

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Deck the halls with good cheer

Christmas is all about making memories, no matter whether you are young or old. This Saturday Jamestowners will kick off the holiday season island-style. The day's schedule is brimming with fun and festivities. Surely, there'll be many fond memories ahead. The toughest choice will be deciding where to start.

Those shoppers among us will revel at the bountiful island offerings of Dec. 2. The elves at many Jamestown businesses have been hustling and bustling more than ever this week to prepare for their holiday open houses, so Saturday will be a great time to get started on completing your gift-giving list. As the saying goes, come early and stay late.

Then you'll want to head directly to the Conanicut Island Art Association's annual holiday sale where you'll discover many unique and handmade creations that will make the perfect stocking-stuffers and holiday decorations. Nothing beats local arts and crafts.

Don't slow down just yet. The three landmark churches on Narragansett Avenue are welcoming islanders to their yearly holiday bazaars. These festive fairs feature a wide range of items that will lift up your holiday mood. They've got something for everyone, even the Grinches among us.

Need to rest those weary feet? Stop in at one of the restaurants or coffee shops in the village, where you can sit down to enjoy some refreshments. Don't forget to check out their dinner menus, since you'll be too tired to cook at the end of the day.

When you have your batteries recharged, it will be time to take the youngsters down to the East Ferry docks, where Santa Claus is expected to arrive by boat again this year. Look for St. Nick's escort through East Passage provided by the courageous men and women of aboard a U.S. Coast Guard vessel.

Members of the Jamestown Community Band will add to the day's good cheer with a selection of Christmas music that will herald the season ahead. Look for them in the village Saturday afternoon. Oom-pah!

Finally, the day's activities will be punctuated in the evening with the village Christmas Tree Lighting at East Ferry. If you are not yet in the holiday spirit, this cherished tradition just might do the trick. There will be plenty of making merry with caroling and holiday music, featuring members of the Jamestown Community Chorus and the Jamestown School Band. A roaring bonfire will be lighted to keep everyone warm on the outside, and steaming hot chocolate available to make everyone warm on the inside.

Bring the whole family and help usher in the holiday season!



Josy Wright, a printmaker and member of the Conanicut Island Art Association, is one of several island artists teaching afterschool programs at the Lawn Avenue School.

## • LETTERS •

### Angry residents

The Humane Society (of Jamestown) is finally right about one thing, the health and safety of more than 6,000 Jamestown residents is paramount. Too bad their agenda is focused on animals instead of people.

Over the past three years, family members, friends and acquaintances have been stricken with Lyme disease. A few did well under treatment and are back pursuing their lives. But others have not been so lucky. Within the past few weeks, we learned that another close friend has been crippled by the disease and is in a long-term care home because initial treatment was not successful. The outlook for her is very grim.

Why would any rational and caring individual or collectively, the organiza-

tions they belong to, trade this person's right to pursue a healthy life over the so-called rights of a whitetailed deer?

During this fall season and after walking only a few blocks from our home, we encountered six instances of deer ticks over a span of three months. In 2004, it took us three seasons to encounter as many. And we have always been vigilant.

The society and others continue their self-serving agenda to promote contraceptive measures for the deer herd. Since they have not stepped up to volunteer society funds or take the responsibility to shoulder any of the outrageous cost of this effort, it would seem that they believe that the taxpayers must be forced to help carry out their plan. At a time when many of our long-term residents are discovering that they must sell their homes because

of their inability to pay for their utilities and their taxes, it is apparent that the society supports the proposition that protection of the deer is of greater value than the potential to push more residents over the financial cliff. Strike one.

For those who are concerned about the issue of hunting safety accidents, perhaps consideration should be given to some very public facts. The firearm accident death rate reported by the CDC for 2004 was 0.26 per 100,000 of population. In 2004, the twelve states where Lyme disease is most common (RI is one of these), the CDC reported 27.4 cases of the disease for every 100,000 persons. In simple terms, this means that Jamestown residents are 100 times more likely to contract Lyme disease than to be felled by a hunter. The threat to our health and safety is not the deer hunter.

Strike two.

We are acquainted with several hunters from this island who, because of their seasonal employment, hunt and fish to help feed their families. We know of others who routinely donate the portion of their harvest they cannot consume to Hunters To Feed The Hungry programs. Many states have DEM-level agencies that actively support this initiative. To suggest that the deer are being hunted purely for pleasure is inaccurate, self-serving and offensive. Strike three.

It is time to put the safety and health of Jamestown residents at the forefront of this discussion. The Town Council must do what ever it can to limit the growing epidemic of Lyme disease and the long-term misery and suffering that it bestows on those who've had the misfortune to encounter an

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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, November 26, 1906:

A wild deer, evidently frightened by the numerous rabbiting parties in the swamps yesterday, started to swim from the island to the mainland. He was discovered by the crew on schooner Thomas S. Cooper in Dutch Island harbor and they captured him alive after a hard struggle. Not wishing to violate the law by having him in their possession, they gave him to the commander at Fort Greble.

##### From the Newport Daily News, December 1, 1906:

The Jamestown Brass Band held its weekly practice last evening. Arrangements were made to hold a series of entertainments during the winter.

#### 75 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 27, 1931:

The second window display of John Eldred Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, "First Street of Plymouth," is on display in the vacant store next to Lyons's Market.

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 28, 1931:

Lewis W. Hull, J. Howard Ellis, Albert A. Boone, Leroy F. Meredith and Harold H. Hall were appointed



(by the Town Council) a committee on unemployment relief.

All street lights south of A.M. Clarke's residence on Walcott avenue were ordered discontinued for the winter.

#### 50 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 27, 1956:

(At the Town Council meeting,) Town Attorney Pickett M. Greig reported that the auction sales of the town's two abandoned schools will be held at the old Town Hall Dec. 8.

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 29, 1956:

The Navy Department and the Commerce Oil Refining Co. today appeared to be working toward a friendly solution to existing differences over the construction of a \$30,000,000 refinery in Jamestown. The Navy's fear that some stages of the proposed construction will interfere with its Narragansett Bay operations were thrashed out in a 90-minute conference with company officials.

#### 25 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 27, 1981:

A membership drive is being conducted by the Jamestown Theatre to defray the theatre's fixed overhead of almost \$500 a month. ... Tickets for "A Christmas Carol" Dec. 19 and 20 are on sale at Baker's Pharmacy.

#### 15 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, November 27, 1991:

A request to amend the town Zoning Ordinance to allow a unit in the Bay View Condominium now zoned for use as a restaurant to be used as a residence was shot down Monday night by the Town Council.

What do you see as the future of the Jamestown village? That was the question posed by Planning Commission Chairman Bert Brodin to a group of Jamestowners last week during an informational workshop. It brought some interesting answers. Many said they wanted to see the village become a more attractive area that was home to a variety of successful businesses.

#### 10 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, November 27, 1996:

The Town Council has approved spending another \$65,000 from the Marine Development Fund to repair the existing steel pier at East Ferry.

The Jamestown Rotary enters the fourth week of its third annual Citrus Fruit Sale, offering fresh picked navel oranges and pink seedless grapefruit.