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Jamestown, RI 02835

Volume 21, Issue 20

A weekly newspaper serving Conanicut Island

Thursday, September 11, 2008

RITBA E-Z Pass forums extended

By Eileen M. Daly

The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority held a series of public information forums this week to address residents' concerns regarding the proposed institution of the E-Z Pass Program on the Newport Pell Bridge. The forums were held on Saturday and Tuesday in Jamestown and on Monday in Newport. State Senator M. Teresa Paiva Weed (D- Jamestown, Newport) Representative Bruce Long

(R-Jamestown, Middletown,) and Long's house seat opponent Deb Ruggiero were in attendance along with members of the public and representatives from RITBA and E-Z Pass.

According to RITBA Chairman David Darlington, the forums revealed a continued need for discussion. "Based on the feedback we've received so far, we feel there is a need for further public input," he said. Sen. Paiva-Weed, who has long been an active participant in the E-Z Pass program discussions, requested a forum with a slightly different format and RITBA responded positively. "The initial forums were designed to allow for a lot of one-to-one interaction between concerned citizens,

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Big surf

Although the clouds and rain from Tropical Storm Hanna had departed the area by Sunday morning, the storm left behind large waves that attracted sightseers to Beavertail to watch the surge from the rocks.

Photo by Paul Murray

Dutch Harbor Boat Yard lease renewed

By Sam Bari

The Town Council voted unanimously at Monday night's meeting to approve the proposed lease from the new owner of the Dutch Island Boat Yard.

"I've visited the boat yard and Mr. Eichler, the new president, has taken steps to make marked

improvements and resolve the parking situation," Town Administrator Bruce Keiser said. "He appears to be serious about fulfilling his promises and turn the facility around."

Councilman Robert Sutton asked if any part of the property was being used for anything other

than marina use. Keiser said, "No. The entire facility is being used for marina business."

Councilman William Kelly agreed with Keiser about Eichler's good intentions and made a motion to approve the new lease as proposed. The seven-year lease begins Sept. 1, 2008 and ends Aug.

31, 2015. It includes an option for an additional five years according to terms and a rent schedule that is agreeable to both parties.

The base rent is \$13,000 for the first year with an increase of an additional \$500 for each suc-

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Two candidates square off for state representative seat

Long cites experience at the State House

By Bruce Long

Nearly all of my adult life has been centered around helping others. Government bureaucracy can be overwhelming and I



Bruce Long

have worked diligently to make government work for people. Most citizens are hesitant about calling for help, but when they do, it challenges me to see a problem or concern reach a desired outcome. Over the years, I have learned the facets of state government, and have become a resource not only for my constituents, but for the communities I represent.

I have represented Middletown during my tenure, and for the past six years have had the honor and pleasure of being your Representative in Jamestown. I have grown to love the Island.

With your support, I look forward to continuing the leadership role that I hold, and continuing my work on issues important to the community and you. They include the areas of environment, educational opportunities with appropriate funding, sensible development and protection of drinking water, and youth issues of health and safety.

Quality of life in Jamestown and Narragansett Bay go hand in hand. Vigilance is required on the part of the elected officials. Protecting the two, I served on the Board of Directors of the RI Economic Development

See "Long" on page 12

Ruggiero wants to see change from usual

By Deb Ruggiero

While on a neighborhood visit one recent afternoon as I campaigned, a woman welcomed me into her home.



Deb Ruggiero

"Hi, I'm Deb Ruggiero," I said. "I live in this district. I'm a homeowner in Jamestown and I'm a Democrat running for State Representative in Jamestown and Middletown."

When it came time to say our good-byes, she turned to me and said, "How refreshing. You seem so nice and you're so smart. Why would

you want to do this?"

This single election year experience was one of those "moments in time" over the past several months as I walk door-to-door and greet my friends and neighbors that re-energizes me to be more innovative, more forward-thinking, and more reflective on the reasons why I am running to represent the taxpayers and citizens of District 74.

Let me explain why it is so important to me to ask for your vote on Nov. 4 and be elected as your State Representative for the next two years. I am a leader who will act with honesty and integrity; a leader who will be accountable and action-oriented; and a long-time resident of Jamestown who cares deeply about

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