



Downtown Mt. Vernon Development Corporation Newsletter

A Main Street Community

October, November, December 2007

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Christmas Decorating Contest

DMDC is sponsoring its second annual decorating competition to be held on Saturday December 1st. Last year's displays were outstandingly creative, beautiful, and festive. We want to make downtown glow and glitter for the 2007 Holidays and invite all property and business owners to join us in making downtown very special again this year. Look for more information about the event in the mail and plan to participate in the competition. For more information call DMDC office at 242-6866.



The Downtown Christmas Parade is organized and sponsored by the Christmas Parade Organization. If interested in entering a float in the parade and other information, contact president Karen MacEachern at 246-7994.

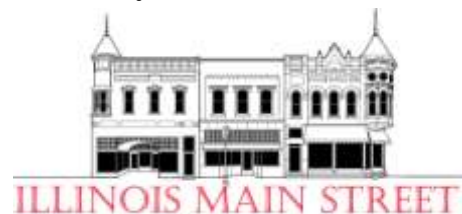
Report from the Executive Director

On October 25, 26, and 27, Executive Directors from three Main Street states—Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa—met in Platteville, Wisconsin for the Tri State Exchange where they discussed and learned of issues regarding Main Street communities. In addition to sessions on the Four Point Approach, the Exchange focused on Economic Restructuring and fundraising—two important topics for downtown revitalization.

A topic on the importance of independent businesses to Downtown included statistics such as a local business will return 60-70% to the community. Local businesses respond to local needs, reflect local culture, provide opportunities to young people, locate downtown and recycle historic buildings. Other topics included how to create and retain independent businesses, an introduction to the National Trust Loan Fund and its benefits to Main Street communities and practical and innovative ways to raise funds for downtown projects and programs.

At the Illinois Main Street breakout session, Wendy Bell, State IMS Program Coordinator reported on the status of the funding for the Main Street division (or Design) of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA). Currently they are funded for the 2008 year, but budgeting for 2009 is still pending. The state Design committee functions under the IHPA and is instrumental in the façade improvement programs, logo designs, etc. utilized by Main Street communities.

Cyndy Mitchell
Executive Director



Granada Halloween Gala



David Lister, board member of the Granada Center for the Performing Arts (GCPA), is chairman of this upcoming event to be held on October 26th at the Granada Theater, 108 North 9th, Mt. Vernon. The gala will begin with a preview at 6:00 p.m. that includes refreshments and jazz music. The main event, which will include music by the Ever Ready Brothers, The Answer and Jeff Widdows, will be from 7:00 p.m.—12:00 a.m. **BBQ by Smokin' Ts, a cash bar and**

a costume competition are part of the event. Admission, which includes the BBQ, is \$10 with a costume and \$15 without. Tickets are available from Granada Center board members and at **Johnson's Gift Company at 2020 Broadway. For more information call David at 316-8506.**

Partnership Drive

The Downtown Mt. Vernon Development Corporation (DMDC) Board of Directors is all geared up for their annual Partnership Drive. You are invited to join the DMDC Main Street in its goal to make Downtown **Mt. Vernon the "best downtown in Southern Illinois."** **DMDC has been instrumental** in revitalizing the traditional heart of our community and there is more to come. Information about how you can participate in this exciting program will arrive in the mail soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the organization and its vision, please call **David Eadie**, drive chairman, at 242-1030 or **Cyndy Mitchell** at 242-6866.

Lincoln Statue

The Lincoln Statue

In honor of the 200th anniversary celebration, a local Lincoln bicentennial committee has commissioned a bronze statue of Lincoln to be placed on the Appellate Courthouse grounds to permanently and visibly connect the iconic structure with its most famous figure. This public legacy to Lincoln at this historic site will serve as a center piece depicting a part of Mt. Vernon's early heritage.

Ohio artist Alan Cottrill will produce the eight foot Lincoln sculpture dressed in his long coat with his familiar stovepipe hat and carrying his scuffed leather bag. In addition to the large sculpture to be placed at the Appellate Courthouse, ten original signed and numbered maquettes will be produced and used in fund-raising efforts. The site of the sculpture will enhance the historically significant Appellate Courthouse and its beautifully kept grounds.



Lincoln's Birthday Celebration

On February 15, 2008, the Lincoln bicentennial committee will host a community event to kick off the bicentennial celebration. **To be held the Friday following Lincoln's birthday, the committee will be working on their fund-raising campaign in order to secure funds for the sculpture. Major donors will receive a statue maquette and each donor's gift will be recognized in a permanent plaque or display. Community support plus grants will fund this project.**

The Landmarks History Brochure

To supplement the Lincoln bicentennial committee's efforts, the Mt. Vernon Convention and Visitors Bureau will publish a brochure that features a walking tour of the Lincoln sites, featuring the new sculpture and the Appellate Courthouse. Heritage tourism is already important to the area. The new sculpture, events, promotions, and brochure will ensure that the investment is leveraged for its greatest effect to encourage visitors to experience a part of the Lincoln history. For more information call Mark Hassakis at 244-5335.

Walgreens Sweet Corn and Watermelon Festival Cruise Night in Downtown Mt. Vernon on Saturday, August 11 was a great success thanks to the enthusiastic support of the community, businesses and volunteers. A **total of 109 vehicles entered the event making 9th Street a festive and fun place to be.** The band “**Bob’s Your Uncle**”, **Tae Kwon Do demonstrations and the Shriners Krazy Klowns entertained the attendees.** Not for profit food vendors and downtown restaurants offered a variety of tasty food choices.

Trophy winners were:

Best Ford—Diane Lefler, Mt. Vernon

Best GM—Bobby Ellis, Mt. Vernon

Best Chevy—Herman Rawls, Mt. Vernon

Best Dodge—Francine Shehorn, Mt. Vernon

Best Truck—Tom Glover, Mt. Vernon

Best Motorcycle—Robert Edwards, Mattoon

Best Import—Rose Ann Pace, Opdyke

People’s Choice—Jason Shehorn, Mt. Vernon



Chuck Baldrige, DMDC Board Member presents a trophy for the Best Dodge to Francine Shehorn.

DMDC wishes to thank the following businesses and volunteers for making the Cruise Night a successful event that promotes Downtown Mt. Vernon as a viable and active center of the community. We want to extend a special thank you to Chuck and Tomi Baldrige and County and City officers Major Marty Schwartz and Sergeant Trent Page, each of whom went out of their way to help make the event a success.

Sponsors: **Hughey Funeral Home, 9th Street Grill, Edward Jones Investments, Butch’s Used Cars, Stan the Tire Man, Chaney and Karch Insurance, Midwest Truck Accessories, Cusumano and Sons, Dish on the Square, and Financial Planning Consultants.**

Donors: Auto Zone, B&B News and Hobby, Edward Jones Investments, Holz Tool Supply, Integra Bank, Mt. Vernon **24 Hour Fitness, Podges Pizza, Purcell Tire and Rubber Company, Smokin T’s, Dish on the Square, Car Quest, New to You, Rogers’ Family Tire, Brooke Insurance and Financial Services, Hassakis and Hassakis, Mt. Vernon Bright and Beautiful, Mt. Vernon Tourism, and Renshaw and Associates, PC.**

Volunteers: Chuck and Tomi Baldrige, Harold Hawkins, Terri Dodson, Edie and Kody Giacomo, Christian Motorcyclist Association CMA, Bonnie Jerdon, JoAnn Joy, Pam Robertson, Justin and Mindy Riley, King City Kustom Cruisers, Carolyn and Jerry Robertson, CMA, Charlie and Alice Simmons, CMA, Addie Pett, Jill Nordin, Mary Ellen Bechtel, Wendy Lupa, County D.A.R.E. and City D.A.R.E..

Other Supporters: WDML, WMIX, Register News, Morning Sentinel, JCCC, City of Mt. Vernon, The Walgreens Sweet Corn and Watermelon Festival Committee.

Downtown Mt. Vernon Development Corporation
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FYI

Downtown Parking Available

JoAnn Joy, Mt. Vernon Market President, US Bank, announced that US Bank parking spaces on the west side of 11th Street are now available to property and business owners and individuals. The rate is \$20 per month for above ground and \$35 for underground. If interested, call JoAnn at 241-7712 or Bob Shafer at 241-7786.

Correction

In the July, August, September issue of the quarterly, Terry Sharp was inadvertently omitted from the Best of the Best in Mt. Vernon list. In the **Attorney's category he received #1 and #2. We extend our apologies for this oversight.**

"If Your business is Downtown, then Downtown is Your Business."

Thank you for supporting your Downtown Businesses!

Mission Statement:

To revitalize and maintain Downtown Mt. Vernon as a commercial and cultural center of the local and regional community.

Calendar of Events

- Granada Halloween Gala, Granada Theater, October 26
- Christmas Decorating Contest, Downtown, December 1