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For immediate release:
July 27, 2006

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Connecticut Main Street Center Welcomes New Board Members

(Hartford, CT) – Connecticut Main Street Center’s Board of Directors welcomed two new members at its Annual Meeting last month in New London. **Timothy H. Coppage**, Vice President – Housing Development for the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, and **Thomas E. Marano**, Business Development Consultant for Northeast Utilities, have been selected as the organization’s newest directors.

“Since January 2005 we have tripled our outreach. As we promote Connecticut Main Street Center as the leading advocate for historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts throughout the State, we are fortunate to have the expertise and the commitment of these two professionals,” said President & CEO John Simone.

Tim Coppage oversees development and implementation of single family and multifamily housing and community development programs at CHFA. From 1999 – 2003 he was the Deputy Commissioner of the State Department of Economic & Community Development where his housing and community development responsibilities included all aspects of financial management, strategic planning, public relations and legislative oversight as well as planning, administration and direction of State-wide Tourism Programs. Coppage has a BA from University of Virginia, an MBA from University of Hartford and was a Fannie Mae Fellow at Harvard University School of Government. He is on the Advisory Boards of Fannie Mae and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the Board of Directors of Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF).

Tom Marano has been an economic development professional since 1992, starting as a loaned executive from Yankee Gas to the Connecticut Department of Economic Development where he served as a regional manager. At Northeast Utilities, he works with all companies from the Fortune 500 to local manufacturing and retail businesses, communities of all sizes and regional economic development organizations. He has authored articles on growth management strategies and the site selection process.

Charting Your Course to a Vibrant Downtown

He has a BA in economics from Brockport State University and an MA in economics from Syracuse University. He is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute and earned his CEcD (Certified Economic Developer) designation in March of 2004 from the International Economic Development Council.

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.

Connecticut Main Street Center, a nonprofit corporation funded by the State of Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development and The Connecticut Light and Power Company, is committed to bringing Connecticut's commercial districts back to life socially and economically.

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