

# Garden

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volume florist with three stores," Urban said.

"Having a business in a small town is new to me. But I love it. The people in Jamestown are so friendly and have been very kind. I don't plan on changing a thing, including the name. The beauty of the area and the opportunity to do something different is a welcome change.

"Heidi, Helenna, and Holly Fountain, the former owners, have been most helpful in making a smooth transition. It was virtually a turn-key operation. I just have to get used to the computerized system. It's a bit different from handwriting every order and having to keep track of everything," Urban said.

He also said that he put a fountain in the middle of the store as "a tribute to the Fountain sisters, who ran the successful business for so many years."

He expressed his gratitude to his mother and father, James and Sarina Urban, for helping him with the financing and business planning.

Besides working 70 hours a week during the summers and managing a part-time job throughout the school year, Urban took a little time out for fun. He met his girlfriend, Amy Bucci, when they attended URI together. They managed to go on a couple of jaunts

to Italy and Greece during spring breaks. He has always been a runner, jogging a few miles every morning. His roommate recently introduced him to golf. He says that he gets lots of exercise playing golf because he has to hit the ball so many times.

When he was in high school, Urban saved his money and went to Italy, Paris and Switzerland with school groups. "I definitely love to travel," Urban said. "But right now, I'm concentrating on making this business as successful as possible. If this goes well, I'll consider buying another store. I'm used to being involved in a business that's 50 times bigger."

Urban said that the store will have an official grand opening some time in April. He also said that the hours will stay the same, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

Urban lives in Wakefield, where he thinks he will stay for another year. "Then I'll be looking to rent a house in Jamestown," he said. "So if anybody has anything affordable, keep me in mind because I'll be looking."

Besides his parents in New Jersey, Urban has a brother Ryan, 22, who is graduating from Johnson and Wales University in Providence this spring.

If success is measured by high energy, self-motivation and tenacity, David Urban and the Secret Garden will continue to do very well.

# Energy

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good presentations" were offered, and he would be pleased to go along with any one of them.

Committee member Clayton Carlisle agreed the presentations were good, but showed partiality to ATM. "They've done feasibility studies around the state, and they say they have a set price," he noted. Other members added that the firm's proximity could save time, which could translate into monetary savings.

ATM is a coastal and environmental engineering firm that specializes in resource management, from infrastructure and port development to renewable energy projects. The consulting firm, headquartered in Florida, was chosen by the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation to help guide the RIWINDS program, the state's effort toward providing wind-powered generation to sup-

ply its electrical demand.

Committee member William Smith asked if ATM had a "vested interest" in RIWINDS.

Carlisle overrode the doubt, saying, "I don't think we have to worry about them giving us the best product for the price."

In an update on availability of grants, committee member Don Wineberg reiterated comments from Andrew Dzykewicz, chief energy advisor to the governor. "Drew said if there's any town in Rhode Island that's eligible, it's Jamestown," noted Wineberg.

In a discussion about fee-in tariffs and net-metering policies, Wineberg urged everyone to support upcoming legislation that would open avenues for alternative energy resource development. "It was feed-in tariffs that made net metering work in Germany," he said. "It's an incentive for all towns to create renewable energy projects."

On the committee's Web site,

www.jamestownwind.org, Wineberg wrote that the Rhode Island Legislature was considering two bills that would require National Grid to buy green power at guaranteed minimum prices. The legislation "would likely have a very positive impact on the financial viability of constructing one or more wind power generators on Jamestown," he noted. An additional bill, an amendment to the state's Renewable Energy Standard, would enable Jamestown-generated power from renewable sources to offset the town's electric bill, potentially reducing that bill to zero.

The committee planned to review the bills and make a formal decision on whether to recommend passage, Wineberg wrote. "I'm confident that I speak for the committee in thanking the legislators who have taken the lead in attempting to promote expansion of renewable energy generating capacity in Rhode Island," he added.

# Letters

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## Time is ticking for SSA designation

Jamestowners: Your name, address and one sentence is enough to help protect our island's water supply now and in the future: "I support the Conanicut Island Sole Source Aquifer petition." The email address for your one sentence is mcguire.karen@epa.gov. The EPA deadline is March 17, 2008. The final decision to declare Jamestown a Sole Source Aquifer will be by the EPA's regional administrator.

Letters can also be sent via the post office to: Karen McGuire, U.S. EPA, One Congress St., Suite 1100, Boston, MA, 02114-2023.

Our island's geology defines us as a Sole or Primary Source Aquifer. Doug Heath, EPA hydrogeologist, said our entire island is a Sole Source Aquifer from mean high tide. Mr. Heath and Ms. McGuire visited Jamestown last month for the EPA public hearing attended by island residents, the Town Council and the town administrator.

Having Conanicut Island designated a sole source aquifer benefits the island educationally and provides hydrogeologic oversight if Federal money is sought. These protections are important because:

1. Rainfall is the only source of water for the entire island.
2. We cannot get water from elsewhere. Our town administrator, Bruce Keiser, in his letter to the USEPA, dated July 3, 2007, wrote, "In addition, as the letters from North Kingstown and Newport have demonstrated, neither of these adjacent municipalities have the ability to provide a continuous source of supply sufficient to meet all of Jamestown water needs."
3. Jamestown's public water system cannot currently be extended to provide service to additional residents on private wells. Islanders all know there is not enough water on Jamestown to meet the public water supply needs, as evidence by shortages and restrictions, to consider adding private well users.
4. In general, Jamestown's geology yields the lowest quantity of groundwater in Rhode Island. Rainwater does not readily penetrate into our soil type so much of our potential rainwater runs off into the ocean.
5. Precipitation that manages to get through our soil is stored in our bedrock that provides ground water for private residential wells and for the town's public water via the municipal wells. Rainwater is retained in two reservoir ponds. Bedrock recharge is a very slow process because of our island's soil conditions.
6. One hundred percent of

us on this island are dependent on the bedrock aquifer for water in one way or another: for private wells, for municipal well use, but also because the recharge lands, the wetlands, the reservoirs and the bedrock aquifer are all ultimately interrelated, as noted by EPA's hydrogeologist, Doug Heath.

Sole source aquifer designation would protect our bedrock water now and in the future, protect private and municipal wells, the recharge areas, and the reservoirs, by raising awareness of not only all who now live on Conanicut Island, but those who visit seasonally, and who will, in the future, choose to live, develop, and do business on this fragile aquifer.

If our island receives a formal declaration as Sole Source Aquifer, I would like to see the EPA Sole Source Aquifer designation on our town stationery, on all bills to summer and year-round islanders, and as signage posted at our island's entryways. There are many other ways to do so as well. The Sole Source Aquifer designation is a tool to denote to year-round and summer residents, visitors, and to all tourists, we on this island protect our water supply. Help foster this designation by sending your email or your letter to the EPA today.

Ellen Winsor  
736 East Shore Rd.

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## Diet and health tips coming to the library

The Friends of the Jamestown Library are pleased to present "Nutrition 101: Stop-By," a free program of nutrition information provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rhode Island on Monday, March 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the library.

Good nutrition is a vital part of achieving good health. Visit the Nutrition 101 Stop-by event to talk with a certified Health Educator and learn how to easily improve food choices, participate in hands on nutrition demonstrations, get answers to questions about nutrition, weight loss, healthy snacking, eating on the run, fad diets, dietary guidelines, and more.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call the library at 423-7820.

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