



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD INC. ANNOUNCES
12th ANNUAL UPPER STORY TOUR – May 5
FIRST PIED PIPER TOUR – May 4

Downtown Springfield, Inc. announces the 12th Annual Upper Story Tour, Thursday, May 5, 2011 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. continuing the tradition of taking the public behind “the velvet rope” to view unique historical, residential and commercial spaces often not otherwise accessible. The Upper Story Tour invites attendees to take time to look up and think beyond the ground floors passed every day on the sidewalk. It is sometimes easy to overlook Springfield’s upper stories. Following the tour a reception will be held 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. upstairs at Floyd’s Thirst Parlor (210 S. 5th Street). Ticket includes a complimentary beverage and appetizers (while they last) provided by several downtown restaurants.

Tour sites include: **201 East Adams (west of the Sangamo Club)** - The century-old “Adams Place” is being renovated for upper-level apartments and lower-level office space. The first six of 13 apartments is scheduled to open summer 2011. **401 East Adams (4th and Adams)** – The former Windsor Hotel, which dates back to 1875, has just completed a ground-floor rehabilitation that took advantage of the federal historic tax credits. The upper levels of the building still remain as they were when this was a thriving hotel in the 19th and early 20th centuries. **401 Capitol Avenue (4th and Capitol)** – Two additional floors have just been added above the Illinois Community College System Foundation. The community college staff occupies the basement and the first 3 floors, including one of the new floors. The modern, well-maintained building has all or part of the new fourth floor for lease. This floor offers outstanding views of the Illinois State Capitol.

Sangamon County Community Foundation (205 South Fifth Street, Suite 930) - SCCF is located in the U.S. Bank Building, at the southwest corner of Fifth Street and Adams Street. Since 1924 the Sangamon County Foundation has been a leader in our philanthropic community. It is proud to share its recently remodeled offices on the 9th floor. **206 South Sixth Street (IARF Building)** – This building, built for Tobin Jewelers in the 1920s, is occupied by FIRM Inc. and Café Andiamo. With a Gothic Revival façade of white glazed terra cotta, this three story building was renovated to provide unique meeting and office space.

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center (701 East Adams) - Opened in 1986 as the Renaissance Hotel and designed by the prominent Chicago firm of Nagle Hartray, the hotel is proud to unveil its extensive remodeling of over 230 guestrooms and the main lobby, which features a colorful palate of rich patterns and textures. **The Pinnacle Club, 30th Floor of the Hilton Springfield (700 East Adams)** - Originally named the Forum 30 Hotel at its completion in 1972, the Hilton Springfield now boasts an extensive remodeling of the 30th floor and the opening of the Pinnacle Club. Unlike any event venue in Springfield, the Pinnacle Club offers 2,750 square feet of space on the hotel's rooftop, with a backdrop of stunning vistas from the floor to ceiling windows.

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Advance tickets may be purchased online at www.downtownspringfield.org or at the DSI Office. Advance ticket cost is \$8 for DSI members and \$10 for non-members; tickets are also available at the door at all tour locations for \$13 for DSI members and \$15 for non-members.

As in past years, the tour is scheduled during National Historic Preservation Month sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The tour gives Springfield residents the opportunity to see first hand the progress being made in Springfield's historic downtown district and beyond.

Another event that celebrates National Historic Preservation Month is the Pied Piper Downtown Architectural Walking Tour, beginning Wednesday, May 4 at 5:30 pm. Join Anthony Rubano of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency as he discusses the architectural styles, materials, and treatments that make up historic downtown Springfield. He will also talk about design successes and areas for improvement along the way. The May tour will meet at the Lincoln Herndon Law Office and travel around the Old State Capitol Square and end with a reception at a new downtown restaurant, Gian Franco, 518 East Adams (Old State Capitol Plaza South). Additional tour dates are Wednesday, June 1; Wednesday, July 6; Wednesday, August 3; Wednesday, September 7; and Wednesday, October 5, 2011. Pied Piper tours are free, open to the public and last about 1 ½ hours. All tours begin in front of the Lincoln-Herndon Law Office except for the July tour which begins at the Lincoln statue at 2nd and Capitol. For more information, please call the DSI office at 544-1723 or visit www.downtownspringfield.org or www.downtownrediscover.com.

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