



Dave Hansen | Staff photos

Onlookers take in the spectacle of an 1857 Victorian house being moved along Red Cross Avenue on Tuesday in Newport. The house was moved from Memorial Boulevard.

Moving Day

An 1857 Victorian home is moved from Memorial Boulevard

By Sean Flynn
Staff writer

NEWPORT — The large two-story green-and-maroon trimmed 1857 Victorian home moved out from its location in front of the Casino Theatre on Tuesday morning, traveling east on Memorial Boulevard to Red Cross Avenue. There, the house took a left turn onto the avenue to the Hambly Funeral Home, at 30 Red Cross Ave., and moved across the lawn to its new plot fronting Rhode Island Avenue, just across from St. Michael's Country Day School.

The house, sitting on steel beams, was powered by three motorized, computerized dollies underneath that held the beams on jacks. A young man manipulating a joystick on a wireless device controlled the movement of the dollies.

"Each dolly has a built-in piston that is programmed with the other dollies to control height, so the house remains perfectly level," said Daniel Paquette, the owner's representative overseeing the \$15.7 million International Tennis Hall of Fame expansion project that now is underway.

The house was moved to help clear a more than 2-acre site on the south side of Memorial Boulevard, from Freebody Street to the east almost to the Canfield House to the west.

Two new buildings covering more than 37,000 square feet — one with indoor tennis courts and the other housing a fitness center, offices and retail shops — will be built on the site in the Shingle-style architecture reminiscent of the famous Casino building on Bellevue Avenue.

The traveling house on wheels drew dozens of spectators along the length of the route.

"I think they should have a band," Mary Jane Cox of Gibbs Avenue said as she watched. "It's a young boy's dream to see all this, with all the equipment."

Among the spectators was Pat Connors of Middletown, who lived in the second-floor apartment of the home for seven years during the 1970s.

"I paid \$140 a month," she said. Her landlady, Anna Cantore, lived on the first floor, she said. Cantore and her husband had run a "mom-and-pop" grocery store in the 1960s, in what was the now-demolished WaterBros building, she said. WaterBros Surf&Skate is now located just down the street at 39 1/2 Memorial Blvd.

Reggie Cooper of Aquidneck Building Movers, which is based in Portsmouth, was in charge of the house move.

"We've moved thousands of homes over the years," he said. "I've been doing this on my own for 42 years, but the company is a lot older than that."

He bought the company from Tom Priest of Jamestown and renamed the company, which was called Priest Movers. All the building moves have taken place throughout this state, Massachusetts and eastern Connecticut, he said.

"We don't get many houses to move over roads anymore because of the high expense of disconnecting and reconnecting electric wires and other stuff," Cooper said. "We didn't have to move wires for this move, which made it easier."

Cooper brought in the high-tech equipment and dollies from Wolfe House & Building Movers of Bernville, Pa.

Wolfe manufactures the dollies, which Paquette said are top-of-the-line.

He said the house moved Tuesday weighs about 100 tons, but the Wolfe crew is heading to South Carolina next to move a 900-ton building, then to Chicago to move a 1,100-ton building. When those projects are completed, they will travel to India to move an even bigger structure, he said.

Tennis Hall of Fame CEO Mark



The Victorian home is moved along Memorial Boulevard on Tuesday.



George Loftus, left, his wife, Laura, right, and friend Pat Connors, center, watch as the Victorian home is moved along Red Cross Avenue. Two trees were taken down — a linden and a maple — in the Loftuses' front yard to make room for the house to be moved. The Loftuses said they're looking forward to the city replacing the trees with a pair of dogwoods. Pat Connors also recalled living in the old Victorian house in the 1970s.

Stenning said the Hall of Fame was covering the nearly \$200,000 cost of moving the house to its new site.

"Even though we are not in a historic district, we are sensitive to the history of the area and did not want to demolish an 1857 home," he said.

"Newport thanks you," John Keogh, a Cliff Avenue resident, said after Stenning made that remark.

A crew from Bartlett Tree Experts trimmed trees along the route as the house was moved, so a minimum number of trees were cut back, both Paquette and Stenning explained.

Scott Wheeler, the city's arborist, among his other titles, oversaw the work. He said a total of four trees had to be removed, but three of the trees were not in good shape. A Norway maple and linden on private property on Red Cross Avenue were removed and will be replaced by dogwoods at the request of the owners, he said.

A plum tree in front of Victorian Ladies Inn, 63 Memorial Blvd., was removed and will be replaced by a pear tree, he said.

A Norway maple on the median strip near Edgar Court, at the traffic light, had major limbs removed. The trunk will be ground down and the tree replaced,

Wheeler said.

The Hall of Fame is covering all costs of the tree work.

Robert and Charles Edenbach, owners of Hambly Funeral Home, agreed to provide the site for the house and they are covering the costs of the site work.

Ron Little Jr. of RWL Construction of Portsmouth said his company will be reconstructing porches, stairs and making other upgrades to the house when it is settled in its new location.

"The house in great shape on the inside," he said. "We'll upgrade the bathrooms and kitchens."

The funeral home plans to rent out the two apartments in the home once they are restored.

The house arrived at the site in the early afternoon, where the foundation footings had been installed. The foundation was poured under the jacked-up house once it is in place, Little said.

He said the work on the house would be completed in about a month.

Michael Behan, owner of Behan Brothers of Middletown, which is the general

TIVERTON

Council weighs licensing for shooting range

By Marcia Pobeznik
Correspondent

ALSO

♦ More Town Council news. A5

A fate of a proposed indoor shooting range in Tiverton continues to be uncertain while town officials and residents debate the plan.

Tiverton Town Council members were not in agreement with their attorney that there needs to be a zoning change to allow shooting ranges to be located in highway commercial or general commercial zones. However, the majority did accept his opinion that the proposed indoor shooting range at Haskins Avenue and Main Road does need to be licensed.

The process will involve drafting an ordinance and then having a public hearing, so it could take months.

Randy Lebeau, owner of a gun shop on Main Road who has invested some \$160,000 of the estimated \$850,000 cost of the indoor shooting range/retail gun shop project, has begun clearing the lot. He told the council he hoped to have his building constructed and ready to open for business in 16 weeks.

While some in the audience suggested that the town was looking for a reason to prevent the shooting range from opening, Town Solicitor Andrew Teitz said he addressed the issue of shooting ranges in late February, months before Lebeau presented his plans to the town.

Lebeau was given assurance by the interim building official Rhett Bishop in April that there was nothing in the zoning code to prohibit him from building the indoor range on the lot that is zoned highway commercial, but Teitz disagrees. Lebeau

learned just a few weeks ago that the town was going to require licensing. He was not told that by any town officials he had met with about the project.

Several neighbors were at Tuesday night's council meeting to hear the discussion because they said they did not know anything about plans for the shooting range until they saw a bulldozer clearing the lot a few weeks ago. There were questions about safety, the fact that there is a school bus stop at the corner, and many of the surrounding properties are residential and the range could affect their property values.

"Anybody with common sense can see that's not right," said resident Evangeline Gendreau, who has lived in the area for 75 years and whose property abuts Lebeau's lot.

Lebeau's son, Craig, assured everyone that their home air conditioners will make more noise than the indoor range will.

Randy Lebeau said he would not build it if it were not safe, and he has even changed the design to have a double wall in the eight-lane indoor range so no one will hear anything from the outside.

Early on the discussion about licensing, Council President Edward A. Roderick said he was optimistic that the licensing would be approved by the council, but Teitz said later at another point in the discussion that it was not proper to say that before holding a public hearing.

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Advocates work to promote hiring of ex-prisoners

By Joe Baker
Staff writer

NEWPORT — The state Department of Corrections offers ample work training opportunities for prisoners. Once offenders leave the prison system, there are a number of social service organizations to help ease their transition back into society.

But there is one obstacle that can present a nearly insurmountable stumbling block: Employers are often dismissive of any applicants with time in prison on their resumes.

"We have people with real skills," said Teresa Foley, transitional services coordinator for the Department of Corrections. "What they really need is an opportunity."

Foley spoke during a panel discussion at the Newport Public Library Tuesday night on the issue of employing ex-prisoners. Cosponsored by the Newport Re-Entry Council and Newport Citizens to End Homelessness, the forum was aimed at dissuading business men and women from the stereotypes often placed on people who have spent time in prison.

But the forum turned out to be evidence of the problem: Despite ample outreach, no business owners showed up.

"We were really hoping to draw some business people," said Mary Reynolds, co-chairwoman of the committee to end homelessness.

Those whose mistakes have resulted in incarceration need hope in order to turn their lives around once they leave the prison system, Foley said. To do that, they need to work. Otherwise they have been given a life sentence, one member of the audience was heard to say.

Michael Anderson has

'We have people with real skills. What they really need is an opportunity.'

TERESA FOLEY

transitional services coordinator for the Department of Corrections

been looking for employment for nearly two years while living in homeless shelters. He recently landed a job at Naval Station Newport and began working Tuesday. Now he can begin to look forward to the day when his paycheck will help him obtain a home of his own. But like others facing the same circumstances, his is literally a one-day-at-a-time existence.

"It is one step at a time and sometimes it's small steps," Anderson said.

Cheryl Robinson, president of Turning Around Ministries, which offers programs to ex-prisoners and the homeless, admitted there are some offenders who can't be trusted. But not everyone should be painted with that brush, she said. In fact, the Newport Re-Entry Council, which works with the prison system to help offenders, can actually screen prospective employees for business owners, she said. It will also work with employers after a person is hired to make sure they handle the discipline necessary for holding down a job, she said.

The reality is that ex-prisoners are re-entering society, said Butch Paranzino, vice president and CEO of the Newport County Community Mental Health Center, and they need the prospect of gainful employment and a home to prick the balloon of hopelessness they often feel at their

ADVOCATES A5

LOCAL

'Great Escapes' is topic of summer lecture series

NEWPORT — The Preservation Society of Newport County will explore "Great Escapes" in its 2014 summer lecture series, beginning on Thursday.

Newport has been a travel destination for centuries, but the wealthy families who built their summer cottages here also traveled extensively. Guest lecturers will take the audience along on some of their adventures, visiting great resorts and cities around the world, documenting the destinations, lifestyles and unique personalities.

Advance reservations are required for the following lectures:

◆ **Thursday:** 11 a.m., Rosecliff, 548 Bellevue Ave. "Her Maiden Voyage: Newport Women in an Age of Exploration," presented by Eileen Warburton, historian.

Members free; general admission \$5.

◆ **Wednesday, June 4:** 11 a.m., Rosecliff, 548 Bellevue Ave. "Adirondack Architecture: Great Camps and the Rustic Tradition," presented by Steven Englehart, executive director, Adirondack Architectural Heritage. Members free; general admission \$5.

◆ **Thursday, June 12:** 6 p.m., Rosecliff, 548 Bellevue Ave. "Adventures in Decorating," presented by Carleton Varney, president and owner of Dorothy Draper & Co. Inc. Members \$10; general admission \$15.

◆ **Wednesday, June 18:** 11 a.m., Rosecliff, 548 Bellevue Ave. "No Object Is an Island: Tracking Hunter House's People, Places and Things," presented by Caryne Eskridge, curatorial fellow, The Preservation Society of Newport County. Members

free; general admission \$5.

◆ **Wednesday, July 16:** 6 p.m., The Elms, 367 Bellevue Ave. "Resort Fashion," presented by Caroline Rennolds Milbank, independent fashion historian. Members \$10; general admission \$15.

◆ **Tuesday, Aug. 5:** 7 p.m., Rosecliff, 548 Bellevue Ave. "The John G. Winslow Lecture: Great Houses of Havana," presented by Hermes Mallea, AIA, author. Members \$20; general admission \$25.

◆ **Wednesday, Aug. 27:** 6 p.m., Rosecliff, 548 Bellevue Ave. "Newport, a Fabled Destination," presented by Bettie Bearden Pardee, author. Members \$15; general admission \$20.

For reservations or more information, call 847-1000, Ext. 111 or visit www.newportmansions.org.

THOMPSON MIDDLE SCHOOL: STATEHOUSE VISIT



Contributed photo

Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed, D-Newport, welcomes students from Thompson Middle School's Techno Expo to the Statehouse. Pictured are, from left: Collin Cord, Gavin Crowley, Michael Weaver, O'Neil Moses, Jamie Ward, Jack Gomes, Weed, RC Barcus of Techno Expo partner AIBPconnect, Callista Moss, Caeli Palmer, Shea Milburn, Mia Stevenson, Zachary Harden, teacher Amie Shinego, Jack Garforth, Principal Jaime Crowley, Superintendent Colleen Burns Jermain and Newport City Council Vice Chairwoman Naomi Neville. Student Mac Cullen, not pictured, is also part of the Techno Expo team. The students' projects were displayed in the Statehouse rotunda.

CALENDAR

TODAY

AWARDS NIGHT — Portsmouth Middle School auditorium, 125 Jepson Lane, Portsmouth, 6:30 p.m. The Newport County Regional Special Education Program's 21st annual awards night. 849-3700.

NEWPORT 375th LECTURE — Newport Public Library, 300 Spring St., Newport, 7 p.m. Kathleen Troost-Cramer, author of "True Tales of Life and Death at Fort Adams," will discuss her book and the history of Fort Adams in Newport as part of the city's 375th anniversary celebration. www.newport375.com.

THURSDAY

BLOOD DRIVE — St. Philomena School, auditorium, 324 Cory's Lane, Portsmouth, 2-5 p.m. Sponsored by the Rhode Island Blood Center. (800) 283-8385.

COASTAL CLEANUP — Sachuest Beach (Second Beach), 474 Sachuest Point Road, Middletown, 5-6 p.m. Presented by Clean Ocean Access. Dave McLaughlin, dave.mclaughlin@cleanoceanaccess.org.

NEWPORT 375TH LECTURE — Pell Elementary School, 35 Dexter St., Newport, 6-7 p.m. Brian Stinson will discuss "Newport Firsts and Myths" as part of the city's celebration of its 375th anniversary. Free. Mark

McKenna, 842-1900, Ext. 20107. **"LIVING LITERATURE"** — Sandywoods Center for the Arts, 43 Muse Way, Tiverton, 6:30 p.m. Living Literature will perform a 45-minute readers theatrical presentation of "Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore" by Robin Sloan, presented by Tiverton Essex Library. Free. 625-6796.

BOOK CLUB — Portsmouth Free Public Library, 2658 East Main Road, Portsmouth, 7 p.m. For middle school students in sixth through eighth grade. Hand in a review, keep the book, get a snack and chat with other teens who like to read. Sue, 683-9457.

FRIDAY

CONCERT SERIES — Jamestown Arts Center, 18 Valley St., Jamestown, 1-2:30 p.m. Roz & the Rice Cakes, a progressive three-piece band from Providence, will perform as part of the Met School's Arts Advisory Concert Series. Funded by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. Free. 560-0979 or www.jamestownartcenter.org.

TEEN BOOK CLUB — Portsmouth Free Public Library, 2658 East Main Road, Portsmouth, 2:30 p.m. For high school students in ninth through 12th grade. Hand in a review, keep the book, get a snack and chat with other teens who like to read. Sue, 683-9457.

BLOOD DRIVE — Clements' Marketplace, 2575 East Main

Road, Portsmouth, 4-7 p.m. Sponsored by the Rhode Island Blood Center. (800) 283-8385.

GALLERY RECEPTION — Newport Art Museum, 76 Bellevue Ave., Newport, 5-7 p.m. Opening reception for "Very Simple Charm: The Early Life and Work of Richard Morris Hunt in Newport, 1858-1878." Hunt is the architect who designed the Griswold House, now used by the art museum. The exhibit will be on display through Sept. 14. \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$6 for students/military, free for members. www.newportartmuseum.org.

SANDYWOODS MUSIC SERIES — Sandywoods Center for the Arts, 43 Muse Way, Tiverton, doors open at 7 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. Michael Troy with Chuck Williams. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. BYOB and food welcome. 241-7349 or www.sandywoodsmusic.com.

FILM SCREENING — Casino Theatre, 9 Freebody St., Newport, 8 p.m. The documentary, "America's Forgotten Heroine: Ida Lewis, Keeper of the Light," written and directed by Charlestown resident Marian Gagnon, will be shown. www.goodnightireneproductions.com.

BLUES SHOW — Narragansett Cafe, 25 Narragansett Ave., Jamestown, 9:30 p.m. Roomful of Blues will perform. Free. 423-2150 or www.narragansettcafe.com.

MUNICIPAL

MEETINGS

MIDDLETOWN

TODAY

Second public hearing on the proposed fiscal 2015 budget, 6 p.m., Town Hall.

THURSDAY

Newport County Unified High School Exploratory Committee, 6 p.m., Newport Public Library.

Planning Board, 6 p.m., Town Hall.

NEWPORT

TODAY

City Council, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, council chamber.

PORTSMOUTH

TODAY

Economic Development Committee, 6 p.m., Town Hall, Portsmouth Room.

TIVERTON

TODAY

Conservation Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall.

POLICE & FIRE

PORTSMOUTH

State Police arrest local man

William Mayer, 36, of 6 Cathy Circle was arrested Tuesday about 12:15 a.m. on charges of drunken driving, possessing a knife with a blade longer than 3 inches, destroying state property, acting disorderly and threatening state troopers and their families.

The arrest was the result of a motor vehicle stop on Maple Avenue in Newport late Monday night. Police said they questioned Mayer after they saw his car stop abruptly near Robert Douglas Lane. He was belligerent and uncooperative, police said, and failed a field sobriety test.

State troopers arrested Mayer and drove him to the Wickford Barracks, where he continued cursing at them and became violent, spitting on the floor and a camera in the cell block area, police said. Mayer initially refused to follow their instructions for a chemical breath test, police said, but eventually complied and failed the test with readings of .158 and .152.

He banged his head against the wall, causing a self-inflicted cut above his left eyebrow and leaving blood on the wall and floor, police said. Mayer threatened the lives of the troopers and their families, police said, and was rude to the nursing staff at Kent County Hospital in Warwick, where he was treated and released.

State Police held him overnight at the Wickford Barracks and brought him to Newport County District Court for arraignment later Tuesday. He was released on bail and ordered to return to court on a future date, police said.

MIDDLETOWN

Robbery charged

Roger M. Daly, 33, of 969 West Main Road was arrested there Friday on charges of first-degree robbery and possessing a knife during a crime of violence. The charges stem from a robbery reported May 15 at the Shell Service Station on West Main Road.

Police said a man holding a knife and wearing a brown sweatshirt and a pink Patriots baseball cap approached the clerk and demanded the cash register be opened. The clerk activated the silent alarm and backed away from the cash register, police said.

The would-be robber left without any money and ran south on West Main Road, the clerk told police.

Officers searched the area but found only a pink Patriots baseball cap behind the

DISTRICT COURT

NEWPORT — District Court Judge Colleen M. Hastings considered the following cases Tuesday:

◆ James E. Williams, 20, of 49 Gould St., Apt. 1, pleaded innocent to charges of domestic assault and domestic disorderly conduct. The judge ordered him held without bail at the Adult Correctional Institutions in Cranston as a possible probation violator.

Court records show Williams was on probation for previous convictions on charges of domestic vandalism and violating a no-contact order. A status hearing was scheduled for June 3.

◆ Ralph C. Williams, 57, of no permanent address, entered no plea to a charge of violating a no-contact order, third offense. The charge is a

felony that must be referred to the state attorney general's office. The judge ordered Williams held without bail at the ACI as a possible probation violator. Court records show he was placed on probation for previous convictions on charges of violating a no-contact order and domestic assault. A status hearing was scheduled for June 3.

◆ Mychal A. Gillooly, 35, of Central Falls was ordered held without bail at the ACI after he pleaded innocent to a charge of violating a protective order. The charge is a possible violation of probation imposed on a previous conviction of violating a Family Court protective order. A status hearing was scheduled for June 3.

Trident Training Center at 999 West Main Road. They viewed the store video, which showed the suspect wearing a hooded brown sweatshirt over the pink baseball cap. The video showed facial hair, but police could not determine whether it was a goatee or a mustache.

Police said they recently received information that linked Daly to the attempted robbery. The clerk identified him from a group of photographs displayed by police, they said.

Police also learned of a District Court warrant charging Daly with failing to appear for a hearing, they said. Daly entered no plea to the charges Tuesday in District Court. They are felonies and must be referred to the state attorney general's office.

Judge Colleen M. Hastings ordered Daly held at the Adult Correctional Institutions in Cranston as a possible probation violator. Court records indicate he was placed on probation last August when he was convicted of driving while his license was suspended.

Daly is scheduled to return to court on June 3.

Nabbed on warrant

Geremias Sequeira, 25, of Boston was arrested Friday about 9:05 p.m. on a warrant charging him with failing to show up for a District Court hearing on his ability to pay fines.

Police said they stopped a car on Aquidneck Avenue for running a red light. Sequeira, a passenger, was arrested after police learned of the warrant.

NEWPORT

Disorderly conduct charged

Philip A. Frandino, 56, of James Island, S.C., was arrested Saturday about 10:05 p.m. on charges of acting disorderly and resisting arrest.

A police officer said he saw Frandino hit a bouncer at One Pelham East in the groin with the back of his hand. When the officer tried to arrest Frandino, he tried to twist free of the officer's grasp, police said.

Warrant arrests

Jacqueline Rodriguez, 37, of 66 Girard Ave. Apt. 206, and Sheyiz Nevarez, 33, of 141 Third St., Apt. G, were arrested as they left the Festival Field apartment complex on Girard Avenue Monday on District Court warrants.

Rodriguez was charged with failing to appear for an ability-to-pay hearing on a shoplifting charge. Navarez was charged with failing to appear for a pre-trial hearing and a violation hearing.

MEETING MINUTES

TIVERTON TOWN COUNCIL

When: Tuesday.

Where: Town Hall, 343 Highland Road.

Present: All.

Action: Approved a pilot program proposed by Pawswatch and funded through grants that would have volunteers trap and transport feral cats to veterinary clinics for spaying or neutering and vaccinations and then return them to the community.

Placing Paws of Tiverton and Little Compton currently funds the spaying and neutering of about 250 cats a year and is in need of funds to continue its work.

Gil Fletcher, an officer of Pawswatch, said the pilot program could begin in Tiverton in July, pending grant funding.

◆ Approved a zoning change for two properties at Tiverton Four Corners from R-80 residential to village commercial. Owner Rosalind Weir requested the zoning change for the Roseberry-Winn pottery business in a two-story house at 3842 Main Road, and Milk & Honey Bazaar at 3838 Main Road.

Gayle Lawrence, a trustee of

the Union Library, which abuts Milk and Honey, asked that an easement be granted to guarantee continued parking for the library in the Milk & Honey lot. The Planning Board had recommended the change but also wants to have a moratorium placed on any further expansion of the village commercial zone until an overall study of the area can be done. The area is near Nonquit Pond, a drinking water source. The council will consider a moratorium at a future date.

◆ Approved a resolution to support applying for \$334,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding for 13 different public facilities, housing operations and economic development projects.

◆ Approved a special entertainment license and noise variance for St. Theresa Church feast Aug. 1-3.

◆ Approved a request by Leroy Kendricks, chairman of the Wastewater Management Commission, to hire a temporary business manager to help set up a new wastewater district in the north end of town.

Next meeting: Monday, June 9, 7 p.m.

Advocates

Continued from A3

circumstances.

"A successful community would do itself a favor by helping the disadvantaged," Paranzino said. "These are people with many talents."

There are financial incentives for employers who hire ex-prisoners, Foley said. A federal program offers employers a free bond to protect them against any theft, forgery, larceny or embezzlement. The state also offers tax credits to employers who hire ex-prisoners, Foley said.

Middletown Police Lt. Kevin Ferreria said he sometimes sees the results of former inmates being unable to find jobs. They tell him they feel like the cloud of prison will forever be hanging over their head. "It's disheartening," Ferreira said. "I'd like to think police are there to help people out and not just throw the handcuffs

on them."

Homelessness advocate Judy Jones of Newport suggested that the re-entry council have a business owner who has hired an ex-inmate speak about their success to other business men and women. Another member of the audience suggested putting a business owner on the re-entry council to offer the employer's perspective.

Any business owner who might be willing to participate in the program to hire ex-prisoners can contact her at 846-8264. Robinson of Turning Around Ministries said.

Anderson said he had applied for more than 20 jobs before he finally landed one.

"I'm glad and grateful there is an opportunity for an ex-offender like myself to get involved in my community," he said.

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Moving Day

Continued from A3

contractor for the Tennis Hall of Fame expansion project, estimated the frontage for the project site on Memorial Boulevard will be about 400 to 500 feet.

It has not been cleared yet. The Sunoco gas station at the corner of Freebody and the WaterBros building were demolished earlier in the year. Next up is 11 Memorial Blvd., which formerly housed Franklin & Co. Interiors and offices, but which people still refer to as the "Narragansett Clothing building."

The biggest demolition work pending will be the razing of the large green building with the Quonset hut exterior that houses outdated indoor tennis

courts for the Hall of Fame.

Behan said he is awaiting state approval to install a pedestrian walkway, protected by Jersey barriers, along Memorial Boulevard so he can begin construction at the site. The facade of the two new buildings will be built at the sidewalk line.

"We're hoping to get approval from the state this week," he said.

During the construction project, Behan said an average of 30 to 40 workers would be on site daily. He said he is planning to complete construction of the new indoor tennis courts by the end of this year. During the summer of 2015, Behan said he is hoping to have the office and retail shop building completed.

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