

## OUR VIEW

# Burying ground draws pride

We note with great pride and anticipation that work is proceeding apace at the African Burying Ground Memorial Park. In the next several months, Seacoast residents will begin to see real changes, as the long-awaited park honoring the city's African forebears emerges on Chestnut Street.

We want to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude and appreciation to the residents and businesses on Chestnut Street. It cannot be easy to live and work in an active construction zone, with workers coming and going, heavy equipment operating and trucks traveling in and out. Yet city officials have been vociferous in their praise for everyone on the street, saying they have been understanding and accommodating. It is also worth recalling that in 2012 three businesses – Altus Engineering, Bosen and Associates law firm and TD Bank – each contributed \$10,000 toward the memorial park. Such generosity, coupled with a good-humored forbearance, is commendable.

This is a project that, at least to date, has gone remarkably smoothly. Thanks to planning by Katherine Wheeler of Independent Archaeological Consulting of Portsmouth, no remains have been disturbed during construction. Deputy City Manager Dave Allen said the workers for contractor Piscataqua Landscaping have been professional and considerate. And city officials themselves realize that this is a project like no other, demanding painstaking attention to detail and courtesy.

It is almost as if the spirits of those long departed slaves understand that they are finally and respectfully being honored, and they are pleased.