



W JAMESTOWN THE PRESS

PRST STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 5
Jamestown, RI

www.JamestownPress.com

Volume 19, Issue 10

A weekly newspaper serving Conanicut Island

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Sipala resigns to take Narragansett superintendent job



Great Creek osprey

Two baby osprey were born in the nest at the Great Creek in recent weeks. They are siblings to the now-famous Conanicus, born last year, who wears a device that allows him to be tracked by local raptor enthusiasts. Photo by Deb Seger-Pini

Jamestown will hire part-time school chief as her replacement

By Donna K. Drago

The School Committee announced the resignation of the school superintendent and unveiled a new plan for an administrative structure at its June 15 meeting.

Superintendent Katherine Sipala, who has served as Jamestown's head of schools for four years, will leave July 28 to become the superintendent for the town of Narragansett.

School Committee Chairwoman Cathy Kaiser read a state-

ment at the meeting, calling Sipala "a strong leader and advocate for our schools." She said, "Our loss is Narragansett's gain."

Kaiser's statement outlined Sipala's many accomplishments since coming to work in Jamestown. "She led the School Committee in establishing a school-community partnership; guided a strategic planning team in drafting a five-year vision for the school department, and successfully advocated for a principal at Melrose to ensure building leadership at that school," Kaiser read.

In addition to being superin-

See "Sipala" on page 15

Harbor panel wants to limit access to East Ferry docks

By Sam Bari

After an intense and sometimes heated discussion, the Harbor Management Commission last week voted to recommend limiting access to the town-owned woodpile pier, the cement pier, and the bulkhead at the north basin adjacent to the parking lot at East Ferry.

With a 4-1 vote and Commissioner Robert Bowen dissenting, the commission's recommendation to the Town Council, if approved, will restrict access to the area from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., 365

days a year.

At the commission's June 14 meeting, Bowen voted against the recommendation because "there should not be a restriction to a facility that is paid for by public access money," he said. The commissioners discussed the agenda item and made the recommendation because of the continuing complaints about people fishing on the pier late at night and leaving the area in disarray, with trash on the piers in the park-

See "Harbor" on page 17

Town Council adopts water, sewer budgets

By Dotti Farrington

Sitting as the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners, the Town Council approved the annual water and sewer budgets after a brief presentation by Town Administrator Bruce Keiser and Finance Director Christina Collins.

Keiser outlined the budgets as "maintenance of effort" increased to meet rising costs of labor, insurance, and utilities.

He said the two budgets have only one addition — a line item account of \$4,000 each as a prorated part of legal costs that was carried in previous years within the town general budget. The item is part of an ongoing effort to reflect actual costs of the water division and the sewer department, run by the town as enterprise accounts.

The new budgets are \$693,221 for water and \$452,370 for sewer. The water budget also provides \$90,000 for capital items — radio read meters, spillway repair, and a five-year management plan. The

sewer budget provides for sewer rehabilitation debt payment of \$441,166 to be paid by a flat fee of \$148,121, plus the balance from usage charges.

Collins reported that the water budget does not include an expected rate increase because the new water treatment plant has not yet been built.

She said the rate schedule, including periodic increases, is now scheduled for implementation next year.

Collins noted that the sewer budget continues to include overtime pay for the three full-time operators at the sewer treatment plant, which is operated 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Council President David Long reviewed the history of issues over interfund budgeting involving town and the water and sewer accounts. "It was an issue some years ago and aggressively pursued in ways that seemed a witch

See "Budgets" on page 17



Nothing but ocean ahead

Bruce and Dorsey Beard of Jamestown started the Newport to Bermuda race June 16 aboard the Esmeralde, off Castle Hill Light in the East Passage. As of Wednesday morning the couple was 51 nautical miles from their destination. Photo by Don Miller