

LETTERS

Continued from page 6

voted unanimously to support the decision of the three members. However, four zoning board members votes were needed for approval so the issue goes back to Superior Court for the judge's decision. In the meantime, the historical society continues to oppose the Clancys and I assume it pays for legal representation.

We see no reason why the historical society cannot live in harmony with their neighbors. This is a wonderful community – we don't need the hate.

One other thought: The Clancy house and studio could have been something very different, if the property had been purchased by someone else. Just think of a Florida or California house next to our precious windmill.

Anyone interested in viewing the Clancy home, workshop and story may go to the following Website: http://www.projo.com/home/content/projo_20041128_glass28.1259cd.html.

Sue and Bill Brayman
Jamestown

A distraction for the town

Enough about the glass blowing! We support historic preservation. We admire and support the Land Trust. We voted for, and are willing to be taxed for, the preservation of farmland as open space. That does not entitle us to, nor do we want to, ignore the rights of private property owners.

To try and saddle the town council with letting down the voters by supporting the property owners' permit application is simply a desperate ploy to incite the taxpayer, after the fact. The glass blowers' application has been pending for over two years – it's nothing new.

The property on which the glass studio is located had been offered for sale. Neither the Historical Society nor the Land Trust bought it.

Let's move on.

John and Joan McCauley
Jamestown

Glassblowing studio belongs

Ouch, ouch, and ouch! That is what I felt as I read the Clancy/Historical Society letters in last week's Jamestown Press. I have long shied from letters, as I was never in the mood to set myself up for the community stabbings that follow. However, in the spirit of the Christmas season, I am hoping that the mean-spirited folks keep their pens silent. I, too, would like to name my letter "Preserving the Windmill District," as I feel that is exactly what the Clancy's would be doing if they were able to sell their wares from their workplace.

I am not a lawyer and I certainly do not have the zoning lingo going on, but as an ordinary citizen I choose to have my say. My family has lived in Jamestown for a very long time. My great-grandparents sailed from Ireland and settled here. My father was actually a home birth on our island. The history of Jamestown has always been important to us. I have often said that when I retire, the one organization that I would choose to donate my time and money to would be the historical society. After attending Zoning Board and Town Council meetings in regards to the Clancy controversy, I would be embarrassed to do so now. I have to say that I was actually ashamed at some of the public behavior I witnessed against the Clancy's. One couple, who shall remain nameless, should totally be feeling the shame. If members of the historical society saw and heard their actions and words aimed at the Clancy's at the last Town Council meeting, they must surely be cringing! No one has more class than David and Jen Clancy for ignoring the heckling and actual grabbing! In some other town, USA, I would venture a guess that litigation from a citizen's standpoint would follow. I am saddened and amazed that this issue needs to be heard at the Supreme Court level.

More than 30 years ago, as a URI college student, I took a class called the History of Rhode Island. I interviewed Beth McCallen for a term paper I wrote on the Jamestown Windmill. She lived where the Clancy's now live. For those that remember Beth, you will recall what a delightful individual she was. She gave me a beautiful drawing of the windmill

that I promptly had framed and gave to my mother. The point I am trying to make is that the historical aspect of the windmill and immediate surroundings was so very important to Beth. I think she would have been honored to see how the Clancy's have restored her home with their love and artistry, while preserving as much of the historical artifacts as was humanly possible. I do not think we could have found better neighbors for "Windmill Hill" if we had advertised in the classifieds.

When you step into the Clancy's barn studio, you will step back in time. It should not matter how you stand on this issue, it is an education that you should encounter. I promise you will be amazed. Glass blowing by hand is an art that could be lost to factories. Let us all not forget the price that comes with that. The Clancy's are so giving of their time and knowledge to our school children and families. It truly is beyond my comprehension that we are not begging this couple to open their shop for business!

There are some that voice parking concerns and North Main Road traffic as their bias. Any shopkeeper in Jamestown wishes they saw too many cars parked in front of their business. The reality is very few shops can survive year round due to lack of business. I would think we would want to attract folks to the windmill to enrich their own history, and that in turn may even generate interest in the historical society. I sincerely believe that allowing the Clancy's to open up shop could only enhance the historical aspect of "Windmill Hill."

The Clancy's are willing to sell their beautiful hand blown glass on such a restricted schedule. Can we please support their endeavors to preserve such a beautiful and old craft and at the same time enrich our history? I implore others to show their support.

Eileen Drury Tiexiera
Jamestown

Fire fighters deserve praise

In the early morning of Dec. 16, during a storm of sleet, wind, snow and freezing rain, the Historic 1750 Benjamin Carr Farmstead in the Windmill Hill Historic District caught fire and severely burned. We are thankful that our tenants Mark

Robertson and Jodie Alger, and Bill Bell were not injured physically, although they did lose most of their possessions in the fire.

The State Fire Marshall has said that the cause was undetermined, although most likely the fire was electrical in nature. The State Fire Marshall also told me that if this fire had occurred in other cities or municipalities the house would most likely have burned to the ground. A 1750 wood frame structure is indeed a tinder box. I commend the Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department for a job well done.

I write this letter to praise and thank the Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department for their effort, competency, and skill in fighting and containing this fire. We often tend to take for granted what we have in our midst and also think that the odds of needing fire department services is rather remote. Unfortunately it takes an event of this nature to make one realize just how important it is for all of us in this town to have ...and support... the men and women of the Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department. They are a most important asset to the Town of Jamestown.

Don Minto
Jamestown

Purchase tiles to help Teen Center

As the New Year approaches, the Jamestown Teen Center is in its final stages to be up and running. We are very excited to be finishing up with painting and construction, and are readying the space to be filled with the computer lab, furniture, refrigerator, appliances and supplies. We will be inviting the community to our Grand Opening Celebration on Feb. 15, and will kick off winter vacation with an assortment of fun activities for teens. Although we are so close to finishing the project, we are still in need of many things to make the Teen Center complete.

So many people have been asking to help, and want to show their support for this new and upcoming addition to our community. Our "Tiles for Teens" fundraising project was created to do just that. This spring, teens will be creating ceramic tiles and installing a mosaic mural in the Teen Center. If you would like to support youth development in Jamestown, we encourage you to purchase a tile that will be displayed for future generations of teens. You can have your name on a tile for \$20, purchase your own 4 x 4-inch tile for \$100, or an

8 x 8-inch tile for \$500. All tiles can include an inscription and your name, business or organization. All donations are tax-deductible and will help us purchase all the final details for the Teen Center.

Thank you in advance for helping us make this vision possible. For more information, please contact me at 423-7261 or email jamestownteens@yahoo.com. Happy New Year!

Melissa Minto
Teen Coordinator, Jamestown
Parks and Recreation

Schools need councilor on staff

Jamestown has always been known as a "wonderful place to live." Its one of those "everybody knows everybody" towns, and the people who live here generally like it that way. What most people don't know is that Jamestown, for a long time now, has been a "turn your head and look the other way" town. Underage drinking and the use of illegal substances has been an overlooked problem for this town in the past and is now progressing to all new heights. Jamestown is one of the only towns without a DARE program in our schools and the Town Council is now looking to take away one of our only means of substance abuse prevention in the schools. That's Stephanie Nocom, our children's student assistance councilor. Why do they wish to take her out of the school? Simply because they need the money and it's easier to just make a budget cut where people won't really notice, even if it is at the expense of our children. I urge anyone who thinks that this is unfair to come to the next town council meeting, and speak up, and if they don't want to speak up, at least listen to the people who will.

Machi Kuragi
Jamestown

A picture perfect Christmas Pageant

Christmas Eve on Shoreby Hill was picture perfect with a stunning full moon rising under the Newport bridge, a bit of snow still on the ground, a donkey, four sheep, and an excited cast of players, making this very special event one to remember.

Many thanks to all who came out to see the angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary and Joseph in the live Nativity scene. The cast did a wonderful job portraying the event, and it was a real pleasure working with the families of all those involved.

Special thanks to Bill Munger, Mary and Steve Heath, Jill and Rick Anderson, Jack and Jay Brittain, Mary and Tom Waddington, Emmy and Nick Lutes, Nick Robertson, Lizzie Gooding, Brian and Nanette Bryer, Matt Bolles, and the Brome family.

See you next year!

Susan W. Lutes
Pageant Director

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