

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

A busy August for Jamestown

Looking for something to do? The island calendar is filling up quickly for the month of August. Here's a quick look at what's in store:

Tonight from 5 to 7 p.m. is the opening reception for "Art around the Bay," the first open juried show hosted by the Conanicut Island Art Association at the Town Hall Gallery.

Friday, Aug. 8: just in time for the Olympics is SkateFest 2008, hosted by the Jamestown Teen Center at the Jamestown Skate Park.

Sunday, Aug. 10: bring your lawnchairs for the outdoor concert at 6:30 p.m. at East Ferry Memorial Square.

Wednesday, Aug. 13: shop 'till you drop at the annual Jamestown Sidewalk Sale, hosted by the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce and participating merchants.

Wednesday, Aug. 13: there are good times as the annual Jamestown Talent Show, sponsored by the Jamestown Community Chorus, takes to the stage at 7 p.m. at the Recreation Center.

Thursday, Aug. 14: the Friends of the Library will take to the water at 3:45 p.m. for their annual Narragansett Bay cruise. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the library.

Thursday, Aug. 14: the Jamestown Historical Society will hear about New England's famous stone walls at its annual meeting, which starts at 7:30 p.m. at the library.

Friday, Aug. 15: an evening to remember at the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce "Gettywood: Night at the Fort." The evening dinner and dance will benefit the Jamestown Community Theatre. Tickets are available at many local businesses.

Saturday, Aug. 16: the annual Conanicut Island Art Association's Craft Show takes place at the Recreation Center.

Sunday, Aug. 17: bring a blanket to the outdoor concert at 6:30 p.m. at East Ferry Memorial Square.

Wednesday, Aug. 20, through Sunday, Aug. 24. An opening reception at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 20 kicks off the annual Art Exhibit hosted by the Conanicut Island Art Association at the Recreation Center

Saturday, Aug. 23: the zany naval architects and sailors take to the waters at East Ferry for the annual Fool's Rules Regatta.

Saturday, Aug. 23: the good folks at St. Mark Church roll out the red carpet for their annual Summer Festival. Good food and fun!

Sunday, Aug. 24: we need fireworks as the Jamestown Community Band plays at the final outdoor concert of the season at 6:30 p.m. at East Ferry Memorial Square.

Saturday, Aug. 30: get in the swim at the Conanicut Island Sailing Foundation annual fundraiser Pool Party.

Of course this schedule does not include the many programs during the month at the Jamestown Philomenian Library. It also does not include the fact that the Jamestown Community Farm is open every Tuesday morning and afternoon, Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning.

I think it is safe to say that August is easily our busiest month here in Jamestown.

— Jeff McDonough



Thanks for help with deed restriction bill

Recently, West Reach Estates Association realized that a little-known state law would cause our deed restrictions, which were instituted by our developer Commerce Oil Refinery, to expire very soon.

Our board of directors felt this to be detrimental to our neighborhood for many reasons; among them the care of our two ponds and their commonly-owned lots. Our hard-working state legislators and our Jamestown Town Council deserve a big

thank you for their assistance to our community.

Our board and members of the board of another Commerce development, East Passage Lot Owners Association, met with our state legislators Representative Bruce Long and Senator Teresa Paiva-Weed to find a solution. Working together, we drafted legislation to exempt our developments' restrictions from expiration and asked for their legislative assistance. We found that we needed

approval of the Town Council before the process went forward and our council, understanding the positive impact of a restricted community, gave us their full support.

It takes a tremendous effort to shepherd a bill through the process of becoming law and our two leaders were diligent in keeping ours moving along as well as keeping us informed every step of the way. Last month, our bill became law and we couldn't

be happier.

Thank you members of our Jamestown Town council for your unanimous support.

Thank you Sen. Paiva-Weed and Rep. Long for a job well done and for caring enough to do it!

**Jill Anderson,
Janet LaMantia,
Richard Koster,
Bill Sharpe,
Hal Krider
West Reach Estates
Association
Board of Directors**

See "Letters" on page 18

• LETTERS •



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of August 7

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, August 3, 1908

This morning the passengers on the ferries had an unusual sight witnessing a large school of porpoises feeding and frolicking in the bay. On several trips the ferry went directly through the school and some of the large fish broke water directly beneath the guards of the boat.

From the Newport Daily News, August 7, 1908

Many blackberry parties visit the island from Newport daily. A number were caught yesterday afternoon in the heavy shower and drenched.

A number of farmers from Newport and Narragansett are on the island today, to attend the auction of livestock at the S. A. Pierce place, near the west ferry.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, August 1, 1933

Many citizens of Jamestown, especially those of a generation ago, will be interested on learning that the Chapel of the Transfiguration, which had stood for many years on the old North road, near Carr's lane, has been purchased from the Protestant Episcopal Church of Rhode Island by Mrs. Georgina Logan Day ... and is moved by Thomas Preece of Newport to a lot on Harbor street.

Eugene S. Newbold entertained 50 members of the Beavertail Golf and Country Club at the club Saturday. Previous to the tournament, dinner was prepared and served by LaForge of Newport.

From the Newport Daily News, August 4, 1933

Paul Weicker tamed the Hummers as he twirled Jamestown to an 8-5 victory in the Sunset League at the Basin Thursday evening. He allowed only four hits, struck out 11 and passed seven. An old shoulder ailment forced him to retire in the eighth. Jim Drury relieved him.

From the Newport Daily News, August 5, 1933

Section Jamestown of the Socialist party held its monthly meeting at the home of Arthur B. Hinckley on High street, Chairman Bolender presiding. Organizer Hinckley read a letter sent to the Jamestown town council, asking for an explanation on the refusal of the use of the town hall.

From the Newport Daily News, August 8, 1933

That Jamestown still holds its popularity with the older officers of the navy was clearly shown at the annual admiral's party. (Seventeen were present.)

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, August 1, 1958

For the first time in more than 25 years the name of State Sen. Alton F. Head Jr. will not be identified with politics in Jamestown Republican circles. His withdrawal from the political field was the major incident to filing of Newport County declarations of candidacy yesterday.

Jamestown out batted Broadway Hardware, 11-5, last evening in a 5-5 Sunset League stalemate ended by rain at the end of six innings.

From the Newport Daily News, August 7, 1958

Two commercial oil tankers (SS Gulf Oil and SS S. E. Graham) collided in thick fog in the entrance to Newport harbor at 6:37 a.m. today and were immediately ripped by fire and explosion that killed at least 15 men and injured an estimated 30.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, August 2, 1983

The water was cold and choppy, but 100 swimmers participated in Save the Bay's seventh annual Save the Bay event Saturday.

Officials working on the proposed waterfront ordinance want to "keep it simple" and still control the growth of moorings in Jamestown. Toward these ends, the Town Council and the Waterfront Authority Monday night spent the better part of a two-hour workshop discussing how much to charge whom for mooring fees.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, August 5, 1993

Opponents of the cross-island highway now under construction plan to appeal a federal judge's ruling that the project does not violate environmental-protections laws.

Economists may be forecasting more gloom and doom, but many island shopkeepers and restaurants say this summer's business has been better than expected.

The construction project at West Ferry, with the exception of a few remaining details, has finally been completed. The project

See "History" on page 7

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