

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Deadline is *now* for new phone book

We are about to wrap up production of the 2008 Jamestown Telephone Directory. The phone book is mailed to every home on the island and extras are available in town for purchase.

The island phone book is published annually by the Jamestown Women's Club and the Jamestown Press. Proceeds from the publication are donated to the local women's club. Members of the club use the money to fund their good works about the island.

One of those good works is the annual Easter Egg Hunt which happens this Saturday, March 22, on the Shoreby Hill green. The hunt starts promptly at 10 a.m.

Every year we offer Jamestowners the opportunity to make changes to their listings in the phone book. We purchase the island phone listings from Verizon, so if there is anything you'd like to have different in the island phone book, we need to know about it. Clip out the phone book form on page 10 of this newspaper. Complete the form and mail it.

Please note that we do not save telephone listings from year to year. Even though you sent us your change last year, you need to send it to us again this year.

If you'd like to advertise in the 2008 Telephone Directory, call the Jamestown Press office right away at 423-3200. Don't delay or it will be too late for this year's publication.

Look for your copy of the annual phone book in the mail this May.

— Jeff McDonough



Support SSA designation

On Tuesday evening, March 11, I had the opportunity to sit in on a Jamestown Conservation Committee meeting, during which the members of the committee discussed and deliberated, among other things, the value and merits of the EPA's Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) designation for Conanicut Island and Jamestown. I was pleased to see that the committee members voted 6-1 in favor of going forward with a recommendation to the Town Council in favor of SSA designation. I highly applaud the committee's work, and wholeheartedly endorse their decision.

As one who lives on the

northern side of Conanicut Island, I have a very personal stake in the quality, purity and safety of the potable water source that my private well draws from the aquifer below. Over the last two years, I have observed extensive debate on the merits, both pro and con, of this recommended SSA designation for Jamestown by Town Council leadership, by the Conservation Committee members, by EPA and RI DEM technical experts, and by many concerned members of our community. I am pleased to note that the vast majority of these peoples are highly in favor of this designation.

But for the few doubting Thomases, I would like them to consider two things that might help them re-assess their position and sway their opinion. Check with the enlightened leadership in similar island communities off the New England coast (e.g., Block Island, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and islands off the coast of Maine) who have obtained this EPA designation over the last 25 years, to determine their perspectives and the empirical lessons learned. My guess is that the vast majority of them have found the SSA designation to be of great long-term benefit for their

communities.

A comprehensive, credible "cost" vs. benefit analysis on the merits of SSA designation would have to take into consideration the "cost avoidance" value attributable to just one single "failure" in keeping our aquifer safe. This "cost" could be enormous and could devastate the community. We have to promote zero tolerance for any circumstances that could result in tangible risks that threaten the safety of our sole source water supply.

Given this ominous era of global warming and the ever-increasing and chronic shortages of potable water at the local, regional, national and international levels, we

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• LETTERS •

Got something to say?

Write to us. 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. Letters must be limited to 700 words or less.

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, March 17, 1908

A carload of Canadian ashes has arrived in Newport for Mr. Alton Head and is being carted to his place here.

From the Newport Daily News, March 19, 1908

A carload of cows from New Hampshire arrived this morning for Mr. Seth Pierce.

From the Newport Daily News, March 20, 1908

Spring plowing has commenced and some of the farmers have already turned over several acres.

A car load of fertilizer has arrived in Newport for Mr. Amos L. Peckham and is being carted to the island.

The Whitewood cottage has been placed in position on Walcott avenue and a force of men is at work digging the cellar and building the foundation. (It was moved from Knowles Court.)

75 years

From the Newport Daily News, March 17, 1933

Joseph Matoes, who for several years has been in charge of the Weeden-Barber farm, purchased a few years ago by Alfred H. Jones, moved Thursday to the Clarke farm on Beavertail road, which he recently leased.

From the Newport Daily News, March 18, 1933

Jamestown's budget for the next fiscal year totals \$157,279.61, and will be submitted to the annual town meeting in April.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, March 18, 1958



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of March 20

A further delay in the registration of the financing prospectus for the proposed Jamestown oil refinery was brought about yesterday by the Commerce Oil Refining Corp. The firm filed another amendment to its original prospectus which will mean a 20-day extension before the Securities & Exchange Commission can fix the effective date of registering the prospectus.

For the first time in Jamestown's 300-year history, a woman will seek election to the Town Council on May 7. The name of Mrs. Marguerite Elliott Eddy of High Street was filed with the Republican slate of candidates.

From the Newport Daily News, March 19, 1958

The Army Engineers held a public hearing last night in the Jamestown Recreation Center to collect data on proposed improvements on Dutch Island harbor, a project that has been pending 12 years. ... Most of the 65 persons present wanted improvements in facilities for yachting on the west side of Jamestown, including a breakwater.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, March 24, 1983

Sen. John H. Chafee, R-R.I., has co-sponsored legislation to require congressional approval before the government can sell surplus land near parks or recreation

areas. The bill would apply to federal land in Jamestown that has been declared surplus by the General Services Administration.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, March 18, 1993

The Republican primary set for April 5 will be the first runoff needed to settle a local party slate in at least a quarter of a century

The Jamestown School Committee is scheduled to meet tonight with Town Administrator Frances Shocket and Recreation Director Matt Bolles to discuss the use of the school gymnasium for recreational programs.

Under Gov. Sundlun's proposed budget this year, Jamestown would lose \$204,433 in state aid to education, with \$126,208 of that amount attributed to cuts in special education and \$76,409 taken from teacher retirement funding.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, March 19, 1998

A third aquaculture project will be moving into Dutch Harbor within the next two weeks. This will be a small-scale research project similar to the lobster pot habitat project located directly to the north of the proposed site and unlike the larger commercial aquaculture venture of William Geib directly to the south.

Town officials will keep municipal water-use restrictions as they are, at least until next Monday, when they could be made stricter if officials think it is necessary. Public Works Director Steven Goslee told the Town Council, sitting as the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners this week, that the water supply from North Kingstown was just barely keeping up with demand.