

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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OPINION

The Newport Daily News

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"Our view" represents the opinion of the editorial board, above

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OUR VIEW

'Cereal Night' brings a lot to the table

Most of us are accustomed to having a bowl of cereal for breakfast — and maybe every now and again for supper or a late-night snack.

But on a couple of nights next week, we actually could eat one for a good cause.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Newport and the Middletown Rotary Club both will host a "Cereal Night," during which participants are invited to eat a meal of cereal and donate the money they would have otherwise spent on dinner at home or in a restaur-

Flakes. Those include food banks at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, the Florence Gray Center and the Salvation Army and the Methodist Community Garden, which supplies fresh vegetables to those in need.

And funds raised through

READERS' LETTERS

Critic of transportation study is headed down the wrong path

A letter to the editor by David Stookey in the March 12-13 edition of The Newport Daily News ("Bike paths need not cost so much") contains inaccurate information regarding the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission's Transportation Study. The "recommendations" for lane width on Burma Road and an East Main Road bike path to which Mr. Stookey refers are merely concepts, also known as alternatives, and not specific recommendations.

AIPC is nearing completion of the first comprehensive study of the transportation systems on Aquidneck Island. It addresses all modes of transportation (bus, rail, bike, pedestrian, auto and ferry) to create a balanced plan for making modal connections and transportation improvements consistent with sound land use planning — all in an effort to increase overall mobility, modal choice and safety for our residents, businesses, employees and visitors while decreasing traffic congestion and its negative impacts on our environment, economy and quality of life.

Mr. Stookey may have overlooked the fact that the study team still is carefully weighing many conceptual transportation alternatives, which are not the same as recommendations. Study leaders will not make any formal recommendations until early May. AIPC's systematic approach has been explained in detail, and reflects a transparent public process with input from nearly 1,000 individuals — either at public workshops or through postcard replies or via the website.

The method AIPC has used is one that is universal to almost every engineering and planning study. After significant research, data collection and on-site analysis, the study team collaboratively considers the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and drawbacks of many alternatives. Among the numerous alternatives receiving such scrutiny in AIPC's study are traffic roundabouts, the lane width of Burma Road, the layout of Purgatory Road and Aquidneck Avenue, bus service improvements, bicycle and pedestrian access, ferry connections, traffic signalization and dozens

more. None of these, including Burma Road and East Main Road, is in the final stage of recommendation.

The public is invited to ask questions, post comments or participate directly in an online survey on the project website, www.vhb.com/aquidneck/.

AIPC is managing the project in close coordination with its island partners, which include the communities of Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth as well as state, federal and civic representatives. It is funded by the state Department of Transportation and the Statewide Planning Program. Vanasse Hangen Brustlin serves as the professional consultant for the study. John Burke, P.E., is AIPC's transportation project manager.

The Aquidneck Island Planning Commission mission includes seeking regional solutions to comprehensive island-wide planning challenges including transportation, energy use, water quality, land-use and development.

Tina Dolen, executive director,
Aquidneck Island Planning Commission