

Step back in time at Battery Day

The 2009 Battery Day Celebration at Conanicut Battery Historic Park is scheduled for Saturday, May 9. Festivities begin at 1 p.m. and include an authentic encampment by Captain Tew's Company, a reconstituted military unit from the American Revolution. The unit sets up a camp that mirrors a Revolutionary War camp and gives insight into the daily routine of the soldiers who would have manned the Conanicut battlements.

Reenactors playing His Majesty's 54th Regiment of Foot, Regiment Le Bourbonnais, and Ye Olde Lebanon Towne Militia, in the uniforms of their respective country, will join Captain Tew's Company in musket salutes.

The Jamestown Community Band will perform patriotic music. The Artillery Company of Newport will signal the formal flag raising ceremony with a cannon salute across the West Passage.

The battery, built in 1776 by order of the Rhode Island General Assembly, refortified by the British the following year, and later occupied by the French, is one of Rhode Island's few remaining fortifications from the Revolutionary War era.

Members of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, local scout groups, and French and British representatives will raise the flags of the three countries that manned the Battery.

To get to Conanicut Battery Park, travel south on Beavertail Road toward the southern point of the island. The first road on the right south of the Fort Getty turnoff is Battery Lane. Follow the signs down Battery Lane to the park. A shuttle bus will be located at Mackerel Cove as parking is limited at the Battery.

The day is sponsored by the Friends of the Conanicut Battery and the Jamestown Historical Society and is partially funded by a Rhode Island Legislative grant secured for the society by Rep. Deborah Ruggiero.

The Jamestown Historical Society is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to preserving, collecting and sharing our island's history. Founded in 1912, the society maintains and operates the Jamestown Museum and three eighteenth-century historic sites: the old town Windmill, the Quaker Meetinghouse, and the Conanicut Battery – all of which are open to the public free of charge. JHS is a valuable resource for students, educators, historians and anyone interested in learning more about the area's rich heritage.

Council

Continued from page 1

session that administrators give the council a recommendation by today on whether to change or eliminate the position of the animal control officer.

Controversy over the value of the animal control officer's position concerned the council.

Councilman William Kelly raised concerns over the number of actual incidents and the amount of money the town spends yearly on the position. He said the ACO in Jamestown is the highest paid in the entire state, budgeted at just under \$70,000 in salary, benefits and other costs related to the position.

Town Council president Julio DiGiando, Vice President Michael White, and Councilman Robert Sutton Jr. all expressed discomfort in making a personnel decision to modify or eliminate the position, but agreed that the effectiveness of the position needed to be investigated.

"I agree that \$70,000 is a lot of money to pay for the amount of work that's being done," said White. "But nobody's told us, no one's brought us that (information) and that should come from

the people who are supervising that position."

Kelly estimated that every call response by the ACO, 59 were reported last year, cost \$1,000. He also commented that 50 percent of the time the ACO was on duty when leash laws were not in effect. Kelly said the position could be executed by police because it often is when the ACO is absent or off duty.

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~ Bill Kelly

The council discussed each budget item in detail.

"These are very lean budgets that each department has

proposed," explained Keiser. "In many individual accounts you actually see reductions over previous years."

Most actual budget increases are a result of union labor contract obligations with police, the department of public works and teachers.

"It seems the only areas of increases (in the budget) are areas where we are fulfilling our union obligations," said Kelly.

Several communities have reopened union contracts, but Keiser opted not to negotiate with unions to affect the 2009/2010

budget because all three contracts expire on June 30, 2010. He said he felt it unnecessary since he was able to exact a tax freeze without changing the current union agreements.

Keiser said he spoke with union representatives and they all expressed willingness to work with the town.

"The unions are aware of the changing economic landscape in Jamestown as well as around the state," he said. "They are willing to talk with us about what the costs of their contracts are."

The council urged residents to participate in cost-cutting tactics as well.

Councilwoman Barbara Szeptowski said she is aware that many Jamestowners throw away yard waste, such as leaves and lawn clippings in the central landfill instead of the composting pile.

If the waste products are composted instead disposed of as trash, it will cut costs in waste removal.

Reusable paper bags for yard waste are available at the Secret Garden and True Value Hardware Store in town. If residents with trash pickup use these bags to identify leaves and clippings, it will enable trash haulers to compost these materials easier.

The council also asked residents to reduce light emissions at night by turning off outside lights when they aren't in use.

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Almanac – Thursday, April 30, 2009

Local Tides This Week

NEWPORT				
DAY	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
Thur	12:23 a.m.	6:27 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	6:08 p.m.
Fri	1:23 a.m.	7:59 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	7:27 p.m.
Sat	2:25 a.m.	9:20 a.m.	3:02 p.m.	9:19 p.m.
Sun	3:29 a.m.	10:14 a.m.	4:04 p.m.	10:37 p.m.
Mon	4:32 a.m.	10:55 a.m.	5:04 p.m.	11:32 p.m.
Tue	5:32 a.m.	11:28 a.m.	5:59 p.m.	
Wed	6:25 p.m.	12:17 a.m.	6:48 p.m.	11:59 a.m.

CONANICUT POINT				
DAY	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
Thur	12:30 a.m.	6:21 a.m.	1:07 p.m.	6:02 p.m.
Fri	1:30 a.m.	7:53 a.m.	2:07 p.m.	7:21 p.m.
Sat	2:32 a.m.	9:14 a.m.	3:09 p.m.	9:13 p.m.
Sun	3:36 a.m.	10:08 a.m.	4:11 p.m.	10:31 p.m.
Mon	4:39 a.m.	10:49 a.m.	5:11 p.m.	11:26 p.m.
Tue	5:39 a.m.	11:22 a.m.	6:06 p.m.	
Wed	6:32 p.m.	12:11 a.m.	6:55 p.m.	11:53 a.m.

Sun / Moon Chart This Week

DAY	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Thur	5:43 a.m.	7:42 p.m.	10:30 a.m.	1:30 a.m.
Fri	5:42 a.m.	7:43 p.m.	11:45 a.m.	1:42 a.m.
Sat	5:40 a.m.	7:44 p.m.	12:59 p.m.	2:14 a.m.
Sun	5:39 a.m.	7:45 p.m.	2:11 p.m.	2:41 a.m.
Mon	5:38 a.m.	7:46 p.m.	3:20 p.m.	3:05 a.m.
Tue	5:37 a.m.	7:47 p.m.	4:28 p.m.	3:28 a.m.
Wed	5:4355 a.m.	7:48 p.m.	5:36 p.m.	3:52 a.m.