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## **The Hartford Courant to Receive Award from Connecticut Main Street Center**

(Hartford, CT) – Connecticut Main Street Center has announced The Hartford Courant has been selected to receive the 2006 Connecticut Light and Power Company Award for Outstanding Contributions to Main Street Revitalization. The Courant will be presented with this award at the Connecticut Main Street Center Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at The Crocker House in downtown New London.

Connecticut Main Street Center established the award in 2001 to recognize those organizations and individuals who dedicate themselves to promoting an awareness of the necessity of a comprehensive management approach to the revitalization of Connecticut's historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. The award is named for its first recipient, the Connecticut Light and Power Company, which launched the State's Main Street program in 1995. CL&P still stands as the only private corporation in the country to solely sponsor and administer a statewide Main Street initiative.

In recent years, The Hartford Courant has campaigned for Coltsville's designation as a national park, the preservation of the landmark Wilde Building in Bloomfield, and the revitalization of the Hartford neighborhoods of Park Street and Albany Avenue in Hartford. The periodic *Cranes & Scaffolds* feature reports the status of revitalization and community development projects in the capital city. In announcing the 2006 award Connecticut Main Street Center Executive Director John Simone said: "Under the leadership of President, Publisher and CEO Jack Davis The Hartford Courant established *PLACE: Commentary About Where We Live*. Under *PLACE* editor Tom Condon this commentary highlights such issues as sprawl and smart growth, preservation, urban planning, open space, architecture, traffic, transportation and parking, adaptive reuse, community development and more. The *PLACE* board of contributors is peopled by experts in these areas who have a passion for lively, walkable communities and downtown environments, and the community's right to be part of the creation of that environment.



Additionally, The Courant’s editorial page commitment to and focus on the preservation and revitalization of Connecticut’s downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts is exemplary and deserves to be recognized and celebrated.”

In 2002 the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which founded the National Main Street program 26 years ago, presented The Hartford Courant with a coveted National Preservation Honor Award for its leadership role in stimulating awareness and discussion about the need for good urban design and the importance of preserving historic resources. Responding to news of the Connecticut Main Street’s 2006 award, Jack Davis said: “As a member of the National Trust board, I’m familiar with the support the Trust gives to Main Street programs and regard it as a really significant distinction to be recognized by the Connecticut Main Street Center.”

Previous recipients of the award have been the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, for supporting the Connecticut Main Street program and revitalization efforts in Connecticut’s communities; Jack Shannahan, former State Historic Preservation Officer, for his national leadership in preservation and his efforts to build awareness of the need for a Main Street program in Connecticut; and Webster Bank, for establishing and funding *Main Street Solutions*, Connecticut’s only commercial district revitalization conference, from 2002-2004.

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/Yankee Gas, is committed to bringing Connecticut’s commercial districts back to life socially and economically.

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