

This "Nutty" law goes too far

By: Rep. Joseph N. Amaral, Tiverton/Portsmouth & Rep. Bruce J. Long, Jamestown/Middletown

With the start of the school year approaching, we find it necessary to express our opposition to a new law that passed in the 2007 legislative session. The law prohibits elementary and middle schools, that have a pupil with an allergy to peanuts or tree nuts, from selling peanut or nut products in their cafeterias. Though this law and its sponsor are very well-meaning, it doesn't solve

the real problem that schools must focus on.

This past session, we spoke out and voted against this legislation because it creates unnecessary difficulties for schools and for students with and without nut allergies. Prohibiting schools from selling nut products is not the solution; educating students about the potential dangers of nut allergies is. For example, something as simple as teaching elementary school students at a young age to wash their hands after eating a nut product can go a long way in protecting fellow students with nut allergies.

A special thanks to officers Mark Esposito and Rui Silva of the Jamestown Police Department and Community Service Officers Joan and Vinny Vessella for providing traffic control during the event. A very special thanks to Joyce and Fred Bartlett, Joan Jannelle, Carol Nelson-Lee, Rob Lambert and Isabelle Coyle for coordinating the parking: a hot and thankless job! Thanks to Larry and Betty Buckley, Jill Anderson and Judy Calabretta for managing the T-shirt and hat sales. Thank you Roger Marshall for providing another great T-shirt design. Hats off to the late Frank Caswell for his wonderful 1997 T-shirt design that we used for the very popular Fools' Rules Regatta hats. His design is now the official logo for the regatta.

Thanks to the Conanicut Yacht Club for the loan of the starting cannon.

This event would not be possible without the continuing support of the Burgess, Andrews, Noble, Hubbard and Gaither families for allowing us to use the field above the Shoreby Hill Green for parking. Thank you!

A special thanks to my wife, Candy, for getting out the publicity, organizing the registration and awards and for keeping the Chief Fool in line.

Finally, I would like to thank all

Students are in school for only 180 days, which means that, under this new law, they are not protected from nut products the other 185 days of the year when they're out of school. If given the proper knowledge in the classroom of how to protect a classmate from being exposed to nut products, students will take what they've learned and apply it outside of school.

Peanut butter and nut products are kid-friendly and inexpensive sources of protein and it will be cumbersome and potentially costly for schools to find suitable protein replacements that students actually

the participants and spectators who are able to laugh at themselves and others, and who continue to make the Fools' Rules Regatta one of Jamestown's most memorable summer events.

Chris Powell
Chief Fool
Fools' Rules Regatta

Jamestown's friendly harbor

In the Aug. 9 edition, the Press ran a lengthy and informative article under the heading: "Harbor management becoming more complex." The opening paragraph described the management of Jamestown's harbors as "...a formidable task that involves the harbormaster, the police and fire departments, and a number of town administrative personnel."

This, reporter Sam Bari goes on to say, "...is due to the fact that more than 1,400 private and commercial vessels...tie up to moorings around Conanicut Island each year... (and)...Additional boats tie up to a limited number of docks and piers that are available at various marinas."

While taking nothing at all away from either the Harbormaster, the police, or the fire department for the very capable handling of their administrative and /or emergency

enjoy eating. Now the burden will be placed on our schools to find a comparable, yet cost-effective, substitute for nut products. With no increase in education funding to our schools this year, the last thing they need in these difficult times is another unfunded mandate to adhere to.

Another aspect of the new law that troubles us is that schools now have to designate a peanut and tree nut-free table in their cafeterias, as well as a table where other children with nut or peanut products can eat them. During a time when students are desperate to fit in with their peers, it seems almost cruel to isolate them from fellow classmates and subject

functions, I think it is fair to say that this implication of the "limited" role of the marina operations - as well as the thrust of the remainder of the article - leaves an oddly unbalanced picture of the reality at the waterfront.

While I do not have precise figures at hand, I feel reasonably confident in guessing that a significant percentage, and quite possibly a majority, of the boaters who enjoy the waters surrounding our island - including, of course, the hundreds who visit these shores each summer, in everything from dinghies to trawlers, sailboats large and small, so-called "megayachts," and even the occasional "tall ship" - benefit from the availability of excellent marina services. Needless to say, organizing and managing all of those activities throughout our long boating season gives true meaning to the terms "complex" and "formidable task."

For these many boaters, the friendly, welcoming, and efficient amenities - from dockside or mooring accommodations, launch services, mechanical and maintenance assistance, marine supplies, to showers and related facilities, even landside shuttle service -- truly constitute the summertime personality, the "face" if you will, of Jamestown. When you include

them to unnecessary ridicule.

Over the course of the summer, we have spoken to several parents who are unaware of this new law and how it will affect their children come September. These parents, several of whom have children with nut allergies, are very concerned about the restrictions placed on schools and students and do not support the mandate.

It should certainly be a priority to protect students with nut allergies, but not at their own expense. This new law paints what should be a manageable situation for schools with a very broad brush and it can have dire consequences for our schools and our students.

the additional waterborne services such as the Jamestown-Newport Ferry, charter boating, and sight-seeing tours also offered by Conanicut Marine - often providing a real boating experience even for non-boating visitors - it should be evident to the most casual observer that Jamestown would not be the wonderful village, island, and maritime environment it is without this vibrant and vital waterfront contribution to the community and business life of our town.

Joe Vecchione
Jamestown

Heritage day was a grand success

On behalf of the Jamestown Holy Ghost Society, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who worked so hard to make our Portuguese Heritage Day such a grand success.

The day would not have been possible without dedicated members and local supporters. Our members worked tirelessly and proudly and deserve a great round of thanks and appreciation. The following businesses and individuals, who always donate so often and generously to Jamestown's causes, are also very deserving of a most sincere thank you:

Ace's Pizza, Advanced Financial Services, Anita Haircut, Art's Auto Body, Baker's Pharmacy, Bald Hill Garden Center, BankNewport, Bayada Nurses, Bell Wing Acres Turkey Farm, Conanicut Marina, Del's Lemonade, East Ferry Deli, Flint Audio, Freddie's House of Pizza, Grapes and Gourmet, Green River Silver Co., Haytoys Nurseries, Hunter Greens, Island Energy, Island Rubbish, Jamestown Designs, Jamestown Golf Course, Jamestown Hardware, Jamestown Wine and Spirits, the Kayak Centre, Madeira Restaurant, the Narragansett Café, Northwestern Mutual, Ocean Essence Spa, Overboard, Prim Rose Bakery, the Purple Door, Regan

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erly wind provided a real challenge for the sixty-five competitors as many were whisked out of control down the racecourse to the cheers and laughter of an enthusiastic spectator crowd.

This event would not have been possible without the support and help of many individuals and organizations. I would like to thank our dedicated and faithful Fool's Rules Race Committee: Linda and John Flinton, Judy and Jack Heelan, Dureen Bryer, Vic Calabretta, Bob Kinder and Tom Weaver. Thanks to Dureen and Bob Bryer for setting up our 30th Anniversary display of all past Regatta T-shirts - it really looked great!! Thank you to Jamestown Harbormaster Sam Paterson, Vic Calabretta, Brooke Longval and her father, Scott, Jack Heelan, Larry Buckley and Rick Anderson for providing on-the-water support. Thanks to the Jamestown Town Council for allowing us to use the East Ferry Beach, the Jamestown Youth Litter Corps and the Recreation Department for cleaning and raking the beach before the event. Thanks to the Public Works Department, especially Ramon Ibarlucea, for helping to set up the traffic control.

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