

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Let's build the highway garage

We finally have a decision. It happened Monday evening. The Town Council voted on a highway garage site.

The council's decision was split, but that's no surprise. We've been arguing for years about where to place the highway garage.

Now island voters must approve the funding to build the new highway garage on property adjacent to the Newport Bridge. The referendum is scheduled for a special election in August.

We are glad to see the garage site location debate put to rest. We are sure that most islanders feel the same way. Our public works employees deserve better accommodations than they presently have at Ft. Wetherill.

No matter whether the north end might have been the best location for a highway garage, the landfill and groundwater issues are factors that won't go away. It is not worth the continued bickering and threatened legal battles.

The town has spent far too much time, energy and money on site selection for the highway garage.

What's most important is that the council decision will allow the town to move on to other equally pressing issues.

Let's approve the spending at the August referendum and get the darned thing built.

Then we can argue about something else.

### One last blast for the Rocket Dawgz

The countdown is underway towards Jamestown's annual Fourth of July fireworks extravaganza. The big event is scheduled for 9:15 p.m. on Wednesday, July 4, at Mackerel Cove.

The event has been staged for many years by the Jamestown Rocket Dawgz. These intrepid souls have served as the fund-raisers and event managers for the pyrotechnic display that always leaves us oohing and aahing.

Now the bad news. Fund-raising this year has been slower than normal, the Dawgz report. That's a big problem because the Dawgz have signed a contract for a \$12,000 fireworks display but have only raised about two-thirds of that amount.

Jamestowners like to wait till the last minute. So dig deep. It is time to ante up. The Fourth of July is next week. This is the end of an era.

The Dawgz have said they are retiring after this year's fireworks display, but are willing to pass the responsibility along to fellow islanders.

Maybe we'll see some Rocket Pups next year.

As the Rocket Dawgz are so fond of saying: if you send them your money they will blow it up!

Checks made out to the Fireworks Fund can be mailed to the Rocket Dawgz at P.O. Box 1776, Jamestown.

Or you can drop off a donation at the Jamestown Press office, 42 Narragansett Ave., and we'll get it to the Dawgz.

Don't hesitate. The Rocket Dawgz deserve to go out with a biggest bang yet!

— Jeff McDonough



### We need more big bang money

Your local fireworks committee, better known as the Rocket Dawgz, has blown up your money for 12 years and want to say thanks in a big way – by blowing up even more of your money! Our final shoot will on July 4 at Mackerel Cove.

Our fund-raising is way behind schedule and projections, but you know us, we shoot for the sky. Because of those folks who have already sent in a donation we will provide quite a bang but it may not be quite as spectacular as in years past.

*The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 100 years ago from the Newport Daily News came from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.*

#### 100 years ago From the Newport Daily News, June 27, 1907

Mr. W. P. Hennesey's horses and carriages arrived this morning from Philadelphia.

Strawberries grown on the island are coming into the market. Although but a few baskets have been picked, the crop promises to be one of the largest ever raised in this town. Reports from the various raisers say that not only is the yield large, but the berries are of unusual size and flavor.

#### From the Newport Journal, June 29, 1907

Jamestown is far livelier than Saunderstown and is closely allied with the army and navy set at Newport. The men with brass buttons all look for Jamestown girls at the dances at the fort or on board a visiting battleship. Jamestown is noted for its spirit of wholesome fun. ... The Jamestown girl plays golf, sails a knockabout and can drive her own machine, which, by the bye, is the only word permissible in society when speaking of automobiles.

#### 75 years ago From the Newport Daily News, June 27, 1932

Fair weather favored the Holy Ghost societies of Jamestown and Newport Sunday, when the annual feast of the Holy Ghost was celebrated at their hall on Narragansett Avenue, the streets being lined with spectators and cars.

#### From the Newport Daily News, June 28, 1932

The Jamestown graduates of Rogers High School yesterday were Elizabeth Anita Cassese, Ruth Virginia Garlick, Ola Hinckley, Gertrude Newbauer, Lois Mildred Rice, Rosamond Tefft, Mabel Virginia Watson, Theodore Driscoll, Annette Stager.

The Palace Theatre was crowded Monday evening with parents and friends of the graduating class of 1932

## • LETTERS •

If you haven't sent in your donation this year, take a moment and send your donation to: Fireworks Fund, PO Box 1776, Jamestown, RI 02835 and we'll make sure that it lights up the July sky. Happy Independence!

B.J. Whitehouse  
Jamestown

### Long caved to north end pressure

In the speech before his tie-breaking vote to hide the new town barn under the Newport Bridge, Dave Long admitted that he was caving in to the constant pressure, delaying tactics, and lawsuit threats of the North End

NIMBYs.

Their money and political juice had carried the day. I suggest the honorable thing for Dave to do is make it his last political act.

Bob Dolan  
Coronado Street

### Write to us . . .

LETTERS: Send your letters to Editor, the Jamestown Press, 42 Narragansett Ave., Jamestown RI 02835, or email them to news@jamestownpress.com. Please include your name, address and a daytime phone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication. Please limit all letters to 700 words maximum.

### This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden  
Week of June 28

of the Thomas H. Clarke school. (There were 25 who graduated.)

#### 50 years ago From the Newport Daily News, June 25, 1957

David Slingluff and Peter Gallagher appeared before the

(Town) Council to explain their letter to the Council seeking information on acquiring one of two pieces of waterfront land for the purpose of building a small boat marina. One site is the west ferry, now part of the property acquired by the state in purchasing the Jamestown and Newport Ferry system. The other is part of the Fort Getty property, purchased from the government for recreational purposes.

#### From the Newport Daily News, June 28, 1957

Jamestown's tercentenary observance, marked by a proclamation by Governor Roberts, gets underway tomorrow when a huge 18-foot birthday cake will be lighted with ceremonies in Memorial Square.

#### From the Newport Daily News, June 29, 1957

The Commerce Oil Co., has purchased 601 acres of Jamestown land for \$453,500 for its proposed refinery, according to deeds filed for record in the town clerk's office. The company is negotiating for the Carr homestead property, on which it has an agreement to purchase. When the transaction is completed it will have 725 acres costing \$550,000.

#### 25 years ago From the Newport Daily News, June 28, 1982

More people and more cars than 1976 caused traffic block-ups in Jamestown until nearly 10 p.m. Sunday as visitors flocked to the town to view the Tall Ships parade.

#### From the Newport Daily News, June 29, 1982

Problems with the water supply along Beavertail Road were explained to the Town Council Monday night. ... Beavertail Road is served by a four-inch line the military installed during World War II.

#### 15 years ago From the Jamestown Press, June 25, 1992

Town Council members had an "in-depth" tour

See "Island history" on next page