

# Island Opinion

## • EDITORIAL •

### Volunteers are needed to serve

We often talk about the importance of volunteers to the fabric of our Jamestown community.

Our good island life relies heavily on those people who give of their time in the many local civic and church organizations, and on the town's numerous boards, committees and commissions – not to mention the fire department and the emergency medical response team.

Without these folks . . . well, things just wouldn't get done and Jamestown wouldn't be the same.

Those who serve in elected local offices are also volunteers. That includes the people who serve on the Town Council and the School Committee, although they do receive a small monetary stipend. These neighbors dedicate a large amount of their time and energy to keeping our town and schools operating at peak efficiency.

There is some question this year as to whether our local political parties will be able to field full slates of candidates for the fall election. Should that happen, voters would have minimal choice when it comes to choosing people to sit on the Town Council and School Committee.

That's not a good thing because elections are all about debate – a healthy exchange of opinions about our local issues and how best to manage our town and schools. The direct result of that debate – and the choices made during the election – is the impact we see on our local property taxes.

The local election is really a public forum, one that hopefully is a sane and respectful discussion.

So, we're calling on islanders to volunteer to stand for election. Run for office as a Republican, as a Democrat or as an Independent.

Make the commitment to your community.

Share your talents and your wisdom with your neighbors. Become a candidate for public office in Jamestown.

— Jeff McDonough



### Thanks to all for successful Carr/Clarke reunion

The Carr/Clarke School Reunion that was held on July 25 was a day of smiles and hugs. The weather could not have been better and we all saw friends and classmates that we hadn't seen in over 40 years. I would like to thank the following people, businesses and organizations for their help and generosity: Pedo Manchester, Fran Lopes, Alcina Blair, Don Gillis, Nancy Mason, Judy Garlick, Jane Bentley, Linda Warner, Kathy Brownell, Ken Caswell and Nancy Beye.

Also, the Jamestown Press, McQuade's Market, Touch of Class Caterers,

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Bank Newport, Jamestown Hardware and the Jamestown Recreation Department.

Thank you one and all.

**Jim Pemantell**  
Jamestown

### 3/50 Project: Give it a try

I heard about a new consumer project while listening to NPR. It's called the 3/50 Project. It seemed like a great idea to me so I thought it was worth passing along their "home page statement."

Three: What three independently owned business-

es would you miss if they disappeared? Stop in. Pick up something that brings a smile. Your purchases are what keeps those businesses around.

Fifty: If half the employed population spent \$50 each month in locally owned independent businesses, it would generate more than \$42.6 billion in revenue. Imagine the positive impact if three-quarters of the population did that.

Sixty-eight: For every \$100 spent in locally owned independent stores, \$68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll and other expenditures. If

you spend that in a national chain, only \$43 stays here. Spend it online and nothing comes home.

One: The number of people it takes to start the trend...you.

Living in this beautiful place is a gift. With very little effort, we can give something back. You might just discover that downtown is a fun place to spend some time.

**Nancy Cloud**  
Jamestown

### What neighborhoods are next?

The last day on which a prospective Town Council candidate can file papers for

See "Letters" on page 16

#### 100 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, Aug. 11, 1909

The supply of ice secured last winter by the local ice men ran out last week and the demand being filled by ice carried from Newport.

##### From the Newport Daily News, Aug. 12, 1909

The hop at the Bay View hotel Wednesday night was largely attended and was one of the best of the season. Professor Lodter's orchestra furnished the music.

##### From the Newport Daily News, Aug. 14, 1909

The unusual dry weather does not seem to have reduced the crop of wild blackberries although cultivated crops are drying up for want of water. Numerous parties from Newport visit the island for berries and return laden down, while those who follow the business of gathering them have shipped several wagon loads of crates for the past two weeks.

#### 75 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, Aug. 15, 1934

The American Legion carnival was favored with good weather Tuesday evening and the usual large crowd attended. In the afternoon the doll carriage parade, sponsored by the Legion auxiliary, drew a large gathering.

##### From the Newport Daily News, Aug. 16, 1934

Albert Wright of North Main road has presented to the Jamestown Philomenian Library an attractive billboard in the form of a miniature Colonial front entry and door. As the door opens into the front hall, which has a background of light blue, a notice in black and white arrests the attention of the visitor, and notes the days and hours on which the library will be open. It stands at the left of the entrance and is an added attraction to the quaint surroundings.

#### 50 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, Aug. 12, 1959



## This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

### Week of August 13

*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.*

Multiple trip ticket books for cars using the Newport-Jamestown Ferry are now on sale (at Market Square in Newport and in Jamestown). Prices are \$5 for a six-trip book and \$9 for a 12-trip book. Each ticket is valid for car, driver and all passengers.

Mackerel Cove Day will be celebrated at the beach next Saturday. . . . There will be swimming races . . . . The competition is open to all and ribbons will be awarded winners in the various age groups. . . . From 6 until 8:30 p.m. fireplaces will be available on the beach for group cookouts, and the concession stand will be open for cooked food. The Jamestown fire department will demonstrate its inhalator, water skiers will perform and there will be an exhibition of horseback riding. At 8:30 p.m., an outdoor movie on water safety will be shown.

#### 25 years ago

##### From the Newport Daily News, Aug. 11, 1984

Dr. Joseph J. England has been appointed by Newport Hospital to establish a family practice in the hospital-owned Jamestown Family Practice Center

##### From the Newport Daily News, Aug. 15, 1984

More than 50 Jamestown Shores residents crammed

into Town Hall Tuesday night to express opposition to plans to upgrade town roads in their neighborhood in conjunction with the new bridge connector road.

#### 15 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, Aug. 11, 1994

Island residents are no longer allowed to water their lawns or wash their cars, but gardens can still be watered on odd or even days according to street numbers.

Whether it is because there are more boats in the harbor or because "Jamestown has finally been discovered," local businesses are doing better this summer than they have in the past, and store owners are happy about it.

#### 10 years ago

##### From the Jamestown Press, Aug. 12, 1999

Final water conservation measures go in effect today for every one who is on the municipal water system. . . . When North Pond reservoir is between four and five feet below capacity "no person shall wash a car from a system using water furnished by the municipal water system."

With another new road project going to the drawing board in downtown Jamestown, the state Department of Transportation may finally be seeing the light at the end of the drainage pipe on Southwest Avenue. A Phase II archeological investigation in the area of Art's Auto Body Shop, where Southwest Avenue's new drainage system is slated to be installed, did not reveal any Native American burials in the path of construction.

New skimmer boat gives island a quick response to oil spills. . . . The 23-foot long aluminum boat was recently placed in the care of the Fire Department.

Following an inspection of the region's bridges by District 1 of the U.S. Coast Guard, the state Department of Transportation was notified that three unused Rhode Island bridges should be demolished, and one of them is the old Jamestown Bridge.