

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

We can set the pace for energy efficiency

One could almost hear the collective sigh of relief this week as the price for one gallon of gasoline dipped a penny or two below the \$4 mark. We now think of gas that costs \$3 or less as the good old days.

Of course, none of us expect gas prices to continue on a steady decline. The high cost of oil will really hit home when we begin heating our homes this fall. That's why we must increase our conservation efforts and look for alternative sources of energy.

While researching how small towns are saving money in light of ever rising fuel costs, I came across a story about Rock Port, Mo. As of April, this Midwestern town of 1,300 people became the first 100-percent wind-powered community in the United States. Four wind turbines located within the town limits produce 16 million kilowatt hours annually. Excess wind-generated electricity not used by the town is sold to the local electric utility.

This sounds like what our island wind energy committee is currently studying. The wind turbines used by Rock Port are impressive examples of technology. Each turbine sits atop a 250-foot-tall steel tower. The turbine is driven by three 90-foot-long blades. A minimum wind speed of nine miles per hour is needed to begin generating electricity. Maximum power output is achieved with winds of 14 mile per hour.

This certainly sounds like an interesting alternative to the 21.7 percent hike in our electricity rates that we will be paying to National Grid as of last week. So how many of these wind turbines could we build at Beavertail?

There are others ways that our town can save money. This week we learned that the Jamestown police will return to foot patrols in the village as part of its outreach to the community. That's a good start. Walking saves fuel, too. If we go further with that idea, police officers could take to riding bicycles in our residential areas as part of the community outreach. We could also put our police officers on electric scooters.

When it comes time to purchase a new police vehicle, the town could opt for an all-electric cruiser. A number of small-town and university police departments are considering replacing their gas guzzling machines with electric alternatives. Several police departments have mandated that officers no longer allow their cars to idle. Instead they turn off the vehicles.

We can replace our street lights. The city of Ann Arbor, Mich., is currently operating LED street lights and expects to save \$1.4 million per year. We can also replace interior building lights with energy efficient CFLs as the old light bulbs burn out.

Some towns have formed special task forces and committees to study ways of saving money on their energy bills. If you have any energy-saving suggestions for the town, send us a letter to the editor and we'll share your idea.

— Jeff McDonough

When important local news is happening, check our Web site
www.JamestownPress.com

We'll keep you informed!

**JAMESTOWN
THE PRESS**



Thanks for a great fireworks display

You gave us \$13,000 and we blew it up! What makes this event successful is the support of the people of Jamestown.

The Rocket 'hogs are very thankful to everyone who mailed in a check, or donated anonymously, but we are also thankful to everyone who put time and effort into this venture. On behalf of the Rocket 'hogs,

• LETTERS •

thank you to B.J. Whitehouse for providing guidance to make the transition easy.

Thank you to the Town Council for allowing this amazing tradition to continue, to Town Clerks Arlene Petit and Kim Turcone for their guidance with paperwork and the inner work-

ings of town government, Town Administrator Bruce Keiser, Jeff McDonough of the Jamestown Press, for excellent press coverage, and speaking of press coverage, thank you to the Walrus for keeping his tradition of drumming up support and informing us about everything fireworks.

Thank you to the island businesses that were collection sites: McQuade's Market, Jamestown Wine and Spirits, Grapes and Gourmet, Jamestown Hardware, Ace's Pizza, and Conanicut Marina.

While these people are not "hogs," they are actually more integral to making this event happen. Thanks to Chief Tom Tighe, Lt. Bill Donovan and the entire po-

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This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden
Week of July 24

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 24, 1908

The first band concert of the season was given last evening on the upper deck of the Conanicut. The boat carried large crowds during the concert and the cool breeze, after the excessive heat of the day, put the audience in a humor to appreciate the music.

From the Newport Daily News, July 25, 1908

The ferry company's automobile to transfer passengers across the island between the ferries was put in commission today, having had a new engine put in to replace the one recently broken.

From the Newport Daily News, July 27, 1908

Mr. T. Remington Wright is confined to his home from an injury sustained while playing ball recently. He was catching at the time without a chest protector and was hit by a foul tip.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 24, 1933

While fishing near Beavertail light, Fred Doran of Fall River hooked a freak of nature in the form of a three-tailed blackfish. While normal in other respects the fish had fully-developed tails growing on either side of its regulation tail. A good deal of attention was attracted to the unusual catch, while Mr. Doran was waiting for the ferry to make his return trip.

From the Newport Daily News, July 27, 1933

Marshall B. Hinckley addressed the (town) council in regard to the town owning a water works plant and also an electric light plant, and offered to submit to the council his correspondence with consulting engineers concerning the matter.

It was voted that a communication from E. L. Phillips of a request that he be granted permission to install two gasoline tanks outside the building on the P.

H. Horgan property on Clinton avenue be received and request granted.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 25, 1958

Statements made by Herman Gunter, vice president of the Commerce Oil Corp., comparing a refinery in Anacortes, Wash., with the proposed Jamestown oil refinery, were challenged before the Wakefield Rotary Club yesterday in a talk by G. Wightman Williams, vice president of the Narragansett Bay Home Owners Assn.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 22, 1983

The Zoning Board of Review will hear a proposal Tuesday night to tear down the former Harbor View Nursing Home on Conanicus Avenue and to build condominiums there.

From the Newport Daily News, July 26, 1983

The Town Council Monday night took two steps toward preserving more than 150 acres of Jamestown's open space from development. ... the Council agreed to consider establishing land trusts with any interested owners of large open tracts. The Council also directed Town Administrator Robert W. Sutton Jr. to work out an agreement to let the state buy another 7 1/2 acres of former Navy land at Fort Wetherill — and then lease a portion of it back to the town.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, July 22, 1993

A nine-hole golf course designed by a world-famous golf course architect may soon be returned to its original beauty and be ready for play in about two years. A restoration project is underway for the Beaver Tail Golf Course, designed by Albert Warren Tillinghast.

The southbound Jamestown exit prior to the Newport Bridge toll plaza will be blocked off today or tomorrow and local traffic will have to use Weeden Lane as a detour.

The use of Melrose Avenue School by outside organizations has led the School Committee to believe that they need to charge a user fee to compensate janitorial staff for the extra workload.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, July 23, 1998

A completed traffic study on the feasibility of reduc-

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