The Green Light

Bulletin of the Point Association of Newport, Rhode Island

Spring 1998

Corner of Elm & Washington
Looking toward pier
Features

President’s Letter 3
Beautification 4
Water Front Tidings 6
Traffic Committee Report 8
Carrie Ericson’s Washington St. 10
Noise 12
In Memory of Virginia Covell 13
George Perry Letter 14
Irish History 16
Edinburgh Choir to Sing at S. John’s 19
Spring Calendar 20

Front Cover: Photo of Elm Street ‘Round the turn of the Century’ see page 10-11

Photo credits
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Board meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of the Month, 7:00 p.m. at St. John’s Guild Hall and are open to association members. If you have a concern that you would like the board to address, please call Coles prior to the meeting.
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

I'm impressed by the number of houses on the Point that are being renovated. I keep finding another project as I walk or bike around our neighborhood. Two of my immediate neighbors just completed extensive renovations. Marcia and I are struggling to keep up. Our house renovation is about half done. That's after a year and a half, when we thought we would be done in a half a year. We're not sure if it makes us feel better or worse when we talk to a neighbor who tells us they have been at it for five years or seven years, and they are not done yet. Worse news comes from a long time Point Hummer who claims that a Point house renovation project is never done.

I am also impressed with the great work that has been done by our Traffic Calming Committee. They recently held two well attended public meetings and received good ideas and support. The new stop signs at Washington and the Goat Island Connector and at Second and Bridge are working well. You will receive a mailing later in March explaining the Committee's next recommendations to the City Council. Mark Williams has spent a lot of time and energy on traffic issues. He plans to step down as Chair of the Traffic Calming Committee once the Council acts on our latest proposals. We need someone to step up and take his place. Thanks, Mark for a job well done.

If you can't get me on the phone this spring, it's because I'll be sailing. An old friend and I bought a Shields which will be moored conveniently off the Point. We plan to try our hand at racing and, of course, grandchildren rides. Our house renovations will be on hold until next winter.

Have a great spring.

[Signature]
Spring is in the Air ...

Notes from the Beautification Committee

It’s almost that time of year again, the busy spring season when gardeners begin to think about which tasks to turn their energies to. And as Pointers have done year after year in April, we will be out in force to do our annual spring clean-up of Storer and Battery Parks. We hope to see lots of you loyal volunteers turn out to tidy up flower beds, rake leaves, spread mulch and remove debris in the parks and adjacent public areas.

Please plan to meet at Storer Park at 9:00 a.m. - on Saturday - April 18th. Rain date will be the following Saturday morning.

Don’t forget to bring gloves, lawn rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, and a “spring” in your step! The city will supply leaf and trash bags and mulch. See you at the park!

Paul Quattrucci

The Adventure Club Plans for Spring

On an unseasonably warm morning last November, the Adventure Club headed to Hunter Playfield to plant spring bulbs. Led by mom’s Kris Brouker and Beth Lloyd, the children had a lot of fun as they dug into the ground and carefully placed the bulbs with great hope and anticipation for the spring flowers.
SPRING on the POINT
Gardening, Cleaning, and Catching up with neighbors...

POINT PLANT SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 30th
9 a.m. ~ noon
101 Washington Street
corner of Pine

As you venture out to prepare and plan your garden, set aside any extra perennials, herbs, ground covers, etc., and donate them to the Plant Sale.

Call Anne Reynolds, 847-2009, for donation details.

POINT TAG SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 30th
9 a.m. ~ noon
Pine Street Driftway
adjacent to Battery Park

Open your closets, rummage through the attic & basement. Give away things that you no longer need. Turn trash into treasure!

Call Deb Herrington, 848-9735, for donation details.

PLANT SALE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Monday, March 16th
5 p.m., at Anne Reynolds’
88 Washington St.
Your help is needed to make this annual event a success!

TAG SALE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Thursday, March 19th
7 p.m., St. John’s Guild Hall
61 Poplar St.
Please come and help plan this first Point Tag Sale!

Join your neighbors and friends at the POINT ASSOCIATION’S SPRING MEETING

Thursday, April 2nd
7 p.m., St. John’s Guild Hall

Guest Speaker
Ron Potvin, Newport Historical Society’s Curator of Library Special Collections
News from the Point Association’s Harbor & Waterfront Committee

Three waterfront items of interest to Point residents are on the front burner this spring, although none of them will have a direct impact on the neighborhood, according to Don Dery, committee chairman.

The first is a proposal being considered by the state to make Quonset Point a commercial shipping port “which would rival New York Harbor.” The plan would allow some of the world’s largest cargo ships — ships larger than aircraft carriers — to move up East Passage and cross the tip of Conanicut Island (Jamestown) via a newly dredged 1,000 foot-wide channel. Some 515 acres of the bay’s West Passage, an area larger than downtown Providence, would be filled.

Fisherman, boaters and environmental groups are particularly concerned about the huge shipping traffic, loss of fishing grounds, and damage to the ecology of Narragansett Bay which may result from this project.

Another issue, also being studied by the state for possible implementation in June, is a high-speed ferry service which would run from Providence to Newport.

The proposal involves construction of a high-powered ferry that would carry several dozen people from Waterplace Park in Providence to Newport in 45 minutes. The ferry apparently would dock at Fort Adams, one of seven possible ferry sites recently reviewed by the Department of Transportation (DOT) as part of its intermodal water surface traffic (ISTEA) study. Perrotti Park has been identified as the most logical place to construct a new ferry and water shuttle terminal in Newport Harbor.

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) has been awarded $900,000 in federal money to finance Newport to Providence ferry service for 12 to 18 months to test its feasibility.

A major hurdle to the plan is finding a way to build a high-capacity ferry capable of passing under the low bridges between Waterplace Park and the hurricane barrier in Providence.

Finally, the U.S. Navy is moving forward with its plan to permanently berth “inactive deep draft ships at the Naval Education and Training Center (NETC) in Newport.” The ships — two aircraft carriers and a cruiser — will be berthed at NETC’s Pier 1. The Navy’s recently completed Environmental Assessment states the berthing facility will not require any dredging and will “have no significant impact on the environment.” Upgrade work on Pier 1 will commence soon.

Exploring our Coastal Assets

Thanks to the Friends of the Waterfront, public rights to Newport’s waterfront and coastal areas are now clearly marked with bronze plaques. This marker program has been ongoing for many years in conjunction with the RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC). With the help of Gennieve Mathison’s perseverance and vision, the plaques have come off the shelves and have been installed. Paths that lead to our magnificent shoreline are all distinguishable by the round bronze markers that have been placed in the sidewalk/road surface at each entrance to the designated right of way.

For those interested in a guide to public access to the shore throughout the state, a book titled Public Access to the Rhode Island Coast is available through the RI Sea Grant Information Office, URI, Narragansett Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI 02882-1197; there is also a copy at the Newport Public Library currently on the new book shelf - F77.3.P63X. This soft cover book is full of photographs, site descriptions and maps of over 300 RI public coastal access sites.

Twenty-one sites are noted in the Newport section. The first 9 are right here on the Point. From the Van Zandt Pier to Perrotti Park, our little corner of the state’s shoreline is well outlined.

SAVE THE BAY

Offers a great way to welcome spring ...

Here’s a sure way to blow away the winter cobwebs — why not spend an afternoon seal watching on Narragansett Bay aboard the historic 63-foot Dutch sailing vessel Brandaris. Trips sail from Wickford harbor. March 14 & 15, 1:00 p.m., and March 28 & 29, 12:00 noon. Members:$17, Nonmembers:$25. Call 272-3540 for information and to register.
Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation
Upcoming Lectures
Thursday, March 12th

The Evolution of Bird Populations in Narragansett Bay and at Rose Island - to be given by Eugenia Marks, Director of Issues and Advocacy, Audubon Society of RI, co-sponsored by Norman Bird Sanctuary.

Wednesday, April 15th

Fortifications of Narragansett Bay - to be given by Walter Schroder, author and historian, and Frank Hale, President, Fort Adams Trust.
also...

The Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation has a new program called Name That Tune. Now you can buy a music roll for the lighthouse’s player piano! Hundreds of tunes are available, ranging in price from $10 to $17. It’s a great way to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special event. All rolls will be labeled with your own special dedication. Call the foundation office at 847-4242 to order a music roll or reserve a place at a lecture.

RIMAP to Hold Annual Meeting

RIMAP (Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project) is a non-profit organization which focuses on locating and identifying the submerged cultural resources of RI waters. Cultural resources may include shipwrecks, debris fields, submerged man-made structures and inundated terrestrial sites.

Did you know that there are several Revolutionary War vessels scuttled in the waters between Goat Island and Rose Island?

RIMAP is a membership organization and welcomes all that are interested in marine history (above and below the water), contact Dr. Kathy Abbass by writing to: P.O. Box 1492, Newport; or by email-at883@osfn.org, for membership information.

RIMAP will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, April 18, 1998, 10 a.m., at Salve’s O’Hare Auditorium. The public is invited to come and learn about the fascinating things RIMAP has been involved with over the past year, and what is in store for their future.

Aquidneck Island Partnership “Realizing a Shared Island Vision”

The Aquidneck Island Partnership, a newly formed effort comprised of many island public and private organizations and administered by URI’s Coastal Resources Center, is working to achieve coordinated resource management that balances economic development and environmental well-being, while maintaining the island’s unique character and quality of life. One of the partnership’s goals for 1998 is to develop a “Our Common Future” document for Aquidneck Island. Such joint collaboration with a shared focus - to plan for the future and to preserve the sense of place and special qualities of island living so valued by all residents - is important to maintain a balance and linkage between island municipalities and shared historic, economic, transportation, and recreational assets.

To learn more about the Aquidneck Island Partnership, contact: URI’s Coastal Resources Center, 220 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882, or by phone: 874-6224.

What’s new at Van Zandt Pier?

In late January, when only a few brave souls would venture out on the blustery pier, something warm and unexpected happened at the intersection of Van Zandt and Washington streets. Four handsome cement planters were delivered to adorn the entrance to the pier, quietly anticipating spring and the bright flowers that before long will be placed in them welcoming visitors to this venerable old pier.

The Friends of Van Zandt Pier must thank Martha Marie Grogan for coordinating the donation generously given by Aidan Graham (who will soon be opening his latest Irish Pub at 1 Broadway, the former Al Dente restaurant), and Newport’s public works crew’s efforts in moving the planters from Broadway to the pier.

This type of private/public partnership is so admirable. Neighborly acts such as this enrich our community, and everyone wins!

Looking ahead to summer, the Friends of Van Zandt Pier will need to join together to alleviate a growing problem at the pier. Over the winter, the cement slab at the west end of the pier has quickly eroded. A meeting with City Public Works Director Bill Pascoe is planned to seek a solution to this serious situation.

Anyone interested in joining Friends of Van Zandt Pier, please write to P.O. Box 704, Newport or call Mike Cullen 848-2945. Current members should watch for an April meeting notice in the mail.
Traffic Committee Report

Point residents recently participated in two dialogs hosted by the Association’s Traffic Calming Committee (January 29 and February 10) to discuss a variety of proposals designed to reduce the volume and speed of traffic on the Point.

The Traffic Calming Committee has considered numerous options following a comprehensive study of traffic patterns on the Point. The Committee retained the services of a professional traffic engineer to review its data and make recommendations for the Committee to share with residents and ultimately, the City Council. The Committee’s objective is not to deny anybody access to the neighborhood, only to “raise the threshold of inconvenience just enough to encourage transient traffic to utilize the main thoroughfares such as America’s Cup Avenue” said spokesperson John.

Mr. Leo DuTilly of Walnut St., one of many Point residents who addressed the over 50 people attending the January 29th Traffic Calming Forum. Mr. DuTilly offered some sage advise, as well as a financial challenge to those in the audience to set up a fund to further pursue traffic calming measures. Behind him at the table are: Traffic Committee member John Spohn, Point Assoc. president Coles Mallory, and Mark Williams, Traffic Committee chairman.

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Spohn. The Committee is seeking easily implemented, low cost solutions that can serve to minimize the growing traffic volume. This problem of “spillover” traffic is expected to get worse until the City and State address the reconfiguration of the Newport Bridge, America’s Cup and Connell Highway connection.

To date, the City has implemented two of the Committee’s commendations, installing additional stop signs at the intersection of Second Street and Bridge Street and the intersection of Washington Street and the Goat Island Connector. Both inherently dangerous intersections are now four-way stops.

The City also has blocked off the access turn at the Connector, making it more difficult for vehicles heading south on Washington Street to turn right onto the Goat Island Connector. This should make it easier for pedestrians to cross this busy intersection.

Mark Williams, Chairman of the Traffic Calming Committee says, “Residents of Third and Washington Streets, who are most impacted by the increasing volume of cut through traffic should be particularly concerned about the opening of the new timeshare housing project at the lower end of Washington Street and the new clambake entertainment facility on Goat Island, both of which will open this Spring.”

The Traffic Calming Committee will be taking the comments of residents under consideration as it works to develop the final traffic proposal subject to approval by the Point Association Board of Directors at the March board meeting. Once approved by the Board, the recommendations will be presented to the City Council.

Mark Williams

Connect Connell Highway!

At a recent workshop, the Newport City Council and the General Assembly delegation from Newport sat down to review the 1998 legislation that pertains to Newport.

At the end of the meeting, Councilman George Perry asked an important question “How can we let the DOT and the Bridge Authority know that we think it is imperative that Connell Highway (heading north at the end of Farewell) get connected to the rotary, which would greatly alleviate the traffic problems on the Point?”

Sen. Teresa Paiva-Weed showed great interest in the question. Saying that it was possible to get the DOT attention and it would be a good idea to invite Director Ankner to Newport for a workshop/forum on this issue.

A letter from YOU to either Sen. Paiva-Weed and/or DOT Dir. Ankner would certainly help expedite this process. Write to:

Sen. Teresa Paiva-Weed - 43 Thurston Avenue - Newport
Director William D. Ankner, Ph.D
RI Dept. of Transportation
Two Capitol Hill - Providence, RI 02903
Carrie Ericson’s Washington Street

Thirty-two years ago Carrie Ericson recorded memories of Washington Street in the Green Light. We’ve made her reminiscences the feature story in this issue in the hope it will stir memories of the past and interest in the constantly changing face of Washington Street.

“Many changes are beginning to take place on the west side of Washington Street, from the Fleet Landing to the Hunter House, and again it brings back memories.

At the end of the Fleet Landing, or New York dock, the fish boats arrived and great activity took place. The fish were unloaded, packed in barrels and stored in the freight house. Every night the New York boat left from here with its cargo of passengers and freight. Many people gathered to watch a bridal couple get a shower of rice or confetti and a rousing send-off, or to watch the men truck the fish barrels aboard and wait for the arrival of the boat train from Boston with more passengers. We were allowed to stay out until the boat turned around the Green Light, and the broad stern with its many twinkling lights was a beautiful sight. On Sunday an excursion boat arrived from New London. The crowds headed for the beaches or for the buses or carriages that took them around the Drive. On their return, the boys were kept busy selling peanuts, popcorn, post cards, souvenirs and shells. There was always the late arrival just as the gangplank was being pulled in, and some missed the boat.

Going down the wharf in the evening and on Sunday morning, lively games of horseshoe were held by the young and older men. On the north side of the wharf was a row of fish houses privately owned by Fletcher Lawton and Ned Gladding. Here the fish was unloaded, packed, iced and salted in barrels, covered with burlap and hooped for shipping. In the afternoon the men could be seen mending their nets. A New York boat as always tied up here for repairs and paint jobs. From the bow of the boat the young boys would jump into the shallow water below. An immense coal bin was on the wharf, and from the end, fishing was another sport the young enjoyed.

Seems Brigg’s Wharf then was a bigger place than it is today. On both sides of the street were many nice homes and tenement houses. Those on the west side had lovely flower and vegetable gardens that extended to the shore and caught the afternoon sun. There was an alleyway or shortcut to the shore. At the corner of this, Mrs. Maggie Clancy, who was a dress maker and milliner, ran a small candy shop. The shore curved at Brigg’s Wharf and extended to the Elm Street pier. There were no playgrounds or swimming instructors - and there were few drownings or accidents. This area was our playground which was kept clean by an older group. The shore was raked, old dry seaweed and driftwood burned, tin cans and glass collected and dumped into deeper water. At the corner of the pier and the Hunter House grounds was an area we called Sandy Bottom where we swam and caught the waves from the Mt. Hope, General or from the destroyers that tied up at the Torpedo Station piers. Mothers spent pleasant afternoons here while the children went crabbing, wading, swimming or cooking mussels in tin cans. A few Greek families lived here so there was always a skiff or rowboat available. Every child could row or sail a boat and could swim. The big test was to swim either from Brigg’s Wharf or Elm Street pier to the Green Light accompanied by a rowboat in case someone tired. While at the shore you gathered up the driftwood to dry, and this you carried home at the end of the day. On Sunday afternoon you could hire a boat for fifteen cents an hour or twenty-five cents for two hours at Gladding’s Boat House, where Leo’s Tavern is now.*

Elm Street pier was a dignified place for the older people. Along the fence of the Hunter House was a long bench where the older men gathered, smoked their pipes and swapped old tales. After supper, the women with their white aprons on,
strolled down and each family seemed to occupy their own favorite seat, enjoyed the sea air and watched the many Navy boats go by. The streets were kept clean by the old men of the highway department who dug up every weed, and there was little traffic. Many games were played at the corner of Bridge and Washington Street, and I'm sure the street light was brighter. It is almost unbelievable so much enjoyment could be derived from jump rope, hoop rolling, top spinning, kite flying, stilts walking and roller skating (wooden rollers), and hide and seek. During the winter the shore still held its attraction; the kids jumped from one cake of ice to another or swung from the heavy ropes that tied the New York boat to the dock. In the evening you studied, read, sewed or did embroidery and sometimes you made fudge or molasses candy.

Another active place on the Point was St. John's Guild Hall which was more like a community center for the children of the neighborhood. On Saturdays a sewing class was held with the two old Misses Wilbur in charge and assisted by young Mrs. Wilbur who taught embroidery. After school, gym classes and basketball were held. At the end of the season a big entertainment was held with all the neighborhood children performing. Come Easter Sunday we watched for a black covered bus, and when we spied it we ran so fast up to Battery Park. Here people gathered on the Blue Rocks and around the rail to watch people get baptized. The minister stood in the cold water and held an iron staff, and the people in white robes were ducked under the water and came out crying and shivering while the gathering sang “We Shall Meet by the River.”

After school closed in June, the big attraction was the circus. You retired early and all spare beds were filled with your friends who were awake half the night talking and listening for the first squeak of the circus trains. Everyone was up before dawn and out to see the animal’s unloaded. The boys worked at the circus lot feeding and watering the animals to earn a pass to the Big Show. At 11 a.m. we went to Washington Square to see the big parade - and what a thrill. It was a big event and mothers always bought peanuts and a big bag of bananas for the children. In the evening we went to Long Wharf where torches lighted the way from the tracks to the circus lot and again we watched the performers, caged animals and elephants load up.

One other thing we always had was a Christmas tree. It was trimmed with colored ornaments, bright tinsel, and colored twisted candles held in clip-on holders. Carols were sung, hot cocoa and cookies served, and your friends departed with an orange and a box of Christmas candies.

World War I came along and the peace and quiet gone, as well as this way of living. Some of the old Point family names were: Allen, Albro, Bachelors, Carr, Dennis, James, Gladding, and Lawton. Walking up Washington Street you passed the Southwick house, Curry’s, Luth’s, Wilbur’s, Dr. Storer’s and Smith’s. Opposite St. John’s Church and rectory with the beautiful elm trees on both sides of the street, Miss Esther Smith, who rode her bicycle or walked with an armful of wild flowers, resided in the Tom Robinson house. There was Covell’s, the Finch house, Angell’s, Dyer’s, Chaplain Nichol’s, Miss Paul’s, Horan’s, Norman’s, and Belknap’s with its wisteria covered veranda. St. John’s minister resided at the Faisneau house which was attached to the fashionable Bachelors boarding house. This house had a big open veranda with a border of nasturtiums. You ran fast when you came to Stella Maris which was vacant and regarded as a haunted house. Finally, there was Battery Park with its bandstand in the center, near the flagpole, where concerts were enjoyed on summer evenings.”

Miss Carrie Ericson (1893-1977) lived at 43 Washington Street opposite Storer Park. She was a great favorite and friend of many Pointers and her stories have kept history alive.

* Leo’s Tavern stood on the corner of Long Wharf and Washington Street.
Current "hot" topics include the recent groundbreaking of Goat Island’s entertainment facility - previously described as a “clambake” business, but now called the “Regatta Club” - and the city’s fundamental rethinking of its approach to noise issues.

With necessary state approvals in hand, Island Development Corp. (IDC) received a building permit on February 17th, for a 6,200 square foot, two story building that will be located near the existing wooden gazebo. The estimated cost to erect the “superstructure” is $425,000, according to the permit. As of February 24th, the site was surrounded by a snow fence and a nearby back hoe which had scratched away top soil, exposing an area filled with evidence of the island’s old Torpedo Station days: broken chunks of structural steel, red brick, concrete, and pipes. Foundations of past structures were clearly visible.

While the Point Association and its acoustics expert had strongly recommended to the developer, city staff, and city council that the building rest on a concrete slab and incorporate thicker, sound absorbing walls that would mitigate the transmission of low frequency sounds, the building plans show that the building will rest on a 18 inch foundation and will use conventional framing techniques.

Last November, IDC received approval for an indoor entertainment license with the stipulations that all windows had to remain closed when there was indoor entertainment and that additional council restrictions could be levied prior to issuing a certificate of occupancy.

The city is scheduling a March 16th forum (City Hall, 6:30pm) on the general topic of noise in Newport, featuring a national expert from the Rutgers Noise Technical Assistance Center who has helped other communities reshape their fundamental approaches to noise ordinances. The need for outside help has become apparent in the face of recent court rulings that have eroded Newport’s ability to enforce its aging noise ordinances. Like many US cities, Newport’s ordinances rely on older, “one-size-fits-all” decibel standards which are enforced using simple, imprecise sound pressure meters.

Current research show that low frequency sounds (e.g., bass drums) are more offensive and harder to control, while high frequency sounds are significantly easier to control. Reforming Newport’s ordinances would likely recognize these laws of physics and would likely establish more granular standards that could be more effectively enforced using today’s more precise measurement equipment.

This Rutgers University resource was first brought to the attention of the city manager, city solicitor, and First Ward council member by the Point Association following an Internet search seeking organizations offering expert technical guidance on noise issues. If you would like more information on this Rutgers resource, consult out their web page at aesop.rutgers.edu/~envscitc/noise.html, or contact Mike Cullen, chairman of the Point’s “Domestic Tranquillity” committee at 848-2945.
When I think of Virginia Covell I think of steaming cups of hot cocoa... endless streams of them! Since her brother-in-law, (William) King Covell, was a bachelor living in the family house at 72 Washington Street, Virginia was always called upon to be his hostess at Christmastime, when the house was transformed into a glittering wonderland of candles and trees. And how she did rise to the occasion! Year after year, decade after decade, her husband Rob, with King at the organ, would lead a faithful chorus of neighbors and friends in lusty rounds of Christmas carols from well worn books, and Virginia, in addition to adding her good voice to the choral effort, always managed to have the big dining room table spread with a splendid array of Christmas cookies and treats and those endless cups of cocoa by the time we were ready for our traditional reward. Gracious, tireless, cheerful, intelligent and good humored, she was the perfect hostess, and brought a tremendous amount of warmth and joy to the Sanford-Covell house and to the neighborhood. She will be truly missed by her Point neighbors.

Requiescat in pace.

Jane MacLeod Walsh

Editor's Note: Over the years, Virginia Covell planned and wrote many articles for the Green Light, serving as editor from 1985 to 1990. She always kept a long list of possible stories to tell.
From Councilman George Perry

As we look forward to spring, many issues face residents of the Point, as well as all residents of Newport.

A very important issue that has not been voted on by the council as of this writing is the proposed ordinance amendment to include Rose Island in the historic district. The issue may have a significant long term impact on what is allowed to be built on Rose Island.

Another major issue is the commercial development of our neighboring Connell Highway area. As you may have read in the local paper, the new owners of the Newport Mall have considerable plans to alter the property. Additionally, we have heard about a new movie complex on Jai Alai property. All of these developments bear watching.

The city council has recently met with Newport’s legislative delegation. Among the legislative bills being supported by members of our General Assembly are several that will help ease the burden on the property taxpayers in Newport. Proposed bills include: an increase in the city’s share of the hotel tax; an additional $2.00 per night fee on all guests at lodging establishments which will go to the city only; a $2.00 per passenger fee imposed on all cruise ship passengers; a rental tax on all properties rented for less than four months at a time (from May-October); an increase in state PILOT fees to the city for non-taxable properties; and, increases in Jai Lai fees.

The legislative delegation has also agreed to help the city in urging the DOT to make the Connell Highway connection a top priority. This will greatly alleviate the pressure felt by some parts of the Point as outlined in the “Traffic Calming Plan” issued by the Point Association traffic committee. Watch for the public hearing on the Connell Highway matter - and please attend.

Your continued attendance at workshops and city council meetings is encouraged. You will be heard if you wish to be, and it will help showcase the important issues relating to our neighborhood. Please get involved in these issues! Also, feel free to call me on any city concerns you may have- 848-5598.

George Perry

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The Green Light ~ Spring 1998
page 14
Aerial view of merry carolers at the Point Association’s annual cookie swap & sing-along, held in December at S. John’s Guild Hall. From left: the Lloyd family, Coles Mallory, Peggy Comfort, Suzy Sturack, Joan Wilson, Toni Peters, John Howard, Kay O’Brien, the Gilsons’ and the Vars’.

Tip To Travellers
For today’s travelers to and from Aquidneck Island faced with traffic problems, here’s a chance to sit back, relax and enjoy. Get James Garman’s book *Traveling Around Aquidneck Island* (1890-1930). Mr. Garman has kindly offered some of his materials for use in this issue of the *Green Light*. The Portsmouth author has wonderful early photos of the old days and fascinating tales. His book is available at Island Books, The Newport Bookstore, Historical Society or by calling him at 847-0445.

Welcome to Our New Members!
The Gallison Family
Mr. & Mrs. Eli Hirschenboim
Thomas Hyder
John Kavanagh
Jane McManus
Lenny Smith
Stephen & Gretchen Weiss

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176 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840
Tel: 401-849-3820
Fax: 401-849-3880
The Irish Have Come...

The Newport Museum of Irish History, founded in 1996, has as its purpose the collection, preservation and display of artifacts, letters, photographs and documents that trace the chronology of Irish immigration and settlement in Newport County. The goal is to recognize the social and cultural impact of this immigration on the community.

Currently, the Museum is working on the restoration and preservation of the Barney Street (St. Joseph’s) Cemetery, on the corner of Mt. Vernon Street and Barney Street. When completed, the cemetery will be fenced with a “period” cast iron fence, and a number of the stones will be restored. A booklet will also be published on the history of the site.

In the next few years, the Museum will be looking for an appropriate place to house the permanent museum collection.

Anyone interested in joining the Newport Museum of Irish History, may do so with a membership fee of $10 per year for an individual, and $20.00 for a family. For further information or membership, mail to: P.O. Box 1378, Newport, RI 02840, or call 847-2890.

Additionally, the Museum is co-sponsoring a guided bus tour of “Irish Newport” on Saturday, March 21st. Tickets are $15.00, which include a demonstration of Irish stepdancing, the tour and a “pub” lunch at the Hibernian Hall. Tickets available at LaForge Restaurant or call 847-8671.

Vincent Arnold
President, The Newport Museum of Irish History

President Eamon deValera of Ireland greeted by James O’Brien. On a visit to Newport in 1919
ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY

THE BANNERS

Project One is a new organization of local artist and professionals dedicated to producing public art projects that showcase the diverse talents of our community, and their first project, The Banners, is an energetic exhibit of contemporary art lining America’s Cup Avenue from the Gateway Center to the Newport Yachting Center. The colorful banners will be for sale at the end of the month-long, open-air, public art extravaganza at a closing celebration on March 12 at the Clarke Cooke House. Many Point resident artists are involved in Project One and they all deserve encouragement and thanks for their commitment to art and the community.

Congratulations!

The following two shows will run through April 17th.

Vietnam War Paintings of James Collins,
37 drawings and paintings done in various media of portraiture, combat situations, rural and urban scenes.. The exhibit will also include artifacts and personal memorabilia on the Vietnam War.

Women in the Navy Through the Years,
38 selections, chiefly drawings, paintings, and poster illustrations - covering the time frame of WWI to the present. Uniforms from various eras will also be displayed.

Opening May 1, 1998, The Navy in the Splendid Little War, is an exhibit commemorating the centennial of the Spanish-American War. Various dioramas, ship models, and documents, as well as personal memorabilia, paintings and prints will be on display through the fall.

The Naval War College Museum is located in Founder’s hall, on Coasters Harbor Island. Phone 841-4052 for further information.
Thank You Patron And Sustaining Members

PATRON MEMBERS

Gordon Armstrong & Nancy Espersen
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Mr. & Mrs. Philip Smith
Suzy Sturmack
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Sullivan
Mr. Bowen Sweet
Claire Thibeault
Jane MacLeod Walsh
Harry M. Wilson, Jr.

The Green Light ~ Spring 1998
page 18
Edinburgh Choir to Sing at S. John’s this Spring

S. John’s Church will continue to present the Celebration of British Cathedral Music in 1998 with two choirs. Celebration IV Spring will bring the Choir of S. Mary’s Cathedral, Edinburgh, sing April 16th through April 19th.

Celebration IV Summer will feature the Choir of Truro Cathedral from Cornwall. The Truro choir will be singing during the first week of August. The exact dates have not yet been set. As usual, this important musical event will be free of charge except for a free-will offering at the services. Plans are in the works for Celebration V in 1999 and Celebration VI in the year 2000.

The choristers and choir staff are housed during their stay by parishioners, friends of the parish, and our Point neighbors. Anyone interested in hosting a visitor can contact Mary Jane Rodman at 846-9199 or Bruce or Teddi Shaw at 846-7863. Please continue your generous support for this important international event. Check the notices in the church lobby for further information.

Bruce Shaw

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POINT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: __________________________ PHONE: __________

MAILING ADDRESS: __________________________

FAX: __________ E-MAIL: __________________________ (if applicable)

COMMITTEES & ACTIVITIES

ADVENTURE CLUB  BEAUTIFICATION  GREEN LIGHT  HARBOR TOUR
HISTORY & ARCHIVES  MEMBERSHIP  NOISE ABATEMENT  PLANT SALE
POTLUCK SUPPER  PROGRAMS  PUBLICITY  WATERFRONT  WINE TASTING

Please circle the categories that you would like to learn more about.

DUES STRUCTURE

INDIVIDUAL: $7.00  FAMILY: $10.00  SUSTAINING: $15.00  PATRON: $25.00

Please make checks payable to The Point Association. Note if new membership or renewal. MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE GREEN LIGHT IS INCLUDED WITH ALL MEMBERSHIPS.

CLIP & MAIL: THE POINT ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 491, NEWPORT, RI 02840

The Green Light ~ Spring 1998
page 19
**SPRING EVENTS**

**MARCH**
MONDAY - 16TH
5 P.M.
PLANT SALE
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
ANNE REYNOLD'S,
88 WASHINGTON STREET

6:30P.M.
NOISE WORKSHOP
CITY HALL

THURSDAY - 19TH
7P.M.
TAG SALE
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
ST. JOHN'S GUILD HALL

**APRIL**
THURSDAY 2ND
7PM.
SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING
ST. JOHN'S GUILD HALL

SATURDAY - 18TH
9A.M.
PARK CLEANUP

NOON
STORER PARK
MARKER DEDICATION CEREMONY

**MAY**
FRIDAY - 1ST
ADVENTURE CLUB
MAY DAY FESTIVITIES

SATURDAY - 30TH
9A.M. - NOON
PLANT & TAG SALE
CR. OF PINE
AND WASHINGTON

**THE GREEN LIGHT**
The Point Association
Editor: P.O. Box 491
Newport, RI 02840