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Newport's Easton Beach carousel won't be sold



Horses from the carousel at Easton's Beach are being removed ahead of the demolition of the rotunda.
PROVIDED BY CITY OF NEWPORT

'We're in a Catch-22'

Regionalization talks involve complications

Savana Dunning
Newport Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

After the Middletown Town Council and Middletown School Committee held a meeting to discuss interest in regionalizing school district administration with Newport, Newport City Council and Newport School Committee decided to hold a similar workshop of their own.

Held in the new Rogers High School on Nov. 10, the meeting laid out some of the concerns community leaders and constituents have about this renewed effort to regionalize. Specifically, some speakers, such as Councilor Stephanie Smyth, want to have a plan for how regionalizing might work in place before the matter is taken to another vote, whereas others, such as Mayor Charlie Holder, stressed they would like to see what interest is out there before going through a potentially expensive planning process.

"Right now, we're in a Catch-22," Newport resident Josh Hammond observed that night. "Nobody wants to vote for this, at least no one I know or have talked to, until we know more about the plan, but nobody feels either comfortable or legally allowed to come up with that plan until we vote."

Newport was the first to relaunch discussions of regionalization since its voters narrowly rejected a ballot measure to do something similar in 2022. One of the more recent efforts, led by Smyth and Councilor Ellen Pinnock, was to establish an Academic Integration Commission to explore ways to equitably share resources and merge functions with Newport's neighboring community. It asked for members to be appointed by both communities.

However, though the resolution aimed to establish the commission passed, applicants have yet to be appointed from either, a frustration Smyth aired out during the recent workshop when questioned why the

'We are starting to lose the charm of Newport bit by bit'

Savana Dunning
Newport Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

While it may be the most economically feasible option, Newport City Council had no appetite for selling or getting rid of the 73-year-old carousel that used to be a staple of Easton's Beach.

"The city has given up some of the amenities and structures and the toys we have had for years," Councilor David Carlin said.

Before the carousel building was de-

molished in 2024, the carousel was carefully removed and placed in storage. However, with the annual cost to house the nostalgic attraction at \$48,000, the city is hoping to find the carousel a new permanent home.

Although a Trees and Open Space Commission report to the council pitched a renovated Martin Recreation Center at Aquidneck Park as having the most potential as a new home, Chair Maureen Cronin also recommended the city explore selling or donating the attraction in general, as the cost to make a spot suitable for the carousel could be

prohibitive.

Councilor Lynn Underwood Ceglie was the first to voice her discomfort with the idea of selling the carousel and pitched looking at other areas in town, such as near the Gateway Center, due to its proximity to both the aquarium and Murphy Field. Cronin said they looked at the space, but it didn't meet the criteria they came up with, in addition to known flooding problems in that area. She also pointed out that the carousel needed a building

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'Not one decent cell in his body'

Epstein trashed former friend Trump in emails

Josh Meyer
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – "Dirty." "(Expletive) crazy." "Borderline insane." A Mafia don but with the "great dangerous power" of being America's president and commander-in-chief.

That's how the late Jeffrey Epstein described his former longtime friend and confidant Donald Trump, according to a trove of the convicted sex offender's texts and emails recently released by the House Oversight Committee.

But perhaps the most intriguing thing Epstein said about Trump in the

20,000-plus pages of emails provided by his estate was this:

"I am the one able to take him down."

House Democrats released emails Nov. 12 from Epstein saying Trump "spent hours at my house" with one of the disgraced financier's victims and that he "knew about the girls." Democrats said the emails raise questions about what Trump knew about Epstein's crimes, which included allegedly sexually abusing potentially hundreds of women and girls and trafficking them to other wealthy men.

The White House and Trump himself tried to spin the document release – and a later one by Republicans – as being a giant nothingburger. "These emails

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Newly released correspondence with the late Jeffery Epstein show the degradation of his relationship with President Donald Trump, in which he called Trump "borderline insane." STEPHANIE KEITH/GETTY IMAGES FILE

