



# Rockville Downtown News

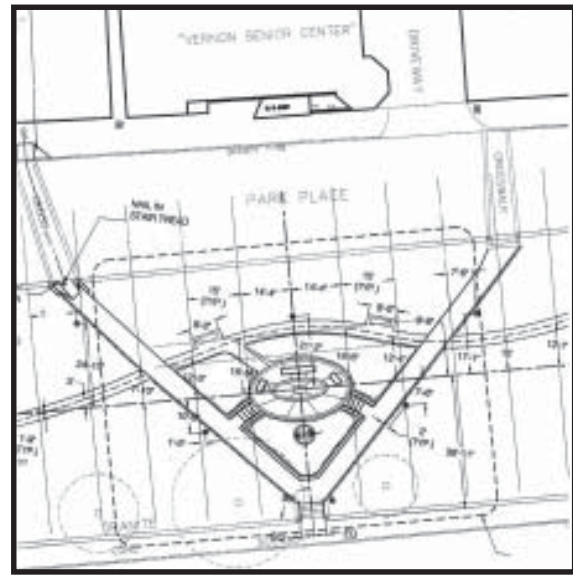
August 2006

Vol. 6 No. 8

## ~ Bids Received For Central Park Renovations ~ Town Expects Work To Be Completed By Year End

The Town of Vernon has received their second set of bids from potential contractors for the Central Park Renovations project in downtown Rockville. The first invitation to bid produced responses which were higher than the allocated budget for the project. As a result, the design plans were modified and a new invitation to bid was released in August. The work includes constructing concrete sidewalks and steps, retaining walls, stone screenings pathways, an irrigation system, installing park light poles and luminaires, a new flagpole and sodded lawn. Bids were received on August 24 at which time they were reviewed and, hopefully, a contractor should be selected to begin work as soon as possible. Work is anticipated to be substantially completed by the end of the year, with the exception of portions of work to be performed by the Town.

Key elements of the renovation project had to be eliminated due to budgetary constraints, including several pedestrian crosswalks intended on making the downtown area more "pedestrian friendly". Several of these crossed over Route 74 and, being a State highway, the cost implications were too significant to be included in the re-bid package. Signalization, utility installations, and many more items had to be removed from the scope of work with the hopes the new bids would come within budget. Existing benches in the park have already been removed by the Town as they are to be refurbished for future use. New light poles will replace the existing ones, monuments will be relocated with surrounding enhancements, granite-faced concrete stairs will be added, walkways will be realigned, and an irrigation system will be installed. RDA has had to curtail several of its events usually held in the park until renovations are completed, hopefully by next Spring.



design layout for relocated memorial plaza



several pedestrian crosswalks eliminated from contract

## A Welcome Choice



Michael P. Bey, MD



ECHN Health Services 43 West Main St., Suite One, Rockville, CT 860-872-3818



### FAMILY PRACTITIONER

ECHN welcomes Michael Bey, MD, a veteran ECHN medical staff member into his new community-based practice. Most recently an ECHN hospitalist, Dr. Bey was for many years a family physician in two Vernon- and Maryland-based private practices. He is a former Chief

of the Family Practice Department at Rockville General Hospital and was assistant clinical professor in the Department of Family Practice at the University of CT Medical School. Board certified in Family Practice, Dr. Bey received his medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine.



## Discover . . . the Rockville Downtown Association



. . . Preserving, promoting and enhancing historic **downtown Rockville**, Connecticut.

- contact RDA for assistance in locating your business downtown
- attend our community events or ask how to sponsor an event
- join us as a member — even out-of-town members welcomed
- contact us to receive our monthly newsletters and e-mail updates

**Individuals, Organizations, and Businesses have found being a member of RDA is good for them and good for the community. Discover what RDA can do for you. Visit our website or call for information today!**

[www.rdact.com](http://www.rdact.com) (860) 875-7439

## Who's Using WiFi and Why?

The June issue of the Monthly Journal of the National Trust Main Street Center featured an article on wireless fidelity, otherwise known as WiFi mobile technology. Their message was quite extensive – downtown main street communities need to recognize the benefit of offering WiFi connectivity as an enhancement to bolstering economic development, creating a sense of place, attracting visitors, increasing foot traffic, assisting local businesses, enhancing public safety and aiding public employees. RDA, in cooperation with the Data Processing Department of the Town of Vernon, has had WiFi capability in the downtown Rockville area now for many months.

Business owners have reported good response from customers using the service, and the likelihood of continued increase in usage supports the original goal of making downtown WiFi capable. Next time you are downtown, log on and let us know you're connected!



# Citizens Block Building: Time For Adaptive Reuse

After sitting idle for many years, the Citizens Block Building on Park Place in Rockville may soon get some new life. The building, which is owned by the Town of Vernon, is being considered for adaptive reuse and has received Town Council approval to be put on the market for possible redevelopment. The historic property currently houses the Rockville Downtown Association, Inc. in one first-floor location while the remainder of the building remains vacant. The Town is supposed to release a Request For Proposal (RFP) seeking private developers who may have an interest in acquiring and renovating the building. A release date for the RFP has not yet been determined but the Rockville Downtown Association is encouraging Town officials to move this project along. The first floor is ideally situated for prime retail storefront development along Park Place and would add significant square footage to the existing inventory stock of downtown retail space. The second and third floor levels offer the possibility of excellent downtown office space and/or residential units for the upper level. The Town is reviewing the possibility of occupying portions of the building for its own purposes and this would be incorporated in the RFP released to private developers. The Rockville Downtown Association would also like to remain in the building as part of its role in serving the historic downtown district. The RDA Board of Directors will review the project status at its September meeting and continue working with Town officials to keep this project on track.



The historic Citizens Block building is slated for redevelopment in the near future



First floor space of the Citizens Block building is ideally suited for prime retail development



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## Meet Your Board of Directors & Staff

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Rockville Public Library

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Organization Committee Andrew Beck  
Promotions Committee Stephen C. Marcham

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Robert Kleinhans  
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Phil Pietras  
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Richard Tariff  
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Vernon Community Network  
EarthWorks Landscaping  
State Representative 56<sup>th</sup> District  
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Rockville Elks #1359  
Vincent's Pharmacy  
Journal Inquirer  
Small-Pietras Funeral Home  
Bank of America  
Vernon Regional Adult Education  
Crystal Blueprint & Stationery

**Staff** – Randy Anagnostis, FSMP - **Executive Director** ~ Lynda Campbell - **Office Assistant**



### from the Executive Director's Desk . . .

The recent difficulty in arriving at an approved Town Budget is indicative of the times. Citizens are looking to hold costs down while still expecting quality municipal services. Rockville/Vernon is no different than most other communities – budgets are carefully scrutinized and well-meaning taxpayer groups more aggressively pursue tactics to “hold the line” on fiscal spending. But throughout these town-by-town battles, the non-profit and social service agencies struggle to maintain their operations, deliver goods and services to their communities, and sustain their organizations. The Rockville Downtown Association is like many other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations – we rely on community and municipal financial support to continue our historic downtown revitalization and preservation efforts on behalf of the citizens of Rockville and the surrounding towns. While our budget was reduced this coming year along with many other organizations in town, we will use prudent management and fiscal responsibility to ensure our continued success in serving both RDA members and the community at large. Programs may have to be modified to account for reductions in funding, but the quality of the RDA efforts we undertake will always be provided with our mission statement in mind and a dedicated purpose. In many instances, we rely upon Town support from various departments to assist in our day to day activities. Banner replacements, which give the downtown a more cohesive look, can only be maintained with support from the Public Works Department. The July In The Sky event is coordinated with the Parks & Recreation Department. Our WiFi services are assisted by the Data Processing Department. Many of our functions are held in the Vernon Senior Center building with their cooperation and support. As these departments deal with their own budget cutbacks, there is a trickle-down effect to RDA and many other community and social service organizations in Town. Everyone goes forward trying to curtail spending but still delivering quality services and programs for the benefit of the community. The message here is quite simple – RDA is challenged to keep the support of our existing contributors and are constantly seeking new members and sponsors to continue the various RDA programs and operations. Whether you choose to support RDA or any other organization in Town, I encourage you to recognize the valuable assistance YOU provide in helping all of the organizations in Rockville. The RDA has grown steadily in its six-year history and we expect this trend to continue. If you cannot make a financial contribution in support of the downtown revitalization and preservation efforts, please consider volunteering even a few hours a month to the RDA or other organizations in the community. As I see it, two components make for a successful downtown revitalization grassroots effort – money and PEOPLE. A contribution of either one helps all of us improve the downtown district. Thank you for your support in the past and I look forward to your continued support in the future!

Randy Anagnostis, Executive Director

## The Rockville Downtown Association, Inc. Membership Pledge Form

(simply return this form and RDA will contact you or enclose a check)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (eve) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### • Community Partner Membership:

**Platinum Sponsor** \$4,000 per year \_\_\_\_\_  
**Diamond Sponsor** \$2,500 per year \_\_\_\_\_  
**Gold Sponsor** \$1,000 per year \_\_\_\_\_  
**Silver Sponsor** \$ 500 per year \_\_\_\_\_  
**Bronze Sponsor** \$ 250 per year \_\_\_\_\_  
**Friend of the RDA** \$ 150 per year \_\_\_\_\_

(above sponsorships may include recognition packages)

### • Business Membership:

No. of Employees: 1-5 = \$ 50.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 6-10= \$ 75.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 11-20= \$125.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 20+= \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Exact # of employees at your location: \_\_\_\_\_

### • Supporting Individual Membership:

Individual \$ 25.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Seniors/Students \$ 15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions?** Call our office at **860-875-7439**

Additional Donations welcomed for:

( ) Greenspace Program \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 ( ) Cultural Arts Event \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 ( ) Downtown Events, \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Concerts & Festivals  
 ( ) Other - please specify \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

**Rockville Downtown Association, Inc.**  
 30 Park Place, PO Box 865  
 Rockville, CT 06066



**Rockville Downtown Association, Inc.**

30 Park Place, PO Box 865  
Rockville, CT 06066

Phone/Fax: 860-875-7439  
E-mail: rda@rdact.com  
Web: www.rdact.com

Executive Director: Randy Anagnostis

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**The RDA Mission Statement:**

The RDA is a grassroots, non-profit organization whose mission is to *Preserve, Promote and Enhance* Rockville's Historic Downtown and to create partnerships that stimulate economic activity and action for a renewed sense of pride and community.

August 2006

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**The RDA recognizes the following businesses, individuals and organizations for their continued generosity and financial support . . .**

**Silver Sponsors**

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- The Rockville

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The Bullock Co.

**The Rockville Downtown Association Committees Are Looking For More Volunteers**

**Join A Committee!**

DESIGN COMMITTEE  
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ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE  
PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

**Committees usually meet just one night per month. Get involved with your historic downtown association!**

- Greenspace Programs
  - Downtown Events
  - Grant Funding Programs
  - Retail Projects
  - Development Issues
  - Beautification Ideas
- . . . and so much more!

**Call the RDA office for more information at 860-875-7439**