

THE WORD ON THE STREET

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

September/October 2005

Lieutenant Governor Quinn Launches Main Street Cyber Sale

Wednesday, October 5th was a historic morning when at 9:45 a.m., Lt. Governor Pat Quinn launched the first *Main Street Cyber Sale* to help raise money and awareness for 19 Illinois Main Street communities. More than 1,000 items are up for auction on *eBay* with themes ranging from unique collectibles, artwork, outdoor adventures and celebrity encounters.



Money raised will benefit specific projects in the 19 participating Main Street towns: Aledo, Alton, Batavia, Collinsville, Crystal Lake, Danville, Dixon, Dwight, Genoa, Hardin County, Jacksonville, Lombard, Marshall, Mascoutah, Pittsfield, Pontiac, Prophetstown, Quincy and Waukegan.

A number of items donated from Lt. Governor Quinn's staff will also be up for bid including designer and antique glassware, a French magazine from 1916 and a women's 10K yellow gold ring with a diamond. Proceeds from these items will go to Main Street communities in Louisiana and Mississippi that were affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



Quinn bid on a 1958 White Sox Scorecard which includes articles on Early Wynn, Billy Goodman, Billy Pierce and lists 83 current members of the Baseball Hall of Fame. With the possibility of an I-55 series between the White Sox and the Cardinals, this item could become even more valuable. Bidding runs until Wednesday, October 12.

To make your bid, log on to: www.IllinoisMainStreet.org. Then click on the e-bay link. This will take you to the Main Street Cyber Sale page where you can learn more about the participating communities and their auction items. To see all of the items included in the sale, click on "View All Auctions" under Lieutenant Governor Quinn's photograph.

Illinois Main Street Day at the Fair

The Main Street Day at the State Fair was a great success for the Main Street Communities. Max was on hand to greet every visitor and passed out more than 2,635 Main Street website postcards!

Max greeted all visitors at the State Fair during the Illinois Main Street Day at Fair.



We had over 3,000 visitors see our display and over 500 people entered the Great Illinois Main Street Giveaway drawing. There were 20 prizes awarded from Illinois Main Street towns.



Illinois Main Street Display

Prizes varied from two tickets to the First Street Playhouse with Max accompanying the winner, Batavia: to \$150 shopping experience, Pontiac. Towns that participated were Alton, Batavia,

Bloomington, Crystal Lake, Dixon, Harvard, Lincoln, Jacksonville, Mt. Vernon, Pittsfield, Quincy, Springfield, Taylorville and Waukegan,

A special thank you to the Directors and Board Members who came to help greet visitors; Dan and Angie Adams, Board of Directors at Alton; Kim Gehrke, Vandalia Executive Director, and Renate Gray Mascoutah Executive Director.

Where To Find It

GRANTS.GOV

Grants.gov allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all federal grant-making agencies. Grants.gov is the single access point for over 1000 grants programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies.

www.grants.gov

Grant Promotes Tourism

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has announced more than \$1 Million in Recreational Trails Program Grants, which can encourage tourism. Communities interested in applying for the next round should contact the IDNR Division of Grants Administration, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Il, 62702-1271, phone 217/782-7481. The annual application deadline is March 1, 2006

Need Equipment?

The Illinois Dept. of Central Management Services Surplus Property Distribution makes items available to local governments that is no longer used or required by the U.S. federal installations and State of Illinois governmental agencies. Find these items at:

www.cms.il.gov (link Buying Surplus Property) or bid on surplus items at: www.ibid.illinois.gov

Small Business Loan Program

RURAL MICRO-BUSINESS LOANS

In a move to help small businesses in rural communities, Governor Blagojevich has signed legislation creating an innovative rural business loan program. Under the program, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) will partner with banks to issue loans to businesses of five or fewer people that produce, process or market agricultural, forest, cottage and craft products or who are involved in tourism. Call DCEO Business Finance Division Loan Officers at 217.782.3891 for information.

News, News, News, News....

from *Crystal Lake*

Downtown Crystal Lake's Train Depot rehabilitation project is on track and moving forward full steam ahead!

The rehabilitation involves a complete restoration of the existing depot, which was built in 1914. The project will restore the building and roofline to its original design, and includes the complete construction of four (4) heated platform shelters and platform lights. The \$1.8 million project is being funded by Metra. Anticipated completion is December 2005.

In addition to the above, the Downtown Crystal Lake TIF fund is also paying for concrete pavers, landscaping improvements, and ornamental platform lights. These improvements were recommended by the Main Street Design Committee and are being implemented in order to blend the appearance of the depot area with the existing downtown streetscape improvements.

from *Momence*

Momence is very fortunate to have a generous and forward thinking company in their midst. Van Drunen Farms is just that. Van Drunen Farms is one of the leading manufacturers of herbs and freeze dried food ingredients. With their yearly gift of \$10,000 for physical improvements to Momence's Historic Downtown District, Momence's Façade Grant Program was born.

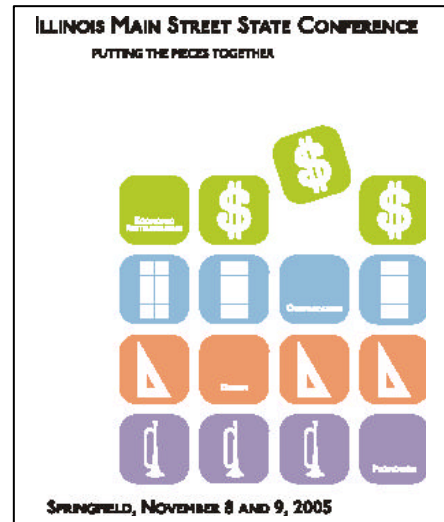
With five façade grants awarded so far and one project complete, Main Street Momence is thankful for Van Drunen's investment in historic Downtown Momence. Without this rare partnership, the façade grant program would not have been implemented so soon in this young organization's existence.

Fox's Power Equipment is the first completed project under the façade, awning and signage grant program. New awnings were recently installed on this 1995 building. The original building burned down and the awnings add a much needed façade enhancement.

from *Monticello*

A few weeks ago, Heather Zydeck, a freelance writer for the "Hub" an alternative newspaper in Champaign-Urbana called and interviewed Linda Miller, Executive Director of Monticello Main Street. The article was focused on Monticello's Downtown and as Linda said, "This is a great marketing and promotional piece for Monticello. She did a great job."

Monticello has also announced that they will receive \$425,000 a Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund award for the Pepsin Syrup site. The city has two developers interested in the site which could create 100 jobs and expand the downtown retail.



Registration forms for Illinois Main Street's **Annual Downtown Revitalization Conference** are now available on our website, www.IllinoisMainStreet.org. In addition, online registration will be available beginning the week of October 10th.

The Conference will be held November 8th and 9th in Springfield beginning with the Opening Session in the Old State Capitol, Representatives Hall. Mary Means, one of the four founders of Main Street, will be the keynote speaker.

A full range of educational topics are slated for presentation on Tuesday afternoon and we'll have the newly opened Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum to ourselves for the Opening Reception that evening.

More great educational sessions will fill Wednesday morning. We'll take it to the streets in the afternoon – either on one of two great tours or shopping!

The finale of the Conference is the Banquet and Lieutenant Governor Quinn's Awards for Downtown Revitalization. We hope everyone will join us as we "put the pieces together" in Springfield.



The Lt. Governor’s *Illinois Rain Garden Initiative* has provided educational and environmental benefits to Main Street communities across Illinois. Our office has worked with elementary and junior high schools, as well as local governments, in planting native gardens.

A new rain garden concept has proven successful in Rock Island. Known as “Rain Gardens for Rock Island”, this program enables local residents to construct rain gardens on their property. Residents are to maintain the garden for a minimum of 5 years. In turn, the city pays each resident \$4.00 per square foot of garden, reducing residential storm water utility charges by up to 50%.

This local policy has seen a quick start. The Lt. Governor’s Office would like to encourage Executive Directors to inform their Mayors and other community leaders about this program. Residents can directly contribute to improving local storm water runoff while receiving monetary benefits. The local storm water utility also benefits.

For more information, log-on to our *Illinois Rain Garden Initiative* website at www.raingarden.il.gov. Click the “Read” icon from Lt. Governor Pat Quinn’s introductory letter. You can also call Ryan Mouw at 312.814.4121.



Genoa

Susan Jursich has resigned her position as Executive Director of Genoa Main Street. We will miss her enthusiasm and ability to “tell it like it is”. Good luck Susan!

Rock Island

Patrick Freese has entered the private sector with his own business, *Events Management*. We wish him the best.

Planning for Disaster

We have all seen the devastation in Louisiana and Mississippi and know that it will take a long time to recover. What happens if one of our towns has a natural disaster or some other kind of nightmare? ALL Illinois Main Street Communities should read the back issue of *Main Street News No. 1990 August 2003* titled “Cover Me.” This article explains what should be covered for both businesses and your organization. It also explains how to get started.

THIS IS A MUST, DO IT NOW!

*Our Sympathies –
Judy Tighe (ED, Jacksonville) lost her mother on the 27th of August. Judy, our prayers are with you and your family. For those who wish, condolences may be sent to Jacksonville Main Street, P.O. Box 152, Jacksonville, Illinois 62651.*

The tragedy of life is not that man loses, but that he almost wins.

- Heywood Broun



CALENDAR

- October 14** – Awards Nomination Deadline
- October 15** – Monthly Reports
- October 25** – Conference & Awards Banquet Registration Deadline
- November 8 & 9** – Annual Conference

ILLINOIS MAIN STREET

Office of Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn
217/782-5990 Springfield
312/ 814-5220 Chicago

www.IllinoisMainStreet.org

