

Island Opinion

• EDITORIAL •

We should keep our kids at North Kingstown High School

Do we send our high school students to North Kingstown or Narragansett? That is the question. The Jamestown School Committee has been evaluating both high schools and now must choose the island's high school of record.

Jamestown students have attended N.K. High School for many years. The N.K. high school is a large, nearly new facility. N.K. boasts a diverse educational program, complimented by excellent athletic and extra-curricular activities. Yes, at times, Jamestown has been frustrated by the seemingly dysfunctional North Kingstown School Committee. Despite that, the high school education offered to Jamestown's youth has been top notch. N.K. administrators and teachers work to ensure that our students don't get lost in the maze and develop their own identity.

Narragansett, with a former Jamestown school superintendent at its helm, has put forth a hard sell. There's the lure of a warm, nurturing environment – Jamestown Part 2, so to speak. Add to that the promise of free busing and personalized, small classes – and a better chance to play sports – and the Narragansett option appears appealing on the surface.

But when you compare apples to apples, there is no contest. Jamestown currently has 234 students enrolled at N.K. High School. A large percentage of our island kids – about 170 – participate in sports. N.K. was recently ranked as one of the top 500 high schools in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*. N.K. offers broader educational programs than Narragansett. N.K. is a shorter drive than Narragansett – important to parents who make endless trips to school for their kids who participate in sports and after-school activities.

What about those families that might find themselves with students attending both high schools because of a school-of-record change? That straddle could prove a nightmare for a number of parents.

Finally, the warm and nurturing concept is perfect for elementary and middle school. But at the high school level, we want our youth to be prepared to tackle the world – whether they choose a big university or get a job after graduation. A study panel recently found no compelling reason to change.

North Kingstown High School continues to be better suited for Jamestown.

— Jeff McDonough

What do you think? Write a letter to the editor. Or go online at www.JamestownPress.com to vote on this week's question: Should Jamestown send its students to North Kingstown or Narragansett?



Stone wall artist

Every stone has its place. Nolberto Herrera, who does not speak English, lets his work talk for itself. He was busy building a stone wall on Wednesday morning at Beaverhead Farm.

Photo by Jeff McDonough

Ft. Getty is a good site for turbine

Thanks for your editorial in the Jan. 28 edition about siting wind turbines in Jamestown.

I appreciate your fair summation of the decision-making process and, of course, I understand that as an editorial, you are presenting your own views. But I would like to answer some of your concerns about placing a turbine at Ft. Getty.

After participating in the discussions of the Wind Energy Committee, I believe that a wind turbine, large as it may be, would be completely compatible with the other uses, present and planned, for this island park and summer trailer camping site. The base of the wind tower would be only some

20-odd feet in diameter, so it would not physically displace any other activities.

Noise from the turbine machinery and blades – even immediately below the tower, according to the study commissioned by the committee – would be less than the town regulations for noise in residential and open space night hours. If you were to sit alone on the rocks nearby, looking for complete quiet and solitude, you would probably hear the turbine. But in a busy trailer camping area, with kids riding bicycles and a TV playing in the camper next door, the turbine noise would not be noticeable.

• LETTERS •

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and some people will not like the looks of a turbine. But many people do, and although Ft. Getty might lose some campers because of the turbine sited nearby, it is possible that the turbine would make the park even more popular with summer campers. As for a sailing school and a new pavilion, both of which the town is considering for Ft. Getty, I don't believe that these uses would be constrained in any way by a turbine.

I agree that Dutch Island may be Jamestown's best site for a turbine(s). But using that site would require

negotiations with the state and a change of zoning. Ft. Getty is a good place for Jamestown to erect a wind turbine in Jamestown in 2010.

William W. Smith III
Member
Wind Energy Committee
Jamestown

Time for a full view of Ft. Getty

I believe the consideration of turbines at Ft. Getty prompts a re-think for the property as a whole.

Ft. Getty is the only public open space owned by the town and is a potential jewel for the residents of the island. It has wonderful views, great trails, has access to the less-busy west passage and

See "Letters" on next page

100 years ago

From the Newport Journal, Feb. 5, 1910

The ferry service between the island, Newport and Saunterstown was irregular Tuesday and Wednesday. The Conanicut broke one of her tillers at noon Tuesday and was taken from the line for repairs, and it was noon Wednesday before repairs were made, although work was continued throughout the night. One of Champion's launches made a number of trips in her place Wednesday. On the west side, the Gypsy, which was running in place of the Narragansett on the Saunders line, was unable to run but a few of her trips and Schade's launch was pulled into service to carry the New York mail

Military ball a great success at Ft. Greble. The social festivities at this post are not many because of the isolated position, but when the men arrange for an event, they do not do it in halves, but give a time which is long remembered.

75 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Feb. 4, 1935

Construction of the Jamestown-Saunterstown Bridge would "obviously tend to encourage the people of Jamestown to depend on East Greenwich rather than Newport as a source of supplies and entertainment," according to Herbert Claiborne Pell in a letter to the Chamber of Commerce urging a protest against the project.

From the Newport Daily News, Feb. 5, 1935

An open meeting of the representative citizens of the town was held at the town hall Monday evening, for the purpose of discussing various projects that might be prosecuted with the aid of PWA allotments. The meeting was called to order by the president of the council, G. Herbert Wright, John E. Hammond acting as clerk.

From the Newport Daily News, Feb. 7, 1935

The refrigerating plant at the Coleman Tefft restaurant



This week in Island history

Compiled by Sue Maden

Week of February 4

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.

on Ferry Wharf developed a leak Wednesday evening, causing ammonia and gas fumes to escape, and driving the occupants out of the store. The fire department responded to a telephone call, and found it necessary to use gas masks in order to enter the building and shut off power.

50 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Feb. 5, 1960

The Jamestown Bridge Commission heard last night that traffic over the span the first three days in February totaled 2,715 vehicles, an increase of 174 over the same period last year. Gross revenues for the period were \$820.95.

From the Newport Daily News, Feb. 6, 1960

The Gulf Oil Corp., which had agreed to furnish Commerce Oil Refining Corp. with foreign oil and to buy all its refined products from Commerce's proposed \$55,000,000 refinery in Jamestown, has been so affected by the government's oil import quotas that it has taken drastic action...Gulf was the only major oil company that would give Commerce Oil assurances that it would furnish and buy all refined products. Based on its agreement, New York bankers proceeded with financing arrangements.

Several hundreds of acres of Jamestown land were either purchased or optioned at the site for the proposed refinery. Court action, however, delayed the refinery's construction.

25 years ago

From the Newport Daily News, Feb. 2, 1985

A Providence construction company was the apparent low bidder for deck repairs to the Jamestown Bridge when bids were opened Friday. With a bid of \$142,128, Panbro Sales Corp. of Providence outbid five other firms for the project. The state Dept. of Transportation had estimated the project's cost at \$158,000.

15 years ago

Representatives of the Narragansett Indian tribe returned the remains of two of their ancestors to an ancient grave site near a town water line on Anthem Street last Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Last week, the Bank of Newport hosted an open house for members of the island business community to see the Grange Hall renovation underway for the new Senior Center on West Street.

10 years ago

From the Jamestown Press, Feb. 3, 2000

The Town Council in a special session Monday approved a combined general government and school budget totaling \$12.66 million for fiscal 2000-2001. Up 8.6 percent over last year's spending plan, if approved by voters at the annual financial town meeting March 6, the new budget would raise the tax rate by 80 cents from the current \$15.65 to \$16.45 for each \$1,000 of property valuation.

Over objections from concerned residents, the one-year work plan for evaluating contaminants on the site of the former landfill has been unanimously approved by the Town Council.