

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Summer's here — be safe on the water

Today is the first day of summer, a time when many people will be enjoying the great outdoors on their boats. Summer is made for fishing, racing sailboats, and pleasure cruising.

Lots of boaters will be taking to the water during the next few weeks for the Tall Ships parade and the Fourth of July. Many boaters will be out there for the first time. Whether veteran or novice, we should all think about boating safety.

Here are a few safety tips to remember:

- Always have at least one U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD) on board for each person. Should the weather turn sour, put on your PFD. A good rule to follow is to always wear a PFD when you don foul weather gear. Better yet, wear an inflatable PFD whenever on the boat.

- Never drink and boat. Just like drinking and driving, drinking and boating do not mix. It is also against the law. Do not endanger yourself or others. Save the alcohol for when you are ashore.

- Operator errors account for 70 percent of boating accidents. Take a boating safety course. Learn the rules of the road. Know how to navigate.

- Learn how to properly operate your vessel.

- Pay attention to what other boaters around you are doing. You may have the right-of-way, but the other guy may think he has the right of way.

- Weather is important. Check the forecast before heading out. If conditions turn foul, head for home.

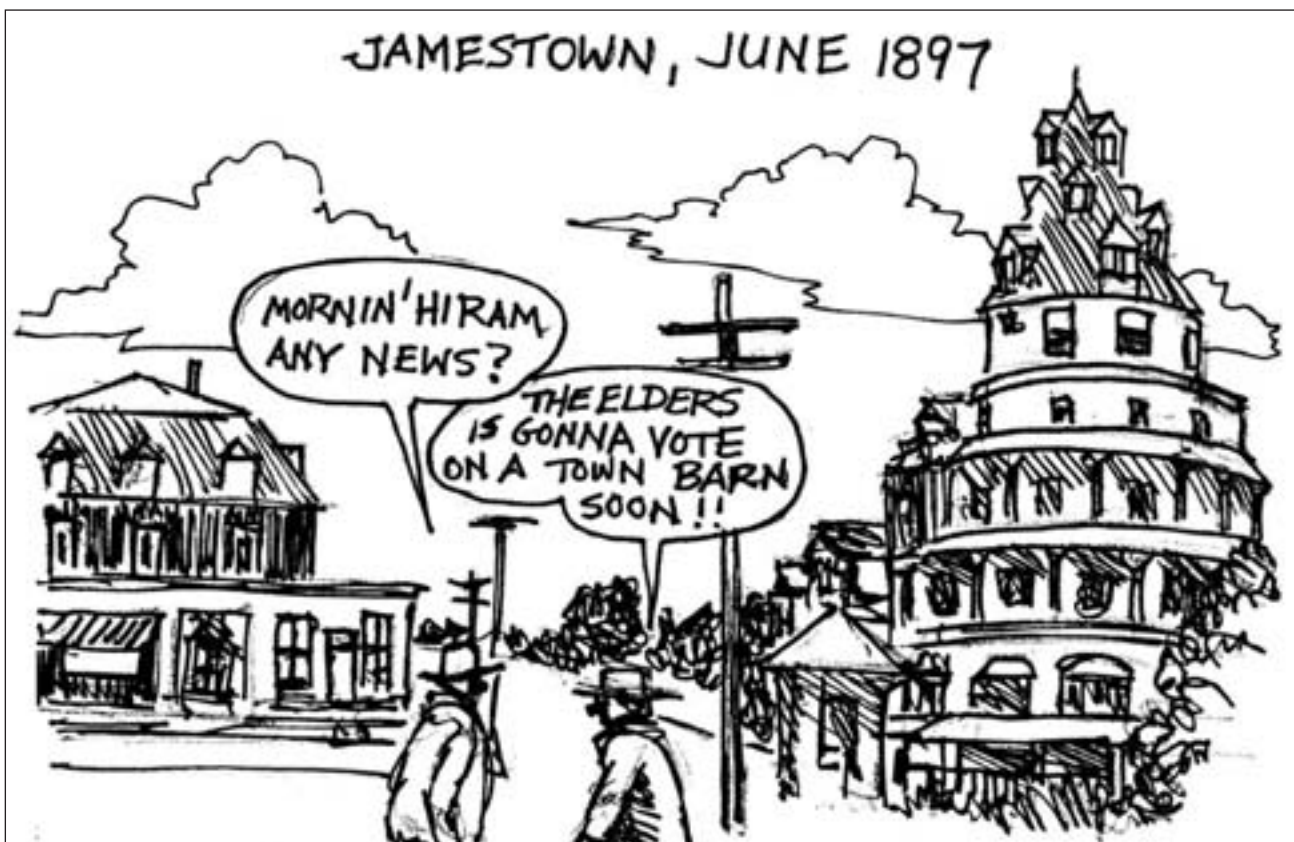
- Keep your boat properly maintained with all the recommended safety gear aboard. It is difficult to signal for help without a working radio or flares.

- Don't pollute. Don't throw your trash overboard and don't dump fuel or oil in the water. Be kind to the Earth.

- When in doubt, use common sense.

Always play it safe while boating. Have fun on the water this summer.

— Jeff McDonough



### Memorial tribute to Jim Filkins

The Jamestown Town Council has proclaimed Sunday, June 24, as James R. Filkins Day. The family has extended an open invitation to friends and admirers to attend a 2 p.m. memorial celebration at Fort Getty. We, who served with Jim as members of the Jamestown School Committee, would like to add our appreciation and respect for all that he gave to us.

Jim brought a wealth of experience and an invaluable broad perspective in dealing with educational issues, having been both an

### • LETTERS •

educator and a school committee chairman in Massachusetts. In Jamestown, he took on many roles as a member of our school committee, including clerk, SELAC liaison, Melrose SIT liaison, and co-chair of the health and wellness committee. He also served as co-chair of the high school review committee and chaired the school committee's negotiating team for the JES-PA contract.

Besides all those specific accomplishments, Jim was always a well-informed and effective presence in all of

our discussions. He brought his reason and experience and deliberate style to bear on all the issues that arose, and contributed greatly to their resolutions. His sense of humor and calm demeanor were also much appreciated by all his colleagues.

Jim was active in the schools as well, sharing his love of art with students in the after-school program by giving drawing lessons. His cheerful presence was welcomed by everyone in the Jamestown school community, and he is missed.

We want to take this opportunity to recognize Jim's

many accomplishments, and to thank him and his family for sharing his talents with us. We are so grateful that he was willing to do so much for so many. His determination to carry on with what was important to him in spite of his illness was a wonderful example of his spirit, and it was truly inspiring. We will use what he taught us, and will remember his good humor and zest for life even as we mourn his absence.

**Julia Held, Cathy Kaiser  
Bucky Brennan,  
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Letters continued on page 8

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 17, 1907

The new steamboat wharf at Conanicut Park is nearing completion, having so far progressed as to enable the Providence boat to make a landing there to and from Providence.

The travel across the island between Newport and Narragansett was the largest yesterday of the season, automobile parties being especially numerous.

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 19, 1907

The Jamestown Club on Lincoln Street will open tomorrow for the season. William H. Jones, who has been steward for a number of years, will again act in that capacity.

The Conanicut Grange will hold its annual strawberry festival for the members tonight in the town hall.

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 20, 1907

Miss Mary E. Jack of New York City has leased the store in the north end of the Hotel Thorndike, where she will carry a line of furnishings, etc.

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 22, 1907

The past two days have been by far the hottest of the season, and many of the summer residents have arrived at the cottages and hotels. The island never looked better and a few more days of fine weather will see the season on equal footing with former years.

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 25, 1907

A communication from H. S. Stubbs, president and manager of the Jamestown Brass Band, asking the council to designate the places where the summer concerts are to be held, was referred back to Mr. Stubbs with power to use his discretion.

Buffalo Bill's Wild West show in Newport is attracting numbers from here and Narragansett.

Newport's new city ambulance was on the island today for the first time, crossing the ferry to bring a patient from the Providence boat to Dr. Bates's sanitarium.



## This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden  
Week of June 21

#### 75 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 21, 1932

The Conanicut Yacht Club is now open for the season, with U. S. Gooby in charge. The yacht "Wild Duck," owned by Miss Madge Levy, who is occupying the Admiral Porter cottage on Walcott Avenue, is the first to be moved off the yacht club pier.

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 23, 1932

Mrs. Willis Clarke, chairman of the "Fresh Air Children" reports receiving many calls for children who will be cared for in the homes on the island.

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 24, 1932

The complimentary dance given Thursday evening by Conanicut Grange to the 27 graduates of the Jamestown schools and the Jamestown graduates of Rogers High School, Brown University and Pratt Institute was the most successful of any given on this annual occasion. Sixty couples formed in the grand march. ... Dancing was then continued until midnight, with the Racketeer orchestra furnishing music.

#### 50 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 18, 1957

Elements of the 59th Special Infantry Co., U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, from Wheeling W. Va., will land at Jamestown tomorrow. The "invasion" will be made by way of the Jamestown Ferry and the Marines will proceed to the Beavertail Point reservation for the conducting of field problems.

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 19, 1957

"Use the resources God gave you and you will achieve much," George J. O'Brien, assistant superintendent of Providence Schools advised the members of the gradu-

ation class of the Jamestown Elementary School last night when 13 boys and 18 girls were presented with diplomas by Dr. Robert L. McMaster, chairman of the school board.

For the first time in the history of the Jamestown School, special graduation exercises were held for members of the kindergarten class.

#### 25 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 18, 1982

Forty seven Grade 8 pupils received diplomas Thursday night at the Jamestown School.

##### From the Newport Daily News, June 23, 1982

Town Administrator Robert Sutton said that Jamestown is prepared for the impact of Tall Ships on Jamestown. ... The Park Police will allow about 1,100 cars to park at Beavertail and 350 at Fort Wetherill.

#### 15 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, June 18, 1992

Police Chief James G. Pemantell will retire from the post he has held for 18 years as of Sept. 11. (He completed 29 years on the department as of that week.)

North end residents who live near the town's sludge treatment station may be breathing easier soon. ... (It was reported at a Town Council meeting) that the town would be receiving several truckloads of "bio-ash" from the West Warwick wastewater treatment plant this week for use in its sludge composting operation at the former landfill site on North Road.

#### 10 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, June 19, 1997

(photo caption) Ben Anderson makes a mold of the shield and sheep on the town marker at the four corners. Anderson will use the mold to make a new shield to replace one that is missing.

The third annual ferry days celebration this weekend promises to bring old fashioned family fun to East Ferry through the remembrance of Jamestown's ferryboats.

(article headline)North Kingstown High School Graduates 47 Jamestowners