

## Letters

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disease in Jamestown; at least 300 deer would have to be eliminated to do that!) At least one of the Town Council members said he went up to the proposed hunting area and did not see any evidence of plant damage by the deer. This was the other reason given for this hunt.

So what is the real reason DEM wants to hunt at Beavertail park? Money. Under the Robinson-Pittman Act, the DEM can add to their budgets all monies collected from licenses and tags. A hunting license costs \$18 a season for a resident and \$45 for a non-resident. If the park is open to hunting to 10 different hunters a day for 66 days then the DEM will collect anywhere from \$11,000 from RI residents up to \$31,000 (out-of-state hunters) just on licenses alone. Add to that the \$12.50 fee for a deer tag that RI residents will spend or \$25 for out of state residents. Each hunter will purchase at least one tag adding another \$7,000 to the DEM's coffers. And every weapon, coat, hat, and equipment used to hunt is heavily taxed, and this also goes to the DEM. These numbers are a bit inflated because rarely will 10 hunters a day want to hunt on an area less than a square mile wide, but they do demonstrate why the DEM really wants to encourage hunting.

So who pays the real price for this? Someone who is enjoying the peaceful environment of Beavertail park who may witness a wounded deer stumbling out of the brush or worse, being dragged out dead for all to see. Who wants to see that? Beavertail park will never be the same!

**Nancy Crawford,  
Jamestown**

## Carr Lane too narrow for truck traffic

This letter was sent to the Town Council and copied to the Press:

When the cross-island Route 138 was in the planning stages, I was one of the alternate members from Jamestown on the planning committee. Therefore, I am aware why we have, at the center of Conanicut Island, only one on-ramp to go East and only one going West, instead of the usual cloverleaf ramps.

Meanwhile Weeden Lane was closed to through traffic and so was Eldred Avenue. This action stopped any connection between North Main Road and East Shore Road, except for the overburdened Narragansett Avenue and the narrow Carr Lane.

Many wide trucks, delivering lumber, sod, backhoes, water tanks for pools, etc. take up the whole width of Carr Lane. Several times I had to back out onto North Main Road so they could get out of Carr Lane. I was fortunate that there was no car using North Main Road at that time.

The edges of Carr Lane are so eroded that the town is receiving bills for car repairs due to the road condition. This historic lane was never meant even for passenger cars to pass, and the old stone walls on both sides of the road preclude it from ever being widened.

Therefore, my suggestion is to look at the existing part of Eldred Avenue and plan, with proper state permits, to continue, as it was pre-

viously, to North Main Road. It has to span over the wetland from the North (Pond) reservoir, but with slight elevation (permitting the water in the wetland to flow freely) it could be accomplished. We do not need federal okays as we needed when the Route 138 was planned.

This road, Eldred Avenue, has served us well in the past connecting safely all the traffic between North Main Road and East Shore Road. The narrow Carr Lane cannot do it.

**Alena Caldarone,  
William Caldarone,  
East Shore Road**

## Rotary defends bike race

I read Kevin Carty's recent letter regarding the annual Jamestown Classic Bike Race organized by the Jamestown Rotary. The letter prompts a response and creates an opportunity to touch on the recent history and purpose of the event, which is the major fund-raiser for our club. It began 32 years ago, and in 10 years, it has grown 10 fold to 800-plus participants and 20 fold in proceeds. It has multiple purposes, which can be characterized by FUNd-raising. It supports many community and international humanitarian projects and promotes a sport for young and old, professional, amateur, healthy, and challenged.

In recent years, contributions have been made to: the beautification project at the fire station, a Veteran's flag trailer, the skateboard park, the Melrose Avenue playground, and a scoreboard for the Lawn Avenue sports fields. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, soccer, baseball, and softball teams have been the beneficiaries of this event. Scholarships have been awarded, local organizations helped, class trips supported, food

pantries stocked, Thanksgiving baskets prepared for the needy, and individuals in need quietly served.

Yet, I understand the inconvenience to Jamestown Mr. Carty mentions in his letter. I believe that the 100-plus Jamestowners, who volunteer to assist with the race, believe their effort is well rewarded.

Race proceeds also benefit an international community. We have made contributions to: the eradication of polio in the world, providing the most basic of human needs such as pure water to communities where the childhood death rate from water born illnesses is appalling; 500-plus wheelchairs have been delivered to Nicaragua as part of the Jamestown-based VOSH mission. Twenty-three homes in southern India have given families stability and an address enabling them to work and contribute back some of their earnings so that another family will have a home. We are in the early stages of creating a literacy program in Ghana, where children are suffering from the most basic of human needs. Our efforts would be impossible if this event remained the small "local" event Mr. Carty notes it once was.

Regarding the impact on local business, several local businesses were visited following the race a couple of years ago by my neighbor. Every restaurant was packed with waiting lines everywhere. During the summer, racers visit the island to learn the racecourse providing further business here.

This event takes a year of planning by a handful of Rotarians. We study every aspect of the event. We have dealt thoroughly with the option of using Ft. Getty for the staging and support of the start and finish. It is ideal for a running event; it would be a disaster for a bike race. It fails basic requirements of the United States Cycling Federation, the sanctioning body for the licensed and profession-

al races. Further, the concession stand suggestion of Mr. Carty has several pluses and minuses, the most significant of which is the expected negative impact on local restaurants. Rotarians welcome such ideas as they often stand the test of analysis and make for a better event. The Jamestown Rotary Club extends an open invitation to the community to join our members at a regular meeting, learn more of what we are about, and our thinking on the bike race and offer their input accordingly.

The bike race, like every worthwhile endeavor, will never resonate with everyone. It will not, as Mr. Carty notes, be 'universally loved.' Every Rotarian and volunteer, who would prefer spending that fall holiday with family perhaps away for a long weekend or just relaxing at their island home, feel it is worthwhile. Every committee member, who would prefer not adding the annual burden of meetings and effort to our agenda, feels it is worthwhile. When you consider the merits - a scoreboard or scholarship - a wheelchair or a home for a homeless family - or even the grin on the face of a 5-year-old standing on the awards podium receiving a medal, the inconvenience of having to start our trek through town a bit early or having to wait while the peloton whirls through an intersection seems insignificant.

**Stephen Mecca,  
Jamestown Rotarian**

## Lyons will be missed

Jude Lyons, a lifelong resident of Jamestown, passed away on Oct. 18. A memorial Mass was celebrated on Nov. 4 at St. Mark Church. I would like to share with you some thoughts and feelings expressed that day.

Jude had all the qualities of the perfect grandpa. He loved cartoons, he had the best stories to tell, and when he spoke, you listened. Not because he spoke too loudly, but because you wanted to hear what he had to say. You couldn't always understand what he said, but it was the way he said it, and how he would laugh at his own story while he was telling it. I just want Jude to know that I miss seeing his face everyday and hearing him say he's going to be late for whatever started at 8 o'clock.

Just the thought of his mischievous smile makes me laugh. His deep brown eyes whispered that he had more to say than he ever did, but he did not need many words to be understood. Jude taught me to be patient, be there when people need you most, and fight like hell to stand your ground. He demonstrated that talk is over rated. Listening is not. And that sometimes things are just funny and a little charm goes a long way. Never let go of your fond childhood memories and look back, but don't stay. Practice being a gentle soul with a powerful spirit and enjoy the people around you every day.

We miss Jude very much.  
**Lisa Rafferty,  
executive director,  
Bridges, Inc.**

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