

The Peace Dale Crier

...connecting the Village of Peace Dale's businesses, residents, and community organizations.

Community Update

Spring 2009

A Story of Success for our Historic Mill Village

The continuing revitalization of Peace Dale is helping to transform what had become a deteriorating, crime-ridden mill village into what many consider South Kingstown's hidden jewel. Thanks to the efforts of The Friends of Peace Dale in the early 1990s and the ongoing efforts of PDNRI, much as been accomplished to improve our village center.

- ◆ Hand-crafted signs, one located on Route 108 by the Pump House and one located across from The Village Green, welcome visitors to Peace Dale. The once dusty, dirt-filled parking lot has been paved and enhanced with period lighting and a landscaped rock garden featuring Peace Dale granite, benches, and signage that welcomes visitors to free public parking. Signage at the corner of Kingstown and North roads directs visitors to historic Peace Dale's business district. With the help of Sen. Susan Sosnowski, a USPS Mailbox, has been installed in the village center. Seasonal planters brighten storefronts and add a touch of color and natural beauty to village streets.
- ◆ Just as important, the economic vibrancy of the village is enhanced by the addition of BosGraaf Stained Glass Studio DiVozzi Italian Bakery, Ethnic Concepts, Sign Guild, Sweet Cakes Bakery, and long-time businesses and organizations, including The Seating Arrangement, Narragansett Rubbish Removal, Tase-Rite, The Jonnycake Center, Thomas Ladd Pottery, and May Tailor. PDNRI's Commercial Facade Improvement Grants have helped nearly 25 local business owners improve the exteriors of their shops with new signage, awnings, windows, doors, and lighting.

Win a \$25 Gift Certificate!

Peace Dale Neighborhood Revitalization, Inc. (PDNRI), formerly Peace Dale Neighborhood Revitalization Committee (PDNRC) is once again seeking your input to help determine a future direction for the village. Please take a few minutes to fill out the Annual Community Survey on page 3. All individuals who return their completed survey — postmarked by May 26, or dropped in boxes by May 27 — will be eligible for a \$25 gift certificate, which can be used at Peace Dale Village Shops. Your name are not required, just an address where we can send the gift certificate, should you be the winner! Thank you!

- ◆ The bike path continues to be enhanced with unique public art commissioned by PDNRI and completed by local artists. Bike racks welcome bike path users to explore village shops and cafes.



- ◆ To help retain the natural beauty of the village, community cleanups are held throughout the year, both with residents and URI students.

- ◆ A looked forward holiday tradition, PDNRI's annual Holiday Gala, held in early December, features the lighting of the 35-foot Spruce tree at the Village rotary. PDNRI's investment in commercial-grade lighting has dramatically improved the tree's seasonal beauty, so much so that the tree has graced the front page of local newspapers for the last two years and unofficially has been called the best-looking tree in Town!!!!

PDNRI is grateful for support from the Town of South Kingstown, the Peace Dale Merchants Association and other local businesses, partner organizations like Teen Jonnycake and The Welcome House, and residents of the community for their ongoing support of its work.

Future Plans for Peace Dale's Revitalization

Continuing its work to revitalize Peace Dale Village, PDNRI has revised its mission to provide greater guidance in its future work.

PDNRI invites you to get involved *to revitalize and protect and improve the quality of life in Peace Dale, a historic mill village, by expanding economic opportunity and housing availability for local residents, advocating for alternative transportation, preserving Peace Dale's cultural and natural resources, and promoting smart growth and sustainable living practices.*

PDNRI's recently approved Peace Dale Action Plan — *Maintaining the Momentum* (view it at www.peacedale.net) — will further guide these efforts, as will PDNRI's hopeful approval as a charitable 501 c 3 organization, which will open new doors to opportunities for funding.

As PDNRI works to achieve these goals, it will continue to host family events like the Holiday Gala, Summer Art Stroll, and in partnership with South Kingstown Parks and Recreation, free outdoor movies on The Village Green throughout the summer.

In addition, plans for a walking tour of Peace Dale to help promote economic development are also underway, new public art pieces designed by local artists have been commissioned, landscape enhancements have begun with URI's Master Gardeners, and further development of www.peacedale.net as the source for information about village revitalization news, programs, and activities continues.

As always, PDNRI welcomes input from the community. Contact us at 783-0076.

Keep in Touch!

Committed to keeping the community informed of its progress, PDNRI is building a database of individuals interested in Peace Dale's revitalization. If you wish to stay in touch, please send your email address to pescipub@cox.net.

Peace Dale Note Cards for Sale

Share the beauty of Peace Dale with family and friends. Twelve note cards featuring four beautiful photographic images of Peace Dale can be purchased for \$10 by calling 783-0076. What a great gift!

Film Promotes Peace Dale

PDNRI has been working with a local film producer to create a five-minute film highlighting Peace Dale Village's past, present, and future. The film, to be used as a tool to promote economic development, will be presented to the public within the next few months. Watch your local papers!

Promote
economic
development
in
Peace Dale
Village!
Shop local!

Play a Role in Peace Dale's Revitalization

With the 2009 Peace Dale Action Plan — *Maintaining the Momentum* — now finalized, PDNRI's Executive and Advisory boards invite community members to get involved. Exciting opportunities are available for individuals willing to share their expertise, skills, and interests. Be a PDNRI partner! Any time is appreciated! Call PDNRI president Leslie Chouinard, 783-0076, to learn more.

PDNRI Executive Board

Leslie Chouinard,
President
Andy Nota
Town Representative
Nancy Dean
Bob DonFrancesco
Charlene Mitchell
Karen Zyons

Advisory Board

Christine Allan
Jeffrey Allen
Linda Barden
Paul Bizer
Jeff Buckley
Betsy Cavanaugh
Betty J. Cotter
Bob Fusaro
Michael Gloor
Susan Gustaitis
David Hamel
Jean Johnson
Bruce Keiser
Marc Levitt
Christopher Little
Sean McIntyre
John O'Malley
Peggy McGovern
Shirley Page
Susan Sosnowski
Mark Spangler
Vincent Vespia
Joe Viele
Peter Vinbury
Bob Votava
Jeremy Walsh
Mary Walsh
Grace Wheelan

Win a \$25 Village-wide Gift Certificate!

Peace Dale Neighborhood Revitalization, Inc. (PDNRI) 2009 Community Survey

Complete and return by below deadline PDNRI's Annual Community Survey and be eligible to win a \$25 gift certificate that can be used at Peace Dale Village shops. Your answers are voluntary and confidential and will help PDNRI continue its work in the coming year. Please fold and drop off your completed survey at the Peace Dale Library, Town Hall, or The Neighborhood Guild, by May 27, 2009, or mail to 1935 Kingstown Road, Peace Dale, 02879, postmarked by May 26, 2009. Thank you for completing our annual survey.

1. What improvements have you noticed in the Village?
Mailbox ___ New Merchants ___ Granite Rock Garden ___ Benches ___ Public Art ___ Plantings ___
2. To what degree has new lighting in front of many of the local businesses increased safety in Peace Dale?
Somewhat ___ Very ___ About the same ___
3. Have you used the new USPS Mailbox in front of Tase-Rite? Yes ___ No ___ Didn't notice ___
4. Do you feel the improved business facades, awnings, and signage are improving the look of the Village?
Yes ___ No ___ Haven't noticed ___
5. How have the new shops in the Village improved your life? Somewhat ___ Very much ___ Not at all ___
6. Compared to a year ago, do you believe people are using the resources of Peace Dale (shops, services, public facilities) more, less, or about the same? ___More ___Less ___About the same
7. Compared to a year ago, do you feel residents care about the village more, less, or about the same?
Residents care about the village: ___More ___Less ___About the same
8. Compared to a year ago, how would you rate the overall quality of life in Peace Dale?
Peace Dale's quality of life: ___Better ___Worse ___About the same
9. How do you feel about the future of Peace Dale?
I feel Peace Dale will: ___Get better ___Get worse ___Stay about the same
10. Compared to a year ago, do you feel community pride in Peace Dale has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same? ___Increased ___Decreased ___Stayed about the same
11. Compared to a year ago, would you say your own pride in living and/or working in Peace Dale has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same? ___Increased ___Decreased ___Stayed about the same
12. Based on your conversations with others who live and/or work in Peace Dale, would you say that the image of the community is better, worse, or about the same?
Peace Dale's image is: ___Better ___Worse ___About the same

Reasons for your answers or any additional comments about Peace Dale, its current situation, and/or any suggestions for the Neighborhood Revitalization Committee:

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Peace Dale Neighborhood Revitalization, Inc. (PDNRI)

2009 Community Survey

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Return address

Peace Dale Neighborhood Revitalization, Inc.

2009 Community Survey

1935 Kingstown Road

Peace Dale, RI 02879