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(Community Development Director)

Significant Historic Building Conservation Program Underway

Batavia, IL – Batavia has launched a new program aimed at aggressively preserving historically significant properties in the downtown. The program is designed to assist the owners of historically significant properties with the necessary maintenance of their buildings to ensure their longevity. City staff will initiate the program by documenting the condition of all significant downtown historic buildings, informing the owners of any code violations that exist, and to seek correction of those violations before they become too bad to be economically repaired. Applicable property owners should expect to receive a letter from the City outlining the process and making them aware to their historically significant status.

As part of this new program, the City will begin conducting exterior inspections of the historic buildings to note any improvements that property owners need to make to maintain the stability and integrity of their buildings. Following the exterior inspection of the buildings the City is offering to retain the services of an architect experienced in historic preservation to assist individual property owners in determining the most cost effective way to stabilize their buildings and to correct code deficiencies. This service will be at no cost to owners if they agree to move forward with the corrections.

For property owners who demonstrate that they are unable to make the necessary repairs due to financial constraints, the City is offering to design a financial assistance package, which may consist of grants, forgivable loans, ordinary loans or some combination of these tools to be approved by the City Council. If a building owner fails to take action to correct the identified code deficiencies, the city will use its Administrative Adjudication hearing process to insure that the work is done.

Additional information can be found on the city's website, www.cityofbatavia.net or by contacting Jerry Swanson, Community Development Director, at 630.454.2700 or jswanson@cityofbatavia.org. For the most current news, job postings and developments; sign up for Batavia E-News through the city's website, www.cityofbatavia.net.

ABOUT THE AACVB:

The Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau serves as the tourism marketing and management organization for Aurora, Batavia, Hinckley, North Aurora, Montgomery, Plano, Sugar Grove and Yorkville. This not-for-profit organization provides numerous travel resources to visitors via the Web site at www.enjoyaurora.com and a toll-free number 1-800-477-4369