

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Ghosts and goblins promise a spooky weekend ahead

It's that creepy time of the year. There's an autumn chill in the air as creatively carved pumpkins take center stage. Halloween is just around the corner. The bats are on night patrol.

You just know the island will be jumping with all sorts of costumed characters this weekend.

The Ghouls' Rules Halloween Bash will help everyone get into the trick-or-treating mood. The festivities are scheduled from 7 to 10 p.m. this Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Jamestown Recreation Center.

Halloweeners of all ages are invited. Make your costumes out of recycled and eco-friendly stuff. A costume fashion show contest and dance are planned.

Sponsored by the Jamestown Arts Center, this event promises to be a great family outing. It will be a fun time for all. It's rumored that the adults may repair to the Narragansett Café after the party.

Don't put your costumes away. On Sunday, Oct. 26, you can participate in the 20th anniversary Jamestown Jack-O-Lantern Jog. The 5k event welcomes runners and walkers. Prizes will be awarded for those in costumes.

The Jack-O-Lantern Jog will benefit the Jamestown Recreation Scholarship Fund. Registration gets underway at 11:30 a.m. at the recreation center. The race starts at 1 p.m. on Narragansett Avenue in front of the fire station.

Gather all your neighborhood ghosts, goblins, monsters, celebrities, zombies, freaks, spooks, witches, warlocks, ghouls, and other unusual critters for a haunting Jamestown weekend!

— Jeff McDonough



JCT explains fall performance

As I wander through my daily routine in Jamestown, many people have been asking me why the Jamestown Community Theatre is changing its type of entertainment this November. I finally figured out that the best way to communicate an answer would be to write a letter in the Jamestown Press.

As many of you know, JCT, unfortunately, did not have enough people at auditions this past August in order to fill the many lead roles in our projected play, "Miracle on 34th Street." With an empty space in our November calendar after 19 years of fall performances, we felt frustrated and disappointed. It was too late to research and organize an alternate play, so we needed to focus our

energies toward other types of entertainment. We brainstormed, and what resulted, I feel, will be a new and thrilling endeavor.

Jon Peterson, a London West End, Broadway and off Broadway actor, has selected Jamestown and the Jamestown Community Theatre to preview a show that he recently has written called "Song Man, Dance Man." This one-man show will present songs and dances made famous by celebrated people: George M. Cohan, Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Sammy Davis Jr., Charles Aznavour, and Anthony Newley. What's also exciting is that the children, who originally auditioned for singing roles in

Miracle on 34th Street, were asked to join Peterson in three musical numbers.

I saw Jon perform this past summer at the Goodspeed Theatre in East Haddam, Conn., in the lead role of Arthur Kipps, in a revival of a musical called "Half a Sixpence." With the exceptional style and talent of a star extraordinaire, the reviews of Jon's performance mirrored my own sentiments.

I made it a point to meet Mr. Peterson after the show, and I became further impressed when I learned of the many large and varied type of roles Jon has played in his theatrical career; including the starring role of the emcee in the 1998 Broadway revival

and National tour of Cabaret. He actually performed the role at the Providence Performing Arts Center.

Well, what ensued after a few meetings with Mr. Peterson was providential for JCT and for Jamestown, as now we will have the opportunity to observe the premiere of Jon Peterson's show, as he shares his talent with our community.

Now, if there are more questions, please read the Jamestown Press, where we will be placing ads and informational articles. Don't forget to check the commentary by the Walrus, as well, in order to stay aware of the magic that will take place in Jamestown on Sat., Nov. 15 and Sun., Nov. 16. Tickets are on sale in Jamestown at Baker's Pharmacy.

See "Letters" on next page

• LETTERS •

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 21, 1908

Cedar boughs for winter covering for flower beds, etc., are being carted across the island from Narragansett to Newport.

From the Newport Daily News, October 22, 1908

A story comes from Prudence island of the finding of upwards of 100 half barrels of flour on the south shore by Mr. Thomas Albro, who occupies the farm there. The flour presumably comes from the wrecked Yankee, but it seems a queer freak of the tide to carry such a quantity of driftage from the eastward up the bay and land it so well bunched up. It will be remembered that the prevailing wind has been from the northward, and earlier in the week one day that wind almost a gale from the northeast. Allowing that the tide would have more effect than the wind on anything which would float as deeply as a barrel of flour, it seems strange that not a single barrel, with the exception of one on Rose island, has landed on the numerous islands, before reaching Prudence, and again strange that, with the many boats on the bay, not leaving out of consideration the ferryboats plying between this town to Newport, which practically cross the tideway twice each hour, so large an amount of drifting material was not seen.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 20, 1933

A meeting of the Home Demonstration Extension Club was held Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Arthur S. Clarke on Conanicus avenue. The work was on remodeling hats.

From the Newport Daily News, October 21, 1933

Mrs. Louis Vieira is having built on her land on Douglas street, a coal bin 50-by 22-feet. Matoes & Lathan are the contractors.



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of October 23

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.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 25, 1958

Jamestown Democrat Predicts Higher Ferry Wages, Lower Fares. Jamestown Democratic candidates for state Senate and House of Representatives, together with August P. LaFrance, Democratic candidate for secretary of state, spoke at a rally at Ye Old Yacht Club last night.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, October 19, 1983

The state Turnpike and Bridge Authority recently released its summer and September revenue, expense and traffic figures for the Newport Bridge. Toll revenues for the month of September on Newport Bridge was up \$145,617 from September, 1982. ... Total income for July, August and September was up \$303,416 from last year. Expenses for July, August and September were up \$36,011 from last year's figure. Traffic for September was totaled at 495,584 compared to last year's figure of 395,294. ... Summer traffic figures showed an increase 235,294.

The School Committee will give teachers and staff

a little more time to "dream" about improvements to the Jamestown School building, before performing a triage on those renovations that taxpayers probably won't buy.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, October 21, 1993

With still no word on when or if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin building an emergency water line, the National Guard Wednesday was set to add three more tank trucks to its water caravan.

The ongoing water crisis has forced several local businesses to take some costly steps in cutting back on water use. One Jamestown business, Woody's World of Wax, has closed down since the ban on outside water use was put into effect.

An opening ceremony to celebrate the renovation and expansion of the Jamestown Philomenian Library attracted a crowd of enthusiastic islanders Sunday afternoon. ... (John) Murphy said the \$1.4 million library expansion project was funded one-half through private contributions and one-half through funding arranged by the state.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, October 22, 1998

Halted in the spring for the boating season, reconstruction of East Ferry's steel pier will not start again this fall, even though the job is unfinished. The Jamestown Harbor Management Commission voted unanimously last week to suspend the work for a year due to lack of funds in its Marine Development Fund.

Discussions on altering the current Newport Bridge token price are on hold pending an analysis of the bridge's decking, which if found not to be in optimal condition, could bring a price tag of between \$43 and \$60 million for its replacement.