

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Time to scrap the state's DMV

File this editorial under the State Government Rants and Raves category.

Why are we funding a state government bureaucracy that operates under the mistaken assumption that we, the public, are working for them — instead of the other way around?

The state Department of Motor Vehicles is a futile waste of taxpayer money. My family has made four trips to the DMV to obtain a registration and title for a small boat trailer that's worth about \$400. Each time the individuals behind the DMV counter have had a different reason why a registration cannot be issued.

We've collectively spent about 10 hours waiting in line at the DMV office in Middletown to find frustration followed by more frustration.

The trailer, which came with a small sailing dinghy, was purchased out-of-state. We had the previous owner's title and the bill-of-sale. We were told no Rhode Island registration could be issued without proof that the trailer was registered in the previous state. The DMV person also mentioned that one should never buy anything from out-of-state.

So we get the first owner to send us a copy of his registration. That person had almost thrown it away because the boat and trailer had been sold. Then my wife went back to the DMV armed with the required paperwork and she was told that I had to present the documents because my name was on the bill-of-sale.

So I go back to the DMV and I am told no license can be issued because the bill of sale did not meet their specifications. However, the DMV person said that next time anyone could bring back the paperwork.

I then send my 17-year-old daughter (who gets to sail the boat) back to the DMV with the revised paperwork and she is told that a copy of the previous owner's registration was not good enough. Now the DMV wants the original, which no longer exists.

A huge amount of time has been wasted and the trailer is still not registered. Charge me the sales tax and registration fee and let's move on! I've lived in three other states — Indiana, New York and Ohio. Those states were a breeze when it came to dealing with their departments of motor vehicles. Why must Rhode Island be so difficult?

I could also rant about how it took three trips to the local DMV in Rhode Island to get a driver's license for my daughter. Another seven hours of frustration.

Of course when one shares the DMV tales with fellow Rhode Islanders it seems that just about everyone has their own DMV horror stories. Why do we allow this to continue?

It's time to scrap the DMV and outsource the whole thing to private business. We cannot balance the state budget. Without doubt the DMV system could be run more efficiently and save the state money.

— Jeff McDonough

### Rocket-'Hogs want to blow up your money

The clock is ticking on the time left to send your donations to those island pyrotechnic wizards who are planning to stage our Independence Day holiday weekend blast.

Jamestown's annual spectacular summer fireworks display will kick off at 9 p.m. on Saturday, July 5, at the Mackerel Cove town beach.

The Rocket-'Hogs (the young upstarts who are following in the footsteps of the Rocket Dawgz, the guys who staged the display for many years) say they still need contributions to make this year's event match the fireworks extravaganza to which we've become accustomed.

The Rocket-'Hogs say send them the money now because there is only one week left until the big day.

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

Donations of all amounts will be most appreciated. You can also help out with the Independence Day pyrotechnics by dropping your loose change into special "Ka-Boom" jars at island businesses.

Remember, the more you donate, the bigger the ka-boom on July 5th!



"BRINGING 'WIND POWER' TO WEAVER'S COVE"

### Library needs volunteers

Every year, the library manages to move thousands of pounds of books from the basement to the meeting hall with the help of scouts and other strong, young people who are willing to give up a morning to the effort. This year is no exception. Our Jamestown Boy Scouts are on board to haul box upon box of great books up from the basement the morning of Monday, July 7 between 9 a.m. and noon.

Starting at 1 p.m. the afternoon of July 7, and every day the library is open until

the afternoon of Thursday, July 10, we will be looking for help with organizing and arranging the book sale. For students working toward community service hours, a certificate of participation will be given for the hours worked.

Interested volunteers should call Judy Bell at 423-7280 for more information and to sign up.

Many thanks.

Judith H. Bell  
Library Director

## • LETTERS •

### Thanks to tennis supporters

Jamestown Fitness and the Conanicut Yacht Club, presenters of the Roger Chase Memorial Tennis Tournament, would like to thank the sponsors of this event including, Bank of Newport, Bill Del Nero Laundry & Cleaners, Conanicut Marine, Michael Dupre, East Ferry Market, David and Trish Evangelista, and Joseph Yoffa Custom Woodworking.

We would also like to thanks Ann and Bruce McIntyre, Morneau and Murphy, Ocean Point Insurance Agency, R.A.M. Construction, The Secret Garden, Jack and Patty Sheehan, Trattoria Simpatico and Slice of Heaven.

Special thanks also to those who donated to the silent auction including Newport Country Club, Carnegie Abbey Club, Conanicut Marine Services, Wilson, Viking, Island Accupuncture, Conanicut Massage Therapy, Sandy Wood, Steve Heath, Phil Johnson, and Jamestown

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## This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

### Week of June 26

*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, June 26, 1908

The graduating exercises of the grammar school were held in the forenoon in the school building on Southwest avenue. ... The school room in which the exercises took place was barely large enough to accommodate the friends and parents of the pupils who attended. ... There were five members of this year's class to graduate—Clara Head, Hope Higgins, Clara Howland, Bessie Sheehan and Richard Cory.

#### From the Newport Daily News, June 27, 1908

One bungalow has been completed at the new shore resort on the Carr farm. A portion of this farm has been platted and named Narragansett Park, and a wharf is under construction, as is also another bungalow. The location of the Park is about a mile and one half above the town on the east shore of the island.

#### From the Newport Daily News, June 29, 1908

Dr. W. Lincoln Bates gave an informal reception today at the Bates sanitarium in honor of the graduation of his wife, Mrs. Martha B. Bates, from Boston University as a doctor of medicine. There were about 250 guests from Boston, Providence and other places and a full 75 from Jamestown. The house was extensively decorated with cut flowers and plants, green being the prevailing color.

Weakfish have struck in good numbers, the local fishermen getting large catches in their traps yesterday

and today.

#### 75 years ago

#### From the Newport Daily News, June 26, 1933

The weather favored the members of the Holy Ghost Societies from Providence, Fall River, New Bedford, Newport, and Portsmouth, which came to Jamestown Sunday to celebrate the sixth annual Festival of the Holy Ghost Society.

Beginning July 1, the postage on letters mailed for local delivery in Jamestown will be two cents. On letters addressed to persons or individual outside of the town or letters mailed at the two cent rate and required to be forwarded, the postage will be three cents.

There will be many local and state official guests at the fourth birthday party of the Jamestown American Legion and Auxiliary.

#### From the Newport Daily News, June 27, 1933

The graduation exercises of the Thomas H. Clarke school were held Monday evening in the Palace Theatre, when one of the largest graduating classes in the history of the town concluded their grammar school work. The theatre held a capacity audience. The exercises opened at 7:30, the rise of the curtain displaying a class of 29 boys and girls, the former wearing dark clothes and the girls arrayed in white gowns and holding arm bouquets of pink roses. The class motto, "Excelsior," in gold letters on a red satin background gave a pretty touch to the picture. The class colors are red and white and the class flower, carnation.

#### From the Newport Daily News, June 29, 1933

(At the School Committee it was voted) that the Fisk Teachers Agency be requested to furnish the names of three candidates for the position of teaching and a superintendent (B. C. Trowt had resigned) at a salary of \$2,000. Rhode Island candidates should be given preference.

#### 50 years ago

#### From the Newport Daily News, June 24, 1958

(At the Town Council meeting it was determined

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