



News on Main Street

Quarterly Newsletter No. 1

PRESERVE INVEST EMPOWER

2008 Fall Issue

About Main Street Portsmouth ...

Main Street Portsmouth (MSP) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization seeking to revitalize downtown Portsmouth and historic Boneyfiddle. MSP uses the approach begun by the National Main Street program in 1977.

The program is community-driven economic development program created by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Main Street focus is to revitalize traditional downtown business districts and renovate and preserve historic commercial buildings.

The Main Street approach has successfully revitalized downtowns in over 1,600 communities nationwide, generating over 16 billion dollars of re-investment in those communities.

Volunteer committees of Main Street Portsmouth work on each of these aspects. Using annual work plans, the Committees seek to accomplish their goals.

Partners:

City of Portsmouth
Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce • Portsmouth Scioto County Visitor's Bureau • Scioto County Commissioners • Scioto Foundation • Shawnee State University • Southern Ohio Medical Center • business owners • property owners and residents

Main Street Portsmouth begins new plaque program in historic downtown

Main Street Portsmouth has embarked on an exciting signage program to identify the many buildings in Portsmouth's historic downtown that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The first phase of the plaque program was aimed at business and religious structures. To assist these owners, MSP and the Scioto Foundation have offered to share a portion of the cost of the plaques.

The first four plaques

have been placed on these buildings:

- Bigelow Church on Washington Street;
- Eli Kinney House on Court Street;
- Portsmouth Foundry and Machine Works on Third Street; and,
- St. Mary Catholic Church on Market Street.

There are approximately 25 structures listed on the Register in the historic district; unfortunately, some are no longer in existence. A complete listing can be found on

the NRHP website at: <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/oh/Scioto/state.html>.

The plaques identify the official name that appears on the NRHP, the address, and the approximate or exact year of construction. Most of these buildings were constructed in the early to mid-1800's. The goal is to eventually have all these structures identified with a plaque.

Some property owners had already identified

See Plaques, page 4

Members Committed to Revitalizing Downtown Portsmouth

Since its inception, Main Street Portsmouth members have been successful in many areas.

- Money was raised to invest more than \$35,000 in Alexandria Park, Roy Rogers Esplanade, and other downtown areas;
- More than 300 annual volunteer hours

since 2003 on planting; watering, upkeep;

- Empowered business owners with the quarterly Networking Breakfasts;
- Preserved downtown living opportunities through the Tour of Lofts annual showcase;
- Hired a full-time director;
- Developed

Strategic Plan for district;

- Created a Market Analysis;
- Held monthly "Live at 5" showcase of businesses with live music and car shows;
- Produced District Walking Map;
- Raised money to repave downtown parking lots;
- Promoted cooperative advertising for district businesses and events.

Our Vision: *To build a healthy and prosperous downtown that reflects the rich history of our past.*

See Schedule of Meetings, page 2. Apply for Membership, page 4.

MSP Boards and Committees Meetings

Board Meeting

Third Thursday of each month, Welcome Center, 8:30 a.m.

Chair Meeting

First Wednesday of each month, MSP Office, 10 a.m. All committee chairs and co-chairs, vice chair and director.

Executive Board

Second Tuesday of each month, MSP office, 10 a.m.

Attendance: Board Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Organization Committee Chair and Director.

Design Committee

First Thursday, 3 p.m. Portsmouth Public Library.

Economic Restructuring

Second Tuesday, 12 p.m. Welcome Center.

Organization Committee

First Friday, 9 a.m., MSP Office.

Promotions Committee

Last Thursday each month, 5 p.m., MSP office.

The Design Committee strives to beautify and preserve downtown Portsmouth

The Design Committee was one of the first committees formed when Main Street Portsmouth began. It started its life as the Boneyfiddle Historic Preservation Society.

Some of the projects that have been the focus of this committee are Alexandria Point Park landscaping and benches, Market Street flower baskets, the boxwood Portsmouth sign, parking lot improvements and Esplanade plantings.

The Garden Market in May provides many of the funds for these projects.

The Market includes a delicious lunch along with sales of plants and garden items.

The annual Tour of Lofts is another fundraiser for this committee.

The focus of each tour has been the preservation of historic spaces and the many ways they can be used today.

The Design Committee includes members that are committed to the beautification of the downtown area and the preservation of our historic buildings. Ellen Vetter and Sue Burke

serve as co-chairpeople.

Subcommittees of this group include the Historic Preservation Committee and the historic plaque program. We have worked with the Design and Review Board, the Farmer's Market and the city of Portsmouth.

A spring clean-up is also an annual event.

The Design Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. at the library.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us. Be prepared for lots of hard work and lots of fun!

Eli Kinney House selected by Heritage Ohio

COLUMBUS – Heritage Ohio announced its Top Preservation Opportunities List for 2008. The preservation & revitalization organization chose ten buildings located throughout the state. The ten brick & mortar opportunities represent a variety of building types and a variety of opportunities to investors and communities alike.

The Eli Kinney House of Portsmouth has been selected along with nine other buildings across the state. This National Register of Historic Places listed that the Greek Revival home was built in 1849 by one of Portsmouth's founding fathers. Recently owned by the Elk's Lodge much of the building suffered

neglect. The Portsmouth Design Review Board stopped an earlier attempt to demolish the historic building, which is now in the hand of a willing owner who values restoration. Portsmouth popular tourist trade, college town and seat of county government make this a likely candidate for a successful bed and breakfast.

Heritage Ohio's Top Preservation Opportunities List, in its second year, has partnered with the Durable Restoration Company, to provide the technical support communities may need in: prioritizing rehabilitation work; finding appropriate adaptive reuse options; or understanding how their historic

assets contribute to the economic vitality of each individual community. Representatives from Heritage Ohio and Durable Restoration will visit each site to meet with the building owners or community members, provide a basic building assessment, and suggest reuse options.

The site visits will help building stakeholders to create or hone their strategy for the building's end use once rehabilitation is completed.

Top Preservation Opportunities show the public that what may appear as a vacant building today, may be tomorrow's hot spot: offering a location that may provide a new center of commerce.

Plaques

From page 1

their historic buildings in this district.

Those who wish to participate in this program can contact Ernie Bouyack, plaque coordinator, at (740) 353-8292 or ekbouyack@roadrunner.com for more information.

Although financial assistance is limited, some property owners have elected to join this program and take advantage of a group savings.

A future goal of Main Street Portsmouth is to establish a walking tour of the historic district with information about the history of each building.

The plaques will serve as the identification of each historic structure on the tour.

Program assistant hired for Main Street Portsmouth

Ashley Ratliff, of Portsmouth, has been hired for Main Street Portsmouth.

She graduated from Shawnee State University in 2007 with a degree in sports management and a minor in business. Because she worked full time while attending college, Ratliff received the Joe Smith Memorial Award.

When Ratliff was in high school, she was involved in a car accident receiving multiple injuries.

During her recovery, she received a blood transfusion and later asked to speak for the Red Cross about the

importance of giving blood. She was the hometown spokeswoman for the Red Cross during that year.

She is the daughter of Robert and Diana Ratliff and had the opportunity to travel with her family.

"I have a lot of ideas from visiting these different areas and wanted to get some experience in this line of work," Ratliff said. "I'm committed to Main Street Portsmouth and hope that I can learn a lot more about our history here in Portsmouth that will in turn help me do a better job at assisting our director."

Goals for the Upcoming Year

- Develop a business friendly guide for start-ups, Invest in promotional activities for slow business times;
- Protect our past by promoting the Design Review Guidelines;
- Recognize the district's history with the Historic Plaque Program;
- Improve signage for district;
- Empower property owners through grant support;
- Encourage investment in downtown properties with an educational guide explaining tax credits, tax abatements and incentives.

Downtown Business Networking Breakfast

"Maximize Your Gross Profit by Focusing on Merchandise Placement"
 Thursday, Sept. 11 - Scioto County Welcome Center
 342 Second St., Portsmouth
 \$7 (includes breakfast by Haute Stuff)

Congratulations

*Zoe and Josh
 on the birth
 of twin sons
 Harrison and Owen
 born August 11, 2008*

OPEN HOUSE

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Sept. 10
 729 Sixth St.

Cookout in the alley! Visit our newly renovated Chabot Building
 Home of LIFE Ambulance, Main Street Portsmouth, Uniforms to the Rescue and Ohio Valley CASA

**For information on Main Street Portsmouth,
 Call (740) 464-0203
 Fax: (740) 354-6592
 or
 e-mail:
director@mainstreetportsmouth.org**

Mission Statement

Main Street Portsmouth works to provide services, incentives and collaborative opportunities to promote a healthy economic downtown while preserving our historic integrity.

*Main Street Portsmouth has a new Web site at
www.mainstreetportsmouthohio.org*

'Ribs on the River' a big success on July 4

Main Street Portsmouth's first annual "Ribs on the River" was a great success.

The July 4th event was sponsored by USEC and held in partnership with Life Ambulance and The American Red Cross.

The smell of ribs attracted many hungry people to Court Street to enjoy the dinners being prepared and served under the huge tent.

Life Ambulance employees prepared the 500 ribs

served to approximately 250 folks who braved the soggy weather. Additional food items were prepared by employees of Ye Olde Lantern.

Volunteers for the American Red Cross helped dish out the feast and also sold water, pop and popcorn to attendees of the patriotic concert provided in Tracy Park by the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra.



In the photo, Brenda Horr and her grandson, Mathew Richardson work at the popcorn machine at Ribfest.



Mindy Smith (with the broken arm) and the LIFE Ambulance team work at the grill cooking ribs.

The scheduled fireworks did not hit the sky until the next day, delayed by the wet weather, but plenty of exciting music was provided by Clyde Fenton and his band, Doc Roc.

The Life Ambulance train carried visitors to see the floodwall murals, and to the city garage to view the now-famous "Indian Head Rock" which was also being honored in York Park.

Hopes are high that the

2009 event will be even larger, and more fun with better cooperation from the weather. Great thanks are due USEC for their sponsorship as well as the media for their promotion of the event. More thanks go to those who volunteered their time and talents in cooking, serving and cleaning up.

We hope you will return next year – same time, same place!

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

2008 Membership Levels:

- Friend of MSP - - - \$35
- Family - - - \$55
- Student - - - \$20
- Business - 10 or fewer employees \$100
- Business - more than 10 employees \$200

Yes, I would love to Volunteer

Please make checks payable to:
Main Street Portsmouth

Mail to: Main Street Portsmouth
729 6th Street, P.O. Box 620
Portsmouth, OH 45662

Phone: (740) 464-0203 - Fax: (740) 354-6592
director@mainstreetportsmouth.org

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____