

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Summer's best is yet to come!

We bid good-bye to July while some islanders wonder if Mother Nature is going to cooperate this season. There have been enough days of rain and fog to put this year in the record books.

Despite the weather, Jamestown appears to be busy. The hustle and bustle in the village — the hallmark of our summer — is here at last. Parking spaces can be tough to find, even on week nights. That's really good news for the island businesses that rely on the summer traffic to keep their doors open year round.

Folks are lined up to buy ice cream and there are passengers waiting to ride the ferry to Rose Island and Newport. There's a crowd at the hot dog stand. The beach at Mackerel Cove is packed with swimmers and sun-worshippers hoping for a few rays between the wisps of fog.

August rolls in this weekend and brings with it the best part of our island summer. There are plenty of island events on the calendar like the popular Fools' Rules Regatta and the Chamber of Commerce "Night at the Fort: Dig It" dinner-dance.

If you are looking for a place to kick back and relax, Jamestown is the spot for you.

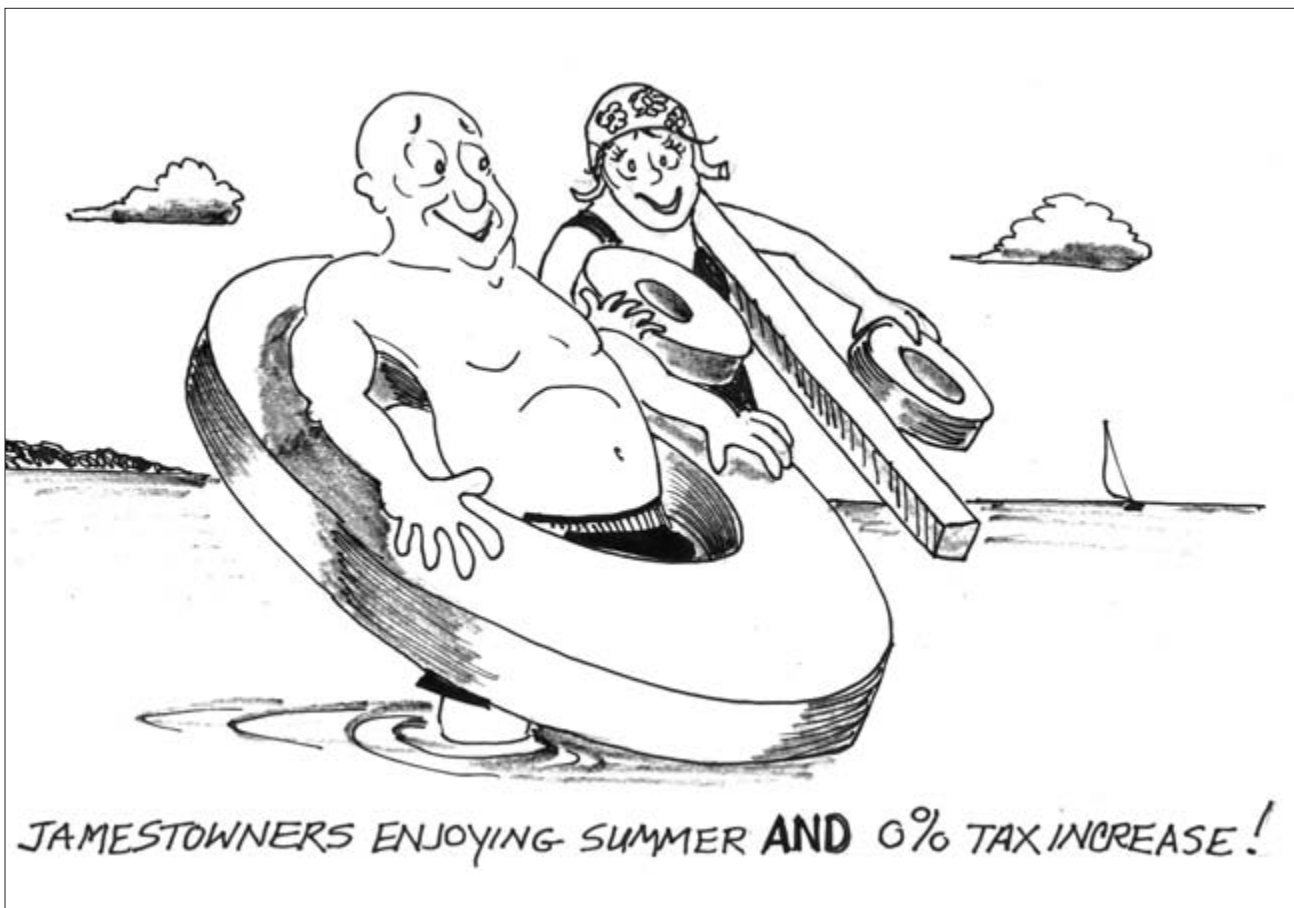
Sailors love Jamestown. Those who like to compete can find a race on Narragansett Bay just about any night of the week. The island is a popular destination for cruisers. We are surrounded by water and we're all about boats.

Then there's the fishing. You can angle from the shore or a boat. There's always something to catch. The stripers and blues will keep you busy.

Ride your bicycle, walk around the lighthouse at Beavertail, visit the historical museum and windmill. Or, grab a good book and find a hammock under a shady tree.

Ever the optimist, let's keep our fingers crossed that we'll see blue skies ahead.

— Jeff McDonough



JAMESTOWNERS ENJOYING SUMMER AND 0% TAX INCREASE!

Historic district needs more resident approval

Your detailed article on the planning meeting about a Shoreby Hill historic district last week failed to mention that Dr. Richard Greenwood said the state recommends a 75 percent residents' approval on the idea of a historic district. At a meeting specially convened by the residents last year, the vote was 17 to 11 in favor of pursuing the notion of a district and the number of votes (houses, plus land) is over 40 for lower Shoreby Hill.

In summary, the historic district idea is going forward to the council with less than 75 percent resident

approval.

Also unreported in your article was a Shoreby Hill resident's comments about a preference for the neighborhood to make its own decisions without involving the residents' association in outside commissions, committees and other regulations.

Elle Burgess
Shoreby Hill resident

Thanks for help with fireworks

You gave us \$9,000 and we blew it up! What makes this event successful is the support of the people of

Jamestown. The Rocket 'hogs are very thankful to everyone who mailed in a check, or donated anonymously, but we are also thankful to everyone who put time and effort into this venture.

On behalf of the Rocket 'hogs, thank you to the Town Council for allowing this amazing tradition to continue, to Town Clerk Arlene Petit and Deputy Kim Turcone for their guidance with paperwork and the inner workings of town government, Town Administrator Bruce Keiser, Jeff McDonough of the Jamestown Press for excellent

press coverage. Speaking of press coverage, thank you to the Walrus for keeping his tradition of drumming up support and informing us about everything fireworks. Thank you to the island businesses that were collection sites: McQuade's Market, Jamestown Wine and Spirits, Grapes and Gourmet, and Jamestown Hardware.

While these people are not "hogs," they are actually more integral to making this event happen: Thanks to Chief Tom Tighe, and the entire police department for excellent event management. Extra special thanks to the men and women of the Fire Department under the command of Chief Jim Bry-

See "Letters" on page 16

• LETTERS •

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 29, 1909

The training squadron, which has been anchored off the east shore of the island the past few days, got underway Wednesday and put to sea. ... Their going will make things about the ferry seem quiet, as the coming and going of their small boats and the shore parties have made the shore front lively for the past few days. Both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, hops were given in the Gardner House hall for the midshipmen, each proving to be very enjoyable.

From the Newport Daily News, July 31, 1909

The season in which shore birds can be shot opens tomorrow and the new law, which requires each gunner to be licensed and to carry such license, to show upon request, is operative. Although birds are reported plentiful, only six local sportsmen have as yet taken out the necessary license at the town clerk's office.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, August 2, 1934

St. Matthew's parish hall was an attractive spot Wednesday, when the annual flower show of the Jamestown Garden club was held. The day was perfect for the occasion, and there was a large attendance, including many out-of town guests. Looking into the hall, one was reminded of a forest, filled with greenery and flowers. Opposite the entrance, the wall was banked with beautiful evergreen trees and shrubs donated by Mr. and Mrs. B. Tweed, with wild flowers of all kinds intermingled, and the pretty colorings and lively containers, and the attractive arrangement.

From the Newport Daily News, August 3, 1934

Owing to a cut in the budget the Y. W. C. A. Sea-side camp at Conanicut Park will close for the season



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of July 30

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.

Sunday.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 28, 1959

The Jamestown Town Council last night approved, with minor reservations, a state plan to reroute and control traffic at the ferry landing. The main change is to eliminate the traffic island at Ferry Wharf. A monument depicting Roger Williams meeting Conanicus ... would be moved to the easterly end of Narragansett Avenue. The cleared area would make parking possible for 60 more cars while waiting for the ferry.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, July 28, 1984

The U.S. Coast Guard enlisted all boats in Newport Harbor to help pull competitors in the Save the Bay swim out of the chilling waters and rough seas less than an hour after the swim began this morning.

From the Newport Daily News, July 30, 1984

About a dozen swimmers completed Saturday morning's 8th annual Swim the Bay despite cancellation of the race by the Coast Guard about an hour after it began.

From the Newport Daily News, July 31, 1984

The Town Council Monday spurned a developer's proposal to build a 120-unit housing complex for the elderly because of lack of information. ... In other business, the Council asked Town Administrator Robert W. Sutton Jr., to try and get residents to change their house numbers to conform to the recently-completed numbering project.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, July 28, 1994

The Town Council can restrict activities on the public floating dock at East Ferry that may interfere with boating activities or pose a threat to public safety, and it has asked the Harbor Management Commission to make recommendations on what these restrictions might be.

Computerized index of Press now available at the library. In a cooperative effort with the Jamestown Press, the library has installed a computerized index system intended to provide islanders with an efficient means of accessing local information.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, July 29, 1999

(photo caption) David Martin, chairman of the island's No Port Coalition, moderated Tuesday's rally at East Ferry.

Cable company offers digital service. Jamestown Bridge the first and only to support a fiber optics cable. (Article is about cable service availability from Cox Communications.)

After several years of talking about reviving the many well loved traditions of the Feast of the Holy Ghost, the Jamestown Holy Ghost Society has finalized its plans for the Sunday, Aug. 7 celebration.