



**Teens support police at basketball game**

A busload of kids from the Jamestown Teen Center turned out to cheer on local police officers when they took on the Harlem Rockets in a basketball game, held at North Kingstown High School last Friday night.

**Holiday closings at library**

The Jamestown library will be closed Wednesday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 22 and all day Thursday, Nov. 23, for Thanksgiving Day.

The library will be open during regular hours on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

The trustees and staff of the library extend a Happy Thanksgiving to all.

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**Teens find home at community center**

*Harbor Office to move*  
 By Dotti Farrington

The Town Council by consensus Monday sanctioned administrative plans to re-establish use of the town Community Center as the island's official teen center. The councilors also recognized Melissa Minto, co-ordinator of the youth program working "out of her car" for two years, for reaping top praise from the Rhode Island Foundation for the quality of the programs she put together for town youth.

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser told the council about the latest plans for the teens that will be accomplished in part by moving the Harbor Office out of the Community Center and into either the police station or into the temporary Town Hall at the country club building on Conanicus Avenue until the new town hall complex is opened next summer.

Keiser also told the council about last week's commendation by the Rhode Island Foundation for Jamestown youths' having the best and most successful of any teen program that the foundation funds or has evaluated for funding. Keiser said foundation leaders "were ecstatic at the efforts of Melissa and volunteers to pull together visible, active programs. I was struck by their appreciation that we were pulling ourselves up by the boot straps through the ups and downs."

Council President David Long called the report "impressive praise from the Rhode Island Foundation."

Minto reported that the foundation pledged to continue to help get the program financial support as may be needed. She and the program are in the third year of a \$150,000 grant from the foundation to run activities for island teens.

Local teens were squeezed out

of the Community Center in recent years by other recreation activities. They were given shelter by the Senior Center operated at the Grange Hall, where the young people conducted some activities. Minto and her young charges had to pack and repack their supplies and equipment after each session because there was no space at the Grange Hall that could be allotted for the teens' equipment.

The teens also lost the promise of a temporary center behind the Town Offices on Southwest Avenue, and failed to gain support for other proposed options elsewhere as town adults wrestled with teen needs amid the lack of solutions acceptable to town officials.

This week's reports seemed to put everything into perspective and to return the lost traditional teen center to the youths.

See "Teen Center" on page 18

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