

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Art by islanders shared with islanders

There's a big opening this evening at the island's newest art gallery — the Jamestown Town Hall.

The art exhibit is hosted by the Conanicut Island Art Association. It is the first of what is hoped to be an ongoing series of shows that feature the works of island artists.

This is a great concept: adorn the walls of our public buildings with locally produced art. It provides an outlet for local talent while making our public spaces more interesting.

A reception from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. tonight will launch the first exhibit called "Art in the Heart of Jamestown." You can meet the artists and view their works and say "howdy" to your neighbors.

The art will be on display for about two months and will then be replaced by a new exhibit. Town Hall is a big place so there are plenty of walls on which art will look good.

This is not the first time public spaces have been used to display local art. The Jamestown Philomenian Library has been hosting the works of island artists for years.

Don't miss the new gallery at the Town Hall.

Of astrophysics and groundhogs

Saturday is Groundhog Day. But it seems that the grumpy old groundhog is getting some high-flying competition from Chicken Little.

What's that you say — the sky is falling? One would think so given all the media attention this past week heaped on a couple of asteroids and a defunct spy satellite.

Asteroid TU24 — an icy chunk of space rocks about the size of a supermarket — zipped past the earth on Tuesday, missing us by a mere 330,000 miles.

In galactic terms, that was a close call. You could almost feel the solar winds in the asteroid's wake.

Tomorrow, a different asteroid will streak past Mars, missing our neighboring planet by just 16,000 miles.

It's enough to make you want to walk around with an umbrella over your head. Space is a busy place.

But wait, there's more. This week U.S. officials announced that one of our super secret spy-in-the-sky satellites is dead and will come plunging back to earth sometime in February.

Officials aren't saying where or when the satellite (which is about the size of a RIPTA bus) will re-enter the atmosphere. They admit that the 5-ton spacecraft will come down over the northern hemisphere . . . meaning right on top of us. We can take some solice in the fact that the satellite will probably burn up on re-entry and only a trail of debris will hit the ground.

So when Punxsutawney Phil faces the hot glare from the television lights this Saturday, he will have a lot more to worry about than whether we'll have an additional six weeks of winter.

— Jeff McDonough



MINUTE 29 IN THE NEW HIGHWAY BARN'S 28 MIN. WATER SUPPLY

JHS has sold retail at windmill

The Jamestown Historical Society Board of Directors, in its letter to the Jamestown Press on Jan. 24, restated its position on the Clancy Designs studio matter. For reasons of fairness, a further clarification is necessary concerning "retail sales of non-agricultural products."

For years, the Historical Society has carefully preserved the windmill, opened it in summers for education purposes and, until recently, sold various items, such as t-shirts, to visitors. Unlike some historic windmills, they did not sell items like cornmeal that had been ground on the premises.

For many years, at the windmill, there has been a sign indicating the days

and hours the windmill was open. The hours that retail sales could take place were the same. Of course it was a seasonal operation — open only in the summer.

It is my understanding that the Clancys also did NOT request an all-year opening, wishing to be open for educational purposes (demonstrating glass blowing) and sales part of each year.

Although retail sales no longer take place at the windmill, various items continue to be sold at the museum by the historical society each summer.

I believe it is appropriate and reasonable to be aware of both points of view in this matter.

Nancy Logan
149 Seaside Drive

• LETTERS •

EPA to hold public hearing on aquifer

I encourage Jamestown residents to mark their calendars and attend the US Environmental Protection Agency's Sole Source Aquifer Public Hearing on Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Jamestown library in the large meeting room.

At this hearing, EPA officials will present a Power-Point on Jamestown's water supply and citizens' questions will be answered.

Our island has met EPA criteria as a Sole Source Aquifer. Jamestown's Sole - or Primary - Source aquifer is north of Zeek's creek. In addition to this large underlying aquifer, Jamestown's water assets on the north

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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.



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of January 31

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 28, 1908

(At the town council meeting) the hours of duty of the chief of police were fixed at from 2 to 6 and 7 to 11 p.m. The town sergeant was given permission to rent the town hall to the Kickapoo Medicine Company.

From the Newport Daily News, January 30, 1908

The play given Tuesday evening in the Gardner House hall by a number of boys to raise money for the Boys' Athletic Club, drew a large audience who were well pleased by the efforts of the juvenile actors. The play was entitled "The Great Bank Robbers."

From the Newport Daily News, February 1, 1908

An informal dance was given last evening in the Gardner House hall. There were nearly 50 present and an enjoyable time was had.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, January 26, 1933

Conanicut Grange, Royal Arcanum, held its regular meeting in the town hall, with the regent, Francis Locke, presiding. After calling the meeting to order, routine business was transacted. One candidate was admitted and received the full ritualistic work of the Kempton degree.

From the Newport Daily News, January 28, 1933

(At the town council meeting a list of names and amount paid to them for the work on the stone wall at the Four Corners cemetery is given). ... It was voted that after the completion of the town's cemetery wall, work will begin on the sidewalks and highways of districts No. 2 and 3. ... It was voted that the town clerk secure a list of the persons who are not legal residents of the town and send the list to the town's attorney and for him to take action as is necessary in ordering such persons to leave the town.

From the Newport Daily News, January 30, 1933

Antone Santos, Jr., announces that he will give a free ticket to the Opera house (in Newport), to every one who makes a fifty-cent purchase at his store, "The Clover Leaf Farm Store" Southwest avenue, Tuesday.

From the Newport Daily News, January 31, 1933

Saturday afternoon 10 children met with Miss Mollie Carr ... for the purpose of forming a patriotic activity known as the "Sons and Daughters of the Revolution." This is a nation-wide organization.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, January 22, 1958

The Commerce Oil Refining Corp. plan to import foreign crude oil through the Gulf Oil Co. to the proposed refinery in Jamestown has been cited by a Wyoming senator who thinks congressional action may be needed to curb such imports.

From the Newport Daily News, January 23, 1958

Members of the Town Council yesterday were served court citations enjoining the Council and Commerce Oil Refining Corp. from abandoning a portion of Eldred Avenue until further order of the state Supreme Court.

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