

MacArthur Boulevard Business Association First Annual Neighborhood Mixer - Speaker Bios

Cory Jobe, Chairman MBBA and Peoples Economic Development Corporation

Cory Jobe has extensive experience in working with local governments and other agencies to promote and finance local development projects. As Director of Economic Development for the Illinois State Treasurer, Jobe was responsible for creating and instituting a variety of new programs to promote and support economic revitalization in communities throughout Illinois. Jobe has worked closely with community leaders in developing project ideas and is considered an expert in the field of community financing. After eleven years in state government, Jobe joined Peoples National Bank as head of Business Development for the Central Illinois market. Cory was recently appointed to a position with Peoples Economic Development Corporation where he focuses on government relations and community development. In addition, Jobe has volunteered his time to help his community as President of the MacArthur Boulevard Business Association and as a member of the Business Retention Committee for Downtown Springfield, Inc.

Michelle Higginbotham, Vice Chair MBBA and Coldwell Banker Commercial Devonshire Realty

Michelle Higginbotham is a commercial realtor with Coldwell Banker Commercial. She is interested in revitalizing MacArthur Boulevard from a real estate perspective, and also because she and her husband, Todd, live on South Walnut Ave. She has a daughter who attends Southeast High School and three stepchildren, two at SHG and one at SIU-Edwardsville. Michelle is in her second year serving as vice-chair of the MBBA.

Nancy Long, President, Springfield Area Realtors Association & Real Estate Group

Nancy is a life long resident of the Logan/Sangamon county area. She has made the practice of Real Estate her career since 1986. Nancy focuses on residential sales, both new and re-sale homes in and around the Springfield/Sangamon county area. She is certified and experienced in assisting both buyers and sellers with relocation services. Nancy holds a Brokers license along with the QSC (quality service certified), ABR (accredited buyers representative), CRS (certified residential specialist, & GRI (graduate realtors institute) designations. Nancy is a Broker Associate at The Real Estate Group & is the current President of the Capital Area Association of Realtors.

Matt Heyen, Transportation Manager, Hanson Engineers

Mr. Heyen graduated in 2000 from MacMurray College with degrees in physics and mathematics and in 2001 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a degree in agricultural engineering, specializing in soil and water engineering. He is currently a Transportation Engineer with Hanson Professional Services Inc. in Springfield, IL and has been with Hanson for 8 years. Mr. Heyen has worked on project such as the I-74 Reconstruction in Downtown Peoria, the I-294/I-80 Reconstruction for the Illinois Toll Highway Authority, MacArthur Extension and Capitol Avenue Reconstruction.

Jen Dillman, Sangamon County Board

Jen Dillman is an active member of our community who is working hard to represent the concerns of our district. Jen is the mother of two children Carmen 5 and Connor 3 are active members of Blessed Sacrament Church and live in the Washington Park area. Jen was selected as a recipient of the 2007 "Forty Under 40" Award and is a member of the MacArthur Boulevard Business Association, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and a 4-H Alumni. She is also on the Advisory Board for Springfieldmoms.org website. After graduating with a degree in Political Science

from the University of Illinois at Springfield, she went on to work in state government and to work for Congressman Shimkus' District Office for four years. When she is not busy chasing her two little ones around, she also works part-time as Finance Director for Volunteers for Shimkus. As a member of the Sangamon County Board, Jen has served on the Courts Services Committee, Public Health, Safety & Zoning, Election Oversight, and Solid Waste Management Planning Committees. She is also a member of the Sangamo Scripts Committee which provides prescription drug assistance to residents of Sangamon County. Jen is working along side our city, state, and federal officials to encourage the redevelopment of the MacArthur Boulevard while preserving the beauty of our neighborhoods. On the county board, she will fight to hold the line on our taxes while doing more with less.

Norm Sims, Executive Director,

Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

Norm Sims has over 30 years of senior administrative experience in public agency policy, planning and administration, with more than half of his career involving state and local economic and community development. He served in the Cabinet of Illinois Governor Jim Edgar as Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs; held a senior executive position with a national public policy organization, the Council of State Governments; served two mayors as Director of Planning and Economic Development for the City of Springfield, Illinois; and served as Executive Director of a state-wide economic development organization, the Illinois Tax Increment Association. He currently serves as Executive Director of the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission.

Mark Mahoney, Springfield City Alderman, Ward 6

In 2003 Mark Mahoney was elected to the Springfield City Council, and he was re-elected in 2007. As a member of the council he serves on the Public Affairs Committee as well as the Finance Committee. He has served a year as chairman on both committees. Mark also served as the chairman of a special subcommittee dealing with waste management and has been appointed the chairman of a new council subcommittee to review infrastructure needs for the city. He has also served terms as a council representative on the Sangamon County Regional Planning & Zoning Commission and the Sangamon County Animal Control Advisory Committee. Mark is the Chief Clerk of the Illinois House of Representatives, elected to the post in 2004. Mark is married and has three children and resides in the Historic Hawthorne Place Neighborhood.

Debbie Cimarossa, Springfield City Alderman, Ward 7

Debbie is currently an Assistant Vice President, Human Resources Generalist and Compliance Officer for Horace Mann Insurance Company. In addition, she is serving her second year of a four year term as Alderman for Ward 7 on the Springfield City Council. She is Chair of the City's Finance Committee and a member of the City's Public Affairs Committee. Debbie holds a Master's Degree in Human Resources and a Bachelor's Degree in Management from the University of Illinois at Springfield; where she has also served as an adjunct faculty member in the College of Business and Management since 1995. Prior to being elected Alderman, Debbie served as an elected member of the Sangamon County Board for 14 years, appointed to such committees as Court Services Committee, where she served as Chair, the Jail and Emergency Management Office Committee and Employee Services committee. In addition, she has served as a member of the Illinois State Comptroller's Merit Commission since 2001.