

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Et cetera

#### Give up your hazardous waste this Saturday

This Saturday, June 6, will be the first time that Jamestown has hosted an Eco-Depot day. That's good news for islanders who care about the environment and have been hoarding their hazardous waste instead of tossing it in the trash.

In past years, we've had to go to Newport or Narragansett or all the way to Johnston to find an Eco-Depot. Having one here on the island saves everyone time and makes the job easy.

What is household hazardous waste? Just about anything that is toxic, corrosive, flammable or poisonous. That includes most cleaners, paints, thinners, pesticides, fertilizers, weed killers, pool chemicals and automotive lubricants.

This is stuff that you don't want to pour down the drain, dump in your driveway or put in the garbage can because it will end up in the landfill.

From 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Melrose Avenue School parking lot you can legally and safely get rid of the unwanted hazardous stuff.

The Town of Jamestown will also collect islanders' e-waste at the same time this Saturday at the Melrose School parking lot. You can get rid of old computers, radios, routers, cell phones and cable boxes — just about anything electronic. They will also take your old televisions, but there will be a small disposal fee.

But wait, there's more!

You can protect yourself from identity theft on Saturday, too. The Jamestown Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Shred-It day in conjunction with the Eco-Depot. It's a great way to get rid of old papers that detail your personal info like your bank accounts, credit card details and social security numbers. There's a limit of two boxes of personal papers per person.

So, clean house! Gather up all that old hazardous waste, junky electronics and out-of-date personal papers and head over to the Melrose School on Saturday. There's sure to be a crowd, but at least you'll be able to visit with your neighbors and friends.

We probably should have an Eco-Depot, E-Waste, Shred-It Day once a year.

#### Need help around the homestead? Hire a teenager!

Starting this week islanders who need an extra hand with that odd job will be able to hire an able and willing Jamestown teenager.

The program is called the 2009 Summer Teen Jobs Corps and is sponsored by the Jamestown Teen Center. The concept is simple: put kids to work helping people who need some assistance.

If you'd like to hire an island teenager for that odd job at your home or business, you'll first need to complete an application available at the Teen Center. Or you can call and a Teen Center person will help you over the phone.

A Teen Center staff member will help match the right teenager with the right job. They'll be available to answer questions and will followup to make sure the job is done right.

Teens can help with a lot of stuff: lawn mowing, raking, gardening, cleaning out the garage or walking the dog. Sorry, no babysitting will be permitted. If you have questions, call the Teen Center.

Any teens who are interested in working this summer should march right on down to the Teen Center and put their names on the job list.

— Jeff McDonough

#### CONSTANT COURSE ADJUSTMENTS AND CALCULATIONS FOR THE FREQUENT FLYER



## • LETTERS •

### Island Treasures was a success thanks to volunteers

Last Friday, the Lawn Avenue School Improvement Team and the Jamestown School Department held its third annual Island Treasures Day.

Students in grades 5 to 8, along with the faculty and staff of the Lawn School, participated in two of 24 different workshops graciously planned and conducted by generous members of the Jamestown community. Workshops covered topics of varied interests, such as criminal law, acting, fire and rescue and cartography.

Heartfelt thanks go out to all of our Island Treasures workshop presenters:

Ron DiMauro, Laurie Keene, Greg Pearson, Linda and George Warner, Kathleen Brown, the Jamestown Fire Department, the Jamestown Police Department, Mary Hutchinson, Tony Rafanelli, B.J. Whitehouse, Bob Sutton, Linda Sutton and Carol Trocki.

Thanks also go to presenters Jack Hubbard, Jim Turenne, Julie Kallfelz, Clifford Kurz, Randy White, Steve Regine, Quentin Anthony and the Conanicut Island Land Trust, Robb Roach, Jay Howell, Ty Lager, Gale and Gerry Bay, state Representative Deborah Ruggiero, Lisa Kasabian,

Christina Moorehead, Lisa Carlisle, Martin Keen, Jane Bentley, Craig Watson, Fred Bingell, Albert Gamble and Jamestown EMS.

Students and faculty are honored that so many talented members of the Jamestown community were so willing to donate their time and talents to what has become a grand tradition at the Lawn Avenue School. It is days like this that remind us how lucky we are to live in such a special place!

Sally Schott  
Coordinator

### Islanders count 91 bird species in spring session

The 25th annual Conanicut Island Spring Bird Count was held the weekend of May 9 and 10.

Because of inclement weather on Saturday the count was extended into Sunday. A total of 91 species were seen, two more than last year's total, but well below the all-time high of 114.

Notable species were Least Fly-

catcher, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Wood Duck, American Oystercatcher, Pied-billed Grebe, Glossy Ibis, 10 Osprey and 12 species of warblers.

The most abundant species were American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Canada Goose, Glossy Ibis, and Herring Gull.

Twelve birders participated in the field and five more reported sightings from home. For a complete list of sightings contact Candy Powell at 423-1492. Please report any interested sightings to Candy, or to Evelyn Rhodes at 423-1254.

Candy Powell  
Jamestown

### Make your payment for the Carr/Clarke school reunion

Final plans are being made for the Carr/Clarke School Reunion being held at noon on July 25 at the Rembijas Pavilion at Ft. Getty.

Over 270 "alumni" have shown interest in attending and to date 152 have paid the necessary fees.

If you are planning to attend, you

must send me a check made out to the Carr/Clarke School Reunion by June 25, as I must give a final count to the caterer by that date. However, if you were not one of the 270 who had previously contacted me, it is now too late to sign up. Sorry, but just no more room.

Any questions, please call me at

423-1294 or email me at mandojim@cox.net.

Thanks and pray for a sunny day.

Jim Pemantell  
Jamestown

### Town Council's short-sighted proposal endangers entire island water supply

As president of the Jamestown Shores Association, I am writing to express serious concerns regarding some Town Council members' proposal to sell town-owned property in the Shores.

This proposal discussed at the May 18 Town Council meeting defies logic.

The Jamestown Shores Association has worked for the past 10 years to protect water recharge areas to ensure a safe, adequate well water supply in our area, and for the protection of the entire island water supply.

Through our efforts, and ironically with Town Council support, we helped to institute the High Groundwater Ordinance, and prompted the town to be-

gin taking legal ownership of property in town possession due to unpaid property taxes.

Further, our persistence brought about state legislation regarding cumulative impacts. This legislation attempts to protect neighbors from development that adversely impacts their property or the environment.

Was all this work for nothing?

We all know that once property is out of town control, property owners are pretty much free to do with the land as they choose. Restrictions on deeds are soon forgotten or removed through legal means — which the town has either not challenged or inadequately pursued in the courts.

Wetland recharge areas in the densely populated Shores area need permanent protection. These water recharge areas feed not only the Shore's wells, but replenish the water supply for the entire town. Topography and vegetative changes, over use of fertilizers and pesticides, filling of land and other changes will occur if the land is not permanently protected. Monitoring of property, particularly as it changes hands, is impossible. Covenants can and will be broken, either legally or illegally.

The Town Council's proposal to sell these now protected properties does

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