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RITBA outlines toll hike for out-of-state Pell Bridge users

By Adrienne Downing

The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority board of directors is considering a toll increase for users of the Pell Newport Bridge who do not live in Rhode Island.

"This has been 19 months in the works," said RITBA Chairman David Darlington at the RITBA board meeting Wednesday morning. "We have held seven public hearings about toll rates and have listened to what the public has to say."

According to Darlington, the

plan would not impact Rhode Island residents who use EZPass transponders. The Rhode Island resident rate would remain at 83 cents for each crossing and the commuter rate would stay at 91 cents per crossing for 31 trips in 30 calendar days.

Darlington proposed that the toll for all cash payers and non-Rhode Island residents be increased by \$1 an axle. The toll for cash-paying passenger vehicles would increase from \$2 to \$4 from the current \$2.

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Council cements parking protocol on Watson Avenue

Parking zone moved from south side to north side of street

By Erin Tiernan

The Watson Avenue parking controversy that has preoccupied residents and local business owners since April finally ended Monday night. The Town Council reversed zoning ordinances and moved to allow parking on the north side of Watson Avenue with a 30-foot setback from the intersection at North Main Road.

On average, the parking setback is 40 feet from the intersection of town roads.

In deciding to restrict parking

only to the side of the street where Island Rubbish and the Village Hearth Bakery are located, Town Administrator Bruce Keiser said both business owners' needs and the safety of residents were considered. "It's a matter of judgment, but a setback close to 40 feet will limit the number of parking spaces and may be counterproductive to what we're trying to achieve relative to serving the businesses on that street," he said. "A safe setback of 30 feet would be acceptable."

Although most residents and area business owners favored parking on the north side, one Ocean

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Feeney honored for services to war college families

By Samantha Emrich

As a sponsor for foreign officers and families of the Naval War College in Newport, Millie Feeney of Jamestown, introduces international families "to the American lifestyle."

Over the past year, Feeney has had a wide range of experiences — from learning recipes for Indian curries to studying the garments of Muslim women, and even introducing foreign children to the American tradition of Halloween.

For her contributions in the sponsor program, Feeney was recently named Sponsor of the Year for the Class of 2009. "The voting for the award was by the officers and the award was presented by the admiral, which was really

nice," Feeney said. "I was very happy and very humbled."

According to Feeney, the officers are "hand-picked to attend the war college" and are "the top of their country." Feeney says the officers are "world-traveled and multi-linguists" as all classes at the NWC are taught in English.

"They want to come here," Feeney said. "It's their chance to see America." Feeney has sponsored officers from across the globe. Egypt, Korea, Chile, Turkey, Tanzania, New Zealand, India, and Bangladesh, are merely a handful of the countries from which her 33 families originated.

As a civilian sponsor, Feeney

See "Feeney" on page 17



Fourth of July

After weeks of rainy weather, islanders were able to get outside for the holiday weekend. Mackerel Cove beach, above, was packed to capacity on Sunday for the Rocket 'hogs annual fireworks show. On Saturday, islanders, including one little girl dressed for the occasion, lined East Shore Road to watch the north end Fourth of July parade.

Photos by Vic Richardson and Andrea von Hohenleiten