

• LETTERS •

An important safety reminder

After returning from a wonderful vacation, exhausted, we retired early in the evening. The next morning we awoke, ate breakfast, and began our day by unpacking and laundry, laundry, laundry.

Three or four hours into our busy day we began to feel a little dizzy and woozy. Tired from the vacation — we thought. All of a sudden we heard the blaring of alarms. Running around in an attempt to change the batteries, as the alarms screamed — we read: "Move to fresh air." And, move we did.

A call to the fire department brought our professional team to assess the situation. Carbon Monoxide was entering the house through the pilot in our gas fireplace. A little sleepy, a little dizzy, without the carbon monoxide alarms, we may have taken "the long nap."

A reminder to my island friends: make sure all alarms have updated batteries. If you don't have the proper alarms in your home (especially you with older homes) get them, please.

Thank you to the Jamestown Fire Department volunteers for your quick response and your direction.

**Charlie and Arlene Petit
Jamestown**

Help available for pet owners

Thanks to Barbara Szepatowski for her recent articles in the Jamestown Press addressing the issues concerning spaying and neutering of dogs and cats in the state of Rhode Island.

The issues of low-cost spay/neuter services for low-income pet owners has been a concern among veterinarians, shelters, and animal advocates for many years. During my tenure as president of the Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association, the RIVMA Spay/Neuter Assistance Program was developed. In association with participating veterinarians, this program provides the at-need pet owner with a 50 percent discount on the cost of spaying or neutering their pet. This discount is not reimbursed to the participating veterinarian.

Participating veterinarians themselves provide this discount as a worthy community service.

Since the inception of the RIVMA Spay/Neuter Assistance Program, approximately 14,000 pets have received assistance. The average assistance to those in need is in the range of \$100. This translates into \$1.4 million in discounts provided by veterinarians to help curb pet overpopulation and the needless suffering and euthanasia that unfortunately accompanies it.

The Newport Animal Hospital, the Jamestown Animal Clinic, and the Newport Animal Clinic have been charter members and to this day continue to support the Spay/Neuter Assistance Program. I would urge you, Paws & Claws, and the Friends of The Jamestown Animal Shelter to help identify those people in need of assistance. The application can be accessed and printed through our Web site newportanimalhospital.com under the bar heading, Links. The RIVMA SNAP program is the first link listed.

**Crossing West Passage**

Construction of the concrete piers for the old Jamestown Bridge in the late 1930s. Photo courtesy Jamestown Historical Society

Again, thank you for all your efforts and leadership in the quest to help animals.

**Jack Civic, DVM,
Jamestown Animal Clinic**

A 'thank you' and a 'please'

I would first like to say, thank-you to those who have made Jamestown's past America The Beautiful grants possible, and then ask for help to plant the town forest, which is also funded in part through an ATB grant.

I have been successful in obtaining ATB grants of \$5,000 each for the last three years. The money has been used to plant the new trees on the streets of Jamestown. The grants are very competitive due to the small amount of

funds available and must be well written, but most of all they involve community participation and in-kind services to ensure an award. In other words, a grant would probably not be awarded to a community that hired a landscape contractor to plant the street trees.

First of all, I would like to thank the Jamestown Highway Department. They have been a great resource and have done a terrific job planting the trees. The Highway Department's in-kind contribution to the match for the grant is nearly 60 percent. I work with them one day planting the majority of the trees; they finish planting the second day on their own. The crew has learned to identify the root flare and set the root ball at the proper grade, remove girdling roots, and pull

encircling roots away from the rootball and radiate them away from the trunk. Statistics now point out that 90 percent of the trees planted now are planted incorrectly. The most common failure occurs when trees are planted too deep.

I think it is quite something that the Highway Department, which only does this work two days out of the year, falls into the 10 percent bracket of those who plant trees correctly. The men who have done most of the planting are Steve Bonner, Andrew Munafo, Ramon Ibarlucea, and Bill Page. The Highway Department has done this work with pride and care.

I'd like to thank the Town Tree Preservation and Protection Committee, the Boy Scouts, and other volunteers who have helped mulching

Write a Letter to the Editor

LETTERS: We invite readers to share their views. Letters should be limited to 700 words.

By mail: Send your letters to Editor, The Jamestown Press, 42 Naragansett Ave., Jamestown RI 02835.

By fax: Our fax number is (401) 423-1661.

By the Internet: The Jamestown Press e-mail address is news@jamestownpress.com

Please include your name, address, and a daytime telephone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.

and watering the trees. This is the community involvement portion of the grant that is a key and essential element. Community involvement usually accounts for about 13 percent of the match.

Of course, the tree program and ATB grants would not be successful without the professional expertise and support of all the administration and staff. The attention to detail that Fred Brown and Tina Collins possess is amazing. In short, because of the grant and everyone's hard work, the town is getting a \$14,000 landscape job for just a few thousand dollars.

And now for the please . . . I'd like to ask for the assis-

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The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 25, 50, 75, and 100 years ago from the Newport Daily News comes from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.

100 years ago**From the Newport Daily News, March 20, 1906:**

Last night's snow and rain, added to the previous muddy condition of the streets and sidewalks, have made it almost impossible to get about without rubber boots.

From the Newport Daily News, March 23, 1906:

The local farmers are busy today carting seed potatoes from Newport.

From the Newport Daily News, March 24, 1906:

One of the coal bins for the Ferry Company has been completed and a cargo of pea coal for use on the ferry is expected to arrive Monday.

75 years ago**From the Newport Daily News, March 20, 1931:**

The Jamestown town council, at a special meeting Thursday evening, voted an investigation of the Newport Water Works service, curtailments prior to the completion of the yearly contract unless paid in advance. . . . Discussion indicated that a number of Jamestown residents have had their domestic supply cut off, and are aggrieved and cannot secure any redress without some action by the town.

George R. Manders, Beavertail light keeper, reports that the installation of steam heat and electricity had been completed at the lighthouse.

From the Newport Daily News, March 23, 1931:

The ringing of box 2 at 10 o'clock last evening, calling the firemen to what was thought to be a grass fire near the north end of the island, was followed shortly by a call from box 34, for a fire at the Benjamin Hull farm

**This week in Island history**
Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of March 23

on North Main road. The apparatus and a large force of volunteer firemen were soon at the scene, but as the fire must have had a good start, the house was practically doomed before the arrival of the firemen. . . . Mr. Hull who died a few years ago, lived there for more than 50 years.

50 years ago**From the Newport Daily News, March 21, 1956:**

The Jamestown Bridge Commission last night authorized its chairman John B. Foley to negotiate with the Town Council on the Council's request for special tolls for town vehicles. The town is now buying its gravel for road repair from North Kingstown, which requires frequent bridge trips by town trucks.

From the Newport Daily News, March 27, 1956:

The Jamestown Town Council will ask Gov. Dennis J. Roberts to introduce legislation providing for a police court in Jamestown.

25 years ago**From the Newport Daily News, March 20, 1981:**

School Superintendent Alfred J. LaMarche was praised by the School Committee last night for his initiative in locating additional state aid for capital improvement projects at Jamestown School. These funds are retroactive to July 1, 1980 and will total \$21, 586. . . . At the April 2 work session, bids for an architect to draw plans for the activity room in the all-purpose room will be opened, fee schedule for public use of the school building will be reviewed and the proposed bus route for high school students will be reviewed.

From the Newport Daily News, March 24, 1981:

The Town Council Monday night asked residents who would like to serve on the nine-member Senior Citizens Advisory Committee to come contact any Councilman before the April 13 Council meeting.

15 years ago**From the Jamestown Press, March 21, 1991:**

The Town Council last Friday met with top-ranking members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Waltham, Mass., to discuss key issues surrounding the new cross-island highway.

A rejected proposal to build a senior center resurfaced Monday night when the Town Council met as the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners. Joseph Perry and Peter Molloy gave the council a final draft of a proposal they made in December to build a \$385,000 senior activities center on a parcel of land the Holy Ghost Society is willing to lease to the town for \$1 a year for 99 years. This proposal was voted down by the Senior Center Study Committee last month because of "concern that building could not be expanded to meet future space requirements". . . . Perry told the council that he and Malloy wanted to submit the final draft to the council despite the fact that it was rejected by the commission.

10 years ago**From the Jamestown Press, March 21, 1996:**

State Department of Health findings indicate that Jamestown's municipal water supply is free of cancer-causing asbestos fibers.

Despite the island's water-supply problems, islanders hooked into the municipal system are using more water than ever. According to the February pumping report reviewed by the Town Council Monday, water use is up nearly 30 percent over last year, from 5,505,000 gallons to 7,109,000 gallons for the month.