

# The ADVOCATE<sup>®</sup>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2006  
VOL. 177 NO. 160 / 24 PAGES 2 SECTIONS

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STAMFORD

## Glass 'sail' will highlight plans for Old Town Hall

By Brooke Springer  
Staff Writer

STAMFORD — Architects will unveil plans for Old Town Hall, which include a 21st century addition, during a public presentation Monday night.

The addition, a 2,000-square-foot glass "sail" jutting off the back of the 101-year-old building and into Heritage Park, has been met with mixed reactions, according to Michael Freimuth, director of the city's office of economic development.

"It took me a while to digest it," Freimuth said in a telephone interview

**City engineer named employee of the month. See story, Page A3.**

Thursday.

He said he eventually concluded — and hopes others will as well — that the city had few options to house some of the more "mundane" but critical features of the building, such as bathrooms and an elevator, while meeting state and federal building codes.

City engineer Jeff Pardo said he also was a bit struck by the design.

### Public view

■ The public presentation on redevelopment of Old Town Hall will be held at 7 p.m. Monday in the Stamford Government Center in the Senior Center's second-floor auditorium A.

"Everyone I know who has seen it is, at first, taken-aback because it is something that is very different," Pardo said. "Once the architect walks you through

the design process and the history of the building and how he came to this conclusion, you stand back and say, 'He's absolutely right. This is the right design.'"

"It's an education curve," Freimuth said, which is why he is encouraging residents to come to the public presentation Monday night.

"I think that everyone needs to understand more about the design issues to get a more comprehensive idea and appreciation of what this design has to offer Stamford," said architect Joseph

Fuller Jr. of Fuller and D'Angelo PC, Architects and Planners.

Fuller will provide floor plans and 3-D models of the building. Some aspects will remain historically intact, such as a second-floor courtroom and the grand staircase, while others will be modernized to accommodate office space.

City officials say they hope to find private tenants to lease the majority of the building while providing a public component, such as a museum, on the

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# 'Sail'

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first floor.

Freimuth will introduce the major players in the project and

talk about the economics, historical perspectives and state and federal laws governing it.

"The building is an icon. There should be a lot of folks

interested in how we try to awaken it," Freimuth said.

A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.