



## RDA Returns Art Gallery to Rockville General Hospital

It had been more than a year since the last Artist Call, and two Executive Directors had come and gone from the RDA. Several ECHN employees who had worked on the project had since moved on to other responsibilities, so Cliff Edwards, the new Executive Director, and Amy Lantaigne, of ECHN's Manchester offices took on the June, 2010 task of setting up the Art Gallery once again in the hallways of Rockville General Hospital at 31 Union Street in downtown Rockville. Determined to not let the arts die in Rockville, Edwards and Lantaigne pursued their difficult task of finding the artists selecting the art, arranging the judging and organizing the Grand Opening of the ECHN/RGH Art Gallery that will run from June thru August, 2010. Partnering with the RGH Ladies Auxiliary, the Vernon Arts Commission and the Vernon Community Arts Center, the RDA hung 32 pieces of art for the exhibit which is featured in the hallway on the basement level of the hospital, adjacent to the Hospitals' Board Room. The artwork consists of oil paintings, watercolors, acrylics and photography, with prizes awarded in each category and a Grand Prize for overall "Best in Show".



Gene Skladnowski with the winning artists and organizers

For this exhibit, the Grand Prize for "Best in Show" went to Dawn Tyler for her oil painting entitled "Lieutenant River". Best Watercolor was awarded to Mary Horrigan for her painting of "Spring Splendor" and Best Acrylic was Ginny Emerson's "Lost Boat". Laura Jean Holdaway had the Best Photography artwork with her "Garden of the Gods".

Joyce Jordan and Susan Mason, of the Rockville General Hospital Ladies Auxiliary, were on hand to help open the gallery exhibit and the gallery visitors and guests were enthusiastic in their praise for this latest collaborative effort by ECHN / RGH and the RDA group. Paul Shimer of the Vernon Community Arts Center and members of the Vernon Arts Commission worked behind the scenes to continue to champion the effort to support arts in the downtown area.

If you have an interest in being included in the next Artists Call, please contact the RDA offices at 860-875-7439 and speak with Cliff Edwards, the RDA Executive Director. Also visit the RDA's website at [www.rdact.com](http://www.rdact.com).



## Meet the New RDA Executive Director

Cliff Edwards is a proud Rockville native, and comes to the RDA with over 40 years of experience in a variety of expertise's, including administration, information sciences, graphic design, web design, non-profit management, and business startups, having owned and operated his own local retail store in downtown Rockville at one time. His vision for downtown Rockville is a positive one, and he is undeterred by the economic downturn that has hit the area and the nation. He will be working a regular schedule, keeping the RDA offices open daily from 10:00am to 3:00pm. He can be reached at 860-875-7439 or by e-mail at [rdact@hotmail.com](mailto:rdact@hotmail.com).