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# News Release

## Historical Walk-Abouts 2007

For Immediate Release:

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### Commercial Renovation Tour on Saturday, May 19 Kicks Off 2007 Historical Walk-About Season

Rockford, IL -- 2007 marks the sixth year of the Historical Walk-Abouts program presented by River District Association. The first walk-about is a self-guided tour of inside spaces used for commercial purposes and is called, "Commercial Renovation Tour". Historical Walk-Abouts are sponsored by WTVO and WQRF FOX39.

Historical Walk-Abouts:

- bring people downtown
- educate participants about the history of the community
- Help foster an appreciation for the city's historic buildings and resources
- showcase downtown businesses
- promote River District residential opportunities
- serve as a forum for public discussion on redevelopment issues

This year's schedule will include three FREE tours and two ADMISSION CHARGED tours.

**May 19, Commercial Renovation Tour: 11 am – 4 pm; \$12 advance, \$15 at door.** Take a self-guided tour of 10 different commercial buildings and homes that have been renovated to accommodate commercial uses such as graphic design, advertising, architectural, museum, and service business offices. There are also unfinished and ready to move into spaces on the site list. Start your self-guided tour and purchase tickets the day of the event at Trekk, 134 N. Main St. or Gary W. Anderson Architects, 333 E. State St. (rear entrance, Spafford Building). Walk or drive to each tour site. Additional sites on the tour include:

- 1001 E. Jefferson St., Belles Firm of Architecture
- 907 E. State St., ginestrawatson agency
- 510 E. State St., MedicineMan, Inc. (enter through Digits)
- 122 N. Second St., Norstar Heating & Cooling
- 220 E. State St., East Side Center
- 737 N. Main St., Burpee Museum Barnes Mansion
- 504 N. Church St., SaavedraGehlhausen Architects
- 301 S. Main St., Former Hanley Furniture Building

#### **FREE Historical Walk-Abouts Series:**

Walk around some of River District's residential neighborhoods with a volunteer tour guide for a couple of hours on a Saturday morning and enjoy the outdoors, hear about the history of the area, and see some really beautiful architecture of homes, churches, and even a few commercial buildings. **June 16** is the

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Prairie Hill Neighborhood Tour (FREE, meet at St. James Church auxiliary parking lot, corner of N. First St. and Prairie St., 10 am), **July 21** is the Haight Village Tour (FREE, meet at Ingersoll Centennial Park, corner of S. Madison St. and Oak St., 10 am), **August 18** is Indian Terrace and Beattie Park Tour (FREE, meet at Beattie Park Informational Circle, corner of N. Main St., and Park Ave. 10 am),

**September 8, Urban Living Tour: 11 am – 4 pm; \$12 adv, \$15 at door.** Take a self-guided tour of several residential spaces that include modern and historical buildings. Walk or drive to each site. At this time start locations, a full site list, and pre-event ticket sales locations are tba. Closer to the event date call the River District office or visit the calendar of events page on the River District website for the updated list.

Advance tickets will be on sale in the River District office and some downtown businesses to be announced. River District accepts cash, check, VISA or MasterCard for payment.

The mission of River District Association is to promote a growing, thriving, prosperous business and residential community in Rockford's downtown neighborhood, River District.

**River District Association would like to recognize and thank its 2006 Primary Sponsor Partner: WTVO CH 17 and WQRF FOX39; and 2006 Sponsor Partners: AMCORE Bank, LaMonica Beverages, Hayes Beer Distributing, and Morrissey Law Offices.**

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