



Downtown Mt. Vernon Development Corporation Newsletter

A Main Street Community

November, December 2008

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Mark Your Calendars

November 7
Main Street Project Groundbreaking

December 6
Holiday Decorating Contest
Christmas Parade



Lincoln is unveiled

Lincoln Sculpture Dedication on Appellate Courthouse Lawn

A couple of significant anniversaries brought a group of Mt. Vernon community leaders together for a common cause and resulted in a 9-foot-tall bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln being placed on the front lawn of the Appellate Courthouse. In 2009, the country will celebrate the 200th birthday of its 16th president, and the Appellate Courthouse has seen its 150th year.

The Lincoln statue was commissioned in October 2007 by the Mt. Vernon Lincoln Bicentennial Committee headed by attorney Mark Hassakis. The Lincoln statue idea met with much community support and the statue and siting costs totaling more than \$90,000 were funded through donations, student penny drives, and grants from the local Schweinfurth Foundation and from the Illinois Bicentennial Commission.

Ohio sculptor Alan Cottrill created the image of Lincoln at the age when he served as a lawyer traveling the circuit in Illinois. In 1859, Lincoln argued an important tax case involving the Illinois Central Railroad at the Appellate Courthouse which was then used as a division of the Illinois Supreme Court. The Appellate Courthouse contains the only remaining courtroom in which Abraham Lincoln tried a case that continues to be used to this day in the same manner it was used in the 1850s.

A dedication ceremony for the new statue was held on September 18, 2007. The day included a panel presentation led by former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar on "Lincoln - The Prairie Lawyer", and the Illinois Supreme Court heard arguments in the courtroom for the first time in 111 years. The dedication ceremony began at 3 p.m. and included an introduction of the Supreme Court of Illinois and the 5th District Appellate Court with remarks by the 5th District Presiding Judge Bruce D. Stewart, greetings from the Illinois State Bar Association by Jack C. Carey, President, remarks from the Mt. Vernon Bicentennial Committee chairman, Mark Hassakis, remarks from the sculptor, and remarks from the Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas R. Fitzgerald. **The Southern Illinois Children's Choir presented a short musical program and the Independent Silver Band provided music for the ceremony.**

"He was here," Fitzgerald said. "He was in this place. He was hearing a case, just like the case we heard yesterday. Abraham Lincoln is, and was, our colleague. We can learn so much about how we should be from him."

Executive Committee

Rex Cusumano, President
Cindy Bevis, Vice President
Barb Hengle, Vice President
Robin Hensley, Vice President
Dan Hoffman, Vice President
Susan Hughey, Vice President
Dennis McEnaney, At Large
JoAnn Joy, Treasurer
Brenda Breeze, Secretary
Brian Edmison, Past President

Board of Directors

Susan Bacon
Ed Breeze
Chris Campo
Jo David Cummins
Rae Cummins
Bob Dennis
David Eadie
Molly Federici
Mark Hassakis
Troy Heitmeyer
Bonnie Jerdon
Jay Koch
Greg Lundius
Wendy Lupa
Lindy Lysell
Karen Pelker
Denise Ross
Pam Robertson
Laura Thacker
Brenda Torrez
Luther Torrez
Tammy Wheeler

Staff

Cyndy Mitchell, Executive Director
Mary Denham, Administrative Assistant
Mark Ilbery, Maintenance

Downtown Mt. Vernon Development Corporation

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Phone: (618) 242-6866
Fax: (618) 242-6868
Hours: M-F
9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Email: dmdc@mvn.net

Design: Mt. Vernon Tourism

Congratulations

Please join the DMDC board as we congratulate Cindy Bevis of Bevis Real Estate LLC and Ed Breeze, owner of Byrd Watson Drug Company, **who were recently recognized for “Faith in the Marketplace” by *The Messenger***, the official newspaper of the Diocese of Belleville. This honor recognizes people who have influenced the workplace through business practices that reflect their faith and who share of themselves in their parish and/or community.

Lincoln Maquette

In recognition of their \$5,000.00 donation to the Lincoln Sculpture that was placed on the 5th Appellate Courthouse lawn, DMDC received a 31 inch maquette of the larger statue. The statue is on display in the entry room of the DMDC office.



A Special Work of Art Highlighted in a Downtown Green Space - **“Boy with a Lizard”**

At the time of the push and effort for the **“Lincoln as a lawyer”** statue on the 5th Appellate Court grounds, we envisioned adding another sculpture piece to compliment the current projects of the DMDC, City of Mt. Vernon, and its Tourism Department and Art in the City. Our goal was to create a small park setting and we felt that a lifelike, welcoming sculpture would work **well with the “green space” we planned to enhance.**



We asked Alan Cottrill, the artist for the Lincoln statue, if he would create a piece in memory of our son, Denny.

In response to many inquiries, the boy is holding a reptile, a cross between a lizard and an iguana, many of which resided in our home over the years.

While the sculpture is greatly personal to us, we hope that this piece of art brings joy to others as it has to us. We believe the plaque says it all—**“In Memory of a boy who loved and respected nature and all its creatures”.**

Mark and Janet Hassakis

New DMDC Board Members

The DMDC board wishes to welcome the following new board members to the organization:

Susan Bacon	Affordable Tax Services
Chris Campo	Screen Pro and Developer
Jo and Rae Cummins	Community First Bank
Bob Dennis	Publisher, Register News
Lindy Lysell	State Beauty Supply

DMDC—Main Street Partnership Program

You will soon be receiving a letter from the Downtown Mt. Vernon Development Corporation—Main Street program inviting you to become a partner in our organization.

The Partnership brochure and cover letter will explain what DMDC has accomplished in the downtown district and the benefits the community will reap. By becoming a partner in the organization—at whichever level you choose—you will help shape the future of OUR city! There have been dramatic improvements in the last four years and there is more in the planning stages. We hope you will consider being a partner and join us in the pursuit of our mission: to preserve our historic and cultural heritage and promote economic growth in Downtown Mt. Vernon.

Thank You



First United Methodist Church Donates to DMDC

DMDC president Rex Cusumano (right) receives a check for a Corporate Partnership from David Eadie, pastor of the First United Methodist Church. The \$1,000.00 donation will go to support Downtown Mt. Vernon Development Corporation's (DMDC) mission. The organization is beginning its Partnership Drive and anyone interested in being a part of the downtown revitalization project may call the DMDC office at (618) 242-6866. Eadie is an active member of the DMDC board of directors and chairman of the Organization Committee.

Holiday Decorating Contest December 6, 2008 “Sleigh Bells Ring”

DMDC is sponsoring its third annual Holiday Decorating Contest to be held on Saturday, December 6. **This year's theme is “Sleigh Bells Ring.” All downtown businesses and property owners are invited to join us in making downtown a festive place for the holidays.** Look for more information about the event in the mail and plan to participate in the competition. For more information call the DMDC office at (618) 242-6866.

Christmas Parade December 6, 2008 “A Musical Christmas”

This year the Downtown Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 6, starting at 5:30 p.m. **The theme is “A Musical Christmas.” If you are interested in entering a float in the parade and for other information, contact chairman Debbie Chiapelli at (618) 231-0756.** The Christmas Parade Organization sponsors the Downtown Christmas Parade.

Volunteers welcome:

If you would like to help with a DMDC event or activity, please contact our office at (618) 242-6866 or at dmdc@mvn.net.

Photo Credits:

Bonnie Jerdon, Nikki Greene, Tomi Baldrige, Cyndy Mitchell, Once Upon a Lifetime Photography

The DMDC Cruise Night...

...in Downtown Mt. Vernon on Saturday, August 9th, was an outstanding success thanks to the enthusiastic support of the participants, the community, businesses, and volunteers. It turned out to be the largest Cruise since it started in 2002 with 150 vehicles participating. The weather was perfect and people came out to enjoy the event, the music, the food, and most of all the unique, standout cars, motorcycles and trucks including a few special designs.

The band “Bob’s Your Uncle”, Tae Kwon Do and the K-9 demonstrations and the Shriner’s Krazy Klowns entertained the spectators throughout the evening. Not for profit food vendors and downtown restaurants offered a variety of food choices to please the palette.

Trophy winners and sponsors were:

Best Ford—9th Street Grill

Best GM—**Butch’s Used Cars**

Best Chevy—Stan the Tire Man

Best Mopar—Chaney & Karch Insurance

Best Truck—Midwest Truck Accessories

Best Import—Dish on the Square

Best Motorcycle—**Dale’s Harley Davidson**

Cheri Cook, 1940 Ford Coupe

Ron Carr, 1965 Pontiac GTO

Cathy Owens, 1938 Chevy

Rex Brieseacher, 1968 Dodge Super Bee

Wendell Breeze, 1936 Ford Pickup

Malman Roberts, 1973 VW Super Beetle

Rickard Rich, 1963 Parilla Wild Scrambler



DMDC wishes to thank the following businesses and volunteers for making the Cruise Night a huge success. A special note of appreciation goes to DMDC president Rex Cusumano and vice president Barb Hengle for doing an outstanding job of overseeing the event.

Sponsors: In addition to the Trophy sponsors, we would like to recognize Hughey Funeral Home and Financial Planning Consultants for sponsoring the ever-popular dash plaques that are collected by participants.

Donors: Auto Zone, Audio Visionz, B&B News and Hobby, CJ’s Video Game Depot, Carquest Auto Parts, Dish on the Square, Downtown Carpet and Tile, Edward Jones Investments, Fast Service Dry Cleaners, Holz Tool Supply, Integra Bank, The Panini Grill, Peacock Printing, The Rubdown, Willy’s, American Family Insurance, Bevis Real Estate, The Insurance Store, Kirby Risk, Midwest Truck Accessories, Mt. Vernon Bright and Beautiful, O’Reilly’s Auto Parts, Peoples National Bank, Renshaw and Associates, Mt. Vernon Tourism, and US Bank

Volunteers and Supporters: Ray Gilbert, City D.A.R.E., Mt. Vernon K-9, Sheriff Roger Mulch, Harold Hawkins, Guy Wood Insurance, Bank of America, Granada Center for the Performing Arts, Register News, Chuck and Tomi Baldrige, Nikki Greene, Bonnie Jerdon, Jo Ann Joy, Pam Robertson, Brenda Breeze, Susan Hughey, Terry Dodson, Justin Riley, Mike Johnson, Charlie Simmons and the Christian Motorcycle Association, WDML, WMIX, Mt. Vernon Sentinel, JCCC, City of Mt. Vernon, King City Kustom Cruisers

Business Highlights—State Beauty Supply

The State Beauty Supply moved to 315 South 9th Street in July 2008. The owners purchased an old car dealership building that was transformed into a stunning, urban look for their wholesale business, introducing numerous recycled items into the design. Local businessman Jay Koch renovated the structure and was instrumental in the architectural re-design of the building. Lindy Lysell, along with her brother and sister, own the supply company, which has its headquarters in downtown Cape Girardeau. Their partiality for historic downtowns inspired them to locate their branch business in the heart of Mt. Vernon.



We want to welcome the new owners of State Beauty Supply to Mt. Vernon and express our appreciation for their choice to stay in the King City.

Welcome New Businesses

Linda's Sewing Studio	830 Broadway
Fairfield Auto Sales	1106 Broadway
Meleah Walton, Attorney	1006 Main Street
Hair by Abinee	224 North 11th Street
The Rubdown	1002 Main Street
ServPro	329 South 9th Street

Opening Soon in Downtown! **Cactus Jack's Burrito Shack**

Location:	819 Jordan
Hours:	Lunch only
Menu:	Tex-Mex and BBO

For more information call (618) 732-0185.



Have you Noticed?

Downtown Mt. Vernon is "looking good." New employee Mark Ilbery has been working hard to spruce up the downtown area since he joined DMDC on September 24. His job includes controlling weeds, nurturing flowers and trees, removing debris along with maintenance and repairs, etc. He recently improved the municipal parking lot at 10th and Jordan by removing old signs and posts, painting the city sign and doing general cleanup.

Available Real Estate in the Downtown District

STATUS	POINT OF REFERENCE	ADDRESS	AVAILABLE SQ. FT.	CONTACT	PHONE
Rent	Jefferson State Bank - Upper Space	1002 Main	12' x 16'	Brian Edmison	244-0780
Rent	Front Office Space	328 S. 10th	800 sq. ft.	Chuck Baldrige	241-9009
Rent	Stumpp Building	1011 Broadway	1,050	Dennis Schweigert	241-7466
Rent	Old WinAir Building	318 S. 10th	20,000	Dennis Schweigert	241-7466
Rent	US Bank - Office Space	123 S. 10th	Varies	Frank Bastida	394-4520
Rent	Designer Kids Building	236 S. 9th	2,000 Upper Floor	Gino Federici	244-3168
Rent	J & R Appliance	1003 Broadway		James Schomaker	327-8495
Rent	Round Table Design-Upper Level	1020 Main	1,500	Kevin Phillips	244-7819
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Rent	Boston/Universal Bldg, upper floor	206,208,210 S. 9th	12,000	Mark Hassakis	244-5335
Rent	Former Sherry's Simply Scrappin'	208 S. 9th	1,430	Rob McGovern Bevis Real Estate	244-9500
Rent	Former Designs by Linda	1310 Broadway, North	29' 3" x 15' 7" Lg Space 20' 3" x 15' 5"	Lamont Phemister	773-351-6659
Rent	Office Space (Brehm Bldg)	320 S. 11th	1,600	Robin Hensley	237-9241
Rent	Vacant building	809 Broadway	3,000	Robin Hensley	237-9241
Rent	Vacant building	805 Broadway	3,000	Robin Hensley	237-9241
Rent	Suites for rent	815 Broadway	varies	Cindy Bevis	244-9500
Rent/Sale	9th St. Apartments	203 N. 9th		Mary Burgan	214-0660
Rent/Sale	Empty Building	223 S. 9th	1,600	Charles Cooper	242-7907
Rent/Sale	McCoy & Howard Bldg Move-in ready second floor condo/business office	212 S. 9th	3000 on each floor	Robin Hensley	237-9241
Sale	Building Site 10th and Casey	315-321 S. 10th		Robin Hensley	237-9241
Sale	Vacant Lot	907 Jordan	50' x 100'	Butch Burwell	244-4548
Sale	Airex Heating & Air	114 N. Johnson	3,336	Bennie Fryer	242-7900
Sale	Former State Beauty Supply Bldg	801 Broadway	40'x100' -one floor	Sandra Graddy	242-3268
Sale	Vacant lot east of the Mt. Vernon Motel	724 Main	100' X 222'	Cindy Bevis	244-9500



McCoy & Howard Building



Designer Kids Building



800 Block of Broadway

Granada Kid's Classic Matinee Season 2008-09

Saturday November 15, 2008
Bambi (1942)
Sponsored by: Community First Bank
Drawing for a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond

Saturday December 13, 2008
How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966) &
A Mickey Mouse Christmas Carol (1961)
Sponsored by: U.S. Bank
Drawing for a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond

Saturday January 10, 2009
Dumbo (1941)
Sponsored by: People's National Bank
Drawing for a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond

Saturday February 14, 2009
Cinderella (1950)
Sponsored by: Integra Bank
Drawing for a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond

Saturday March 14, 2009
Darby O' Gill and the Little People (1959)
Sponsored by: Mid Country Bank
Drawing for a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond

Saturday April 11, 2009
A Goofy Movie (1994)
Drawing for a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond from
First State Bank of Dix

Saturday May 16, 2009
Loony, Loony, Loony Bugs Bunny Movie (1981)
Sponsored by: Banterra Bank
Drawing for a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond

Doors open at 1 p.m. with drawings/contests.
Movie starts at 2 p.m.

Season passes available at Dish on the Square and
Life's Little Perks
8 movies—1 adult and 1 child—\$55
Additional child pass—\$15
Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Granada Classic Movie Series 2008-09

Thursday November 13, 2008
Wings (1927)
First Academy Award Winner for Best Picture
Sponsored by: Continental Tire North America

Thursday December 16, 2008
Holiday Inn (1942) The 71st Anniversary
Celebration
(Bing Crosby sings "White Christmas")
Sponsored by: Dish on the Square

Thursday January 8, 2009
Blue Hawaii (1962)
Sponsored by: WQRL 106.3 FM

Thursday February 12, 2009
Some Like It Hot (1959)
2nd Annual Valentine Classic

Thursday March 12, 2009
My Left Foot (1989)

Thursday April 9, 2009
Diary of Anne Frank (1959)
(Second showing for school students)

Thursday May 14, 2009
My Little Chickadee (1940)
Sponsored by: Toni Federici, Inc.

Doors open at 6 p.m.
Movie starts at 7 p.m.

Season passes available at Dish on the Square and
Life's Little Perks
8 movies for \$30



Center for the Performing Arts

Downtown Mt. Vernon Development Corporation
"A Main Street Community"
809 Main Street
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Four Points to Success

Downtown Mt. Vernon and the Illinois Main Street program employ the Four-Point Approach to successful downtown revitalization.

Design

This committee enhances the physical appearance of Downtown by assisting with the renovation of historic buildings and streetscape enhancements, encouraging supportive new construction and long term planning.

Economic Restructuring

This committee works to strengthen **Downtown's economic base by focusing** on retaining and recruiting a cross-section of businesses that can create a viable economic downtown.

Organization

This committee coordinates the overall volunteer effort and builds unity among the many volunteers and the community who have a role in the downtown revitalization process.

Promotion

This committee promotes the assets of Downtown to attract new customers, investors, businesses and visitors. They plan special events and assist with publicity and communication.

Each committee is always looking to welcome new volunteers. If you would like to get involved, call the DMDC office at (618) 242-6866 or email to dmdc@mvn.net.