

**Letters**

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pleting every procedure that was asked of him, was promised the position as lighthouse keeper. But, because of the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association's specious and self-serving claims that it is unsafe for a family with small children to maintain occupancy of the lighthouse, Mr. Turillo's dream of raising his family as he was raised has been shattered.

A wise man once told me that a heroic act is an act that a person performs for someone who couldn't do it for himself. The lighthouse association had a chance to do something heroic. Yes, it would have required them to sacrifice their ideology (for only three years!), ownership of the lighthouse and to be able to appoint their own lighthouse keeper. Instead they made a choice that

required the least amount of sacrifice. The association sent a letter to Washington, knowing that it would sabotage any agreement that had been worked out locally for Mr. Turillo's family and thus assuring the fulfillment of the association agenda. For that I say shame on you!

For the rest of us who live in the Jamestown community, especially those of us who line Narragansett Avenue to watch the Memorial Day parade; those of us who are proud to be Americans and know that that pride comes with a price; those of us who swell with patriotic fervor when we see the phalanx of flags that surround Veterans Square; for those of us who have said in the past and will say in the future "we do support our troops," I say - if we do not do everything in our power to fix this wrong that was done to this war veteran and his family - then shame on us!

**Bob Tamboe  
Jamestown**

**High Street reminder**

Just a friendly reminder to Jamestown drivers that High Street, from Walcott Avenue to North Main Road, is a through way. It does not have any stop signs and is a frequent route of kids on bikes and skateboards, not to mention drivers like myself who drive, hand on horn, as people go through the stop signs on Green, Clinton, Cole, and Howland. Thanks for being more careful.

**Kelly Ruben  
Jamestown**

**Fund raising sale netted \$5,000**

Wow! What an incredible experience we had organizing the recent yard sale extravaganza fund-raiser for the Payton Watson Medical Fund. The school, business and neighborhood communities truly came together in support of the Watson family. We were overwhelmed with the enthusiasm for the event and were amazed by the number of people who came forth to volunteer their time, talents and attic treasures.

We could not have performed a school wide service-learning project without the cooperation and help of the faculty and staff of the Melrose School. The teachers/staff helped to orient their students to the purpose of the project, made sure that every student participated in the set up of the yard sale and enthusiastically volunteered to share special time in a special way with the winners of the "Kids Raffle". They set a fine example for their students regarding the spirit of volunteerism and giving. In turn, the Melrose students put forth a tremendous effort and we truly would not have been ready for Saturday morning without them! From beginning to end, Mr. Lew Kitts and his fine staff were there to lend us hand behind the scenes. Special thanks to all of the parent volunteers who stepped up to help with all stages of the event. Jackie Bell was instrumental with getting the word out to the press.

We would like to thank Elizabeth Congdon, donations coordinator, and all of the island businesses who supported the event and made our "Grown-Up Raffle" possible including: Grapes and Gourmet, Trattoria Simpatico, the Bay Voyage, Slice of

Heaven, House of Pizza, Narragansett Café, Village Hearth, the Barrett Family, Island Rubbish Service, the Hubbard Family, Bill House-personal trainer, Victoria Hellewell-massage therapist, Kim Chandler-yoga instructor, Judy Twombly-yoga instructor, Catherine Jamieson Salon, Robin Lee-massage therapist, Christina's Originals, the Purple Door, Jamestown True Value Hardware, Pas de Chat, Jamestown Designs, Baker's Pharmacy, Conanicut Marine, the Secret Garden, and the Jamestown Press. Please thank them the next time you patronize their businesses.

We would also like to thank the Jamestown PTO, especially Wendy Rafferty and Sherry Deacon for organizing and running the bake sale fund-raiser. Our very special retired teacher volunteers were Diane Caswell, who helped keep students on track during the Friday set-up, and Brenda Ratcliffe who spent many, many hours helping us to set up our "business" and keep it on track. Thanks to Bob Tamboe, Evan Pinto and the old green truck, we were able to offer donation pick-up service. After a busy and successful day, the clean-up team was there until the end, including the Ayvasian-Hancock, Baldwin, LaMantia, Rafferty, Varrecchione and VanReen families.

Finally, we certainly could not have done it without our customers, thanks for coming! Together we raised well over \$5,000 for the medical fund.

**Nora Santamour and  
Melrose Avenue School  
Improvement Team**

**A wonderful gift to Jamestown**

Tot and Mary Wright have long been two individuals that contribute to the betterment of our community. However, the recent, extremely generous gift of land that they have made to the community is not only something we will all enjoy today, it is truly a gift for the ages. Simply stated, we all own them a very gracious thank you for their commitment to preserve the natural beauty of the island.

**Bill Kelly  
Jamestown**

**Thanks for filling our food pantry**

On behalf of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mark Church, we would like to express a sincere thank you to the Jamestown Post Office workers and to the National Letter Carriers for donating the canned goods collected in their recent food drive for the needy.

Their efforts will alleviate the hardships of the less fortunate in our community and beyond our island.

**Candy Powell**

May God continue to bless all who donated to the canned goods drive and those who gave their time and energy to collect and deliver the boxes to the church.

**Millie Feeney  
Chairperson,**

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**

**Gardeners turn out despite gloom**

The Quononoquott Garden Club would like to thank everybody who supported our annual plant sale at East Ferry last Saturday. The gloomy wet day did not keep our loyal customers away, nor dampen the spirits of the members who worked so hard to ensure the success of the sale. Even the children had fun at the potting table.

The funds raised are turned back into the community to maintain current projects and fund future civic beautification projects similar to the fire station garden, which was our last major undertaking.

A special thank you to Bill Munger and Jack Brittain for their continued generosity in making equipment available to the club. Personally, I would like to thank my committee of Linda Warner and Suzi Andrews for all their hard work and the board members for their support and advice.

**Gwenda Bellion,  
Plant sale chairwoman**

**To all island birdwatchers**

Thanks for your participation in the 23rd Annual Spring Bird Count on Saturday, May 12. Our final total this year was 104 species (I miscounted when I sent the article to the Jamestown Press reporting 105). The tally was 99 at noon, but in the afternoon, a few more species were added: Dick Boenning spotted a little blue heron, Sarah Young and Wayne Munns each saw a purple finch in town (one male and one female), Candy saw a gadwall at Marsh Meadows, and Gail had a American woodcock and a white-crowned sparrow at Hodgkiss Farm. A total of 13 species of warblers were seen - fewer than some previous years. One new species was observed - a least flycatcher heard clearly at the north end of the island.

Field observers were Evelyn Rhodes, Ed Long, Wayne Munns, B. J. Whitehouse, Chris Ariel, Bruce Foresman, Dick Graefe, Patrick Driscoll, Jim Meyers, Karen Benson, Brad Whitman, Sarah Young, Steve Moreau, and Chris and Candy Powell. Reporting in from home was Gail Chase.

Thanks again and we look forward to seeing you for the Christmas count. Please report interesting sightings to me, 423-1492, or Evelyn Rhodes, 423-1254.

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