

Bridge

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Robertson said.

He also recalls that xylene and unused epoxy paint were dumped in the trenches. Robertson remembers "pools of chemicals in the trenches" which were filled with dirt in the fall. A new trench was then dug in the spring, he said.

"No one really paid a lot of attention back then," Robertson said of the chemical dumping. "My only objective was to point out that it was there. I don't really care one way or another if the highway garage goes there."

RITBA Chairman David Darlington said Tuesday that the bridge authority has contacted Lincoln Environmental and the state Department of Environmental Management to investigate the allegations.

Lincoln Environmental has spent two days excavating areas where the alleged trenches were located. No evidence of dumping was found, Darlington said.

Field samples of the soil were taken for chemical testing, Darlington said. Those test will take some time, he added.

"There's no indication that anything was buried here," Darlington said Tuesday. "We don't want to find pollutants, but we're doing everything we can to investigate the claim."

"We're not done here yet," Darlington said, referring to the soil testing that needed to be conducted.

Darlington said he was "troubled" that no evidence of trenching or buried refuse had been

found. He suggested that after 35 years, Robertson's memory may not be exact.

Darlington said a small amount of dried epoxy paint had been found during the excavation process.

Robertson agreed that his memory of the trench locations could be somewhat hazy after 35 years. Robertson said he has contacted other people who were involved in the bridge painting during the 1970s to help him locate the trenches.

Darlington said he has not ruled out having further excavation done, but "we can't excavate 10 acres of land."

Chuck Newton, a consultant to RIBTA, said Wednesday that either the site was cleaned up or that it was never there. If paint solvents were dumped there, he added, it is possible that they would have evaporated or leached out of the soil over the years.

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser said Wednesday that the town-owned land adjacent to the bridge property would also be tested if it is selected for the highway garage. RIBTA would first have to allow the town to use about 6,500 square feet of its property for the garage, he added.

"The location of the past maintenance area is not within the proposed footprint" of the highway garage, Keiser said.

RITBA recently completed test borings of the area for lead paint contamination. Test reports show some evidence of lead contamination in the soils. Officials said the results are being reviewed with the state DEM and appropriate action will be taken.

Piva

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sports. "All have given him rave reviews," Keiser said, adding that Piva would serve in an interim capacity at least until the early fall. "I'm confident that we have the right man for the job."

Piva inquired about the position when it became vacant last fall after the retirement of former director Matthew Bolles. "It was Chief Tighe's idea, really," Piva admitted. Police Chief Thomas Tighe asked Piva if he would be interested in applying for the job, which set the wheels in motion.

Piva expressed excitement for the new position, and anticipation for working with the recreation staff. "They are great people who know the system and will be a great help to me," Piva said.

Keiser noted that the town would use existing recreation staff, Ron Parfitt, recreation clerk Cyndee Reppe and Teen Program Coordinator Melissa Minto, for duties in the recreation department, rather than hire an assistant director.

Piva's admiration for the recreation center stems from his childhood memories. "I feel honored to be able to go back and work there," he said. He even remembered "the same smell" the center has now as when he was young and participating in activities there.

"I remember as a kid, Don Gillis was the recreation director," Piva recalled. He talked about his experience in the boxing club at the age of 15, when the team worked its way up to the junior Olympics. "It was a confidence builder," he added.

Sitting in the conference room at the police station earlier this week, Piva also recalled his father, William Sr., to whom the room was dedicated. He expressed admiration for his father and the contributions he made to the community. "He would volunteer on Friday nights to open up the school just so kids could have a place to go," Piva remembered. "He knew kids hanging out caused trouble."

Piva has taken the lessons he learned from his father and uses them to build good communication with young people today. "I pull up alongside a group of kids on the corner and ask what they're up to," he said. The answer that there's nothing to do and they are bored tells him there's a need for opportunities, Piva noted.

Piva described himself as "a sports guy," working with regional high schools as a baseball umpire and basketball referee. He also volunteers as a Little League umpire, and will begin officiating at college football games in the fall. He talks and jokes around with the young athletes on the court and in the fields. "It's a good way of keeping in touch with the kids, and good for them to see a local policeman involved," he commented.

His experience for the position mainly revolves around sports, but Piva was quick to acknowledge a larger role played by the recreation department in the community, connecting with a variety of local organizations. "The center belongs to the whole community. A recreation department should focus on programs and events that benefit everyone."

Piva hopes to establish a strong working relationship with other town departments and the schools. He also hopes to create a solid focus for the best way recreation dollars should be spent. One immediate focus he mentioned should be maintenance of the ball fields, "which have been in horrendous

shape," adding that good maintenance would "make sure that kids aren't getting hurt."

"I want to do more with seniors," he continued. Piva recognizes many people are shut-ins, and wants to connect with the senior center to offer programs that encourage people to come out and participate.

Piva also said he looked forward to being a part of the implementation of the Ft. Getty master plan. "Where else can you enjoy such a great place for such a low fee?" he said.

Piva left the island after high school to go into the army where he served for six years. Then upon completion of the police academy, he was posted for two years as police officer at the Newport Naval Station. In 1985, he returned to Jamestown.

Piva has served on the Jamestown police force for almost 22 years, and will be eligible for retirement in another three years. Quitting the force to take another job so close to retirement would not be "economically feasible," he said. Also, Piva has agreed to be available as a police officer for special events and emergencies, even though he will no longer have scheduled shifts at the station.

"This is an unbelievable place," Piva brimmed with island pride, "I am happy to give back to the community."

Piva encourages anyone who has ideas for new community programs or suggestions for improvement to existing programs to contact him by e-mail at wpiva@jamestownri.com. Keith Anderson, current assistant director of the recreation department, announced his resignation, according to Keiser. Anderson leaves on Friday, March 9, for a new position as assistant recreation director in Yarmouth, Mass., which has a resident population of 25,000 and a larger recreation program.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF JAMESTOWN

The following is intended to amend Chapter 82 of the Zoning Ordinance for the Town of Jamestown. A public hearing to solicit public input is scheduled on Monday, March 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the large conference room of the Jamestown Philomenian Library, 26 North Road.

THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF JAMESTOWN HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Article 4. Chapter 82 of the Zoning Ordinances of the Town of Jamestown is hereby amended by adding the following new Section thereto.

Sec. 82-410. Project Review by Outside Consultants

The Zoning Board, Planning Commission, Building Official, Zoning Enforcement Officer and/or Town Planner have the authority to engage professionals to assist them with the review of and recommendation concerning any application which, in the judgment of the Zoning Board, Planning Commission, Building Official, Zoning Enforcement Officer and/or Town Planner, require review by outside consultants due to the size, scale or complexity of a proposed project, the project's potential impacts, or because the Town lacks the necessary expertise to perform the review work related to the permit or approval. Such professionals may include but may not be limited to Architects, Engineers, Lawyers, Landscape Architects, Planners and the like. Such assistance may include, but not be limited to, analyzing an application, design review of applications, determining consistency with the purposes and design standards for cluster developments, assessing the economic, archaeological, traffic or environmental impact of a development proposal, review of unique site features including trees, or for monitoring a project or site for compliance with the Commission's decisions or regulations. The fee for such services shall be the responsibility of the applicant and shall be equal to the actual cost to the Town for such consultant. These project review fees are separate from, and in addition to, other fees imposed by the Town for reviewing a proposed project or application or inspecting a project during construction or implementation.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

Copies of the proposed amendment are available for review at the Jamestown Town Hall, 245 Conanicus Avenue during normal business hours. The proposed Ordinance amendment may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any alteration or amendment must be presented for comment in the course of the hearing.

This meeting location is accessible to the physically challenged. Hearing or speech impaired individuals requiring the services of an interpreter should call 1-401-423-7200 or 423-7230 not less than 3 business days prior to the meeting.

By order of the Jamestown Town Council
Arlene D. Petit
Town Clerk



TOWN OF JAMESTOWN NOTICE

To Jamestown Taxpayers
THIRD QUARTERLY TAX PAYMENT

The third quarterly tax payment is due
March 12th, 2007. Please make all payments
to the:

Town Offices
44 Southwest Avenue
P.O. Box 377
Jamestown, RI 02835

K KARNIS Law Group LEGAL TIP



The federal government cannot be held liable for failing to move or mark a submerged wreck, the 11th Circuit has ruled.

The suit was brought by plaintiffs whose pleasure boat struck a submerged object in Mobile Bay. The plaintiffs sued the United States under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

The government argued that the suit was barred by the "discretionary function exception" to the Act.

The 11th Circuit agreed, affirming a summary judgement for the government.

It said that "the marking of a submerged wreck and the refusal to remove it are discretionary decisions grounded in social, political, and economic policy."

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

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- Traumatic Brain Injuries
- Product Liabilities
- Slip and Fall Injuries
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No Fee Unless Successful

The Supreme Court licenses all lawyers in the general practice of law. The court does not license any lawyer as an expert or specialist in any field of practice.

6 VALLEY ROAD • MIDDLETOWN, R.I. 02842
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www.karnislaw.com