



Miner: Developments, literally

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UTICA — The past few days have led me on some fascinating tours of Utica projects.

The Cobblestone Building on Broad Street is an absolute wonder, and while I haven't yet contacted the owner, a self-guided tour showed the vast potential for re-use of old commercial buildings. Modern steel furnishings mixed with refinished wood -- it felt like a modern Manhattan office building. I haven't checked in on Stuart Bannatyne in awhile, but work appears to be ongoing at the Doyle Hardware building as well.

Down the street, Kenneth Rockett showed me the interior of a music studio/cafe/artists' space at 807 Broad Street. The building is huge, and looks to be slated for mostly for storage, but the front businesses add a new, intriguing element to a street that has become symbolic of the city's industrial past.

On Bleecker Street, four businessmen have thrown themselves headlong into projects that will reinvigorate a city block of old buildings with new businesses. Retail and commercial space, high-class bars, a karate studio -- an impressive resurgence.







City leaders have said the state must do its part. Millions of dollars in Restore NY money for Genesee Street projects will not become available until the state budget is passed, and the sidewalks and streetscapes on Bleecker are in dire need of the Main Street grant current Mayor David Roefaro is currently lobbying for.

All of these will be the focus of stories over the next few weeks. There's always room for cynicism, but there's no denying a certain momentum here.

- Dan Miner, O-D staff writer

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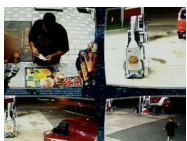
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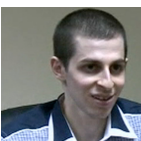
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