

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Top 10 Jamestown ideas for summer fun

Summer is in full swing here in Jamestown. The weather is ideal and the days are long. So what should you do with your time? Here are a few suggestions for your consideration:

1) Head to the shore. Go swimming at the Mackerel Cove town beach. Build a sand castle. Hike along the rocks at Beavertail State Park. Search for sea glass in the sand at the East Ferry beach. Conanicut Island has miles of shoreline to explore. Every stretch has something new for you to discover.

2) Go fishing. There's some great fishing from our island's shores. The biggest fish I ever caught was a striper from the shore on the north end of the island. If you are lucky enough to have access to a power boat, there's even more fish in the waters offshore. Got a question about what's biting and where? See Greg at Zeek's Creek Bait & Tackle for the latest insider island angling info.

3) Dust off your bicycle and go for a ride. Jamestown is a great place for cycling enthusiasts. You can pedal from north to south and east to west. Stop and explore the sites in between.

4) Strap on those in-line skates and stretch your legs. I've found the best place to blade is Beavertail State Park. There the roads are flat and smooth and the views are spectacular. Of course, we have lots of other spots around the island that are good for skating. If you are not a skater, Jamestown is also a great place for running.

5) Explore our island museums. For a small community, we certainly have many museums and they are all unique. Discover our island lore at the Jamestown Museum. You'll learn all about fire-fighting at the Fire Memorial Museum. The history of lighthouses on the bay is waiting for you at the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum. Next door is the aquarium where your kids can learn about our seaside wildlife. You'll see Native American artifacts at the Sydney L. Wright museum room at the Jamestown library. While you are at the library, check out a few books for summer reading. Then visit the historic windmill and Quaker Meetinghouse on North Main Road.

6) Go sailing. This has to be my all-time favorite activity. There is nothing better than having the wind fill your sails as you scamper along the sparkling waters of Narragansett Bay. When you are sailing all is quiet except for the splash of water on the boat hull and the occasional seagull cry. Don't have a boat? Visit Sail Newport across the bay. They will teach you how to sail and also have boats available to rent.

7) Pick a park and have a picnic. Jamestown is a picnicker's haven, starting with Beavertail, Fort Getty and Fort Wetherill. Sometimes the best places are those close to home.

8) Take a hike. We have miles of public trails on Conanicut Island. If you are quiet, the odds are good that you will see some of our wildlife. Bird watchers love Jamestown. For information on where to hike, pick up the Conanicut Island Trails Guide available at the Town Hall and at many other locations around the community.

9) Discover Watson Farm. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, the Watson Farm is a true working farm that is home to beef cattle, sheep, horses, ducks, turkeys and chickens. The Watson Farm is a hidden Jamestown jewel and is an excellent place to spend a few hours. Be sure to hike up through the pastures and down to the rocky beach. The views are outstanding!

10) Don't miss the concerts! There's live music every Sunday evening during the summer at East Ferry starting at 6:30. Admission is free. Take a lawn chair or a blanket and relax.

Whew! That's quite a list. You'd better get busy. Summer doesn't get any better than what you'll find in Jamestown. Enjoy!

— Jeff McDonough



A Rhode Island DMV odyssey

By coincidence, I went through the amazing experience of attempting to transit the DMV process of registering a boat trailer in the Middletown office this past Thursday.

I had attempted to call the DMV, however their automated answering system seems by design to prohibit any member of the public from actually succeeding in

any attempt to speak with a live employee. Maybe that's called "customer service" in the vernacular of DMV. But, I call that no service. I then went on to the DMV Web site and determined that I needed multiple documents from the seller of the trailer that I was attempting to register. After obtaining all of the required

info, I departed for the DMV Odyssey in Middletown.

Upon arrival at the DMV at 8:45 a.m., I found myself to be the lucky recipient of machine issued ticket number A034...in a queue of what appeared by accurate count to be a line of only twenty people ahead of me.

I wanted to ask a few

questions but there was no information window in sight. Perhaps the first tickets had been issued on the previous afternoon? Thus I made myself comfortable and wondered why I hadn't realized that I could have read at least 10 to 15 chapters in my current book during the following four and a half hour wait. This is what I learned: Rule No. 1, Bring a thick book, No. 2, bring at least one meal,

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• LETTERS •



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of July 10

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, July 7, 1908

The cable of the Western Union Telegraph Company between Newport and the island is out of order and messages by the line have to be sent by the ferries.

From the Newport Daily News, July 8, 1908

A number of people arrived today to attend the convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, to be held here commencing today.

From the Newport Daily News, July 10, 1908

The weekly serial races of the Conanicut Yacht Club will commence this afternoon.

From the Newport Daily News, July 11, 1908

The first hop of the season will be given tonight in the Gardner House hall.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 10, 1933

(At the Jamestown Board of Trade meeting), as the supply of printed pamphlets of Jamestown was nearly exhausted it was deemed advisable to have more printed. ... It was voted that the dues be reduced to \$3. This, many thought, would be an inducement to join.

From the Newport Daily News, July 8, 1933

The Young Women's Christian Association vacation camp, "Seaside," at Conanicut Park opened for the season Friday ... when more than 100 girls, parents and friends spent the day at the camp.

There was a large attendance at the Saturday Night dance at the Casino, Gadsby's orchestra of Fall River furnishing music.

From the Newport Daily News, July 13, 1933

(At the School Committee meeting) Chairman Hinckley reported that he attended a meeting of the Newport school committee, at which time it was stated that the per capita cost of secondary education in New-

port had been figured at \$143 per pupil and they were thereby losing about \$18 on each pupil.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 7, 1958

(During the Newport Jazz festival) Manager John F. Boone, of the ferry system, who skippered one of the ferries early yesterday morning, when an emergency arose, said the traffic was so heavy it created a record, Boone said. Two boats were operated around the clock with a third frequently put on the run.

From the Newport Daily News, July 10, 1958

The Jamestown Little League Tigers defeated the Red Sox 7-2 last night at the Clarke field. Steve Bakios was the winning pitcher.

From the Newport Daily News, July 12, 1958

The Supreme Court yesterday denied a petition filed by property owners asking that the Jamestown Town Council's action in abandoning a section of Eldred Avenue be quashed.

Is that a fish? Is the first question suggested by a glance at the 200-pound ocean sunfish caught yesterday afternoon in waters between Horsehead and Kettle Bottom Rock.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 7, 1983

The Town Council Wednesday night called for a closer look at a zoning amendment to regulate the conditions under which apartment buildings and multi-family housing may be built.

Clingstone, also known as "the House on the Rocks" at the entrance of Narragansett Bay, may be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Jamestown Planning Board learned Wednesday night.

From the Newport Daily News, July 9, 1983

Vacant theater becomes new mini-shopping mall. [Roy Dutra and Ed Holland bought the 60-year-old building from Jamestown Theatre Inc. for \$60,000 last December. Stores mentioned in the mall were: Island Omelet Shop, Paradise Alley (casual clothing), Bullshirts (t-shirts with messages), Cornucopia (health foods) and Sew What (dressmaking and alterations), Arlene's Bake Shop and a bakery.]

From the Newport Daily News, July 12, 1983

The Town Council will look at one more idea to solve the town's trash disposal problem, before deciding whether to send its rubbish to a regional transfer

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