

**LETTERS**

Continued from page 6.

activities, an educational session on proper mulching techniques for recently planted trees, a structural soil demonstration, and participation in the Town's 350th anniversary.

Sincerely,  
Edwina Cloherty  
Chairwoman

**Rocket Dawgz plan big fireworks finale**

The Rocket Dawgz are going to hang up their fireworks after this July 4, but we hope to go out with a bang!

The Dawgz have blown up your money for 12 years and want to say thanks in a big way, by blowing up more of your money! We're shooting for July 4 at Mackerel Cove provided that we can garner the town's permission.

Time marches on and though we have had a great time providing Independence Day fireworks for the folks of Jamestown, the simple fact is that we're not getting any younger and life has taken us all in

different directions. We'll miss the generosity, the good wishes, the bright faces and the community spirit we hope that we have a small part in engendering. But let's do it one more time!

You can send your donation to PO Box 1776, Jamestown, RI 02835 and we'll make sure that it lights up the July sky. Happy Independence!

B.J. Whitehouse  
Jamestown

**What a great night, Mary Wright!**

Last Saturday night, 180 lucky people were treated to an incredible evening of song, laughter and good food as we honored the contributions Mary Wright has made to our community. On behalf of the Board of the Jamestown Education Foundation, I want to thank all who made the evening such a great success!

Our generous business sponsors include BankNewport, Bridge Technical Solutions, Cathryn Jamieson Salon, Conanicut Marine Services, Consistent Care, attorney Eric Archer, H.V. Holland Heating & Air Conditioning, Island Rubbish, The Item Group, Keen Footwear Design,

Livingston Marine Associates, Mansions & Manors, attorneys Morneau & Murphy, Peter Schott, D.M.D., SmartCycle Packaging, The Chemical Company and TMT Construction.

Special thanks to the following businesses and individuals who gave decorations, food, champagne and other contributions toward the evening: Jamestown Wine & Spirits, Grapes & Gourmet, Vicker's Liquors, Gleeson's Package Store, Beth DeGerlia, Betsy Gooding, Jamestown Designs, Jamestown Hardware, Rolf Knudsen, Secret Garden, Slice of Heaven, McQuade's, Stop & Shop, Kathleen Brown, Jim Rafferty and Tot Wright.

Of course, the evening was made so memorable thanks to the wonderful performances by Terry Horsley, Jeanne Spinosa, Robert Morton-Ranney, Jenna Regan, Matt Bolles, Julie Andrews, John Andrews, Hannah Cordes, and Janet Grant.

Thanks to those who came out for the evening. This event will enable JEF to continue its mission of providing free enrichment programming for all Jamestown students. Thank you for joining us in raising a toast to Mary!

Mary Hall Keen  
President, JEF

**John Ragland's spelling achievement**

Congratulations to John Ragland for alternate rank in the statewide spelling bee. He has achieved distinction. What an honor!

Virginia Perry  
Jamestown

**Write to us...**

LETTERS: Send your letters to: Editor, The Jamestown Press, 42 Narragansett Ave., Jamestown RI 02835.

Our e-mail address is news@jamestownpress.com. Please include your name, address, and a daytime telephone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.

**April is affordable housing month**

By Dotti Farrington

Town Councilors last week declared April as Fair Housing Month, calling for special awareness and support of housing laws, and especially for local leadership commitment to affordable housing.

The resolution pointed out that discrimination because of race, color, religion or national origin in the sale, rental, leasing, or financing of housing or land for housing is prohibited by the Federal Fair Housing Law.

The councilors stressed that it is the policy of the town to run programs to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons without discrimination.

Councilors pledged that by using available resources the town will assist any person who feels discriminated against and seek help under federal and state laws. They also confirmed the town would provide information to property owners, developers and builders about responsibilities and rights under the Federal Fair Housing Law and applicable state and local laws or ordinances. The information is to be provided by posters, flyers and other means, including participation in the Community Housing Resource Board Hotline to which the council pledged a \$100 donation from its Community Development Block Grant.

Council members are expecting to have an appraisal on the Town Office complex property on Southwest Avenue for discussion at their next meeting, Monday, April 9. They are looking to develop affordable housing at that site through the non-profit Church Community Housing Corporation (CCHC) of Newport.

According to CCHC's affordable housing strategic plan, "In the past few decades, the island of Jamestown has undergone a substantial transformation from a quiet fishing and farming community to a weekend destination for wealthy off-islanders. This has contributed to the dramatic increase in the price of housing."

CCHC officials reported that in just one year, the median sales price of a single-family home increased by 23-percent from \$289,574. "At the same time the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment has risen to over \$1,000, making Jamestown the state's most expensive rental housing location, and leaving many low- and middle-income Jamestown families with few housing options," according to the CCHC plan. Currently, only 4-percent (103) of Jamestown's 2,769 housing units meet affordability requirements for low-income residents, the CCHC plan stated.

"Jamestown's volunteer political leaders and citizens have worked very hard to provide affordable housing for local elderly and when possible, families with children. Still, the pace of high end development has outstripped their ad hoc efforts, so they have turned to Church Community Housing Corporation (CCHC), one of the state's oldest and most experienced community development corporations, for help with a plan that could escalate their efforts," the housing plan said.



**SCOTT A. LUTES**

ATTORNEY AT LAW

"Achieving outstanding results for clients for 20 years"

Criminal Defense, Domestic Assault,  
Driving While Intoxicated, Juvenile Offenses

www.scottluteslaw.com

One Turks Head Place  
Suite 1440  
Providence, RI 02903

(401) 861-1142 Office  
(401) 741-7525 Cellular  
(401) 861-1141 Fax

**We install  
HARDWOOD FLOORING**

✱ **Island Carpet Tile & Hardwoods** ✱  
695 West Main Road Middletown  
847-2095

*Hill & Harbour*  
**TILE SHOWROOM**  
"Boston's high end look without the drive."  
42 Ladd Street (1st Floor)  
Located at waterfront end of Division St.  
East Greenwich  
**398-1035**

Mon-Fri. 7:30-5:00pm  
Thurs 'til 8:00pm  
Sat 8-2pm

**Laser Jewelry Repair & Design**  
Custom Design & Fabrication

Impossible Jewelry Repairs  
Antique Restorations  
Filigree Work  
Gold, Platinum, Silver &  
Gold Filled  
State of the Art Laser  
Welding Machine

Open  
Tuesday - Saturday  
9:30-5:30

**Gold Lady  
JEWELERS**

Service, selection, satisfaction since 1980  
www.goldladyjewelers.com  
One Brown St. • Wickford  
401.294.4695

NOW OFFERING  
CUSTOM  
HAND-ENGRAVING  
ON YOUR ITEM  
OR OURS!!!

*True Value*  
Help Is Just Around The Corner.

**SUPER HARDWARE  
STORE**

- Paint & Supplies
- Cabot Stains
- Electrical
- Plumbing & Heating
- Glass & Screen Repair
- Lumber

Hours:  
M-F 7am - 6pm  
Sat 7am - 5pm  
Sun 9am - 3pm

**1 STOP  
BUILDING SUPPLY CENTER**

**847-8460**  
236 Connell Highway, Newport

Quality & Friendly service  
is our speciality

Page's Pampered Pets  
Daily Fun Adventures

Socialization and Exercise  
Full Service Weekends/Evenings  
Fully Insured

Terri & Jim Page  
Owners  
9 Howland Avenue  
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835

ph: 401 423 3576 OR 401 265 3315  
E-MAIL: pagespets@aol.com

**Seaway**

**Oil**

**Call for the  
BEST PRICE  
in Town!**

**Call to  
Schedule  
Boiler  
Cleanings**

**847-7775**  
Serving Jamestown  
Since 1994  
Lic#443