

## • LETTERS •

## Who is protecting the Shores?

On Monday, Aug. 28, I attended the Jamestown Town Council meeting to ask questions and express serious concerns regarding ground water protection in the (Jamestown) Shores. Because my comments were not reported in the Jamestown Press, I felt compelled to write this letter.

During open forum I asked the council several questions regarding potential development on Garboard Street and property ownership. Generally, my questions were as follows:

1. Why were two small pieces of property on Garboard Street located in the high groundwater overlay district (Plat 15 Lots 178 and 179), listed in town records as town-owned property (2000, 1982), now in the hands of private development?

2. Why isn't the town protecting groundwater recharge areas in the Shores by maintaining control of such properties?

3. How many more town properties in the Shores are similarly unprotected?

Are the Shores residents not worth protecting? It has taken us several years of prodding and pleading to get to the point we are with development of the high

groundwater ordinance for protection in the Shores. But is it protecting us? Ferry Street has new development in a serious flood prone area. Planning has approved numerous "special-use permits" in the high groundwater overlay district. Stricter rules for the high groundwater ordinance have been stalled over and over again. Some board members vote as if every piece of wetland property is suitable for development.

Members of the Jamestown Shores Association have consistently supported open-space land acquisition on

the island. Although several small properties in the Shores have been purchased within the past two years, our high density of development, poor soil conditions, high groundwater table, serious flooding episodes, and lack of town water or sewers would make it seem extremely important to protect as much water-recharge area as possible. Why isn't this happening?

All these questions need to be addressed.

**Charlotte Zarlengo,  
president,  
Jamestown Shores  
Association**

## Concerns about students as paying customers

I read with some dismay and real concern the article in the Aug. 31 edition of the Press about the Jamestown School accepting paying students from surrounding communities. In particular, I was concerned about the example that Dr. Power utilized, St. Michael's School.

As a former Jamestown resident who sent two children to St. Michael's, I find it rather interesting that a significant number of Jamestown children have attended, and continue to

attend, St. Michael's despite the "terrific" system in Jamestown. It hardly seems logical that a significant number of people will find the Jamestown School so attractive as to eschew the currently available alternatives to public education in the area.

Moreover, as one still contributing to St. Michael's School in thanks for the superior education my two children received there, I am aware of the dedication and financial

sacrifice that this rather small St. Michael's community has made and continues to make to ensure that the quality of education available at St. Michael's remains at the current high level, all the while planning to improve the St. Michael's experience for future generations.

It seems to me that for the Jamestown School to be competitive with a St. Michael's or a Rocky Hill, for example, the cash flow will not be positive. Filling

empty spaces with paying "customers" somehow seems to make Jamestown kids second fiddle to those who can choose to attend for a price. What will happen when the "paying customers" want more than the school offers? Will their tuition increase to cover the added expense or will Jamestown taxes increase to keep this quasi-private enterprise competitive?

Quality education comes at a high price and the higher the quality, the higher the

price. Jamestown residents might well think hard about the ramifications of using the taxpayers of the town as a substitute for the endowment funds of the school(s) that Dr. Power considers the competition. St. Michael's School successfully completed a five million dollar capital campaign to modernize their ageing facilities. Does Jamestown want to enter this competition?

**William H. Ashton Jr.  
North, Va.**



## Hoping for a bite

Michaella Brescia and her mom enjoyed Labor Day fishing from the dock at Fort Getty.

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, September 4, 1906:

The annual meeting of the Jamestown Improvement Society was held Thursday. . . . During the year the society added greatly to the improvement of Jamestown. Many of the largest property owners took no interest in the work and no share in the support of the society.

## From the Newport Daily News, September 8, 1906:

An informal dance was held in the Gardner House last evening in honor of the officers of the cruiser squadron which is to sail today. The band from the Pennsylvania was secured for the occasion and was placed on the porch of the hotel where the music was enjoyed by the onlookers as well as the dancers. The attendance was good considering the lateness of the season and the fact that arrangements for the affair were made so late.

## From the Newport Daily News, September 10, 1906:

The fall fishing season from the rocks at Beavertail opened yesterday, when a large number of fishermen visited that point but did little fishing on account of the surf, a heavy sea having been running for several days.

## 75 years ago

## From the Newport Daily News, September 1, 1931:

The children of the summer colony held their costume ball at the Casino last evening, this being the final Monday evening dance of the season. There were about 60 couples present with costumes of all hues and patterns.

## From the Newport Daily News, September 4, 1931:

The exhibition of dolls held at the home of Miss Elizabeth Clarke Thursday afternoon was attended by many of the townspeople and members of the summer



colony. Several "doll collectors" were present. Mrs. A.M. Clarke exhibited her collection which comprised dolls from nearly every European country. A doll, which had been in the Cottrell family for nearly 200 years, also one for many years in the Carr family, attracted much attention. . . . The proceeds will be used for repairs at the Baptist Church.

## From the Newport Daily News, September 8, 1931:

Mrs. E.D. Rhett is moving a large garage to Friendship street which is to be converted into a cottage.

Hourly service commenced on the ferries today, steamers Beavertail and Jamestown being taken off the line. The purserettes concluded their duties yesterday, and the ferry bus has discontinued its trips between ferries.

## 50 years ago

## From the Newport Daily News, September 4, 1956:

Fifty children received Red Cross certificates in swimming and junior life saving yesterday at East Ferry waterfront in Jamestown after completing courses under the direction of Miss Nancy Caswell, Red Cross instructor.

## From the Newport Daily News, September 7, 1956:

The Jamestown Town Council last night unanimously approved in principle the establishment of an oil refinery in Jamestown, provided adequate safeguards to protect the residents of the island can be obtained.

## 25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, September 11, 1981:  
The North Kingstown School Committee had high

praise for Jamestown students attending the North Kingstown High School. At a joint meeting of the North Kingstown and Jamestown School Committees Thursday night, the following information was given: About 60 percent of Jamestown students who were graduated last June were accepted into college. Jamestown students are the best prepared for high school from the four elementary schools districts sending students to North Kingstown High School. Jamestown students had a 90.6 percent attendance record last year. Some of the best musicians at North Kingstown High are from Jamestown.

## 15 years ago

## From the Jamestown Press, September 6, 1991:

A full-scale, town-conducted cleanup of debris left by Hurricane Bob was scheduled to begin Thursday. Town Administrator Robert Sutton told the Town Council Tuesday night that the cleanup would cost about \$56,000. The town would have to pay 25 percent of that cost while the remainder would be covered by federal funds.

## 10 years ago

## From the Jamestown Press, September 6, 1996:

Edouard turned out to be not much more than a Northeaster, and while it ruined the Labor Day weekend, town officials this week had little damage to report. Harbormaster Sam Paterson said that a 35-foot sailboat off a private mooring went aground just north of Green's Pier in the East Passage. Four boats went aground in the West Passage, including two sailboats in the 30-foot range and two powerboats, Paterson said.

One of Jamestown's rare jewels will be polished this weekend when volunteers clean and repair the medical supplies storage closet this Saturday and Sunday.

The committee in charge of finding someone to replace Superintendent and Principal Phyllis Schmidt when she retires discussed hiring more than one person to fill her vacancy when they met for the first time last Thursday.