



Melissa Mastrostefano, Laura Hosley, Sue Carcieri, Rep. Bruce Long, Stephanie Nocon and Melissa Minto attended a conference on underage drinking.

Island task force attends state conference

First Lady Sue Carcieri and Representative Bruce J. Long were joined by members of the Jamestown Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force (Melissa Mastrostefano, Laura Hosley, Stephanie Nocon, and Melissa Minto) at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick last Friday for an all day conference on underage drinking.

The conference, entitled "Substance Abuse Among Teens...Con-

necting the Dots," sponsored by the Rhode Island Family Court, Attorney General Patrick Lynch, and Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD), was attended by more than 450 interested people, including representatives from law enforcement, Substance Abuse Prevention Task Forces, student assistance counselors, prevention and treatment agencies, legislators

and high school students.

James Coppell, of the International Institute of Alcohol Awareness, spoke about the need for factions within the communities to work together. Five components that he suggested help keep children substance-free are hope, locus of control (feeling in control of their lives), significant involvement with adults, acquired skills, and altruism (giving back to others).

The Jamestown community has established a strong prevention network through the collaboration of the police, recreation department (including the teen center), school (including the student assistance program), town council, library, students, substance abuse prevention task force and others. Bruce Long attended the October Task Force meeting and is planning to assist in initiating legislation aimed at reducing underage drinking through environmental strategies, while educating people in the process. Anyone interested in learning more about the Task Force's initiatives can contact Laura Hosley at 423-3317.

Union contract terms settled

By Tom Shevlin

In negotiations that were driven by a recently instituted cap on property tax increases, union and town officials came to terms on two new contracts for the island's police and public works employees.

The contracts, negotiated with the International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO) and NAGE 69, counts among its highlights a reduction in the town's healthcare costs as well as an increase in the number of police patrols per day.

In terms of public safety, the new contract calls for a minimum of two patrol officers for each eight-hour shift and an increase over the current staffing, which only requires two patrols during the second and third shifts.

The contract also eliminates patrolman staffing on dispatch, allowing the town to hire full-time civilian dispatchers for an estimated savings of \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year, while at the same time freeing up two additional shifts per week for added patrol duty.

In addition, the contract also makes room for another sergeant for day-shift supervisor, a position that will be filled through promotion in order to maintain the size of the force at fifteen officers.

In healthcare, both the IBPO and NAGE agreed to switch from Blue Cross Classic to Healthmate,

increase outpatient co-pay for specialists, urgent care and emergency room visitation, and increase prescription drug co-pay from \$2 to \$5 generic and \$10 name-brand. In return, the town agreed to provide for Delta Dental Level IV at a cost of \$2,500 per year.

According to town officials, the plan modifications are estimated to reduce the town's Blue Cross premiums by 4 percent, or approximately \$30,000 per year.

At no cost to the town or to police officers is an agreed upon 20-year pension plan. A key objective for the IBPO, Jamestown had been one of only three Rhode Island communities without a 20-year pension plan. The addition is seen as a key feature in keeping Jamestown competitive in recruiting qualified officers.

Additionally, police officers will be required to increase their salary contributions from 8 to 9 percent towards their cost of living adjustments (COLA) from 1 percent to age 55 and 2 percent thereafter to 3 percent annually.

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser described the deal as "a win-win" for the town and its workers.

"I think the police got what they wanted in terms of staffing and the 20-year pension, and I think the town got it in terms of controlling its spending," Keiser said.



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Fire and EMS Runs

Fire runs

11:15 a.m., Oct. 15, Car 1 and 3, Ladder 1, Engines 2 and 3 answered an outside rubbish fire call on Narragansett Avenue.

8:50 a.m., Oct. 16, Car 1 and Engine 2 responded to a flammable liquid spill call on Park Street.

11:41 a.m., Oct. 16, Special Services 1 went to Coronado Street to assist police.

7 p.m., Oct. 18, All units responded to a training drill at the fire station on Narragansett Avenue.

3:40 p.m., Oct. 20, Ladder 1 and Engine 1 were dispatched to Buc-

caner Way in response to a carbon monoxide detector activation. No carbon monoxide was found.

EMS runs

11:18 a.m., Oct. 14, EMS 1 was dispatched to Conanicus Avenue for a medical emergency. The patient refused service.

9:48 a.m., Oct. 15, EMS 1 went to Bryer Avenue for a medical emergency and drove a patient to South County Hospital.

8:50 a.m., Oct. 16, EMS 1 was sent to Park Street for a fire standby.

11:41 a.m., Oct. 16, EMS 1 answered a trauma call on Park Street and drove a person to Newport Hospital.

10 a.m., Oct. 17, EMS 1 responded to a medical emergency on Beacon Avenue and drove a patient to Newport Hospital.

2:40 p.m., Oct. 17, EMS 1 was sent to Bryer Avenue to assist a patient.

3:51 p.m., Oct. 20, EMS 1 answered an oil spill call and was sent to Buccaneer Way for a fire standby.



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Loss of loved one is support focus

A group for bereavement support is forming at the United Congregational Church in Middletown.

Jointly sponsored by Memorial Funeral Home and Hospice at Visiting Nurse Services, the group will discuss issues and emotions surrounding the loss of loved ones.

They will meet on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6 p.m., beginning Nov. 28.

Side by Side, a group for those who have lost a child, will begin meeting Oct. 29 on Mondays from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the same location.

For more information, call 682-2100, ext. 485.