

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Fireworks tradition returns to town beach

You may recall that last summer's fireworks extravaganza was the swan song for the Rocket Dawgz, an informal organization of islanders that for 12 years raised the money for and produced the annual Fourth of July pyrotechnical display.

We're pleased to report that the summer fireworks tradition will continue. The Town Council on Monday gave permission to a new group of islanders to stage a fireworks show at Mackerel Cove on Saturday, July 5.

This new group is calling itself the "Rocket (Quo) Hogs." The membership includes Gregg Charest, Kerry Sheehan, Bob Bailey, Ken Gladding, Scott Sherman, and Andrew Rushton.

As in the past, the quality of the local fireworks show depends on your donations. Send them your money and they will blow it up — it's the best bang for your buck that you'll find anywhere these days.

Show your patriotic spirit by mailing your donations to The Jamestown Fireworks Fund, c/o The Rocket 'Hogs, PO Box 1776, Jamestown, RI 02835.

You can also help out with the pyrotechnics by dropping your loose change into special "Ka-Boom" jars at island businesses.

For more information about the Rocket 'Hogs, call Gregg Charest at 423-3117 or Kerry Sheehan at 423-2568.

The Rocket 'Hogs promise that we'll have a blast this summer at the Mackerel Cove town beach.

— Jeff McDonough

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.



School budget gets support of SELAC

Two weeks ago, the Jamestown Press reported on the statement I made to the Jamestown School Committee regarding the Special Education Local Advisory Committee's (SELAC) position on the school budget. While the Press' report was not incorrect, it did not contain the full context of my statement.

Yes, I did mention our expectation that the School Committee should do the right thing should special situations arise, but I also stated that based on their past performance, both the school committee and the school department have acted accordingly and they have our confidence in keeping our students' best interests as their priority. I wish to thank the school committee and school department

• LETTERS •

for generating a responsible budget given the challenges dealt to them. I also wish to thank the administration, faculty, and support staff for their hard work in assuring that the key elements of our effective special education program stay in place. In conclusion, I would like to voice my personal support for the school budget for 2008-09.

Anthony J. Rafanelli
Chairman, SELAC

Thanks for wonderful theater program

Thank you to Mary Wright, Becky Brazil and Iris Bohensky for an amazing theater workshop program, sponsored by the Jamestown Community Theater (JCT)

and Jamestown Parks and Recreation Department.

These three women volunteered their time on Sunday afternoons for eight weeks to put on these programs. Their dedication to theater should be applauded! They have instilled a love of theater in each of the children (and adults) who participated in the workshops. The students had a great deal of fun and learned about acting while developing the self confidence to perform in front of a live audience. Hopefully, many of these actors will go on to perform with the JCT in the future. Thank you all for this terrific program!

Lisa Carlisle
Jamestown

Smart car is good for environment

Just recently my neighbor got a new car. This isn't just any car, it's a Smart Fortwo. This car is a little over eight and half feet long, and weighs less than 1,650 pounds. The Smart Fortwo is the smallest (and cutest) car on the market. It has only two seats, and a hatchback, so it wouldn't be the best car for a four person family. It is small enough that you can fit two Smarts in one parking space, vertically and horizontally. This car is efficient. The Fortwo gets about 31 miles per gallon. The factory is in Hambach, France and believe or not I've been inside the factory. They are mostly made for driving around town and such, not

See "Letters" on page 11

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 24, 1908

Several colored farm hands from the South arrived today.

From the Newport Daily News, March 25, 1908

Spring supplies of seed potatoes are being received on almost every ferry and the farmers are getting their fields in readiness for planting.

From the Newport Daily News, March 27, 1908

Several flocks of wild geese passed over the island this morning.

From the Newport Daily News, March 28, 1908

A large hoisting crane for Fort Wetherill was brought from Newport today.

Lighter Archer has landed a load of lumber on the Enterprise wharf, from Fall River, for Mr. J. H. Ellis, who is building a cottage on his property near the Four Corners.

The season for grass fires has arrived and although none have as yet been seen on the island there have been several burning in the Narragansett country.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, March 25, 1933

Jamestown has initiated action in the General Assembly for the purchase of the water plant owned by the Newport Water Company in that town. The move follows a similar move by Newport, and is a direct result of the increased rates allowed the Water Corporation by the Public Utilities Commission.

From the Newport Daily News, March 31, 1933

Many automobiles lined the East Shore toad Thursday



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of March 27

evening to watch the spectacular fire in Potter's Point, which the firemen, taking advantage of the stillness of the night, had started to burn off the dead brush and grass. The whole point was ablaze and could be seen from all parts of the island.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, March 25, 1958

The Jamestown Town Council last night appointed Councilmen Harold F. Shippee and Stephen R. Smith with F. James West, adjutant of Arnold-Zweir Post, American Legion, a committee to obtain the opinion of young men of the town on the organization of a Rhode Island National Guard unit.

From the Newport Daily News, March 26, 1958

A bill will be introduced in the state Senate this week by Alton Head Jr. (R-Jamestown) providing biennial elections in Jamestown at the same time as state and national elections in November.

From the Newport Daily News, March 28, 1958

A school budget of \$169,838, nearly \$30,000 higher than last year, was approved by the Jamestown Council sitting as a budget committee.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, March 28, 1983

Preparations are in full swing for "The Salute to the

USO," set for April 23, at the Jamestown Recreation Center.

From the Newport Daily News, March 29, 1983

The Town Council may try to control time-sharing projects in Jamestown before many can gain a foothold. The Council agreed 4-0 to have a public hearing on whether to expand the zoning definition of hotels to include time-sharing units.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, March 25, 1993

The Zoning Board Tuesday granted the town a special exception that will permit it to build a recreational ball field in a residential zone on a parcel of land at the corner of Eldred Avenue and East Shore Road.

Whether a 24-hour leash law referendum question will appear on the May election ballot might be decided at a special Town Council meeting next Monday at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to let residents voice their opinions on the pros and cons of having an around-the-clock dog ordinance, an issue previous councils have also faced.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, March 26, 1998

The town has quickly mobilized to offer a rabies vaccination clinic in light of the unprovoked attack, last week, by a fox on a local child.

The temporary restrictions on water use are not working as well as they could be. Public Works Director Steven Goslee told the Town Council Monday that the past Saturday and Sunday were still problems, and that the water treatment plant had to be turned on both days to boost up the water pressure.