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## Every dog has his day

Tianna Scartabello and her dog Kailoos got in the holiday spirit at the annual Jamestown dog parade.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

## Council rescues farms preservation effort

### Land trust withdraws from original alliance

By Jeff McDonough

The Jamestown Town Council met in special session on Christmas Eve and unanimously approved a resolution allowing the town to obtain \$3 million in bonding to purchase the development rights to about 140 acres on two island farms.

The move came after the Conanicut Island Land Trust had notified the town on Friday that it was pulling out of the much publicized farm preservation deal.

According to Town Administrator Bruce Keiser, without money raised by the land trust, the town needed an additional \$1,820,000 to

complete the development rights purchase.

Keiser said the town is increasing its bonding by \$1.4 million, using the full bonding authority of \$3 million approved by voters at the Financial Town Meeting. The Department of Environmental Management re-allocated a \$420,000 grant. An additional \$330,000 came from an individual donor who had re-directed his money from the land trust, he said.

The town's bond debt service for the deal will cost the average island taxpayer about \$26 per year on a home assessed at \$480,000, he said.

The total package amounts to more than \$9.75 million and includes funding from state and fed-

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## Jack's Electric project approved by planners

By Michaela Kennedy

After months of controversy between the board and Windridge Properties, the Planning Commission agreed to recommend approval of modifications to a new construction unit that has been left without a certificate of occupancy on Clinton Avenue since last spring. The unanimous vote at the Dec. 19 meeting allows owner Jack Brittain to go before the Zoning Board of Review to seek final approval and permission to move in at long last.

The planning commission's approval followed the check-off of a list of modifications required by the panel in order to approve the revised plan. Questions to the applicant included details of a park-

ing agreement with abutter Ed Holland and outside lighting fixtures.

Commission Chairman Gary Girard recused himself at the request of Donald Parker, the attorney representing Windridge Properties. Girard's daughter and son-in-law own property on Howland Avenue, the same street where Holland's business is located. Holland and Brittain have a parking agreement in connection with Brittain's property.

Girard begrudged the request before stepping down, saying, "I do not agree, as I do not have anything to gain."

A point of contention that stalled

See "Project" on page 11

## Highway barn tops 2007 island news-making events

By Sam Bari

The year 2007 saw several major changes for the town of Jamestown. Some have brought the island together in a united stand, others have caused deep divisions between advocates of opposing beliefs, and still others have been thought provoking and sometimes heart-wrenching, but all have peaked readers' interest.

### Highway barn finally approved

The location of the much needed highway barn was a controversial issue for well over a decade. Island residents voted on the location years ago; factions opposed the vote, and the matter was tangled in a web of political and legal maneuvering that caused deep divisions amongst residents and administrations alike.

Three potential sites were being considered to locate the facility: Lots 47 and 48 at the town's transfer station property, and a parcel on Taylor Point partially owned by the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA). However, pointing to economic and environmental concerns, Lot 48, which had recently been added as a potential barn site was removed from consideration.

The debate over the issue then focused on Lot 47 and the bridge authority property at Taylor Point. Citizen opinions were sharply divided.

See "Top ten" on page 14



The original Town Hall, shown here in its Christmas finery, found a new home in 2007 as the council chambers for the new Town Hall.

Photo by Vic Richardson