

THE WORD ON THE STREET

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAT QUINN NOVEMBER, 2005 UPDATE

**Congratulations
to all the Winners**

at the 2005
**Lieutenant Governor's Awards
for Excellence in Downtown
Revitalization Banquet**

Illinois Main Street's annual Downtown Revitalization Conference culminated with the Awards Banquet. Thirty-five awards were presented and seven new towns accepted as Illinois Main Street Associate Communities. The Four Premier Programs were also recognized. Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn gave the opening address to the over 200 attendees. He spoke on how Illinois Main Street provides



communities with cutting edge tools and advice on how to make their downtown a special destination. "We've made a lot of progress in 12 years and are looking forward to new innovations in the year to come."

From the Evaluations:


"I learned a lot from the sponsorship seminar by Sylvia Allen and the business clusters seminar by Hilary Greenberg. Also, as I'm sure many did, I simply enjoyed having chats and meals with fellow Main Streeters." "The Opening Plenary Session furthered my understanding of the program, even after being involved since 1995." "For my first Main Street Conference, I was thoroughly impressed. Next year, we'll be back in full force!"




One of Main Street's founders, Mary Means was the Keynote Speaker at the Opening Plenary Session located in the Old State Capitol




It is impossible to show all the winners as they represented a wide cross section of Illinois Main Street communities. Here are just a few of the faces that graced the stage...




**Pekin wins
Existing Event Partnership**



Carolyn Oxtoby, Downtown Springfield, Inc. and Tom Grojean, Jacksonville Main Street share the first-ever **Community Spirit** award



Diana Kenny, Executive Director of Crystal Lake accepted a plaque as a **Premier Community**



**Karol Ehmen
Executive
Director
of the Year
Historic Quincy
Business District**

Illinois Main Street Cyber Sale is a Success!

Nineteen communities participated in the first ever **Illinois Main Street Cyber Sale** on e-bay.



Lieutenant Governor Quinn submitted a bid on this WHITE SOX SCORE BOOK

Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn said. " It's a terrific way to raise money for the Illinois Main Street communities and their revitalization projects." There were 1066 items and experiences up for auction, and bids came from all across the United States. The auction raised almost \$12,000. Experiences drew the highest bids. Lunch with Lt. Governor sold for \$410!

Besides the money raised for local programs, the media exposure for the participating Main Streets was extremely valuable. We also learned that quantity of items is not as important as using your assets downtown and packaging unusual experiences.

"This experience will now help us explain the process to our retailers. It does take time and organization, but it can become the *after five business*," said Renate Gray of Mascoutah. We plan on doing another Cyber Sale as suggested by the Executive Directors at the Annual Conference in Springfield, Illinois. Michelle Young, Executive Director at Danville, said it best. " Great experience."

Thanks to all those communities and to all those volunteers who worked to make it happen!

"The secret of success is constancy to purpose." - Benjamin, Earl of Beaconsfield Disraeli, June 24, 1870



Hear ye, hear ye –
Welcome **Abingdon**
and **Six Corners**
Association

Two of Our New Associate Towns

Abingdon

This community of 3,612 is located 11 miles south of Galesburg and was established on May 27, 1836. The community was thriving in 1855 when the Burlington railroad ran its first train through Abingdon. It has been known in the past for its colleges and industry and was called "the biggest little city west of Chicago." Through the years, the factories and colleges have closed. The last was Briggs Pottery which closed in 2000. Fortunately, Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad business is in a resurgence and they are hiring again. Like so many other rural farming communities; downtown Abingdon is in decline. The assets of Abingdon are the available work force, social organizations that promote the family, and the history of the community. Their major goal is to preserve their historic building stock and find new uses for vacant buildings. Terry Stewart is the contact person and he can be reached at:

601 W. North Street
Abingdon, Illinois 61410
Ph. 309.462.2261
Stew_61@mchsi.com

Six Corners

This is one of two neighborhood commercial districts in Chicago to become an Associate Community. In Chicago, Portage Park's Six Corners commercial district has been known as the "Downtown of the Northwest Side" since the early 1900's. During the first part of the last century it was the center of business, trade and entertainment for Portage Park and the surrounding neighborhoods, and one of the largest commercial districts in Chicago. The district's major assets are access to a potential larger market, the current increase in residential property, and the construction of upscale new homes. Their major goal is very simple – bring shoppers back to Six Corners. The Contact person is:

Ed Bannon
4006 N Milwaukee Ave. #205
Chicago, Illinois 60641
Phone: 773.685.9300
ed@sixcornerschicago.com

News, News, News, News....

*from Teddy Anderson, Executive Director
Waukegan Main Street*

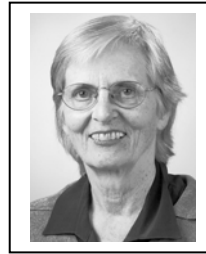
In the summer of 2004, Waukegan Main Street was approached by Illinois Main Street to partner in a project with Archeworks a non-traditional post baccalaureate school of design. Archeworks' mission is to produce design that is both high quality and socially responsible. Waukegan Main Street's design committee would work with Archeworks' students and two faculty members on a project that was meaningful to downtown Waukegan. How could we say no? At no cost to us, 9 volunteers with a variety of skills, all focused on downtown Waukegan design issues for 9 months!!!

The student team included a sociologist, a product designer, an architect, an interior designer, a musician and a film and marketing person. Both faculty members were established Chicago architects with impressive bodies of work. Outcomes from the "Design Genesee" project, which ended in September 2005, included the following:

- "What if a Street Becomes a Place?", a short inspirational video was developed to promote downtown Waukegan. This video was designed to serve as a model for future Main Street revitalization programs.
- A logo was created for Genesee Street that brands the street as a historical physical space and as an arts and entertainment center.
- Creation of a website for the community at large.
- Building-by-building evaluation of Genesee Street facades.
- Designed a process for identifying and developing a peer-review, pre-approved list of architects that will be made available to downtown property owners interested in renovating their buildings.

Waukegan Main Street is grateful to the Office of Lieutenant Governor, Pat Quinn, Illinois Main Street staff, and Archeworks students and staff for the opportunity to be inspired, to dream a bit when it comes to design, and for the tangible achievements described above.

Making a Difference



Carolyn Oxtoby

Downtown Springfield, Inc.

One of two Community Spirit Award Winners at the 2005 Lieutenant Governor's Awards for

Excellence in Downtown Revitalization.

Carolyn exemplifies the very best in making a difference in Springfield's downtown. Her concern for preserving historic buildings and then adopting new uses is shown in multiple ways. Oxtoby donated \$350,000 towards the purchase of the Masonic Temple which was transformed into the Hoogland Center for the Arts. This gift will inspire the arts to flourish. Her most recent rescue and renovation success story is that of the Egyptian Renaissance Apartment building. In this generous move, Ms. Oxtoby agreed to lease the property from the church, invest her own capital, bring the building back to usefulness and act as the landlord. The building will house moderate-income families and still remain a financial asset to the church. However, Carolyn may be best known for her efforts to save the entire north side of the Old State Capitol Plaza. The north side was slated to be demolished for green space in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum project. The historic buildings were saved and are occupied today including the Fisher/Latham building, a Lieutenant Governor's Award winner. Ms. Oxtoby's commitment to downtown Springfield will have a long lasting effect in its development as a thriving and prosperous district.

ILLINOIS MAIN STREET CALENDAR

December 15 – Monthly Reports Due
January 2, 2006 – Last day to order Illinois Main Street shirts.
January 15, 2006 – Monthly Reports Due
February 8, 2006 – Executive Director Training & Network Dinner
February 9, 2006 – Annual Day at the Capitol
February 15, 2006 – Monthly Reports Due

ILLINOIS MAIN STREET

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