

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

School, town should continue efforts to curtail costs

Islanders may recall that there was some concern expressed this past spring during the town's budget discussions that our community's school expenses have been increasing at a rapid rate despite declining student enrollment. In other words, it is costing us taxpayers more to pay for the education of fewer students.

The school budget was ultimately approved by the voters at the Financial Town Meeting, and plans were made to continue to review the school's operational costs.

In August, the School Committee invited the Town Council to an informal retreat to explore ways that the two could work together. Ideas were discussed and the two groups agreed to meet again in October.

Some of the common areas between the school and town are obvious. There is an apparent duplication of efforts in some departments. For instance, both the schools and the town have their own financial departments. It may be possible to combine business operations and reduce overall costs.

Both the school and town have technology needs. Again, instead of funding the operation of two departments, it may be possible to consolidate and reduce operational expenses.

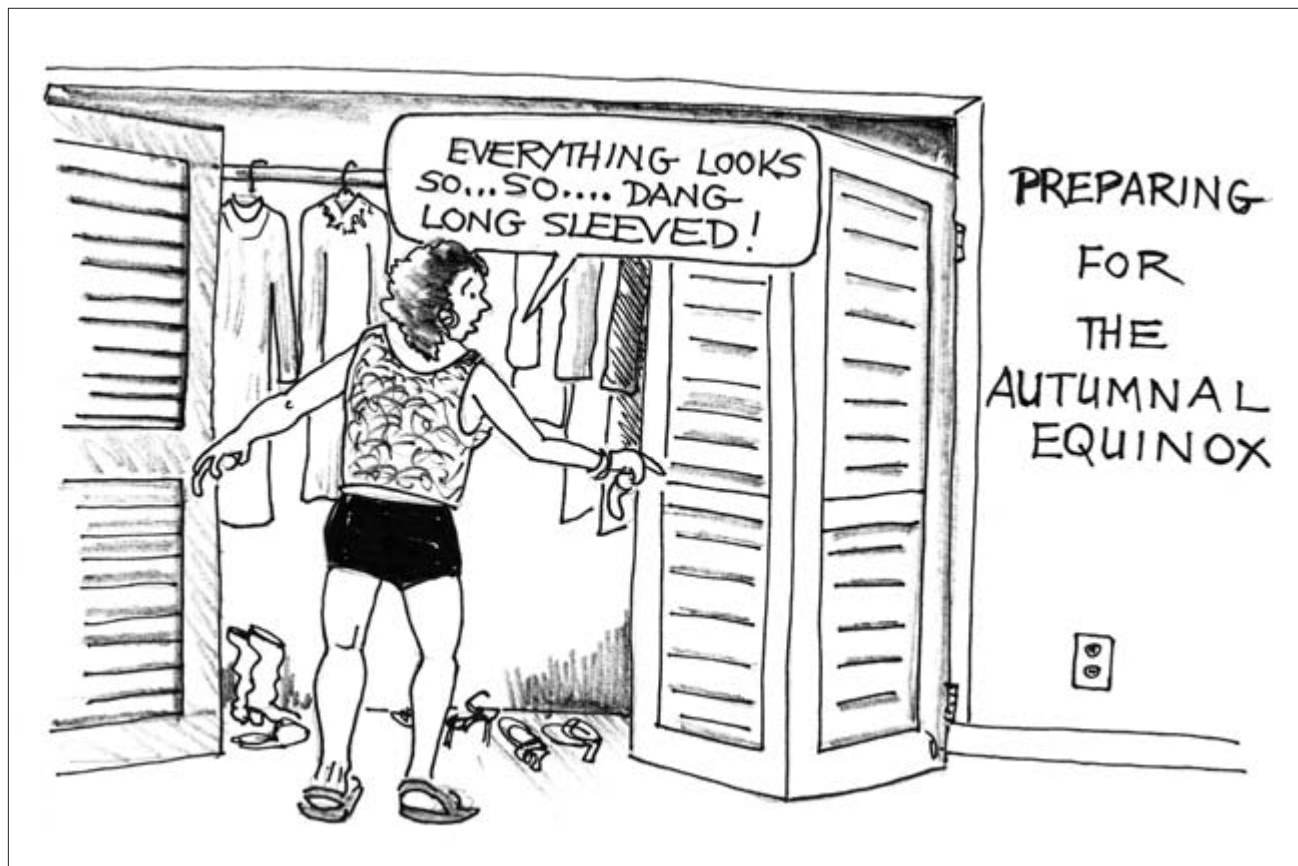
The purchase of utilities, fuel, heating oil and supplies may be another way to leverage a combined purchasing power.

It was suggested that a consultant be hired to review school and town departments to identify strategies to increase cost efficiencies.

There may also be ways to collaborate with nearby school systems to reduce expenses at the Jamestown schools.

We applaud the initial efforts of the School Committee and the Town Council to work together. We hope that the October meeting will generate more concrete ways of combining operations and saving the taxpayers a few dollars.

— Jeff McDonough



Thief on the island

There has been a theft on North Main Road, several actually. The thief probably does not live on North Main Road, but someone has stolen a yard sign several times from our driveway.

We put a single political sign on our driveway; nothing intrusive, just the name of candidate that we endorse. Someone has stolen our sign. We replaced the sign, someone stole it again. We replaced the sign two more times, and twice more it was stolen.

We have no problem with someone disagreeing with our political views. This is, after all, America, a country founded on certain freedoms, including freedom of speech. But there is no "freedom to steal signs whose candidate you oppose."

• LETTERS •

If you want to discuss politics, that's great. Don't be afraid or ashamed of your own candidate. That's why we put up our sign.

Don't be afraid to discuss politics with us. But don't sneak up at night and steal something that doesn't belong to you. It's un-American. Put up your own sign!

Sharon Streif
Matt Hull

Islander seeks donations

My name is Jocelyn Anthony and I am a daughter of Emily and Quentin Anthony of 105 Bayview Drive. I am now living in Rio San Juan, a small city located in the

southeastern part of Nicaragua, next to Costa Rica.

I work for the Peace Corps as a community health promoter. Because Rio San Juan is so isolated, public health has been a neglected subject, and there are few existing resources to help educate the people. The resistance to change is overwhelming.

In Dec. 2008, four other Peace Corps volunteers and I will sponsor a youth forum presenting various health topics that threaten Nicaraguan youth of today. Our goal of the youth forum is to teach young people about important sexual and reproductive health topics, train them as youth health promoters and reinforce their

self-esteem and self-confidence to make healthy lifestyle decisions.

To make the Youth Forum of Rio San Juan possible, we are soliciting monetary funds through a Peace Corps Partnership Proposal. Overall the project costs \$4,394.44. The department is donating 26.27 percent of the project, and we are looking to cover the other 73.73 percent of the Youth Forum through private donations.

To read more on the Youth Forum of Rio San Juan or to make a small donation you can visit the Web site at www.peacecorps.gov.

All of us in Rio San Juan would be sincerely grateful for your generosity, and to my friends and family back home in Jamestown I wish to express thanks for your

See "Letters" on page 9

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, September 24, 1908

Little mackerel were quite numerous around the steamboat wharf this afternoon but were not biting, only a few stray ones being caught.

A large iron derrick was brought across the ferry from Newport today, for use at Fort Wetherill.

From the Newport Daily News, September 26, 1908

A number of horses from J. J. Sullivan's stables in Newport were brought to his farm here today for the winter.

From the Newport Daily News, September 28, 1908

C. E. Weeden has sold for G. H. Sweet his small building on Clinton avenue to B. F. Morrell, who is making preparations to have it moved to Clarke street.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, September 22, 1933

A new cabin is being built on the upper deck of steamer Beavertail, which will soon go on the line between east Jamestown and Newport.

Mrs. Arthur Day is making quite a few improvements to the Chapel of the Transfiguration which she recently purchased and is converting into a cottage.

From the Newport Daily News, September 23, 1933

The Palace Theatre will close for the season Sunday night.

From the Newport Daily News, September 26, 1933

Beavertail rocks, long famous as fertile fishing grounds, added another laurel to its fame Monday evening, when George Barker, Jr., of Green lane landed a bass weighing 48 pounds and measuring 40 1/2 inches in length.

From the Newport Daily News, September 27, 1933

A large number of the townspeople congregated at



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of September 25

the ferry Tuesday to see the 48 1/2-pound bass caught by George Barker, Jr.

From the Newport Daily News, September 28, 1933

Plans to have the government under the NRA (National Recovery Administration) act, build a \$1,500,000 bridge from Jamestown to Saunderstown, and lease it to the town of Jamestown, are underway.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, September 27, 1958

Commerce Oil Refinery Corp. has no intention of abandoning plans for the proposed refinery on Jamestown because of litigation, Harold M. Geller, executive vice president, said yesterday. ... The suit in which the Jamestown Protective Assn. seeks to enjoin the construction of the refinery is in U. S. District Court.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, September 26, 1983

The proposed Jamestown Archeological District will be the subject of a slide-lecture at the Jamestown Library Oct. 5 ... The Jamestown Archeological District was created from survey work done by Rhode Island College archeologists in 1979 under a Historical Preservation Fund Grant from the R.I. Historic Preservation Commission. Archeological sites were located spanning a period of about 5,000 years, includ-

ing summer camps of the Narragansett Indians and the remains of an early Colonial settlement on Conanicut Island.

From the Newport Daily News, September 29, 1983

Hunt's Drug Store will close tomorrow, bringing an end to an era and all the nostalgia that goes with it. ... The Hunt block was built in 1900, after a fire burned down a hotel on the site in 1899. The present building was built by Albert Caswell, also a pharmacist. Thomas Hunt bought the store in 1935, coming to Jamestown from Newport. He was often called "Dr. Hunt." He remained there until he sold out to L. Stanford Crowell, a Newport pharmacist, in 1945. He owned the business until 1966 when it was bought by "Mr. B" (George N. Beaulieu, Jr.) and his wife.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, September 23, 1993

Town officials are seeking help from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to solve the island's water crisis.

This week marks the 55th anniversary of one of the most devastating natural disasters to hit Jamestown — the hurricane of 1938. On Sept. 21 the storm ripped through the Northeast with little introduction. Winds of 120 miles per hour, tidal surges, and extensive flooding were reported throughout the area. ... The hurricane of 1938 claimed the lives of 11 Jamestowners, including seven children.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, September 24, 1998

The accusations flew like bullets from a firing squad — charges of nepotism, improper job posting, poor handling of teacher applicants, and finally a call for a School Committee internal investigation into the hiring of two of the new teachers at the Jamestown School.