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New council begins with a heated debate

By Tom Shevlin

A proclamation request recognizing town staff for their efforts in opening the new town hall drew a heated debate among councilors at Monday's Town Council meeting.

The request, made by Councilman William Kelly, sought to recognize the work of former interim town administrator and current police chief, Thomas Tighe, Town Administrator Bruce Keiser, Town Planner Lisa Bryer, Town Clerk Arlene Petit, Public Works Director Steve Goslee, Building Official Fred Brown, Public Works Deputy Director Mike Gray, and Finance Director Christina Collins.

However, even before the mo-

tion was seconded, Council President Julio DiGiando expressed his reservations about singling people out and "forgetting someone."

Councilor Robert Sutton, who seconded the motion, offered the first point of discussion echoing DiGiando's comments.

"Is there anyone that doesn't deserve to be thanked?" he asked.

Councilwoman Barbara Szepatowski agreed. "Are we leaving people out?" she asked. From the administrators to their respective department staff, Szepatowski said that moving to the new town hall was a collective effort. "Either we thank everyone or we don't thank

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Wind power a green issue for island, state

By Michaela Kennedy

Shipping channels, navigational aids and regattas were some of the concerns addressed at the Rhode Island Offshore Wind Stakeholders meeting at the University of Rhode Island Bay Campus last month.

A diverse group, including Coast Guard officials, wind company representatives and fishermen, attended the stakeholder information session, wind energy committee member William Smith reported at the committee meeting on Nov. 20. Smith said that construction of state wind turbine farms was constrained by shipping channels and water depth. A couple of spots south of Block Island were pegged as possible venues for the renewable energy generators. "Smaller vessels can go underneath them with no problem," Smith noted in reference to a potential field of turbines offshore.

In a discussion about a call for bids for a wind energy feasil-

ity study on the island, committee member Abigail Anthony said she met with Town Planner Lisa Bryer about the needs and wants to list in a request for qualifications. Anthony noted that she, together with volunteer Joseph Logan, wrote an introduction, and added that the town planner would draft a body for the request. She expressed confidence that the completed draft would be ready for review by the next committee meeting.

The committee spent the rest of the evening brainstorming on potential wind generator sites, and listing requirements for feasible choices. Panel members noted sites that scored high on a wind graph, as well as sites that provided easy access for transport. Some of the suggestions discussed were farms, parks and other town-owned property.

Committee member William "Bucky" Brennan crafted a spreadsheet that showed high wind

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It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Father and son team Benjamin, left, and Wray Lessard are getting ready for the holiday rush at the Secret Garden.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

Holiday season starts this weekend

The holiday season cannot officially start until Santa has arrived, the tree has been lit, stores are decorated and the shopping has begun.

This weekend's events in Jamestown include all of these things and are the perfect recipe to jumpstart the season. Saturday and Sunday are filled with different happenings for shoppers, music lovers, food lovers and those who just want to marvel at holiday lights twinkling against a winter sky. Grab your loved ones, your wallet, and your holiday spirit and stop at all the shops, churches and outdoor events on the schedule below. Don't forget to greet Santa!

Great gifts at business open houses

Many stores in the village will have treats to make everyone's shopping more festive and to get them into the holiday spirit. Shops will be offering special services and refreshments from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Stop by the newest addition to downtown Jamestown, the Schock Gallery, at 47 Conanicut Ave. from noon to 5 p.m. The Schock Gallery exhibits nationally known and local fine artists including Cindy Blair, Kate Petrie, Barbara Hutchison, and Pat Tuff, as well as members of the Jamestown Arts Center.



Holiday Craft Show

Celebrate some of the talent that Jamestown has to offer at the 30th annual Holiday Craft Show hosted by the Conanicut Island Art Association on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Melrose Avenue School. Forty unique artists and artisans will participate. "Arrive early to find the best selections from your favorite crafters. There is always something special for each person on your gift list," CIAA president Karen Krider said. "And, don't hesitate to bring home something unique for yourself, as well. This show is known for excellent prices on fun and beautiful items."

Local artisans will offer a variety of mediums from watercolors and hand-knit items to topiary, jewelry, pottery and more.

Jamestown crafts include Dorothy Raynes' fresh holiday wreaths and boxwood trees; Jessie Dutra's notecards, father and son team Don and Keith Gillis' island treasures and silk screen t-shirts, Melissa Burrows' hand-turned wood pens, and Becky Mahle's jewelry designs.

While you are shopping, be sure to take a break for a snack or lunch at the PTO Café. Enjoy a variety of breakfast items, homemade soups and baked goods while supporting the

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Swain hearing postponed until Dec. 5

By Dotti Farrington

The extradition hearing for David Swain, 51, has been postponed until Wednesday, Dec. 5, at the request of his federal public defender. Swain has been detained without bail at the federal Donald W. Wyatt Detention Center in Central Falls.

He had been arrested Nov. 14 on a charge by British Virgin Island authorities that he murdered his wife, Shelley Arden Tyre, in 1999 while they were scuba diving off the Tortola shores of the BVIs. A former member of the Town Council, Swain is the owner of Ocean State Scuba on North Main Road.

The office of the federal defender said more time is needed because of the "rarity of the extradition and voluminous nature" of the warrant filed by BVI authorities. The hearing was reset for Dec. 5, at 10 a.m., before U.S. Magistrate Judge Lincoln D. Almond in Providence.