



# THE WORD ON THE STREET

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

DEC. 2006 UPDATE



## Illinois Main Street Conference 2006: The Show With 1000 Stars

This year's Illinois Main Street Conference was held in Waukegan at the historic *Genesee Theatre* November 15-16. The event exceeded all expectations, drawing the largest number of participants ever. The Conference included sessions on Tourism Development, Market Analysis, Developing Work Plans, Retaining and Recruiting New Businesses, Grant Writing, Design Guidelines and a variety of other topics.

This year's conference included several new features. The break area featured displays by a number of downtown revitalization vendors. Each attendee received a "Passport for Prizes," and those who visited all the vendors were eligible for a wide selection of gifts.

Instead of the traditional conference "bulky binder," each participant received a CD containing all the session handouts. In addition to being easier to carry around, the CDs also made it easier for attendees to share information from conference sessions with boards and committees back home.

The Conference offered a Downtown Leader's Connection, a special luncheon for mayors and other officials, held at the Waukegan Yacht Club. Hosted by Waukegan Mayor Richard H. Hyde, the luncheon featured an overview of Illinois Main Street by program coordinator Wendy Bell. It was followed by an educational session, "Getting Down to Business and Making it Work," presented by W. Ted Alexander, mayor and former downtown manager of Shelby, N.C.



After the conference, Alderman John Podeschi of Taylorville commented: "Information presented in the sessions was based upon relevant experiences, appropriate demographics and actual retail knowledge." Kathy Pescinski, Harvard Main Street Executive Director, agreed: "It was just fantastic, interesting and informative."

Illinois Main Street would like to thank Waukegan Main Street for hosting the phenomenal 2006 conference. The 2007 Conference has already been scheduled, so mark your calendars for November 14-15!



## Lt. Governor Quinn Presents Annual Awards



Each year, the Illinois Main Street Conference grand finale is the presentation of the Lt. Governor's Awards for Excellence in Downtown Revitalization. Thanks to the Genesee Theatre location, the 2006 award ceremony was especially dramatic: Winners joined Lt. Governor Pat Quinn onstage to receive their awards – just like the Oscars!

The event began in the lobby with a reception for 270 guests, with music by the Harrison Bankhead Trio.



Judy Tighe of Jacksonville was named Executive Director of the Year (*see related article on p. 3.*) The second-ever Premier Project of the Year award was presented to the New Holland Apartments in Danville. The derelict building, previously slated for demolition, was renovated thanks to a financing package combining low-income, historic, and donated tax credits with public and private funds from grants and loans. The project features Green Design with its geothermal heating and cooling system, its reuse of thousands of bricks from nearby demolition sites, and its Energy Star appliances. Other awards were given for Design, Organization, Promotion and Economic Restructuring.

The evening concluded with “ooohs” and “aahs” when the velvet stage curtain rose to reveal dinner tables set in red and gold and accented with stars. It was an elegant ending to the 2006 Conference!

## Illinois Main Street Website Updates Announced

At the Conference's “Lunch Launch,” Main Street executive Directors learned about several changes to the Illinois Main Street website. Each community's page has been updated to include information about their program level, indications of downtown historic districts and Certified Local Governments, and whether they have received Wi-Fi, Greening Main Street or Farmer's Market grants. Tours have also been updated, including some now available on podcasts.



The Members Area of the website is now a “one-stop shopping” area, featuring design requests, event registrations (as posted), and grant applications (as available). Main Streets also can go on-line to request books from our library, send mass e-mails, update contact information, add WiFi hotspots, and change their passwords. Don't forget to enter your events on our Calendar and do your monthly reports! If you have any ideas to make IllinoisMainStreet.org a more valuable resource, please be sure to share them by e-mailing [wendy.bell@illinois.gov](mailto:wendy.bell@illinois.gov).

### Mark Your Calendars....

- January 17<sup>th</sup> – Promotion Training via Videoconference
- January 18<sup>th</sup> – Economic Restructuring Training via Videoconference
- January 24<sup>th</sup> – Organization Training via Videoconference
- January 25<sup>th</sup> – Design Training via Videoconference
- January 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> – New Executive Director Training, Springfield
- February 7<sup>th</sup> – Board Training via Videoconference
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Main Street Day at the Capitol, Springfield
- March 10<sup>th</sup> – President's Retreat – Governor's Mansion, Springfield

## Personality Profiles

With this issue of "Word on the Street" we are starting a new series, "Personality Profiles". Our first subject is Judy Tighe, Executive Director of Jacksonville Main Street and 2006 Main Street Executive Director of the Year. Her unedited replies to an e-mailed questionnaire are below.

**What does the word “partnership” mean?** To me, working together for a great end result without quibbling over top billing or credit; everyone giving to get a bigger, better, end result that would be unattainable individually, but mutually beneficial.

**What is your favorite Architectural Style?** Gothic, Tudor – from the English influence early! Italianate. Not so much modern - Really anything older than 75-100 years. (My mom grew up in a house that was built in the 1500’s – still there!)

**What does Historic Preservation mean to you?** It’s more than saving old buildings; it’s saving part of the people that came before us, our own heritage and history; it more easily enables you to use your imagination and travel back in time to a world different than ours today – and appreciate many of our modern conveniences, while marveling at how things were done without “technology”

**What is your favorite color?** Eggplant right now – but it changes every few years or so.



Jacksonville receiving grant for Labor Temple from Lt. Governor Quinn

**What do your volunteers get out of helping Main Street?** Being a part of something bigger than themselves; fun; socializing; feeling like they are making a difference to our town’s future; sometimes free beer.

**What is your favorite store?** I really don’t like to shop... and most of my old favorites closed (maybe because I don’t like to shop?); JC Penney’s, I guess. I could spend a LOT of time in Hobby Lobby! My brother and I spent an entire day in thrift store in Boulder looking for deals over the summer.

**What’s your favorite food?** Chocolate and anything I don’t have to cook! Steak, seafood, Italian, Chinese...

**What country would you like to visit and why?** England –

to see all my relatives again; Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Greece – for all the old buildings, castles, etc.; Scotland – for the peacefulness

**What do you do on your days off?** Putter. Mostly do stuff with my husband and kids, house/yard projects, sometimes do art projects for my kids’ schools or groups I’m involved with

**Describe your family.** Great! They are all really fun to be with – adventurous and loving; always surprising and busy; great senses of humor; strong and faithful. Scattered... My husband and kids are all that I have of my family here; one brother and niece in Boulder; one aunt/uncle/cousin in Chatham, a few cousins in Rushville; three aunts, two uncles, four cousins (nine counting their kids), plus more aunts/uncles/cousins that aren’t really relatives but seem like it in England and Florida.

**Where does your downtown go from here?** UP! In either a square or a circle...but moving towards being a real arts/ entertainment hub with retail to come. We must decide which plan of downtown renovation for the traffic pattern and access is best, then work with the businesses here to take advantage of the potential that will come with greater accessibility.

**What are you going to do next?** Go home – it’s after 5! After Main Street? I dunno – cross that bridge when it gets here. With Main Street – develop the best marketing plan/package you’ve ever seen and get people to build new structures that are compatible with our downtown and get a parking garage or two because we’ll need it and get a community theater kind of place that everyone comes to for cultural activities.

**What’s NOT on Judy’s Resume:** Born before the world was color – 8/7/63; Grew up here, spending two months every other year in Great Britain until 16; after college moved to Denver and was an electrical drafter for an engineering firm for about a year; came back here to work for Fischer-Wisnosky Architects in Springfield for three years or so; then worked for Goldasich-Audo Architects for a year before opening my own business... then came the three kiddies, now ages 16, 13.10, and 9.7... and don’t forget Dan – 20 years in May 2007! Got hired at Jacksonville Main Street 6/18/01: Still having fun!



## IHPA architects receive AIA award for Main Street programs

From the “Got Mesker?” campaign to the “Build Your Own Main Street” downloadable models, Main Street architects working with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) have found innovative ways to increase municipal commitment to historic preservation. Those efforts have been recognized by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Illinois chapter, which presented IHPA architectural staff with the President’s Award at the AIA Honor Awards ceremony, held November 2 in Peoria. Recipients included Michael Jackson, FAIA; Carol Dyson, AIA; Anthony Rubano, Assoc. AIA; Anna Margaret Borntager, Assoc. AIA, and Darius Bryjka, Assoc. AIA.



The award was presented for IHPA programs and information pieces that stress the importance of historic preservation to Main Street, convey their message in fresh, creative ways, and yield results statewide.

Many of the IHPA initiatives considered during the AIA award nomination process will be familiar to our Main Street communities. They include:

- The “**Got Mesker?**” campaign, helping communities identify decorative, century-old stamped metal storefronts -- manufactured by the Mesker companies – on local buildings.
- The **Upstairs/Downtown** training program, helping communities convert the upper floors of historic downtown buildings into livable spaces.
- The “**Build Your Own Main Street,**” downloadable models of actual historic structures in Illinois communities.
- The **Secretary of the Interior’s Standards** training video.
- The comprehensive, **web-based archive** of historic rehabilitation design projects created for Illinois Main Street communities.
- Free **presentations and workshops** offered by IHPA architects to communities interested in preserving their heritage.

The AIA, a state membership organization representing more than 3,800 architects and architectural interns, granted 19 awards selected from 53 nominations. The IHPA President’s Award is awarded for extraordinary achievements in advancing livable communities.

-- *Carol Dyson*

### News on the Street

**LPCI Becomes Landmarks Illinois:** The Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois (LPCI) is changing its name to **Landmarks Illinois**, the Board of Directors announced at its annual meeting. Landmarks Illinois ([www.Landmarks.org](http://www.Landmarks.org)) is the state’s leading voice for historic preservation and sponsors the annual “10 Most Endangered List” and the Statewide Preservation Conference.

**Retail Sales Surged in November:** Retail sales surged unexpectedly in November, an upbeat sign for the holiday shopping season. Sales by merchants rose by a seasonally adjusted 1.0%, according to the U.S. Commerce Department. The sales uptick may be related to the decline in gasoline prices, which could have freed up disposable income.



*Best Wishes for a Healthy and Prosperous  
New Year from Illinois Main Street*

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