



# THE JAMESTOWN PRESS

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## Council objects to authority sale terms

By Tom Shevlin

Town councilors voted to move forward with plans to purchase property at upper Taylor Point for the town's proposed highway barn. However the decision did not come without some reservation.

With Council President David Long absent, councilors voted 3 to 1 on Monday to accept an offer of sale from the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA) for a parcel at upper Taylor Point necessary for the siting of the town's proposed highway barn. However, at least two councilors expressed concern over some of the language in the RITBA acceptance of the town's offer of purchase, including Councilman William Kelly, who cast the lone dissenting vote.

Last month, the Town Council voted 3-2 to site the town's controversial highway barn at a prop-

erty on upper Taylor Point, which would require the town to purchase a parcel of land for \$97,500 from RITBA in order to meet critical space requirements for the facility.

In a letter dated June 22, 2007, RITBA Executive Director Buddy Croft outlined terms of the sale, which did not sit well with some councilors.

Councilman Michael Schnack, who voted to site the highway barn adjacent to the town's transfer station at Lot 47, pointed to a request by the bridge authority to "review and approve the facility's design and how the property will be utilized." Schnack labeled that request as "totally unacceptable," and expressed concerns over giving that kind of oversight to the bridge authority.

Councilman William Kelly  
See "Sale" on page 12

## Council may reconsider licensing East Ferry vendors

By Tom Shevlin

In response to a growing number of vendors requesting permission to conduct business on public property, Town Clerk Arlene Petit suggested that it may be time for council members to rethink the town's policy towards issuing peddler's licenses at East Ferry.

Recently the demand for one day peddler licenses has increased from retail sellers according to Petit. In the past, the Town Council has allowed peddlers licenses for special events. Over the last few

weeks, however, the town has received multiple requests from the same individuals for licenses for the East Ferry area on days when there are no specific events being held.

Approving those applications may conflict with a council policy, which limits the number of seasonal vendors allowed to operate at East Ferry.

In 1996, the Town Council voted to limit the number of seasonal

See "Vendors" on page 12



### What a blast!

Sunday night's fireworks provided a source of glee to thousands of islanders who turned out for the shoot on Mackerel Cove beach

Photo by Vic Richardson

## Tall ships drew thousands to Jamestown

### Weekend costs town \$27,241

By Dotti Farrington

In the wake of the July 1 Parade of Tall Ships, Jamestown is riding waves of raves for the island's handling of the flood of visitors for the event. Local officials credited planning that was coordinated by the state for the procession of more than 20 ships between Conanicut and Aquidneck Islands.

The last time the Tall Ships showcased their sails, in 2004, visitors who came to watch the parade from Jamestown's choice viewing sites were vexed by insufficient handling of the gridlock the viewers' vehicles created.

This summer's grand marshaling of Narragansett Bay, especially the sailing finale July 1, has brought accolades to both islands

that shared the tourist invasion for the event. Officials prepared for 250,000 visitors, but have no exact counts to report.

In Jamestown, the visitors scattered to such sites as Taylor Point, East Ferry, and Fort Wetherill and Beavertail State Parks. Town Administrator Bruce Keiser reported, "We're getting good response to the Tall Ships preparation from visitors and townspeople." He cited a letter from a Connecticut family. "We were extremely impressed with Jamestown's planning and organization for this grand event. We drove right into town without any delays, found convenient parking and were able to exit the downtown waterfront area smoothly. Your local police department and the National Guard did a terrific job," Laura Massad wrote about her family's visit to Jamestown.

### Hosting costs

Keiser reported Monday that costs for the town's role in hosting the visitors totaled \$27,241. The state had advanced the town \$7,000 toward police overtime. The town, through its legislators, already had applied for an added \$10,000, which is pending. Keiser said he will ask legislators to support nearly \$11,000 more in reimbursements. He expects the \$21,000 would be forthcoming next fall or winter.

The costs incurred were: \$19,942, for police overtime; \$4,050, for 30 portable toilets and supplies; \$2,457 for two shuttle buses July 1 and one bus June 30; and \$790 for work done by employees of the town public works and recreation departments. His report did not include amounts for state police and for 26 Na-

See "Tall Ships" on page 19



### Nosy patriot

Young patriot Nathan Daniel Housberg got in the Independence Day spirit by painting an American flag across his nose.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten