

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### State of the Environment

In his annual State of the Union address this week, President George W. Bush missed the mark when he suggested increasing the use of alternative fuels and enacting tougher mileage requirements for vehicles.

The President wants "energy independence" for the United States. Bush says his plan would trim our use of gasoline by 20 percent over the next decade. To do this Bush proposes increasing the production of alternative fuels such as ethanol. He also wants tougher fuel-efficiency standards for cars and trucks.

Worthwhile goals, but will his plan really make a difference?

Instead, on Tuesday evening the President should have proposed that the U.S. lead the world in combating global warming by dramatically decreasing this nation's consumption of carbon-based fuels. Bush could have suggested that the U.S. set an example for other nations, such as China, to follow.

The earth is warming, more quickly than was first thought. The resulting climate changes will mean major geographic changes, disruptions in our global food supplies, severe weather, and vast species extinction. Dire warnings from respected scientists are becoming more frequent. Noted physicist Stephen Hawking last week added his voice to the growing cacophony.

Global warming will have a drastic impact on the generations ahead. It is the responsibility of the current generation to do its best to head off disaster.

If Bush truly wants history to judge him as a president who accomplished something other than launching a failed Iraq war, he should embark on a bipartisan effort with Congress to slow this nation's use of carbon-based fuels, not only in cars and trucks and planes and trains, but also in the production of electricity.

The President and Congress should also work together to prepare the U.S. and the world for the changes wrought by a warmer earth.

The clock is ticking.

— Jeff McDonough



## • LETTERS •

### Thanks, Shores residents

I'd like to thank the Jamestown Shores residents who attended the Jan. 8 Town Council meeting and voiced their opposition to the proposed parking restrictions that would have limited access to the Shores beach.

The Town Council clearly listened to your arguments and voted down the most significant part of the proposal that would have

forced 750 families from the Shores and those from other areas to compete over a handful of parking spaces.

Unfortunately, several months ago, the Council approved a request by members of the Jamestown Shores Association to initiate a paid parking sticker program at the beach, with the plan of discouraging use by non-residents.

It's apparent, those Seaside Drive residents who are also members of the Jamestown Shores Association did

not consider or care about the effect a paid parking sticker would have on the other 750 households who live more than 200 feet from the shoreline.

Had this follow-up proposal by the association been approved, the limited parking would have made the sticker fee even more excessive, causing another deterrent to use by local residents.

Those of you who stopped "Plan B" of the association's

beach-restriction initiative last week, now have proof that the Town Council will respond to your opinions when they get to hear them.

I hope that this success encourages you to stay tuned in and ready to turn out, to speak up again, on other important issues in the future.

Thanks,  
Sav Rebecchi,  
Sail Street

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The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 25, 50, 75, 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, January 22, 1907:

The large fleet of barges and schooners anchored off the east shore of the island left this morning for their destinations.

##### From the Newport Daily News, January 23, 1907:

The thermometer registered from six to nine degrees above zero at various points on the island at sunrise this morning.

##### From the Newport Daily News, January 25, 1907:

Several of the local grammar school pupils are taking the mid-year examinations at the high school in Newport.

Ice on the ponds has attained the thickness of seven inches, and both Littlefield and Clarke have commenced to fill their houses. With a few more days of continued cold a good crop of ice will be secured.

##### From the Newport Daily News, January 26, 1907:

I. H. Clarke and N. S. Littlefield each housed about 300 tons of six and seven-inch ice yesterday.

##### From the Newport Daily News, January 28, 1907:

The launch between Fort Greble and Jamestown is obliged to land at Fort Getty, Fox Hill, owing to the drift ice that has shut in at the west ferry.

##### From the Newport Daily News, January 29, 1907:

Ice cutters are at work on the north reservoir, filling A. L. Peckham's ice house, and on Mrs. Mary Clarke's pond on Southwest avenue.

#### 75 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, January 23, 1932:

The committee appointed by Jamestown Post, No. 22, American Legion, to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop held its first meeting Thursday evening. . . . Applications for membership will be acted upon Tuesday evening, January 26.

##### From the Newport Daily News, January 26, 1932:

The ringing of Box 14 at 7:10 this morning called the fire apparatus to the lumber yard of R.G.P. Hull on Swinburne street, where a fire of undetermined origin was in progress.



## This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden  
Week of January 25

Smoke was pouring from the long lumber shed, which was filled with lumber of various kinds. Shortly after the alarm sounded, the firemen were on the scene and soon had the fire under complete control.

#### 50 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, January 22, 1957:

Arguments in support of the Commerce Oil Refinery Corp.'s application to build a pier on the east shore of Jamestown were heard by Henry Ise, chief of the Division of Rivers and Harbors this morning. . . . The hearing was attended by approximately 100 people.

##### From the Newport Daily News, January 23, 1957:

The Navy formally opposed the proposed \$39,000,000 Jamestown oil refinery at an eight-hour public hearing conducted yesterday by Henry Ise.

##### From the Newport Daily News, January 29, 1957:

The Gulf Oil Corp., one of the petroleum industry's giants, last night was disclosed as the major concern interested in the establishment of a \$39,000,000 oil refinery in Jamestown.

Changing the town financial year to coincide with that of the state government and a two-year term for town officers were recommended to the Jamestown Town Council last night by Vincent A. Sisson, town treasurer.

##### From the Newport Daily News, January 30, 1957:

Counsel for Jamestown property owners opposing the construction of a pier by the Commerce Oil Refinery Co. rested their case in Providence Superior Court today.

#### 25 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, January 26, 1982:

The Town Council has complained to Gov. Garrahy that a promised review on the width of the proposed Jamestown Bridge had not been completed. The Council said that it saw

no evidence that the state Department of Transportation has made any attempt to bring the project within reasonable dimensions.

##### From the Newport Daily News, January 29, 1982:

Island teachers have agreed to put off all pay raises for six months to help the School Department lower the budget for the fiscal year beginning March 1.

#### 15 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, January 23, 1992:

A school budget that is 6.9 percent higher than last year's will be forwarded by the Jamestown School Committee to the Town Council. At the regular meeting of the committee Thursday night, school officials pored over a \$4 million budget for the 1992-93 school year, looking for items that could be trimmed.

Whether or not Jamestown's police department should be reorganized in accordance with recommendations made in a 32-page manpower study is an issue the Town Council began weighing at a work session Tuesday night. The study proposes that a new position of captain be created within the department by taking one officer from the existing force of 13 officers.

#### 10 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, January 23, 1997:

Jamestown property owners can relax — they will see no increase in their taxes this year. After the Town Council heard a presentation of the School Committee's budget last Thursday, Town Administrator Frances Shocket told the council that although the school's \$5.3 million operating budget and debt service would normally raise the tax rate of \$14.41 per each \$1,000 of property valuation by 10 cents, she wanted to cover the \$50,000 increase in school spending with one-time capital expenditures from the town's budget surplus.

The Town Council has approved a \$370,000 capital improvements fund, about \$20,000 less than last year's, as part of the town's general government budget for the 1997-98 fiscal year that begins March 1.

Town Administrator Frances Shocket urged the council last week to pay a consultant \$15,000 to find out if all the town's offices and records storage could be centrally located on the two lots where Town Hall and the planning and recreation offices are now located.