

# ***Friends of the Waterfront's*** **NEWPORT WATERFRONT WATCHER**

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Summer 2007

## ***Celebrating our 25th Anniversary Year***

### **Join Us for FoW's 26th ANNUAL Waterfront Tour**

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.

**Sunday Night, Sept. 16, 5:30-7:30**  
**Bowen's Wharf... Tickets in Advance ... See Inside Page.**

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!

**Everyone is invited to help us celebrate!**



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

## **The Struggle to Save Newport Never Ends**

### **Someone Always Wants to Abandon Our Best**

Twenty-five years ago Newport's heritage as a seaport was ignored. The harbor waterfront was under attack.

The city suffered the loss of the America's Cup, and the only "vision" for our waterfront was to build box-like timeshares right up to the water's edge.

There was talk about extending the "business" district north of the Causeway along Washington St. Goodbye Storer Park.

There was talk about extending the "business" district into King Park. Goodbye King Park.

Boatyards, commercial fishing, and nearly all other water related businesses were no longer wanted on Thames St. "Move them away. Tourists come first."

Any mention of a waterfront walk was downplayed as radical disruption to the future "best and highest use" development of downtown Newport.

The City even destroyed much of a colonial community to carve out a few blocks for the four-lane highway with little rhyme or reason we now call America's Cup Ave.

There were no height restrictions, and developers proposed 12-story high "landmark" buildings with no architectural goals except high density condo and timeshare units at minimum cost.

Developers made proposals with the only objective being pure short term profit ... "Who really cares about what this all was going to look like in the future?"

And all of these new "waterfront" developers wanted to fill in the land at the water to be able to build a larger building. But to "make up" for it they also wanted to extend their docks out into the harbor ... just a few more "hundred" feet.

Yes, Newport's waterfront was doomed to be a walled-off private harbor where the only view of the water would be from a timeshare window.

Into this world of "it's only business" came Mary Ferrazzoli, a Newport native who realized that if no one spoke up ... the Newport Waterfront would be sold to the highest bidder piece by piece. ***Please read FoW's brief history inside this Newsletter.***

But the harbor waterfront was not the only part that was dumped on and ignored. Just 15 years ago the City Council refused to name new members to the Cliff Walk Commission and simply walked away from Newport's, and America's, most enjoyable interface of rugged glacial coastline. This was another battlefield for FoW that resulted in the resurrection of the City's Cliff Walk Commission.

The struggle will never end ... someone will always want to abandon the best Newport has to offer. Only with your help can FoW continue to preserve our rapport with the sea. ***Please support us with your membership. Thanks.***

*Vic Farmer, FoW Summer Pres.*