

LETTERS

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Support for barn at Taylor Point

I would like to voice my support for the new highway barn at the bridge authority land. Yes, I live in the North End, so feel free to label me as you wish, but the fact remains that the new location makes the most sense. It is centrally located, has town sewer and water, poses no threat (or potential threat) to the town's fragile and limited water supply, and is an economically feasible alternative. Regarding the 'water issue', yes, I am concerned about my water supply. If lot 47/48 were theoretically located next to the reservoir, would those sites even be considered?

James K. Cardi MD
North Main Road

EZPass not a wise choice

I'm writing in reaction to the Aug. 2 article titled, "Motorists may find bridge crossing easier some day."

First, the article's title is misleading because currently I don't think anyone finds crossing the Pell Bridge difficult at all. The article stated:

- RITBA has issued an RFP for a consultant to evaluate the feasibility of using an electronic toll collection system (i.e. EZPass) that would cost more than \$2 million to install.

- RITBA goals are to reduce congestion, reduce costs and keep the toll rate the same if possible.

- The electronic system would eliminate the use of tokens, but not cash tolls.

- An electronic system would have little impact on staffing levels because toll collectors are still required for cash sales.

- Credit and debit card fees would take about 1-percent of all revenue from an EZPass system.

- Present traffic levels do not warrant the required additional investment that would be necessary to invest in an EZPass system.

- Bridge traffic has been flat the

past 5 years and congestion is not a big factor except for special events or some busy summer days.

- New Hampshire's experience with the EZPass system is that the costs were not worth the benefits.

So, the RITBA has already determined through its own three-year research that an EZPass system will do nothing to reduce its overhead costs and do nothing for congestion. Then why are they spending money on a consultant to evaluate it? If they want to make operations more efficient, they should scrutinize their current staffing levels and job duties for inefficiencies.

It appears this system can only add overhead costs that would have the double effect of increasing the cost of crossing the bridge and wiping out the steeply discounted token program. Newport and Middletown are the closest major shopping areas, and Jamestown residents are already paying an unfair "tax" to cross the bridge to begin with.

I hope other Jamestown residents are as skeptical of the RITBA's actions as I am. I suggest that the RITBA immediately stop wasting money on reviewing a system that obviously has no benefits for such a small operation as the Pell Bridge and put that money back into its operations.

Steve Mecca
Jamestown

Why I gave to save the farms

As a committed lover of this wonderful island, I have been aware of the challenge we face in preserving the absolutely marvelous vistas at the center of it all. My wife, Rita, and I have tried to respond to the case made by Quentin Anthony and Arthur Milot. Quen-

tin urged me to share our thoughts with others who might be debating their response. In that regard, I ask each and every reader of the Jamestown Press to consider what would be lost by all of us and our children and grandchildren if the beautiful farms which greet us every time we approach and leave this cherished place were lost to development with dozens of buildings replacing them. Lets all do everything we can to save these treasures.

Norton Reamer
Jamestown

Thanks to many for a great season

As many readers saw, last week's edition of the Press featured a photo of our nine-year old tournament team which recently participated in the Cal Ripken State Tournament. With that, we "officially" conclude another great season of Jamestown baseball. I would like to relate many thanks to the committee people, managers, coaches, and sponsors who helped make this season a great success.

There are many, many people to thank and I'm going to try to cover them all. First, I'd like to thank all the managers and coaches for the time and effort they put in working with the players. They are Jim Bryer, Steve Heath, Rob Lambert, Mike Coletta, Paul McDermott, Al Devellis, Dave Howe, my coaches Andy MacIntyre and Pete Vetter, Chris Varrecchione, Robert Smith, George Zainyeh, Armand Musumeci, Albert Gamble, Clayton Carlisle, John Greco, Steve Cirella, Tony Antonucci, Art Spivak, Eric Bush, Lisa Atwood, Sheryl Atwood, Chris Atwood,

Bob Bauer Jeff Nickol, Dean Wagner, Dan Regan, Kevin Barry, Jim Simmons, Pete Schott, Kyle Froberg, Jim Reilly, Bill Jennings, and Mike Delyi. Special thanks to Michelle Grenier, Kevin Barry, Dan Regan, and Chris Varrecchione for being league coordinators. Several people did double duty as well. We had additional people serving on our committee and they were a great means of support. They are Chris Crawford (treasurer), Mike Stearns (sponsor coordinator), Ron Barber (Fields and Awards), Josh North (Umpire), Barbara Szeptakowski (Green Up day and concession stand facelift and many other great contributions), and Charlie Normand. I also wish to extend a super "thank you" to Susan Varrecchione for being our concession stand coordinator. She did a great job of planning and organization and thanks to all of her concession stand volunteers.

Baseball would not exist without the support of our generous sponsors. I ask all Jamestowners to thank these folks and support them. They are: House of Pizza, Conanicut Marina, Jamestown Hardware, McQuade's Market, Baker's Pharmacy, Gillis Painting, Central Garage, Jamestown Golf, Jamestown Police, BankNewport Insurance, Ocean State Scuba, Jamestown

Early Learning Center, Art's Auto Body, H. V. Holland, Jamestown Penguins, Ingtoffer, Consistent Care, Bruce Long's Del's Lemonade, Fagan's Funeral Home, Island Rubbish, Paws'n' Claws, Lakeside Partners, and Burke Realty. Additional businesses that lent a very special hand were Island Rubbish, the Jamestown Press, Larry Ruotolo, and Normand Law. Also, special thanks to Bill Piva and the Jamestown Recreation Department for tremendous support and help this season and thanks to Melissa Minto and the teen center for their help on Green Up day.

Regarding our very successful Babe Ruth team, we'd like to thank Ali's Run for their generous sponsorship and support. Appreciation is also extended to Everett Downing, Cal Ripken state commissioner and Jimmy Hicks, President of Newport Babe Ruth for their support.

It was a great season with many highlights. We had the highest enrollment of young players in many years. This resulted in the highest number of Instructional and Rookie league teams in recent history. We had a nine-year-old tournament team for the first time in many years. The 12-year-old tournament team advanced farther into

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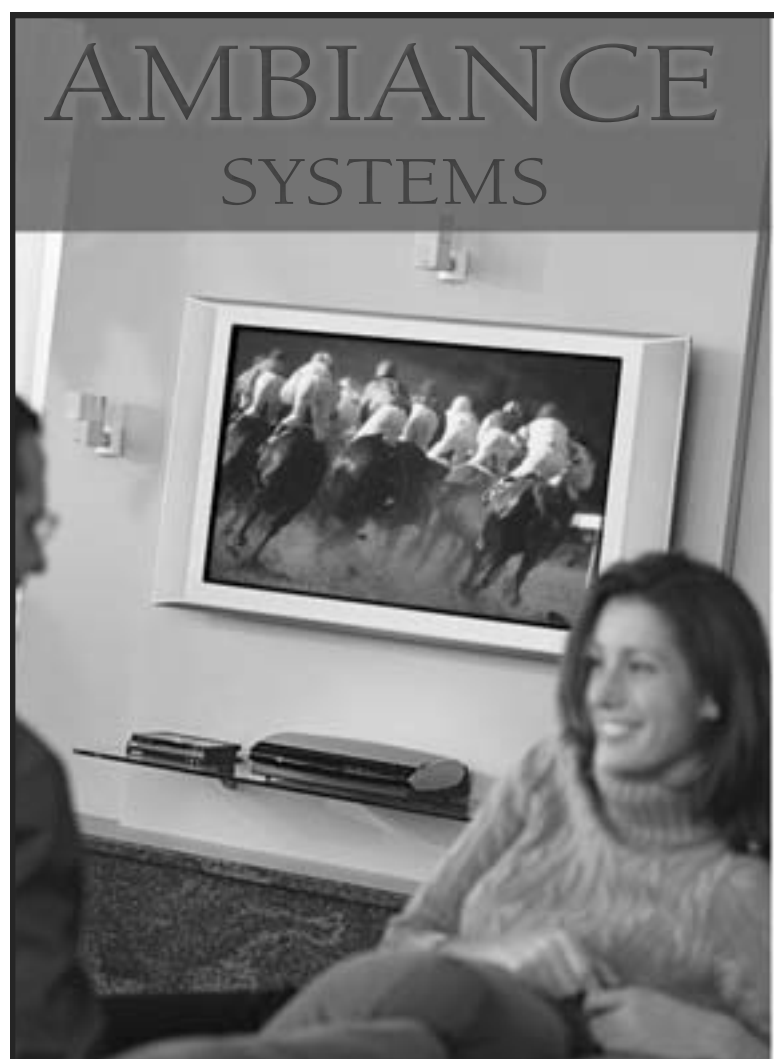
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