

With all the heavy rain we've had in the last few weeks your garden is probably looking a little jaded. That's OK, there's still lots to do.

If you haven't planted tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants yet, because it was too wet, do it now. You'll still have tomatoes before frost. But there's a caveat. Don't walk on your garden beds while they are wet. Walking on the beds while they are sodden is a sure way to compact the soil and make it very hard for plants to grow. If you really must walk on the growing beds put a large plank or piece of plywood down so that you spread the load — that is, your weight — over a larger area. You can also lighten the load by losing a few pounds, but that's another story.



## The Island Garden

By Roger Marshall

### In the vegetable garden

If your asparagus bed is more than two years old, keep harvesting those delicious spears. Feed the bed with a quality fertilizer, spread a thick layer of compost over it and make sure it is well weeded and you will be ready to go. If you see what looks like elongated ladybugs on your asparagus,

kill them off quickly. They are asparagus beetles and can decimate your bed in no time.

Talking of pests, if you see bare stalks of tomato plants, look for large green-striped caterpillars about 3 to 5 inches long. They are tomato hornworms that can be a major pest. You can remove them by hand or, again, spray them with insecticide. Usually, you'll only find two or three on each plant, but each one can remove about a square foot of foliage and nibble into the tomatoes you have been carefully growing.

Feed cabbage, broccoli, brussel sprouts with an all-round fertilizer to keep them growing fast. Feed onions and leeks with a high-nitrogen fertilizer such as dried blood, if you are organic, or lawn fertilizer. Let the

rain wash it in.

You might be able to start lettuce and spinach now, but expect it to bolt fast.

### In the flower garden

Plant dahlia tubers, gladioli corms, cannas, and other heat loving plants if you haven't already done so. Spray hostas with deer repellent, and keep pruning shears handy for any plants growing where they shouldn't be. Keep after the weeds, and as soon as it stops raining, you might want to tie up roses, clematis and other climbing plants so that they don't sprawl everywhere.

### On the lawn

Try to stay off the lawn when it is wet. Walking on a wet lawn compacts the soil making it harder for grass to grow, harder for water to penetrate,

and difficult to fertilize. Having said that, try to keep the grass cut. You'll need to hit your lawn with summer fertilizer soon, so have it ready.

### Hedges

Time to trim the privet if you haven't already started. Keeping privet and forsythia trimmed back makes a good hedge and, if your property abuts a road or path, makes it easier to walk along the path.

### Harvest

Harvest asparagus, chives, oregano, sage, spring onions, and the last of the spinach and lettuce. Oregano and sage can be dried and stored in airtight jars instead of paying a few dollars for commercial herbs. Harvest mint and the first of the basil. If you have a lot, chop it finely and freeze it in ice cube trays.

## Harbor

Continued from page one

ing lot and on private boats. Additional complaints of anglers jumping on and vandalizing both pleasure craft and commercial vessels fueled the decision.

The time for the restriction to begin each evening was hotly debated. Since restroom facilities close at 7 p.m., some wanted the area closed at that time.

Others felt the 7 p.m. restriction was too early and stopped people from taking a stroll down the pier after dining at local restaurants or patronizing the ice cream parlor. Since the objectionable activity appeared to be occurring late at night, the commissioners compromised and set the closing time at 9 p.m. Police Chief Thomas Tighe said he would put additional foot patrols and increase police presence in the area to assist in enforcing the ordinances if they are adopted.

In other harbor business, the Harbor Management Commission:

- Reviewed bids on the purchase of a new harbormaster's boat. The preference of a 23.3-foot Rib Craft aluminum boat with an 8-foot beam costing approximately \$90,000 won the favor of the commissioners over a Zodiac with similar specifications. Commissioner David Laurie said he felt strongly about purchasing an extended warranty for the boat, which won the approval of fellow commissioners.

- Heard from attorney Elizabeth Newman, who represented Elizabeth Perik in an application to construct a residential boating facility at 10 High Street. The facility would consist of a 4-

by 132-foot fixed timber pier with a 4-foot by 22-foot access landing. Harbor Commission Chairman Mike de Angeli said that the Town Council would be notified that the commission had no objection to the project.

- Heard reported from Chief Tighe that one pump-out was working at East Ferry and the other one needs a pipe repaired. The police chief also noted that the channel marker and buoy service contract needed renewing. Bowen's move to negotiate the contract was supported by a unanimous vote from the five commissioners present at the meeting. Tighe also pointed out that if the town leases the Fort Getty dock, the revenues would go to the town general fund.

Town Council Liaison Julio DiGiando announced that Chris Lutyens' application to represent the fishing community on the harbor commission by replacing Commissioner Greg Murphy would go before the Town Council for consideration at its next meeting.

Harbormaster Sam Paterson reported that a temporary pipe would be installed for the pump-out at East Ferry until a permanent repair is scheduled.

"The needed parts have been ordered and received, and all that is left to complete the task is for the Highway Department to dig up the broken pipe," he said.

He also reported that all eight no-wake buoys had been installed, as had a new green channel marker in the East Passage. In addition, he had removed an anchored sailing vessel in Potter Cove that had been anchored for more than three days without permission.

## Budgets

Continued from page one

hunt," he said.

Long said the town administrator and the department director had a "fair and equitable" plan for charge-backs for costs incurred by the town for the water or sewer departments. "We hired a consultant and found that 'yes' we have been doing it right and well for a small town and saved money by doing so," Long said.

### Cell phones

Sprint, one of three cell phone companies with antennas on the town water tower, "has not answered calls" about renewal of its tower lease or removal of its equipment from the tower, Town Administrator Keiser told councilors. "It is difficult to get hold of Sprint," he added.

The other two companies are AT&T and Verizon, with active leases for tower space, Keiser said. He reported that OmniPoint Communications of New Jersey, which includes T-Mobile USA, is proposing to add an antenna to the tower.

The five year lease starts at \$2,000 a month or \$24,000 a year with a 3-percent annual increase, plus a \$10,000 one-time contract payment. This compares to the \$25,000 a year now in effect for other leases for tower antennas.

The councilors authorized Keiser to continue or complete negotiations. They briefly discussed the frequent loss of signals by cell phones on the island's north end, especially in the area of North Main Road at Route 138.

It was noted that Sprint, responsible for removing its antenna from the tower, is looking to establish a pole antenna off-

island.

### Tower event

Public Works Director Steven Goslee told the council that foundation work for the new water tower next to the existing one on Howland Avenue is progressing. Reinforcing steel work is due to be completed this week, with the pouring of concrete due next week, he noted.

"This will be a sizable concrete pour of approximately 250 cubic yards. . . . It will be exciting to see," Goslee said. According to him, the average truckload is 10 cubic yards, or about 20 tons, meaning there will be about 25 truckloads delivered to the site and poured, which is expected to take one day. The concrete will start to cure or harden almost immediately, but the tower design plans call for allowing the concrete cure for several days, Goslee pointed out.

### Road work

The quality and efficiency of work by the C.B. Utility Company on the Narragansett Avenue pipe installation in May

was so good that Town Administrator Bruce Keiser asked council to authorize the company to do needed work on Howland Avenue. He noted that only the Narragansett section of work the town needs was included in the contract, and in-house supervision of the contract provided for a savings of \$150,000 on that project.

The council approved an extension at the per-unit costs in the original contract, as agreed by the company, for Howland Avenue work.

### Video security

The council awarded a contract on a bid of \$22,000 to provide video surveillance systems for the police station and the water and sewer treatment plants. The approval came after the town administrator explained that a "no-strings" grant for the full amount had been approved for the town by the federal Homeland Security Agency. Keiser noted that Police Chief Thomas Tighe, the town's emergency manager, recommended the videos as high priority.

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