

Island businesses get ready for the big game

By Adrienne Downing

There seems to be only one topic of conversation among New Englanders this week, and residents of Conanicut Island are no exception. The New England Patriots perfect season will be talked about for a long time, but the story will really be one for the ages if the Pats, and Tom Brady's ailing ankle, can carry their perfection through Super Bowl XLII this Sunday.

While the Super Bowl always carries with it a prime opportunity for a get together, having the hometown team trying to make history has many islanders gear-

ing up for a big celebration.

Maurice Browning, manager of McQuade's Market, said shoppers may notice a departure from the normal green attire of the store employees on game day. "The dress code goes out the window that day. I am sure they will be all decked out in their Patriots gear," he said.

The market is prepared for the party rush, however. "We have plenty of chips and dips and we can make cheese or meat platters with about 24 hours notice," Browning said.

Grapes and Gourmet is making sure everyone has the perfect

brew on hand for the game. Customers have shown a lot of interest and curiosity about what the shop has in store for the weekend.

"We are having a beer tasting on Saturday," Paula LaBarre said. "We are going to be preparing some of the products we have here for appetizers, like fondu and marinated steak tips, and pairing them with the beer."

"We will also be offering superpack snack platters, with everything you need to go out the door for people who don't want to work and just watch the game," she said.

Stop by Jamestown Wine and Spirits for a chance to be decked out in the ultimate fan's gear. "We are having a raffle for a Tom Brady jersey," owner Ilesh Patel. He is also offering a big selection of microbrews for variety at any party. Just be sure to get them early, because Patel will be home rooting for his pick in the big game. "The Patriots, of course," he said.

Narragansett Café is hosting a Super Bowl party for anyone who wants to keep the kitchen clean and let someone else do the work. Festivities start at 4 p.m. Rocca will be offering a desig-

nated driver "The Gansett Gurney," for a safe ride home. The event will be the first major one for new owner, John Rocca.

For those who would like to do the work themselves and take advantage of the mild temperatures that are forecasted, Jamestown Hardware has plenty of firewood, charcoal, and grill essentials. "We also have a brand new stock of Weber grills for tailgate parties," Paul Cardin said.

One thing all of the retailers agree on, there is unlikely to be an unoccupied television set anywhere on Conanicut Island after 6 p.m. on Sunday.

de Angeli

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ing motorcycles, cars, and now sailboats, "there is no thrill like winning an important case for a deserving client against a worthy adversary," de Angeli explained.

The attorney has worked in all aspects of patent practice. According to his resume, his experience includes prosecution and defense of patent infringement and trade secret litigation in various U. S. District Courts and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, opposition proceedings at the European Patent Office, appeals of decisions at the Japanese Patent Office, and licensing negotiations with U. S. and foreign corporations. He currently represents Argus Analyzers, a local company that manufactures digital battery analyzers.

When de Angeli goes to work, he does not have to go far. His massive, well-appointed home office sits above a garage and state-of-the-art carpentry and machine shop. There, he indulges in his second passion with love and precision — boat building.

A glassed-in balcony in his office offers a gallery view of a collection of boats and other watercraft that he has built or are works-in-progress. Directly below the balcony, his current project, a 1938 Herreshoff Twelve-and-a-Half sailboat, which means 12.5-feet on the waterline, sits upside down on a work platform. The racing sloop is going through complete reconstruction.

De Angeli said that he owns half-a-dozen boats in all, "Too many!" and he enjoys racing in the Tuesday night sailboat races sponsored by the Jamestown Yacht Club. He said that he learned sailing basics like he learned many other things, by reading books. He did, however,



Michael de Angeli

take sailing lessons with his wife, Vicki, before they bought a share in their first sailboat.

He learned carpentry and mechanics from his father and managed to work his way through college with summer and part-time jobs as a pipe fitter, machinist, and welder.

Before de Angeli earned his law degree, he attended the University of Pennsylvania, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in physics in 1973. Although he was a dean's list student, he thought his talents were better suited elsewhere and he applied for admittance to law school at

where he met his wife and graduated in 1976. He then took a special government patent exam and has been involved in patent law ever since.

He is admitted to both the Pennsylvania and Maryland Bars, and worked in a number of firms before establishing his own practice in 1991. "I'm not a member of the Rhode Island Bar because it isn't necessary," he said. "All patent litigation takes place in the federal courts."

The family rented a house on East Shore Road in July of 1999 and 2000, and got to love Jamestown. "It was actually the Kodak case, in which I represented a North Kingstown company, that brought us here," de Angeli said. "We bought the house where we presently live in 2001. I built the shop and office afterwards."

"Vicki started selling real estate with Island Realty three years ago and that's worked out very well. She's also the president of the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce," he said.

The de Angelis have two children, Adam, 26, who graduated from the University of Michigan in 2003 with a degree in computer science. He is presently the IT

manager for the Ron Paul presidential campaign. Their recently married daughter, Christine Moberg, 24, is studying for her doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Wisconsin.

In addition to his law practice, boat building, sailboat racing, and chairing the harbor commission, de Angeli recently began writing his first novel. "It's a biotech patent thriller," he said. "I enjoy writing about law, because it's something I know, in a non-legal style. The subject is topical and it's a what-if story that could very well happen. I got some technical advice from a patent attorney friend who specializes in biotechnology, and it's great fun.

So we'll see what happens."

De Angeli came by his many talents quite honestly. He talked fondly about his formative years, and the influences of his talented parents. He was the oldest of four boys. His grandmother, Marguerite de Angeli, was a prolific and highly respected author of children's books, several of which are still in print. His mother was a librarian, and his father was a journalist, harpsichord builder, and restorer of antique automobiles.

If authoring a novel is in keeping with his many other accomplishments, Michael de Angeli's first book promises to be a resounding success.

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