

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Contribute to our agrarian preservation

The hard work is done. The island farms have been saved. The Town of Jamestown has secured the development rights to the Dutra and the Neale farms.

That means the two properties along North Main Road— about 140 acres — will remain as agrarian centerpieces of our island's landscape. We no longer have to worry that some day those farms might be turned into a subdivision.

It is important to note that the two properties have been preserved as working farms. The farms will continue to function as agricultural businesses.

We have kept alive a way of life that is quickly disappearing from New England.

In addition to preserving the working farm properties as scenic open space, the town has also obtained an easement to create a two-mile south-to-north walking trail for all islanders to enjoy.

You can still be a part of the effort. Your donation is needed to help fund the farmland preservation project. All monies contributed to the project will be used to offset the \$3 million town bond issue that is funding the purchase of the farms' development rights.

To learn more about how you can contribute to the farm preservation, read the town's advertisement on page 9 of this newspaper.

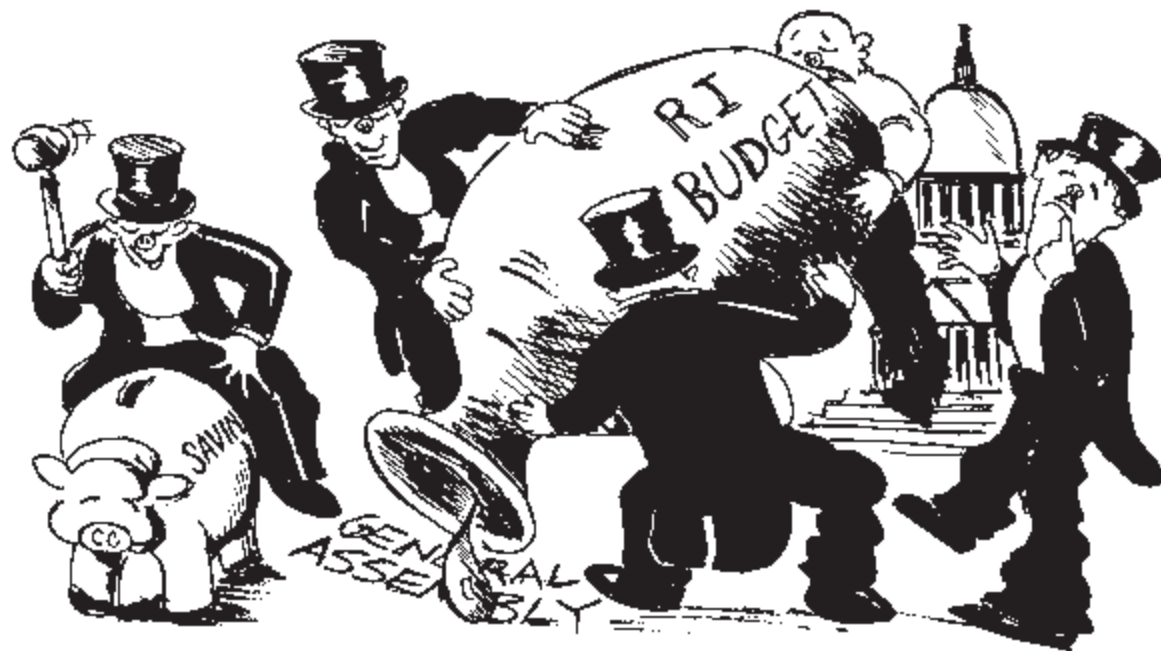
Donate and become a part of Jamestown's agrarian history.

— Jeff McDonough

Write to us

LETTERS: Send your letters to: Editor, The Jamestown Press, 42 Narragansett Ave., Jamestown RI 02835. Our fax number is (401) 423-1661.

Our e-mail address is news@jamestownpress.com. Please include your name, address, and a daytime telephone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication. All letters must be limited to 700 words or less.



FLEECIM, JIPPUM AND HOWE ADJUST THE FINISHING SCREWS TO THE TAXPAYERS

JHS clarifies position on studio

There has been much public debate lately about the application to make retail sales at the Clancy glass blowing studio at 382 North Main Rd. This case, "David M. Clancy and Jennifer R. Clancy v. Jamestown Zoning Board of Review," is currently under appeal at the Rhode Island Superior Court. As an abutter, the Jamestown Historical Society (JHS) has been involved in this debate and it is important to clarify our position, which has been widely misunderstood.

We start by unequivocally stating that this matter is not about art or artists. The historical society supports the arts and it values the contribution artists make to a vibrant and healthy com-

• LETTERS •

munity. The JHS did not object when the Zoning Board granted a variance to allow a glass blowing studio at this site three times the size permitted by the zoning ordinance. Our objection, rather, is to the establishment of a non-agricultural retail business in this historic district. The issue at hand is the appropriateness of introducing a new commercial activity into a uniquely historic, agricultural and rural landscape that, we hope, will remain as it is forever. Our concerns go beyond this particular case.

We believe that allowing retail sales of non-agricultural products threatens the integrity and viability of a long-standing community

vision for the protection of the North Main Road corridor reflected in Jamestown's Comprehensive Community Plan. The commercialization of Windmill Hill is simply inconsistent with the comprehensive plan, the federal designation of Windmill Hill as a National Historic District, and the concerted efforts through the years by public and private parties to protect - at great cost - this area from development.

Our mission is to preserve Jamestown's historic heritage. The JHS supports the goals outlined in the Comprehensive Community Plan. As individuals, your below-listed neighbors ask you to look at the big-

ger picture, and consider the future consequences of today's actions, however well intentioned they may be. Commercialization of a historic district can have an irreversible impact that the community certainly would regret in years to come.

The Board of the Jamestown Historical Society (Rosemary Enright, Harry Wright, John Horton, Dick Allphin, Greg DiGaspar, Trish Evangelista, Deb Foppert, Mary Heath, Sue Maden, Shawn Mayers, William Mullins, Ken Newman, Linnea Petersen, Sally Schott and Dennis Webster) thanks you for reading this letter, and considering this important question for the future of our island.

The Jamestown Historical Society Board of Directors

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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, January 22, 1908

The local fishermen have made the best catches of cod for the winter in the past two days; still the catch is small, being far below that of last year.

The schooner with the gear to lay the water main from Saunderstown to Fort Greble has arrived and with a few days of still weather should be able to lay the pipe, giving the island water direct from the springs on the mainland.

From the Newport Daily News, January 23, 1908

Knowles Court is an unusually likely place for this time of year. A force of Providence men have started the large stable on its trip across the island, and another force of Newport movers have started to move the Whitewood cottage from the same court to Walcott avenue.

From the Newport Daily News, January 25, 1908

A small barn on Columbus avenue exposed to the full force of the wind was badly wrecked. The doors were blown in and the south end of the structure was carried away. All the wharves south of the yacht club were washed by a heavy sea and many of them are carried away, while others are minus planking.

The work of moving the cottage and barn from Knowles court has been stopped by yesterday's storm. The cottage is on the Shoreby Hill property, while the barn has been moved as far as the Carr estate.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, January 23, 1933

The Clover Leaf Troop of Girl Scouts held their meeting at the town hall under the leadership of the captain, Marjorie Chase. After the salute to the flag and the scout pledge and inspection, patrol corners were held.

From the Newport Daily News, January 25, 1933

An all-day meeting at St. Matthew's Women's Auxil-



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of January 24

ary was held in the parish house. The day was spent in sewing for the Newport hospital. At noon a roast goose dinner was served, with Mrs. Ralph Fuller in charge.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, January 20, 1958

The Jamestown Ferry Authority expects the ferryboats Richmond and Norfolk, bought from the state of Virginia, will be ready soon for the Newport-Jamestown run. The boats, for which the state paid \$100,000, are now in drydock at Norfolk undergoing final inspection before coming here.

From the Newport Daily News, January 21, 1958

The Jamestown Town Council, in special session yesterday afternoon, appealed to Gov. Dennis J. Roberts to intervene actively for the establishment of an oil refinery in Jamestown.

From the Newport Daily News, January 28, 1958

Doubts that Commerce Oil Refining Corp. can possibly start construction of a refinery plant in Jamestown on or about April 1 were cast yesterday by opponents of the project at a Narragansett Bay Homeowners Assn. Meeting here (Newport) at the White Horse Tavern.

The Jamestown Town Council last night authorized the Board of Recreation to survey recreational possibilities at the Fort Getty area and submit its findings and approximate cost figure for consideration by the town budget committee.

From the Newport Daily News, January 30, 1958

Gov. Dennis J. Roberts said here last night that he is defi-

nately in favor of the proposed \$55,000,000 Commerce Oil Refining Corp. plant in Jamestown.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, January 24, 1983

Judith S. Benedict, senior planner of the State Department of Environmental Management, recently spoke on land trusts to the Jamestown Taxpayers Association. She outlined the steps of establishing a land trust committee a growing trend throughout Rhode Island. A land trust committee is a private, non-profit and incorporated organization devoted to the preservation of significant natural areas.

From the Newport Daily News, January 25, 1983

(At the Town Council meeting) the Save the Golf Course Committee asked the Council to put a non-binding resolution on the ballot for the May elections on whether to preserve the golf course as a recreational facility.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, January 21, 1993

Creating a plan to revitalize downtown Jamestown is the task given to a committee recently set up by the Planning Commission. The revitalization plan will establish goals for the kind of downtown area residents want and also find ways to achieve them, said Town Planner George Meservey.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, January 22, 1998

School Committee Chairwoman Sirj Carl tried to open last Thursday's meeting at the designated time of 7:30, but couldn't more than a dozen people were still lined up past the door waiting to sign the public forum list for an opportunity to speak on the subject of revising the school's voucher policy.

In its final budget work session last Saturday, the Town Council agreed to set aside \$300,000 of the town's \$1.39 million budget surplus to put toward construction of a new highway barn.