

# BLACKSTONE VALLEY

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SERVING CENTRAL FALLS, CUMBERLAND, LINCOLN, NORTH SMITHFIELD, PAWTUCKET & WOONSOCKET

## School's benefactor renames building for his mother

■ A \$1.2-million addition to Barbara Farley Hall at St. Raphael Academy will house six classrooms, two science laboratories and weight-training equipment.

By AMY KLEIN

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PAWTUCKET — Happy Mother's Day, Barbara Farley.

On a weekend when last-minute shoppers typically scramble for the perfect gift and card, William F. Farley named a building at St. Raphael Academy after his mom.

"All of us have this unpayable debt to our parents," said William Farley, smiling at his mother. "My mom has led a life that's exem-

### PAWTUCKET

plary."

William Farley, chairman of Fruit of the Loom Inc. and owner of Farley Industries, grew up in Pawtucket and graduated from St. Raphael in 1960. He was the first million-dollar contributor to the school's fundraising campaign, which is aiming for \$9.5 million by the year 2000.

The school, on Walcott Street, has played a prominent role in the lives of the Farley family. John F. Farley, William's deceased father, attended the school, and Barbara Farley received an honorary diploma from the academy in 1987.

In the past three years, William Farley has provided money for scholarships, tuition assistance, computer technology and the athletic program.

Looking for a way to thank Farley for his donations, which have topped \$1 million, the school suggested he rename the West Annex Building, where a new addition will be built this summer.

"It was Bill Farley's initiative and philanthropy to the academy that has set the pace for the future," said Brother Thomas Casey, principal of St. Raphael.

The \$1.2-million addition to Barbara Farley Hall will house six classrooms, two science laboratories and an addition to the athletic department's weight room on the lower level. The hall, which was built in 1986 and is

still dubbed "New Building" by students, currently holds three classrooms, a computer lab and an art studio and lab.

"I received a good education here, and I said, 'How can we make it better . . . for the young people growing up in Pawtucket, Central Falls and the rest of this area?'" William Farley said.

Prout Roberts & Elias Architects, of Cranston, designed the 12,000-square-foot addition. Bulldozers are expected to break ground early this summer, and the building is scheduled to be completed in September 1999.

At a ceremonial groundbreaking Saturday, about 40 alumni, teachers and students gathered at the academy to honor William and Barbara Farley, as well as Charles E.

Walker, a 1964 alumnus and co-chairman of the school's fundraising campaign, "Creating a Future." The campaign has raised \$4.7 million since its inception, in 1996.

Although a steady rain forced the groundbreakers inside, organizers filled an aluminum pan with dirt and allowed the Farleys to dig in with shovels.

"I'm so happy and excited," Barbara Farley said in a brief statement in front of the group.

During the ceremony, Barbara Farley also received citations recognizing her service as "a wife and mother of a St. Raphael graduate" from the state House of Representatives, the lieutenant governor's office and Governor Almond's office.