

The DPI Enterprise

Downtown Petersburg, Inc, a 501 (c)(3)



DPI Achieves Affiliate Status with the Main Street Program

Recently, Virginia Main Street, a program of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), announced that Downtown Petersburg, Inc. (DPI) while coordinating with the City of Petersburg has been accepted into this successful downtown revitalization program as a DHCD Commercial District Affiliate.

Virginia Main Street uses the National Main Street model for downtown revitalization, which is a comprehensive, incremental approach to build economic vitality using a community's unique heritage and attributes as the foundation. The program helps communities to develop their own strategies to encourage business development, building renovation, and pride

in their downtown area. As an Affiliate, DPI will have the opportunity to attend a variety of trainings throughout the year, access to downtown revitalization resources and materials, consultations regarding key issues, and can also benefit from being part of a larger network of downtowns dedicated to revitalization.

"We are thrilled to be a part of this nationally renowned program," said Denise Dahl, Executive Director of DPI. "The support we will receive from Virginia Main Street will have a positive impact on our downtown revitalization efforts."

The Virginia Main Street program, administered by DHCD, began in

1985. Since that time, the program and its designated communities have encouraged more than \$433 million in private investment, attracted more than 4,100 new businesses, and created more than 11,500 new jobs.

"Affiliate status is an important first step for a community interested in downtown revitalization," said Amy Yarcich, Virginia Main Street program manager. "We are pleased to have DPI and the City of Petersburg join the program and applaud their commitment to further their revitalization efforts and create improved economic opportunity downtown."

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DPI Activities & Events

DPI has been busy during its first four months as an 'official' organization. On January 1st there were no telephones and no computers and in a very short period we are up and running not only as an office but also as an organization. Main Street Affiliate status has been achieved, R/UDAT has visited and made recommendations and continues to move forward, the Work Places & Living Spaces event took place (donating \$1,000 of its proceeds to Rebuilding Together), Halifax Jazz & Blues Festival is upcoming as are many more promising collaborations throughout the rest of the year involving initiatives and efforts.

Upcoming May Seminars:

- Petersburg Historic Tax Incentive & Grant Seminar, May 5, 2007

Recent DPI/Chamber Seminars

DPI and the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce held four business seminars beginning in January 2007. These seminars are lunch time events and cover numerous topics beneficial to our area businesses.

DPI wishes to thank the Chamber staff for their efforts in facilitating the business series.

Special DPI Thanks To:

Mr. Howard Brown for Chairing a DPI fundraiser along with Mr. Dave Cislack.

Kimberly Ann Calos for Chairing Work Places & Living Spaces

Work Places & Living Spaces

Recently, April 13 and 14, Downtown Petersburg, Inc. (DPI) held the Work Places & Living Spaces tour. The tour was successful on numerous fronts. First it showcased the downtown Petersburg area, by demonstrating both vision and opportunity through investment within our area. Secondly, it provided an opportunity for two non-profits to work together.

DPI, acting as the facilitator is fortunate enough to have in-

vested funding in an event that in turn not only benefits downtown through exposure but DPI and Rebuilding Together *Petersburg (RT*P) through collaboration.

DPI is donating \$1,000 of the event proceeds to RT*P in the spirit of addressing community issues in order to create a stronger city both inside and outside of our downtown service area.

DPI Board member, Joe Tedesco shared, "Although DPI had been at the forefront of promoting citizen oriented programs, DPI realizes that the future success of the Downtown will be through creative partnering and sharing of resources."

DPI plans to continue to build upon all our area assets and seek out additional organizations to partner with and collaborate.

Halifax Jazz & Blues Festival, May 12 & 13

On May 12 & 13 the First Annual Halifax Jazz & Blues Festival is expected to bring thousands of visitors to Petersburg's Downtown and its Historic Halifax Triangle area.

The purpose of the event is to celebrate the jazz & blues musical heritage of the Halifax Triangle and to energize the revitalization of our Downtown community. The Festival will feature the following acts:

Saturday, May 12

11:00am—12:00noon –Rosshan Monroe
 12:30pm—1:30pm—Community Karaoke Contest
 2:00pm—3:00pm—A touch of Charm
 3:30pm—4:15pm—Dale Traylor
 4:30 pm—5:15pm- Appom. Reg. Gov's. School Ensemble
 5:30pm—7:30pm –James "Saxsmo" Gates

Saturday (continued)

8:00pm—10:00pm -Deborah Coleman

Sunday, May 13

2:00pm—3:00pm—Jim Adkins
 3:30pm—4:30 pm—Milton Johnson
 5:00pm—6:00pm—Flo King Jazz Ensemble

DPI Fundraiser At Java Mio

On Friday, May 18th DPI is hosting an evening of fine wine, cigars and live jazz. Tickets for the fundraiser are \$50 per person and are limited. The event will begin at 7pm and include two wines paired with two cigars along with heavy hors d' oeuvres. A wine expert and cigar expert will also be on site along with T. Turner and Co.

Thank you to Howard Brown for Chairing the event and Dave Cislak for all his coordination efforts. Both Mr. Brown's and Mr. Cislak's contribution are greatly appreciated!