

# Revival News & Notes



The Newsletter of Revitalizing Waterbury, Inc.

Fall 2005

No. 5

## Getting Down to Details: Planning Progresses for the Station's Information Centers and Café

As the bid for contractor of Waterbury's Railroad Station restoration project went out in early November, planning is underway regarding the operation of the Tourist Information Center at the Train Station and Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Train Station-Visitors Center and Café, all of which will be housed in the building's interior.

The restored station is expected to attract 200,000 visitors at the height of tourist season. To ensure safety and to accommodate a large number of people, visitors will enter the station at its southern end via the space known as the baggage building.

"Now that the final plans have been developed and approved for the rebuilding of the former baggage building at the station, information about Waterbury and central Vermont will be the first thing that visitors will experience when they come to the station," said Jack Carter, RW board member and "father" of the project. "The 650 sq. ft. facility will be a welcome addition and recreation of the original building complex."

## Pilot Program Sees Successful First Season

From May to November, flowers and plants have been blooming outside storefronts in Waterbury village. The plantings are part of RW's Village Beautification program. Begun this past spring, the pilot program placed more than 40 planters in downtown Waterbury. Due to a mild fall and diligent maintenance, many of the original plantings have been long lasting making replacement by hardy mums unnecessary. Many thanks to Jack Carter, Steffan and Cyndi Christensen, Linda Eldredge, Jane Grace, Merrill Green, Jeanne Kirby, Chuck Kletecka, David and Margaret Luce, Mary Miller, Joyce Rogan, Sarah-Lee Terrat, Elise Werth, members of AARTI Garden Club, and all those who watered and maintained the barrels in front of their businesses. RW looks forward to its second season beautifying the village with more plantings and attractive arrangements.



One of over 40 planters in full bloom.

According to Carter, the baggage building will be connected to the station by a glassed-in passageway. The space will operate as a tourist information center with materials about Waterbury and surrounding areas, a model railroad exhibit, and rest room facilities. The space will also house the Amtrak waiting room.

As visitors pass through the baggage building, they will next encounter Green Mountain Coffee Roasters' visitors center. The center will showcase production at the Waterbury plant and provide information on the company's coffee production from harvesting to distribution. Visitors will also be informed of the social and environmental missions of the company.

"Green Mountain Coffee Roasters is looking forward to sharing the 'Tree to Cup' experience with our community and our customers," said Paul Comey, GMCR executive officer. "The train station appears to be the perfect location to expose the public to some of our community's heritage, activities and, of course, GMCR."

While visitors will learn about GMCR as a company, they will also have an opportunity to try out their coffee, see their products, and choose from a selection of light fare at the café to be located at the northern end of the building.

Construction on the restoration project is slated to start at the beginning of 2006 and be finished for the summer.

"It is an exciting time for us as this project comes to completion," Carter said. "It will be a happy day when we once again open the doors to welcome strangers and friends to a beautifully-restored gem in the heart of our community."

## New RW Board Members

At its September board meeting, RW welcomed four new members to serve on its board of directors. New appointees, all local residents, are: Tammi Cody, Heidi Hill, Elizabeth MacGowan, and Dawn Lee Minter. The organization regrets that Joyce Rogan, a board member for over 5 years, has announced her resignation from the board. She will remain active in RW, however, through participation in certain projects and events.

Revitalizing Waterbury, a non-profit organization, is in need of volunteers for a wide range of community projects. For more information on how you can help, contact Laura Parette, RW president, at 244-1575 or visit [www.RevitalizingWaterbury.org](http://www.RevitalizingWaterbury.org).

[www.RevitalizingWaterbury.org](http://www.RevitalizingWaterbury.org) • [info@RevitalizingWaterbury.org](mailto:info@RevitalizingWaterbury.org)  
PO Box 473, Waterbury, VT 05676 • 802.244.5321

# Honoring Local Business Owners

On Sept. 16, RW awarded its Certificate of Recognition to local business owner Sylvia Aylward for improvements made to her property located at 29 Stowe Street beside the dry bridge. Aesthetically, the property has been enhanced through exterior renovations, painting and the addition of window boxes, and economically, Aylward has brought in new tenants Katie's Jewels and Jazzercise. The anchor business named 29 Stowe Street continues to offer upholstery, slipcovers, second-hand furniture, and consignment goods. RW presents its Certificate of Recognition award to a local business owner or resident whose property improvements enhance the architectural history and beauty of the community.

On Nov. 1, RW had the opportunity to recognize another local business for its contributions to Waterbury. The organization presented the Kathy O'Dell Memorial Community Service Award to John and Val Vincent, owners of Vincent's Drug & Variety, and their employees located in downtown Waterbury. The annual award recognizes a local business that gives back to the community in various ways and so sets an example within the community. O'Dell, who passed away in February 2005, is remembered for her contributions to RW as the organization's first president and as a founding board member.



John and Val Vincent proudly accept the award illustrated by artist and RW board member, Sarah-Lee Terrat.

# RW Gets Creative with Fundraising Effort

To inform community members and passers by of the railroad station restoration project and its financial needs, RW has set up a fundraising thermometer in Waterbury's Rusty Parker Memorial Park. Visible from the town's Main Street, the sign is not a typical red thermometer, but rather an illustration of a train climbing uphill toward the station (based on the children's book "The Little Train That Could"). RW board member Sarah-Lee Terrat designed the sign with the help of her husband and local contractor, Heath Cummings. Now at \$1,139,317 in donations, pledges and grants, RW hopes the train will reach its destination of \$1.4 million soon.

Despite a successful capital campaign to-date, RW President Laura Parette noted, "there is still a fair amount of money to raise. This is still our biggest job."

The next phase in RW's fundraising effort is a capital campaign brochure to be distributed via a mailing to area residents and an insert to the community newspaper Exit 10. The brochure features a historic cover photo of the railroad station, present-day photos of the deteriorating building, and a floor plan of the new space. RW thanks National Life Insurance Co. for printing the brochure at no cost, Mitch Moraski for photographing the station, and Laura Parette, graphic designer.

The capital campaign has \$260,683 left to raise. To learn how you can contribute, visit [www.RevitalizingWaterbury.org](http://www.RevitalizingWaterbury.org).



RW's fundraising thermometer in Rusty Parker Memorial Park.

**RW meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 5:30pm at the Chittenden Bank.  
Future meeting dates: Dec. 13, 2005 • Jan. 10, 2006 • Feb. 14, 2006**

<b>OFFICERS:</b>	<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS:</b>	
Laura Parette <i>President</i>	Jack Carter	David Luce
Carolyn Goodwin Kueffner <i>Vice President</i>	Tammi Cody	Elizabeth MacGowan
Iona Kemp <i>Treasurer</i>	Rick Darby	Bob McLeod
	Janet DiBlasi	Dawn Lee Minter
	Heidi Hill	Tom Stevens
	Jeanne Kirby	Sarah-Lee Terrat

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