

## FOW To Dedicate Ferrazzoli Park May 2

By Kate Donnarummo

This spring, Newport and the state of Rhode Island will dedicate not only a beautiful park, but an entire day to the late Mary Ferrazzoli. She was the founder of Friends of the Waterfront (FOW) and the woman who took a stand to save Newport from becoming a commercialized wasteland and preserved its beauty for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Mary Ferrazzoli founded Friends of the Waterfront in 1982. At the time, Newport's pro-development city council was being thrown building proposals left and right. Developers sought control of the waterfront. Ferrazzoli foresaw the damage the trend would cause to the waterfront, as well as Newport's scenic and historic name.

The process to preserve Newport's waterfront from high rise development and commercialization was a long and difficult battle for Ferrazzoli. She had a chronic illness which caused fatigue and weakness. Despite her illness, Ferrazzoli waited long hours for her turn to speak at city council meetings, which have a tendency to drag on for hours, to dispute development proposals along the waterfront. Board member of FOW and friend of Ferrazzoli, Vic Farmer, admired her



perseverance and dedication to the cause. He said some saw her as an extremist, but she only had Newport's best interest in mind. Her goal was to simply maintain the waterfront for public access without commercial chaos.

As time went on, more and more developments were denied to build on the waterfront as a direct result of Ferrazzoli's and FOW's mission. "She was so outspoken and determined, developers became intimidated by her," Farmer said. "She was the voice. She drew a line in the sand. If you thought you could cross it, you could try, but she was going to make it very hard."

Today, FOW is proud to provide 24 outlets to the waterfront. Among those locations, preserving King Park, areas of the Cliff Walk, and Ann St. Pier were several of Ferrazzoli's proudest and most important achievements with FOW. In addition, by founding FOW and

speaking up to council members, she has changed many views on development in Newport and raised waterfront preservation awareness. Access to the waterfront is part of what makes Newport unique in comparison to the many beach towns that have succumbed to over-the-top commercialization.

Ferrazzoli passed away on August 4, 1994 at age 66. She is missed by all who knew her, but she left a legacy that will live on for years to come. FOW, Newport residents, and visitors are grateful for Ferrazzoli's courageous voice that helped shape the town into what it is today.

Join FOW on Saturday, May 2nd at 11 a.m. for the dedication of Mary Ferrazzoli Park, located at the intersection of Long Wharf and Washington Street. City and state representatives will give proclamations declaring Mary Ferrazzoli Day and will acknowledge the founder's greatest accomplishments. Following the dedication, refreshments will be served and buttons, bumper stickers and more will be distributed to all. Celebrate the day with FOW in a beautiful park that may not exist today if it were not for Mary Ferrazzoli herself.

# New Signs for Harbor Walk

By Emily Ferro

We all know that Newport is a beautiful place to be, and what better way to improve such a wonderful place than by making the water more accessible to the public? In our last issue, we discussed putting more signs along the water to make the Harbor Walk more apparent to the public and gladly, the plans are following through nicely.

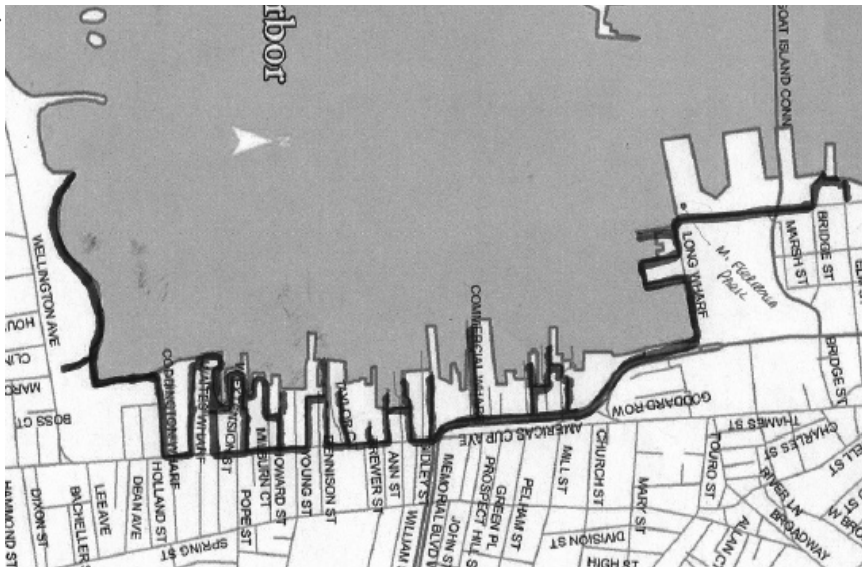
Recreation manager for the city of Newport.

accessibility to the Harbor Walk are being discussed. Besides the signs, there has also been talk of eventually adding a park somewhere along the walk for kids to play in view of the water. FOW is working with the Town of Newport and its businesses to gain permission to put signs at every access point. Existing points are in places along Washington St and Thames St, as well as in public places such as the King and Perrotti parks.



Photo by: Emily Ferro  
Left to Right: Dave Wixted, Terry Nathan, Jim Perrier in front of IYRS

On Friday, February 27th, a group of people met at the International Yacht Restoration School (IYRS) in Newport to discuss additional signs for the Harbor Walk that will be added soon. Among those people were Jim Perrier and Dave Wixted of FOW, Terry Nathan, the President of IYRS, and Scott Wheeler, the Parks and



Many improvements to the of the Harbor Walk.

More privately owned property is giving permission to place signs, which is what FOW has accomplished by speaking with IYRS. Other privately owned places such as Casey's Marina have also agreed to have Harbor Walk signs. Much progress has been made and we at FOW continue to strive for improved accessibility

## Volunteers Needed On Earth Day

This year, Earth Day is on April 25th  
 For years, on Earth Day, Friends of the Waterfront has contributed to cleaning up King Park and we need your help!  
 Any members and volunteers are urged to join us starting at 9 AM.  
 Meet at King Park off Wellington Ave.  
 Bags will be provided. Please bring your own gloves for clean up.

## Friends of the Waterfront 2009 Annual Membership Dues

\_\_\_\_\_ Single... \$5      \_\_\_\_\_ Family... \$10      \_\_\_\_\_ Patron... \$25      \_\_\_\_\_ Business... \$50

Membership includes the *Waterfront Watcher* subscription.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Friends of the Waterfront, P.O. Box 932, Newport, RI 02840. Thank You!

Friends of the Waterfront is a tax exempt, non profit 501c 3 corporation

*Your check is your receipt.*

## Sign Up NOW for the 28th ANNUAL Waterfront Inspection Cruise

**I Will, or Will Not** [Circle one] ... **Attend the Waterfront Inspection Cruise.**

**Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for me at \$10 each.**

**Sunday**

**September 13, 2009**

**I have included my check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_.**

**5-6:30 PM**

## **28th Annual Waterfront Inspection Cruise**

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED**

**Sunday, Sept. 13th ~ 5-6:30 PM**

Boarding Time: 4:45 Majestic at Bowen's Wharf

*Last year's cruise was a sell-out event.*

*Make Sure You*

*Reserve Your Tickets Now!*

Questions to Jim Perrier at 847-2576

*"Rain or Shine"*

## **More On the Walk**

### **HARBOR WALK**

The Harbor Walk will extend around the temporary building which houses the Yacht Coronet. This will give continuous access from Waite's Wharf around the structure known as riptide to West Extension Street around the water side of Casey's Marina and around the coronet building to West Howard wharf to the water side dock west of the Pier Restaurant. The south end of the Harbor Walk starts at King Park and there is continuous access from there to the small pocket park along side the Coddington condos and Coddington Wharf. From here you must walk east to Thames Street and north to connect to Waite's Wharf. The next area of concern is Scott Wharf and meetings are scheduled with all the concerned parties.

### **SURVEY**

The board of FOW has voted to support the project of obtaining a survey of the Newport waterfront. The Coastal Resources Center (CRC) has obtained a quote for a Map of the Newport waterfront from Pare Corp. The project area will extend from King Park at the south end, to the Goat Island causeway. Thames Street will be the eastern boundary. The following groups are supplying the cost for this survey: CRC, FOW and AIA/ALN.

### **TROUBLE SPOTS**

#### **Washington Street extension**

The court case is presently in the discovery phase with both sides supplying information. The court case will not be heard for about 6 months as per the last estimate obtained from the city Solicitor Joe Nicholson.

Continued on page 4...

# The Harbor, Ocean Drive, Cliff Walk ...

## Friends of the Waterfront Has It Covered

# 28th ANNUAL WATERFRONT INSPECTION CRUISE

Sunday Night, Sept. 13th  
Be on Time 5-6:30 PM  
Bowen's Wharf... Tickets in Advance  
... See Inside Page.

Continued from page 3...

### **TROUBLE SPOTS (Ctd.)**

#### **Brown & Howard Wharf**

The owners of the Pier Restaurant obtained a CRMC permit to replace the piers and bulkhead in the area of the CRMC right of way and the bulkhead going north to the area of Lees Wharf. The CRMC cited the builders on violations on proper soil erosion after being call by the FOW.

#### **Waites Wharf**

The owners of the West Deck obtained permission to serve patrons on the grassy area to the west of the building. A wood deck with a standing 16 foot by 20 foot bar was in the construction phase. The FOW called the CRMC to see if there was a CRMC permit to do the work. There was none and stop work order was issued. The methods of obtaining a city building permit without approval of the CRMC was the problem. FOW is working with the city to correct this problem.

#### **Driftways**

FOW is working with the Waterfront Commission and the Point Association in an attempt to resolve the long existing problem. FOW primary concern is access to the water. FOW has stated they will back the Waterfront Commission on their recommendation to the city council.

**Friends of the Waterfront. Inc.**  
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### **Everyone is invited!**

Plenty of room, lots of windows and great viewing on Majestic!

Sit back and enjoy the beautiful sights of Newport Harbor and Narragansett Bay aboard the luxurious Majestic. The cruise is a great way to wrap up a great summer with FOW Board members.

A professional tour guide will point out the spectacular sights ... and we will cover some of the history of various areas on the waterfront.

There are outside decks and two large, comfortable, climate controlled interior decks. Please bring pot luck snacks. There will be a cash bar. Rain or shine!

### Special Thanks To Salve Regina Students:

Kate Donnarummo, English  
Communications Major, Class of  
2010  
Emily Ferro, English and Secondary  
Education Major, Class of 2012

Kate and Emily graciously  
volunteered their time and efforts  
to produce this edition of the FOW  
Newsletter.

### Friends of the Waterfront

#### **NEWPORT FOW BOARD**

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