

# Renaissance A.L.I.V.E. in Liberty

The award winning Renaissance group known as A.L.I.V.E. (Assembly for Liberty's Investment in Visual Enhancement) is once again beating with renewed energy as the group plans its 2002 project. Last year the group was awarded a \$10,000.00 grant for their work in revitalizing and rebuilding LaPolt Park on Liberty's Main Street.

The goal of this year's ALIVE project is to engage the community in the revival of Liberty's Main Street. This cooperative venture between community, merchants and building owners will help reposition the image and the reality of Main Street.

The project will operate on several fronts including facade renovations, plantings, and a long term historical project.

The facade portion of the project will focus on working with building owners and shopkeepers to improve the quality of the storefronts on Main Street.

The goal will be to uncover the historic fabric of the facades wherever possible and otherwise upgrade them. This portion of the project will include facade treatment, color, signage, lighting and display windows. This effort will include both sides of Main Street between Lake Street and St. Pauls Place. The group will first survey and document the streetscape in order to understand the existing conditions. Candidates for the facade work will be determined based on the state of the facade, the presence of retail at this stage and the cooperation of the building owners and merchants. ALIVE is sponsoring a community design workshop conducted by a group of local designers and activists with the support of some visiting

design professionals to establish the palette of materials and treatments that will be used in the facade revival. Many merchants and building owners have already been contacted and have agreed to participate.

The planting part of this years project will include the continued enhancement of LaPolt Park, the addition of planter boxes and flowers on select buildings and ongoing maintenance of all horticultural concerns on Main Street.

The historic portion will be the beginning of an ongoing project which is designed to identify by text and photographs the important historic significance



Photo by Otto Hillig The Liberty Business Men's Assoc. 1917

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of Liberty's Downtown. This endeavor will be lead by Liberty resident Alan Berube.

We are looking for all Liberty residents and organizations to get involved in this significant project. The A.L.I.V.E. Group meets every 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00

at the Parks and Rec building at LaPolt Park on Main Street. If you wish to get involved please contact Frank and Rita DeMayo at 292-2862 or, Alan Berube for the historic part at 292-9742. If you don't have the opportunity to call then just come on down to Main Street on any Saturday beginning May 11th and join us for the work portion of the project. It's lots of fun and the rewards will be well worth your effort.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you all for your anticipated participation.

by Frank Demayo

*The arch if the roots is by your boots.*