

# E.N.A.C.T. News!

*Our Mission is to defend the environmental quality of the Bay Street Neighborhood by informing, networking, analyzing and advocating.*

## April/May/June 2004 Issue



Gary Rose, ENACT, U. S. Senator Jack Reed, Gail Corvello, ENACT, Bob Ferreira, ENACT, State Rep. Joseph Amaral and State Rep. William Enos during Senator Reed's visit to the Bay Street Neighborhood.

### At a Glance

- 04-01-04 ENACT meets with RIDEM Officials
- 04-12-04 Tiverton Town Council votes to move southern boundary of excavation moratorium
- 04-22-04 ENACT receives EPA Environmental Merit Award  
ENACT accompanies property owners at scope development meetings on various dates in April
- 05-07-04 RIDEM authorizes \$10,000.00 for technical assistance
- 05-11-04 Standard Operating Procedures for municipal work promised
- 05-12-04 ENACT views preliminary findings of Public Perception Survey
- 05-17-04 U.S. Senator Jack Reed visits the Bay Street Neighborhood
- 05-17-04 RIDEM issues comments on "Review Draft" of SSIWP
- 05-19-04 ATSDR hosts "Open House" for residents/property owners
- 05-26-04 ENACT attends RICOSH Seminar on Environmental Literacy
- 06-14-04 ENACT presentation to the Tiverton Town Council
- 06-14-04 U.S. Congress contacts EPA regarding contamination issue
- 06-16-04 ENACT receives report on history of Fall River Gas Plant and the Judson Street area
- 06-18-04 NEGC and RIDEM categorize area properties into 4 groups
- 06-17-04 ENACT meets with Tiverton Recreation Commission

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### **U.S. Senator Jack Reed Visits ENACT**

At 9:00am on Monday, May 17, 2004, Senator Jack Reed arrived at the home of ENACT President Gail Corvello. After viewing a powerpoint presentation and listening to the concerns associated with our issue, Senator Reed vowed

his support to the efforts of ENACT; expressed his concern for the seriousness of the issue; and said that he would do whatever he could to help us—including returning to Tiverton when needed.

Well, it didn't take long to see the results of that visit. Less than one month later, a letter from the Congress of the United States, signed by Senator Reed, Senator Chafee, Congressman Kennedy, and Congressman McGovern(MA) was sent to the Regional Administrator of the EPA in Boston urging "financial and technical assistance.....to ensure that the site investigation fully characterizes the site and determines its boundaries. In addition, once soil testing and evaluation are completed, we urge EPA to allocate all necessary resources to remove the threat to human health and expedite the remediation of the site." We are anxiously awaiting the response from the EPA.

### **Council Moves Moratorium Boundary**

Contrary to the opinion of ENACT, the Tiverton Town Council voted to move the southern boundary of the "excavation moratorium" to a stone wall that runs behind the properties on the northern side of Lepes Road.

### **ENACT Receives Award**

Earth Day 2004 proved to be an exciting one for ENACT. April 22, 2004 at Fanueil Hall in Boston, ENACT was presented with the U.S. EPA, New England Region, Environmental Merit Award "For outstanding efforts in preserving New England's environment". It was a proud moment indeed.

### **Request for Technical Assistance Granted**

At a meeting requested by ENACT, the need for funding for a technical consultant was discussed with RIDEM officials. All agreed that it is necessary to have professional advise and expertise guiding the residents and property owners of the Bay Street neighborhood through this complex technical/scientific process.

On May 7, 2004, ENACT received word that RIDEM had authorized up to \$10,000.00 in technical assistance for ENACT to use for the benefit of the area residents. On May 21st, Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. was contracted and has been working with ENACT to establish a solid knowledge base in order to fully understand the needs of the community.

### **ATSDR holds Open House**

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (a branch of the Center for Disease Control) invited the residents of the Bay Street area to

an "Open House" on May 19, 2004. ATSDR representatives were available for one-on-one discussions on health concerns due to the soil contamination issue. Participation was excellent, and the ATSDR has informed us that a report will be distributed once the data collected is compiled and analyzed.

## ENACT Informs Council

In an effort to keep everyone up-to-date, ENACT conducted a powerpoint presentation at the Tiverton Town Council meeting of June 14, 2004. It is important that Town government remain aware of any and all aspects of this matter. Keeping everyone informed and up-to-date on this problem is ENACT's ongoing "action item".

Also at this meeting, ENACT requested guidance with tax abatements for the Bay Street area property owners. At the time, a new Tax Assessor had not been named, therefore we were told that our questions could not be answered—but that they would be as soon as possible. Other sources of guidance have been contacted, and meetings will be scheduled on this topic as soon as possible.

One last item was placed on the agenda for this meeting. Since it seems that whenever municipal repairs (such as broken water mains, or sunken catch basin grates) are being carried out, ENACT always has to contact RIDEM to ensure that the workers and the residents are protected. So, the Town Council was asked about the status of the "Standard Operating Procedures" that has been in the works for quite some time now. We were assured that it was almost completed and would be available in the very near future. ENACT still has not received a copy of this document, and we're still not sure just how it will be enforced.

## Properties Categorized

According to correspondence from New England Gas Company to RIDEM, the properties of the Bay Street Study Area that are to be addressed in the next round of testing fall into 4 separate categories:

1. 27 properties already tested—"focus will be on defining the extent of contamination (if not yet completed), and supporting potential remedial options"
2. 40 properties that RIDEM requested additional investigation—"future investigation work will focus on "definitively" determining whether the properties are above or below applicable standards."
3. 24 properties that have not been investigated--2 that access agreements were received late; 5 no access was granted in the first round of testing; 17 that were not included in the first investigation (west of Bottom Street)
4. Streets and right-of-way—"the Town of Tiverton has been named as a Responsible Party by RIDEM and is conducting the investigation for this Group."

## Brown University Public Perception Survey

The preliminary findings of the survey conducted this past spring can be found online at:

[www.envstudies.brown.edu/projects/soilblues](http://www.envstudies.brown.edu/projects/soilblues)

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ENACT website: <http://members.cox.net/enactri>

## Brown University to Continue Work Here

Keally Dewitt, a student at Brown University will probably become a familiar face around here this summer. She is working on her thesis, and will be spending time getting to know us. She will be trying to develop an understanding of what it is like to be living in and through an environmental issue such as ours. Please welcome her inquiries— as the final result of her project could prove to be quite beneficial to our cause.

## ENACT Keeps Informed

ENACT member John Christo has been appointed to the Tiverton Waste Water Management Commission—Congratulations John! John will be keeping ENACT informed on the sewerage plans for the Bay Street area.

John also met with the Tiverton Recreation Commission in order to bring ENACT's concerns with, and thoughts on, improvements to the Bayview Recreation Area to their attention. ENACT is determined to restore the entire neighborhood to a safe, healthy environment. The Recreation Commission supports the efforts of ENACT.

## PRIVATE WELLS??

Please contact ENACT at 401-624-8648(Gail Corvello) if you own or live in property within the excavation moratorium area that has a private well. If you have well water and do not get your water from the North Tiverton Water Dept., it is imperative that the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is informed. Your water may need to be tested. You may also call RIDEM directly at 401-222-2797.

## ENACT Applies For Tax Exempt Status

It's a difficult process, but we have decided to move ahead with our application for classification as a 501(c)3 corporation. This will make monetary gifts to ENACT tax deductible for donors and will qualify us for grants that are only available to corporations with 501(c)3 status.

## Your Help Is Needed

Please consider making a donation to ENACT. Your dollars will help us continue informing, networking, analyzing and advocating for this community. Our current resources are incredibly limited, with much of the expense being incurred personally by our members. **Please help us get the job done!**  
**Together we can do it!**

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CD-Rom's with all of the public documentation from 2003 and 2004 are now available. Please contact any ENACT member if you would like a set. (A donation would be greatly appreciated.)

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## ENACT Meetings

every Tuesday at 7:00PM

at the Tiverton Community Center, 346 Judson St.,  
Tiverton, RI

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