

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Where did our summer go?

Seems like it was only yesterday that we were enjoying summer at its finest. The weather was great and there was plenty of local excitement with the 350th celebration and the Tall Ships spectacle.

For most of us the lazy days of summer come to a screeching halt this weekend with the Labor Day observance. Our family vacations are complete and school is back in session for the kids.

The frenzy of fall returns to our hectic schedules. The baseball boys of summer are scrambling for playoff berths. The football teams are warming up the gridiron.

Of course, summer does not officially end on Labor Day. It just feels like it does. The first day of summer is not until Sept. 23, about three weeks away. Time appears to slip by at an ever quickening pace with the passing of years. As a youth, I believed summer stretched from June through August. Memorial Day and Labor Day served as distinct bookends to the summer season.

But these days youngsters attend school almost until the Fourth of July. My children view their summer as the months of July and August.

The month of June was somehow lost. With only two months of summer, the season streaks past.

This weekend the weather prognosticators promise a beautiful finish to the summer season. There will be sailboat races around the island and an antique auto show at Fort Getty. Friends and family will gather.

We'll observe the holiday with backyard cookouts.

And by Tuesday of next week, summer will be another fond memory.

We may be bidding goodbye to summer, but let's not forget that autumn is a great time to enjoy life in Jamestown. The air is crisp, the nights are cooler and the humidity is comfortable. The crush of the summer visitors has disappeared. Some of our best sailing can be found in the fall on the warm by waters surrounding the island. Autumn colors are just ahead.

Labor Day is here. Enjoy the last weekend of summer.

— Jeff McDonough



Water rate structure is unfair

The Aug. 23 Press article titled "Water and sewer rates to climb next billing cycle" begs an overdue discussion about our water rate structure.

As a water efficiency consultant, I have prepared comprehensive water audits that include a scrutinization and understanding of the water rates for various municipalities and private water utility companies. All the water rates I've examined share one common aspect: a flat monthly administrative charge that may or may not vary based on water main (water meter) size. I have never seen a rate structure that charges a flat amount for the first minimum number of gallons of water, and it is this part of Jamestown's water rate structure that is

• LETTERS •

patently unfair and needs to be changed.

For my two-person household that consumes between 1,000 and 2,000 gallons of water quarterly (maximum was 4,000 gallons one quarter), I am currently charged \$45.92 per quarter (to increase to \$52.75 with the next billing cycle) whether I use one gallon or 5,000 gallons per quarter. I'm sure there are other customers like me who are not large enough or who conserve enough to use less than the 5,000 gallon "minimum in advance" per quarter. What this flat charge for the first 5,000 gallons amounts to is a type of rate subsidy for the 5,000+ gallon consumers.

Regardless of the required revenue to operate our water system, the only

equitable rate structure is one that charges a flat administrative charge for the meter to cover fixed monthly administrative costs (similar to National Grid's flat "customer charge") and a usage charge for actual consumption. Under this structure, customers are only charged for what they use.

I call on the Water and Sewer Commission to revise the existing unfair rate structure to one that is based on actual consumption from the first gallon consumed.

Steve Mecca
Green Lane

Vandalism has its consequences

Sometime during the night of Aug. 22, my glass gazing globe was stolen and a metal bench was tossed

into our small fishpond.

The bench had been my mother's. The globe was a 45th wedding anniversary gift I had given my husband three years ago. It meant a lot to us. It was later smashed on the side of a neighbor's car and destroyed.

Whoever vandalized our yard should realize that when you destroy others' property there is a consequence. You might not be caught by the police, but I hope your conscience is hurting.

Andy Dolan
Coronado Street

Thanks for a great 30th event

On behalf of the Jamestown Yacht Club I would like to thank everyone who made the 30th Anniversary Fools' Rules Regatta a blustery success! A strong west-

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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, August 27, 1907

(At the Town Council Meeting, John E. Hammond was appointed a committee to have the burying ground and library yard mowed.)

The automobile ordinance was amended by substituting 15 miles for 8 miles in the speed limit, and the police were ordered to enforce the ordinance as amended.

The Improvement Society was given permission to lay out sidewalks on the public highways where no objection were made by the abutting owners.

From the Newport Daily News, August 28, 1907

A large party from here attended the vaudeville at Freebody Park last evening.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, August 27, 1932

The banner crowd of the season was present Friday evening at the Casino when the costume ball was held. The ball room was attractively decorated with flags and varied colored balloons, general dancing being enjoyed until 10:30, when the grand march was formed.

From the Newport Daily News, August 29, 1932

The American Legion carnival came to a close Saturday evening, after a successful week. A large number was present to hear the results of the winnings. The members of the summer colony have been



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of August 30

very generous in their donations towards the success of the affair, which is greatly appreciated.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, August 27, 1957

Means for saving the Jamestown Drum and Bugle Corps from disbanding were studied by the Jamestown Town Council at its meeting last night. (It had been founded more than 11 years before.) ... A letter from the School Committee advising it would turn back to the town the Quonset hut but on the condition it be given to the Jamestown Rod and Gun Club, was referred to the town building committee for investigation and report.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, August 30, 1982

Visitors to the Thomas Carr Watson Farm Sunday afternoon could easily let their imaginations slip back a couple of centuries as they witnessed a barn-raising on the 260-acre farm. With what seemed like amazing ease, the 12-member crew from the Portsmouth, N.H. contracting firm of Dodge, Adams and Roy, raised section after section of the heavy timbered barn, until the entire barn was framed. The late Thomas Carr Watson left the farm to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities with the stipulation that it be operated as a working farm.

From the Newport Daily News, August 31, 1982

The Jamestown Theatre, unable to bring in enough revenue to pay its debts, is up for sale.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, August 27, 1992

Outgoing Town Administrator Robert Sutton was surprised Monday night when the Town Council members unanimously approved a request to create a path through town-owned reservoir land in his honor.

Five Jamestowners completed the 16th annual Save The Bay Swim last Saturday which started at Coaster's Harbors Island Beach in Newport and finished at Potter's Cove here. Fifteen-year-old Carrie Anderson of Jamestown completed the 2.2 mile swim in sixth place overall. She was the youngest and second fastest woman to compete.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, August 28, 1997

The Town Council Monday gave a 3-0 thumbs up to a request to turn Ft. Wetherill into a movie set for "Rum Runner," a prohibition-era movie that will get underway sometime in September.

Homeowners on the municipal water system can expect to see an increase in water and sewer charges when they get their water bills next week. Sitting as the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners last Wednesday, the Town Council voted to raise the 5,000 gallon water-use minimum from \$39.93 to \$40.93, and increase the excess water charge from \$3.09 to \$3.23 per 1,000 gallons, up 5 percent. The commission also raised the sewer rate by 22 cents, from \$4.33 to \$4.55, another 5 percent increase.