

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Maybe we should put the lighthouse to work

This week we learned that affordable housing at the Beavertail Lighthouse keeper's quarters has been put on hold, at least temporarily.

Lead paint is the culprit. The building must be made safe inside and out.

While we are resolving the lead paint issue, we should rethink the advantages of this prime chunk of island real estate.

Many people dream of living in a lighthouse. So, why use the keeper's quarters as affordable housing? Let's put the place to work generating money to pay for even more affordable housing on the island.

Lighthouses are hugely popular destinations. Several lighthouses around the country have profited as bed and breakfasts. The Rose Island light across the bay is a good example.

Now, this is thinking a bit outside the box. If we turn the keeper's quarters at the Beavertail light into a B&B, we could probably generate enough money to pay the rent for two or three affordable-type homes.

We don't have to get too creative to make such a plan work. Yes, people want to stay in a lighthouse. The Town of Jamestown can make their dreams come true. Our affordable housing program benefits.

— Jeff McDonough



### Show gratitude not greediness

Mr. Salvatore's letter to the editor was amazing and so sad.

At first, I hoped it could be tongue in cheek but was dismayed when I realized it could not be. Mr. McDonough's editorial gave all the good reasons for this housing, and I will not reiterate them. I would only like to add that the wealth in a community is not in the money owned by the

## • LETTERS •

residents but in the diversity of its people. We are a small community — not a gated one — and affordable housing is a very important ingredient here. This letter smacks of the idea that someone is poor because they deserve to be. Please put me down as a resident grateful for the new housing planned on Southwest Avenue and as a backer of the lighthouse on Beavertail

being affordable for a young family.

To Mr. Salvatore I would say, So, you worked hard all your life to get where you are. So what! You should get down on your hands and knees every night and be thankful that you were able to work hard all your life. Not everyone gets that opportunity, and you should be showing gratitude not greediness. If we are not on

the Earth to help each other out, why are we here?

Diane C. Caswell,  
Jamestown

### I'm proud not to be rich

I am writing in response to Peter Salvatore's letter regarding affordable housing in today's Jamestown Press. Mr. Salvatore's letter regarding his opinion on the need (or no need) for afford-

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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, February 13, 1907:**

The strong westerly wind of the past two days has caused very low tides and a large quantity of clams has been secured in spite of the zero weather.

The work of filling the last ice house belonging to Mrs. Mary E. Clarke was completed yesterday, and Jamestown has now a surplus supply for next summer.

**From the Newport Daily News, February 18, 1907:**

Mr. Harry Shatzer, who had charge of the Narragansett Transportation Company's express business last season, arrived this morning from Bermuda.

**From the Newport Daily News, February 19, 1907:**

A three-masted schooner is anchored off the ferry awaiting favorable weather to go to the eastward.

#### 75 years ago

**From the Newport Daily News, February 12, 1932:**

(The names and amount paid from the State Relief Fund to 30 men for work on the road at the crusher and the fire station are detailed in a report of the Town Council meeting.)

Jamestown may have a permanent police department provided the General Assembly passes a bill introduced by Representative Clarence H. King, Republican, which has been referred to the corporations committee.

**From the Newport Daily News, February 13, 1932:**

(At the Jamestown Post American Legion meeting) the building committee's report as read by the chairman, Willis E. Clarke, in regard to the purchase by the Legion of the Pardon Tucker property on Walcott avenue for a Legion home and community service was unanimously voted upon to purchase.

**From the Newport Daily News, February 15, 1932:**

Charles H. Brooks, vice president and general manager of the Jamestown & Newport Ferry Company, testified this morning, under direct examination of Judge Max Levy, before the Public Utilities Commission in Providence. He said that under the new schedule the company would be forced to pay between \$400 and \$500 more a



## This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden  
Week of February 15

year for water.

**From the Newport Daily News, February 16, 1932:**

(At the Parent-Teachers' Association meeting, a Founders Day program was given.) A large birthday cake, with 33 lighted candles, was placed on the table, while Mrs. Arthur Didsbury read the account of the founding of the association in 1897.

Through the untiring efforts of the Jamestown fire department, assisted by donations by public-spirited residents of the town, an up-to-date hook and ladder truck has been added to the fire-fighting equipment during the past winter, without cost to taxpayers.

#### 50 years ago

**From the Newport Daily News, February 12, 1957:**

Writs were served at 1:30 this afternoon by a United States marshal against 17 Jamestown property owners who were sued for a total of \$2,000,000 damages late yesterday by the Commerce Oil Corp. for their opposition to the construction of a \$39,000,000 oil refinery in Jamestown.

The Jamestown Town Council voted last night to meet with the vestry of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Friday night to discuss a request of the Rev. Herbert J. Dowling, rector, and the church vestry for the church use of the Town Hall. The request was based on a proposal being considered by the Planning Board for moving the town offices to larger quarters in the old Thomas H. Clarke School. The church vestry, faced with the need for providing more adequate facilities for its church school, asks to be considered as a possible purchaser for the Town Hall located near its parish house.

**From the Newport Daily News, February 13, 1957:**

Present School Adequate To Handle Refinery Influx, Committee Hears. Anthony J. Miller, school superintendent, told the School Committee at its meeting last night he believes the present school could accommodate 150 more children.

**From the Newport Daily News, February 15, 1957:**

The 1957 quota for Jamestown (for the Red Cross), originally set at \$2,207 was increased by \$96 because of the unusually heavy demands on the Red Cross for disaster relief in four southern states ravaged by the January floods.

#### 25 years ago

**From the Newport Daily News, February 17, 1982:**

Revenues for the Newport Bridge have increased in the seven-month period ending Jan. 31, but not enough to offset expenses and interest payments in that period the R.I. Turnpike and Bridge Authority says. In a recently released report, the authority said total revenues increased to \$3.5 million from \$2.9 million for the same period a year earlier.

**From the Newport Daily News, February 19, 1982:**

About \$8,000 a year in fuel costs could be saved by insulating the roof of the Jamestown School, the School Committee was told Thursday night. The Committee was also told that the roof leaks and should be replaced.

#### 15 years ago

**From the Jamestown Press, February 13, 1992:**

The Town Council Monday night recommended a \$7.94 million budget for fiscal 1992-93 that would raise the island tax rate by \$2.88. The spending plan, which includes \$3.4 million for general government and \$4.5 million for school operations, is up about 10 percent from last year's budget.

Town officials want the state to keep aid to education for Jamestown at the same level as last year. Monday night, the Town Council unanimously approved a resolution asking Governor Bruce Sundlun and the state Department of Education to keep state aid to the Jamestown School "at the level provided in 1992-93."

#### 10 years ago

**From the Jamestown Press, February 13, 1997:**

Voters at that meeting (March 3 annual financial town meeting) will be asked to approve a \$10.6 million total spending package, which breaks down to \$4.8 million for town government and \$5.8 million for the school. Some \$9.36 million of the proposed spending plan will have to be funded by property tax dollars. But the current tax rate of \$14.42 per \$1,000 of property valuation will not be raised because increased revenues have offset all proposed increases in spending.