



Jacqueline Marque ♦ Daily News staff

Artwork by residents of Sandywoods Farm will be on display Saturday when the Sandwoods Gallery holds its grand opening.

Show

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The resident artists started meeting in February to plan for the gallery.

Mary Geisser, a gallery coordinator and resident artist who teaches art to children, said the gallery will feature resident artists and visiting artists.

"One of our goals is to have educational programming, affordable programming for kids," said Geisser, who has worked on numerous projects for and with children, including building a city out of recyclable materials at the Fox Point Library in Providence.

The show that opens Saturday will feature ceramics by Mika Seeger, oil portraits by David Seibert, glass jewelry and blown glass vases by Harmony Winters and quilts by Maria Susi as well as works by Desiree Brunton, Jessica Dubois, Penny Jackim, Joan Mann, Russ Smith, Erin Thomson, Marika van

Vessem and Nancy Walker. Geisser's concentration is bookmaking and collage.

The co-op member show will run through June 19 and will be followed by a show beginning June 24 featuring artists Ben Butler and Rita Rogers. There already are plans in place for a show in the fall that will feature archived prints from the Providence Public Library, Geisser said.

Gallery hours will be Thursdays through Sundays from noon-5 p.m.

Sandywoods Farm, which initially was proposed in 2004 by property owner Joe Bossom and his wife, Mika Seeger, was developed by the local nonprofit affordable housing agency Church Community Housing Corp. It also has a community garden that recently was tilled and planted, with plots available for lease to the general public, and there are plans for performing arts programs at the community center, a farmers market, additional gallery and studio space and a community kitchen.

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Unions

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the definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman. Another sponsored by Rep. Arthur Handy, D-Cranston, would have deleted all the wording in Petrarca's bill and replaced it with language legalizing same-sex marriage.

Fox ruled that the civil unions bill did not deal with the issue of marriage, so he ruled Corvese's proposed amendment out of order. Corvese appealed that ruling to the full House and it was upheld by a 48-23 vote. Gallison and Reilly voted to overturn Fox's ruling. Edwards, Jackson, Martin and Ruggiero voted to uphold the ruling.

The speaker also ruled that Handy's amendment was not germane because it, too, dealt with marriage and not civil unions. The full House voted 47-23 to uphold that ruling. Reilly and Ruggiero were the only two local lawmakers who voted to overturn Fox's ruling.

Corvese did succeed in amending the bill to offer stronger protections for religious-based organizations or people working for them from being sued or prosecuted for refusing to recognize civil unions. That amendment was approved 63-6, with all Newport County lawmakers supporting it.

The odd coalition echoed in reverse the situation several weeks ago, when proponents on opposite sides of same-sex marriage joined in unanimous opposition to the civil unions bill. During that hearing, oppo-

nents of same-sex marriage said it represented another step toward full marriage rights for gays, while supporters said it would make them second-class citizens because they would not get the same right to marry that heterosexual couples have.

On Thursday, both sides seemed to find common ground to support the measure.

"I am a Republican. I am a conservative," said Rep. Michael W. Chippendale, R-Foster. "If my lord Jesus Christ were here today he would say, 'What you do to the least of my children you do to me.' I don't have the right to injure any of my brothers and sisters. We are elected to make laws. We are not elected to make polls."

In a show of the dilemma facing supporters of same-sex marriage, Rep. Frank Ferri, D-Warwick, an openly gay man who married his partner in neighboring Massachusetts five years ago, gave an emotional speech in support of the bill.

"I'm being asked to choose between equality and rights," Ferri said, his voice cracking with emotion. "I have to look at my husband and say I'm going to vote for something that ignores our legal marriage and makes us second-class citizens. Please support this bill."

Rep. Doreen M. Costa, R-North Kingstown, said she had received hundreds of calls, emails and letters and only four voiced support for the legislation. She offered an amendment that would have placed a non-binding referendum on civil unions on the 2012 ballot. Those opposed to the ballot question said civil rights questions

should not rely on a majority vote.

To argue against the referendum, Rep. Donna M. Walsh, D-Charlestown, quoted Jackson, the former Supreme Court justice, who wrote in a 1943 case: "The very purpose of a Bill of Rights was to withdraw certain subjects from the vicissitudes of political controversy and to place them beyond the reach of majorities" and that "fundamental rights ... may not be submitted to vote; they depend on the outcome of no election."

Costa's amendment was defeated 59-14. Reilly was the only local legislator to vote for Costa's amendment.

In voicing her support for the legislation, Ruggiero quoted Theodore Parker, who said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."

Following the vote, Reilly said that while he does not support gay marriage, Corvese's amendment protecting religious groups was enough to allow him to support the civil unions bill. He said that amendment also lessened the likelihood of a court overturning the legislation and legalizing same-sex marriage.

The legislation now will be considered in the Senate. Two weeks ago, Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed, D-Newport, said there was enough support in that chamber to pass the bill. Gov. Lincoln D. Chafee also has indicated he would sign the bill into law if it reaches his desk.

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Radio

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Major retailers such as The Home Depot and Lowe's offer frequency conversion kits from different major manufacturers of garage door openers. By changing the frequency, the remotes can again communicate with the openers. For example, owners of Genie garage doors can purchase a Genie Universal Dual Frequency Conversion Kit through The Home Depot for \$52.97. Homeowners with a garage door opener from Chamberlain can buy a Chamberlain Universal Radio Control Replacement Kit for \$49.97.

Ray DePyper, who lives in the area of Two Mile Corner in Middletown, said Thursday he was having trouble finding a similar product for a Craftsman garage door opener from Sears Roebuck. An attempt to reach

Sears customer relations on Thursday was not successful because of a high volume of calls the company was receiving.

Ed Siegel of Middletown said he believes he may have come up with a simple, inexpensive solution for non-functioning remotes due to radio interference.

After some research on the Internet, he bought about two feet of copper speaker wire at Radio Shack for about \$1 and attached it to the antenna wire that extends from the back of the control unit in the garage. He coiled the wire so that it hung about one foot below the control unit.

"The speaker wire boosts the signal, and so far, it's worked every time I've tried it," he said Thursday.

However, he was doing his testing about the time the Navy announced it shut down the radio system transmissions, so

he does not know whether the boost in the signal will be able to override the radio system interference or not. He said he'll try again June 4.

Siegel did pick up one benefit from his effort, though. The remote now can open the door from the street, something it could not do before.

Because garage door openers are unlicensed devices, they are not offered any protection from interference by licensed users in the same frequency band, and in fact are required by federal law to accept interference from licensed users, according to announcements from the Navy.

Base commanding officers do not have the authority to modify their ELMR systems because of local complaints, or to offer compensation to unlicensed users affected by the new system.

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Obama, Israeli leader seek common ground

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were sharply at odds over terms for Middle East peace ahead of a highly anticipated Oval Office meeting today.

In a speech Thursday on U.S. policy in the Mideast, Obama for the first time endorsed the Palestinians' demand that their eventual state be based on borders that existed before the 1967 Six Day War in which Israel forces occupied east Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza.

From Jerusalem, Netanyahu dismissed the position as "indefensible," saying it would leave major Jewish settlements outside Israel. Then he boarded a plane for his long-scheduled visit to Washington, vowing to seek clarifications in his meeting with Obama at the White House. He arrived in Washington early today.

The encounter will pit a president deeply frustrated with a peace effort in shambles

against an Israeli leader confronted by a Palestinian government he says he cannot do business with. International pressure is growing on both to answer the demands of the Palestinian people as the revolts sweeping the Arab world crest against Israel itself. Palestinian protesters emboldened by the winds of change marched on the Jewish state's borders this week and at least 15 people were killed.

Against that backdrop, Obama is aiming "to try to convince Netanyahu and the Israelis that there's a greater urgency in reaching agreement with the Palestinians because of the dramatic changes under way in the region and greater diplomatic pressures and efforts to isolate Israel and delegitimize its existence," said Haim Malka, deputy director of the Middle East program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"So he was speaking to both the Israelis and the Palestini-

ans and trying to urge them to move forward and conveying a sense of urgency and risk in the status quo," Malka said.

Netanyahu's tough response to Obama's speech "expresses disappointment at the absence of central items that Israel had demanded, primarily the (Palestinian) refugees," a senior Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not free to discuss U.S. policy on the record, told reporters traveling with the prime minister.

The official said Netanyahu was disappointed the speech did not address the Palestinian demand to repatriate to Israel millions of Palestinians, most descendants of people who were driven from or fled homes in the war over the Jewish state's 1948 creation.

"There is a feeling that Washington does not understand the reality, Washington does not understand what we face," the official said.

Chief

Continued from A1

ditions, but also be willing to take progressive steps into the future," he wrote. "We have heard it countless times that the fire service is in perpetual evolution. Whether changes are positive or otherwise, change is seldom universally easy. Never lose the desire to make things better."

In the coming days, Hallgring will be working with his staff on a transition plan, part of which will be the appointment of an interim chief.

City Manager Edward F. Lavalley said he would set up the search process for selecting a new chief, who could come from within the department or from outside the department. A 2008 city charter amendment approved by

voters allows outside candidates to be considered.

Before he became chief, Hallgring was a fire captain in charge of Station 2 on Old Fort Road. But for the three years before he became chief here, he also was the fire chief of the Little Compton Fire Department. His resignation as Little Compton's fire chief took effect shortly before he was sworn in as chief in Newport.

At the time, Lavalley said he was looking for a candidate with command experience who also had experience with putting together budgets, planning internally and was familiar with various Fire Department operations.

"Harry has all of that," Lavalley said. "He has been through the breadth of the department pyramid in terms of leadership and operational skills."

As a lieutenant, Hallgring

was in charge of an aerial ladder truck and rescue wagon. As a captain, he also served for more than four years as an administrative aide to Fire Chief Edward "Ned" McCarthy Jr., his predecessor. In 2005, Hallgring served as interim city fire marshal after Michael Leber retired.

Hallgring, 52, and his wife, Julie, are the parents of Mia, 13, and Lily, 12.

Hallgring is a Newport native who grew up in the Annandale Road area and graduated from Rogers High School in 1977. He went to Roger Williams University to study architectural engineering, but changed plans when he had the opportunity to join the Newport Fire Department. He and his family moved to Little Compton about seven years ago.

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Landfill

Continued from A1

decision on the closure of the dump site is consistent with this approach.

Before modifying the arsenic standard as it affected the remediation plan for the Portsmouth site, DEM sought input from the public. The only response that was received was favorable, according to the department.

As a result of the public concern, DEM required that soil with arsenic levels above 7 ppm be covered within 14 days, Coit said.

"This condition was specifically added to address concerns about the dirt and dust blowing off the site," she wrote.

The state requires samples of soil being trucked in from Newport and 15 of the 16 samples were below 20 ppm, according to DEM.

"We are confident our conditions and monitoring of the closure activities will result in improved, and safe, environmental conditions on and around the site," Coit wrote.

DEM and the state Coastal Resources Management Council also are concerned about the stormwater issues at the site, she said.

"To that extent, the regulations of both agencies require that the plan submitted must not alter drainage so that a larger percentage of rainfall runs toward the neighborhood or Park Avenue than current conditions," Coit wrote.

She noted that the Island Park area is within the flood plain and is vulnerable to flooding and storm surges such as from a hurricane. The 2-foot cap of clean soil on top of the grading and shaping material will prevent the solid waste and contaminated soils from being transported throughout the neighborhood in such a storm, she said.

"Our discussion with the Emergency Management Agency confirms our belief that the topography of the finished cap, with its moderate top slope of 3 to 5 percent will not significantly alter the effects of a major storm on the area either positively or negatively," Coit wrote.

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WEATHER

COASTAL RHODE ISLAND

Tonight, cloudy, chance of showers. Low around 52.

Saturday, cloudy with a slight chance of showers, gradually becoming sunny. High near 62. Saturday night, mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Low around 49.

EXTENDED

Sunday mostly cloudy. High near 56. Sunday night, cloudy, showers possible. Low around 49.

Monday, cloudy, showers possible. High near 62. Monday night, mostly cloudy, chance of showers. Low around 55.

MARINE

Tonight, south wind 5-10 knots. Waves 1-2 feet.

Saturday, east wind around 5 knots. Waves 1 foot or less. Saturday night, east wind 5-10 knots. Waves 1 foot or less.

TIDES

Saturday's sunrise 5:21, sunset 8:03. High tide: 11:40 a.m. Low tides: 5 a.m., 4:48 p.m.

Thursday's temperatures: high 70, low 54.



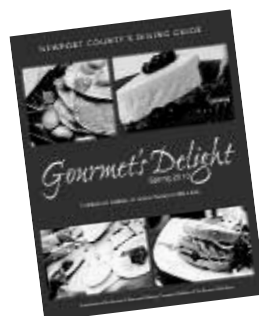
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