



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



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Week of June 26, 2006

Making Dreams Come True

JEFFERSON CITY — Many Missourians have expressed an interest in bringing back the downtowns of yesteryear. Governor Matt Blunt recently introduced the Downtown Revitalization Economic Assistance for Missouri (DREAM) Initiative to further these efforts in the Show-Me State.

Under the plan, the Missouri Department of Economic Development, the Missouri Development Finance Board and the Missouri Housing Development Commission will work together to create a comprehensive and collaborative approach to downtown revitalization. DREAM communities will first work with the finance board to develop a plan for downtown revitalization and will then have enhanced access to professional services and programs available through the partner agencies. The available programs can help address a multitude of community needs, including infrastructure improvements, historic preservation, affordable housing, community services, business development and job creation.

Six to 10 Missouri communities will be selected through an application process and then designated DREAM communities. They will remain DREAM communities for three years.

The DREAM Initiative is targeted at breaking down the barriers to redevelopment and revitalization for Missouri's downtown communities. It will save taxpayer dollars at the state and local levels by offering a more efficient use of Missouri's tools for redevelopment, responsibly using resources and eliminating red tape for communities. With the program, the chosen Missouri communities will get a second chance to re-establish downtown properties, increase property tax values and sales tax opportunities and pump new blood into the heart of their area.

I encourage communities in the 32nd District to apply for this important program. For more information on the DREAM Initiative or to download an application and program guidelines, visit www.dream.mo.gov. Applications are due by 5 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2006, to DREAM Initiative Applications, P.O. Box 118, 301 W. High Street, Room 680, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

*Senator Gary Nodler represents the people of Newton, Jasper
and Dade counties in the Missouri Senate*