

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Down on the farm Saturday at Heyday

Heyday is this Saturday, Sept. 16. The Conanicut Island Land Trust will use the event to showcase its most recent acquisition – the Godena Farm.

From all reports, Mother Nature is cooperating this year. The meteorologists are promising an outstanding autumn day for this classic island gathering. That means sunny blue skies with a crisp nip in the air.

The Land Trust has hosted Heyday about every other year since the group was established in 1984. You could say that it has become one of our favorite island traditions and always attracts a large crowd.

For those who don't know about the Land Trust, the group is all about preserving our island's open spaces from the relentless march of progress and development that has turned much of our agrarian lands into housing subdivisions and strip malls across the nation. The trust currently has legal responsibility for more than 500 acres of land on Conanicut island.

The Land Trust announced in late summer that it had purchased the Godena Farm, a 23-acre pastoral spread on the island's north end. The farm is the first property that is actually owned by the Land Trust. There are 70 other some properties that the Land Trust has helped preserve through the purchase of the properties' development rights.

Heyday is a "family fair celebrating Jamestown's open space properties," according to the Land Trust's website. But it is really much more than that. Load up the car with the kids on Saturday and spend a few hours at Heyday. It will be a celebration of island agriculture and its harvest. That means an abundance of pumpkins and fresh apples!

Heyday is also a celebration of Jamestown's volunteerism. Various island organizations and civic groups will be on hand at Heyday on Saturday to share information about their activities.

And there will be plenty of fun activities and games for the youngsters.

We'll see you there.

— Jeff McDonough



Volunteer for Jamestown Classic

The Jamestown Rotary Club has been working for the past few months organizing the 34th annual Jamestown Classic to be held Columbus Day, Oct. 12. This is the Rotary Club's biggest fund-raising event of the year. Over 1,000 riders and spectators will be converging on Jamestown for the day. Racing will begin at 8:15 a.m. and be completed by around 1:30 p.m.

If you have ever thought of riding in this event, this is the year to do it. We are bringing back the citizens race (FUN RIDE). You don't need to buy a license for this ride and you can ride any bicycle. But, you still need to wear a helmet. You can find more information

online at www.jamestown-classic.com.

The race course circles the island, starting on Conanicut Avenue at the recreation center. Riders will be traveling north on Conanicut to East Shore Road, where they will turn south at Summit. From Summit Avenue, they will travel the length of North Main Road through the intersection at Narragansett Avenue onto Southwest Avenue. They will then follow Beavertail Road out to the lighthouse and back. The race then turns right onto Hamilton Avenue, traveling to the end, where the race turns left on Walcott and Conanicut, and finishes

at the recreation center for a total of 19.1 miles.

We are looking for volunteer road marshals to ensure the safety of the riders and residents during the race. Road marshals will be stationed at most intersections along the route. We like to assign volunteers to an intersection close to their house. Time commitment for this ride is about four and a half hours, from 8:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at jamestownclassic@cox.net or call Mike Schnack at 423-3496.

This should be an exciting day of racing and a great opportunity to show off our

island. Come out and race, or cheer on the riders! The Rotary Club extends a big "thank you" to the community for your support with this, our premier fund-raising event.

**Mike Schnack and
David Reardon**
Race coordinators
Jamestown Classic

A friend to animals

We would like to thank Councilwoman Barbara Szeplatowski for carrying our Jack Russell Terrier home after he escaped from our gated deck. She is truly a caring, loving friend to animals.

Linda E. Silipigini
Jamestown

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• LETTERS •

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 23, 1909

Two miles of state road will be built here this fall. This will complete the macadamizing of the shore road from the ferry to Conanicut Park. Mr. Alton Head has the contract and will commence work as soon as the surveyors mark the grader, which will be in a few days.

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 24, 1909

The blocking to move the Brown cottage from Friendship street to Walcott avenue has been brought from Newport and is being placed under the building.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 25, 1934

The 25-foot sloop which went ashore off Lion's head, Beavertail, Sunday night, was named the Murrmur, according to Manuel Silvia of Jamestown, who salvaged pieces of the craft, which was entirely broken up. He salvaged the keel and part of the hull and on one of the pieces of the hull the name could be plainly seen. Nothing was found that could identify the owner.

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 27, 1934

(At the School Committee meeting) Mr. Boone reported that several projects suggested at the last meeting had been accepted as a federal project and would be worked on this fall. Included in the list were the following: Sidewalk into north door of Carr school; reconditioning of tennis courts at Thomas H. Clarke school; building of retaining wall in front of Clarke school; bordering on the North Main Road; leveling and improving Thomas H. Clarke playground, with the possibility of a winter skating rink; laying of concrete floor in Carr school playground.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 24, 1959



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of September 24

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.

Seventy-five boys and girls were placed on 14 teams when the Jamestown Junior Bowling League was formed yesterday at the Jamestown Bowling Lanes.

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 29, 1959

The Jamestown Town Council last night upheld its earlier objections to revision of the Navy's torpedo target area on the east side of Conanicut Island. ... A check for \$15 was turned over to the treasurer from Anthony DiNapoli who had agreed to turn over to the town 20 per cent of the gross from viewers he had placed about town. The Council early in the summer granted him permission to place binocular stands on the streets for tourists to use.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 20, 1984

(caption for map) The Jamestown Bridge Design Study Committee has reached a final conclusion on the concept for a new connector road.

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 21, 1984

The Planning Board Wednesday night unanimously urged upgrading the town's building inspector post to a full-time job because of the amount of building on

the island.

From the Newport Daily News, Sept. 25, 1984

The Town Council Monday night endorsed the concept of Jamestown joining the North Kingstown cable television system, operated by Rollins Cablevision.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, Sept. 22, 1994

(photo caption) The weather was beautiful Saturday for the Conanicut Island Land Trust's Heyday at Fox Hill Farm.

The Town Council Monday granted the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority permission to tie into the municipal water system. Sitting as the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners, the council voted 4-1 ... to grant the hookup and not use the authority's need for water as a bargaining chip. Town officials want the authority to pay a \$44,000 annual service fee in lieu of taxes for 34 acres of land it owns around the Newport Bridge toll plaza.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, Sept. 23, 1999

In the click of the shutter it was over. The once-in-a-lifetime whole island portrait was taken Saturday. ... About 2,000 people turned out for the event.

To be, or not to be? That was the question at a joint community meeting held by the state Department of Transportation in North Kingstown Tuesday evening on the future of the old Jamestown Bridge. It was called a "trash-ridden behemoth," and then its beauty was compared to the historic Brooklyn Bridge. During a 90-minute discussion ... comments from over 100 residents swung from one extreme to the other over whether the old bridge should be maintained as a bicycle-pedestrian path or demolished.