

# COMMUNITY

SECTION C  
THE NEWPORT DAILY NEWS

**BUSINESS**  
**Local farmers**  
**deserve support. C6**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS C3 ♦ FOR SENIORS C3 ♦ BUSINESS C6 ♦ BRIEFCASE C7 ♦ AT THE MUSEUM C9

## 2011 EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS AWARDS

# ABOVE AND BEYOND

## Six businesses cited for service to customers, communities

### SMALL BUSINESS: WILLIAM VAREIKA FINE ARTS

**W**illiam Vareika Fine Arts in Newport is a business that has succeeded with a philosophy of using excellence in the arts to be of service to the community.

Gallery owner Bill Vareika is a specialist in 19th century American art. A graduate of Boston College, Vareika abandoned law school plans and moved to Newport in the 1970s to lead a six-year legal battle to save the historic Newport Congregational Church at the corner of Spring and Pelham streets, which featured La Farge murals and opalescent glass windows. This experience led to his career as an art dealer.

In 1987, Bill and Alison Vareika opened William Vareika Fine Arts Ltd. on Bellevue Avenue with a dual mission: to provide a public viewing space for historic American art and to support charitable causes. During the past 24 years, Vareika has used the gallery to raise public awareness and millions of dollars for

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a wide variety of causes, from the Potter League for Animals to Save The Bay.

The gallery has grown to be one of the largest and most respected establishments of its kind in the country and has played a significant role in promoting the importance of the Newport and Narragansett Bay region in the history of the arts in America. The gallery numbers among its clients leading museums, collectors and corporations, as well as beginning collectors, and has greatly enhanced the Newport cultural scene by mounting exhibitions of world-class artwork and by offering educational gallery

tours and lectures, all free of charge.

The Vareikas also have served on numerous nonprofit boards, committees and advisory councils. In 2008, the gallery received the Small Business ENCORE Award from the Arts and Business Council of Rhode Island for its contributions to the arts and culture of Rhode Island and in 2009 became a member of the prestigious National Antique and Art Dealers Association of America, the only Rhode Island business to receive this distinction.

More recently, Vareika was involved in an effort to raise funds to acquire, restore and install 13 La Farge stained-glass windows in the new Our Lady of Mercy Chapel on the Salve Regina University campus. Last Sunday, William Vareika received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Salve for his contributions as a preservationist and philanthropist.



Alison and William Vareika have operated William Vareika Fine Arts Ltd. on Bellevue Avenue in Newport since 1987.

David Hansen  
♦ Daily News staff