

LETTERS

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be met, we are happy to work with the town to resolve any issue that comes before us, and will continue to uphold and honor our role as part of the community once this siting issue has been decided.

David A. Darlington
Chairman, Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority

The rest of the highway garage story

A husband and wife team has sent letters to the Jamestown Press and Town Council touting the fact that two highway garage committees have recommended a new highway garage be built on lot 47, a lot which abuts the former landfill. This may be true, but it is only half the story.

I was one of the members of the second highway garage committee. Our charter from the Town Council was to review all available parcels and present at least two sites that were large enough to house a new highway garage. Additionally, the committee was told not to take into consideration any environmental factors, since they were so complicated they needed to be dealt with by the Town Council. I assume similar instructions were given to the first highway garage committee. I believe it is appropriate to ask that future references to the highway garage committees' site selections include the fact that these recommendations were made without their considering, nor investigating, any environmental factors that may have affected these sites.

The Town Council is presently entertaining the idea of a referendum to have the public select one of two sites. The same lot 47, which still has numerous environmental, as well as legal issues that must be answered and addressed, and a parcel located between the Newport Bridge and the sewage treatment plant.

I believe we are putting the cart before the horse. Shouldn't the town ensure that all required legal and permitting processes be satisfied before the town incurs tens of thousands of dollars for a special referendum?

Several letters have also been

written to the Press about how placing the highway garage on any lot other than lot 47 will result in a split facility. This is a totally inaccurate statement. Lot 47 and the former landfill contain or will contain restrictions on any storage of sand /salt. There also cannot be any truck washing, and there cannot be any vehicle refueling. All of these functions are currently accomplished at the sewage treatment plant. The truth is having a facility anywhere other than at the sewage treatment plant will result in a split facility.

Ray Iannetta
Jamestown

Jamestown salutes NKHS teachers

"Setting an example is not the main means of influencing others, it is the only means." The teachers and administration of North Kings-town High School demonstrate this "theory" by Albert Einstein every day. The Jamestown School Committee recognizes with appreciation the continuing efforts of the NKHS staff to provide students with a stable, challenging learning environment during a period of district transition.

May 8 is National Teacher Appreciation Day. The Jamestown School Committee salutes the teaching staff and leadership of NKHS and gratefully acknowledges their commitment and contributions to public education. The high school's ranking as "high performing" is a tribute to its high performing teachers.

The Jamestown School Committee: Cathy Kaiser, Chair, Julie Kallfelz, Vice Chair, Bucky Brennan, NKHS Liaison, David Dolce, Julia Held

State reps continue LNG tanker opposition

Dear Captain Nash,

We wish to state our strong opposition to a finding of waterway suitability for the proposed Weaver's Cove liquefied natural gas facility. An affirmative finding would not be reasonable. The vessels are so large that they have to be shoe-horned through channels and under bridges. Use of smaller LNG vessels would increase the number of times disruptive "protection zones" would have to be imposed. While the waterway might be mar-

ginally suitable if there were no other users and if there were alternatives to the bridges which go over it; the reality is that there are other such users and there are no alternatives to the bridges.

There is a predominant body of opinion that in this era and for the foreseeable future, large margins of safety are called for, and providing such margins is very difficult in tight, congested multi-use waterways in populous areas. Contemplated restrictions on the timing of tanker transits underscore this point.

Because something may be theoretically feasible does not mean that it is actually suitable. All things considered, the waterway that would be used to support the proposed liquefied natural gas facility, is not, as a practical matter suitable for LNG vessels.

Impacted communities along the waterway have addressed this matter eloquently.

M. Teresa Paiva Weed
Senate Majority Leader
Bruce J. Long
House Deputy Majority Whip

Editor's note: This letter was copied to the Jamestown Press

Workers storm damage repair was professional

I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Jamestown Public Works Department for their excellent job in repairing the damage to Mackerel Cove beach and Beavertail Road left by the recent storm. Regrettably, it is too easy to take for granted the skill and expertise of these men.

Quentin Anthony
Jamestown

Thanks for 'going home' with us

The recent Jamestown Community Chorus spring concert, "Going Home," was enjoyed by so many islanders whose heritage was reflected in the songs and dances performed by the chorus on May 5 and 6 at the Central Baptist Church.

The selections chosen by director B. J. Whitehouse included songs or dances from Italy, France, Turkey, Russia, Portugal, England, and Brazil, to name but a few. The

dances with instrumental accompaniment were beautifully performed by members of the chorus. The one that got the most rave reviews was the Neapolitan Tarantella.

A goodly number of the singers have Scottish backgrounds, including B. J. Whitehouse who sported his Clan Buchanan kilt! Bruce Foresman's wife, Ingela, was born in Sweden and attended both concerts to make sure the chorus was correctly pronouncing every word of "Ara Vare Gud."

The church was decorated with flags of many nations. This outstanding display was on loan from the Girl Scouts of Rhode Island. The flags, sewn by the Girl Scouts, are part of an original collection from 1926 through the 1980s.

The chorus was privileged to present Cheryl Barber with the Jamestown Community Chorus Music Award, which was funded by the Rhode Island Foundation and the members of the Jamestown Community Chorus.

Chorus appreciation goes to Baker's Pharmacy, Jamestown Hardware, and the Secret Garden for once again being our ticket agents, to the Central Baptist Church for our rehearsal and concert space, and to the Jamestown Press for their continuing coverage of all of our chorus activities.

Look for announcement of the annual summer talent show. Join the chorus in the fall on Monday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m., for the start of rehearsals for holiday concerts.

Marion Gomez
Jamestown Community Chorus

Thanks for a great birthday surprise

Recently I celebrated a "milestone," birthday and Heidi at the Secret Garden helped to make the day special by going above and beyond the call of duty.

My daughter, Syra, granddaughters Aysia and Shania, and Syra's friend Becky decided to surprise me by driving down from Maine and spending the day with me. They stopped at the Secret Garden to buy flowers and balloons. When they went to leave, Syra's car would not start. Wanting to surprise me at work, Syra asked Heidi if she could leave the car at the Secret Garden while they walked to Bridges. Heidi offered to give them a ride in one of the delivery vans instead.

When they arrived, I was called downstairs. Heidi said she had a delivery for me in the van and I had to come outside to see it. Heidi slid back the van door and there were the girls squished in the back, hiding. They said "surprise!" I screamed. I cried. I bumped my head on the van door trying to reach them. It was great!

I want to thank Heidi for being so generous in giving them a ride and helping to make the surprise complete.

I also want to thank Brian Bryer at Central Garage for going over my daughter's car at a moments notice. I've been blessed in knowing some very kind people on this island.

Lauretta Gladding
Jamestown

Casey Farm holds plant sale

Casey Farm will hold their annual plant sale on Saturday, May 12 and Sunday, May 13. The sale runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday. In addition to all sorts of vegetables, flowers and herbs, children's activities and free house museum tours will be available after 10 a.m. on both days.

Casey Farm is certified organic and plants are grown without chemical pesticides or fertilizers. There will be organic fertilizers available for sale and information on gardening from our knowledgeable staff. Items for sale include, annual and

perennial flowers especially for cottage gardens and butterfly gardens, ever-popular mix packs of old-time and unusual tomatoes, eggplants and peppers.

Varieties are tested and retested at Casey Farm. Big red tomatoes and basil are always favorites, but there are a wide variety of heirloom tomatoes to make everyone's mouth water all season long.

Casey Farm is located on Route 1A in Saundertown. For more information, call 295-1030, or visit the web site at www.Historic-NewEngland.org.



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