

CRMC

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examining whether the property owners have faced any other environmental violations in the past.

Groundwater testing devices not needed

Plans to install groundwater-monitoring devices in the Jamestown Shores will have to proceed without the cooperation of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM). According to Keiser, plans to deploy devices to monitor the quality of groundwater in the shores area, while interesting from a scientific perspective, would not impact the DEM's ISDS zoning process. However, the plan, which had been explored as a joint venture between the town, DEM, and URI, is not dead.

Keiser said discussions are still on-going between the town and university officials to determine the best course for future development of the Shores area.

Groundwater quality, which has been a persistent concern for Jamestown Shores residents who rely on septic systems because they are not connected into the town's sewer system, has been a virtual unknown for town officials and residents.

The monitoring would help fill in a gap in the town's groundwater database.

Because the devices were still available to the town at no cost, Council Vice President Julio DiGiando suggested that the town independently move forward with groundwater monitoring.

"It can't hurt to have more information," DiGiando said.

Also in relation to the Shores, Keiser gave an update at the Sept. 22 meeting on the town's tax sale lot acquisition efforts. He reported that the town currently has eighteen tax sale lots either pending review or complete.

Jamestown community block grants leave council wanting more

Jamestown was the recipient of \$33,650 from the Rhode Island Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, it was

announced last week.

The amount, which represents an increase from last year's \$31,500 in grant money, left town councilors underwhelmed.

In a letter to Town Councilors, Governor Donald Carcieri wrote "priority, this year, has been given to activities designed to improve or increase the supply of housing available to low and moderate income families."

Funding included \$20,000 for housing operations, \$5,000 for East Bay Community Action Health/Dental, \$2,000 for the Women's Resource Center, and \$ 2,000 for Community Housing Land Trust, \$2,000 for a community housing information program, and \$2,000 for the Community Housing Resources Board. Another \$600 was allocated for administration purposes.

Town Administrator Keiser said that he was disappointed with the amount, and suggested Jamestown suffered from the perception it had less need than other communities, due in large part to its affluence.

Councilman William Kelly suggested that the town write a letter to the Governor stating, "Thanks, but it's not enough."

Kelly acknowledged that Jamestown may not be perceived as needy, however noted that the town has a record of efficiently using funds it is granted. "I think we can prove that if we get this money, we'd be more productive," Kelly said.

Council President David Long expressed his concern with asking for more money and conceded that Jamestown was in better financial shape than other communities in the state.

Councilwoman Barbara Szepatowski also urged a tactful approach and suggested the town compare its grant with those given to towns such as East Greenwich, Barrington, and Bristol.

According to the Governor's office, \$5.172 million was awarded this year to 32 Rhode Island communities. A complete list of CDBG projects by community can be found online at www.governor.ri.gov.

Jamestown has received funding each year under the CDBG programs since 1987.

Open Forum

In the Sept. 22 open forum, State Representative Bruce Long (R - Jamestown, Middletown) updated the council on several issues affecting Jamestown including the state's on-going battle over the construction of an LNG terminal in Narragansett Bay.

Long, who has been a vocal opponent of LNG in Narragansett Bay, reported to councilors that he had sent a letter to National Grid President Mike Ryan urging the power giant to cease its pursuit of using its newly acquired KeySpan property to establish a Liquefied Natural Gas terminal in Providence.

Long also noted that he expects the General Assembly to be called into special session sometime in October to address several of the Governor's vetoes.

Also in the open session, Valerie Malloy of Columbia Avenue expressed her concern over involving the town in the dispute between the CRMC and the Procacciantis.

In other business:

- The town extended thanks to the Dutra and Neale families for their cooperation in the purchase of development rights to their family farms at last week's Special Financial Town Meeting.

- Approved a resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds and notes for acquisition of real estate as passed at the Sept. 18 special Financial Town Meeting

- Approved a resolution authorizing the acquisition of real estate and contracts grants as passed at the Sept. 18 special Financial Town Meeting

- Awarded a bid for teen center electrical improvements to Jack's Electric, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$7,210.

- Tabled the appointment of Russell C. Benjamin to the town's Housing Authority until an interview could be conducted.

Art museum hosts trip to sites in New Haven

Join Newport architect Ross Cann and Karl Emil Willers, executive director of the Newport Art Museum, for an art and architecture trip to New Haven, Conn. on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Participants will receive an insider's look at the completely refurbished Yale University Art Gallery. The gallery was designed by architect Louis Kahn. Lunch will be at the famous Mory's, a private club established in 1849.

After lunch, tour the British Art Center, one of the last structures designed by Louis Kahn that was made possible by the patronage of the great collector and philanthropist Paul Mellon. On the bus ride to New Haven there will be a screening of "My Architect," an Academy Award winning documentary about Louis Kahn.

Call 848-2787 to register. The trip costs \$95 for members and \$120 for non-members.

Banks to support food pantry

In preparation for the holiday season and the upcoming winter, every Aquidneck Island and Jamestown branch of Bank of America, BankNewport, Citizens Bank, Navy Federal Credit Union, NewportFed, People's Credit Union, Sovereign Bank, and Webster Bank are hosting a joint food drive to support the Feed A Friend Food Pantry at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center.

All donations of nonperishable food will stay in the local community to meet the needs of local residents. The branches will also accept monetary donations.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center has been oper-

ating its Feed A Friend Food Pantry since the late 1980's, providing a way for local residents to feed their families in times of need. The food pantry is open year-round, Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and provided about 41,250 meals in 2006 to area families. "We're a member agency of the RI Community Food Bank, but we rely on local donations for the bulk of our fall and winter giving," said Executive Director Amanda Frye Leinhos. "It's wonderful how this community comes together to help its own."

In Jamestown, food can be dropped at Bank of America, 29 Narragansett Ave. and at BankNewport, 31 Conanicus Ave.

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LEGAL TIP

The family of an Air Force officer killed in a water-skiing accident can't sue the government for wrongful death, the 9th Circuit has ruled.

The officer was on leave but on active duty, assigned to Luke Air Force Base in Arizona. He was killed while water-skiing with a U.S. Air Force owned boat on a lake near the base.

The victim fell into the water while water-skiing; the boat surged out of control and struck him in the head, causing a fatal brain injury. Police later determined that the boat's throttle cable had broken, which meant the driver was unable to slow down the boat.

The family sued the government for wrongful death, alleging that the Air Force failed to properly maintain and service the boat.

But the court held that the suit was barred under the *Feres* doctrine, which prohibits suits against the government for injuries that are incident to military service.

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