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## **Connecticut Main Street Center Announces 2006 Downtown Revitalization Institute**

(Hartford, CT) – Connecticut Main Street Center has announced its 2006 Downtown Revitalization Institute quarterly workshop series. The Downtown Revitalization Institute (DRI) is the educational and training component of Connecticut Main Street Center, the leading statewide non-profit organization dedicated to restoring and maintaining Connecticut downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts.

The Downtown Revitalization Institute offers a full day each quarter with nationally known experts in capacity building, business and real estate development, promotion, and design as a revitalization tool. Participants will learn to utilize historic and natural assets that already exist, and to build on them. Workshop topics include business restructuring, niche analysis, real estate development, urban design including public spaces, traffic patterns, pedestrians, parking, and branding and promoting the district, and special events. Scheduled workshops for 2006 include:

**January 27<sup>th</sup> - “Building Your Capacity to Revitalize Downtown”**  
with Kent J. Burnes, principal of Burnes Consulting

**April 28<sup>th</sup> - “Using Design as a Tool for Downtown Revitalization”**  
with Richard Heapes, founding partner of Street-Works, LLC

**July 28<sup>th</sup> - “Economic Realities of Downtown Revitalization”**  
with Donovan D. Rypkema, principal of Place Economics in Washington DC

**October 27<sup>th</sup> - “Promotional Strategies for Your Commercial District”**  
with Jane Jenkins, executive director of Downtown Boulder (Colorado) Business Improvement District

All 2006 DRI workshops take place from 8:30am – 4:00pm, at Northeast Utilities’ Auditorium in Berlin, CT. Complete information about the Downtown Revitalization Institute workshops, including registration procedures and driving directions, can be found at [www.ctmainstreet.org](http://www.ctmainstreet.org).

Part of a national network that has been in place for over 25 years, Connecticut Main Street Center brings together public officials, business owners, financial resources, community activists, and the economic development and historic preservation communities under one umbrella organization. CMSC helps



communities analyze core issues and set attainable goals. The organization provides education and training, design and technical assistance, and advocacy.

CMSC, a non-profit corporation funded by the State of Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development and The Connecticut Light and Power Company/Yankee Gas, is committed to bringing Connecticut's commercial districts back to life socially and economically. For more information, visit [www.ctmainstreet.org](http://www.ctmainstreet.org) or call 860-280-2337.

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