



THE WORD ON THE STREET

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

May 2006 UPDATE

CONGRATULATIONS Mt. Vernon And Lombard on BECOMING DESIGNATED MAIN STREET COMMUNITIES



(left) Lt. Governor Quinn and the Lombard Town Centre Board pose after the Ceremony

(below) Lt. Governor Quinn, Mayor David Keen, Cyndy Mitchell, Executive Director and Board President, Jay Koch, unveil the Main Street sign for Mt. Vernon.

Illinois Main Street is proud to include two newly designated programs, Mt. Vernon and Lombard, on the roster. Ceremonies in Mt. Vernon were held April 24 in the restored historic Jefferson Bank building lobby. On April 26 Lombard's Main Street was designated at the Texan BBQ. Lt. Governor Pat Quinn presided at both events. He congratulated each community for completing the ten National Trust Main Street Center designation requirements. After unveiling the coveted



Illinois Main Street highway sign, Lt. Governor Quinn presented a smaller version for the local Main Street office. Wendy Bell, Program Coordinator, read the official declaration. Large crowds of well-wishers including local and state officials, Main Street volunteers, business owners and residents attended at both locations, indicating the exceptional public and private support the Downtown Mt. Vernon Development Corporation and Lombard Town Centre enjoy. Fifty-four communities now hold the Illinois Main Street Designation, while eight are completing their requirements. Twenty-four towns have Introductory Programs.

Mark Your Calendar For These Important Events & Deadlines



June 3 – MAIN STREET DAY
Legislated Recognition Day for
Main Street programs in IL

June 4-7 – National Main
Street Conference; New
Orleans

June 8-10 – Statewide
Preservation Conference;
Bloomington

June 9 – Farmer's Market
Grant Applications Due

June 15 – INTENTS TO
APPLY to Associate Program
in 2006 DUE

June 15 – LETTERS OF
AGREEMENT DUE

June 15 – May Reports Due

June 16 – Registration
Deadline; Basic Training at
Benton

June 26&27 – Basic Training &
Board Training; Benton

July 14 – New Directors
Training

August 12 – Main Street Day at
the State Fair

August 29 & 30 – Director's
Workshop; Lincoln

September 1 – Awards
Nominations Due

October 11 – New Executive
Director Training – Springfield

November 14 & 15 – State
Conference, Waukegan

*The best strategy in life
is diligence.
- Chinese Proverb*

Application Workshops held in Springfield and St. Charles



25 Illinois Communities attend the Application Workshops in St. Charles and Springfield, Illinois



Illinois Main Street Application Workshops were held recently in Springfield and St. Charles where communities learned the process to become a designated Illinois Main Street. Wendy Bell, State Coordinator welcomed the communities and gave a brief history of the Main Street movement and explained the principles of downtown revitalization. An overview of Main Street's Four Point approach was presented by state staff, including Les Cavada, Navonna Bunn, Darius Bryjka and Anna Margaret Borntreger. Details were shared concerning Illinois Main Street Program's Tiered System of Services, benefits and requirements. Ms. Bell reviewed the application process and form, what happens after the form is submitted and finally, how acceptance into Illinois Main Street will be determined. Communities have until June 15th to submit their Intent to Apply this year.

Grant Opportunities

Lt. Governor Quinn recently announced the availability of Farmer's Market grants for 2006. This highly successful program has provided \$29,500 in funds the last two years. Grant applications are due in the Illinois Main Street office by Friday, June 9th.

Grants.gov provides organizations with the ability to search for federal government-wide grants opportunities. The Office of Federal Financial Management recently issued a policy directive requiring that all Federal agencies post grant opportunities online as of November 7, 2005.

To begin your search for grants opportunities, access "Search Grant Opportunities online at www.grants.gov/

Search includes:

- Basic Search
- Browse by Category
- Browse by Agency
- Advance Search

Services:

- All Grants Opportunities
- Advance Funding Opportunities Number
- Agencies and Categories
- Interest and Eligibility

When you find a grant, you can download the Application Packages.



Ward Waller, Owner and President of Waller Homes, was the



successful bidder for "Lunch with the Lt. Governor" during the recent Illinois Main Street Cyber Sale. Waller's bid was \$410. Proceeds from this and other items benefited the Main Street programs in Louisiana and Mississippi affected by the hurricane. Lt. Governor Quinn toured Waller's latest project, the Ensenberger Building, prior to lunch. The Ensenberger was built in 1910 as a furniture store and stayed in the family until 1996. Waller Homes purchased the building in 2005 and are currently converted into 28 loft condominiums. The \$9 million project is set to open in November, 2006. Lunch was held at Central Station Restaurant, a rehabbed firehouse in downtown Bloomington. Joining Waller and Lt. Governor Quinn were Mayor Steve Stockton, Ash Waller, Alderwoman Karen Schmidt, Project Architect Russel Francois, Betty Kinsler, Merle Huff, John Penn and Catherine Dunlap, Downtown Bloomington Association Executive Director.



Grainger Rebuilding America Program Aids Springfield Area



Illinois based Grainger Corporation's Grainger Rebuilding America program has come to the aid of Springfield and Jerome's locally-owned independent businesses, announcing \$50,000 in business disaster assistance grants. The Springfield area was hit hard by two tornados on March 12th. The grant will be administered through the Illinois Main Street program in Lt. Governor Quinn's office with assistance from Downtown Springfield, Inc. This is not Grainger's first effort, as a similar grant was given to Utica after it suffered a fatal tornado in April, 2004. Joining Lt. Governor Quinn for the presentation was Jerome Police Chief Dan Skaggs, Springfield Mayor Tim Davlin and Grainger President Jim Ryan.

Volunteers of the Month, Keith and Barb Robinson are the owners of the Old, Odd and Unusual Museum located in Cambridge. This privately owned museum consists of items the Robinson's have been collecting for many years as well as a variety of items that have been donated by residents of Cambridge. The Robinson's share their collection several



times a year with visitors to the community including the Cambridge Main Street Fest/Auto Show held in August, homecoming weekend and Christmas on the Square in December. They have been long time supporters and members of Main Street.



The couple has also been instrumental in restoring much of the village's history by developing the Heritage Park, which now is home to four historical buildings. Keith serves as president of the Cambridge Historical Society, while his wife and other members of the society seek out grants to help fund the moving expenses and restoration of the buildings. He and his wife have dedicated themselves to saving a part of the past for the entire community and visitors to enjoy.

River Front Park



Pekin, Illinois

Pekin's newest park is located on the banks of the Illinois River, at the west boundary of the Pekin Main Street District. This park was a partnership between the City, Pekin Main Street, a Riverfront Revitalization Group and the Park District. Their purpose was to enhance the downtown business district, show recreational development and increase public access usage of the Pekin Riverfront. Looks like lots of fun and it's sure to be busy on hot summer days!



See You in
New Orleans!

Promotion Idea

A contest for the Last Mannequin Standing beauty pageant for inanimate models. This would be open to professional and amateur mannequin handlers alike. Get a Mannequin, dress it up, decorate it. Use your imagination! Admission fee to the event \$10. The public can come to the party and be the judge, but each vote will cost a buck per vote.

ILLINOIS MAIN STREET

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