

# Baker's adds family atmosphere to island charm

By Michaela Kennedy

Locals and summer visitors know that when they have a health-related problem, they can ask the pharmacist at Baker's Pharmacy. The independently-owned drugstore on Narragansett Avenue is stronger than ever as it observes 30 years of service to the community.

"February 17, to be exact," Tim Baker noted the anniversary date of when he began the business. Originally from Wickford, Baker chose Jamestown as a site for a new pharmacy after completing his degree from the University of Rhode Island.

The move to the island proved to be a good decision. Over the years, Baker has cultivated a loyal clientele, expanded the variety of products offered, and built his own commercial building. Months passed, however, before the community became aware of the quiet celebration this year. Baker laughed off belated congratulatory words, saying, "We didn't send out any announcements."

The pharmaceutical industry has changed much in the last few decades, and the local pharmacy has grown along with it. From electronic prescribing to Medicare programs, Baker keeps abreast of innovations and policies in order to improve customer service. "I never thought our business would get as big as it is, or as complicated," he chuckled.

Baker mentioned the recent connection established with Health Mart Pharmacy, a franchise network that unifies independent pharmacists under one brand. "It allows us to compete as a chain, but we're not a chain," Baker explained.

He went on to talk about the advantages of staying independent, instead of operating as part of a corporate chain. The small staff, one full-time and two part-time pharmacists in addition to Baker, allows customer service on a personal level. One employee, Becky Westall, has worked there



Tim and Pam Baker

for ten years. "We get to know our patients, and we know what they need," he said.

Knowing his customers is one of the neat things Baker likes about doing business in Jamestown. "You don't realize how

attached you get to people," he added. He also likes being his own boss, which allows him to do things his way.

Baker's sister, Pamela, has been with the store from almost the beginning, working part-time while

in college. She earned her teaching degree, but no teaching jobs were available when she graduated. "I've been here ever since," she said.

Pamela does the front store ordering, according to Baker. She

purchases seasonal and holiday items, and pays attention to customer needs. If someone asks for an item, it is usually delivered the next day, Pam explained. If an item is regularly requested, she will keep it in stock. "We work with McQuade's and the hardware store as well," Baker added. "We all work together."

Pamela had good words to say about her brother, and showed gratitude for the years of teamwork. Family businesses can often trigger tense moments, but Baker and his sister have been a good match, overall. "We always seem to work things out. He's been great to me," Pam said, adding, "I can't believe it's been 30 years."

## Do You Really Know About The Proposed Highway Barn Locations?

### They Say

★ Let's defeat the referendum then vote to place the Highway Garage on Lot 47 in a November referendum. We won't have to wait two or three more years.

★ The Bridge Authority Land is too small to accommodate the Highway Barn and material necessary to run day to day operations.

★ Building The Highway Barn at the Bridge Authority Site will result in a split facility.

★ They emphasize the highway garage will be built at Taylor Point, will be highly visible and will look rather industrial.

★ The Town is purchasing 6,000 square feet of Bridge Authority land for \$97,500 or \$700,000 per acre.

### The Facts Are

★ Building on Lot 47 is uncertain and many years away. The landfill remediation must be completed before any building can be considered on Lot 47. This process is now at square one and requires the Town to submit proposals addressing DEM Waste Management and Stormwater Management regulations. The regulations are highly complicated and time consuming. It's also likely that abutters will have the final say on any Stormwater Management proposal. Meeting these regulations as well as changing Lot 47's zoning will take many years, and the outcome is highly uncertain.

★ Our Town Administrator has clearly stated that the Bridge Authority Site can accommodate the Barn and all material required for day to day operations and still have space available for future expansion of the waster water treatment facility.

★ The opposite is true. DEM has mandated that no salt/sand mix or fuel can be stored on Lot 47. All vehicle washing is also prohibited from Lot 47. There are no restrictions at the Bridge Authority site.

★ The proposed location is not on Taylor Point but between the Newport Bridge and the sewage treatment plant. It is hidden from RT 138, Potter Cove and Taylor Point. Bill Burgin's renderings of the site and views from these locations were published in the Jamestown Press on August 9th and show a substantially hidden site.

★ The \$97,500 cost includes over \$50,000 for the environmental study the Bridge Authority conducted because of allegations of dumping on this site. This is a one time charge; the true cost is less than \$47,500.

The truth is the Town Council's choice to build on the Bridge Authority land and not the Landfill or Lot 47 was one of common sense. The common sense thing for the public to do now is to back their decision and place the highway garage where it belongs. In a central location, where it will not result in a split facility, where it is hidden from view, has no impact on the surrounding neighborhood, can be built **Now**, and has no **potential** for costs to skyrocket.

**That Place is The Bridge Authority Site.  
Vote YES On the August 28th Referendum**

Advertisement Paid for by Ray Iannetta

### MURPHY'S LAW

"Do to others as you would have them do to you." A rule that is perfect in its simplicity and ease of use in all matters.

...

If more people aspire to this ideal, one hopes that society as a whole will improve. The theory is that if the majority aspire to goodness, evil becomes isolated and we are more able to control it.

...

But even if only a tiny minority will live the ideal set out in the Golden Rule, its validity is still absolute.

...

However, to stand alone for good, and against evil, when principle demands it, frequently requires great courage, an integrity of character that is considered by some to be rarer than physical courage.

...

Brought to you as a public service by

**MORNEAU & MURPHY**  
**ATTORNEYS**

77 Narragansett Avenue  
Jamestown, RI 02835

(401) 423-0400

e-mail: jamurphy@jamestownlawyer.com