

Council

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ing. An art center would offer the town employment, education, internship and mentoring as well as enhance the community's sense of identity.

The center would be open to all artistic disciplines and would be used for theater, music, dance, and writing as well as the visual arts for teaching, performing, and exhibiting.

Twombly presented the council with a set of preliminary floor plans and renderings of the renovated building and surrounding grounds.

Twombly said he had toured a number of prospective buildings with JAC President Kate Petrie and Congdon and he felt that the Southwest Avenue facility stood out amongst all he had seen. "It solved many of the problems," he said. "It has parking, some outdoor space, and a central location."

Congdon mentioned that the JAC has been looking for a building for about a year and a half.

Council President Julio DiGiando said that ads would have to go out to allow public response. "You do understand that you will have to bid along with everyone else," DiGiando said. "We can't just sell it to you."

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser made it quite clear that the town expected a minimum of \$550,000 for the property to service the debt load. Petrie said that she was well aware of the town's expectations from meetings the JAC had with Keiser concerning the sale of the facility.

Councilman Robert Sutton said, "I think it's a great idea - a perfect use for the property. As long as the town is not expected to participate in a financial way, I definitely support it."

Councilman Bill Kelly said, "It isn't just a high bid that is the deciding factor. The use of the building plays a major role in the decision making process. I give you high marks for best use. It makes an awful lot of sense to me."

DiGiando, Councilwoman Barbara Szeptowski, and Councilman Michael White also voiced their enthusiasm for the project.

According to Congdon, the JAC has been given . . . "great and continuing support from the Rhode Island Foundation." She said donors have enthusiastically responded to the project.

The town is requesting proposals from potential buyers for the former town offices at 44 Southwest Ave. until Nov. 25 at 2 p.m. The 2,784 square foot main building that has been used in the past for both offices and residency, is situated on 1.45 acres of town owned land. The property is zoned commercial limited and is adjacent to residential properties on three sides with wetlands at the rear of the parcel.

Award presented

Town Administrator, Bruce Keiser on behalf of the Town Council, presented Public Works Director Steve Goslee with the PISCES award for drinking water excellence.

Last week 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 presented the award to Town Administrator Bruce Keiser.

Keiser said that the award belonged to the town water and sewer employees for their outstanding efforts to improve and maintain the town water and sewer infrastructure.

Project updates

According to Public Works Director Goslee, the concrete placement at the water treatment plant is complete. The electricians have begun to wire devices and equipment, and the National Grid has placed the transformer. The overhead crane is complete and work has commenced on the soffit and roof. Additionally, the filter manufacturer has begun installation of the filter equipment, he said.

Goslee reported that installation of discharge piping for the golf course is ready to proceed. A capped end will be left for the town to relocated the displaced pipe from the highway garage project, he said.

Representatives from Clean Water Finance and the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) were onsite on Tuesday to inspect the project.

Ads approved

The council voted unanimously for the town administrator to place newspaper advertisements announcing Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the sale of the former town offices property at 44 Southwest Ave.

Election

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in the bond is \$3.5 million for commuter rail funding and \$3.6 million for purchase and rehabilitation of buses for the Rhode Island Transit Authority's fleet.

Question two is about \$2.5 million in funding for the Department of Environmental Management to purchase or protect recreation lands, agriculture and forested lands, state parks and greenways and other open space.

The importance of the election is mirrored in the increase in the number of registered Jamestown voters since the 2004 presidential election. There are 4675 Jamestown voters registered for Tuesday's election compared to 4594 registered for the 2004 election.

Over 78 percent of eligible voters cast ballots in the '04 election, a number which Board of Canvassers clerk Karen Montoya said she expects to reach again this year. "I do expect a big turnout in Jamestown," Montoya said. "The statewide goal is 70 percent turnout, but we generally do that in a regular general election anyway. I believe we will be above the state average."

Jamestown will once again have three regular polling places and one special polling station. District 1 voters will cast their ballots at the Recreation Center, District 2 at Lawn Avenue School and District 3 at Melrose Avenue School. "If someone has moved and they are not sure of where to vote, they should go to their usual

polling place and the clerk will direct them where to go," Montoya said. Residents who have moved and have not filled out a change of address, or affirmation, card can ask for one at the polling station.

"People who have not registered to vote are still eligible to register and vote in the presidential election only by going to Town Hall the day of the election. They must fill out their voter registration and present proof of address at Town Hall on Nov. 4, but they will be given a special ballot and be allowed to vote in the presidential race only," Montoya said.

Montoya has already processed 276 mail and emergency ballots, and she said she expects more will come in before Election Day. "Some people are just finding out that they may not be here on Election Day. There are certain criteria, but anyone who is eligible to vote by emergency ballot must do so before close of business on Monday, Nov. 3," Montoya said.

All four polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Election Day. Montoya said the polls usually stay steady throughout the day, but for those wishing to avoid a line, the least busy time is in the mid-afternoon hours. "We have 30 poll workers, so the process should be very efficient and no one should have to wait very long," Montoya said.

Anyone with any questions, including about how to read or mark the ballot, should ask to see the moderator at the polling station.

For more information prior to Nov. 4, call 423-7200 and ask for the canvassing clerk.

Volunteers needed to help prepare tax returns

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) is sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and provides courtesy return preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, disabled, low-income and non-English speaking people.

The IRS has scheduled one early training session. The class will be held twice a week for four weeks. The training will be held at The Education Exchange located at The Stedman Center, 4808 Tower Hill Rd., Wakefield, on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 1 to 4 p.m., Oct. 27 through Nov. 19. Volunteers are expected to attend all sessions.

For more information or to register, contact Meg Chevalier at 528-1856 or Miguelina.y.chevalier@irs.gov.

VOTE Nov 4th to Put Our Community First

Teresa Paiva Weed remains a dedicated public servant of the community that she has called home for over 20 years.

- ★ Sponsored legislation providing **tax relief** for Jamestown veterans, members of the volunteer fire department and ambulance corps.
- ★ Worked with RI Turnpike Authority to **reduce the tolls** on the Newport-Jamestown Bridge.
- ★ Called for public participation in **E-Z Pass** implementation and discounts for local residents.
- ★ Supported **renewable energy initiatives** to encourage solar and wind projects.
- ★ Passed legislation **ensuring Jamestown a seat** on the Quonset Economic Development Board.
- ★ Passed legislation requiring DEM to **address the cumulative impact** of new and replacement ISDS systems.
- ★ **Opposed LNG** terminals.

M. Teresa
PAIVA WEED

Senate ★ Democrat

Working for Jamestown and Newport

www.teresapaivaweed.com

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For rides to the polls call: 847-5063.



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