



# THE WORD ON THE STREET

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

June 2005 UPDATE

## "On the Road Again"

*Illinois Main Street* offered Basic Training in June at two locations, Mt. Vernon and Batavia. Nearly **130** people attended one or more of the sessions.



*Training in Batavia*

Basic Training came on the heels of a highly successful series of Application Workshops. Twenty-one communities learned how the Main Street Approach™ can work for them. Applications are due Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.



*Application Workshop in Collinsville*



*Lieutenant Governor Quinn visits with representatives from Winfield about their annual Bicycle Criterium*

## *Main Street Day - Chicago*

The first ever Main Street Day in Chicago was held June 14<sup>th</sup>. Main Street programs "touted their towns" to the 10,000 people that work or visit the James R. Thompson Center each day. The day was part of a weeklong photograph display entitled, *Scenes From the Street*.

### **Calendar for July and August**

- July 14 – Regional Board Training-Lincoln
- July 15 – Monthly Reports Due
- July 19 – Regional Board Training-J'Ville
- July 19 – E-Bay Fundraiser Webinar**
- July 30 – E-Bay Fundraiser Webinar**
- July 21 – Registration Due for Director's Workshop**
- July 27 & 28 – Directors Workshop on Tourism with Bus Tour! – Marion**
- August 3 – E-Bay Fundraiser Commitment**
- August 12-21 – Illinois State Fair
- August 13 – Main Street Day at the State Fair**
- August 15 – Monthly Reports Due

# Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn Announces

## \$20,000 Wireless Main Street Project Grants

Illinois Main Street received a total of 11 proposals for the *Wireless Main Street Project*. These proposals were so outstanding and the need for Wi-Fi in our downtowns is so great that Lieutenant Governor Quinn decided to fund two grants. *Quincy and Mt. Vernon* were the recipients with funding provided by the Governor's Rural Affairs Council. Watch for more news on these projects, which will serve as a prototype for what you can do in your community.



**The following Illinois Main Street Communities are sponsoring Farmer's Markets in 2005 with grant assistance from Illinois Main Street:**

Aledo, Batavia, Belvidere, Bloomington, Carbondale, Cambridge, Crystal Lake, Danville, Dekalb, Dwight, Eldorado, Libertyville, Lincoln, Marion, Marshall, Monticello, Paris, Paxton, Pekin, Pittsfield, Pontiac, Princeton, Quincy, Rushville, Springfield, Taylorville and Waukegan.

**For more information on each community's Farmers Market go to [www.illinoismainstreet.org](http://www.illinoismainstreet.org)**

### Call for Presentations 2006

National Main Street Conference  
April 2-5, 2006 - New Orleans, Louisiana

**Deadline has been extended to July 8, 2005  
Please let us know if you  
submitted a proposal.**

Our Illinois Main Street Architects are working to raise awareness of downtown commercial building style.

Do you  
**got mesker?**



Illinois Main Street Architect, Darius Bryjka says these ornamental prefabricated cast iron and sheet metal facades became popular along Main Streets in Illinois and throughout the Midwest because of their affordability and accessibility through rail shipment. While several companies specialized in the prefabricated storefronts that mimicked masonry, the Mesker Brothers Iron Works of St. Louis and George L. Mesker Co. of Evansville, Indiana produced the store facades. Darius is in the process of identifying these buildings in Illinois and plans to submit them for national recognition. So, if you have a Mesker, please let him know. He can be reached at 217/782-8222 or [darius\\_bryjka@ihpa.state.il.us](mailto:darius_bryjka@ihpa.state.il.us). Information on Meskers and an identification guide can be found at [www.gotmesker.com](http://www.gotmesker.com).

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*“When a man starts out to build a world,  
He starts first with himself  
Then the mind starts seeking a way.  
Then the hand sees the other hands to help,  
Thus the dream becomes not just one man's  
Dream  
But a community dream...”*

- Langston Hughes

Langston Hughes wrote his first poem while attending Central School in Lincoln, Illinois.

## Illinois Main Street's *Cyber Sidewalk Sale*

Roll up the sidewalks and roll in the E-Bay sales! Illinois Main Street will promote the first-in-the-country *Cyber Sidewalk Sale* utilizing E-Bay Auctions as a fundraiser to benefit your local program and projects. IMS has partnered with Marketworks, which will provide a software program; create E-Bay, credit card, Paypal and Federal Express accounts; create tracking mechanisms; forward payments; and answer customer questions; making the process super simple for you. Details will be shared during a Webinar on July 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>. E-mail Wendy to let her know which day you'll participate.

	<p><b>Announcing...</b> Illinois Main Street Fall Conference <b>November 8 &amp; 9</b> Springfield</p>
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### News, News, News, News...

from **Collinsville...**

Big news! The World's Largest Catsup Bottle Summerfest will welcome the Travel Channel's "TASTE OF AMERICA" Program with Mark Decarlo. Collinsville will cook up some new excitement this year as Mark will take part in the Catsup Taste Test: Celebrity Challenge and will be talking with other Taste-Testers, chefs, catsup-lovers, and festival-goers as his crew films a segment for the program. The 7th Annual Summerfest will be held Sunday, July 10, 2005.

from **Taylorville...**

Executive Director, Michelle Merker performed at the Taylorville Area Arts Council/Taylorville Main Street "Arts on the Square" event in June. Maybe she will sing for us at the Director's Conference in Marion.

from **Marshall...**

"The Marshall Main Street Program has displayed what the work of volunteers can do. We have nearly every downtown building occupied and the face-lift cannot go unnoticed. Communication and teamwork have been the key to success." - Ken Smith, Mayor

## Streetscape Planning Grants

Twelve communities submitted applications for the streetscape planning grants through Illinois Historic Preservation Agency/Illinois Main Street. The intent of these grants were to provide seed money for communities to prepare a schematic design and cost estimate for a downtown streetscape improvement program. This grant program was added to the FY 2005 calendar to take advantage of the federal funding for transportation enhancements that were recently authorized by Congress and are being administered by the Illinois Dept. of Transportation. We congratulate the following recipients: Aledo, Cambridge, Marion, Orion, Paxton, and Pittsfield.

**Illinois Main Street  
Director's Workshop on Tourism  
with Bus Tour!**

*Make your reservation early because you will not want to miss this Workshop. Not only will the topic of tourism be explored, but you'll explore the sights of southern Illinois. You might see something like:*



*July 27 & 28 - Director's Workshop*

**NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE:**

-devoted to the new Illinois Main Street website.

**ILLINOIS MAIN STREET**

Office of Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn  
217/782-5990 Springfield • 312/ 814-5220 Chicago  
[www.IllinoisMainStreet.org](http://www.IllinoisMainStreet.org)