

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Jamestown benefits from students' efforts

Kudos to the Providence College freshmen who came to Jamestown this past Saturday and volunteered their time on a number of worthwhile island projects.

One hundred and eighty-eight eager students pitched in and helped where it counted. Many colleges and universities around the country are asking their incoming freshman classes to give something back to society. Volunteering is an important lesson for us all.

Here's a run down on what these students accomplished last weekend:

- At the Jamestown Philomenian Library, the students weeded and edged the gardens.

- At the Jamestown Community Playground, the students weeded and painted. Looks much better, don't you think?

- At Hull Cove, the students picked up litter and trash. They also trimmed brush, so that the walkways are now clear.

- At the Police Station, the students weeded and mulched.

- At the Lawn Avenue School, the students cleaned and painted the concession stand and storage building at the ball field. They are now blue instead of green.

- At the Jamestown holding area for stray pets, the students weeded, trimmed bushes and generally cleaned up the place.

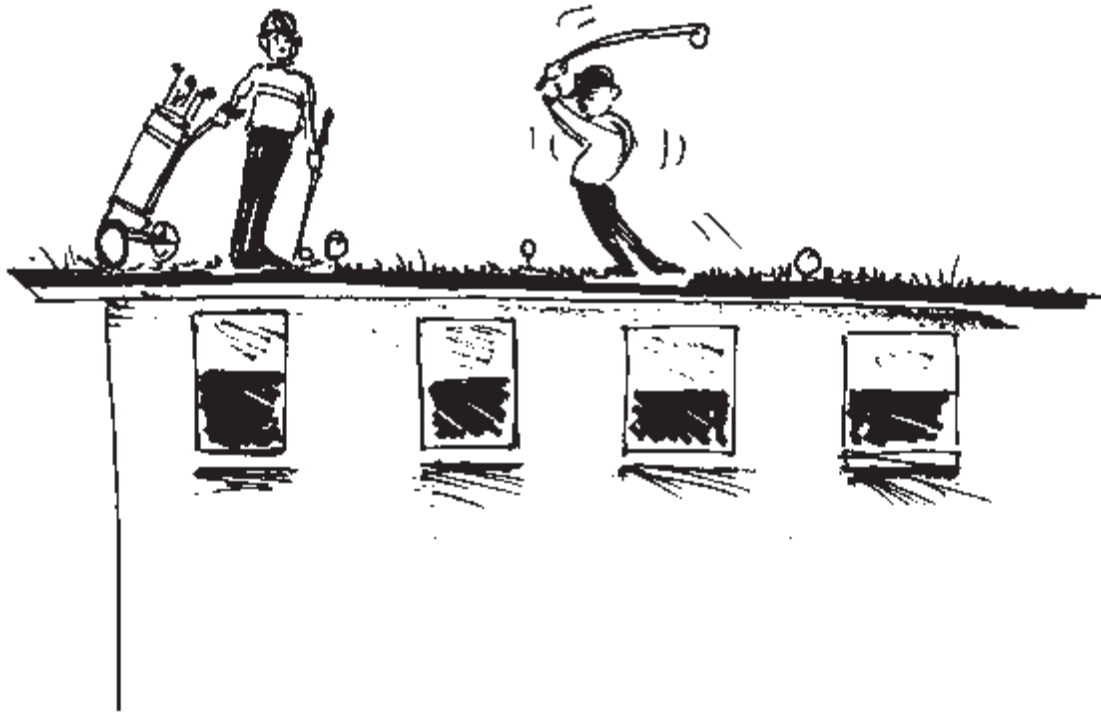
- At Potter Cove, the students picked up litter along the beach, and also weeded and mulched around the parking lot.

In all, the students filled about 180 leaf bags with garbage and stuff that can be composted. It's a big improvement and the island certainly has benefited from their efforts.

In addition to the students, about a dozen Jamestown residents volunteered their time to supervise. It was a job well done by all involved.

There is still some painting and mulching to be done if you'd like to help. See the town ad on page 17 of this week's Press.

— Jeff McDonough



GREEN ROOF - GREEN TEE?

Shores lots need protection

On Sept. 21, the Jamestown Town Council will formally discuss the future of the 100 "tax sale" foreclosed lots in the Jamestown Shores. The Jamestown Shores Association is strongly opposed to the sale of any and all of these 100 lots, which help act as a water recharge for the Shores.

A couple of weeks ago, on Aug. 24, the council held a work session to discuss these properties. The meeting was well attended and included four past presidents of the Shores and myself. I was happy to see that our Town Council does not have any intention of selling lots, which are considered open space and precious wetlands. The town has

spent a lot of time acquiring the land that needs to be left as open spaces and not sold to abutting owners and other interested parties. The town's intention is to place strict restrictions on the lots to insure that they are not used for any development. The town rightfully and logically does not see any monetary exchange for these lots as a revenue benefit.

I think it was a misdirected decision to even think that selling off open space can solve any financial problem, whether it exists now or later. One can't put a monetary value on Shore's wetlands or open space. These 100 lots are unbuildable, and

they serve the purpose of protecting this side of the island from the demands of the infrastructure...the land is priceless. Once it is gone, it cannot be reclaimed.

Jamestown has four types of land areas, including the village, rural residential area, conservation/recreation area and the Shores. The number of people who live in the Shores comprises more than 52 percent of the island's population. Our location is north to Capstan, south to Watson Farm, and west of North Road and the Cedar Hill development. The land in the Shores is very environmentally sensitive and much of the Shores

had been originally created for seasonal use and a less-dense population.

The lots are non-conforming substandard parcels. The reason for their lack of usage is that the former owners have abandoned them to escape taxes on non-buildable land; hence, the town acquired them. These lots have always been problematic and even selling them to neighbors or others could be very risky. Trees could be cut down, chemical fertilizers could be put on lawns and, even worse, there is the possibility that additional septic systems will be installed, which would exacerbate potential problems with the aquifer.

There is no public water

See "Letters" on page 16

• LETTERS •

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 8, 1909

The cab drivers are expecting a break in the summer's business soon and are making arrangements for their annual clam bake in Caswell's grove.

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 9, 1909

The first granolithic sidewalk to be laid on the island, from the foot of Union street to Narragansett avenue, are nearing completion.

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 11, 1909

The weather for the cabmen's Clambake Friday was anything but favorable. A good spread had been prepared in Caswell grove but just at the time set for the dinner, rain began to fall. The tables were unprotected, save for the tree, but a goodly number braved the dampness and partook of the bake. The ball game after the dinner had to be postponed as it rained hard at the time set.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 8, 1934

The Thorndike hotel closed for the summer yesterday and the Bay View will close Monday.

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 10, 1934

The Board of Governors of the Beavertail Golf and Country Club held a meeting Sunday afternoon and authorized Allen Chase, superintendent, whose bid was the lowest, to proceed with the construction of a ballroom, which is to be added to the west end of the former Audley Clarke residence, the latter to be used as the club house, instead of the present one.

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 13, 1934

Steamer Governor Carr gave three salutes for Mrs. Roosevelt, wife of President Roosevelt, when she crossed on the 5 o'clock ferry Wednesday evening.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 11, 1959



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of September 10

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.

Scores attended the open house for Jamestown's new bowling alleys yesterday from 2 to 7 p.m. James Penney, manager, welcomed the guests and introduced Francis R. Costa, president of the Town Council who spoke on the need for type of recreational facility in Jamestown. ... More than 200 bowlers kept the eight lanes busy until closing time last night and prizes of bowling shoes were awarded to the high single scorers.

Joseph F. Pannone, in charge of mosquito control for the state, was the speaker yesterday at the Jamestown Rotary Club meeting at the Surf Restaurant. ... Frederick Clarke, president, showed the members the new Rotary emblem for Jamestown which was designed by William King of Jamestown, a commercial artist. The emblem shows the windmill and a fisherman casting from the rocks at Beavertail.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 8, 1984

The Victorian building at 15 Conanicus Ave., last known as Harbor View Nursing Home, is due to go under the wrecker's ball to make way for a five-unit condominium. ... The permit to tear down the structure was for

\$4,500. Nothing of the building will be saved.

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 11, 1984

There were no angry citizens. There were no strident attacks. In fact, there was hardly a peep from about 25 residents who listened as the Jamestown Bridge Design Study Committee detailed its final conceptual plan for the new bridge connector road to the Town Council Monday night.

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 12, 1984

Divers World, a division of Alpine Ski/Sports, will sponsor a trash and treasure dive at Taylor Point near the Newport Bridge toll booth to help clean up the recreation site. The dive will be Sept. 22.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, Sept. 9, 1994

Town officials are set to meet with state Department of Environmental Management officials today to ask for emergency approval to place shale fill behind the dam at North Pond, the town's main water supply.

The state Department of Environmental Management has fined the town \$700 for failing to pay a \$1,840 user fee for testing municipal sewage effluent for industrial pollutants. But town officials are not about to pay either the fine or the fee until they have had a hearing.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, Sept. 9, 1999

As islanders bump over the protruding manhole covers on Southwest Avenue with no sign of a construction crew in sight, the less complacent residents have asked, "Will this ever end?"

Tuesday Jamestown was awarded a \$35,000 grant for its wastewater management program initiated this spring.

Fair weather prevailed Sunday for the 106 sailboats that competed in the Conanicut Yacht Club's annual 'Round the Island Race.