



For immediate release:
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Contact: Kimberley Parsons-Whitaker
860-280-2556

Connecticut Main Street Center Announces Downtown Resource Team Consultants for Darien

(Hartford, CT) - A Connecticut Main Street Center Resource Team of national and state experts in downtown management will visit Darien from May 22-25, 2006, to assess the downtown's greatest challenges and opportunities and to recommend a course of action for the revitalization of downtown Darien. Residents, businesses and community leaders from Darien will have an opportunity to participate in the visit.

Connecticut Main Street Center announced today the consultants chosen for the Darien Resource Team. **Kent J. Burnes**, principal of Downtown Management Services, **Jane Jenkins**, executive director of the Downtown Boulder Business Improvement District, and Urban Planner and Landscape Architect **David Sousa, R.L.A., A.I.C.P.**, will join **John Simone, Kimberley Parsons-Whitaker, and David A. Helmin** of Connecticut Main Street Center in the team's extensive look at the issues facing downtown.

The Main Street Resource Team Visit presents an opportunity for the community to hear outside perspectives on local issues. Using information gathered prior to and during the visit, the Team will make recommendations based on the opportunities that exist and the community's capacity to respond. The purpose of The Resource Team Visit is to identify strategies to improve downtown and the local Main Street organization. The Resource Team Visit is provided to Darien Revitalization Inc. and downtown Darien by Connecticut Main Street Center and is the single most significant component in a downtown revitalization strategy for local Main Street programs in their first years.

Since the Connecticut Main Street program began in 1995, participating communities have generated over \$434 million in public and private reinvestment in their downtowns. Over the same time, 309 net new businesses have opened and 1,901 net new jobs have been created. This represents \$75.35 of reinvestment for every \$1 spent on a local Main Street program, making the Main Street initiative one of the most successful economic development programs in the country.

Celebrating 10 Years!
PO Box 261595
Hartford, CT 06126
860-280-2337

Connecticut Main Street Center is the state's leading resource for cities and towns seeking to comprehensively revitalize their "main street" districts. CMSC, a non-profit organization whose major sponsors are the Connecticut Light & Power Company and the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, is a member of the respected National Main Street network and is committed to bringing Connecticut's commercial districts back to life socially and economically.

Darien has joined the current Connecticut Main Street communities of New London, Niantic, Norwich, Rockville, Simsbury, the Upper Albany neighborhood of Hartford, Waterbury and Winsted. For more information, visit the CMSC website at www.ctmainstreet.org or call 860-280-2337.

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