

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### A new president for a new direction

A record number of people went to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 4, to vote for president of the United States. We did not have long lines here in Jamestown, but elsewhere many waited to vote. Tuesday was a day we will never forget.

Barack Hussein Obama will be our 44th president. He was elected by a clear majority. Some might even label it a mandate. People are clearly displeased about our nation's present course and want a change in leadership. They are hoping that Obama is the person who can do that.

Obama will take the oath of office in January during troubled times. The new man in the White House will have a big task ahead of him.

Our country is fighting two wars. Our nation's economy is sliding deeper into a recession. Healthcare and social security require an urgent overhaul. Climate change and the environment need our attention now. Our nation's image overseas is tarnished. Our civil liberties must be restored.

We can take a collective deep breath now that the election is over, but soon it will be time to roll up our sleeves and get to work. Fixing what needs fixing won't be easy. The job is bigger than one man. We need to pull together in the same direction as one nation to get the job done.

Working together means a united Congress with Republican and Democratic lawmakers reaching across the aisles to mend fences. The same holds true for the legislators in all of our 50 states.

Working together means that people of all skin colors and of all faiths — Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists — must put aside their differences to make this country the place, as the founding fathers imaged, where all are created equal.

— Jeff McDonough



### A fond good-bye to Jamestown

As the Howard family wraps up our year at the Naval War College, I wanted to write a quick note to the Jamestown Community to express my appreciation for your help and warm welcome. Additionally, I would like to recognize some of the amazing events and programs offered on the island. I will also thank the many special friends we have made during our stay here.

When a military family moves into a new neighborhood, it is sometimes difficult to acclimate to the surrounding community. Moving here from Hawaii, my family was concerned about surviving a Rhode

## • LETTERS •

Island winter and making new friends. The weather, I have to admit, was a challenge to overcome but otherwise we received a very warm welcome. The first organization we became involved with was the Jamestown Cub Scouts. The Pratt family and the Cub Scouts provided my son valuable lessons for becoming a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

The military service could use leaders like Bill Pratt. But, the beauty of Jamestown is that he is not alone. Bill Piva leads an inclusive, well-organized

youth basketball program that enables the Jamestown kids to flourish. Steve Ciarella does the same for the Cal Ripken baseball league in Jamestown. The Saint Mark Catholic Church has also welcomed us with open arms. Father O'Neill and Karen Montoya went out of their way to provide an environment where our faith could continue to grow. Chris Perrotti, the Catholic League girls' basketball coach, also ensured my daughter had the opportunity to expand her basketball skills.

Jamestown was the Howard family's sixth move, and I have trav-

eled to every continent on the planet and I can tell you that Jamestown is an incredible place. I have never seen such dedication and service to the community as I have here in Jamestown. Where else does a community provide safe and fun Halloween entertainment like the Jamestown Fire Department's bubble mania? I know my kids will talk about that experience for years!

Jamestown has great service organizations like the Lion's Club and amazing ceremonies and events like Veterans Day, the Fourth of July fireworks and the unforgettable Fools Rules' Regatta.

Family is clearly an

See "Letters" on page 9

#### 100 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 3, 1908

In spite of its being the national election and also the local question of (liquor) license to be voted upon, there is little interest being taken in the voting today. At the town hall, the voting place, only the election officers and one or two loiterers are to be seen.

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 4, 1908

(Taft received 155 votes for President; Bryan, 15; two others received four votes. Isaac H. Clarke was elected as state Senator from Jamestown and Alton Head was elected representative.) The vote for (liquor) license was the first to be counted resulting in 118 against license and 70 in favor of it; 10 ballots were blank and 1 defective.

For the first time an automobile was used to transport voters to the polls and it proved successful under the fine weather conditions.

#### 75 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 1, 1933

Several grades in the Carr School held Halloween parties in their rooms Tuesday. The children wore costumes in keeping with the occasion and the different rooms were decorated with black cats and yellow and black streamers.

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 6, 1933

As marshal of the Armistice Day parade to be held Saturday, November 11, under the auspices of the Jamestown American Legion, A. W. Bowser (instructed participants as to formation of units.) ... All veterans are requested to wear service or Legion uniforms and to wear all decorations and medals.

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 7, 1933

Ground was broken today for the new casino at the Beavertail Country Club. The building will be attached



## This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

### Week of November 6

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.

to the west end of the Clarke cottage, for several years the summer home of Audley Clarke of New York, situated on the east side of Beavertail road. The architect is LeRoy Wood of New York.

#### 50 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 1, 1958

Republican and Democratic candidates for Jamestown General Assembly seats agreed on most election issues ... Even on the question of a Jamestown oil refinery, subject of the greatest difference of opinion among islanders this year, there was no sharp division.

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 5, 1958

Jamestown's balloting for General Assembly seats gave no clear cut verdict last night, with the race close and 146 absentee, shut in and war ballots outstanding. 25 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 1, 1983

The Department of Transportation this morning unveiled two proposed plans for the replacement of the Jamestown Bridge. Color drawings for the project show ... a concrete bridge and a steel bridge. The

designs come some 10 years after the first replacement study declared the Jamestown-North Kingstown span "functionally obsolete."

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 4, 1983

School Committee members Thursday night swallowed hard when architects presented a preliminary cost estimate of \$329,999 for a new roof on the Jamestown School.

##### From the Newport Daily News, November 8, 1983

The town's landfill's days as "the social center of Jamestown" are numbered, and some residents Monday night expressed reluctance to see those days go. The town administrator and the volunteer Solid Waste Management Committee continued their pitch for a Jamestown membership in an off-island, regional solid waste transfer station as the best alternative to the 37-year-old — and now illegal — landfill.

#### 15 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, November 4, 1993

Plans to construct an emergency pipeline to alleviate the island's water shortage have been given a go-ahead by the assistant secretary of the army in Washington.

(Photo caption) John Chapman and Vinny Dellolacno replace the cross Saturday on top of St. Mark Church, with a little help from the fire department ladder truck. Both men are employees of H.V. Holland, which crafted the new 30-pound stainless cross to replace the original copper cross that caused the roof to leak.

#### 10 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, November 5, 1998

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Jack O'Lantern Jog drew a crowd of nearly 250 runners and walkers who amused spectators with a costume display that sets this race apart from other sporting events. Proceeds from the race, \$2,000 will go toward the renovation of the Community Center.