LETTERS

Continued from page 6

presently exist in Jamestown, but I really hope I exemplified my appreciation for "The Rock," and everyone that created it for me, not specifically every thing. I have my highest hopes that the current Jamestown kids have the opportunity to appreciate what they have.

Rachel Andreozzi
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Plenty for youth and families to do

Rebekah Rosen-Gomez's letter to the Press last week makes some good points. As a board member of the Jamestown Education Foundation (JEF), I would like to respond.

JEF was created nearly four years ago to address some of the very needs Ms. Rosen-Gomez cites. In those few years, JEF has worked with Principal Kathy Almanzor to create a wonderful After-School Program, which serves almost 75 percent of the local school population. The offerings vary hugely, from cooking to robotics to drama to Spanish instruction to string ensemble to drawing (not to mention the school's cross country, soccer, and other sports available to the students). Almost all of these after-school programs have been free to all students, effectively extending the school day for one hour of cultural, athletic and academic enrichment. Both school buildings buzz with activity long after the bell rings at 2:40.

JEF is active within the larger community as well. We partner with other organizations to bring innovative programs and activities to Jamestown. Among these are our annual Save the Bay Summer Camp and the teen center (Under the superb leadership of Melissa Minto, the teen center dealt with the lack of a permanent home while still offering activities and field trips for local students. Their new home at the community center is long overdue.) JEF has also given support to the Conanicut Island Raptor Project and the Narragansett Bay Coyote Study to give our students a chance to learn about the animals living among us. Data and/or curriculum for both studies have been used in Jamestown classrooms, as well as being available on the web for the general public.

Finally, Ms. Rosen-Gomez asks, "Where are the social events...?" I'd like to invite her and her family to the JEF Sing Along with the Sound of Music Night at the Jane Pickens Theater on Nov. 29, at 6:30 p.m. The classic movie will be shown on the big screen, as the "bouncing ball" helps everyone sing along. This family night at the movies is just $5 per person. Wear a costume and win a prize! We hope to see you there.

Mary Hall Keen
Jamestown Education Foundation

No local pass for the bridge?

In the past two editions of the Press, I have read the articles about the Newport Bridge, i.e. EZ Pass and the PR firm hired to assuage my dissonance about the bridge and turnpike authority. After reading both, my head is about to explode.

At the outset, let me be clear about my agenda. As a component of EZ Pass, there needs to be a component called Local Pass. This would entitle 'local' users unlimited use for a fixed monthly or annual fee. Or, based upon some formula of total trips during a specified period of time - a regressively pro-rated-per-trip amount that would be in a sliding scale somewhere between 30 and 50 cents.

Should be simple enough. As a part of the application process to get the little electronic thingy you need to Velcro to your windshield, if you live in certain communities that would authenticate you as a local… voila… Local Pass. Or, if you can prove you use the bridge every day for work… shazam… Local Pass.

Wilbur Smith Associates is being paid $137.50 an hour for 1,672 hours to make recommendations and provide process oversight? Nice gig! And what about any of the full time employees at the RIBTA? What do they do for the almost $2 million in payroll a year? And now we are being told that a PR firm is being hired at $175 an hour to "position the bridge as a critical component of the state's infrastructure (who cares?)… yadda yadda… responsibly operated, sensitive to the needs of the people…"

Hold on! Stop right there! Sensitive to the needs of the people? You've got to be kidding me! Just slap me and call me stupid. Try this one on for size. I need a bridge to cross that doesn't have to be a line item in my budget. How about being sensitive to that need? Or how about my need to not disproportionately support the bridge compared to other people in the state (or specifically, those who use the Mt. Hope Bridge every day). Feeling the need to maintain revenues? Raise the cash toll to $5… the most I want to pay is 50 cents – less if I have to go to the grocery and the hospital in the same day – I advocate "free" for second and all subsequent trips in a 24 hour period… and EZ Pass can make it all happen. It's a database that will track an infinite number of accounts and anything that can be conceived can be delivered. Actually, it is an extremely simple application. The fortitude and will to make it happen is all that is missing.

There is a window of opportunity here. The technology is available. Hire me for $100 an hour (discount rate due to vested interest) and I will be thrilled to tell you how to do it. I invite, implore and erstwhile challenge anyone / someone from the RDW Group to earn your $175 an hour and tell me why Local Pass is not possible and then have the $137.50 an hour people figure out a way to make it happen… or just ask me, it will only take about ten minutes… and I won't even bill the hour minimum.

Richard Spahr
Bow Street

Legislators were great teachers

The Honorable Teresa Paiva-Weed and Honorable Bruce Long put partisanship aside to give students a civics lesson. Using humor and patience, these representatives taught eighth grade students at the Lawn Avenue School in Jamestown how government fulfills its responsibilities to meet the needs of the people and how citizens can become involved in government. By taking students through the steps of policy making, students gained an understanding of the procedures that need to be followed to make a bill into law and the political powers that influence the making of laws. Using the new "Peanut Law," they also modeled the responsibility placed on public officials to collaborate to create public policy that balanced resolving a problem without creating other problems. Yet, the most valuable lesson came not in what they said, but what they did, for by speaking together, they demonstrated how great things can be accomplished when people collaborate.

Maureen McGuirl
History Teacher
Jamestown School

Archbishop of Canterbury to speak Sunday

The Most Reverend George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury, will be speaking at Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church in Jamestown this Sunday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. The topic of his address will be "Christianity and Islam: Is a clash inevitable?"

Lord Carey served as the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury from 1991 to 2002. Following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, Archbishop Carey became very involved in efforts to encourage dialogue between Christians and Muslims. In January of 2002, he initiated and hosted an inaugural gathering at his London residence, Lambeth Palace, between Christian and Muslim scholars from around the globe, with the intention of creating an on-going dialogue between these two great faiths. Following his retirement in October of 2002, Lord Carey has continued to be intimately involved in efforts to bring Muslims and Christians together for dialogue.

New gentle yoga offered by rec. department

Kim Chandler, director of Innerlight Center of Yoga in Middletown and adjunct faculty at Kripalu Center in Lenox, Mass., is offering a new gentle yoga class through the Jamestown Recreation Department.

This class is a good fit for students who are able to move easily from the floor to standing on their own and are interested in developing breathing, relaxation and stress management techniques while enjoying the benefits of gentle stretching and strengthening that yoga provides.

Adequate instruction will be provided for beginners, and continuing students will benefit from the balanced sequence of poses offered in the class.

Beginning Friday, Oct. 26, Chandler will offer this 75-minute class at 10 a.m. in the Wellspring building at 32 Pemberton Ave.

Drop-ins are welcome for $15 per class or students may purchase a five-class card for $60.

The card has no expiration date. Registration is handled at class, pre registration is not required.

TRICIA'S TROPI GRILLE
"ISLAND INSPIRED AMERICAN FOOD"
COME IN AND SAMPLE
NEW FALL MENU ITEMS
THURSDAY — LADIES NIGHT SPECIALS
HEATED TIKI BAR OPEN NIGHTLY
NOW BOOKING HOLIDAY PARTIES IN THE OASIS LOUNGE & SANDBAR — CALL FOR MENU SELECTIONS AND DATES!
HOURS: WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY, LUNCH & DINNER FROM 11:30
CLOSED MONDAY & TUESDAY
14 NARRAGANSETT AVENUE · 423-1490

Housewarming Gifts • Birthdays • Anniversaries • Weddings • Shower Gifts • Any Occassion
Baskets of Elegance and More
We can help you express yourself with creative gifts of fun, variety and excellent quality.
Whatever the occassion...
An occassional surprise...
Ordering is easy...
619-4667

www.basketsofeleganceandmore.com
850 Aquidneck Ave. Middletown Commons •Middletown, RI 02842

BOB SUTTON
Democrat For Town Council
Sensible (good common sense)
Understanding (understand issues and workable solutions, 37 years government experience)
Tradition (recover the traditional values and skills of the Jamestown Island community)
Tractors (dedicated to local sustainable agriculture, a volunteer at the community farm)
Open (public inclusion, public discussion, public decision)
Neighbors (abiding faith in our strength as neighbors and friends)
Ad paid for by Bob Sutton, Democratic For Town Council

KARNS Law Group

LEGAL TIP
A state Good Samaritan law does not bar a negligence claim against an individual who allegedly injured the plaintiff by removing her from her vehicle after an accident, the California Court of Appeals has ruled.
The defendant was a friend of the plaintiff who was driving in a separate car when the plaintiff's car slammed into a light post. The defendant, who stopped and dragged the plaintiff out of her car, said she did so because she thought the car was going to blow up. But the plaintiff claimed she was in no immediate danger and that the defendent's actions aggravated the spinal injury she suffered during the accident and rendered her paraplegic.
The court said the Good Samaritan law did not apply and the person could be sued because there was no immediate medical emergency.
PERSONAL INJURY LAW
• Motor Vehicle Accidents
• Traumatic Brain Injuries
• Product Liabilities
• Maritime Injuries
• Social Security Disability
No Fee Unless Successful
The Supreme Court licenses all lawyers in the general practice of law. The court does not license any lawyer as an expert or specialist in any field of practice.
6 VALLEY ROAD • MIDDLETOWN, R.I. 02842
401-841-5300 FAX 401-846-5999
www.karnslaw.com