

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Get on board for the 350th celebration

Plans for Jamestown's 350th celebration in August are starting to take shape. It's not too late for your group to get on board.

Here's what's scheduled so far:

The festivities begin on Saturday, Aug. 11, with the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce Night for the Light dinner at Fox Hill Farm to benefit the restoration of the Dutch Island Lighthouse.

On Sunday, Aug. 12, there will be a grand parade and dedication of the new Town Hall. An evening concert at East Ferry will cap the day.

Monday, Aug. 13, features two different events: a family picnic and an afternoon tea.

On Tuesday, Aug. 14, there will be an agricultural history tour of Jamestown farms.

Wednesday, Aug. 15, will be highlighted by an island bike ride and scavenger hunt.

On Thursday, Aug. 16, the Jamestown Historical Society will hold its annual meeting and the Jamestown Community Chorus will stage its annual talent show.

Friday, Aug. 17, features a tour of the island farms.

Saturday, Aug. 18, has the ever-favorite Fool's Rules Regatta, the Conanicut Island Art Association's Craft Show and a kid's day at the fire station.

Finally, on Sunday, Aug. 19, the Jamestown Community Band will perform at East Ferry.

Other events are in the works, including fireworks, a wine tasting, and tours of the Beavertail Lighthouse. There's still time to add your activity to the official celebration schedule which will be published by the Jamestown Press as a commemorative program. E-mail Charlie Petit, chairman of the 350th celebration committee, at cpetit22@cox.net right away.

— Jeff McDonough



Tennis tourney a great success

Thanks to the players, sponsors, great weather and volunteers, the Second Annual Roger Chase Memorial Tennis Tournament was another success. Seventy-eight players from ages 11 to 86 years old played. We netted more than \$2,350 to benefit the Jamestown Fire Department and Medical Fund.

Thanks to Barbara Lundy of Jamestown Fitness

• LETTERS •

for shouldering the costs of advertising and prizes, and for spurring me on. Thanks to Trattoria Simpatico and Slice of Heaven for donating some of the prizes.

Thanks to Wellworks and Island Realty for their generous donations. Thanks to Kerry Sheehan Construction for the t-shirts.

Our crack lunch team

was headed by Amy Smith. Evan Smith helped tremendously with court assignments. Thanks to the Conanicut Yacht Club for the use of their courts along with the support of their tennis professional, Phil Johnson and his assistant, John Seaward. Thanks to Judy Knight for securing sponsors. Carol Chase was on hand again, registering players, along with her sister, Judy Calabretta.

Steve Heath
Tournament Director

Write to us . . .

LETTERS: Send your letters to Editor, the Jamestown Press, 42 Narragansett Ave., Jamestown RI 02835, or email them to news@jamestownpress.com.

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, June 11, 1907

A special meeting of the town council was held last evening in the town hall, all the members being present. The bids for the paving of the gutters of Lincoln Street were opened and the contract awarded to Alton Head the lowest bidder, his bid being 62 cents per foot for paving and \$35 each for gravel catchers.

From the Newport Daily News, June 14, 1907

The Providence Telephone Company is erecting a line of poles to Beavertail. This line, when completed, will fulfill a long-felt want, as on several occasions when there was need of assistance in the rough water off the point, word had to be brought to the town by carriage.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, June 11, 1932

Postmaster William F. Caswell has announced the following summer mail schedule: The mails on week days will arrive and depart at 8 and 11 o'clock a.m., and 5 p.m., and Sundays will arrive and depart at 9 a.m. On Sundays the postoffice will be open from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m.

From the Newport Daily News, June 15, 1932

Seventy-five members of the tax-paying summer colony appeared before the Board of Tax Assessors at the town hall Tuesday afternoon to protest against the proposal on the part of the tax board to increase the assessed valuation of the land upon which improvements have been made. About 90 percent of the summer resident taxpayers now on the island were present.

From the Newport Daily News, June 16, 1932

By a majority of 103 votes, the electors of Jamestown at a special financial town meeting Wednesday voted in favor of building a septic tank at Mackerel Cove to take care of the Southwest Avenue sewer. It was specified that the cost should not exceed \$13,000. There were 335 votes cast at the election.

From the Newport Daily News, June 17, 1932

At a special meeting of the council . . . a paper ballot was taken, and the result was as follows: A. B. Mitchell, 4 votes and Harry Pitchers, 1 (for the bid for Mackerel Cove beach). The contract was awarded to Mitchell. Voted that Thomas Sheehan and Joseph Drury take an inven-



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of June 14

tory at Mackerel Cove pavilion; that Mr. Mitchell hire help for placing the pavilion in readiness for the summer season, that the salary of the alley boys employed at the beach shall not exceed \$3 per day, and the salary of the night watchman be placed at \$100 for the season; a bookkeeper be hired at a salary not to exceed \$15 per week.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, June 10, 1957

The Jamestown Tercentenary, Inc., committee radioed on Saturday the following message to Capt. Alan Villiers, aboard the Mayflower II. "The Tercentenary Committee of Jamestown, R.I. extends to you a cordial invitation to participate informally in the observance of the 300th anniversary of the purchase of our island by the English colonists from the Narragansett Indians."

From the Newport Daily News, June 11, 1957

A letter of reassurance regarding any possible danger to the Jamestown Ferry or its passengers from stray Navy torpedoes was received by the Jamestown Town Council at its meeting last night from Rear Adm. Ralph Earle Jr., Naval Base commander.

From the Newport Daily News, June 12, 1957

Backers of the Commerce Oil Refining Corp. application for a tanker pier off Eldred Avenue in Jamestown had their say this morning as the Army Engineers opened a public hearing in the town recreation center. Spokesmen for the refinery, backed by a parade of pilots and consultants, testified that the pier in their opinion would not menace navigation or create a hazard in Narragansett Bay.

From the Newport Daily News, June 12, 1957

The (Town) Council ordered the Carr School on Clarke Street advertised for sale by public auction on June 29. The Carr and Clarke Schools were offered together for sale in November, but no bids were received.

The Jamestown Ferry Authority will be asked to change its ferry schedule next fall so that school children going to the new Rogers High School will arrive on time.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, June 10, 1982

State officials expect that the Coast Guard and the Navy will approve a new plan for the height of the proposed Jamestown Bridge. Originally, the services want a 135-foot clearance for 600 feet of the span. They will now require such a clearance for only 300 feet of the span.

From the Newport Daily News, June 11, 1982

Residents no longer have to leave the island to do their food shopping. McQuade's Supermarket opened for business Thursday (June 10) and 671 shoppers tried the new store. The store is in the same building that housed the Jamestown Food Mart which closed in March.

The math center at the Jamestown School may have to be closed next year, because of the lack of space.

From the Newport Daily News, June 15, 1982

The Town Council Monday night asked the state for a list of the 81 proposed rights-of-way on the island.

The Council gave approval for Albert Smith to use the town lot north of the library for parking during Tall Ships Week. Smith had requested the use of the town mini-bus as a shuttle to take people from the parking lot to his excursion boats.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, June 11, 1992

The Town Council has endorsed the state Department of Transportation's plan to build a four-lane, limited access, cross-island highway, providing its posted speed limit is no greater than 40 mph.

About 250 well-wishers turned out Sunday for Town Administrator's Robert Sutton's retirement party at the Fort Getty pavilion.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, June 12, 1997

A public work session on how to best use the second floor of the town-owned country club will be held by the Town Council next Monday. . . . Since the town bought the golf course in 1986, the country club's second floor has always been a restaurant, but none were successful until Chuck Masso, now the owner of Chopmist Charlie's, took over operation of the Country Club Restaurant.

The Jamestown Early Learning Center on North Main Road is expanding and will soon undergo a \$120,000 facelift that will make it an architectural showpiece for islanders and visitors alike.