

**LETTERS**

Continued from page 6

of major events. There is one very important aspect often left unrecognized to which I would like to draw your attention. I am referring to the numerous contributions made by many local service professionals who helped and assisted our distressed travelers.

None of us plan needing emergency services when we travel, but a significant number of travelers unfortunately do experience a wide range of challenges when they are away from home. Be it a lost purse, a car accident, a jellyfish sting, or a medical condition, hundreds of travelers are aided by our Newport County service providers every summer.

A perfect example of the professionalism of our emergency personnel was highlighted in a letter from a couple this summer, who unfortunately experienced a car accident while they were visiting. Tom Ruprecht, and his wife Signe Larson, of Cape Coral, Fla. were impressed by the care and professionalism of the firemen, police officers and emergency squad people, as well as all the emergency room staff. While this particular event made the newspaper, these professionals perform these tasks daily.

As a frequent traveler and someone who has known his share of problems while traveling, I can attest to the great comfort it gives someone to know that there are qualified professionals to help when you need it most.

I want to take this opportunity

to thank the numerous men and women who represent the many public services throughout Newport County, including police departments, fire departments, Coast Guard, rescue wagons, harbor masters, local hospitals, emergency personnel and other professionals who offered their services to assist the traveling public this summer season. Your professionalism and outstanding service is very much appreciated.

**Evan Smith  
Newport County Convention  
& Visitors Bureau**

**More than just a hardware store**

I would like to say that without our Jamestown Hardware where would we be? I am constantly beg-

ging for their help and bringing in all manner of stuff for them to help me with. Just a few weeks ago one of my many weed-wackers bit the dust and after four consecutive visits in about two hours time, they just handed me over a new one, with a smile. I know they'd all love it if I didn't show up constantly with the most ridiculous sets of problems, but I do. This is one of the reasons moving here was one of my best decisions. I love just popping down the street for what I need. If they don't have it, they can usually find it. Once, I dropped off a broken storm window and let it stay there all summer (like camp) and got around to retrieving it some time around November/December. Who else would take care of us like that and be open at all hours, and bring your screen door all repaired back to your house, and give Phoebe love and cookies. So here's to Jamestown Hardware! May we always have them.

Thanks for being my guardians.

**Isabel Coyle  
Jamestown**

**Thanks for town's bike race help**

On behalf of the Jamestown Rotary Club, I want to thank each and every one of you for your patience and support in making the 32nd annual Jamestown Classic bicycle race a phenomenal success. There is no question that such an undertaking takes its toll on local activities, especially over a holiday weekend, but in the spirit of giving, as so many from Jamestown so often display, we believe that our effort and our mission extend beyond our personal needs.

As you likely know, this event raises substantial monies for the Jamestown Rotary Club, which allows us to tackle various projects within the community. Recently, we created Will's Rest, a public garden that was created in conjunction with input from neighboring homeowners, an idea germinating from a local student's essay submission in our annual Will Reynolds Essay and Poster Con-

test. We have contributed funds to the local school for new chairs for the band, and we have purchased a new scoreboard for the baseball field. We have also awarded scholarship money to local youths attending post high school education. On an international level, we continue to support a wheelchair project in Nicaragua, and we are tackling a literacy project in Ghana. These projects simply could not occur without the Jamestown Classic, and quite simply, the Jamestown Classic cannot occur without your assistance. For that, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of you.

More specifically, I would like to thank all of the local police officers who assisted us by directing traffic at critical intersections. This service is invaluable to us with respect to the protection of our participants, as well as the many people that visit the island simply to watch the event, thereby further sparking the economic livelihood of the entire community. Additionally, I would like to thank the medical personnel who care for those riders who suffer injuries while participating in the race. Knowing we have on-site medical treatment for any unfortunate accidents is a great relief to our organization, especially this year when we had slick roads from the early morning rain. I also want to extend my appreciation to the many donors who contribute to the event in a plethora of different ways - financially, donation of items, donation of premises, etc. Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation to the countless volunteers who give portions of their time to assist us with the event by monitoring intersections, repairing roads, driving pace cars or any other of the innumerable tasks that are required to operate this event. Again, without your volunteerism, this event would not be possible.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the fact that there is always room for improvement, and as such, I would welcome any suggestions or constructive criticism

Letters continued on page 11


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**Mike Schnack**  
**on the issues.**



**WATER** - The new treatment plant increases our water supply, using a lot less water for backwashing. We have fixed leaking pipes in the water system. We now sell almost 100% of the water that we treat, before this, we were selling about 80%. The new water tower gives us 3 times the water storage. Now we can treat more water and have it available. All of these improvements have come at a cost. We must look at the problem of increased water rates. Mindful that we still have a limited supply of water, we should look at water regulations, too.

**PARKING** - Do we really have a problem? Is it in the physical organization of Downtown or in our parking regulations? It's probably a combination of both for those 12 weeks a year when I can't park right in front of the coffee shop. The recent workshops about Downtown have raised questions and ideas that we need to review as we try to preserve the character of the Village.

**DEVELOPMENT** - We have begun the process of buying lots in the shores that are in arrears of their taxes. These are smaller interventions than saving the farms but are important in maintaining the quality of life in the Shores.

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