



THE WORD ON THE STREET

Office of Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn

MAY 2004 UPDATE

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MAIN STREET DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Coming soon to Springfield...the inaugural Main Street Day at the State Capitol. On May 5, representatives from dozens of Illinois Main Street communities are expected to arrive in Springfield for a day packed with events. Highlights include noon hour entertainment, remarks by Lt. Governor Pat Quinn and visits with legislators. The events conclude with a reception at the Center for the Arts. Contact Wendy Bell at (217) 782-5990 or Wendy_Bell@ltgov.state.il.us with any questions.

SPRINGFIELD UPPER STORY TOUR

In conjunction with the Main Street Day at the Capitol, Downtown Springfield, Inc. is hosting their annual Upper Story Tour. Tours will be available of innovative rehabilitation and renovation projects. Spaces included on the tour include the AIG Executive Offices, an apartment complex on Old State Capitol Plaza and more. The Tour is sponsored by Oxtoby Properties and Arena Foods, Inc. Tour tickets are \$5 for Main Street Day participants and members of Downtown Springfield, Inc. Other tickets are \$7.

FARMERS' MARKET GRANTS

Farmers' markets help link family farmers with local markets. Customers get the freshest produce and other farm products. The markets also serve as an innovative way to attract more visitors to downtown districts. In order to help support the growth of farmers' markets, Lt. Governor Pat Quinn recently announced the availability of matching funds grants. Twenty-one grants are being distributed to Illinois Main Street communities to help pay for existing farmers' markets and the development of new markets. Don't forget to give us the dates of your markets for inclusion in the online calendar of events at www.IllinoisMainStreet.org.

WELCOME LES CAVADA

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn is pleased to announce the hiring of Les Cavada. Les is joining Illinois Main Street's staff in Springfield. Les comes to us after four years working with Main Street Princeton. Les has an architecture degree and experience working with community development, design and housing services organizations. Les can be reached at (217) 782-3734 and at Les_Cavada@ltgov.state.il.us.

GOVERNOR'S HOME TOWN AWARDS

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is soliciting nominations for the Governor's Home Town Awards. These annual awards are presented in eight different categories based on population. Nominations are due June 18, 2004. Past recipients include many Illinois Main Street communities. For more information go to www.illinoisbiz.biz.com/ghta.

WEBSITE GRANTS

Welcome to the 21st Century. Online technology can help communities collect information, attract visitors and improve communications. Virtual tours, searchable databases and more advanced mapping and visualization programs are just a few of the tools available today. Recently, the Lt. Governor made 25 grants to Illinois Main Street communities to help improve their websites. What technology are you using? We are always interested in improving www.IllinoisMainStreet.org. Please send suggestions for website enhancements to Daniel_Persky@ltgov.state.il.us.

ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEWS

Illinois Main Street is busy conducting annual program reviews. Eighteen reviews have been conducted already and 16 more are scheduled for May and June. Staff from the Lt. Governor's Office and the National Main Street Center are conducting the full-day reviews. The reviews coupled with the monthly reports provide useful information to local programs and Illinois Main Street. Questions can be directed to Wendy Bell at (217) 782-5990 or Wendy_Bell@ltgov.state.il.us.

TRI-STATE CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars...the Tri-State Conference is coming to Illinois. On June 24 and 25, the Main Street programs from Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin will be convening in Galena at the historic DeSoto House Hotel. Program managers should plan to attend the Summer Managers' Meeting on June 23rd, also in Galena. Information is being sent to all Illinois Main Street programs. Questions can be directed to Wendy or Les in the Springfield office.

ILLINOIS MAIN STREET

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