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## Does Jamestown need an animal shelter?

By Sam Bari

Councilwoman Barbara Szepatowski solicited the help of a Lawn Avenue School eighth grade class to make a presentation to the Town Council and town residents to answer the question about Jamestown's need for an animal shelter.

The Tuesday night workshop preceded the regular Town Council meeting. The students and Szepatowski made a strong case that abandoned and unwanted animals need a place to go. Whether a shelter in Jamestown is the answer to the problem is yet to be determined.

"I would like to make use of the old water treatment plant," Szepatowski said. "This is just an

idea, and has not been endorsed or encouraged by anyone. It is just an idea. I think the building would be an excellent shelter and nature center."

Convincing her fellow council members to consider turning the old water treatment plant on North Main Road into an animal shelter in 2009 was the focus of the presentation. The building is earmarked to be used as a storage facility after the new plant is up and running next year.

"At this time there isn't a place on the island that is approved by the zoning board to house animals," Szepatowski said. "Since 2007 we have not had a place. We don't have a contract with the

See "Shelter" on page 12

## Dutch Harbor owner claims financing will halt auction

Council to hold special meeting tomorrow to discuss marina future

By Sam Bari

Dutch Harbor Boat Yard partner Barbara Paterson made a gleeful announcement at Monday's Town Council meeting that just before she came to the meeting she received a phone call that verified financing for the beleaguered facility.

The town's position on the Dutch Harbor Boat Yard, which is on the auction block under court order due to financial problems, was again a council agenda item. Town Administrator Bruce Keiser introduced the idea of the town purchasing the property and using it for a community sailing program if Dutch Harbor man-

agement could not arrange financing.

"The West Ferry property may become available," Keiser said. "I know that Barbara Paterson still remains optimistic, but I want to find out from the council if there is any interest in purchasing the property for \$2.5 million. The property could generate over \$200,000 per year, which would support a bond issue for \$2.5 million. Jeff McDonough, the publisher of the Jamestown Press, and I worked out a plan that might be of interest."

McDonough said it was a way provide public access to the water and sailing. The program would be modeled after Sail Newport and offer the public access to boating, possibly through annual

See "Harbor" on page 11



### Memorial Day honors

Retired Navy Captain Cliff Largess, far left, retired Army Staff Sergeant Jim McLaughlin and retired Marine Colonel Bruce Livingston rendered a salute during the playing of Taps at the annual Memorial Day ceremonies at East Ferry.

Photo by Jeff McDonough

## Seventh annual Ali's Run this Sunday

By Stephanie Heelan Cotsonas

This Sunday marks the seventh running of the Ali Dunn Packer Memorial Road Race, also known as Ali's Run. Ali's love for sports, particularly soccer and track, inspired the idea for the race. "A race just seemed to fit her character," the Packers said. "We wanted a family-oriented day that honored Ali's memory."

Ali Dunn Packer's life was tragically taken at age 15 in an automobile accident. She grew up in Jamestown with her parents and sister, Caroline. Ali attended both Jamestown public schools

and LaSalle Academy.

As a youth she played on both Jamestown and North Kingstown soccer teams and was a member of the Rhode Island Olympic Development soccer team. At the time of her death, Ali was a freshman at LaSalle Academy in Providence. She excelled in both soccer and track, finishing second in the 4x100 and 4x400 relay events at the Freshman State Championship.

In addition to her athletic talents, Ali's spirit deeply touched her fellow students, family and friends. In heartfelt response to the

sudden loss of this charismatic, athletic and caring young woman, the following programs have been established in her memory: Ali Dunn Packer Memorial Fund and endowment funds at LaSalle Academy and The Rhode Island Foundation.

Ali's Run is held annually on the first Sunday in June and the event starts off with a half-mile Kid's Run at noon. Children participating in the run will receive a bib number, goody bag and race trophy or medal. There is no

See "Ali's Run" on page 9

## Go to the Financial Town Meeting Monday at Lawn Avenue School

The annual Financial Town Meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 2, at the Lawn Avenue School. The meeting is presided over by the Town Moderator.

Jamestown voters will be asked to approve the Town Council recommended \$8,466,312 town budget for the fiscal year of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

The School Committee is asking voters to approve its proposed \$12,264,907 budget for the same time period.

Only registered Jamestown voters are allowed to vote at the Financial Town Meeting. Speakers will be allowed three minutes to make their presentations. For more information about how the meeting is conducted, refer to your copy of the town budget which was published recently in the Jamestown Press. The budget is also available online at [www.jamestownpress.com](http://www.jamestownpress.com).