

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Coyote information hotline has answers

It seems that just about everyone in Jamestown has a coyote story to tell. The critters are now an entrenched part of our island life.

We see the coyotes in our backyards and along the roads. Stories of coyotes snatching unsuspecting cats and small dogs have become grist for island legends. They probably keep the island skunk population under control.

Coyotes have adapted well to living wild on the fringes of our civilization. In fact, it is we humans who put out the food that keeps the coyotes coming back for more.

This week a coyote information hotline was launched by the Potter League for Animals and the Jamestown-based Conservation Agency Narragansett Bay Coyote Study.

Dial 924-HOWL (4695) to have your coyote questions answered by a knowledgeable expert. Safety concerns will be directed to the local police department.

If you would like to learn more about coyotes and the ongoing study, visit [www.theconservationagency.org](http://www.theconservationagency.org). There you'll find a boatload of information about these wild canines and the study underway to understand their behaviors.

— Jeff McDonough



## • LETTERS •

### New construction a monster to privacy

What has happened to Lower Shoreby Hill? Home construction in keeping with its 19th century appearance? Or with pleasant blending? Or neighborly consideration by builders? Nothing. Gone with the winds!

Witness next door to our Smith House, on Longfellow Road. Month after month of backhoes and bulldozers

and scores of huge trucks; all rebuilding parts of the Noll-built house on Standish atop the hill. But, now not only is a swimming pool being built on the property, but a two-story pool house, a mere two inches from my property line on the south.

Zoning laws require 18 feet in height of any structure, but does this look like it?

Not only does it block my view of peaceful 19th

century Priscilla Road, but the pool house in itself is an invasion of privacy so close.

Why has all this been allowed? Is it because Lower Shoreby Hill residents were not consulted? No one asked me if I would mind. The structure is just the last straw.

Diana Smith  
Jamestown

### 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](mailto: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.

### Need to get in touch with the press?

#### E-MAIL:

Announcements: [news@JamestownPress.com](mailto:news@JamestownPress.com)

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42 Narragansett Ave. • 423-3200

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, April 15, 1908

The fishermen are busy today setting their lobster pots, the closed season on lobsters having ended at 12 o'clock last night. Already the shores of the island are lined with buoys which mark the traps.

#### From the Newport Daily News, April 17, 1908

Mr. and Mrs. John Miller of Lincolnville, Maine have announced the marriage of their daughter, Annie Julia Miller, to Mr. John Eldred Watson of this town. Mr. Watson is one of the prominent men of the town, having held many public offices and for a long term of years conducted a grocery store on Narragansett avenue. Mr. and Mrs. John Watson arrived from Boston last evening and will make their home in the Watson homestead on the corner of Clinton and Narragansett avenues.

#### From the Newport Daily News, April 18, 1908

Indications point to a good season here this summer, as already cottages are being taken and the hotel proprietors report not only many inquiries but that a number of rooms in their houses are already taken.

#### From the Newport Daily News, April 20, 1908

15 Horses, 50 Cows, 40 Pigs will be sold at Auction, Tuesday, April 21 at the S. A. Pierce Co. Stables, Jamestown, R.I., West Ferry at 12 p.m.

#### From the Newport Daily News, April 21, 1908

Today's auction at the Pierce place attracted a large number of farmers from Newport and vicinity.

Arrangements are being made for a subscription dance to be given the last of the week.

#### 75 years ago

#### From the Newport Daily News, April 18, 1933

The next meeting of the Home Demonstration Extension Club will (have) ... the subject of the day being "Furniture Arrangement." Each member is asked to bring a plan of the room they wish to rearrange.

#### From the Newport Daily News, April 19, 1933

Elanson Thayer is at the Rhode Island Hospital



## This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

### Week of April 17

where an X-ray is being taken of his foot, which he injured a few days ago while playing ball.

J. Howard Bowen will open his White Nook Lunch room on Conanicus avenue Monday, April 24.

Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Godena, who live on old North road, befriended two aviators, who left Boston in a small plane, during a heavy fog late Monday afternoon with New York as their destination. While flying over the North end of the island they feared the danger of the dense fog, and decided to make a landing at the Godena farm. They were given shelter, and resumed their journey the following morning.

#### 50 years ago

#### From the Newport Daily News, April 15, 1958

The Jamestown Town Council last night approved for submission to the financial town meeting in May a budget of \$361,911.60. This is \$26,466.81 higher than last year's preliminary budget.

#### From the Newport Daily News, April 18, 1958

Mrs. Kathryn Zweir of 41 Green Lane, Jamestown, brunette mother of four, was crowned last night as Mrs. Rhode Island in a ceremony in Providence.

#### From the Newport Daily News, April 19, 1958

Commuters' books for passage over the Jamestown Bridge, which sell for \$2.50 for 10 trips with a time limit of 15 days, will have the limit extended to 21 days, effective at midnight tomorrow.

#### From the Newport Daily News, April 21, 1958

George La Vasseur was honored as the most valuable player in the Jamestown Senior Basketball League and Kenneth Froberg as the best sportsman in the round robin tournament at a basketball banquet for

the Jamestown Senior Girls and Boys Leagues, Friday night, at the Jamestown Elementary School. The affair was under the auspices of the Recreation Board.

#### 25 years ago

#### From the Newport Daily News, April 19, 1983

The Town Council will ask for a 30 percent fee on top of the cost of any future private water line extensions in an effort to build up the water department's capital improvement fund.

#### From the Newport Daily News, April 22, 1983

A total of 2,990 voters are eligible to vote in the May 4 town election.

#### 15 years ago

#### From the Jamestown Press, April 15, 1993

Property owners seeking to stop the town from building a ball field at the corner of Eldred Avenue and East Shore Road filed suit Monday in Newport Superior Court.

Spring is here and it's time for a little environmental housekeeping. In conjunction with the upcoming Earth day, the annual Island-wide Cleanup is set for this Saturday.

#### 10 years ago

#### From the Jamestown Press, April 16, 1998

Within the past week both of Rhode Island's U.S. Senators, John Chafee and Jack Reed, came to Jamestown to tour the historically significant Conanicut Battery that is the focus of a group preservation effort.

Voting 4-1 Monday, the Town Council sent enabling legislation to the Statehouse that will allow the town to create a land bank funded by a real estate transfer tax for the purpose of buying and protecting open space on the island.

Harbormaster Sam Paterson and Fire Chief Arthur Christman are working hard to get equipment for Jamestown that can be used to avert the catastrophic consequences of an oil spill off the island's shores.

Two of the volunteers (of the Jamestown Fire Department) are being recognized for their commitment to the department for over 50 years: Valmont "Bucky" Caswell and Dalton Brownell.