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CANAAN RECEIVES FUNDING FOR TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS

Canaan, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson arrived in Canaan today with representatives from USDA Rural Development and a \$46,700 federal grant check. Congresswoman Johnson and Rural Development Manager Chris Higgins presented the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG), which will be used by the town to make renovations to what used to be Canaan’s Town Hall, to First Selectman, Louis Timolat and other local officials.

The town of Canaan acquired new town hall space when a bank that was located across the street left its building as a gift to the town. After completing renovations, Canaan moved its town offices into the new space and began the construction of a senior center on the second floor of the former town hall. With the \$46,700 in funding from Rural Development, Canaan will begin renovations on the former town hall’s first floor so that it may rent the space to a small and emerging home décor business which expects to move into the building in the spring of 2003.

“It has been a rewarding experience to work with USDA Rural Development and we’re very excited about this,” said Canaan First Selectman, Louis Timolat. “The renovation of the old Town Hall is essentially the heart of our Main Street revitalization project and we look forward to moving ahead from here.”

The renovations to the first floor of the former town hall building will include the installation of modern wiring and plumbing as well as upgrades to the buildings heating system and the construction of handicap accessible bathrooms. It is expected that with the addition of a successful small business, pedestrian traffic will increase and economic development within the downtown area will improve.

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"This grant is a big win for the town of Canaan," said Congresswoman Johnson. "I am pleased that I was able to help secure this funding which will give a boost to Canaan's Main Street revitalization project. With the \$46,700 grant, the old town hall will soon be fully renovated for Canaan residents to enjoy."

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