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Ready for some action

Matthew Daly, age 2, wore a snazzy fireman outfit to the fourth grade penny carnival, held at the Melrose Avenue School last week.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

Keiser condemns state board's water rulings

By Tom Shevlin

Taking umbrage with the State Water Resource Board's recent 6 to 1 vote to rule the Jamestown Water Department in non-compliance for not submitting an acceptable five-year water management plan, town officials said Monday that Resource Board General Manager Juan Mariscal "owes us an explanation."

In the monthly meeting of the town council sitting as the Water and Sewer Commission, Town Administrator Bruce Keiser once again defended the town against what he called the "very punitive

approach" taken by the Water Resource Board at last week's hearing, while Town Council President David Long described the situation as "a mess" and the board's actions "egregious."

Keiser reported that a number of issues had come up in the hearing which shed more light on the board's decision. To begin, he said that he was surprised to find the process does not provide for more communication between parties. According to Keiser, non-compliance issuances are not a frequent

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Jamestown failed two 2006 water bacteria tests

By Tom Shevlin

Jamestown's total coliform bacteria levels exceeded Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water standards briefly last year, according to the Jamestown Water Department's annual Consumer Confidence Report.

In July 2006, two of the eleven water samples taken that month tested positive for coliform bacteria. According to EPA standards, only one positive test is permitted. According to the report, which will be included in island ratepayers' next bill, at the time of the positive hits, the treatment plant's chlorine system was operational and functioning properly, however the water temperature, which was approximately eighty degrees, along with new pipe in the distribution system had probably provided an environment for microbial growth.

The report also did not rule out

the possibility of isolated sampling conditions. According to Public Works Director Steve Goslee, the positive test samples were taken from bath and kitchen taps at the highway barn and fire station, and it is possible that the contamination could have been due to an isolated plumbing fixture or nozzle.

Also in the report, the Rhode Island Department of Health, in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has assessed the threats to Jamestown's water supply as at low risk of contamination. The assessment, which considered the intensity of development, the presence of business and facilities that use, store, or generate potential contaminants, how easily contaminants may move through the soil, and the sampling history of the water is part of a federal mandate to monitor community water quality.

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Harbor panel finds only one acceptable mooring field site

By Sam Bari

The Harbor Management Commission, at their June 4 meeting, deliberated the pros and cons of Park Dock, Cranston Cove, and Heads Beach as potential mooring areas. After lengthy discussion, the commissioners voted 6-0, with Chairman Michael de Angeli abstaining, to draft a letter to the Town Council recommending Heads Beach as the only mooring area with potential for development.

Vice Chairman Andrew Kallfelz spearheaded the discussion of the mooring fields, which was an agenda item continued from last month's meeting. He emphasized the importance of responding to the Coastal Resources Manage-

ment Council (CRMC) request for the completion of the harbor management plan and bringing the plan into compliance.

Kallfelz said that the commission must discuss the potential mooring areas and make a decision concerning their status before the plan can be revised.

Chairman de Angeli agreed, and said that when the recommendation for the revised harbor plan is on the Town Council agenda, residents with concerns will have an opportunity to speak and be involved in the decision-making process.

During the discussion, the commissioners agreed that adequate shore-side facilities could not be developed that would support

mooring fields at either Cranston Cove or Park Dock.

After debating the issue, Kallfelz motioned to form a Harbor Management Ordinance sub-committee to draft an amendment to the harbor plan. The amendment would declare Cranston Cove and Park Dock as non-mooring areas that the town would manage into compliance with state and CRMC present ordinances. The town would also manage Head's Beach into compliance as a mooring zone. Commissioner Robert Bowen seconded the motion, which the panel approved without dissent.

When Cranston Cove resident Maurice La Flamme was asked about the decision, he said, "They are doing the right thing. Cranston

Cove should never be a mooring area." La Flamme attended the previous harbor commission meeting when the harbor plan and potential mooring areas were discussed with the CRMC.

In other business, Harbor Management Executive Director Thomas Tighe reported that the commission received a \$15,000 grant from the state Department of Environmental Management (DEM) for the installation of a new pumpout facility at East Ferry.

Tighe also announced that much to his regret, Paula Swistak would be leaving her post as harbor clerk. The chief also congratulated Swistak for her new appointment as the town assistant finance director.

In an unrelated matter, the

commission voted unanimously to send a letter to the Town Council saying that after reviewing the CRMC public notice, they had no objections for Michael Powers to construct and maintain a 204- by 4-foot fixed pier at his home at 569 Seaside Drive.

Harbormaster Sam Paterson mentioned that the long-requested missing cleat for the touch and go dock at East Ferry had arrived and would be installed within a week.

Swistak said that she has received a number of requests from boat owners requiring No-Discharge Compliance Program stickers about where to go to get inspected. The DEM ordinance, which went into effect on June

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