

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Buying local has many benefits

We hear more and more these days about the importance of buying local. That means buying from our local shops, merchants and restaurants. It also means purchasing food that is locally grown.

Of course, it is not always possible to purchase what you need locally. But if you think locally first, you'll find there are many benefits for yourself and your community.

Here are a few reasons to consider:

1. Local businesses are the backbone of the local economy. When you buy local, you are actually supporting yourself. Buying local helps maintain a diverse, healthy community. Studies have shown that when you buy from independent, locally-owned businesses — rather than nationally-owned businesses — your dollars have three times more impact in the community. Those dollars are used to make purchases from other local businesses. That helps to strengthen the economic base of the community.

2. Local businesses support local community groups. Non-profit organizations receive an average 250% more support from small business owners than they do from large businesses.

3. Buying local keeps the community unique. Local businesses define the character of the community. Local businesses are where we shop, where we eat and where we have fun. Our one-of-a-kind businesses are integral to the distinctive character of the community. Local businesses make the community more dynamic and interesting.

4. When you buy local you reduce the environmental impact. Generally, you travel less when you buy locally. And locally-owned businesses can purchase local goods that require less transportation. This helps to reduce pollution, urban sprawl, automobile use and wildlife habitat loss. These days it's all about being green and reducing your carbon footprint. A sustainable economy is important.

5. Buy local and you'll help to create and preserve local jobs. Without doubt, small local businesses are this nation's largest employer.

6. You get better service when you buy local. Local businesses often hire people with a better understanding of the products they are selling. People who work in local businesses take more time to get to know their customers. Local businesses treat you well because they want your repeat patronage.

7. When you buy local, you invest in the local community. Local businesses are owned by people who live in the community. Those business owners are less likely to leave and are more committed to the community's future.

8. Buy local and put your taxes to good use. Local businesses in town centers require comparatively little infrastructure investment and make more efficient use of public services as compared to nationally-owned stores entering the community.

9. Buy what you want, not what someone wants you to buy: A marketplace of tens of thousands of small businesses is the best way to ensure innovation and low prices over the long term. A multitude of small businesses, each selecting products based not on a national sales plan but on their own interests and the needs of their local customers, guarantees a much broader range of product choices.

10. Buying local encourages local prosperity through a strong local economy. Research shows that in an increasingly homogenized world, entrepreneurs and skilled workers are more likely to invest and settle in communities that preserve their one-of-a-kind businesses and distinctive character.

When important local news is happening, check our Web site

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We'll keep you informed!

**JAMESTOWN  
PRESS**



### Basket effort successful

Many Jamestown families had a nice Thanksgiving this year thanks to many groups and organizations. A very big thank you goes out to the Jamestown Rotary Club, who has been donating turkey baskets for the past 31 years. Also, thank you to Maggie Grenier and the Salvation Army, the Cub Scouts, the Jamestown School bus drivers and Paula's 6th grade class at Our Lady of Mercy in East Greenwich.

A special thank you to the kindergarten children at the Melrose School who earned money doing odd jobs at home. They brought their earnings to school where they and their teach-

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ers made out shopping lists, walked to McQuade's Market and purchased items to be added to turkey baskets. What a great lesson in caring and sharing. Thank you also to the ladies of St. Mark outreach who worked behind the scenes to make sure everything ran smoothly.

**Kathy Brownell**  
St. Mark outreach

### Many to thank for filling bowls

We want to express our gratitude to the most gracious and generous community of Jamestown and

those beyond who came together last Friday night to support the Empty Bowls fundraiser to provide for those in need and to support the arts in the school and the community.

Empty Bowls 2008 raised \$5,100, which will be donated to the RI Community Food Bank and two local food pantries.

Thank you to all who were part of this event - starting with the folks who started it all and gave us guidance throughout: Julia Montminy, Trish Van Cleef and Liz Perez. Thank you also to the donors who funded the start-up costs - Jamestown Educa-

tion Foundation, Ali Dunn Packer Foundation, the Jamestown Rotary Club, and the Jamestown PTO, Debbie Tungett and the teens at the Teen Center, who spent a Saturday afternoon silk-screening T-shirts; the military spouses, who provided gallons and gallons of delicious soup; smiling soup servers Winn, Brenda, Larry, and Andrew; our fab chef Eric who kept us all in line in the kitchen, North Kingstown High School students who manned the admission table, T-shirt table and made sure that all the beautiful bowls were washed, set-up and ready to go in no time; the jazz band whose impressive

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## This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

### Week of December 4

*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, December 1, 1908

The first round of whist tournament, which has been held in Mr. J. E. Watson's den on Clinton avenue for four consecutive winters, was played last evening.

##### From the Newport Daily News, December 2, 1908

Mr. J. K. Sullivan is shipping a large quantity of hay and straw from his farm here to his Newport stable.

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

One of the lowest tides, if not the lowest of the fall, was experienced today; long stretches of shore, which are usually covered with water, were exposed for an hour or more.

##### From the Newport Daily News, December 9, 1908

A "Poverty Party" was given by the ladies of the Central Baptist Church last evening in the Gardner House hall to raise a small sum for some minor repairs to the church building. There was a good attendance, many of those present wearing amusing costumes.

#### 75 years ago

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

The newly organized Republican Club will hold an open meeting this evening at their rooms at the west ferry.

##### From the Newport Daily News, December 2, 1933

(At the town council meeting) J. Howard Ellis reported he had communicated with Mrs. Jeremiah Allen and the trustees of the Central Baptist Church in regard to building a stone wall between their property and the town's property and that said parties are agreeable.

##### From the Newport Daily News, December 4, 1933

The (fire) department hopes to have tournaments in whist, ping-pong, pool and pinochle underway in the near future.

##### From the Newport Daily News, December 5, 1933

At the fire drill at both the Carr and Clarke schools, the Carr School, which has classes on two floors, was cleared in 60 seconds, and the Clarke school in 35 seconds.

#### 50 years ago

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

The students of the Jamestown School's Grade 6, Miss Teresa Pinto, teacher, yesterday presented an original interpretation of Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel."

##### From the Newport Daily News, December 8, 1958

For the Friday Assembly, at the Jamestown School, Mrs. Mary Herlihy's fourth graders presented a program entitled "The First Christmas," in five scenes.

#### 25 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, December 5, 1983

Residents next month should learn their assessed property values following an island-wide property re-

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