

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Defining a word: Jamestown's 'charrette'

Big changes are afoot as Jamestown is getting ready to change its planning process and zoning ordinance to comply with the Comprehensive Community Plan. Islanders are invited to participate in the Community Vision Workshop tonight — Thursday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. — at the recreation center. This workshop is in preparation for the upcoming design charrette in October.

I've been asked more than once, "What is a charrette?" Here's the answer:

The French word charrette is defined as an intense period of design activity. The online Wikipedia states that "charrette may refer to any collaborative session in which a group of designers drafts a solution to a design problem. While the structure of a charrette varies, depending on the design problem and the individuals in the group, charrettes often take place in multiple sessions in which the group divides into sub-groups. Each sub-group then presents its work to the full group as material for future dialogue. Such charrettes serve as a way of quickly generating a design solution while integrating the aptitudes and interests of a diverse group of people."

Relating to what is happening in Jamestown, the Wikipedia says, "charrettes take place in many disciplines, including urban planning. In urban planning, the charrette has become a technique for consulting with all stakeholders. Such charrettes typically involve intense, possibly, multi-day meetings, involving municipal officials, developers, and residents."

As for the history of the word, Wikipedia notes it originates "from the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris in the nineteenth century, the word charrette is from the French for "cart" or "chariot." Student architects still working furiously at the very last minute on the grand illustrations that were their design presentations, literally, while in the school cart ("en charrette"), as it was wheeled through the streets of Paris on its way for submission to their professors."

Be a part of Jamestown's charrette. Don't miss tonight's meeting so you are prepared for the charrette. Your views can become part of the Jamestown vision for the decades ahead.

Visit [JamestownVision.org](http://JamestownVision.org) to learn more.

— Jeff McDonough



### Blocked view devalues property

*This letter was sent to the Jamestown Tree Preservation and Protection Committee and the Town Council, and copied to the Press.*

Dear Mr. Rugh,

After reviewing the plans we received from your committee last week we realized that the height, spread and spacing of the trees are going to be a huge impact on the value of our properties. My wife and I are very disturbed at the news that you are still pursuing the motion to plant trees that will obstruct our view of the West Passage. We don't see trees planted along the homes on Whittier Road that back the golf course. What are your plans

## • LETTERS •

for the homes on Whittier Road?

As we stated to the town administrator, Mr. Bruce Keiser, we have had this view for twelve years now and are intent on maintaining the view. Mr. Keiser had stated to my wife that any trees planted in our view of the West Passage, not just the ninth hole, would be moved. We are holding him to his word.

We can understand that there was a problem with turpentine beetles, but what we don't agree on is that the trees had to die. We chose to spray our trees to keep them alive. You could have done the same. The trees would still be there and not block-

ing our view. If you chose not to use chemicals to treat the trees and lost them, that shouldn't give you the right to plant new trees and take away a view that is high in monetary value to my properties.

Obviously, the plans for the golf course have been in the works for a few years, unknown to us. We can only hope the death of the trees on the ninth hole weren't in the plans for redesigning the landscape on the golf course.

Your letter never stated who pointed out to the committee the lack of barrier at this location and its liability. We spoke with Mr. Mistowski and he stated

that the reason for the trees wasn't for the liability, it was for aesthetics and that he was doing it because he lost trees and the Planning Commission and the tree committee wanted him to plant the trees and plants on the golf course. If safety is the reason, please come forward with the evidence. Over the past twelve years, we have noticed very few rescues on the golf course. A few were because of health related problems. Only a couple were for someone on the course hit by a ball. We don't know of anyone being hit by a ball that has gone beyond the ninth hole onto Conanicus Avenue.

Currently, very few balls end up in our yard. When we first moved here, we

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*The news of 10 and 15 years ago is from the Jamestown Press. The news of 100 years ago came from the collection of the Newport Historical Society.*

#### 100 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, September 26, 1907

The proceeds from the ball masque given by Mrs. Harold Rosengarten and Miss M. Potter at the Jamestown Casino, amounting to \$70, were given to the Free library, the Jamestown Improvement Company, the Conanicut Yacht Club and for city rescue work.

Two memorial tablets have been placed in the wall built by the Improvement Society along the shore side of Walcott avenue, in front of the Thorndike Hotel, one is to Dr. David B. Birney and the other to John Price Wetherill, Philadelphians who made Jamestown their summer home and who took a strong interest in the works of the town. They have been greatly missed this season. The tablets bear the date of their deaths, 1906.

##### From the Newport Daily News, October 1, 1907

The Gardner House, the last of the hotels to keep open, closed last night.

#### 75 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, September 29, 1932

(At the town council meeting it was) voted that the communication received from Conanicut Grange in relation to caterpillar and fall web worm nests be received and placed on file. Voted that the report of the committee on the purchase of a concrete mixer be accepted; that the Jamestown Pharmacy be granted a victualling (sic) house license. ... Voted that the committee on the town cemetery be authorized to replace as much of the fence bordering on Narragansett avenue as funds will allow.

#### 50 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, September 24, 1957

A ban on open cisterns, wells, vaults, or other ground



## This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden  
Week of September 27

openings was ordered by the Jamestown Town Council last night as a safety measure. The ordinance enacted provides a fine of \$100 for violations.

##### From the Newport Daily News, September 27, 1957

A rosy picture of the proposed \$50,000,000 Jamestown refinery was painted by officials of the Commerce Oil Refining Corp. and the Flour Construction Corp. Ltd last night at the Jamestown Recreation Center. ... About 200 persons heard the officials say the target date for completion is June 1959. When the refinery is in operation it will employ about 400 persons, 350 to 375 from Jamestown.

##### From the Newport Daily News, September 28, 1957

The Jamestown Bridge Commission last night adopted a tentative budget of \$125,959 for 1958, \$13,005 higher than last year. ... John B. Foley, chairman, explained the increase in the estimated budget of \$5,390 for wages was necessary to provide for additional toll collectors in the event of heavy traffic expected with the construction of the oil refinery. ... The commission authorized 2,000 advertising brochures, with map of Jamestown and the attractions of the town, to be printed.

#### 25 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, September 27, 1982

An ecumenical youth group is being organized (at St. Matthew's Church) in Jamestown. Plans are underway for a hayride, roller skating party, dances and fundraisers.

##### From the Newport Daily News, September 28, 1982

A proposed new zoning ordinance ran into stiff opposition before the Town Council Monday night. About 250 people attended the hearing in the Jamestown School. One major point of disagreement was the zoning of the town-owned portion of Fort Wetherill to commercial waterfront.

##### From the Newport Daily News, September 30, 1982

Eight members of the Jamestown Ambulance Association have recently completed training in advanced emergency medical techniques at Newport Hospital.

#### 15 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, September 24, 1992

The proposed plan to build playing fields on 8.5 acres of land at the intersection of East Shore Road and Route 138 was attacked Monday by a lawyer representing residents of that neighborhood.

The Town Council Monday voted unanimously to form a new senior center study committee. The new panel will have seven members and be charged with developing a program and budget and also finding a building site for a senior activities center.

#### 10 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, September 25, 1997

About 30 residents showed up at Town Hall Monday to try to convince the Town Council to ask the state to scale down its upgrade of Southwest Avenue. The state Department of Transportation wants to widen the road from Narragansett Avenue to Mackerel Cove to 32 feet, including two 12-foot travel lanes and two four-foot concrete sidewalk lanes.

Following the regular worship service last Sunday, the title of the Jamestown's Quaker Meetinghouse on North Main Road was transferred to the Jamestown Historical Society, who have been charged with the preservation and maintenance of the 1787 building.