

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

The holiday season begins this weekend

Jamestown's elves will be hustling and bustling throughout the village this Saturday as islanders officially ring in the holiday season with a variety of happenings.

It all begins Saturday morning in the village with holiday open houses hosted by island merchants. Everyone is invited stop by and share the holiday festivities. It is a great opportunity to start your holiday gift shopping.

You won't want to miss the annual Holiday Craft Show at the Melrose Avenue School on Saturday. There you'll find a assortment of unique creations by island artists. This show marks the 30th year for the sale sponsored by the Conanicut Island Artist's Association.

All three of the island churches in the village are holding their holiday festivals and bazaars on Saturday. Be sure to visit the events hosted by St. Matthew's, St. Mark, and Central Baptist.

Youngsters will want to be at the East Ferry docks at 1 p.m. on Saturday to watch for the red-hull boat bringing Santa Claus to Jamestown. Every year Santa visits the island and stops at the Conanicut Marine Ship's Store to greet the children.

The day will end with the traditional lighting of the Christmas Tree at East Ferry at 5:30 p.m. Lots of Christmas caroling, refreshments and a big bonfire will keep folks warm. The Boy Scouts will decorate the island with luminary Saturday evening as a fund-raising project.

On Sunday, Dec. 2, everyone is welcome at the southern tip of the island for the annual Beavertail Lighthouse Museum open house. Enjoy the holiday refreshments and stop at the museum store which will be open for holiday shoppers.

There's loads of holiday cheer ahead in Jamestown. Be sure to join in the fun.

— Jeff McDonough



No hate intended by election letter

Sav Rebecchi's letter in last week's Press merits a response.

Unfortunately, he read a lot into the Jamestown Voter Information postcard that was not there.

Voters deserve to know the affiliations of candidates for public office. As the campaign season moved ahead and Election Day drew closer, no mention was made of the independent candidates' membership in the North End Concerned Citizens. Considering the significant and controversial role the NECC has played in town politics the last ten years, it seemed the candidates' connections with the organization should be known. Thus, with some reluctance, the post card was sent to inform the voters.

No hate was intended. I regret that any was perceived.

Dennis Webster
Mt. Hope Avenue

• LETTERS •

Help out with JHS campaign

For just about a year, the Jamestown Historical Society has been working on a Capital Campaign to raise money to winterize and improve the museum, build a vault in the basement of the new Town Hall, and add substantially to its endowment. We are close to success, and need the people of Jamestown to put us over the top, not only in money, but also in making history.

This winter, when we have finished the construction, added up the last of the contributions, hung the plaque of major donors, and printed a brochure commemorating the campaign, we will seal and bury a metal box under the floor of the museum. In the box will be the brochure, and (we hope) hundreds of Memory Cards

filled out by children and adults with their pictures and thoughts about their lives in Jamestown. Set in the floor above the box will be a bronze sign stating that the box had been placed there in 2008, and was to be opened on the 400th anniversary of the town in 2057. We believe that the opening of the box will be an exciting prospect for the residents of Jamestown for fifty years, and that those who are alive then will be enriched by reading the messages we are sending them.

If you have donated to the campaign, you are entitled to fill out a card. If not, we are hoping you will make a \$25 donation and then write a card, which will help us to reach our campaign goal of \$500,000. The cards are in this week's Press, and we look forward

to sending them to the future.

Anne Livingston,
John Murphy,
Campaign co-chairs

Donation helps build a tradition

The North Kingstown boys' and girls' cross-country teams would like to thank Ali's Run and the Packer family for their financial support of both teams.

The generosity of a donation from Ali's Run allowed runners from both cross-country teams to participate in the Manhattan Invitational in New York City the second weekend in October.

Competing in this major race against some of the East Coast's top runners provided the level of competition needed for North Kingstown High School running programs to continue their reputation as a top competitor in the state, year after year.

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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, December 3, 1907

The tide was very low along the shore of the island today, and the clam fishermen profited thereby.

From the Newport Daily News, December 7, 1907

The firemen gave the second of their series of whists last evening in the Gardner House hall. The attendance, in spite of the bad traveling, was large.

The members of the Grange enjoyed an oyster supper at the town hall last night.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, December 1, 1932

The American Legion and Auxiliary are launching an "I have Your Food" campaign and the citizens of the town will be asked to contribute at least one pound a week of non-perishable food stuff.

From the Newport Daily News, December 5, 1932

The benefit dance held at the Holy Ghost hall Saturday evening was well attended, a number of young people from Newport attending. The Racketeer orchestra furnished music.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, December 4, 1957

Anthony J. Miller, superintendent of the Jamestown Elementary School, announced that grade 6E, Miss Theresa Pinto teacher, had the highest attendance record with an average of .96 for the first quarter.

From the Newport Daily News, December 5, 1957



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of November 29

A spectacular fire during the height of last night's northerly gale destroyed the storage shed and more than 30 boats at Wharton's Shipyard on the east shore of Jamestown.

Films of the anniversary observance at Jamestown, Va., and the tercentenary celebration of Jamestown, R.I. last summer were shown at the meeting of the Jamestown Grange last night at the Grange Hall.

From the Newport Daily News, December 6, 1957

Gov. Dennis J. Roberts today directed Joseph L. Byron of Newport, state purchasing agent, to begin negotiations with the state of Virginia to purchase two surplus ferry boats for service between Jamestown and Newport.

"Kid talk" of a possible wide-spread fracas between teenagers of Jamestown and North Kingstown has not materialized into anything, police said today.

From the Newport Daily News, December 7, 1957

The Jamestown Water Co. could have furnished 100,000,000 gallons of its surplus supply to a potential customer during the fiscal year ending last June 30, Allan G. Davenport, manager, observed today.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, December 3, 1982

The School Department has several blank spaces to fill

to produce a 1983-84 budget bottom line, school officials said today. The blanks include the costs of a new teacher's contract, of a new bus contract and tuition rates for Jamestown students attending North Kingstown High School.

From the Newport Daily News, December 7, 1982

The battle over Beavertail has taken a new twist with the introduction of legislation that would put the 6.8 acres of federal land into the hands of the state and town.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, December 4, 1992

The Jamestown Community Playground will remain closed until its drainage problems can be fixed.

Town officials will hold a public work session at 8 p.m. at Town Hall to discuss a \$4.3 million state plan to improve North Main Road.

The annual village Christmas tree lighting at East Ferry will highlight a full day of holiday activities in Jamestown tomorrow.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, December 4, 1997

A new buzzword in education is "standards." What are these new standards? Who determines them? And will Jamestown children be taught differently as a result of these new standards in education? The New Standards Tests reflect state and national expectations of what students need to know to be "productive workers, responsible citizens and lifelong learners," according to a press release from the state Department of Education.

The streets of Jamestown village will be full of bustling shoppers out and about this Saturday, Dec. 6, a day filled with a variety of Island holiday activities.