

WESTERLY

Ocean House

ready for debut

A "soft" opening for the new hotel/luxury condos is set for May 17

By **CHRISTINE DUNN**
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The Ocean House, a newly rebuilt version of the historic seaside resort in Westerly's Watch Hill, is preparing for a "soft" opening on May 17, and a formal opening gala is planned for June 26.

The \$140-million Ocean House project, led by Greenwich, Conn., developer Charles M. Royce, is on a 13-acre site on the bluffs of Watch Hill. The original hotel, built in 1868, was torn down in December 2005.

The new Ocean House will be open year-round and includes 49 guest rooms and 23 luxury condos with ocean views.

Hotel rates start at \$450 per night, and the Ocean House condos included in the statewide Multiple Listing Service range in price from \$1,490,000 to \$6,950,000.

Ocean House Real Estate Director Donna Simmons said 8 of the 23 condos are

"headed to closing in May or June," and two more purchase-and-sale agreements are in negotiation.

To help introduce the resort to the public and provide a public service at the same time, there will be a "Show Your Cause" Designer Show House fundraising event from June 8-22.

The event will benefit regional nonprofit groups, including the Rhode Island Zoological Society, Mothers Against Drunk Driving of Rhode Island and the Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County, according to Simmons.

For a minimum \$75 donation, Show House attendees will tour the resort's public areas and five of the new condominium residences, each decorated by a different interior designer. Guests will also eat lunch at Seasons, the Ocean House's signature restaurant.

Simmons said the Show House event has already generated 40,000 invitations.

For more information, visit www.oceanhouseri.com/showhouse or contact Donna Simmons, dsimmons@oceanhouseri.com.

The Ocean House is also hiring employees, and two Career Fairs are scheduled in the coming weeks.

Both Career Fairs will be held at the Westerly Armory, 8 Dixon St., Westerly.

The first is on Tuesday, March 16, from 9 to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The second will be held Tuesday, March 23, also from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Applicants may also e-mail resumes to recruiting@oceanhouseri.com
cdunn@projo.com / 277-7913



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The view of the new Ocean House from Bluff Avenue in Watch Hill.



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