



THE JAMESTOWN PRESS

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Permit No. 5
Jamestown, RI

www.JamestownPress.com

Volume 19, Issue 34

A weekly newspaper serving Conanicut Island

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Landfill closure, preparation costs for highway barn revealed

By Dotti Farrington

Town officials have been pondering in private a report dated Oct. 12 about estimated costs to close the town landfill and to build a public works barn there, the Jamestown Press learned Monday.

The estimates are \$627,564 to close the landfill and \$1,218,095 to prepare a site within the landfill for the highway barn. These figures do not include barn construction costs, according to the October report prepared by GZA GeoEnvironmental of Norwood, Mass. GZA has been engineering consultants to the town on the landfill closure for several years, and more recently the firm has revised a plan

to locate the barn within the town's former landfill site.

Closing the landfill is mandated, but building the barn at the landfill is optional.

GZA prepared the estimates to reflect all the requirements that are being made by the state Department of Environmental Management after its study earlier this year of residents' concerns about possible well pollution from the landfill and fears about construction of the barn increasing the possibilities of pollution.

Officials thought they could build a barn at the landfill with little need for site preparation, and estimated in 2005 that barn con-

struction there would be about \$1 million.

Estimates for a barn at the wastewater treatment plant at Taylor Point ranged from \$2.1 million for a basic metal structure with nominal site work to \$3.8 million for a masonry building and considerable site work. A \$2.4 million version was rejected by voters 2,111 to 1,008 in November 2004.

Legal battle ?

In acknowledging Monday that the town has had the report for some time, Town Administrator Bruce Keiser said the document has been the topic of recent Town

See "Highway barn" on page 18

Quonset port a 'whim' says town liaison

By Dotti Farrington

Reconsideration of Quonset Point in North Kingstown for port development is definitely not an option, according to Sav Rebecchi, a member of the Quonset Development Corporation's board of directors as liaison for Jamestown.

He spoke at the open forum of the Nov. 27 Town Council meeting to dismiss a recent suggestion by William Murphy, state House of Representative Speaker, that the state needs to revive possibilities of port development at Quonset. Murphy tied the need for development to offset the rejection in the November election of a casino. He said the state needs to look at all areas of economic development and he believes the 3,000-acre Quonset industrial area is not being fully used.

Jamestown, mainly under the leadership of island resident Dennis Webster, and other towns worked for several years to defeat promoters of the concept of a container port at Quonset. Rebecchi was appointed by the Town Council about two years ago to succeed Webster.

The island's liaison characterized Murphy's suggestion as a "whim." Rebecchi said no one on the board "has ever mentioned any interest" in returning to the port concept. "It is not in the board's plans, and I will fight" if it were revived, he said.

"We will not let legislators shove it down the board's throats," he said.

Rebecchi also assured the council that he would continue to keep them informed about board activi-

ties and Quonset development.

The Quonset Development Corporation is a special purpose subsidiary of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, a quasi-public company responsible for the development and management of the Quonset Point Industrial Park.

Murphy explained he was speaking for options other than a container port, and possibly a look at ships that carry machinery that does not fit into containers. He said such options would be explored by the House Finance Committee when legislators reconvene in January. Opponents to port uses included the Sierra Club, and fishermen and residents concerned about environmental impacts.

See "Quonset" on page 18



Fearless decorator

Mark Baker had a bird's-eye view as he swung high in a cage suspended from a crane last week to decorate the town Christmas tree at East Ferry. The tree was donated by Gertrude DeSoito of Columbia Avenue.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

Holiday events this weekend

Saturday, Dec. 9

Santa Claus and his elves make the rounds of the south end of the island on board a firetruck. Anyone who pops out of his or her house to meet Santa will be greeted with a holiday treat. Look for him between 9 and noon.

Sunday, Dec. 10 The Polar Express

Take a trolley ride through Jamestown while singing carols and listening to a reading of Chris van Allsburg's "The Polar Express." Make a final stop at Jamestown's very own "North Pole" to see Santa. The trolley departs from East Ferry at 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4 p.m. The event is sponsored by Jack's Electric. Tickets cost \$1 per person and may be purchased at Jamestown Designs, 17 Narragansett Ave. Phone orders will not be accepted.

See "Events" on page 28

Rep. Bruce Long speaks out on personal issues

By Donna K. Drago

In recent days, Bruce J. Long, Jamestown's representative at the Statehouse, has been the subject of scathing negative publicity, which began as allegations by his ex-wife, Valerie Long, that he has been a drug addict, a domestic abuser, a philanderer, a child-support scofflaw, and a tax cheat. News of this broke statewide as part of a Jim Taricani I-Team investigation on Channel 10.

Since the initial release of information, Rep. Robert Watson, the House minority leader, has suggested that Long might not be effective as a representative, especially because he owes back federal taxes, but Watson stopped short of calling for Long's resignation from the seat he has held for 27 years—the longest of any

member of the House of Representatives.

Among Valerie Long's allegations is that Bruce Long has not paid federal income taxes on his business for a number of years, and that according to an interview with the Providence Journal, the reason is that Long was trying to minimize his income so as not to pay more in child support for their daughter.

In a statement to the Jamestown Press, Bruce Long said, "I have consistently been up to date on my personal income tax and on all sales taxes and payroll taxes" owed by his company, a Del's Lemonade franchise in Middletown. On not paying business taxes to get out of paying child

See "Bruce Long" on page 18



Chorus ready to sing of the holidays

The Jamestown Community Chorus will perform "Our Holiday Favorites," this weekend at the Central Baptist Church. Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten