



# LOOM CITY LOFTS OPENING

It was an honor to present a Legislative Citation to builders Joseph Vallone and Marc Levine for their hard work over a twelve year period to successfully transform Rockville's historic Roosevelt Mills into the new Loom City Lofts. It is a wonderful and welcome sight and I am pleased to have been part of the process.

I am also thankful to the State DECD and State Department of Housing for their recent \$5 million investment through the State Competitive Housing Assistance for Multifamily Properties Program (CHAMP) to complete the project.

Loom City Lofts offers affordable and market priced 1 and 2 bedroom apartments as well as commercial space. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was one of the first structures built in New England using reinforced concrete technology in 1906.

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## Open Space Grant

A \$650,000 state grant was approved to help preserve 51.3 acres of the Strong Farm as open space with open trails for residents and visitors to enjoy the scenic views. The grant money was awarded in October as part of the state initiative to preserve open space. A total of \$5.9 million in open space grants were awarded to 17 communities throughout the state.

## Senior Housing Improvements

\$3.9 million in state funding was approved to help with improvements at the Francis J. Pitkat Congregate Living Center in Vernon. The Pitkat Center provides efficiency units for elderly residents over age 62. The rehab will include new kitchens, renovated bathrooms, new windows, exterior doors, new flooring and other ADA improvements.

## Korean Veterans Honored

Local Korean War veterans were honored with the Korean Ambassador Peace Medal awards for their service at a special ceremony at Vernon's Central Park thanks to the efforts of Vernon Councilwoman Polly Schaefer and Congressman Joe Courtney. Congressman Courtney advocated for the new medal recognitions in Washington D.C.



## More School Construction Dollars

Vernon has applied for grants to pay for about 71% of the cost for school roof renovations at Skinner Road School, Northeast School and VCMS. The expected total cost of the project is projected at over \$4.5 million with the state paying approximately \$3.4 million which is a direct savings to our town.

The application is being reviewed by the State Department of Administrative Services and the funds are expected to be approved by the Legislature in 2016. The funding is part of the State Education School Construction Grant Program to help local communities with school building improvement costs.