



JAMESTOWN PRESS

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Permit No. 5
Jamestown, RI

www.JamestownPress.com

Volume 21, Issue 3

A weekly newspaper serving Conanicut Island

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Landfill closure plan approved by Town Council

Plan passes without
public workshop

By Sam Bari

Town Engineer Michael Gray gave a detailed slide presentation of the plans for the proposed landfill closure to the Town Council at Monday night's meeting.

Ed Summerly, a principal of GZA Geo Environmental, Inc., of Providence, the firm contracted to handle the closure, assisted Gray in the presentation.

Gray gave a history of the site

investigation and report (SIR). GZA was selected to conduct the site investigation in 1999. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management approved the work plan and the study began in November 2000.

After submitting a summary of the findings in the SIR, an approval letter was issued by RIDEM in April 2004, declaring the site benign.

The SIR included recommendations for the site closure, a quar-

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JEMS volunteers prepare for busy summer season

By Stephanie Heelan Cotsonas

The ambulance barn at 12 Knowles Court houses three ambulances and 68 volunteers at one time or another each week. In Jamestown, if a call to 911 is made, there is a good chance that the patient will know his or her EMT (Emergency Medical Technician).

Commander Rick Hodges is relatively new to the island and admits to learning a lot of JEMS history anecdotally. "I consider this an opportunity to give back to the community I live in. I think that is what you see in a lot of people. If we weren't volunteer, we would be

paying someone and losing some of that volunteer spirit that goes a long way in a small town," he said.

That volunteer spirit comes across in interesting ways. "Sometimes when there is a call for a routine transport there is just the duty crew, but if you have something serious you can't even see the patient there are so many EMTs around," Hodges said.

Jamestown Emergency Services (JEMS) was founded in 1948 and provides emergency service at no charge to island residents. They

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The golden fleece

Alexa Geib, a Lawn Avenue School seventh grader, carries a freshly sheared fleece while Melissa Higgins shears a sheep at the Watson Farm shearing on Saturday. Photo by Sam Bari



Young stars

Singers from Kelly Speck's first grade class at the Melrose Avenue School perform during their annual play.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

Roadblocks stall planning decision on Dutton subdivision

By Michaela Kennedy

After a feverish debate about access roads for a proposed subdivision, the Planning Commission delayed voting on the application at the May 7 public hearing. Gary Girard, chairman of the commission, asked the planning staff to prepare a motion regarding the subdivision request for the next meeting.

"It's too complicated. We can't do it tonight," Girard said about voting on the application submitted by Michael and Janice Dutton.

Joseph Palumbo, the attorney representing the Duttons, said his clients were committed to moving Holly Street, which was originally constructed mistakenly outside the right of way by a previous developer, "as an accommodation to the town." Palumbo pointed out, however, that road improvements suggested in a memorandum from Town Engineer Michael Gray were not agreed upon. "My client is will-

ing to provide the labor to meet what Mr. Gray wants, providing the town is willing to provide the materials," he said.

In his memo, Gray advised that a new street should be constructed before the old one is abandoned, citing safety issues for people who currently use Holly Street. He explained to the board at the meeting that the engineering was a simple gradation to direct flow. "I wasn't expecting anything more than that, what we would expect of everyone making a right of way, seeding to prevent erosion. That's what we discussed," Gray said.

William Johnstone of Summit Avenue stood up and thanked Gray for attending the meeting and addressing problems with the plan. From Gray's memo he read, "Presently I do not believe that this application has met the burden of

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