

# THE WORD ON THE STREET

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

February 2006 UPDATE

## MAIN STREET DAY AT THE CAPITOL

### WHAT A DISPLAY

of Illinois Main Street programs illustrating excellence and growth in economic development.



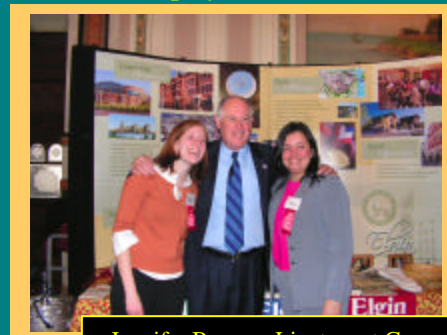
Lieutenant Governor's Opening Address

Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn commended the communities on their accomplishments and efforts to revitalize the downtown districts. "Main Street helps communities appreciate the treasures in their midst, and fosters a spirit of volunteerism, a sense of place and a new civic pride," said Quinn. There were 46 communities in attendance making the event the largest Main Street Day at the Capitol ever. Board Presidents, Mayors and Committee Volunteers joined Executive Directors and Legislators for lively discussion during a Continental Breakfast.



Representatives Mike Boland and Lisa Dugan visit during the Breakfast

Professional exhibits gave excellent examples of downtown revitalization and historic preservation as a means to achieve the goal of bringing people and traffic back. The halls of the Capitol were filled with people walking and talking about Illinois Main Street communities. Look for this event to grow even larger next year with more interactive displays.



Jennifer Benson, Lieutenant Governor Quinn and Norma Meiss sampling great tastes from Elgin restaurants.



Lori Fairfield from Pontiac shows off their balloon version of Main Street Max

## *New Executive Director's Training*

With 23 people in attendance, the largest New Executive Director's Training class to date was held February 8th. We would like to welcome the following new Directors who attended: Sharon Piovesen, Benton; Dorothy Gillian, Forest Park; Mim Evans, Genoa; Anita Cummings, United Business Association of Midway - Chicago; Pam Owens, Orion; Kathy Love, Rushville; Ed Bannon, Six Corners Association - Chicago; and Dana Whiteman, Vandalia. A special thank you to the Board Presidents and Volunteers who accompanied them. The training is an all day workshop and includes such topics as the history of Main Street, Illinois Main Street requirements and services, roles and responsibilities of the director in relationship to the Board and Committees, Work Plans, budget, volunteer Information and Main Street Resources.

## *Congratulations Jacksonville!*



Lieutenant Governor Quinn and Senator Deanna Demuzio greet the Jacksonville delegation at the Press Announcement of their inclusion as a semifinalist.

On becoming one of Eleven Semifinalists for the 2006 Great American Main Street Award, Jacksonville has been selected from a nationwide pool of applicants, and will now move to the final round. A national jury comprised of professionals from the field of historic preservation, community revitalization, and economic development will further evaluate the semifinalists and select five winners. Winners will be recognized on June 5<sup>th</sup> during the National Main Streets Conference in New Orleans.

Jacksonville Main Street is a leader in the Illinois Main Street. They were selected as one of the first four Premier Programs last year.

In the six short years since joining Illinois Main Street, Jackson Main Street's accomplishments include:

- Completion of seven historic building projects and eighteen façade improvement projects
- \$9,000,000 has been reinvested in downtown by the private sector
- 17 Businesses opened creating 94 new jobs
- Building values have increased by 10-25% and leases by as much as 500%
- Vacancy occupancy rates have fallen to 10%
- Merchants report as much as 30% increase in sales
- Jacksonville Main Street has won twelve "Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Downtown Revitalization since 1999
- Canopy Removal (from the Urban Renewal period) in the downtown square
- Quadrant Building Demolition was the single biggest momentum-builder for downtown revitalization. These were buildings built in the street during the Urban Renewal period.
- Saved the Labor Temple Building built in 1904 by the trade union - thought to be the oldest Labor Temple in the country.
- Helped secure \$1.74 million in Federal Funding to redirect downtown traffic to its former design around the square with complete streetscape.
- The organization's "New Life Project" is working to restore a dilapidated apartment house downtown
- Annual Upper Story Tour highlighted several luxury loft apartments located in vacant buildings.

## Looking for a Location....

Got a great community? Would you like to show it off? Don't forget, it's time to submit your proposal for the **2006 Downtown Revitalization Conference to be held November 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>.**

We've had some great hosts the last few years but we know there are plenty of possibilities out there when you think creatively. If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact Wendy.

Be PROUD, say it LOUD and bring your fellow Main Streeters to your town! **RFPs are due March 15<sup>th</sup>.**

## Illinois Main Street PRESIDENT'S RETREAT



Our first ever "President's Retreat" will be held Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Governor's Mansion in Springfield. We've scheduled this retreat in response to several inquiries received during the annual fall conference. This event will be for Presidents only although Vice-Presidents or volunteers who will be assuming the Presidential role in 2006 are welcome.

The day will run from approximately 11:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. with the event's agenda based on your input. We want to hear from you on what are your program's greatest challenges; what are your weaknesses as a board president that we can strengthen; how is your relationship with staff, volunteers, city; what Main Street methodology do you need to learn more about? And of course, any additional input would be appreciated as well. Please e-mail your thoughts asap to: [wendy\\_bell@ltgov.state.il.us](mailto:wendy_bell@ltgov.state.il.us)

*"Avoiding the phrase "I don't have time...", will soon help you to realize that you do have the time needed for just about anything you choose to accomplish in life." – Bo Bennett*

## News Clips...

Jacksonville Main Street Executive Director, Judy Tighe, just completed course work for her Certification in Main Street Management at the National Trust Main Street Center in Washington, D.C.



Deb Frederiksen of Lombard attended Certification Training in February as well, completing the Organization and Promotions sections. Congratulations to both of you!

Ever the promoter, Judy DeMoisy, Executive Director of Downtown Collinsville, Inc. and the giant Brooks Catsup bottle were recently included in an "American Profile" article on unique water towers.



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*What creative projects are you doing in your community that would be beneficial for all? Got an idea? Let us know so we can share them in an upcoming issue of "Word on the Street".*

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## Calendar

- March 15** – Fall Conference RFPs Due
- March 25** – Illinois Main Street **President's Retreat**; Governor's Mansion, Springfield
- April 4 – 5** – **Directors Workshop**; Alton
- April 26** – Application Workshop; Springfield
- April 26** – Application Workshop; Elgin
- June 4 – 7** – **National Main Streets Conference**; New Orleans

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