



**Common Fence Point Improvement Association**  
**Quarterly Newsletter**  
**June, 2005**  
**WWW.CFPIA.ORG**

***CFP Egg Hunt***

An Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, March, 26<sup>th</sup> at the Playground. What a beautiful day! It was great to see the large turnout of CFP children and their families, and the fact that most were able to walk to the hunt. The children were divided into 3 age groups. The younger children, with a little prompting from their parents, searched the playground for their eggs. The 4-7 year olds were held back before sprinting across the open ball field. The 8-10 year olds searched the trees and grounds in a semi-wooded area. They hunted for plastic eggs filled candy and "special" eggs containing numbers, which were redeemed for various prizes. The kids, parents, and "Bunnies" all had a great time.

The raffles were also a big hit. Steve Medeiros was the winner of the "Evening at Common Fence Music" raffle basket. This basket included 2 tickets to an upcoming music concert along with wine, glasses, and snacks to enjoy at the concert. Jackie Shearman was the proud winner of the Girls' raffle basket, which included numerous "girly" items. Patsy Camara was the winner of the Boys' raffle basket. We're sure that they both shared them with their grandchildren.

Thanks to the CFP "Bunnies" who organized the hunt: **Nancy Aguiar, Cass Barrett, Diane Barrette, Pat McHale, Jackie Shearman, Barbara Jones, , Lisa Camara, John Tingstad and Hunter Jones.**



**Jordan Parke** checks her eggs for candy and/or that special number to win a prize. Looking on (from left to right) are next-door neighbor **Hannah Petrie**, big sister **Jackie**, and Mom, **Paula**.

***It's Summer Time and  
Time to Review the Bonfire Policy***

The official CFPIA policy regarding bonfires was drawn up in response to complaints from both the Portsmouth Fire Department and the Coastal Resource Management Council. Each sited the piling of debris and burning of said debris without permits and within close proximity to the shoreline. CFPIA adopted the following resolution regarding bonfires at its quarterly meeting June 15,1999:

***"Bonfires are allowed on Common Fence Point Improvement Association (CFPIA) property by permit only for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday only. Permits to be let by the Portsmouth Fire Department no earlier than 7 days prior to the burn. Permit holder will be responsible for monitoring the build of the pile, for monitoring the actual burn start to finish, and for the cleanup of the remains. Removal of any remains is to be performed within 7 days of burn.***

***Bonfires shall consist of untreated wood only.***

***The Portsmouth Fire Department may issue permits to CFPIA Trustees only at other times of the year for ground maintenance."***

Trustees of Record: **Scott Boyd, Patricia Freeborn, Thomas McHale, Sara Farina, and John Silvia**

Implied in this policy statement is that piles cannot be constructed any sooner than 7 days before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Explicit in this policy statement is that someone must take full responsibility for all aspects of a bonfire, including getting the permit. Burning without a permit from the Fire Department is a punishable offense. Piling debris on a coastal resource is a punishable offense. Tradition does not excuse any of us from responsibility. You **can** have a bonfire, just do it the right way and have a safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month** CFPIA Meeting 7:15pm  
**July 23<sup>rd</sup>** CFP Summer Fest - noon to dusk

**June 28<sup>th</sup>** CFP Summer Fest Planning Mtg 7pm at the Hall  
**September 17<sup>th</sup>** -Get the Drift and Bag It Clean Up

### Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee recently met to plan social and fundraising activities for future months. So far this year, events held have included a well-attended Wine & Cheese Social in February, a fun-filled Egg Hunt in March, a very lucrative Penny Social in April, and a wide variety of offered courses. The Wine & Cheese Social was the springboard for getting ideas from community members. A fundraising thermometer (Thanks to **Cass Barrett**) has been installed at the Hall. The thermometer will be updated periodically as funds are received. The next event will be the CFP Summer Fest on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. See the separate article in this newsletter for details. Future events planned are a social to dedicate the donation of property by the Shaw family on Island Road, a yard sale, a wine tasting, and a Mardi Gras.

We have a core group of people who have been organizing these activities and are looking for more folks to join in. If you are interested in helping with any of our future functions, please contact **Pat McHale** at 683-4826, **Jackie Shearman** at 683-0916, **Stephanie Mills** at 293-0309 or attend the next CFP meeting on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Watch for details at our website, [www.cfpia.org](http://www.cfpia.org).

### Earth Day, 2005

The Common Fence Point Earth Day cleanup was held on Saturday, April 23, 2005. Despite the imminent threat of rain, a record number of more than 65 volunteers signed in to clean the Point of the long winter's accumulation of litter on our roadsides and beaches. The volunteers included a very large contingent of boy scouts. As always, the most aggravating litter problem, and most time consuming to pick up, was the excessive number of cigarette butts. Thanks to the volunteers!

### The Penny Sale was ANYTHING but that!

A Penny Sale held in April at the Community Hall raised **\$1408.00**, which will benefit the "Save the Hall" fund. Gift items and certificates were donated by over 30 local businesses. Over 50 residents and members donated hand-made items, toys, plants, and assorted household items. Donated baked goods, coffee and CFP T-shirts were sold. The CFP Finance Committee would like to thank all who contributed to the success of the raffle event, including these local businesses: **Aquidneck Aquarium and Pet Deli, Armor and Martel Photography, Beach Party, Body Restoration, Body-Wise Therapeutic Massage, Brooks, Carlone's Florist, Clayroom, Cuffy's of Cape Cod, Deborah Winthrop Fine Lingerie, Del Sol, Domina's Agway, Eastern Mountain Sports, Farmaesthetics, Ferreira's Package Store, Irving's Shoe Store, Island Books, Michael's Arts and Crafts, Newport Athletic Club, Newport Vineyards, Panini Grille, Rocco's Little Italy, Sea Meadow Stylist, Sew Nice Fabrics, Shear Power Salon, SSC Holiday Cinemas, Staples Office Supply, Sydney's Salon, Viking Tuxedo, Walrus and Carpenter, and Willy the Barber.** Please support these generous businesses!

### Upcoming Common Fence Point Workshop: Tai Chi Classes

This class will be held Sundays at the CFP Ball-field, 10:30am. This 5-week session begins on June 26<sup>th</sup> and runs through July 24<sup>th</sup>. The fee is \$40 for 5 weeks or \$10 per session. Classes are held outdoors weather permitting. This is a beginner level class, but all levels are welcome. Come loosen your stiffening joints. Tai Chi is both meditations in movement and a martial art form. The primary focus will be the cultivation of tranquility & peacefulness, while developing inner strength & dexterity. Taught by: Dr. Seth Bock, Doctrine in Chinese Medicine, owner of Newport Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine. Visit his website at [www.newportacupuncture.com](http://www.newportacupuncture.com). Email [drbock@newportacupuncture.com](mailto:drbock@newportacupuncture.com) for more information.

#### Thanks to Century 21 and Maureen Mills!

Due to their generous contribution, we were able to replace the stage plywood and carpeting, thanks to **Maureen** and **Century 21**, the stage is safely carpeted and looks brand new! (not to mention *so much* nicer) Thank you very much!

#### Volunteers Needed to Mark CFP Land!

We need to install CFP signs in that were procured by an Earth Day grant. Also, we need split rails to demarcate land donated on Island Rd. We would like to get this done before July 4th! Call if you can help or have a spare rail post or two. Please call 683-4549

### Paid Your Dues Lately?

Please return this form and make your check to payable to CFPIA, PO Box 134, Portsmouth, RI 02871.

Name: _____	Single	\$20.00
Address: _____	Family	\$25.00
_____	Corporate	\$75.00
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____	Patron	\$75.00

What services can you volunteer for your community? \_\_\_\_\_

Benefactor \_\_\_\_\_

Seniors over 65, take 10% off!!

Add'l Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you would like your *additional donation* to be applied specifically to:  
Hall Repair/Fire Code \_\_\_\_\_ Playground Improvement \_\_\_\_\_ Land Maint and Mgmt \_\_\_\_\_ General Use \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support!

Newsletter 06/05

## Letters to the Editor:

### High Price For Paradise

In 1995, my wife, Cindy, and I had been boating for 20 years. We took many boat excursions from Warwick to Common Fence Point to visit friends. We became so fond of the area; we made a difficult decision to swap boating for a beach house on Common Fence Point.

Our 900 square foot house had a view of the water, which we so much loved. Even with peeling paint and rotten boards, it was a move up to paradise at an affordable price. Taxes were only \$1300 per year, compared to boat dockage fees, which were then \$1400 per year. At the time, the trade-off seemed reasonable and we were delighted.

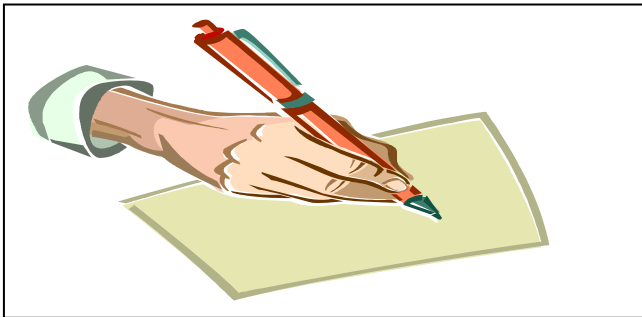
Not anymore! In just 10 years, real estate taxes on our little beach house have risen from \$1300 to \$5300 per year. And, no, it does not include trash pick-up! Steaks on the grill are now "Cheeseburgers in Paradise". Cindy and I are in our mid-50s. We have worked very hard to get where we are, but our retirement years keep getting pushed back. And for what? To satisfy the insatiable thirst for tax revenue for special interests?

How can Portsmouth, or any other Rhode Island town, justify a whopping 400% increase in the taxes of many homes in just ten years? Where is the elevation of services, infrastructure and amenities? Where is the money going? I'll tell you where it is going: to a bloated, inefficient state bureaucracy, and local police, fire and teacher salaries with obscene benefit packages that are unrivaled in comparable private industry.

It is time for local and state politicians to stop the gamesmanship and make the tough budgetary decisions needed to restore state solvency and reduce the financial pressures that threaten to choke hard working taxpayers and snuff out their dreams.

Are you fed up? Join the organizations that are addressing and fighting the issue we are all facing: The Portsmouth Concerned Citizens, Operation Clean Government and RI Shoreline Coalition.

**Ron Galipeau**, resident of Cranston and Portsmouth, CFPIA member and member of the above organizations



Do **YOU** have something to say? Send your letter to: Editor, CFPIA Newsletter, PO Box 134, Portsmouth or email [bsjones@pc.necoxmail.com](mailto:bsjones@pc.necoxmail.com). Letters may be edited for space consideration and will be printed when space allows.

### I Feel Vindicated

I feel vindicated like the guy whose headstone reads, "I told you I was sick." I have been ranting, for years, about dangerous drivers speeding across the narrow lanes of Common Fence Point. A woman, in a green Saturn, nearly drove over the legs of my neighbor as the neighbor was weeding her street-side garden. I have witnessed a child on his bicycle fall off and the SUV driver did not slow down nor barely swerve. A neighbor's Lhasa was killed while on a walk on his leash! I have seen my neighbors gesture obscenely to me when I suggest, with hand motions, that they slow down and abide by the posted speed limits.

Yes, I'm vindicated. Now, it's official. An insurance company-sponsored study concludes that Rhode Island drivers "lead the nation in driver cluelessness." I thought, after moving back to my home state, after years away, that drivers here had just become mean-spirited. But, the study indicates that RI drivers are just "ignorant of basic driving rules and laws." Rhode Islanders exhibit, it says, the "most dangerous driving behaviors in the country."

Whether Rhode Island drivers are mean-spirited or clueless, I offer up that it is well past time to "take back" the safety and peacefulness of CFP. After all, this is where we live. This is where our children play, and this is where we take walks and share charming, narrow roadways and spectacular marine views. This is where our four-legged critter friends share our setting.

The law is on our side, as the streets are already posted for 20, but how many drivers truly abide by the limit. And, when we approach a walker, or a squirrel playing on the road edge, how many of us slow down for a moment? And, how many drivers pay attention to pedestrians, children on bicycles and, here I go on my limb, the wild creatures that attempt to cross the road and lend so much joy to us who live here?

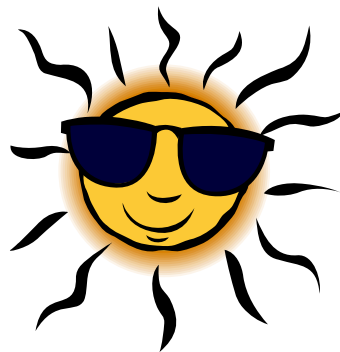
I would like to propose that a petition be circulated and signed by CFP residents that call for all drivers, our neighbors and our visitors alike, to be aware of the speed limit, to pay attention to what else is in our neighborhoods and to slow down to save the life of a raccoon or leashed dog or child. I would further like the petition to propose that our police department, already over-worked and under-staffed, continue to do what it can to enforce the posted limits. I would also suggest that preparations be taken to implement what is called "traffic calming" measures. They are effective in many communities around the country including Cumberland, RI. Passive measures are considered which will "force" drivers to be aware and slow down in specific areas. But, all of this begins with the question, "do we care enough" to take some action? I'd rather see a safe CFP for all living creatures here, than merely feel my sense of vindication.

**Jay R. Miller**  
Former Judge

CFPIA  
PO Box 134  
Portsmouth, RI 02871  
**Meetings Held 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month 7:15 PM**

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***Common Fence Point Summer Cookout!  
Saturday, July 23, 2005 – noon to dusk***

We are planning activities, games, and food for the entire family! Come play, relax, and socialize with the neighborhood!! Bring lawn chairs, blankets, and your own beverages for picnic style fun at our park. Hamburgers, hot dogs, Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream bars, corn on the cob, watermelon, entertainment, "Bounce Abouts", field games, a fire truck, baseball, volleyball, horseshoes, face painting, raffles and so much more!! A CFP Wristband covers all food and fun, **only \$4.00 per person! (under 3 free)** Wristbands will be available to purchase starting June 28<sup>th</sup> from CFP members and the Little Corner Store.

Special thanks to our Sponsors! Please support their businesses: **A.J. Martin, Inc., Ben and Jerry's of Newport, Cumberland Farms, Jestings and Sons, NASIFF Fruit of Fall River, Shearman Oil, Inc., The Little Corner Store, 501 Park Ave Restaurant and Pub.**

Still looking for donations of food and services, volunteers, grills, chefs, connections to play equipment, etc. Please join our planning team at the Hall on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Your assistance is vital to make it an awesome neighborhood party! All ideas, suggestions and help are greatly appreciated, no matter how big or small! Let us know if you can help. For more info contact **Rose Escobar**, at 682-2015, **Jackie Shearman**, at 683-0916, **Pat** and **Tom McHale**, at 683-4826

Don't plan on it, but the **rain date is July 24<sup>th</sup>**, noon to dusk. See you all on July 23<sup>rd</sup>!