

TOWN OF VERNON

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MEDIA ADVISORY

October 25, 2021

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Vernon Mayor and Members of the Town Council Break Ground on Next Phase of Citizens Block Redevelopment

(VERNON, Connecticut) – Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne and members of the Vernon Town Council have launched the next phase of the redevelopment of the historic Citizens Block building on Park Place.



Mayor Dan Champagne, fifth from left, is joined by town council members and others at a ceremonial ground breaking for the next phase of the redevelopment of the Citizens Block building on Park Place.

The building, constructed in 1879, once housed retail stores, offices and apartments. The phased redevelopment is based on Mayor Champagne's vision to relocate several town offices, the probate court and create a community room for organizations to use as a meeting place.

"With the redevelopment of Citizens Block we are saving a historic and beautiful building located in the center of our municipal complex," Mayor Champagne said. "Once this project is complete, it's going to be a centerpiece of downtown Vernon." The building is two doors down from Town Hall.

Relocating town offices to Citizens Block will make it easier and more convenient for residents and businesses to access municipal services and conduct their business. Work is expected to begin shortly. This includes the construction of a new accessible entryway and restrooms and an addition to house an elevator and staircase. The overall schedule is dependent on the weather as well as the availability and cost of materials. The cost of this phase is approximately \$1.1 million.

Work completed thus far includes restoration of the façade, installation of a new roof, removal of environmental hazards, structural stabilization, enhanced drainage, and concrete and brick repairs.

At the groundbreaking, Mayor Champagne was joined by Town Council members Laura Bush, William Campbell, Linda Gessay, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque and James Tedford, Probate Judge Elisa H. Bartlett, project architect Robert Hurd and representatives of the project contractor, Zlotnick Construction, Inc.

About the Town of Vernon

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and wellbeing of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of approximately 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in “New England's Knowledge Corridor” with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Designated a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870- 3670 or visit www.vernon-ct.gov.

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