

# Letters

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light of what we know, it shouldn't be our problem any longer to prove methoprene is harmful – it should be someone else's problem to prove conclusively that it isn't.

**Tom Johnson**  
Bow Street

## Dawgz ante up for big ka-boom

On behalf of the Rocket 'hogs and the citizens of Jamestown, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Rocket Dawgz for their recent donation of \$1,272.19 to the Fireworks Fund. For the last 12 years the Rocket Dawgz were dedicated to celebrating the 4th of July with fanfare, and have clearly demonstrated their commitment to seeing more of the same.

The 'hogs are happy to blow it up for you, and hope to make you proud! Thank you gentlemen.

**Gregg Charest**  
Rocket 'hog

## School committee salutes teachers

It is with pleasure that the Jamestown School Committee takes the opportunity to celebrate the fabric of school life – the closely woven partnership of teachers, administrators and parents who provide a healthy, challenging learning environment in our schools.

May 6 is National Teacher Appreciation Day. Few other professionals touch the lives of so many in such powerful and lasting ways. Jamestown teachers nurture, guide, motivate, support, encourage, teach and advocate for our children. Their spirit of collegiality and collabora-

tion benefits the entire school community.

The Town Council has proclaimed May 4 to 10 "Teacher Appreciation Week" in Jamestown. Please join the School Committee in saluting Jamestown's teachers and gratefully acknowledging their many significant contributions to public education.

**Cathy Kaiser, Chair,**  
**Jamestown School Committee**  
**Julie Kallfelz, Vice Chair**  
**William "Bucky" Brennan**  
**Julia Held**  
**B.J. Whitehouse**

## Fishermen weigh in on methoprene

This is in response to the letter from Joseph M. Conlon, technical advisor for the American Mosquito Control Association. Rhode Island lobstermen never claimed that methoprene was the sole cause of the dwindling lobster population. But we also don't know that it is not a contributing factor. We clearly said, "We don't know" what is killing the lobsters.

Although tests have been performed that claim methoprene is not harmful to lobsters and other marine life with enough dilution factored in to the equation; none of the tests address the effects of build-up through prolonged use of the chemicals. Nor do the tests address the possibility of lethal reactions if toxic pesticides combine with or react to other chemicals in the water. Methoprene is highly toxic to fish and estuarine invertebrates. In one study, for example, the lethal concentration required to kill half of a freshwater shrimp population (LC50) is 0.0001 parts per billion.

We are opposed to any toxic chemicals being imposed on New England waters or anywhere else because, as we said, "We don't know" what is killing the lobsters, and we don't want to add the least bit of additional stress to an alarming and already stressful situation.

Also, Maine does not have a mosquito abatement program. And, if Mr. Conlon will read a document from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection titled "Permits for Application of Aquatic Pesticides to Control Vectors of West Nile Virus," Section III, Paragraph 1, under the subheading "Prohibitions," the document clearly says:

Broad-spectrum pesticides including, but not limited to, temephos and methoprene shall not be permitted for use in "Waters of the State."

Mosquito abatement programs do not need to jeopardize our sensitive marine environment. For example, the larvicide BTI (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) is a naturally occurring soil bacteria in different strains that target specific insects. Bt's are not known to be toxic to animals, birds, humans, fish or beneficial insects. We all

need to remember that dilution is not the solution to Pollution!

**Lanny Dellinger,**  
**President, Rhode Island**  
**Lobstermen's Association**  
**Dennis Ingram**  
**Ocean State**  
**Fishermen's Association**

## Cleanup effort a great success

The Jamestown Conservation Commission would like to express appreciation for all those who made the annual Earth Day Shoreline Cleanup a success this past Saturday.

Among those who contributed were: Bill Piva and the town, for providing bags and for allowing us to use the Recreation Center as a rallying point; Slice of Heaven for getting us started with coffee and muffins; the Jamestown Shores Association for taking care of Head's Beach and everyone who gave up their Saturday morning to clean our island's shoreline.

We also thank those who provided their trucks for delivering the bagged litter to the dumpster. The bags, donated by Island Rubbish,

were crammed with several tons of beach litter.

Finally, we thank the Conanicut Island Land Trust for serving a hardy lunch, State Representative Bruce Long for providing Del's Lemonade and the Jamestown Press for getting the word out.

It is our hope that all Jamestown residents and visitors alike will enjoy our public shoreline access areas in the upcoming months and not find trash everywhere they look, at least for a while. One often hears the adage "think globally, act locally" however, without having first acted locally, thinking "globally" becomes somewhat ethereal, essentially an idle thought.

Picking up the litter is an annual rite here; one that helps prevent our shoreline from becoming a showcase for all the things we discard that never go away. We need to better manage our footprint in this world. In the meantime, let us band together every year (and sometimes in between) and pick up the litter to keep Jamestown beautiful.

**Patrick Driscoll**  
**Jamestown Conservation**  
**Commission**

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