

Island Opinion



Shoreline cleanup crews

More than 70 Jamestowners turned out on Saturday to help with the annual Island Shoreline Cleanup. Above, Kim Chandler, Jamie Gillette and Daniel Forster collected trash along Sheffield Cove. Below, Sam DiGasper and Riley Greene policed the town beach at Mackerel Cove. Photos by Jeff McDonough

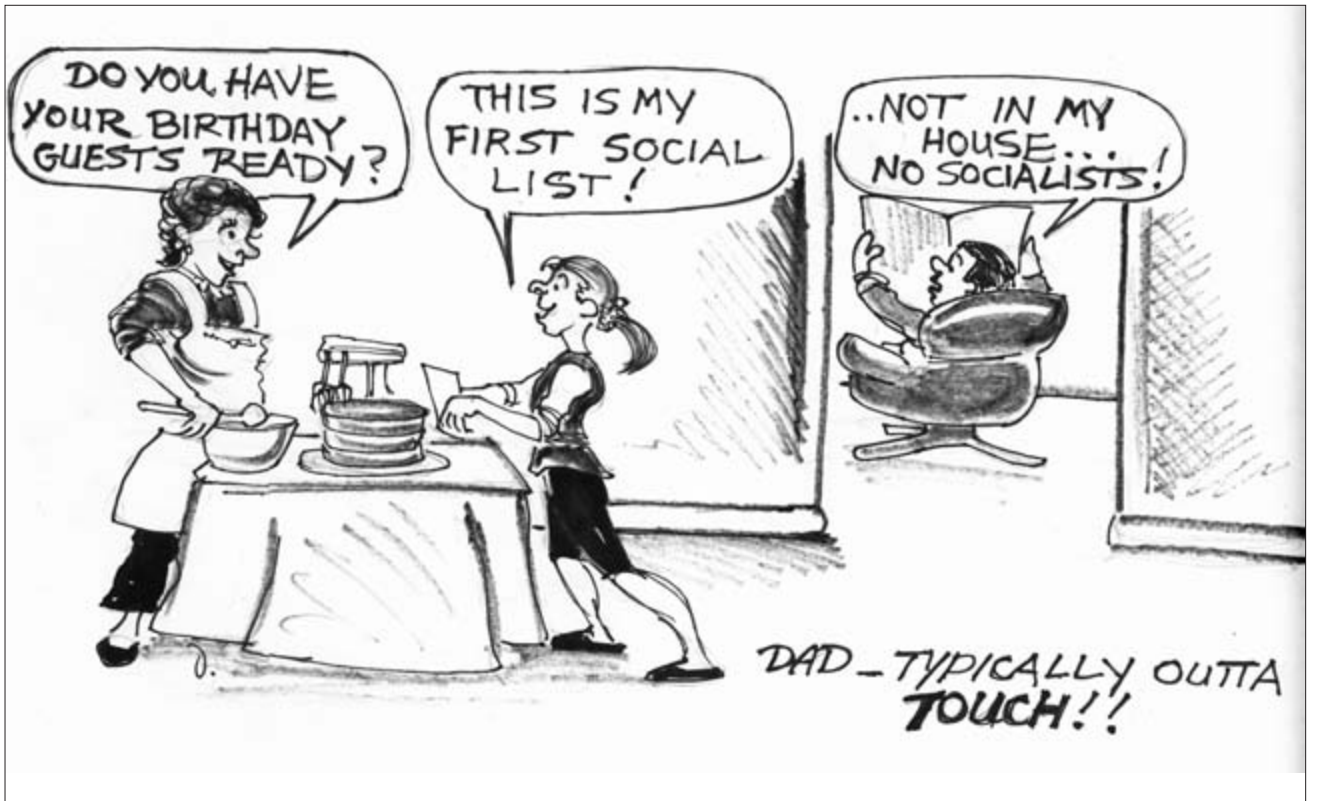


Craig Amerigian and Quentin Anthony of the Conanicut Island Land Trust grilled brats and hotdogs to feed the hungry cleanup volunteers.



Brightwork

Warm weather means spring commissioning. Eva M. Embroz sands the toerail on the 42-foot Sabre Aries Dream on Saturday at Conanicut Marine's Taylor Point facility.



Clean-up a success

The Jamestown Conservation Commission would like to express its appreciation for all those who made our annual Earth Day Shoreline Cleanup a success this past Saturday. They include Bill Piva and the Town for providing bags and for allowing us to use the Recreation Center as a rallying point, Slice of Heaven for getting us started with coffee and muffins, and everyone who chose to spend Saturday morning cleaning up our island's shoreline.

We also thank Nick DiGiando of Atlantic Landscaping for bringing his crew and trucks as well as those volunteers who used their personal vehicles for hauling the bagged litter to the dumpster - donated by Island Rubbish.

Thanks to Chuck Gladding who arrived with his backhoe and helped us cram

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30 yards of beach litter into a 20-yard container. Finally, we thank the Conanicut Island Land Trust for serving a hardy lunch, Bruce Long for providing Del's Lemonade and the Jamestown Press for getting the word out.

It is our hope that all Jamestown residents and visitors alike will enjoy our public shoreline access areas in the upcoming months and not find trash everywhere they look - at least for a while. Our oceans are the earth's other great treasure; they are also the principal repositories for our trash. More a conveyor belt than bottomless pit, they serve up our waste to the whole marine food chain and make our coastlines into a showcase for all the things we discard that never go away. The mes-

sage in the bottle: we need to better manage our footprint in this world. In the meantime, let us band together on Earth Day and sometimes in between to gather up the litter that rings our island like a gaudy necklace each year. We are making a difference, one outstretched hand at a time.

Patrick Driscoll
Jamestown Conservation Commission

Thanks for local athletic support

On behalf of the 2009 North Kingstown High School Booster Club Evening of Champions committee, we would like to extend a gracious thank you to all of the community businesses, parent volunteers, and N.K.

sports enthusiasts who generously supported this year's annual event held March 28 at the Quonset O' Club.

We know that we are very fortunate to have the support of so many local and statewide businesses as well as interested and engaged parents. Now more than ever, funds are necessary as we see another year where broad-based cuts jeopardize programs and the quality of our athletic offerings to students.

This is our ninth year hosting the event, which raised necessary monies to help fund coaches training and requests, athletic sports awards for over 700 athletes, winning team championship jackets, as well as our senior athlete scholarships.

The NKHS Booster Club is always looking for interested parents and sports en-

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This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of April 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.

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, April 21, 1909

A party of cottage seekers were on the island today.

From the Newport Daily News, April 24, 1909

A juvenile baseball team styling themselves the "Stars" from the grammar school here, defeated a juvenile team in Newport this morning by a score of 16 to 12.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, April 26, 1934

(At the school committee meeting) Mr. Boone reported that the baseball back-stop had been completed and that the tennis court will be cared for as soon as labor is available. (Bids were opened for providing school busing. The low bidder was Stephen J. Zweir, "Ford or Chevrolet, \$8 per day." The contract was to run for five years.)

... Due to the fact that the town of Jamestown owns all the outstanding stock of the Ferry Company, there are no minority stockholders.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, April 25, 1959

A five-member commission would be named to select a site and draw plans and specifications for a state pier and

marina in Jamestown in a bill which passed the senate yesterday. It was sent to the House for action. The bill carries a \$10,000 appropriation.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, April 24, 1984

The Town Council has asked the town solicitor to review a ban on political signs before a problem crops up in this year's election. The Council acted after receiving a request for guidance from Building Inspector Charles J. Dowling. Dowling said he wanted to avoid a problem similar to one that cropped up before the town elections last May.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, April 21, 1994

Some 66 Jamestown children under age 6 were identified as having elevated levels of lead in their blood last year. ... Elevated lead levels in children is a statewide problem, because much of the housing in the state was built before 1978, when the federal government banned the use of lead-based paint.

Real estate transactions on the island last year totaled nearly \$24 million, with a median house price of \$150,000 and median condominium price of \$158,000.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, April 22, 1999

Homeowners in the urban water district will see an increase in their water and sewer bills next quarter. Sitting as the Board of Water and sewer Commissioners Monday, the Town Council voted to raise the cost of the 5,000 gallon minimum charge by 4.7 percent. This means someone who uses 5,000 gallons or less during a billing quarter will now pay \$42.85 instead of \$40.93, an additional \$1.92. There will be no change in the rates for excess water use.

Jamestown School Supt. Dr. Frances Gallo announced that the school department would hire a consultant to assist the school in its computers software programs.