

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Island Community Farm yields more than veggies

The Jamestown Community Farm will open on Tuesday mornings starting next week as part of a new program that will give children with autism and behavioral disorders hands-on experience with local agriculture.

Farm Manager Bob Sutton said the farm will be open on Tuesdays from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Farm volunteers will work alongside the students and teachers from the Jamestown School.

Sutton has worked hard to expand the community education programs at the farm. "This is part of what the community farm is all about. It keeps the farm active in the community and fits with our goals," he said.

Sutton, who serves on the Jamestown Town Council, would like to involve more island youngsters in activities at the farm. He believes that teaching our youth about how and where we obtain our food are important lessons as we strive to maintain a local sustainable economy.

Kids have a better understanding of the agriculture process when they get to see where the food is grown. Hands-on lessons leave a lasting impression on eager young minds.

The school program is partially funded through a National Science Foundation grant, according to Bob Fricklas, director of student services at the Jamestown School.

"The essence of the program is to give students experiential learning through a non-traditional community hands-on approach," he said. "The community is the classroom."

The program, which will start small as a pilot effort, will eventually serve students in several grade levels. The goal is to expand the program at both Melrose and Lawn Avenue Schools, Fricklas said.

We have begun to recognize that food grown locally is better for the environment than food that is shipped here from the other side of the globe and that locally grown food is also healthier for us because it is often grown organically.

Next week the Jamestown School students will pick the ripe vegetables in the fields, sort and weigh the vegetables, and then sell the veggies to the public at the farm stand.

Fricklas said the farm experience will provide the students with a real-world approach to math, science and social skills.

Islanders are invited to stop by the community farm on Eldred Lane for fresh beans, squash, peppers and cucumbers. Tomatoes will be ripe in about one week, Sutton said.

The community farm stand is also open on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers staff the farm stand in the morning. Veggies are available in the afternoon through the honor system.

Volunteers are welcome to help at the farm on Tuesday mornings, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturday mornings.

— Jeff McDonough



Thanks to those who helped with civics lesson

We would like to thank Barbara Szepatowski who facilitated a class civics project conducted by the eighth grade class at Lawn Avenue School.

In June, the eighth grade Project Citizen Project selected the Jamestown Animal Shelter out of 42 projects from across the state at the Project Citizen State

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Showcase to go on to the National Project Citizen Showcase in New Orleans.

Students responsible for this project were Dan Gorelick, Daniel Jennings, Danny Bailey, Ivy Burns, Nicole Perez, Sydney Keen, Ellen Bednarczyk, Sarah Smith, Nick Lutes, James Perry, Shay Reilly, Ryan

Rosa, Christian Ellerbe, Shannon Sheeky, Charlie Wooley, Shane Farrelly, Matt Demieri, Christian Kowoluchuck, Josh Sheehan and Anthony Will.

Students were asked to identify a problem, research it, propose solutions, and an action plan to implement the selected solution.

Szepatowski supported the project by facilitating the student's research and encouraging students to participate in the political process with a presentation to the Town Council.

In addition, Rhode Island was selected to represent New England at the conference and four students from Jamestown were selected to represent their class at the National Conference

See "Letters" on page 14



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of July 31

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 28, 1908

Each year the Jamestown Improvement Society has appealed to the residents and summer visitors for support in the work of making this resort acceptable and beautiful. The responses have come from a very small number of persons, and quite a number of these have died or moved away. The work of the society is so in evidence that it seems superfluous to recite the directions in which it goes. ... The society sends its men each day to pick up debris on the streets, cut grass on the highways, plants trees and flowers and put paths in safe condition.

The race of the large fleet of 15-footers off the east shore yesterday afternoon presented a pretty sight.

From the Newport Daily News, July 29, 1908

All the potato raisers on the island are now shipping their crops, at no time this season has the price been low. At the present figure, \$2.35 per barrel, the crop can be handled profitably.

From the Newport Daily News, July 20, 1908

Sloop White Cap discharged a deck load of gasoline here today for the Gardner House.

The crop of wild blackberries on the island is very heavy this year, and quantities are being shipped daily to Newport.

From the Newport Daily News, August 1, 1908

The arrival of the training fleet in the east harbor has brightened up the town.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 28, 1933

The school committee of Jamestown ... elected Clifton E. Bradley of Springfield, Mass., superintendent of schools, to succeed Branford C. Trowt, who resigned.

Thursday was red-letter day in the history of Jamestown Garden Club Flower Show. Never have there been so many charming and original exhibits as were shown, and the attendance far exceeded that of any previous exhibition held by the club.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 28, 1958

A new unofficial record of one hour, 52 minutes for the Newport-Jamestown swim was set yesterday by Tina Martin, 18, of 38 Hammond St. The previous record for the two and a half mile swim was held by Walter Gray, 18, of Portsmouth who made the distance in an even two hours on July 4, 1957. ... The usual route for the bay crossing swim starts at Poplar Street ramp on Washington Street and ends at East Ferry Beach in Jamestown.

Four Destroyer Force runs in the sixth shattered a 1-1 tie and gave the Navy team a 5-1 Sunset League win over Jamestown yesterday at Cardines Field.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 27, 1983

The Zoning Board of Review Tuesday night unanimously approved construction of a six-unit condominium complex at the site of the former Harbor View Nursing Home. The board granted variances to Norman H. Beretta, contract owner, and Harbor View Condominiums Inc., owner, to tear down the existing building on Conanicus Avenue, and to put up a new two-story building to house the six units.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, July 29, 1993

The Town Council agreed Monday night to postpone voting on the state's proposal to upgrade North Road until a public workshop on the project with transportation officials can be held.

Save the Bay has permission to end its annual Swim the Bay fundraiser at Potter Cove, providing participants understand that they are swimming in the cove's "ugly" waters at their own risk. Acting on the direction of the Town Council, Town Administrator Frances Shocket sent a letter tweaking the state's largest environmental group for giving the town's sewage treatment plant an ugly rating in its annual report on area wastewater treatment plants titled "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly."

See "History" on next page

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