

# Letters

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## Thanks for help with teen activities

The Jamestown Teen Center would like to thank everyone who helped make the Monster Ball a success. Fire Chief James Bryer and the Jamestown Fire Department allowed us to use the space above the firehouse. Members of the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force donated their time to chaperone and ensure that all teens who participated were safe. Town Councilwoman Barbara Szepatowski donated a DJ and a bunch of delicious treats. The evening would not have been possible without these generous donations.

The Teen Center would also like to thank all town employees who helped out.

Thank you again for supporting Jamestown teens.

Also, the Teen Center had their second guest speaker for their "Speaker and Sundaes" series. Representatives from Bank Newport, Mary and Mike, generously donated their time to come speak to local teens about budgeting. Following the speakers, there were ice cream sundaes from Spinnakers Café. The Teen Center would like to thank Spinnakers and Bank Newport for making this edition of "Speakers and Sundaes" a success.

**Debbie Tungett**  
Jamestown Teen Center

## How about a solar roof?

While the discussion about how to use the old highway barn at Fort Wetherill continues, here is a concept for the new one.

I can't help but notice the broad expanses of south facing roof angled much like that of the Newport Animal Hospital on Valley Road in Middletown. For those not aware, the Animal Hospital is sporting a beautiful new solar powered photovoltaic roof. I must have the fever because I see every south-facing roof as a potential source of energy.

We have the technology, and we have a company Island Solar [www.islandsolar.net](http://www.islandsolar.net) right here on the island. Wouldn't it be great if the new highway barn could defy

future rate increases by locking in a secure, stable and renewable source of electricity by way of a new photovoltaic roof now?

**William Tuthill**  
Jamestown

## Fundraiser a success due to many

We would like to thank everyone who attended the Charlie Shaffer Fundraiser on Sept. 20, along with those who helped to make this day a great success.

Special thanks to all of you who helped before, during and after the fundraiser – Laurie Dutra, Dave Viau, Martina Baugh, Molly Sylvia, Richard and Tucker Sylvia, Sonya and Eric Bieler, Christine and John Bernardo, Val Kelley, Karen Benson, Rebecca Barcus, Alexis Richardson, Norma Smith Ibarlucea, Patti and Sam Campo, Theresa Botelho, Marcia Glassie, Buck, Brenna, Ben and Chelsy, the Jamestown Press and the PAC. Thanks to Baker's Pharmacy, Conanicut Marine Ship's Store, the Narragansett Café and Bank of America for selling tickets prior to the event. Without all your help we couldn't have succeeded in making this a flawless night.

We greatly appreciate the many items that were donated to our raffle/silent auction tables from: Ace's Pizza, Art's Auto Body, Atlantic Lawn and Garden, Tim Baker and Baker's Pharmacy, Martina and Sam Baugh, Ben Thomas Gallery, John and Christine Bernardo, Eric Bieler, Kathy Brownell, Cathryn Jamieson Salon, Gail Chase, Chopmist Charlie's, Christina's Originals, Rob and Guido at Civil, Clancy Glass Blowers, Conanicut Marine Services, Inc., Coventry Lumber, Gayle Davis, Sheri Deacon and Conanicut Cleaning, Ann Dutra, Brian and Maryellen Dutra, Danielle Dutra, Laurie Dutra, Jessie Dutra and Dutra Designs, Flint Video, Fred's House of Pizza, Peter Gadoury, Don Glassie and Avalon Hotel, John Godena, Fran Goode, Kathy Goode, Fran Gorman, Grapes and Gourmet, Jason and Bill Hamel and Hamel Graphics, Mary Height and American Beauty, Victoria Hellewell, Norma Smith Ibarlucea, Island Rubbish, Island Sports, Jamestown Boat Yard, Jamestown Designs, Jamestown Distributors, Jamestown Fitness, Jamestown Golf Course, Jamestown Hardware, Jamestown

Lawn Care and Landscaping, Jamestown Liquors, Jamestown/Newport Ferry, Jitter's Café, Bill and Jake at the Kayak Centre of Wickford, Mona Kelly, Val Kelley, Ken's Barber Shop, Normand LeClair, Robin Lee, William Leonard, Tom Linn and St. Mark's Women's Club, Pat and Sue Lyons, Pede Manchester and Marion Pierce, Liz McLaughlin, McQuade's Market, Morneau and Murphy, Pio Moretti, Lori Norris, Linda and Tim O'Connell, Ocean Essence Spa, Purple Door, Quaker Lane Tools, Dorothy Raynes, Restorations, Etc. and the Berry's, Nick Robertson and North Meadow Farm, Sea View Station, Secret Garden, Gail Sheahan, Kerry Sheehan and Rum Runner, Kevin at Ski Market Underground, SMS Oil Burner Service, Inc., Spinnaker's, Trattoria Simpatico, Robin Sweet, Molly Sylvia, Richard Sylvia, Theatre Family Restaurant, The Chemical Company, Onne and Tenley van der Wal, Village Inn, Mel and Barbara Whitaker, Wickford Lumber, Katie at West Bay YMCA, and Zeek's Creek.

The response to our request for donated items was overwhelming. The night was a huge success. If we inadvertently left anyone's name off the list, please contact one of us so that we may personally thank you.

We would like to give a special thank you to everyone that mailed in donations. Space limitations prevent us from listing each and every one of you individually, but know that we all appreciate your generosity. Anyone wishing to contribute can still mail donations to "The Charlie Shaffer Fund", C/O Donna Wood, 51 Southwest Ave., Jamestown, RI 02835.

**Donna Wood**  
**Joan Shaffer**  
Jamestown

## Class in self defense was a great experience

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Jamestown Police Department for sponsoring the RAD training that I took four days last week. The self-defense course was excellent and it was free.

For four nights last week, 20 women met at the Recreation Center and learned how to defend themselves and what to look for so they wouldn't become a victim. We had a fantastic instructor,

Joanne Waite, who took us step by step through the training until our hands-on test last Thursday.

I would also like to thank Officers John, Tiffany, and Karen from the Jamestown Police Department who volunteered their time and expertise. We are fortunate to live in a community that has the resources to bring this type of program to the public. If the course is offered again I would highly recommend your participation.

**Jane Bentley**  
Jamestown

## Neighbor's hunting has impact on nearby lots

On Sunday, Nov. 9, a young buck died in our backyard near the bird feeder. It had been shot with an arrow on the property of a neighbor, who had allowed the hunter access to his property.

Unfortunately, the deer did not die immediately and wandered on to our property, where it finally died in our backyard. I wish the neighbor who allowed this, could have seen the dead young deer on his property.

In East Passage Estates property owners own approximately two acres per lot. If one owner allows deer hunting on their two acres, this can surely encroach on their neighbors' lots.

When a deer dies on one's property, it's not a pretty sight.

**Sue Harvey**  
Intrepid Lane

## Committee needed to protect town 'asset'

*This letter was sent to the Town Administrator and copied to the Jamestown Press*

Mr. Keiser,

I am writing to you with regard to the Jamestown Golf Course and in particular to the creation of a committee to interact with the contract managers of the town's property there. I attended the Jamestown Town Council meeting in July when the golf course was a major topic of discussion. The need for a golf course committee was examined and, as I recall it, you were going to evaluate that action vs. our current status.

While I am sympathetic with the issues of the neighbors of the course and their objections to the cavalier manner in which they are

treated with regard to plantings affecting their views, etc., I am even more concerned with the revelation that the town's people have little in the way of a management role in affecting the performance of the course. There can be no doubt that the course represents the town's single largest piece of property. The Mistowskis have managed that asset for the town since 1986. I was surprised to learn that their current stewardship has been awarded without the benefit of a public bid. At that Town Council meeting, the Mistowskis, who were present, seemed to have an exalted status – being praised several times by council members as great citizens, etc. – causing me to wonder if the Mistowskis and their performance could be viewed with an impartial eye by the town's elected officials.

I play golf regularly – not very well, but regularly. I have played at the Jamestown Golf Course since arriving in Rhode Island and Jamestown in 1970. I've also played at a number of other courses that are owned by towns – Braintree, Mass., Old Scotland Links-Bridgewater, Mass., Acushnet River Valley-Acushnet, Mass. to name a few – and they are all either managed directly by the town or have active oversight committees that collaborate with and coordinate the actions of the golf course. Those operations and others are very popular and financially profitable for the communities. To me, it makes a lot of sense. After all, it's a town asset. It's a substantial town asset. It's a very visible, tangible town asset – and yet it's awarded on a no bid basis to a firm that has no oversight from the town? Moreover, when a meeting is convened and the principal subject is the Jamestown Golf Course, the Town Council seems to be somewhat in thrall to the contract managers, the Mistowskis, and a bit defensive regarding their management.

This is an active community. Why not take advantage of that activism and put a committee in place to interact with the managers of the course and see if we can't enjoy a higher level of satisfaction all around?? I can't see a down side to this action – can you??

**Jack Sheehan**  
Jamestown

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