

The Newport Daily News

NEWPORT ♦ MIDDLETOWN ♦ PORTSMOUTH ♦ JAMESTOWN ♦ TIVERTON

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OPINION

OUR VIEW

In Newport, leave your car behind

If you're planning to visit Newport this summer, you'll have plenty of options to get around — all while leaving your car in the parking lot.

There is a multitude of styles — not to mention colors — of scooters and Segways available for rental and pedicabs and traditional cabs to take you where you're going.

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority operates a regular schedule of trolleys and buses to various attractions in and around Newport, including local beaches — and RIPTA riders are eligible for inexpensive all-day parking at the Visitors Center on America's Cup Avenue.

Adding to the mix, there will be three harbor shuttle and ferry services operating in Newport Harbor this summer.

Oldport Marine's Harbor Shuttle and the Jamestown-Newport Ferry, both of which have been operating in and around the harbor for years, have added new dimensions to their services.

Oldport Marine is operating two 26-foot Crosby boats with its most ambitious schedule to date and the advent of a wheelchair-accessible shuttle boat. The boat leaves Perrotti Park every hour on the hour, and people in wheelchairs will be able to board unassisted at all the stops except IYRS and Goat Island, according to Matt Gineo, Oldport's general manager.

The Jamestown-Newport Ferry, which specializes in transporting people across Narragansett Bay's East Passage, added a Waites Wharf stop this year that has proven

popular, according to William S. Munger, president and owner of Jamestown's Conanicut Marine Services, which operates the ferry. It also makes stops at Rose Island, Fort Adams, Bowen's Wharf and Perrotti Park.

And the new Aquidneck Ferry is expected to begin operating between Perrotti Park and Fort Adams State Park on Friday.

The Aquidneck Ferry, a 65-foot wooden packet boat that also will be wheelchair accessible, can hold up to 145 passengers, who will be able to enjoy entertainment from singers to storytellers and purchase sandwiches and drinks.

"People come to Newport to see the mansions, get out on the water and have dinner," said ferry owner Addison W. Closson III. "We'll be able to take care of two of the three."

The Newport Dinner Train and Old Colony Railroad also offer scenic tours by old-fashioned rail along Narragansett Bay, departing from the depot on America's Cup Avenue, near the Visitors Center.

So whether you're planning shopping and lunch, going to dinner and a concert or spending a day playing tourist, remember, there are plenty of ways to get around without being stuck in — or contributing to — traffic.

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