

# Letters

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remaining in the area. After these new parking restrictions are approved more of our free access to the waterfront will be lost.

For what reasons, you ask? Mostly it's all the usual "keep out the others" arguments like, "Those who come early get the choice parking spots and are not year-round residents," and "They're not even from Jamestown," or "They don't speak English." Of course, there's the always shocking, "They have dirty habits!"

Well, not one of those reasons come close to making me trade off my rights for free access to the waterfront. As far as "the others" using our beach and fishing peers, I say, if they're good enough to work for landscaping companies, contractors, and other businesses that service our community, then they're good enough to bring their families and fishing poles for a day at the shore.

As I think about the next summer with these new restrictions, I'm also concerned about the potential danger to a family that's forced to walk 1,000 feet on Seaside Drive with their arms full of the stuff one takes to the beach, dodging speeding cars, trying to keep their children out of harms way because there are no side-walks.

If you are a Shores resident and want more, not less, waterfront access, I urge you to attend the public hearing at the library, at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8 to speak against these parking restrictions. If you're reading this and have a friend who lives in the Shores please give them a call to be sure they are aware of the public hearing date and time.

Once and for all, the Town Council needs to know that the interests of a handful of residents identified as the Jamestown Shores Association do not speak for all 850 Shores households.

**Thank you,  
Sav Rebecchi,  
Sail Street**

## New equipment... no barn

I have just read about the new and refurbished equipment the highway department has obtained and have a question. Where are they putting all this brand new equipment? Out in the winter

weather to rust? Our thanks must go to the few who have delayed construction of the highway barn for the last 20 years. Our taxes are higher so that the town can buy (much needed) new maintenance vehicles and leave them to over winter outdoors where they deteriorate. Almost everyone I have spoken to suggests that the concerned citizens holding up the building of the highway barn should be more concerned about all the other people on our island who would like better roads, less maintenance on highway dept. vehicles, and lower taxes.

The people of the highway department do a great job under difficult circumstances. If a piece of equipment at the back of the barn is needed. The entire barn has to be emptied to get that equipment out. Work on older gear often has to be done outdoors because there is no space in the present barn. Countless hours have been wasted moving equipment, maintaining rusted equipment, and traveling from one end of the island to the other to do road work. Lets make this year the year the highway barn gets built... next to old landfill.

**Roger Marshall,  
Jamestown**

## Keep pageant simple

Sometimes change is good. Sometimes it isn't.

Please keep the live nativity on Christmas Eve as it was originally intended. Peaceful, serene and simple, only recitation of scripture and the beautiful singing of Christmas songs.

Please, no announcements, no thank-yous. These can and should be in the newspaper.

**Thank you,  
Lynda A. Sutton,  
Jamestown**

## Thanks to good Samaritan

On Tuesday evening, Dec. 12, my wife and I left our home to seek supper because we were too tired for food preparation after rising at 3:30 a.m. to reach medical care in Boston. Before driving a mile, we developed a flat tire and called AAA. While we waited for their arrival, three drivers who saw that we had a problem stopped to ask if they could help. Eventually a truck also stopped behind us and the driver proceeded to change our tire. We thought he was the AAA service person, but soon learned that he was a good-hearted volunteer who simply stopped to help us. He also called the Jamestown Police Department for a protective

officer. Our rescuer was Henry Tarbox, and we are grateful to him and to all who offered help.

**Carl M. Helgerson,  
Bayberry Road**

## Chorus says thanks

It was a joyful experience for all of us in the Jamestown Community Chorus to perform our favorite selections in two concerts in December. The patrons were most appreciative of our 2006 holiday offering, which included seasonal and Christmas choral music from as early as the 16th century to the present day.

Our thanks to the folks at Central Baptist Church, who provide us with outstanding rehearsal and performance space, and to Baker's Pharmacy, Jamestown Hardware, and the Secret Garden, who have been ticket agents for the chorus for many years.

As always, The Jamestown Press continues to be instrumental in getting the news of our chorus and its activities into the households on Conanicut Island.

Our appreciation also goes to our loyal following, who not only support us by attending our concerts, but also by supporting us in our annual fund drive.

Rehearsals for the spring concerts begin Monday, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m., at Central Baptist Church. "Going Home" will be performed on May 5 and 6.

**Thank you very much,  
Marion Gomez,  
public relations,  
Jamestown Community  
Chorus**

## Holiday at Seamen's

The holiday season of 2006 has been a remarkable one at Seamen's Church Institute beginning with our Thanksgiving Dinner for the community when we cooked and served 75 dinners. The Christmas season began with the enchanting decorating of our 1930 historic building by the Newport Garden Club followed by Christmas morning breakfast when we cooked and served for 150 members of the community. Finally, on Dec. 27, we again prepared a community breakfast for 120. All of the food and service were provided by volunteers to whom we gratefully say thank-you, as well as to those who have contributed to our Christmas appeal. Due to the generosity of so many, Seamen's is able to continue its mission, and we look forward to another great year in 2007.

**Ann C. Souder,  
Newport**

# Keiser

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why it became so necessary to re-establish a center for them. I anticipate a big success."

## Wind power

Wind energy rated high scores for Keiser's first year on the job here, "because it emerged from the interests of citizens who volunteered and brainstormed about it, and because of the obvious great location that Jamestown represents among several coastal sites being termed ideal locations." The town is posturing for a direct wind energy role and for an active state-wide collaborative role, he said in reviewing the new topic. "We also have to be cautious, take into consideration neighborhood impacts" for location of any wind turbines and towers, Keiser added. Neighborhoods will be brought into discussion to get their perspective as the town proceeds, he said.

## Housing

The town administrator then said that affordable housing may be possible at the Southwest Avenue location of the Town Offices that will move to the new town hall next summer. The availability of the Southwest Avenue site "is a great opportunity for the community to provide affordable rental units." He pointed out that the location was ideal for drawing on such services as grocery shopping, churches, schools, and the new town hall.

"Hopefully, the feasibility of some partnership with non-profits or for-profits will make sense," Keiser said. He noted that a forum was to be conducted this week to kick off the state effort for affordable housing.

## Deer

"The deer management issue has presented the town with a very perplexing challenge, but one not without a reasonable solution by next season," Keiser said.

The product of a Pennsylvania hunting family, Keiser himself is not a hunting enthusiast and is often taunted by his own relatives for not engaging in the activity. However, he is committed to whatever

humane methods are available to control the island's deer herd. He said a deer harvest is appropriate to reduce the damage the deer do to their own food supply and the island's environment, including other animals and plants hurt by an overabundance of deer.

"If we agree the herd is oversized, then we can agree on a method to reduce the numbers. We are not stuck with using only recreational hunting to control the deer," Keiser said. "I am an eternal optimist," he added.

Town and state officials have been working to allow hunting at the town reservoir's 50 acres and to encourage more private land owners to open their property to hunters, as well as continuing this year's trial bow-hunting season at Beavertail State Park. Humane Society of Jamestown members have worked to block deer hunting and to promote such herd control methods as contraception, which so far has been considered too expensive and inefficient for wide use.

## Pre-island

Keiser was chosen from among more than 50 applicants to come to Jamestown after 16 years with South Kingstown as its director of administrative services and liaison. He studied at Boston University and the University of Virginia before working nine years with Pawtucket and spending a short time as an administrator for the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council.

He married Mary Ellen Gunning 35 years ago. She was a full-time parent until their three children reached adulthood, after which she began a teaching career at Narragansett High School.

On his appointment here, Keiser said "I see my role as the quarterback of a team of professionals. I'm here to assist them to do their job well."

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**LEGAL TIP**

A Burger King restaurant could be sued for not designing its building to prevent a runaway car from crashing through its storefront, the Illinois Supreme Court has ruled.

A patron who was eating inside the restaurant was killed when a car crashed through the windows near its entrance. His estate sued Burger King for negligence, alleging that its failure to exercise due care in the design and construction of the restaurant was a proximate cause of his death. The estate claimed that Burger King could have taken steps to prevent such injuries by placing pillars or concrete poles in the sidewalk by the restaurant's entrance and by designing the restaurant to be bricked more than a few feet above ground.

Burger King argued that it didn't have a duty to protect its patrons from the threat of runaway cars crashing into its building.

But the court disagreed, stating Burger King did owe a duty to protect its patrons in a case like this.

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