



David Hansen ♦ Daily News staff photos

Newport Hospital President August B. 'Gus' Cordeiro talks about his new position Wednesday in his office.

## Home

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a laugh. "If I had become a delivery man, it would've been delivering bread. I liked that smell a lot better."

As a teenager, Cordeiro never could have imagined running the hospital. His job was to wash and dry dishes. The guys in suits walked by every once in a while, but they worked on a different floor, in the well-furnished offices.

But after high school, Cordeiro worked his way into the hospital hierarchy by taking night classes at the University of Rhode Island's extension division in Providence, completing a bachelor's degree in business in 1981.

He eventually went on to earn a master's degree at Salve Regina University in health services administration. But the hands-on education came at the hospital, a place he feels passionate about.

"I fell in love with the place a long time ago," he said. "I'm still in love with it. I remember years ago working the holidays here. There was always a wonderful spirit on those days, and I think there's that kind of spirit overall."

Cordeiro strolls comfortably through the hospital halls, chatting with medical staff and custodians along the way, more like one of the staff than the man in charge. He even stopped at his old station — the kitchen — as workers prepared dinner entrees.

This month, every hospital has been under stress, with patients reporting swine flu symptoms. Newport Hospital's Emergency Department has been packed with sick patients. "I believe we had 145 in one day," he said. "I'm sure that's a record for us. But the staff handled it very professionally, and the patients and their families have been satisfied."

It's early in his tenure, but Cordeiro is setting goals. In the past fiscal year, which ended in



August B. 'Gus' Cordeiro of Middletown, Newport Hospital's new president, recalls scrubbing dishes in the hospital's basement kitchen as a teenager.

September, the hospital lost \$4.6 million as part of its \$109 million budget, and that doesn't include losses in investments.

His goal, of course, is economic recovery. And part of that, he said, is a push to draw more patients from Portsmouth and Tiverton, those who might otherwise opt for hospitals in Providence or Fall River, Mass.

As he settles into the job, he would like to further beef up the hospital's satellite diagnostics center in Portsmouth, as well as maintain current programs at the hospital. Fundraising and community support will be important, he said.

Cordeiro, who has three grown children, laughs when he recalls landing his new job.

He was summoned hastily to the office of George Vecchione, the chief executive officer of Lifespan, a network of hospitals that includes Newport Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital. Without getting into details, Cordeiro said he suspected Vecchione wanted to discuss some trouble Rhode Island Hospital had experienced during the weekend.

Instead, Vecchione told him that Arthur J. Sampson, president and CEO at Newport Hospital, was leaving to lead The

Miriam Hospital in Providence, also part of Lifespan. The Newport job was Cordeiro's if he wanted it.

"I said yes right away," he said. "I didn't even call my wife (Carolyn) to talk it over. I didn't have to think about it."

Sampson, who headed Newport Hospital for 15 years, said Cordeiro was the logical choice. "He was very popular at Rhode Island Hospital, but at Newport Hospital we'd always hoped he would come back someday," Sampson said. "Gus is from the community and cares a lot about the hospital and the community. He was the best person for the job."

Cordeiro, whose office window provides a panoramic view of downtown and Newport Harbor, enjoys the quick commute from his Middletown home to the hospital. At a smaller institution, he said, it's easier to foster relationships with the staff. And as a lifelong islander, Cordeiro also recognizes his share of patients.

As the top executive, there are few jobs left at the hospital for Cordeiro to tackle. "Well, I haven't performed brain surgery yet."

Send reporter James J. Gillis e-mail at [Gillis@NewportRI.com](mailto:Gillis@NewportRI.com).

## Armory

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make a decision on which long-term proposal to accept from the bidders.

McCurdy said the foundation would like a three-year lease so it could upgrade the Armory and antique center. As many as 80 antique dealers could be accommodated within the space, he said.

"We are proposing to have the same format and bring on higher-end antiques and furniture, as well as continue to offer mid-range and lower-end items so people have something to shop for," McCurdy said.

The upgrade in merchandise began on Thursday when Adriance Furnituremakers, of 206 Bellevue Ave., moved examples of its custom-made products into the northeast corner of the Armory. The firm's craftspeople use Colonial, Federal, Shaker and nautical designs from the past to make their furniture.

Gary Adriance, owner of the business, said he is planning to use the colors of his store, green and gold, in his Armory display area if the foundation obtains a lease.

"We could replicate our gallery on Bellevue Avenue at the Armory if people want that, and make it very attractive," Adriance said. "It's a beautiful building and deserves good tenants. The building is also well-visited."

During the summer months, the Armory attracts about 1,000 visitors a day during the week, about 2,000 visitors on Saturdays and about 1,500 visitors on Sundays, said Russ Everett, one of the main antique vendors there.

McCurdy appointed Everett to manage the antique businesses and building, and Deborah Beardsley to be the assistant manager. Everett invited Adriance to locate in the Armory.

"No furniture store in New York City or Boston has furniture that exceeds the quality of his furniture," Everett said. "It could be an anchor showplace for the Armory."

Adriance is optimistic about the Armory's future if the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation is chosen for the lease.

"Russ has a really good eye," he said. "I think he will bring in good people."

During the past two weeks, Everett and Beardsley have moved out inferior merchandise from the Armory, cleaned up the building and made repairs. Windows have been cleared, space has been opened up and there is more light in the building.

"It looks so much nicer," said Irene Markoglu of Whippany, N.J., a regular visitor.

She and her husband, Anesti Markoglu, have been coming to the Armory Antiques Center since it opened more than 15 years ago, she said. They were at the Armory again this week.

"We come to Newport every couple of months and we always come to the Armory," she said.

The Markoglus have heard talk about putting a pirate museum in the building and don't think much of the idea.

"You go to a pirate museum once or twice and that's it," Anesti Markoglu said. "A museum like that is not going to get a lot of repeat visitors the way the antiques center does."

More than 250 people like the Markoglus have signed a petition in support of keeping the Armory an antiques center.

The city has received approval from the state's Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission to open up the back of the Armory with windows and perhaps add a deck overlooking Newport Harbor.

The Rhode Island Lighthouse Foundation would seek grants from area foundations and charitable trusts to do that work and keep the area open to the public, McCurdy said.

"We could put in a small coffee shop at the end of the building, where people could sit in Adirondack chairs and admire the waterfront," McCurdy said.

The waterfront deck would draw people from Thames Street and past the antiques on display, he said.

The board of Friends of the Waterfront, a local advocacy

group, voted recently to support plans to keep the Armory open to the public.

"To the extent the proposal would protect and enhance public access, the Friends of the Waterfront supports what the Rhode Island Lighthouse Foundation wants to do," said board member David Wixted.

"We don't care which organization occupies the Armory as long as public access is protected," said James Perrier, president of Friends of the Waterfront.

McCurdy has a list of changes he would like to make to the building to make it more attractive to visitors and the dealers who sublet. The foundation would seek funding to refinish the floors of the Armory's central hall, repair the wall plaster and have storm windows made.

"It's a difficult environment when it's cold," McCurdy said. "We'd love to put radiant floor heating in the hall."

The foundation has been successful at raising money for local preservation projects, he said.

"We put \$2 million into the lighthouse and its restoration," he said. "We have a successful grant writer who would go after grants for the Armory as soon as we are chosen."

Federal, state and local officials gathered in mid-March 2008 to showcase plans to convert the Armory's lower, harborside floor — the basement, as seen from Thames Street — into a transient boater facility and activity center. Major funding for that project has been provided by a \$713,000 grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Boating Infrastructure Grant program, which is designed to improve stopover tie-up facilities for visiting recreational boaters. The plan remains in place, as well as a planned extension of the Ann Street pier behind the Armory.

"We support the Harbor Center," McCurdy said. "The plans go together. People using the center could come upstairs and have a coffee on the new deck."

Send reporter Sean Flynn e-mail at [Flynn@NewportRI.com](mailto:Flynn@NewportRI.com).

## Winery

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issue the permit. If the board rules the special use permit is needed, hearings would be scheduled.

That decision also is subject to appeal to Superior Court.

Wilson said the issue is the same that applied in 1999 when she and her husband restored the barn, which now is used as a tasting room.

The Right to Farming Act sets up protections for farms and allows non-farming uses to help farmers. Provisions of that law applied to the restoration of the barn and also

apply to the winemaking facility, Wilson said.

The Wilsons plan to build a two-story, barn-like structure near the Wapping Road side of their vineyard that would include a winemaking facility, an aging room and a tasting room. The proposal has stirred up considerable controversy.

The vineyard produces about 4,500 cases of wine, and the new winery would increase that capacity to about 6,000 cases, the Wilsons have said.

Send reporter James A. Johnson e-mail at [Johnson@NewportRI.com](mailto:Johnson@NewportRI.com)

## CORRECTIONS

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## Moon

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The lunar crash kicked up at least 25 gallons and that's only what scientists could see from the plumes of the impact, Colaprete said.

Some space policy experts say that makes the moon attractive for exploration again. Having an abundance of water would make it easier to set up a base camp for astronauts, supplying drinking water and a key ingredient for rocket fuel.

"Having definitive evidence that there is substantial water is a significant step forward in making the moon an interesting place to go," said George Washington University space policy scholar John Logsdon.

Even so, members of the blue-ribbon panel reviewing NASA's future plans said it doesn't change their conclusion that the program needs more money to get beyond near-Earth orbit. The panel wants NASA to look at other potential destinations like asteroids and Mars.

"This new and terrific result reassures us about lunar resources, but ... the challenges currently facing the human spaceflight program remain," Chris Chyba, a Princeton astrophysicist who is on the panel, said in an e-mail.

President George W. Bush had proposed a more than \$100 billion plan to return astronauts to the moon, then go on to Mars; a test flight of an early version of a new rocket was a success last month. President Barack Obama appointed the special panel to look at the entire moon exploration program. The decision is now up to the White House, and NASA's lunar plans are somewhat on hold until then.

As for unmanned exploration, previous missions had detected the presence of hydrogen in lunar craters near the moon's poles, possible evidence of ice. In September, scientists reported finding tiny amounts of water in the lunar soil all over the moon's surface.

But it was NASA's Oct. 9 mission involving the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite, LCROSS, that provided the stunning confirmation

announced Friday — water, in the forms of ice and vapor.

"Rather than a dead and unchanging world, it could in fact be a very dynamic and interesting one," said Greg Delory of the University of California, Berkeley, who was not involved in the mission, led by NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif.

The LCROSS spacecraft only hit one spot on the moon and it's unclear how much water there is across the entire moon.

The October mission involved two strikes into a permanently shadowed crater near the south pole. First, an empty rocket hull slammed into the Cabeus crater. Then, a trailing spacecraft recorded the drama live before it also crashed into the same spot four minutes later.

Though scientists were overjoyed with the plethora of data beamed back to Earth, the mission was a public relations dud. Space enthusiasts who stayed up all night to watch the spectacle did not see the promised giant plume of debris.

NASA scientists had predicted the twin impacts would spew six miles of dust into the sunlight. Instead, images revealed only a mile-high plume, and it was not visible to many amateur astronomers peering through telescopes.

Scientists spent a month analyzing data from the spacecraft's spectrometers, instruments that can detect strong signals of water molecules in the plume.

"We've had hints that there is water. This was almost like tasting it," said Peter Schultz, professor of geological sciences at Brown University and a co-investigator on the LCROSS mission.

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin, who in 1969 made his historic Apollo 11 moonwalk with Neil Armstrong, was pleased to hear the latest discovery, but still believes the U.S. should focus on colonizing Mars.

"People will overreact to this news and say, 'Let's have a water rush to the moon,'" Aldrin said. "It doesn't justify that."

Mission scientists said it would take more time to tease out what else was kicked up in the moon dust.

## LOCAL WEATHER

### COASTAL RHODE ISLAND

Today, rain. Patchy fog. Breezy. Near steady temperature in the mid-50s. Tonight, cloudy. Rain likely. Patchy fog after midnight. Near steady temperature in the mid-50s.

Sunday, cloudy. A chance of showers in the morning. High in the mid-60s. Sunday night, mostly cloudy. Low in the upper 40s.

### MARINE

Today, northeast wind 20-25 knots, diminishing to 15-20 knots. Gusts up to 35 knots. Waves 2-3 feet, except 7-10 feet at the bay entrance. Visibility 1-3 nautical miles. Tonight, east wind 15-20 knots, becoming northeast 5-10 knots after midnight.

Sunday, northeast wind 5-10 knots, becoming southeast in the afternoon. Waves 2-3 feet. Sunday night west wind 5-10 knots.

### EXTENDED

Monday, sunny. High around 60. Monday night through Tuesday night, clear. Low in the upper 30s. High in the lower 50s.

Wednesday through Thursday, mostly clear. High in the mid-50s. Low around 40.

### TIDES

Sunday's sunrise 6:35 a.m., sunset 4:26 p.m. High tides: 6:10 a.m. 6:32 p.m. Low tides: 12:11 a.m., 11:49 p.m. Monday's sunrise 6:36 a.m., sunset 4:25 p.m. High tides: 6:56 a.m., 7:16 p.m. Low tide: 12:50 p.m.

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