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Thursday, October 4, 2007

EZPass approved to start next November

By Dotti Farrington

The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA) has chosen Wilbur Smith Associates, with offices in New Haven, Conn., to oversee installation of an electronic toll collection system, commonly known by the brand name EZPass, on the authority's Claiborne Pell - Newport Bridge.

The authority voted Sept. 25 to award the contract to the Smith consulting firm based on its proposal to work 1,672 hours for a total cost of \$229,840 to have a system operational by November

2008. The firm is due to make its recommendations to RITBA for a system by the end of this November and to oversee the bidding and negotiation process to hire a provider and installer by April, with the system to be operating before the end of next year.

Other consultants who vied for the contract were MSX International of Washington, N.H., with an offer to do the job in 1,760 hours at a cost of \$277,830; Gov-Science of Wayne, N.J., proposing

See "EZPass" on page 27

Town may urge CRMC to approve Beaverneck plan

By Tom Shevlin

The owners of a parcel of land on Beavertail Road have been cited by the state Coastal Resource Management Commission (CRMC) for violating the state's coastal management regulations.

The Proccacianti Group, a Cranston-based real estate development firm, who own Plat 12, Lot 41, commonly known as Beaverneck Farm, had violated state regulations when they clear cut vegetation within 200 feet of the coastal buffer zone.

However, according to Town Administrator Bruce Keiser, the Proccaciantis have indicated they are planning to use the property for agricultural purposes. Due to its in-

tended use and the current state of re-vegetation of the area in question, Keiser asked that the council send a letter to CRMC officials in support of the landowners.

The move would signal a departure for the council, which had unanimously passed a resolution on Nov. 13, 2006 expressing the town's concerns over what it then called a "blatant coastal buffer zone violation" by the property owners.

Councilwoman Barbara Szepatowski, an environmental engineer, expressed her reservations over further council action, noting that town officials should consider

See "CRMC" on page 17

Islanders offer ideas for downtown at vision session

By Michaela Kennedy

Attendees of the community visioning workshop last week rolled up sleeves and filled work benches with their ideas about the future of Jamestown. Results of the public discussion are already posted on the Jamestown Vision Web site, jamestownvision.org.

The Internet snapshot of the Sept. 27 evening at the recreation center shows a clear picture of categories and concerns of village development. Photographs of the presentation board, with topics of interest from pedestrian mobility

to the overall future of Narragansett Avenue, are uploaded on the site.

The planning team provided poster-sized papers and markers, reminiscent of paper tablecloths and crayons common at family restaurants these days. Participants talked, wrote, and mingled with other groups as ideas sprung forth.

Before the evening workshop, moderator Robert Leaver of New Commons ranked and tallied responses from the village vision

See "Vision" on page 13



Town Hall opens today

The town's network manager, Donald Haskell, at top, is up to his elbows in loose wiring as he attempts to get everyone online at the new building. At center is the new pedestal clock. Below, Finance Director Tina Collins is working to get her files organized in time for today's grand opening.

Photos by Jeff McDonough



Next week's newspaper deadlines

The Jamestown Press office will be closed Monday, Oct. 8 for the Columbus Day holiday.

Deadlines for the Thursday, Oct. 11 edition of the Press are as follows:

Display advertising: 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 5.

Classified advertising: Noon, Tuesday, Oct. 9.

News items: Noon, Tuesday, Oct. 9.

The staff at the Jamestown Press wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday.