

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Details needed on sole source aquifer

Next week representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will visit Jamestown to conduct a hearing on whether the island should be designated as a Sole Source Aquifer.

A petition for the designation was made in 2005 by the North End Concerned Citizens as part of its battle to keep the town from building a public works facility adjacent to the transfer station. Voters have since opted to put the highway garage elsewhere, but the Sole Source Aquifer petition remains active.

The hearing next week will give islanders an opportunity to learn more about the impact that the proposed Sole Source Aquifer designation will have on Jamestown. Residents will be allowed to ask questions and will also be permitted to comment on the petition.

Some town officials question if the Sole Source Aquifer designation is necessary. It certainly adds a new level of federal red tape to local projects. Could the designation be good for Jamestown? We simply need to know more about the program. That's why the hearing is important.

Copies of the petition are available to the public at the Town Hall and the Jamestown Philomelanian Library. The petition can be viewed online at www.jamestownri.net/new.html.

Take the time to review the petition. Then be sure to attend the hearing at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at the Jamestown library.

— Jeff McDonough

Question:

Do you think there should be a toll on the Mt. Hope Bridge?

Tell us what you think. Visit

www.JamestownPress.com



Zoning decision story is biased

As former residents of Jamestown for nearly eleven years, we still check into the island via the Jamestown Press. This past week we were shocked to read a piece passing itself off as a news item regarding the certificate of occupancy given Jack's Electric by the Zoning Board of Review.

Its author, Sam Bari, showed a nastiness regarding the Andres family that was as uncalled-for as it was unprofessional. With a dramatic tone, he characterized the Andres as "relentless" in their opposition, which they have every right to be, and focused on an "attempt to thwart the project with a series of legal maneuvers," which they have every right to do.

• LETTERS •

He states they "arrived at Town Hall with their Providence attorney." As opposed to North Kingstown? Cranston? Why is that news? "Nevertheless," Bari continues, the lawyer "argued for the Andres' for nearly two hours," and asked a question which "drew laughter from the board as well as from the audience."

Fortunately, according to the tone of Bari, wiser heads prevailed, and now "the House that Jack Built" can finally be occupied. Sam Bari even finished the piece with a Frank Capra ending, where "Jack's Electric President, Jack Brittain stood beside his wife, Mary, and daughter, Julie Swistak, and listened intently as the mo-

tion was read and ultimately approved. During the emotional moment immediately following the decision, Brittain could only say, "The fat lady finally sang." Slow fade. Music up.

It's this kind of politics-as-usual, trashing of "lesser folks" that has made Jamestown as much a great place to leave as it is to visit.

We've known the Andres', and found them to be good and decent people. We know the problem they and the street faced with that eyesore called Jack's Electric.

I would hope in the future that the Jamestown Press would practice decent journalism instead of character assassination via innuendo and cheap sarcasm. At pres-

ent, Bari's tone helps no one.

Stephen and Kae Geller

Fond memories of childhood football

Although I now reside in San Jose, California and have not lived in Jamestown for many years, I do enjoy reading about the island news and events through the online version of the Jamestown Press.

Growing up in Jamestown in the 80's, I often rode my bike up to the school to play flag football with the "older kids" in the evening. So, I was especially pleased to see that one of the "older kids" I remember seeing up there either refereeing or playing, Bill Piva, has resurrected the flag football games. It will

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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, February 4, 1908

With the thermometer only 2 degrees above zero this morning, a good ice crop seems assured. One or two more days of continued cold will allow the ice men time to fill their houses. Clarke cut 7-inch ice on his south pond yesterday, and today Peckham, Clarke and Littlefield are marking out on the north reservoirs.

The moving of the cottage from Knowles court to Walcott avenue, which was interfered with by the recent blizzard, was resumed today.

From the Newport Daily News, February 5, 1908

The first drift ice of the winter is passing down the west bay today in considerable quantities, while in the east bay traces of it are to be seen. As yet, however, the ice is not heavy enough to interfere with the ferries.

In moving the large barn to the Pierce place near the west ferry, it was necessary to cut many of the branches from the handsome row of trees in front of the Watson and Bevins estates on Narragansett avenue.

From the Newport Daily News, February 6, 1908

The local ice men were only able to get about half enough ice yesterday to supply the summer demand, and unless another freeze comes the price of ice next summer will probably be high.

The roller skate craze has arrived and a movement is on foot to organize a club here.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, February 1, 1933

A large number of pupils of both schools have been absent for the past week, owing to severe colds.

From the Newport Daily News, February 2, 1933

The new stone wall surrounding the cemetery at the Four Corners and extending across the front of the town library, re-



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of February 7

placing the old fence, is nearly completed, and is a creditable piece of work adding greatly to the appearance of this section of town. The gates, which are to be on the west side of the cemetery, making an entrance from the North Main road, will be placed there by the Jamestown Post, American Legion, as a memorial to departed comrades, and will add to the piece of work. The town library has just been newly painted, and its new setting is attractive in its quaintness.

From the Newport Daily News, February 9, 1933

The cement walk on the west side of Narragansett avenue engine house is fast nearing completion.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, February 4, 1958

The state Supreme Court yesterday set Feb. 12 as the date of a hearing on recent action taken by refinery opponents to halt abandonment of part of Eldred Avenue, Jamestown, to the Commerce Oil Refinery Corp. The court will decide the right of the refinery opponents to any hearing and the merits of their opposition to the road abandonment. ... The Town Council last Dec. 9, after a public hearing, ordered the road closed.

From the Newport Daily News, February 6, 1958

The first of the two additions to the Jamestown Ferry fleet, the 194-foot Richmond, steamed into her new home port early this afternoon after a 400-mile ocean voyage from Norfolk, Va. ... Ten of the Jamestown Ferry's crewmen had gone to Norfolk to bring the new acquisition back. ... The Jamestown ferry crew will go back to Norfolk and prepare to bring up the sister ship of the Richmond, the Norfolk. The two oil-fired craft were

purchased by Rhode Island in December for \$50,000 each from the Virginia highway department.

The 1958 quota for the Jamestown Red Cross Chapter drive has been received ... as \$1,297.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, February 2, 1983

The Town Council met with Robert Bendick, director of the Department of Environmental Management, to discuss the joint acquisition of the surplus Navy land at Fort Wetherill.

From the Newport Daily News, February 8, 1983

The Town Council and School Committee discussed the school budget Monday night. The budget request of \$1,960,670 represents a 12.7 percent increase over last year. Much of the increase is caused by a tuition increase at North Kingstown High School and salary increases for teachers and other personnel. North Kingstown raised the tuition to \$126,226. Teacher salaries are up \$87,756.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, February 4, 1993

The Town Council Monday approved a \$3.25 million government budget for 1993-94 that will add 88 cents to the tax rate and has yet to include salary increases for town employees.

At least a score of town water users will soon have their water tested for lead contamination. Homeowners will not be charged for the tests.

Ruptured batteries found on the ocean floor after the recent demolition of the Brenton Reef tower off Beavertail were probably used to operate that aid to navigation, according to a Coast Guard official.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, February 5, 1998

Everybody at Monday's informational workshop on establishing a land bank, funded by a real estate transfer tax, to purchase and preserve open space agreed on one thing: Open space, farmland, natural habitat; and water sheds should be

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