

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Proper planning makes big events easy on the town

The Tall Ships have come and gone. The weather was just about perfect and the sailing vessels were quite the spectacle. Jamestown has since returned to its normal summertime hustle and bustle.

Just about everyone agrees that the big event was a major success for the community. Many businesses reported a banner weekend. There were few problems to report.

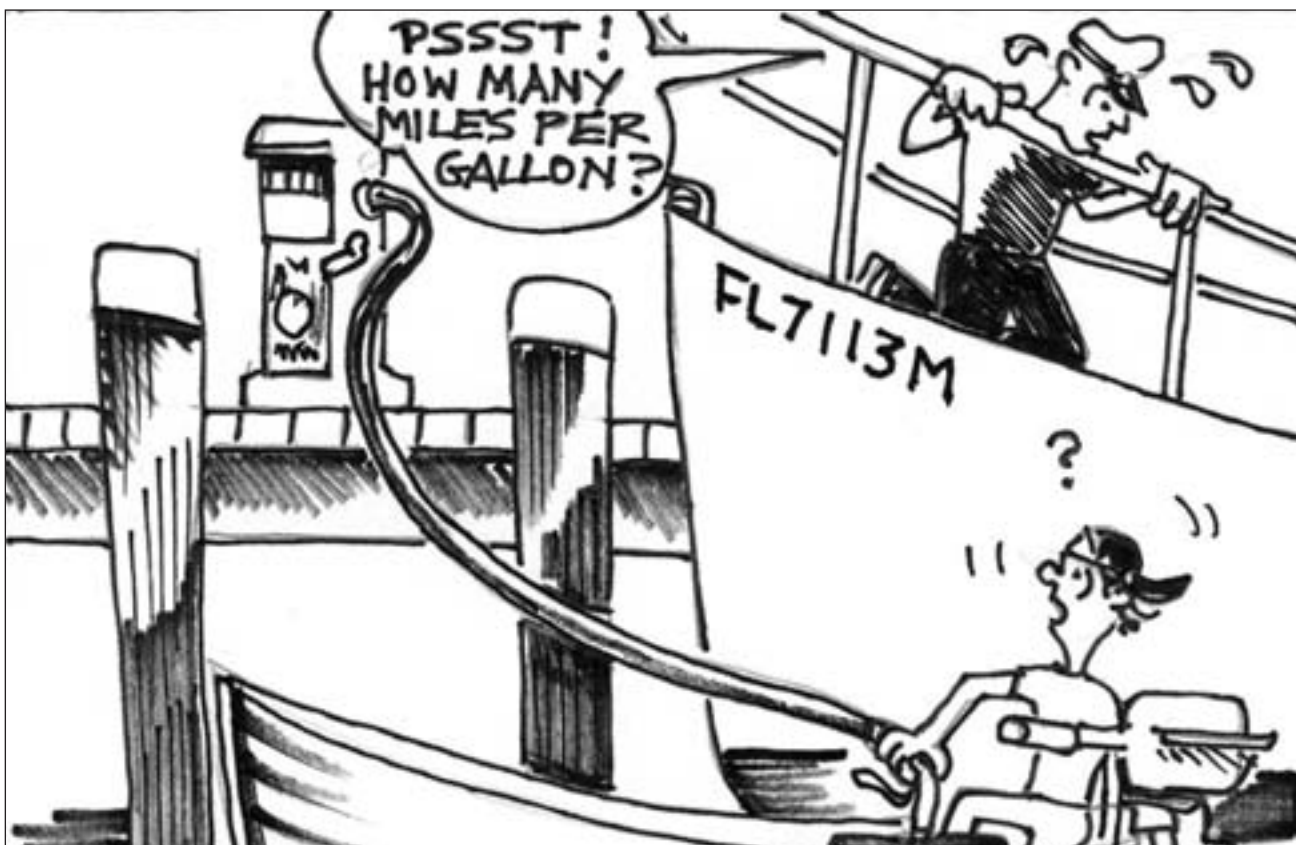
We all remember the fireworks and Queen Mary II fiasco from a couple of years ago. The massive cruise ship had sailed into East Passage during her maiden summer. Newport was hosting fireworks that night. The combination of fireworks and the new cruise ship (at that time the largest in the world) became a giant people magnet. Without warning, Jamestown was deluged with thousands of visitors from around the state. There were strangers everywhere and we had gridlock until the wee hours of the next morning. The town of Jamestown was not ready for the crowds.

The recent Tall Ships weekend was a different story. Town officials spent many hours planning for the crowds. On Sunday — the day when the largest crowds were expected for the tall ships parade — the real test came. Other than some heavy traffic in the village prior to the parade, the event went off without a hitch. Traffic flowed smoothly and the crowds were well behaved.

It all started with the proper preparation. No parking signs were posted and there were designated parking areas. Extra police and National Guard personnel were on hand. Fire trucks were dispersed about the island on standby status.

Our hats are off the many people who made the event easy for Jamestowners. Hopefully, the town will receive some additional financial assistance from the state to offset the costs of hosting the Tall Ships crowds.

— Jeff McDonough



Respect the Great Creek osprey

Most of us on the island know about the osprey at Great Creek, and the fact that they have young ones in their nest now. It is a wonderful and magical site to see when the young birds peek up out of the nest and we all want a good peek.

In the last few days, while keeping my distance, I have been fortunate to view this magical wonder through the lens of a zoom camera. Unfortunately, I have also viewed many people not keeping a respectful distance from the birds and causing the birds great stress.

• LETTERS •

I personally witnessed people drive up, park their cars on the side of the road near the nest and then jump out of their cars expressing their excitement rather loudly. With cars lining up, people beginning to accumulate and the noise growing louder, the birds start to panic. Do we really want to stress these birds? Probably not. However, I hope that we can all be more aware of how we are affecting these beautiful birds. I'd like to suggest that we all take better care of them by keeping a respectful distance, park-

ing further away from the nest and keeping our voices down. If you take photos, try not to run back and forth to get that perfect shot. Keep it low key and try not to spook the birds.

Please, help by respecting these beautiful birds. Thank you!

Andréa Good
Jamestown

Our Council is courageous

Throughout the past six years that I've had time to observe and scrutinize our local government in action,

there have been many issues that I have been compelled to speak out about.

In several cases, my writings have been somewhat less than complimentary to board members, municipal staff and elected officials who I believed failed to demonstrate proper reasoning in the performance of their duties.

Today, I am writing to compliment the professional and courageous decision of the Town Council and the creative, "out of the box" thinking of our town administrator and the Deputy Public Works Director and Town Engineer Michael Gray.

Council Vice President

Letters continue 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, July 10, 1907

The trials of the submarines over the mile course in the East Bay are watched with interest by the passengers on the ferries.

The construction gang of the American Telegraph & Telephone Company have nearly completed the new line of wires across the south end of the island to connect Newport more directly with New York.

It has been the custom of the Carr relatives to gather in a large house party at the "Carr Homestead," one of the oldest and most picturesque on the island, and this year will prove no exception to the rule. A large party is looked for and extensive plans for entertainment are being made.

A new safe weighing 8,300 lbs. has arrived for the town clerk's office and has been placed in position. This will fill a long-felt want for a suitable place in which to keep the accumulating town's records.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 11, 1932

There was a large audience at the Central Baptist Church, Jamestown, Sunday morning, when re-dedication services were held, and tribute paid to those for whom memorial windows were given. The auditorium was attractive with the newly decorated walls, the new memorial windows, and beautiful display of flowers. The musical program was greatly enjoyed.

The ringing of Box 24 at 10 o'clock this morning called the fire department to the Palace Theatre on Naragansett Avenue, Jamestown, where a slight fire, caused by an explosion in the operating booth, was underway. The operator, James Noble, was slightly burned about the face; about 30 feet of film was destroyed and there is more or less damage to the wiring. There was no material damage to the machine which could be ascertained by a superficial examination. The fire department was on the



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of July 12

scene in less than three minutes and was returned to the house within 20 minutes after the alarm was sounded.

From the Newport Daily News, July 12, 1932

Mackerel Cove beach saw the biggest crowds of the season Sunday and Monday, bathers being present the greater part of the day, indicating that the summer season is now in full swing.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 8, 1957

Ninety-one children are enrolled in the Jamestown Red Cross water safety classes at Mackerel Cove Beach.

From the Newport Daily News, July 9, 1957

Governor Dennis J. Roberts has accepted Jamestown's invitation to be guest of honor on Governor's Day on August 15, which is planned as part of the 300th anniversary of the purchase of Conanicut Island from the Indians.

(At the town council meeting Councilman Harold E.) Shippee was empowered to purchase a rake costing \$325 for use in cleaning Mackerel Cove beach. Shippee reported \$405 received to date for parking fees at the beach.

From the Newport Daily News, July 10, 1957

Mrs. Herman Schaus ... was engaged as a remedial teacher in the Jamestown schools. ... Four teachers are needed to fill vacancies before the beginning of the school year in September, Superintendent of Schools A. J. Miller informed the (school) committee. E. R. Vieira Co. was awarded the contract for supplying approximately 24,000 gallons of fuel for 1957-58. Vieira's lone bid was \$.1089 a unit gallon.

From the Newport Daily News, July 11, 1957

The Commerce Oil Refining Corp., which has spent more than \$500,000 for land in Jamestown, has opened an office there. ... The office was opened Tuesday in the Howry cottage

on North Road, the first property bought by the company.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 12, 1982

Ninety-five firefighters from seven communities participated Thursday night in a demonstration on fighting a liquid propane fire at the Jamestown School field.

From the Newport Daily News, July 13, 1982

Raising the water level in the water tower on Howland Avenue and reducing the volume of water to Fort Getty should alleviate the water problems at Beavertail (it was reported to the town council).

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, July 9, 1992

A recommendation to raise a marina leasing fee from \$9,450 to \$50,000 over five years drew objections from the Ft. Wetherill Boat Owner's Association at a Town Council work session Monday.

Jamestown has received a \$600,000 loan for improvements to its library from the Department of Agriculture.

(The Jamestown Housing Authority received \$516,808) ... to be used to modernize 35 units of housing for the elderly, handicapped, and disabled at the federally-subsidized Pemberton Apartments. ... The renovations will include bathrooms, kitchens, appliances, interior siding, and also creation of handicapped-accessible units.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, July 10, 1997

Due to hot, dry weather, a ban on all outdoor residential water uses except limited garden watering will go into effect tonight at midnight. ... Under the new emergency ordinance, violators of the water-use restrictions can be fined up to \$500, even for a first offense.

Not one person out of some 100 residents attending Tuesday night's work session on the proposed plan to extend East Ferry's steel pier using federal transportation money spoke in favor of the idea.

Jamestown's Godena Farm will remain the farm it has always been thanks to the generosity of the late Manuel Godena and his surviving children, who have donated the farm's development rights to the Conanicut Island Land Trust.