

In July of 1993, at a Visioning Meeting sponsored by the Urban Districts Alliance, 22 merchants, residents and property owners gathered to set goals and redefine CC's mission which states: To encourage historical appreciation while providing unique opportunities for housing, shopping, arts & entertainment to surrounding neighborhoods, the city and visitors in an old-fashioned, restored, turn-of-the-century railroad community.

In 1995, plans for the entire northside streetscape were completed and followed by the completion of corner treatments at Benton, Campbell and at Jefferson. The last remaining intersection is at the head of Boonville, which will be completed this year or early next year, depending on the weather.

Also in 1995, Commercial Club worked closely with Bob Turner of the Public Works department on an ISTEA request which is funding from the State Highway Department from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. The project submitted was the renovation of the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge. Happily, even though this was the second request from this area, the project was funded initially at around \$180,000 with about \$60,000 coming from the City of Springfield. Since then, the state has offered additional funding to total \$240,000 with an additional \$110,000 coming from the city to total \$350,000. Advertising for bids should happen any day now with construction to begin in the Spring. In conjunction with the Footbridge renovation, CC is selling **(2)** memorial pavers to be installed in what we call the Footbridge Plaza Area which is a public use area surrounding the south end of the Footbridge for \$30 or \$100 for a paver with your logo on it.

CC's annual events include the upcoming visit of BNSF's Santa Clause Express to the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge on the Sunday before Christmas. In the spring, our annual two-day event, the **(3)** Frisco Days History Festival, is the third weekend each April. This year's event, our 6th annual, brought over 15,000 guests. In the Fall, our 5th annual **(4)** Uptown Loftwalk and Bohemian Ball is on Labor Day weekend. This event features the residential character of our mixed-use, Center City district. Also the sculptures in our second annual **(5)** Open Air Sculpture Gallery are installed for your viewing pleasure. These sculptures are for sale with a percentage going to the Club for arts-related projects.

Commercial Club is the UDA representative for the historic district, one of 4 Urban Districts that includes Walnut Street, Downtown and Government Plaza.

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite each and every one of you to visit our district, support our events and join our organization. Dues are \$40 a year. Meetings at 5:30 pm the first Tuesday of each month and you will receive your very own copy of **(6)** our bi-monthly newsletter "The Uptown Gazette" to keep you up to date on what's up Uptown. It won't be long before Uptown becomes one of your favorite places to shop, live, work and play!