

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Notes from driving across America

I've just returned from a marathon drive to Jamestown from the Midwest. Here are a few observations from along the way:

- Gas prices ranged from a low of \$2.66 per gallon in Kentucky to \$3.15 on the Merritt Parkway in Connecticut. Interested in filling your tank with biofuel? A mixture that is 90 percent ethanol sells for \$1.99 a gallon in northern Indiana.

- Country music stations dominate the radio the further west one travels. There are also more Spanish language stations.

- Early splashes of autumn colors are evident on the trees.

- Deer are plentiful everywhere, even on the interstate highways. One eager buck nearly had his rack mounted on the hood of our vehicle.

- The folks in the Midwest are hoping for rain. Farmers are making hay and picking soybeans. The corn crop doesn't look so good.

- No matter which road you choose, it seems that the maintenance and construction crews are working overtime to complete their projects before winter sets in. There's lots of bridge work underway, too, especially in Pennsylvania.

- People are complaining about property taxes. In Indiana and Ohio, there's a groundswell of talk about replacing the property taxes with higher sales taxes.

- Highway driving is not the same everywhere. The newer high speed roads are safer and easier to drive than those early interstates built 30 to 50 years ago. The older highways tend to be narrow.

Dorothy Gale in the Wizard of Oz said it best — no matter where you travel, there's no place like home.

— Jeff McDonough



Panel hopes funds blow their way

By Michaela Kennedy

In the wake of a presentation to the town council last week, the Jamestown Wind Energy Committee put their search for funding into high gear. Committee members agreed to fill out grant applications while tweaking a draft request for bids on a feasibility study.

At its Sept. 11 meeting and one day after the presentation, the committee reviewed their first dialogue with the council since the panel was formed last April. Chairman Don Wineberg noted that the council asked the committee to exhaust other avenues before asking for money.

Committee member Clayton Carlisle recalled a comment made that now was not the most opportune time to ask for money. "Someone made the point that implementing energy

efficiency measures should be done," he said. William "Bucky" Brennan, also on the committee, added that measures by the town to save energy should already be taken, regardless of the panel's charge to research wind generation.

Carlisle, along with Wineberg, volunteered to search out and identify groups that could provide possible funding resources. Committee member Abigail Anthony suggested traditional and non-traditional sources, "even looking at places that wouldn't seem likely to fund a project."

Bob Bowen, another committee member, suggested creating sub-committees with volunteers to help with research and writing grant applications. He mentioned contacting people who have already come forward to participate in the

effort.

Bowen reported he was pressing state energy officials for information on their progress with a nationally-funded program on wind research and development projects. He posed questions about the state's position in the process of becoming involved in Wind Powering America. "Massachusetts has opted in, but not Rhode Island," he said.

Wind Powering America, an initiative funded through the U.S. Department of Energy, is a federal commitment to increase the use of wind energy throughout the country. The program hopes to boost economic development and enhance power generation options regionally.

Bowen also reported he asked state officials for clarity on a net metering bill. The bill, which passed the House on May 3 and was passed

on to the Senate, encourages Rhode Island residents, businesses and communities to build renewable energy projects that would feed into the electricity grid.

Wineberg said he wrote to Andrew Dzykewicz, chief energy advisor to the governor, inviting him to the wind committee's next meeting. Dzykewicz had made arrangements to speak before the town council about the state's wind energy prospects, but Wineberg suggested he meet with the committee first. For the state advisor to go before the town council now would be premature, Wineberg noted.

The committee also discussed pursuing zoning changes to allow wind turbines through special permits in open space 2 zones on the island. A request for the changes was also discussed at the council meeting.

Write to us

LETTERS: Send your letters to: Editor, The Jamestown Press, 42 Narragansett Ave., Jamestown RI 02835. Our fax number is (401) 423-1661.

Our 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. All letters must be limited to 700 words or less.

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

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, September 19, 1907

A gang of men are at work under the direction of the Improvement Society, extending the wall along the water front south from Union street. The wall is of a good design, and adds materially to the appearance of the water front.

From the Newport Daily News, September 23, 1907

The shores of Beavertail were much patronized by outing parties at the point than on any single day this year. Those who went for the fishing were disappointed as only a few tautog were caught.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, September 20, 1932

The tournament at the Beavertail Country Club came to a close over the weekend with a men's competition, which was won by John L. Tiffany, who joined the hole-in-one club by sending his shot from the tee into the cup.

From the Newport Daily News, September 21, 1932

At the last meeting for the year of the Jamestown Historical Society ... it was voted to have the committee on grounds and buildings decide upon the matter of preserving the windmill, at a meeting to be held later.

From the Newport Daily News, September 22, 1932

John Thornhill, manager of the casino during the past summer, has gone to New York where he will enter Columbia University.



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of September 20

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, September 17, 1957

An attempt by Jamestown refinery opponents to challenge the validity of state and federal permits to build a berthing pier was denied. ... The latest court action was started by Cornelius C. Moore and associate attorneys for 11 Jamestown taxpayers being sued \$2,000,000 by Commerce Oil on grounds of allegedly conspiring to block the refinery.

From the Newport Daily News, September 20, 1957

Only 37 adults received shots at the polio clinic last night sponsored by the Arnold-Zweir Post 22 American Legion.

From the Newport Daily News, September 21, 1957

The Flour Corp., Ltd. of Los Angeles, Calif., which was awarded the contract for building the \$50,000,000 Jamestown oil refinery, will begin site preparation next week. ... Actual construction work will begin in April and the 43,000-barrels-per-day refinery is scheduled to be turned over to the Commerce Oil Refinery Corp. in the early summer of 1959.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, September 21, 1982

The town will install a 10-inch pipe for the Beavertail water main. ... It will cost \$22,740 to install 2,000 feet of pipe. This will take the project from the Mackerel Cove intersection to Battery Lane.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, September 17, 1992

The Town Council Monday named Frances Hopkins Shocket, currently the city manager of a Cincinnati suburb, as Jamestown's new town administrator. Later in the meeting, the council also unanimously appointed a new town planner. He is George Meservey.

The cross-island highway got a final go-ahead last Tuesday when the state Coastal Resources Management Council voted 5 to 4 in favor of granting the controversial project a coastal zone management permit.

Over 200 well-wishers turned out Sunday for a dinner honoring Police Chief James G. Pemantell, who retired last month after 18 years as chief, and a total of 29 years on the Jamestown police force.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, September 18, 1997

Sitting as the Board of water and sewer Commissioners, the Town Council Monday voted 5-0 to spend \$4,000 to drill a fourth municipal well that may help increase the town's water supply.

The Rhode Island Commissioner of Education came to the Jamestown School Monday as part of a program that provides the commissioner and others with opportunities to witness improvement efforts taking place in Rhode Island school systems.