

### Graduation photos ready for pickup

Student portraits from the Lawn Avenue School eighth grade graduation ceremony are now available for pickup in the Lawn school office. Summer office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Phillips graduates from Eckerd

Alexander B. Phillips of Jamestown graduated May 18 from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla. Phillips received a bachelor's degree in business management.

### Cote receives degree in music

Aaron Cote of Jamestown recently graduated from Butler University with a degree in music performance from the Jordan College of Fine Arts.

### Gorelick receives scholarship

Jamestown resident Jason Gorelick was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Dunkin' Donuts Franchisees of Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts recently, at a reception held in honor of the 2008 Dunkin' Donuts Franchisee Scholarship recipients at the Rhode Island State House.

### Hamilton wins paper competition

Roanoke College has named Laura Hamilton of Jamestown a winner of the 2008 Henry H. Fowler Student Public Policy Paper Competition. Awards are presented for outstanding papers addressing any local, state, national or international public policy issue of significant public interest.

Hamilton's comparative study of the American and Danish welfare states earned the top honor of "excellent," a distinction that carries a cash award of \$2,000 or a graduate scholarship of \$4,000.

### Weixel receives civic leadership award

Secretary of State A. Ralph Mollis has honored a Jamestown teenager with the 2008 State High School Civic Leadership Award, which is given annually to seniors who make outstanding contributions to their schools and their hometowns.

Jacqueline Weixel, from the Rocky Hill School, was the honoree.

"This award recognizes students who show an understanding of the importance civic duty has in a democratic society," Mollis said. "These students take the principles of civics and put them into action through their community and school involvement, as well as their personal academic success."

### Wyman receives degree in England

Carolyn J. Wyman received her master's degree in conservation studies, with a concentration in metals, from the University of Sussex on July 5. Wyman is employed in the metals conservation department of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

# Grapes & Gourmet celebrates fifth anniversary

By Sam Bari

Titillating customers' taste buds is not only company policy, it is a passion with the employees at Grapes and Gourmet, Jamestown's go to place for fine wine, exotic liqueurs, and epicurean delights for the past five years. And let's not forget the unsurpassed selection of microbrew and craft beers, single malt scotches, and other premium liquors. As if that were not enough, they even offer imported ceramics, custom made baskets and other fine gifts.

"Our success starts with the staff," says Frank A. LaPere, owner of the successful East Ferry establishment. "Without our talented personnel we wouldn't have the outstanding selection of everything from fine wine to a good representation of the world's best cheeses. Our employees are truly experts in a variety of areas."

This is not only important in the buying of the best products, LaPere said. "It is most important when customers come in seeking help. If they want to know about the best wine to go with a particular cheese, or the best beer to serve with a favorite dish, all they have to do is ask. I guarantee they will always be rewarded with a satisfying answer," LaPere said.

Then he gave a Frank LaPere tip - "When you want to match a wine with a cheese, you usually won't go wrong if you pick a wine from the same area as where the cheese is made." This wise bit of information is actually posted on the wall of the gourmet department at the back of the store. Nonetheless, it's good to know if you're out in the world where Frank's staff of specialists aren't available for consultation.

Getting back to the knowledgeable personnel, LaPere boasts about his two wine experts, Marnie Crawford and Brian Buck.

Crawford has been with G&G for over four years, LaPere said. She had 25 years of experience selling fine wine before she came on board. "Marnie has an unbelievable memory. Not only does she know every wine we have in stock, but she also remembers customer's preferences. And, she has an excellent palate," LaPere added.

Brian Buck, the other wine expert, is a retired schoolteacher and waiter at Castle Hill Restaurant. "We are so fortunate to have him," LaPere said. "He knows and appre-



Frank LaPere, left, and his sister Paula LaBarre celebrate five years of being in business at the East Ferry store. LaPere owns the store and LaBarre oversees all food and gift items.

Photo by Jeff McDonough

ciates good wine from all over the world. I should say we are fortunate to have both Marnie and Brian. They could easily be sommeliers in any five star restaurant - they just lack the title."

LaPere said that the store only has room to stock 600 bottles of wine. "Either Marnie, Brian, or I sample every wine we stock before we place an order. We can honestly recommend everything we sell because we've tasted it."

LaPere praised Paula LaBarre, his sister, who oversees all food and gift items. "She not only buys all of the exotic cheeses and imported delicacies as well as the gifts, she is also a fabulous chef."

LaBarre makes the G&G private brand of salsa fresh every few days. "We call it Palsa," LaPere said. "And customers love her torta, a blend of Gorgonzola and mascarpone cheeses with walnuts. It is to die for," he said.

LaPere could not say enough about, "Our beer guy, Will Wilson." Wilson is a craft brewer who, according to LaPere, makes an excellent brew. He selects all micro and craft brews in the store and holds beer tastings every Saturday or Sunday afternoon. "Will can recommend a good beer to accompany any dish or cheese," LaPere said.

Because of a quirky Rhode Island law, Grapes and Gourmet is the only store of its kind in the state, LaPere said. Since the town

a few months ago, LaPere said they are now enjoying customers from across the bridge to the mainland as well from across the other bridge to Newport. Since the influx of customers, G&G has expanded their services to accommodate customer requests and special orders.

While speaking of special orders, LaPere couldn't help but boast about their gift baskets. "Since we have a liquor license, we can include any alcoholic beverage a customer wants in the basket. At most places, they have to bring their own," LaPere said.

He told the story of a gift basket they prepared for a vodka lover not too long ago. It contained six bottles of high-end vodkas, martini wafers, and a martini kit. "Everything needed for the perfect Martini," he said.

Frank LaPere was born in Westerly. "The name is Ellis Island Italian," he said, adding, "My grandfather shortened it when my family arrived in America back in the early Twentieth Century."

He went to college at the University of Arizona and earned a degree in entrepreneurship. LaPere has been married to Caroline, his wife of 16 years. They live in Jamestown with their son Nico, 13, and daughter Pava, 11. Before buying Grapes and Gourmet, LaPere was a printer.

"But I was always cooking, and I loved searching for just the right wine to put with just the right dish. It was a passion. I think it was my calling," he said.

**Summer Music in Jamestown**  
at East Ferry Memorial Square  
ADMISSION FREE

**Black & White**

**6:30 p.m. Sunday, July 13**

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**Jamestown Teen Center**  
and **Evan Fall Protection, Inc.**

*In the event of rain, the concert will be in the Community Center*

**Open EVERYDAY!** **PLENTY OF FREE PARKING!**

**Grapes & Gourmet**

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**SPECIALS**

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Bud, Bud Light, Coors Light, Miller Lite and Rolling Rock 18 pack Cans \$14.75

Skyy Regular or Citron Vodka 750ml \$12.75

**Still time To Register to Win \* 4 Tickets to see the Sox Play the Evil Empire in Boston on July 25th**  
\* No purchase necessary. Drawing to be held Wednesday, July 16th.

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