

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Labor Day heralds the best season of the year

Labor Day has arrived. I find this holiday an odd one. Labor Day has always meant to me that summer is over. The arrival of Labor Day signals that it is time to return to school and go back to work. Crack the books — vacation fun is over.

There is a positive side to Labor Day. This holiday heralds the beginning of a new season — fall. Autumn doesn't officially arrive until Sept. 22, but Labor Day means to me that fall is already here.

Fall transforms Jamestown from a bustling New England summer attraction into a sleepy scenic coastal village. The summer tourists are gone and we've got the streets to ourselves again. It will be easy to find a parking space in front of Jamestown Hardware.

I don't know why, but the weather seems nicer in the fall. The humidity wanes and the air becomes clear. The skies are blue. The waters of Narragansett Bay remain warm long after the hot summer is just a memory.

I believe that fall is the best season for sailing.

When autumn arrives later in September we'll notice that the foliage colors begin to change. The nights are cooler and you'll find it more comfortable wearing a sweater in the daytime.

The days will become noticeably shorter.

Make this Labor Day your final fling of summer. The three-day holiday weekend affords the opportunity for one last family summer outing. Take the kids camping, have a picnic, enjoy a backyard barbecue, or get away for a long weekend cruise.

There are also sights to see. This weekend will be busy on the bay. The Museum of Yachting holds its Classic Yacht Regatta. The antique sailboats will grace the bay. The Conanicut Yacht Club also hosts its 'round the island race, considered to be the oldest continuous yachting event on Narragansett Bay.

We should also take note of the real reason for this early September holiday. Labor Day was conceived as a celebration of the working classes. It used to be that working folk had to fight for fair wages and rights in the workplace.

Today Labor Day has simply become the holiday gateway from one season to the next.

Have a great weekend! Be safe.

— Jeff McDonough



Injured cyclist clarifies view

I was disappointed in the article about cyclists and motorists.

I think the title 'who rules the road' insinuates there is a competition between cyclists and motorists for control of the roads we all share. I really wish the article could have portrayed the need for more cooperation between cyclists and motorists. Both cyclists and motorists should do whatever possible to avoid accidents and make the roads safe for everyone.

• LETTERS •

For cyclists, this means wearing a helmet, staying as far right as possible, using hand signals and stopping at stop signs and lights.

For motorists, this means giving cyclists enough room (not passing too closely), signaling and watching for cyclists.

I think it is very important for drivers to be more aware of cyclists.

In my case, even though I was doing everything right, the driver apparently

did not see me and there was an accident. I realize that accidents do happen and that I am extremely fortunate that mine was not worse than it was, however, I think that these types of accidents can be easily avoided.

I was upset that I was so misquoted and misrepresented in the article. I know I hit my head pretty hard but I didn't say many of the quotes in the article. I had hoped that this article would highlight the need

for motorists to be aware of cyclists and highlight some of the ways in which motorists and cyclists can share the road, rather than ask 'who rules the road.'

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was at the accident scene for their help and also those who gave me their support during my recovery, it has really meant a great deal to me.

Rachel Wigton
Jamestown

See "Letters" on page 18



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of August 28

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, August 25, 1908

(At the town council meeting) a driver's license was granted to West & Watson, two bus licenses to Alton Head, and a driver's license to Frank Silvia.

A ghost dance was given at the Casino last evening for the benefit of the public library. There was a good attendance and a fair sum was realized. The disguises worn were rather warm for the evening, but after the unmasking at 10:30 a most enjoyable time was had.

From the Newport Daily News, August 27, 1908

At the ghost dance recently given for the benefit of the Philomenian Free Library, the sum of \$97 was realized. This amount is to be spent for new books or in other ways beneficial to the welfare of the library.

A damper has been put on the summer life of the island by the high northeast wind and rain squalls that have lasted for two days.

From the Newport Daily News, August 29, 1908

A new settlement has quietly been growing up within the limits of Jamestown, without attracting particular attention except from those who take the pretty shore drive to Conanicut Park. It is above Potter's cove on the east side of the island, which is just beyond the outskirts of Jamestown proper, and has been named Narragansett Park by those who have taken up the matter of construction.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, August 26, 1933

A large crowd attended the fancy dress ball at the Casino Friday night, which was attractively decorated with code flags and balloons, a large cluster

of the latter forming the central ceiling decoration, and were, late in the evening, released, when a terrific scramble ensued. Bailey's orchestra of Newport played for dancing.

From the Newport Daily News, August 31, 1933

Superintendent of Schools Bradley will be in his office at the Thomas H. Clarke school Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday of next week to issue ferry passes to the Jamestown pupils who are attending high school in Newport.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, August 25, 1958

One hundred and fifty attended the second annual field day at the Jamestown Recreation Field under the auspices of the Recreation Board and the direction of Donald Gillis, director. ... There were hopscotch, clothespin, three-legged and sack races, hurdles, dashes and high jumps.

From the Newport Daily News, August 28, 1958

The Jamestown School Committee at a special meeting Tuesday night directed all parents of school children be informed, by letter, of what the Jamestown school system is doing to meet the educational trends of today, thereby raising the standards and quality of education.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, August 25, 1983

The Zoning Board of Review granted Commerce Oil Refining Corp. a variance to separate one lot into two lots exceeding 3 acres each with 140-foot frontage for each lot on East Shore Road.

Slides were shown at a meeting of the Jamestown Rotary Club of the recent Jamestown Appreciation Day, in which the town reenacted the activities of the USU during World War II.

From the Newport Daily News, August 31, 1983

Some parents and Jamestown School officials are starting to worry about crowded classrooms, the School Committee learned Tuesday night. With a week before the school opens for 1983-84, Principal Phyllis Schmidt said overall enrollment is around

See "History" on page 7

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

We'll keep you informed!

**JAMESTOWN
PRESS**