by their continued, generous support.

Also, great thanks to our South County and Newport neighbors who also contributed more great auction items: Newport Yachting Center, Waterfront Festivals, Ludi Goodenberger Interiors, Kelly & Gillis, Twenty Two Bowens, Café Zeldia, La Forge Casino Restaurant, Brenda Brock from Farmaesthetics, American Beauty, and Stillman Uniforms.

Lastly, thanks to the Simpatico staff and purveyors Slocum & Sons and Providence Beverage, and especially Cliff Dimon, for their generosity and hard work.

James R. Bryer, Fire Chief
Jamestown Fire Department

Baseball league grateful

Jamestown Baseball along with Jamestown Softball conducted its annual opening day ceremonies last Saturday, and as I mentioned at the ceremony, I thank all of those organizations who helped make the event a success, i.e. the Jamestown recreation department and Ron Parfitt of public works department, the Jamestown Community Band, the Jamestown Baseball volunteers, the Jamestown Fire Department, and the Jamestown Police Department. And, I want to thank the Barber family for all of their pre-ceremony preparation help.

I also need to apologize to the Jamestown Rotary Club because in my letter last week, I erroneously referred to another organization regarding support of our new scoreboard. It is the Jamestown Rotary Club who has funded our new scoreboard and Jamestown Baseball truly appreciates the club's generosity.

Special gratitude is extended to all of Jamestown Baseball's sponsors and, this year. Special thanks to the Ali Dunn Packer Memorial Fund for sponsoring

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