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A good deed

Anaclaire Tamboe, Josie Wagner and Abby Wagner, all students at Melrose School, donated the proceeds from their lemonade stand to their school. The Feinstein Foundation will match the funds that the girls raised and presented to Principal Carrie Melucci.

Photo by Caitlin Downing

Ft. Getty controversies reach a 'tipping point'

Meetings slated for Sept. 24 and Oct. 3

By Phil Zahodiakin

Jamestown is about to launch a public debate on long-standing proposals to renovate and possibly reconfigure the recreational facilities at Ft. Getty.

The Ft. Getty Master Plan Committee will meet Thursday, Sept. 24 to hammer out questions for an updated survey of Jamestown residents, whose opinions on the park and campground will eventually help guide decision-makers. On Saturday, Oct. 3, the Parks and Recreation Department will hold a "town hall" meeting for campground residents to air their concerns about infrastructure and service issues.

Ultimately, the decisions on Ft. Getty initiatives will come down to money.

In 2006, a contractor estimated that the cost of all the work proposed by the Ft. Getty Land Use Plan, which includes such uncertainties as a sailing school and a beach pavilion, would exceed \$8 million. However, simply leaving the park "as is" could cost the

town as much as \$1 million – or more, depending on how you slice the proposal pie.

That's because there are problems at the 35-acre park and campground that have to be addressed one way or the other, town officials acknowledge. So, as they wrestle with recommendations beyond the basic repairs, officials will also have to gauge the availability of funding from various sources, including property taxes – which are slightly less (by an average of \$70 a year) than they would be without the roughly \$310,000 in net income raised by Ft. Getty fees.

The 2005 Ft. Getty Master Plan states that the town could finance Ft. Getty initiatives by, among other things, annually increasing park, boating and campground fees "as improvements begin." The 2006 Land Use Plan includes the idea of a bond to be repaid from "RV and tent site rentals and vehicle access fees."

But Town Administrator Bruce Keiser said a wide range of options would have to be weighed before any consideration of a bond.

"For every million dollars of a

See "Ft. Getty" on page 9

Cyclist collision shines spotlight on need for sidewalk safety

By Eileen M. Daly

What do you get when you add bicyclists, skateboarders and other wheeled vehicles to a busy main street packed with parked cars on both sides and sidewalks crowded with pedestrians?

The answer: A recipe for disaster. Just ask Dee Hellewell.

On Sept. 1, Hellewell was standing on the sidewalk in front of Town Hall on Narragansett Avenue when she suddenly found herself crashing toward the sidewalk.

"I don't even know what happened. The next thing I knew I was heading to the ground. I don't even remember feeling the impact," she said. "The next thing I remember is Janet McGinnity asking, 'Are you okay?' I know I must have been in shock."

In fact, a young bicyclist riding on the sidewalk had rammed into Hellewell.

"I did see a young boy stand-

ing by with a bicycle, but I had no idea that he had run into me," she said.

Bleeding profusely from a gash near her eye and in severe pain from what later turned out to be two broken bones in her face – and a broken rib – Hellewell waited with bystanders for the rescue to arrive.

"The rescue workers asked me questions to see if I was okay," she said, referring to the standard questions EMS technicians ask when an individual has sustained a head injury.

Once at the hospital, Hellewell said she was given four stitches to close the cut near her eye, x-rays and a CAT scan. She was also advised to see a facial surgeon, she said.

"We did go and see a facial surgeon, but he said it should heal on its own," she said, adding, "I look a lot better already."

Hellewell said that she was

eventually told that a young boy riding a bicycle caused the accident.

"I didn't hear from them right away because it took some time for the family to be notified by the police," she said. "Once the police called the family, the boy's father called me right away to apologize."

The boy's father also brought his son by to apologize in person, she said.

"The father and the little boy arrived with blueberry muffins and we chatted for a bit," she said. "I also received a very nice note from the boy saying how very sorry he was."

Hellewell feels no animosity toward the boy or his family, she said, but she would like to see some measures taken to avoid such calamities in the future.

"I don't know if there are any

See "Bike Safety" on page 5



The Mallinckrodt Cottage is the most elaborate and best preserved of the summer homes built on Shoreby Hill at the turn of the last century.

Photo courtesy of the Jamestown Historical Society

JHS house tour offers glimpse of a bygone era

By Rosemary Enright

History buffs can take a walk through a few of the island's oldest homes this weekend as the Jamestown Historical Society kicks off its annual tour of historic Jamestown homes.

Four houses on Shoreby Hill, designed in 1896 as a private garden-like district of summer cottages, will be featured on the tour. Visitors will tour an ancient farmhouse, the much-transformed

Bevins house and a shingle-style bungalow. On Friday evening, members of the JHS are invited to a preview party that includes a tour of a colonial revival house overlooking Narragansett Bay.

The Shoreby Hill neighborhood itself, with its curving streets, strict building codes, sewer and water systems, waterside green and other amenities, was a

See "House Tour" on page 10