

Rolling

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senior citizens' association, with support from Rotary and other local service clubs, Kallfelz said.

Kallfelz mentioned that Town Administrator Bruce Keiser, Town Planner Lisa Bryer, and Rolling Agenda chairwoman Carol Nelson-Lee have worked closely since the project's inception. Their cooperation, and that of the Narragansett Tribe, has been key to the success of the effort.

Kallfelz outlined the scope of the project by saying that the coalition looked at current conditions and future needs, and compiled a list of goals, that although ambitious, includes improving the condition of the town athletic fields, used by school and town recreational soccer and baseball teams as well as school gym classes; improving the ease and safety of bike and pedestrian access to the schools and athletic fields; citing and installing fitness trail equipment that has already been purchased by the school's PTO.

The plan will also create walking paths through and around the school grounds for use by students, school staff, and all residents; design and install playground equipment at the middle school; improve the wooded area between the two school buildings, known as the "Town Forest," which had previously contained an outdoor classroom; and improve car and bus traffic flow and parking around the school buildings.

The magnitude of the project was daunting, but the coalition

agreed that the only rational and cost-effective approach to bringing the concept to fruition was to engage professional expertise to guide planning, coordination, and execution, Kallfelz said.

"They began by conducting an area study to develop a comprehensive plan," Kallfelz explained. "Generous donations from local organizations such as the Jamestown PTO, Rotary Club, Jamestown Soccer and Baseball Associations, the Rhode Island Foundation through Greenways Alliance of Rhode Island, and BankNewport provided the funding," she added.

Kallfelz said that Gates Leighton Assoc., an East Providence landscape architectural firm was contracted by the coalition through an RFP process to assess conditions in the target area, meet with stakeholders to define needs, hold public input sessions, and refine ideas. Gates Leighton presented its most recent draft of the plan to the coalition in early February and the "Best Land Use Plan for School Grounds and Neighborhood" became a reality.

Kallfelz said that the comprehensive plan includes all the aforementioned amenities as well as approximately one mile of walking and bike trails with curbed sidewalks and paved bike paths within the area from the Four Corners to Melrose and Arnold Avenues, and from North Main Road and Arnold Avenue to Melrose and Narragansett Avenue.

Kallfelz mentioned that the state Department of Transportation committed to building a bike path from the Route 138 overpass



The Rolling Agenda plan would create new and safer walking and biking paths in the Jamestown schools area. Currently, walkers and bikers share the one narrow path on Watson Avenue, sometimes creating unsafe situations when bikers have to ride in the path of cars to avoid the walkers.

Photo by Adrienne Downing

along the west side of North Main Road to Arnold Avenue, providing a safe biking connection between the North End, downtown, and school neighborhood.

The Best Land Use Plan will be presented in the next few weeks to a joint meeting of the School Committee and Town Council, Kallfelz and Hakki said.

Upon approval, Rolling Agenda and the other coalition members will launch a significant fund-raising effort that will last throughout the spring and summer with hopes of raising enough funding to "make at least several significant improvements over the summer,"

Kallfelz said.

She also said that efforts will include applying for various state, federal, and private grants, soliciting support from local individuals, organizations, and businesses, and requesting funding from the Town Council and School Committee.

On a positive note, Kallfelz noted that the Town Planner successfully applied for a \$250,000 grant from the Federal Safe Routes to School Program that has been approved and will apply toward construction costs.

The coalition's proposed improvements will dramatically enhance the number and quality

of recreational opportunities for all Jamestown residents, provide safe routes for bikers, pedestrians, and drivers on and near the school grounds, and make overall better use of the grounds surrounding the town's schools. Just as significant, it is a testament to what a community can accomplish when it bands together to pursue a common vision, Kallfelz said.

Anyone who wants to make a donation or get more information can call Carol Nelson-Lee, at 423-2967 or e-mail to nl@nelsonlee.com.

Council

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the council to take the rules home and give thought to the their decisions before making the rules and regulations an agenda item for a council vote.

The items in question included: definition of a kitchen in any living unit; location and types of valves and meters; new Department of Health backflow regulations, grease trap requirements, and maintenance responsibilities; definition of well depth requirements; a section on water conservation regulations, including car and house washing and irrigation during dry periods; required low water consumption washers; and

the use of sub-meters.

During the regular meeting of the Town Council sitting as the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners, Town Planner Lisa Bryer presented an overview of the Rolling Agenda budget for the "Best Land Use Plan for School Grounds and Neighborhood."

Bryer said the budget for the entire project was approximately \$3,000,000. "We have \$251,000 promised from the state Department of Transportation, although the funds have yet to be allocated," she said. She also suggested that some money might come from the town budget for the school grounds.

DiGiando asked if the school was going to return the \$168,000

in excess funds to the town. Bryer said that School Committee Vice Chairwoman Julie Kallfelz said they have every intention of returning the excess as long as the budget is not cut and they do not need the money. Bryer also suggested that if the money is returned to the town, the school grounds would be a good use for it.

Councilman Robert Sutton supported the idea in its entirety for use of the excess funds. DiGiando and councilman Michael White agreed. DiGiando said the matter would be an agenda item

for the April 28 meeting of the council.

In an unrelated matter, while giving the public works project update, Director Goslee referred to a response letter from DOT Director Michael P. Lewis concerning the pump station at Route 138 and Tashtassac Road. The pumps have not been working for some time and the water that should be pumped into a sediment pond before draining into Narragansett Bay could be seeping into the town water reservoir during major rain events when the water table is high.

The letter said, "We express regret for the delay in responding to your letter dated March 20, 2007, as we recognize the significance of the storm water pump station in your community. As you are likely aware, the Department has continually had to make repairs and modifications to the pump station since its original construction in 1992. Due to the compounding amount of issues which were affecting this asset, the Department decided in 2007 that the best course of action would be to

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CCRI hosts free jazz concert in Newport

The public is invited to a night of jazz on Monday, April 28, at 8 p.m. at the Community College of Rhode Island's Newport County Campus.

Matt Leder, an adjunct music faculty member, will celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month by sharing his knowledge of the New Orleans jazz culture in his latest project, "The New Orleans Collective." The concert will include both traditional and contemporary New Orleans jazz, as performed by some of the top musicians in southern New England.

This free event will take place in the Newport campus auditorium, One John H. Chafee Blvd., Newport. For more information, call Matt Leder at lederjazz@aol.com or visit www.mattleder.com.

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