

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

Did old-style politics sway our town election?

Jamestown's 2009 election is history. We've got a new Town Council, voted three members to sit on the School Committee and re-affirmed our Town Moderator.

We'd like to congratulate the winners and thank everyone – candidates and voters – for their participation in our most recent island election. We know that the new council and school committee members will do their best for our community.

But one wonders if this election is really over?

Some observers are questioning whether the election was affected by a scurrilous last-minute campaign tactic. At least one candidate – Mike Schnack, who was elected to the Town Council – is planning to file a complaint with the state attorney general's office.

Just prior to election day, many Jamestown residents who live on the island's north end received an anonymous mailing. The letter made false accusations about two of the candidates' stands on town water and sewer issues, and property taxes. The letter was timed so that the candidates who were skewered would not have time for a response.

State election laws require that all political advertising, whether on television or radio, or in print or posters or flyers, must be signed and attributed to the parties who paid for the ads. Even our federal election laws require similar attribution.

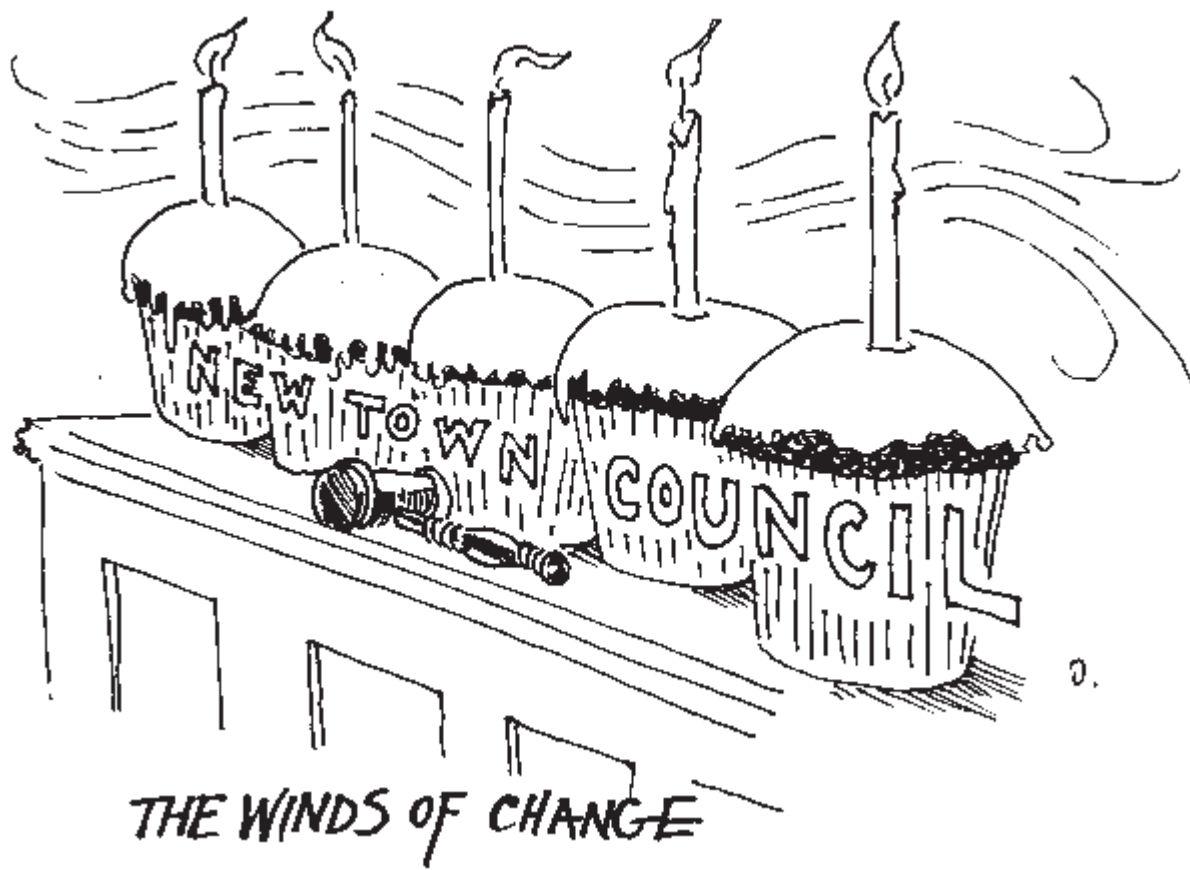
It is unfortunate to note that this type of scurrilous election tactic has been a fairly common occurrence in Jamestown politics. There have been several incidents in the past 30 years where unsigned last-minute mailings and flyers have been circulated just before the day that voters go to the polls.

We should have fair and open elections here in Jamestown.

Jamestown attorney John Murphy takes note of this most recent questionable election tactic in his Murphy's Law column titled "Cowardice" published in this issue of the *Jamestown Press*.

We agree with John's commentary and ask that state election officials and the state attorney general promptly investigate this matter.

— Jeff McDonough



Thanks to all for successful Jog

The 21st annual Jamestown Jack O' Lantern Jog 5K road race was held on Oct. 24. I would like to thank this year's sponsors, who make this race possible: World Trophies, Crystal Springs Water Co., the Jamestown Fire Department, the Jamestown Police Benevolent Association, Susan Kelly Dermatology, the Junior Women's Club of Jamestown and the Jamestown Press.

I would also like to thank all the local businesses that made donations for our free raffle: Aces Pizza, Anita Haircut, A.S. Clarke III Excavating, Art's Auto Body, Baker's Pharmacy, Balance Sport and Fitness, Bay Voy-

• LETTERS •

age Inn, Cathryn Jamieson Salon, Cumberland Farms, Central Garage, Clarke's Farm, Chopmist Charlie's, Conanicut Marine Services, East Ferry Deli, Grapes and Gourmet, House of Pizza, Island Rubbish Service, Jamestown Designs, Jamestown Fitness, Jamestown Golf Course, Jamestown Hardware, Harry Chase of Hodgkiss Farms, Ocean Essence Spa, Narragansett Café, Oyster Bar & Grille, The Purple Door, Portuguese American Club, Salon Balayage, The Secret Garden, Slice of Heaven, Tricia's Tropi Grill, Trattoria Simpatico and the Village

Hearth Bakery.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped out the day of the race: The Jamestown Police Department and Jamestown Emergency Medical Services, all of my fellow employees at the Recreation Department, Andrea Masterson, Ronnie Parfitt, Andrew Rushton, Nate 'Nitro' Nordstrom, Rob Goode, Jim McLoughlin, Bonnie Jamison and Noah Robinson. Thank you to my mom, Joan Goldstein, for helping me during and after the race. Also, thank you, Bill Piva, for your support and leadership, as always. Thanks again to everyone

who helped make this year's Jog a huge success.

All proceeds from the Jack O'Lantern Jog will be used for the Jamestown Recreation Scholarship Fund.

Jill Goldstein
Program Supervisor
Jamestown Parks
& Recreation

Experience 'Willy Wonka'

I am writing to "invite" you to the Jamestown Community Theatre's November musical production of "Willy Wonka." Now we may not have Gene Wilder or Johnny Depp, but we have a cast of relatives, friends and neighbors who have worked hard over the last two months

See "Letters" on page 16

100 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Nov. 3, 1909

Tuesday's election was marked by lack of interest, only 121 of the total of 231 voters casting their ballots. The weather probably caused a small falling off in the votes. ... The town has always been for no-license (no liquor), but Tuesday's result shows a stronger anti-license sentiment than ever, the vote being more than three to one.

The Catholics of Jamestown are to be better and more permanently provided for than has been the case in the past. ... Rev. Father Sullivan has become the purchaser of a piece of property (from Mrs. Eunice P. Littlefield, which consists of about an acre with a cottage house) on Narragansett avenue. ... Repairs and alterations are to be made to the cottage, to fit it for use as a parsonage, and the present Catholic Church on Clinton Avenue is to be moved to the property and also improved.

From the Newport Daily News, Nov. 6, 1909

The Ft. Greble football team crossed the island today to play at Ft. Adams.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Nov. 5, 1934

Teachers and pupils of the Thomas H. Clarke school held a Halloween party in the assembly hall, about 150 attending, many coming in costumes.

John Rosa of Lawn Avenue, who has leased a large dairy farm in Taunton, and will probably take up his residence there during the week, chartered the 6 a.m. ferry boat Sunday, transporting eight large trucks of hay to the farm.

From the Newport Daily News, Nov. 7, 1934

Despite the fact that it was an off year, Jamestown, Middletown and Portsmouth increased their total votes over the Presidential year of 1932, which was an evidence of a bitter fight between Republicans and Democrats for



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of November 5

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.

the general Assembly tickets. (Every Republican won and the town voted 235 for and 55 against a Relief Loan.)

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Nov. 6, 1959

(At the Jamestown Rotary Club meeting, Ted C. Jarrett) spoke of the many activities and interests covered by chambers of commerce and expressed his opinion that it would be helpful to Jamestown if either a business men's organization or a chamber of commerce was organized.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Nov. 5, 1984

St. Mark's Church observed its 75th anniversary Saturday night with a special mass celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Kenneth Angell of Providence. The Rev. William J. O'Neill, pastor, received a stole from the Rev. William S. Litterick and the Rev. Frederick J. Spulnick, on behalf of parishioners of Central Baptist Church and St. Matthew's Church, respectively.

The future of the Bay View Hotel will be discussed at a Town Council work session tonight. Spencer E. Dickinson, owner of the sprawling 94-room structure that overlooks Narragansett Bay, has signed a sales agreement with Ron-

ald Jobin and Donald H. Loomis. Jobin, associated with Island Realty, also represents Commerce Oil in developing the company's extensive land holdings in Jamestown. Loomis is president and chief executive of Commerce Oil. ... The sales agreement signed between Jobin-Loomis and Dickinson does not take effect until early 1985.

From the Newport Daily News, Nov. 6, 1984

In an effort to avoid rumors, new owners of the Bay View Hotel told the Town Council Monday that they do not have any firm plans on what to do with the 90-year-old structure.

15 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, Nov. 3, 1994

Election day Tuesday marks the first time in recent memory that Jamestown will have two polling places.

(Photo caption) Shale from the cross-island highway construction corridor is dumped at the base of the north reservoir dam. The dam is being reinforced because recent tests showed that its interior is filled with a "soup" of silt and sand. Observers have commented that the shale base would make an excellent bicycle path.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, Nov. 4, 1999

The land surrounding the Newport Bridge toll plaza is becoming more beautiful by the minute, part of an effort to give tourists a proper welcome to the Newport area. ... The project was designed by landscape architect Randy Collins of the East Providence firm Gates Leighton and Associates and will cost the authority \$141,000.

A new engineering report says that by pumping water from the South Pond to North Pond reservoir before returning it to the water treatment plant, the island could probably double its available water supply. (The report was prepared by Ecosystem Consulting Service, Inc. of Coventry, Conn.)