

Volunteers trained for emergency shelter

By Sam Bari

A class of 15 volunteers gathered at the Melrose school on March 21 to learn how to operate the emergency shelter at the school.

American Red Cross Director of Emergency Services Nick Logothets, a 20-year veteran of the Red Cross, taught the class with the assistance of Deborah Tanner, executive director of Seniors Helping Others (SHO) and a five-year Red Cross volunteer. Maintenance engineer Lewis Kitts gave the volunteers a tour of the school at the beginning of the class to familiarize them with the facility.

The session was the second in a series of five classes volunteers are required to attend for an emergency shelter to be Red Cross certified. The four-hour classes include indoctrination, first aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training, Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training, and mass care and shelter operation. An open shelter simulation is staged at the end of the course that covers all problems that could be encountered by emergency personnel.

The town's emergency management director, Police Chief Thom-



Police Chief Thomas Tighe and Nick Logothets, American Red Cross director of emergency services, field questions from volunteers taking a Red Cross emergency shelter certification class at Melrose School.

Photo by Sam Bari

as Tighe, arranged for the classes so the emergency shelter could be Red Cross certified and rely on their resources and services. As director, Tighe reports to the state and works through the Red Cross to stock the container trailer where supplies are stored and to get reimbursed for supplies purchased by the town. The classes were made possible through a Rhode Island Emergency Fund grant. If all goes as planned, the shelter will be certified by this coming fall.

Last year a 150-kilowatt generator was purchased for the shelter for \$42,845 from Milton Cat of Milford, Mass. with a federal

Homeland Security grant that required the town to pay for its installation. The purchase of the generator was approved after the council designated the Melrose Avenue school as the town's primary shelter in any emergency resulting in the need for such a facility. Jack's Electric installed the unit for \$16,290. The School Committee voted to pay for half of the installation from the school budget.

Volunteers are needed to staff the shelter, Tighe said. Anyone wishing to participate is encouraged to call Deborah Tanner or Kathy Rosum at 789-2362, or visit www.southernrivol.org on the Internet for class schedules, information, and registration.

About town

350th committee meets tonight

The next meeting of the 350th Anniversary Committee will be tonight — Thursday, March 22 — at 7 p.m. at the Jamestown library.

Representatives of the island's various community groups are invited.

Garden Club seeks perennial donations

The Quononoquott Garden Club is looking for perennial donations for their annual plant sale. The sale will be held May 20.

"Your donation will help raise money for the club's civic beautification projects, which have included landscaping the recreation center, renovating the historical garden at the Fire Station Museum and planting thousands of daffodils around town," Gwenda Bellion, plant chairwoman, says.

To make an appointment, call Linda Warner at 423-1278. Digging dates will begin in late April.

New this week at the Jamestown library

"Ask Again Later" by Jill A. Davis - A successful, young female lawyer leaves New York to care for her ailing mother - a bit of lightness brought to the sadness

of life.

"The Last Empress" by Anchee Min - Min completes her stupendous two-volume historical novel about China's Empress Tzu His.

"The Heirs of Muhammad: Islam's First Century and the Origins of the Sunni-Shia Split" by Barnaby Rogerson

"Shout, Sister, Shout!: The untold story of Rock and Roll Trailblazer Sister Rosetta Tharpe" by Gayle F. Wald

On DVD: "Blood Diamond" with Leonardo DeCaprio

Free tax assistance for elderly available


Free tax assistance is available locally to seniors and low-income taxpayers through the Tax Counseling for the Elderly program.

This free, confidential, one-on-one income tax assistance, including E-filing, will be available Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jamestown library through April 16.

Taxpayers who wish to use this service should bring this year's and last year's tax materials with them.

Since last year, the free tax assistance program has lost half of its certified tax aid volunteers and they need more help. For more information, see the volunteers at the library, write to Cliff Largess at 18 Hamilton Gate Ct., North Kingstown, RI 02852 or call 294-1612.

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