

archives



EastBayRI.com

CLASSIFIEDS

[All Classified Ads](#)
[Real Estate](#)
[Autos](#)
[MyEastBayJob.com](#)
[Boats](#)
[Items for Sale](#)
[Display Ads](#)
[Place an Ad](#)

LOCAL HEADLINES

[Barrington Times](#)
[Bristol Phoenix](#)
[East Providence Post](#)
[Newport This Week](#)
[Sakonnet Times](#)
[Seekonk Star](#)
[Swansea News](#)
[Westport Shorelines](#)
[Warren Times](#)

NEWS

[Sports](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Photo Gallery](#)

OPINION

[Columns](#)
[Letters to the Editor](#)
[Editorials](#)

WEB ENHANCED

[Podcasts](#)

ARCHIVES

[Search the Archives](#)

SERVICES

[About Us](#)
[Announcements](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Ad Rates](#)
[Subscribe](#)
[Employment](#)

SUBMISSIONS

[Anniversary](#)
[Birth](#)

Creating a center of pride for Prudence I

Date December 17, 2004

PRUDENCE ISLAND -- Farnham Farm has given Islanders a long-awaited place to gather. Last August the barn was renovated into the Hope Brown Center, providing a hub of entertainment and learning for those on Prudence Island. Now, trustees hope to break ground this spring on a new project -- renovating the farmhouse situated just steps from Hope Brown.

According to trustee Chairman Judi Foster, the board has applied to the state for historical site status. "It would also be the first building [on Prudence Island] that would be designated as such," she said.

As a historical site, Ms. Foster, anticipates increased funding opportunities and a place for locals to appreciate the island's past.

The farm's living room will house historical documents and photographs. The kitchen will be preserved with its traditional knickknacks.

Both the farm's interior and exterior will undergo what Ms. Foster describes as a "functional" restoration, meaning the effort will be to preserve as much of its history as possible while providing contemporary amenities to create a useable center.

The board will begin with the farm's exterior and has already started replacing the roof. This spring they hope to remove the building's vinyl siding and install a new gas furnace.

"We aren't going to be able to restore it to its original, but we'd like to go back to the [cedar] wood shingles," Ms. Foster said.

Exterior work for the north side of the farm recently went out to bid. The board wants to get the ball rolling on exterior work to prevent further deterioration of the two-century old farmhouse.

The eight-member board of trustees, which purchased the property in 1998, say they have the money to begin work on the north facade.

User Login

Username

Password

Remember login?

[Create a new account](#)

[Retrieve forgotten password](#)

Options

- [Your Account](#)
- [Archive](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Display Ads](#)

Classified Ads

You have 0 items saved in your basket.

[Classifieds](#)
[Engagements](#)
[Weddings](#)
[Letters](#)

But additional funds are needed to complete the project.

Funding the farm

Ms. Foster expects a total pricetag of \$350,000 for the exterior and interior renovations. The board of trustees launched a fundraising campaign in November 2003, which has raised \$77,940 thus far.

The campaign encourages islanders to make five-year monetary pledges or donations. They are within reach of their goal of \$100,000, and Ms. Foster is optimistic that with money raised the project will be in a strong position to compete for other grants.

"What we're really hoping for here is that we could raise \$100,000 locally and seek \$250,000 from external funding sources," Ms. Foster said.

The new-look farm will house the **Prudence Conservancy** and Prudence Historical Society headquarters, and host other island activities. Trustees hope to break ground this spring and aim to have the project completed within the next five years.

Operating in conjunction with the Hope Brown Center, Farnham Farm would help provide a meeting point for island social gatherings, workshops and festivals.

"It's very difficult for people who live here to benefit much from the mainland," Ms. Foster said.

Island hub

Inhabitants of Prudence Island embraced the opening of the Hope Brown Center this summer. But the island's community center is growing. The soon to be repaired Farnham Farmhouse -- just steps from Hope Brown, will operate in conjunction with the community center and trustees hope to break ground this spring. Here are the evolving functions this property serves.

* Original farmhouse burned by the British during the Revolutionary War in 1776; rebuilt in 1805.

* Land was harvested for potatoes, corn and other crops.

* Used as a dairy farm in the 1900s until pasteurization became required by law in 1954.

* Children's programs: Camps, theater, Easter egg hunts.

* Workshops: Ornament making, photography, yoga, taxes.

* Entertainment: Musical concerts, ice-cream socials, festivals, weekly matinees.

* Public rental opportunities for family reunions and weddings.

BY JASON TURCOTTE

jturcotte@eastbaynewspapers.com

[Home](#) [Classifieds](#) [Contact Us](#) [About Us](#) [Subscriptions](#) [Archives](#)

Copyright © 2005 East Bay Newspapers. All rights reserved.
PO Box 90 Bristol, RI 02809-0090 - 401-253-6000