

# LET'S GO BACK

## Our Island Through the Years From Past Issues of the Dispatch

### 74 years ago, Sept. 16, 1946: Vote of 354 to 30 backs Town Board protest; taxpayers veto airport

Grand Island residents met last Tuesday night to vote on the approval of the recent resolution made by the Town Board opposing the Niagara Frontier Planning Board's efforts to locate an airport on the Island. The ballot stood 354 for approval of the board's action and 30 for disapproval.

Supervisor Reginald P. Long opened the meeting by drawing a parallel between objections to the airport and former objections to the telephone, electricity and "maintenance of public roads." He stated that Grand Island would either have one large regional airport controlled by the CAA or the possibility of five or six privately owned airports.

Kenneth K. Koontz, airport consultant for the NFPB, discussed at great length the plans of his organization and stated that Grand Island is the only logical location for the proposed airport because of its geographical location and because of weather conditions and limited visibility.

In opposition to the airport plan, Grand Island residents brought out the facts that the area necessary for the establishment of so large an airport would decrease considerably the residential area of the town and also that the hazards of takeoffs and landings would preclude the advisability of building in close proximity to the airport.

### 60 years ago, July 7, 1960: New Town Hall being planned

A new town hall may be just around the corner. The Town Board has authorized consulting engineer J. Fruchtbaum to begin preliminary planning; keeping in mind the possibility of using the school district-owned site on Baseline Roa next to Sidway Junior High School.

Back in 1918, the present building opened its doors to admit schoolchildren. It was used as a schoolhouse until 1938 when Sidway School was constructed. First board meetings were held in the present Town Hall about August of that year.

The land next to the junior high school has been optioned by the town for \$4,000, but no decision on its actual purchase has yet been reached.

### 50 years ago, July 1, 1970: Grand Island's tradition continues and grows with fourth celebration

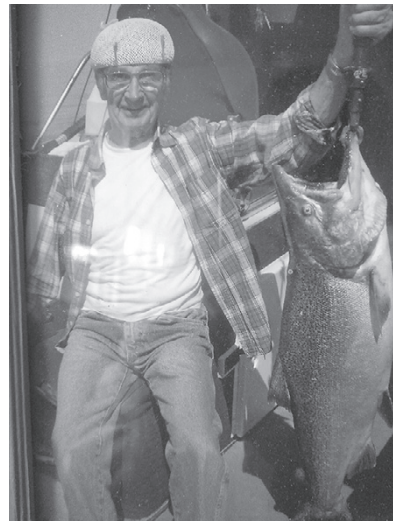
It didn't take long and Grand Island soon had a tradition – of whoppingly successful and fun-filled July Fourth celebrations.

Actually, last year's activities were the first of their kind on the Island, but they were such a hit that everyone assumed they would continue indefinitely as an annual event.

The town picked up the ball that last year's chairman of the festivities, Mrs. Robert Ryan got started, and put the Recreation Department's able head, Robert Zuchowski, at the helm this year.

Mr. Zuchowski had little difficulty in arousing interest in this year's events. Almost every participant from last year was eager to enter again, and many others have joined the ranks of those working hard to make the community-wide celebration a big success.

# OBITUARY



## John Richard Kilmer Sr.

John Richard Kilmer Sr., 94, died at his home on Grand Island on Father's Day, June 21, 2020, with his younger daughter, Geraldine Rapp, and son, John Kilmer Jr., by his side.

An avid horseman, boxing fan, celebrated fisherman, and car enthusiast, John grew up in Niagara Falls. He lived with his wife and family on Grand Island for more than 70 years, in Sandy Beach and on the West River.

John enjoyed boating and fishing on the Niagara River, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario with his son and fishing friends. He also enjoyed pop music and country and western, especially Willie Nelson.

John retired from Kimberly Clark Paper Company in Niagara Falls, and owned a lawn mower repair business on the Island.

His loving wife of 56 years, Joan Marie, died in 2003, and his older daughter, Jean Casey, died in 2012.

In addition to his daughter, Geraldine, and son, John, he has six grandchildren: Haylea Casey, Andrew Rapp, Katherine Muro and her husband Anthony, Meranda Cardinal, Chelsea Kilmer and John Kilmer III; two great-grandchildren, Anthony Muro Jr. and Christopher Rapp; his twin sisters, Stefanie Kutis and her husband Paul, and Mary Ann Favaloro and her husband Michael; five nieces and nephews; and several cousins.

John was loved by everyone.

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# Grand Island CHURCH DIRECTORY

**ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
The Evangelical Lutheran Church In America  
1453 Staley Road, Church Office 773-4400  
Child Care Center 773-9249  
The Rev. Kris Bjerke-Ulliman, Pastor  
[www.StTimothygrandisland.com](http://www.StTimothygrandisland.com)

Sunday Worship.....8:00am & 10:30am  
Sunday Church School  
Children Ages 2 Years - Grade 6 .....10:30am  
Professional Child Care provided during the 10:30 service  
Holy Communion All Services  
Day Care Ministry Operates Monday-Friday 6:00am - 6:00pm

**BIBLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
1650 Love Road (Just off Beaver Island Pkwy.)  
773-7303  
Pastor: Rev. Kevin M. Backus, Ph. D.  
Assistant Pastor: Rev. Andrew R. Wann, M. Div.  
[www.biblepres.org](http://www.biblepres.org)

Sunday School-Classes for all ages .....9:30am  
Worship Service ..... 10:45am  
(Nursery, Children's Church)  
Evening Worship Service.....6:00pm  
Wednesday  
AWANA - 3 yrs old thru Gr 8 during school year.....  
6:30pm-8:15pm  
24/7 program for Sr. High youth.6:30pm-8:15pm  
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting ..... 7:00pm

**BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER**  
1136 Baseline Road • 773-3748  
Rev. Calvin VanderMey  
[www.bfcgi.org](http://www.bfcgi.org)

Regular Service at Bible Fellowship.....8:30 & 10:15am  
Youth Group ages 8 & up - Mondays..6:30-8:00pm  
Adult Prayer & Bible Study - Tuesdays .....6:30pm  
Adult Bible Study - Fridays .....7:00pm

**CORNERSTONE CHURCH**  
1290 Whitehaven Road • 773-1004  
[cornerstonechurch.life](http://cornerstonechurch.life)

Join us Sundays at 9:00am and 10:30am  
Worship Service  
Discovery Island Children's Ministry  
RockStars (Special Needs) and Nursery

Middle School Youth Group.....Thur 6:00pm  
High School Youth Group.....Mon 6:30pm  
Kids Club (K-5th during school year).....Wed 6:30pm  
MOLO (Moms of Little Ones during school year) .... Wed 9:15am

Find more info on ministries for all age groups at  
[Cornerstonechurch.life](http://Cornerstonechurch.life)

**SHARE YOUR MESSAGE IN  
OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY  
CALL 773-7676**

**CROSSRIVER TABERNACLE**  
2920 Grand Island Blvd. • 716-229-8000  
Pastor: Michael Chorey  
[CrossRiverMinistries.org](http://CrossRiverMinistries.org)

Sunday Morning Worship Service..... 10:00am  
(Nursery & Children's Church Provided)  
Revolution Youth Rally for Teens  
(Grades 7-12) ..... 6:30pm

Wednesday Services  
Prayer Meeting..... 6-7:00pm  
Worship and Bible Study ..... 7-8:15pm  
Kid's Bible Club (Ages 5-11) ..... 7-8:15pm

**TRINITY CHURCH**  
"Welcome Home"  
2100 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island, NY  
[www.TrinityGrandIsland.org](http://www.TrinityGrandIsland.org) • 716-773-3322  
Pastor: Kevin Slough

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..... Radio Station 100.3  
Online Worship ..... [www.trinitygrandisland.org](http://www.trinitygrandisland.org)  
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Rooted Children's Groups\*  
Adult Bible Studies\*  
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