

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Have fun with the library's Friends this Saturday evening

The Friends of the Jamestown Library have invited all islanders to join them this Saturday evening for their Cinco de Mayo Party.

The annual event will be held south of the border at the PAC Club. If this year's extravaganza is anything like those of the past, a good time is promised.

This is a major fund-raising event for the Friends. They are the folks responsible for all of the great programs we enjoy at the Jamestown Philomenian Library, such as the winter foreign film series, music concerts, and interesting lectures and talks.

If you'd like to attend, call the library at 423-7280 right away. Tickets are \$50 per person.

### Send in your events for the Summer Guide

It's that time again! The Jamestown Press is preparing to publish its annual Summer Guide. We're looking for news of your summer happenings.

We want to include all the island events that are planned in June, July, August and September. There's a bunch of stuff planned for this summer, including Jamestown Historical Society events, the Tall Ships, and the week-long 350th celebration of the purchase of Conanicut Island.

If your club or organization is planning an event this summer, e-mail the details to Attention: Summer Guide at [news@jamestownpress.com](mailto:news@jamestownpress.com). Please include a daytime telephone number in case we have any questions.

The Press publishes 30,000 copies of the annual Summer Guide magazine, which is distributed in Jamestown and throughout the state. For advertising information, call 423-3200.

— Jeff McDonough



### Teachers are appreciated

Small school districts face major challenges ... and reap big rewards. Notably, small education communities foster close working relationships. Jamestown's teachers are a close-knit family whose collegiality and collaboration benefit every student in our schools.

In December, we lost a member of our Jamestown School family. The School Committee remembers with appreciation Bruce Engelhard's passion for math, his enthusiasm for all things technical, his willingness to partner and his dedication to his students. Throughout

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most of his illness, Bruce strove to balance his teaching with his treatments, providing his students with an invaluable lesson in courage and determination.

May 8 is National Teacher Appreciation Day. The Town Council has proclaimed May 7 to 11 Teacher Appreciation Week in Jamestown. The Jamestown School Committee is grateful for the hard work and commitment of the family of professionals who teach and nurture our children.

Cathy Kaiser, Chair,  
Jamestown School  
Committee

Julie Kallfelz, Co-chair  
Bucky Brennan  
David Dolce  
Julia Held

### Ballot options will cloud voter intent

In last week's Jamestown Press, Susan Little wrote "Placing the location of a highway barn on the ballot is irresponsible because this is such a complicated issue." Does she want the "silent majority" to become the "silenced majority?" Does she think that the people of Jamestown cannot comprehend the findings of two

highway barn committees and the conclusions of two expert bodies—GZA and Vollmer Associates?

I hope the Town Council will present the voters of Jamestown with a clear and concise referendum for locating the highway barn—not a three-way race. If the Council asks us to pick from Lot 48 (transfer station), Lot 47 (next to transfer station) and Taylor Point (again), Lots 48 and 47 could collectively get 60-percent of the votes. But Taylor Point could "win" with only 40-percent of the vote. What a foul miscarriage of the voters' intent that would be. The worst thing the Council

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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, May 1, 1907

Steamer Narragansett commences today the run between Fort Greble, Jamestown, and Saunderstown on the government contract recently awarded the Narragansett Bay Transportation Company.

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 2, 1907

The trial of the submarines over the mile course off the east shore is watched with interest not only by the townspeople, but by several strangers who are here for that purpose.

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 4, 1907

The heavy southeast rainstorm which is in progress today has put a stop to outside work and added delay to the work of the farmers who were already behind because of the lateness of spring weather.

The town clerk's office, in the rear of the postoffice, is being thoroughly renovated, under the direction of Town Clerk Caswell.

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 6, 1907

Two or more camps are to be built on the Peckham property at Beavertail, to be used the coming season by parties from Newport.

#### 75 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 2, 1932

The Parent Teachers' Association held a successful social and dance at the town hall Saturday evening with the Blue Moon orchestra furnishing music.

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 4, 1932

The beautiful cup and other prizes won by the Jamestown Post American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps are on display at Pitchers Brothers drug store at Ferry wharf.

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 5, 1932

Extensive repairs are being made on the Bayview hotel by contractor P. H. Blackwell.



## This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden  
Week of May 3

#### From the Newport Daily News, May 6, 1932

Albert A. Boone (reported at the Board of Trade meeting) of their success in obtaining enough money from the town to pay for the services of a young man to distribute pamphlets and act as a guide to interested automobile vacationists wishing to view the island.

#### 50 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 1, 1957

Dutch Island in the west passage of Narragansett Bay, the site of now-abandoned Ft. Greble, is to become a wildlife refuge.

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 2, 1957

Jamestown Democrats scored a sweeping victory in the annual municipal election yesterday by winning all contested council seats and taking every other office but one.

(editorial) Jamestown is a capricious community when it comes to voting. The electorate is pretty much made up of consistently independent people in town affairs although there is a definite core of loyal party members in each political group.

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 4, 1957

Sixty-five boys became members of the Jamestown Boys Club and 121 others sought applications as the club opened Saturday.

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 6, 1957

Jamestown taxpayers adopted a budget of \$317,195.29, lopping \$18,249.50 from the figures proposed by the outgoing Republican Council at the annual financial town meeting Saturday. The session, which lasted two hours, was the shortest in the memory of the oldest inhabitants.

#### 25 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, May 6, 1982

The number of dogs registered this year during April dropped considerably compared to 1981, according to Town Clerk Lois Coons. Only 269 licenses and tags were issued in April. ... During 1981 more than 700 licenses were purchased.

#### 15 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, April 30, 1992

About 100 Jamestowners braved the damp chilly weather last Saturday to help with the third annual Island Clean-Up. ... Workers filled a 30-yard dumpster, two 10-yard dumpsters, one dump truck and one flatbed truck.

The state Historical Preservation Commission has determined that any adverse effects the new bridge-connector highway would have on the Island's historic windmill district can be "satisfactorily mitigated."

The Town Council adopted an ordinance Monday that gives a \$30,000 tax break to volunteer firefighters, ambulance corps members and their surviving spouses.

#### 10 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, May 1, 1997

The weather was perfect Saturday for picking up the litter along the island's shoreline. ... Island Rubbish provided dumpsters for the event and hauled away about 40 cubic yards of trash and some 10 cubic yards of recyclables.

The Town Council Monday entered a new lease with Dutch Harbor Boatyard. The boatyard at West Ferry has been leasing part of a bulkhead from the town for the past 10 years. Under the new rental agreement, Fred Lorenson, owner, of the marina will pay a base rent of \$10,000, about \$2,000 in additional rent for half the outfalls at the marina, and another \$2,000 or so for docks and floats.

The Secret Garden on Southwest Avenue has new owners (Holly Howard, Heidi Lessard and Helenna Jackson) and they are hosting an open house this Saturday and Sunday.