Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Keep an island tradition alive with your donations

The Jamestown Fourth of July fireworks have become an island tradition. So has this editorial asking for your donations. Here's what I wrote last year. The words still work:

"Jamestown's annual spectacular summer fireworks display is planned for 9 p.m on Sunday, July 5, at the Mackerel Cove town beach. That's less one month from today.

"There's only one small problem, though. The Rocket 'hogs (successors to the Rocket Dawgz, who staged the display for many years) need your money so they can blow it up.

"It takes lots of green cash to feed the colorful fireworks each year. Because of the recent change in the fireworks management, so to speak, the Rocket 'hogs are a little behind in their fundraising for this year's extravaganza.

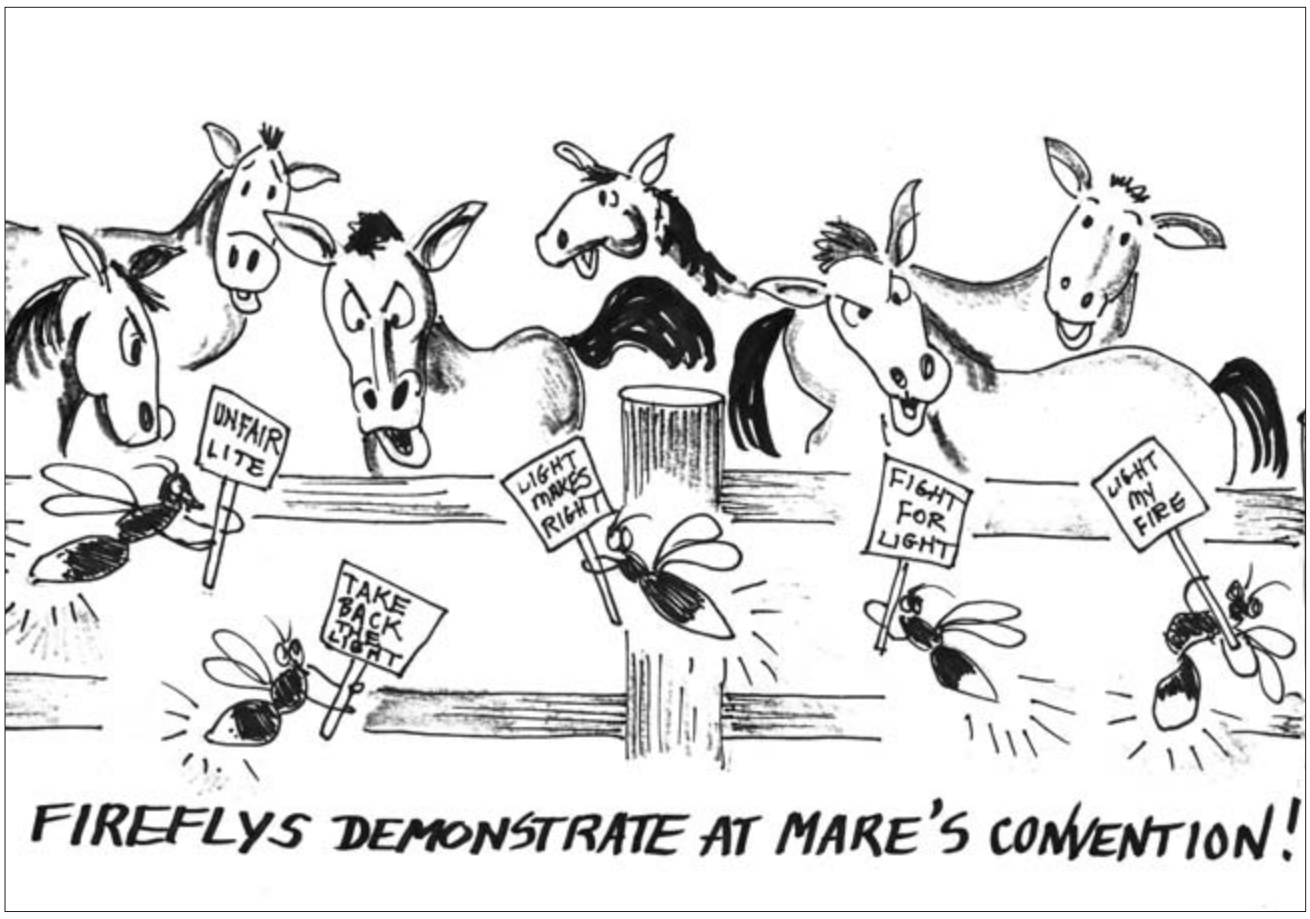
"The Rocket 'hogs are asking that everyone send in their donations sooner rather than later. That way they can make the appropriate arrangements with the guys at the fireworks company.

"In other words, they need to know how many ka-booms to order. Show your patriotic island spirit by promptly mailing your checks to The Jamestown Fireworks Fund, c/o The Rocket 'hogs, PO Box 1776, Jamestown, RI 02835.

"Donations of all amounts will be most appreciated, the Rocket 'hogs say.

"You can also help out with the Independence Day pyrotechnics by dropping your loose change into special "Ka- Boom" jars at island businesses. That way you won't have all that spare change weighing you down. Remember, the more you donate, the bigger the ka-boom on July 5th!"

— Jeff McDonough



• LETTERS •

Thanks for quick response to call

I want to thank the Jamestown Parks and Recreation Department for its prompt response in making repairs to playground equipment.

The Jamestown playground is a favorite spot to visit after I pick my grandson up from the Jamestown Early Learning Center. We noticed that some of the equipment needed to be repaired.

I called the parks and recreation office on a Thursday to report it. When we went to the playground the following Monday, what to our wondering eyes should appear but parks and recreation personnel to make a list of what repairs needed to be made.

When we came back on Wednesday, the repairs had been completed. Kudos to the parks and recreation personnel for their prompt and thorough response to my call.

Judith DeAlteris
Jamestown

Students learn Jamestown history

On behalf of the second, third and fourth grade classes at Melrose Avenue School, I would like to express my gratitude to the Jamestown Historical Society for inviting students to preview their new exhibit, "Educating Jamestown Then and Now," at the Jamestown museum.

The exhibit chronicles the history of the Jamestown schools and includes photos and lots of fun comparisons.

The exhibit provided students with background knowledge about the history of education in Jamestown and was a highly engaging and meaningful experience. The exhibit will be open to the public beginning June 21. I encourage families and friends to visit our local museum.

I look forward to future connections between the school and the Jamestown Historical Society.

Carrie Melucci
Melrose School
principal

Public restrooms need attention

I recently had the unfortunate experience of having to use the public rest rooms next to the Recreation Center.

The rest rooms were filthy and unsanitary, not to mention disgusting and gross.

Please, Jamestowners, if you want my tourist dollars, clean up your facilities!

Clinton Sornberger
Kissimmee, Fla.

This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of June 18

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 Journal, June 19, 1909

Shortly after midnight Saturday, a heavy thunderstorm passed over the island and for a time the rain came down in torrents. The dirt roads were washed somewhat but not badly. Contrary to the usual weather conditions the night rain was followed by a heavy fog Monday which hung over the island with more or less density until afternoon.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, June 16, 1934

The strawberry festival held Friday evening at the grange hall, under the supervision of Conanicut grange, was an enjoyable affair. The tables were attractive with summer flowers, covers being laid for forty. The menu comprised three kinds of salads, strawberries and cream, strawberry shortcake, rolls and coffee.

From the Newport Daily News, June 18, 1934

Many new registrations were recorded at the Beavertail Golf and Country Club Sunday and a large number of players were noted on the greens. Walter Denning of Providence, an outstanding golfer, has been accrued as "pro" for the season.

From the Newport Daily News, June 19, 1934

The Conanicut Yacht Club hoisted its flag Monday, announcing the opening of the club's activities. … The club expects a busy season, and more than 300 guests have been invited to join in the July Fourth celebration at the club, when the first race of the season will be held. U. S. Goby, who has been in charge of the club for the past few years, is now on duty each day.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, June 15, 1959

Three New York brokerage firms have made detailed inquiries about the possibility of constructing a bridge across the east passage of lower Narragansett Bay.

From the Newport Daily News, June 16, 1959

The Jamestown tax rate will jump from $16.20 to $16.75, an increase of 55 cents per $1,000 according to figures announced last night by Frank J. O'Connor, chairman of the tax assessors.

From the Newport Daily News, June 18, 1959

Teachers at the Jamestown Elementary School will hold a banquet Thursday at the Bay Voyage Hotel in Jamestown. On Friday, the teachers will meet after school closes for a farewell coffee hour given for the teachers who are leaving school.

The Jamestown Shore development, started in 1947 and inactive in recent years, is to be revived. … About 120 home have been built on the tract since 1947. There is room for an additional 800 homes.

From the Newport Daily News, June 19, 1959

Thirty-nine pupils were graduated from the Jamestown Kindergarten at ceremonies this morning in the school auditorium.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, June 19, 1984

The Town Council voted Monday to spend $14,000 on a comprehensive analysis of the Water Department, provided the town administrator can find a way to fund the project.

The Jamestown Historical Society Museum on Narragansett Avenue will open for the season Wednesday at 1 p.m. The theme of this year's exhibit will be "Jamestown in the 1880s," arranged by Mrs. William W. Miner, museum director.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, June 16, 1994

The state will reimburse the town for nearly $12,000 worth of Newport Bridge tokens used by the ambulance service, police and fire departments.

Conanicut Marine Services is quietly observing its 20th anniversary this summer. Started in the spring of 1974, the business has grown from a barebones operation with just 10 guest moorings to one that today encompasses a full range of services for boaters.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, June 17, 1999

Thirty-eight Jamestown students received diplomas at the 94th commencement exercises at North Kingstown High School on Friday, June 11.

The Jamestown Millennium Quilt Committee is well on its way to producing two beautiful quilts that will decorate the library after completion at the stroke of midnight Jan. 1.