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Get it fresh

Bethany Clarke is one of many volunteers who man the farm stand at the Jamestown Community Farm. The stand—full of fresh, delectable vegetables—is open each Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

Authority, town fine tune Taylor point land purchase

By Tom Shevlin

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser reported on Monday that he had met with Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA) members to discuss the town's concerns over language in the authority's sale terms.

Last month, the Town Council voted 3-2 to site the town's highway barn at a property on upper Taylor Point, which would require the town to purchase a parcel of land for \$97,500 from RITBA in order to meet critical space requirements for the facility.

However, in a letter dated June 22, 2007, RITBA Executive Director Buddy Croft indicated that RITBA would reserve the right to review and approve the facility's design and how the property will be utilized, as well as a request that the town release the authority for any damages to the facility incurred during the course of bridge and highway maintenance.

That raised concerns among town council members.

See "Concerns" on page 12

Peddler license review continues

By Tom Shevlin

With more and more requests by vendors to set up shop in the East Ferry area, town councilors continued their review of Jamestown's peddlers' license policy on Monday.

In 1996, the Town Council voted to limit the number of seasonal peddler licenses on public property at East Ferry to no more than three. However, in recent weeks the demand for one-day peddler licenses has increased from retail sellers.

Summing up the issue, Council President David Long said "in a nutshell, we're getting more and more requests from profit-making businesses."

That was cause for concern for council members who agreed that the town needs to regulate peddler

activity in the downtown area in order to protect local businesses from an unfair advantage posed by vendors and off-island businesses taking advantage of town resources.

Though councilors agreed that the issue needs to be addressed, they requested that Town Solicitor Peter Ruggiero present recommendations to the council before any definitive policy is established.

Currently, three island businesses have seasonal licenses to operate in the East Ferry area: Lucky Ridge Company, LLC dba Spinnakers Café, Stearns Farms Organic Produce, and Freddie Bing's Hot-dog Thing. In addition, Del's Lemonade and Munroe Dairy both have restricted licenses to service island customers through their mobile

units. One-day licenses have also been granted in the past for special events and holiday weekends to local non-profits.

Councilors are expected to take up the issue again at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

Tax rate less than forecast

Jamestown taxpayers should be pleasantly surprised when they receive their tax bills. In May, the town estimated that the average tax rate would be \$7.85 per \$1,000 of assessed value. However, according to Town Administrator Bruce Keiser, after a recalculation of town revenue, that rate will actually be closer to \$7.81 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

"It's always good news when the tax rate goes down," Keiser re-

See "Council" on page 12

A scientific view of island water sources

By Sam Bari

Sources of ground water on Conanicut Island have long been a controversial issue. The sources of water, particularly ground water, can be easily explained and clearly defined, according to Daniel W. Urish, a certified professional hydrogeologist with a Ph.D. from the University of Rhode Island in civil and environmental engineering. He is presently a professor emeritus at URI, Kingston.

"By taking a scientific approach to the study of surface and ground water, sources of water can be easily identified in any given area," Urish said. Over the past 25 years, Urish has been the principal or co-principal investigator on 36 research projects, as well as author or co-author of more than 60 publications dealing with water resources, environmental issues and

geophysics. His credentials as an authority on the subject of water resources are indisputable.

In a document titled "Origin and Fate of Precipitation on Conanicut Island," Urish explains the source of water and island hydrogeology.

His document says that all water on Conanicut Island comes from precipitation, whether it be rain, snow, dew or fog drip.

He also says that in terms of numbers for Conanicut Island, an average year produces about 43- inches of rainfall, 17- inches of surface runoff, seven-inches of groundwater recharge and 19-inches of evapo-transpiration from exposed surface water, plants and trees. He goes on to say, "For Conanicut Island it is important to note that surface water runoff collected in the reservoirs in the

northern part of the island is exported to the southern part where it is a significant import."

Urish clarified the document by saying that, "The town water supply comes from reservoirs in the north end of the island that gather water from run-off. The reservoirs are not part of the aquifer. Residents in the south end who are using town water benefit from the north end surface water run-off because that is where the reservoirs and wells that supply town water come from. Water is pumped from the north end of the island to the south end and provides south end residents with town water, but not from the north end aquifer."

However, that is not to say that the island is a single source aquifer. In the aforementioned document,

See "Water" on page 19



Two-wheelin'

A group of vintage and modern scooter enthusiasts visited the island on Sunday. The group members, who belong to an Internet forum on scooter riding, come from Westerly, West Warwick, Warwick, Providence, Lincoln and Mansfield, Mass. They post news of upcoming rides on the forum.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten