

# Jamestown man celebrates his 300th blood donation

By Sam Bari

When Jim McLoughlin arrived at the Rhode Island Blood Center on Tuesday afternoon, he was treated with the status of a rock star. The 85-year-old Jame-

stown man came in to give his 300th blood donation and the employees wanted him to know how much his donations are appreciated.

"I'm just an ordinary man,"

McLoughlin said. "Giving blood is just part of my routine. I do it because it can be done. I like to help people. It's the right thing to do."

McLoughlin greeted each Blood Center employee by name as he was escorted to the rest area where donors are given refreshments after giving blood. There, he was presented with a cake that had his picture in the center surrounded by an inscription: "An ordinary life? Not to the hundreds of lives that Jim McLoughlin has saved. Congratulations on your 300th donation."

This was McLoughlin's 300th donation at the RI Blood Center's Aquidnick Island facility where he has donated a pint every two weeks since 1995 as an apheresis blood donor. Prior to that, he was a whole blood donor, which didn't allow him to donate

as often.

According to McLoughlin, he has been donating blood since the early 1960s. However, Thelma, his wife of 58 years, thinks it has been longer. "He's been giving blood since I've known him, so it has to be longer than that," she said. "We used to give together." Due to illness, Thelma was forced to stop donating.

McLoughlin said he started giving blood regularly after responding to a Warwick American Legion's plea for donors "... some fifty years or so ago. I don't remember exactly how long ago it was," he said.

He also said, "Everybody should do it. You don't feel anything. It has to be doing some good for people. It's always good to help somebody somewhere."

McLoughlin might think he is an ordinary man, but people

who have known him say that he has led an extraordinary life. After retiring from the automobile business, he set a schedule for himself that would exhaust most people at any age.

He delivers for Meals on Wheels, helps to organize two blood drives in Jamestown every year, and drove an ambulance for the EMS for years. He still helps at the EMS and does other volunteer work when asked.

McLoughlin is a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He served as a medic and learned firsthand the importance of blood donations.

## Chocolates featured in annual fund-raising

The Jamestown Lions Club will hold its Second Annual Holiday Candy Sale. This year's selection includes a choice of assorted chocolates, foil-wrapped chocolate balls, peanut brittle and a "Snowman Box," which contains assorted treats—all for \$5 each. The chocolates make great holiday gifts for clients, teachers, hostesses, co-workers or neighbors.

The sale begins at the Central Baptist Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 6 and will continue at various locations around town in the coming weeks—just look for a member of the Lions Club in their signature gold vest or contact a Lion. The funds raised from the chocolate sales help the Lions to give back to the community.

## Winter art show looking for entries

Rhode Island artists are invited to submit their work to the Conanicut Island Art Association's upcoming show titled "32° Degrees." This non-juried show is open to non-members and off-island residents as well as to current art association members.

The show will run from Thursday, Dec. 11 through Feb. 12, 2009, at the Jamestown Town Hall Art Gallery.

"When thinking of a theme for our first winter show, we came up with '32°,' but we are not limiting interpretation to temperature. It could refer to geometry or latitude or anything else that springs to mind," said Don Miller, the CIAA president.

Artists are invited to enter up to two pieces of art, all of which must be for sale. An entry fee of \$10 for the first piece and \$5 for the second will be charged to non-members. Members will be charged \$5 per item. There will be a 20-percent commission on pieces that are sold.

All pieces must be suitably framed, with wires, ready to hang. Pieces with saw-tooth hangers, clips, unprotected glass or other sharp edges will not be accepted. Framed artwork must not exceed 48-inches in any direction, and must not exceed 20 pounds.

Drop-off is today, Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Ave. Contact art show chairman Wendy Crooks 423-0993 for more information or for alternative drop-off arrangements.

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