



JAMESTOWN PRESS

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Thursday, October 9, 2008

Youth group learns first-hand about being homeless

By Adrienne Downing

Members of the St. Matthew's Church youth group stepped out of their comfort zone and slept outside on Saturday night to bring awareness to the plight of the homeless.

Seventeen teens and four adults erected a city from nothing more than cardboard boxes and electrical tape on the church lawn and braved the skunks and the cold to bring local attention to a national problem.

Amy Smith, one of the adult leaders of the group, said the idea for the night came about at the end of the summer when the youth

leaders and pastor were planning out the year. "We wanted to make a concerted effort to have a theme and a purpose for everything we were doing this year. The theme is hunger and homelessness and we wanted the kids to experience it first hand," she said.

The group was only allowed to build their shelters from donated cardboard and had to rely on the kindness of parishioners and strangers for food and blankets.

"They were not allowed to have

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Streamlining the 33rd annual Jamestown Classic Bike Race

By Sam Bari

The 33rd Annual Jamestown Classic Bike Race sponsored by the Jamestown Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce will be a little different this year.

Due to concerns for safety, as well as the disruption of business and town life, the organizers have taken steps to make the race more exciting while reducing the impact on the town. They hope their efforts will result in residents and merchants being inconvenienced as little as possible.

Racing will begin at 8:30 a.m.

on Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 13, at the start/finish line in front of the Recreation Center.

The race is the main fund-raising event for the Jamestown Rotary Club. Proceeds from the event are used to support local, national, and international causes. In recent years, these funds have purchased wheel chairs for the underprivileged in Nicaragua, created a women's literacy project in Ghana, and purchased new music chairs for the Jamestown Middle School.

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Members of the Water Pollution Control Association's champion competitive wastewater operators' team demonstrate putting a sleeve on a leaky pipe at Monday's press conference. Photo by Adrienne Downing

Town wins prestigious PISCES water award

By Adrienne Downing

The efforts the Town of Jamestown has made to improve the town water and sewer infrastructure have paid dividends in the form of an award from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Bob Varney, the director of the EPA's region one office in Boston, along with Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse and Department of Environmental Management Director Michael Sullivan were on hand Monday to present the PISCES Award to Town Administrator Bruce Keiser and other key town personnel.

"Jamestown in its own quiet way demonstrates leadership in the state's water industry. It is the only community in the state that recycles waste water onto the golf course," Sullivan said.

The PISCES, which stands for Performance and Innovation in Creating Environmental Success, awards were created in 2005 to recognize the extraordinary successes of the states' Clean Water Revolving Fund programs. Projects financed under the revolving fund programs support the Clean Water Act by protecting environmental health and water quality. The awards highlight successfully designed projects that further the goal of clean and safe water with exceptional planning, management and financing.

One award is given each year in each of the EPA's 10 regions.

"We are delighted to focus awareness on the \$6.2

million complete major overhaul of the water treatment plant," Keiser said. "I think it is tremendous that the EPA has recognized the town for the town's progressive effort to move the water system into the 21st century."

Keiser said he only learned three weeks ago that Jamestown had won the award, but he was not surprised given the amount of work that has gone into the new treatment plant.

"I don't think people realize what an improvement this is for our water system. We are talking about a 15-percent improvement in efficiency with the new system. This translates to about 50,000 gallons of water per day that will not be lost," Keiser said.

Improvements to the plant include a new membrane water filtration plant to replace an older facility, as well as the replacement of over 7,000 linear feet of water distribution piping.

He said the work would not have been possible without the low-interest debt financing through the revolving fund.

"Because the work on the water system is absorbed almost entirely by water customers, being able to have the debt financed through the SRF at such a low rate amounts to a substantial savings," he said.

Although water customers are sometimes frustrated at having to absorb the cost of the upgrades, Keiser

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Flying a kite

Jaydin White, 5, takes advantage of a breezy day to fly her kite at the East Ferry Veterans Square.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

Next week's newspaper deadlines

The Jamestown Press office will be closed Monday, Oct. 13, for the Columbus Day holiday.

Deadlines for the Thursday, Oct. 16, edition of the Press are as follows:

Display advertising: 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 10.

Classified advertising: Noon, Tuesday, Oct. 14.

News items: Noon, Tuesday, Oct. 14.

The staff at the Jamestown Press wishes all of our readers and advertisers a safe and happy holiday.