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Thursday, April 24, 2008



Springtime on the farm

A Scottish Highland cow, Rhuna, and her baby, Macbeth, enjoy springtime on Beaverhead Farm.

Photo by Kate Petrie

School bike path ready for comment

By Sam Bari

Spearheaded by Rolling Agenda, a local group of bicycling enthusiasts, a full-blown plan to create outdoor recreational spaces for all Jamestown residents to value and use is ready to present to the School Committee and Town Council.

According to Julie Kalfelz and Samira Hakki, Rolling Agenda's secretary and treasurer respectively, the project started three years ago as an effort to improve bicycle and walking access to Jamestown

schools. Shortly thereafter, various organizations joined the cyclists and the project blossomed into a community-wide effort that expanded the plan to address problems and make improvements on and around Jamestown school grounds.

The additional groups included the Jamestown recreation, planning, and school departments, town soccer and baseball associations, the tree warden, and the local

See "Rolling" on page 11

Water and sewer rules reviewed

By Sam Bari

During a special workshop Monday night, the Town Council went over the rules and regulations of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners with Steve Goslee, the Public Works director.

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser reminded the council that no decisions could be made because the meeting was a workshop and an agenda had not been posted. Council President Julio DiGiando agreed and said he didn't

think it was a good idea to come to conclusions on any issues with council members Barbara Szepatowski and William Kelly absent.

Copies of the present rules and regulations were distributed to the council. Goslee highlighted suggested deletions, revisions, and additions to various definitions, rules, and services that he felt were in need of review. The council briefly discussed each item that Goslee indicated. After the discussion, DiGiando instructed

See "Council" on page 16

U.S. Soil Olympics come to Jamestown

By Rudd Hall

Earlier this month, from April 11 to 18, more than 100 students from 21 universities across the country came to Jamestown to compete in the "Soil Olympics."

This sort of intercollegiate competition has been going on since the sixties, but this year marks the first time it has been held in New England. Although it may seem unusual this contest occurs yearly in colleges across the county. It works like any other collegiate competition in that schools first compete at the regional level in the fall and the top teams go on the national level competition, which is held in the spring.

The question must be asked: "how exactly does a soil competition take place?"

During the contest students have a few days to prepare and are asked to descend into a "practice pit," which is nothing

but a hole dug out in the ground large enough to fit four to five students. Here, they get a chance to study the soil layers and get a feel for the soil they'll be dealing with. For many, who range from Kentucky to Oregon, it's their first hands-on encounter with a different soil type. The judges have already been in the pit days before and have done their own analysis, marking off a "no touch zone" which students are asked to work around. The students have two to three days in the practice pit before the individual and more importantly, the group competition, which is held on Friday. During the competition students are asked to record soil horizons which are the different levels of soil, how much sand, silt, and clay the soil contains, what is the geology of the area, as well as what is the best use

See "Soil" on page 10



Brook Fahquist, from Utah State University, participated in the soil judging contest held at the Jamestown Community Farm last week.

Photo by Rudd Hall