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Tree Trimmer

Workers from East Greenwich Tree Service trimmed trees along the length of Narragansett Avenue Wednesday morning. Here a worker trims the giant Elm at the corner of Clinton Avenue. Photo by Donna Drago

Council reviewing solicitor applications

By Dotti Farrington

Town Councilors have received 11 responses to the town's call for proposals to be appointed town solicitor, they reported at a special meeting Friday afternoon.

Interviews are being scheduled with the applicants in February.

The existence of an opening for the position came as a surprise to most town government watchers. Town officials shrugged in response to questions about lack of notice about the opening, and limited notice about the special meeting.

The search for a solicitor resulted from the oral request of Associate Solicitor A. Lauriston Parks in November. He was looking for

more work because his appointment as main solicitor for North Kingstown was not renewed by the incoming council. Parks had held the position for about 10 years.

Parks has been working as an associate solicitor in Jamestown since J. William W. Harsch was appointed solicitor four years ago, with his assignment specifically shared with Parks as a collaborative partner. Each maintains, and continues to maintain, independent legal firms.

Parks said he was interested in taking over all legal duties for the town with his firm's associates serving as solo solicitor. Harsch

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Two properties considered for affordable housing

By Michaela Kennedy

Two properties in the downtown district were approved by the Affordable Housing Committee on Monday night for Planning Commission endorsement. One lot, publicly owned, is the site of the Town Offices at 44 Southwest Ave. The other property, privately owned, is located at 24 Narragansett Ave.

Committee Chairman Nick Robertson stressed the importance of pursuing affordable housing on the island without delay. "What we do here does have a lot of positive impact," he said.

Town Planner Lisa Bryer briefed the committee about the site at Southwest Avenue, which the town has targeted for an affordable housing development plan. "The opportunity is coming up in July," she said. According to

the municipal schedule, the current Southwest Avenue offices will be moved to the new town hall on Narragansett Avenue by this summer.

Bryer noted that the town has submitted an application for \$500,000 to the Rhode Island Housing Authority to support the proposal for affordable rental units.

Brigid Ryan, senior project manager for Church Community Housing Corp. of Newport reviewed the application process for the town to obtain subsidies in the form of grant money, loans, and tax credits to support an affordable housing project. She noted that the federal government gives grant money to the state for distribution. She also listed other grant possibilities through local organi-

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Plan for new adult day-care center gets recommendation for approval

By Michaela Kennedy

At its Jan 17 meeting, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend a new development plan for applicant Sheahan's Way LLC to construct an adult day-care center at 49 North Main Rd. The proposed two-building plan will move forward to the Zoning Board of Review to seek approval for special use permits.

Applicants Gail and Charles Sheahan noted that the existing house on the lot would be replaced, using the same footprint. The structure will house Consistent Care, which is currently located on Clinton Avenue to provide a venue for a new adult day-care center and a one-bedroom apartment on the second floor.

Approved unanimously by Board of Water and

Sewer Commissioners the previous evening, the proposal also included a new structure to be built at the back of the property. The new site is twice the size of one at a different location that was previously presented to the board. "All and all, I think this is a much better plan," Gail Sheahan said. The plan for an adult day-care center was "seven years in the making," she added.

Commissioner Barry Holland asked the applicant if any thought had been given to making the resident's unit an affordable housing unit. Sheehan agreed it was a possibility to consider.

Commissioner Betty Hubbard said she had no

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Treatment plant superintendent receives \$1,000 grant for new lift

By Dotti Farrington

Douglas Ouellette, superintendent of the town's wastewater treatment plant, has been awarded the 2007 grant of the Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust. His application earned \$1,000 with which to buy a portable lift for his department.

The grant is provided through the Trust's Safety Enhancement Program, which is designed to help members buy safety equipment or services that would help to reduce the frequency or severity of claims.

Ouellette will be given the grant at the interlocal trust's luncheon Feb. 15 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick.

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser praised Ouellette for his "tremendous initiative" in using the application opportunity that had been described to town employees at a staff meeting. Town Councilors Monday also praised Ouellette. Councilman William Kelly, who regularly promotes several ways for the town to seek and use grants, said grants are an important part of funding town needs, and he was pleased to know that all departments are given application information and encouragement to pursue the funds.



On stage

Grade 7 students at the Lawn Avenue School performed a Greek comedy called "Frogs" on Tuesday morning. Pictured, with donkey, is Ryan Rosa; in the ferry are Matt Demieri and Nicole Perez.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten