



Freedom Isn't Free



Many thanks to all who have served, and are serving, in our Armed Forces to protect and preserve our freedom. This year's Town of Vernon and American Legion Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for this Monday, May 29. The parade steps off at Northeast School at 10 am and ends at Central Park, where a special ceremony will be held. Each year, to help to encourage patriotism, RDA supplies the Town of Vernon with the American flags posted on various lighting and utility poles throughout downtown Rockville.



Overview of the future of Rockville General Hospital

Prepared by Drew Crandall, President
Rockville Downtown Association
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Earlier this week, RDA published "***Overview of the Future of Rockville General Hospital,***" a colorful and informative PowerPoint presentation for interested citizens. A PDF version of the document is now [available 24/7 online](#). The initial feedback has been excellent.

"The culture and economy of Rockville have several pillars, one of which is Rockville General Hospital," says RDA President Drew Crandall, author of the document. "In recent years, there has been much public concern and fear over the possible closing of this vital local healthcare facility. With the recent sale of ECHN to Prospect Medical Holdings, Rockville General Hospital held a Town Meeting on April 26 to cast the vision for the future of the hospital. I participated in that meeting, and sensed a need to create a document to help RDA members, Rockville citizens and the general public to see and understand what is going on. Based on the vision and actions being taken, there is good news. Rockville General Hospital has a brighter future, and more potential for growth, than it has had in decades."

RDA 2017 Annual Meeting Held on Wednesday

The Year in Review through Pictures



This past Wednesday evening during the RCA 2017 Annual Meeting, President Drew Crandall presented a brief recap of the 2016-2017 year. It has been a very good year on many fronts. During the meeting, three Directors rotated off the Board: Jeff Hutton, Carl Mandell and Lisa Moody. RDA thanked them for their long-time, dedicated service. Two current Directors were re-elected to serve new terms: Bill Breslau and Carl Schaefer. The remaining members of the 2017-2018 Board include Drew Crandall, Jennifer Holt, Rene Lambert, Jon McPartland, Becky Orłowski, Debbie Ratti, Sharon Redfern, Gene Skladnowski and Dan Waskiewicz.

Immediately following the annual meeting, the Board met to elect 2017-2018 officers. They are: Drew Crandall, President; Dan Waskiewicz, Vice President; Debbie Ratti, Treasurer; and Sharon Redfern, Secretary. The next RDA Board meeting will be held in mid-June.

Our annual Membership Campaign will be launched next month. With all of the good things happening at RDA, we hope that you choose to renew your existing membership or become a new member. We rely upon annual membership dues to pay our expenses. We'll be doing a mass mailing and posting our 2017-2018 membership application on our website soon.

Opportunity Works Completes Purchase of Building



Opportunity Works, the amazing non-profit agency based in Rockville, recently completed the purchase of their 12,000 square foot building at 45 West Main Street. If you have never visited their Gift Store, please check it out!

Farm Car Care named May "Business of the Month"



RDA recently presented Mike Baum, owner of [Farm Car Care Center](#), with the May 2017 Business of the Month Award. Joining Mike during the award ceremony were RDA Board members Bill Breslau, Drew Crandall and Carl Schaefer. Farm Car Care Center is a third-generation family business located at 11 Windermere Avenue. In 1939, Sam Baum began to deliver kerosene to farms under the business name of Farmoil. Seeing the need for car repairs, he bought a gas station in 1944. He also developed a home heating oil business and was joined by his son, Lester Baum, in 1948. Current owner Mike Baum joined his father Lester in 1980. In 1989, the Baums decided to concentrate on tires and vehicle servicing, so they sold off the oil division of the company and renamed the business Farm Car Care Center.

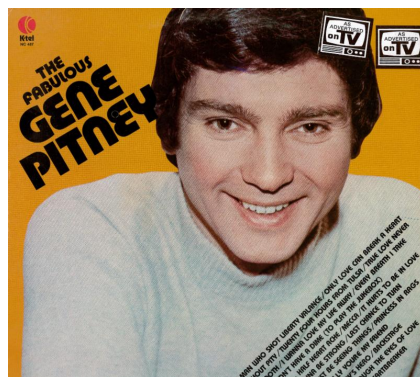
Volunteerism is Thriving in Rockville!



A community cannot expect "government" to provide solutions to every problem and challenge. There just aren't (and never will be) enough taxpayer dollars to get the job done. Here in Rockville, we have an abundance of all-volunteer groups who donate their time, talent, tongue and treasure to make a positive difference. For example, the [Rockville Downtown Association](#), [Rockville Community Alliance](#), and [Rockville Volunteer Services](#) (shown above) are all grassroots, all-volunteer organizations that do an enormous amount of work to improve and benefit Rockville month after month, year after year. Even the [Vernon Fire Department](#), which provides fire, medical and emergency-related services in Rockville, is one of the largest volunteer organizations of its kind in the State. Please reach out to these organizations, THANK THEM, and consider volunteering to actively help to improve and enhance the quality of life.

Special thanks this week to the Vernon Police Department for swift recovery of two dirt bikes stolen during a break-in at Kaplan Cycles. Ken Kaplan is the spark plug behind Rockville Volunteer Services and the rebirth of the former Hockanum Mill on West Main Street.

First "The Rockville Beat" TV Show on Gene Pitney is nearly done



The first segment of the new Rockville Beat TV show is almost ready to show the world! Director and Host Drew Crandall, Producer Wayne Holmes and Editor Brent Robinson spent several hours this afternoon going through the entire final draft of the show. They expect to finish the edits and post the show on a new YouTube Channel within the next couple of days. Stay tuned for the exciting details!