the district
new london historic waterfront

Board Member Profile
Don Gibson

Don Gibson was elected Board President on July 1, 2009 after serving a three-year term on the Board as Secretary. Don became involved with Main Street shortly after he moved to this area with his family in 2003 to work for Pfizer in New London.

When his wife, Joanne, started work as Main Street's Volunteer Coordinator in 2005, and shared stories about exciting happenings in New London, Don decided he wanted to get involved. He started by helping at events and before long, he joined the Board. Don says, "life changed after that - the time commitment has been extensive, but the rewards have been priceless". Don has enjoyed the past three years as Board Secretary. With his experience as Director/Project Manager at Pfizer, this role has been a good fit for him (minutes - ugh!). During this time, Don has been involved in setting up a Board Retreat, revising Main Street's mission and vision statements and participating in creation of the 2008-2011 Strategic Plan, helping to provide a clear direction for the organization.

One of Don's personal goals when joining the organization was to ensure that Main Street aligns with other organizations in the community who are working toward the same goals and outcomes. As President, he will continue to make this a priority. Don is in awe of the many terrific Main Street volunteers who give selflessly of their time - without them, this organization would not exist. He enjoys the local history, cultural diversity, diverse mix of restaurants, the art community and the music scene. Don also takes great pleasure in introducing Pfizer colleagues to all The District has to offer.

Don says, "I would like to see our organization be better understood for the significant role it plays in New London's revitalization. I personally feel rewarded for all we have accomplished". He adds, "I see the future of New London as a major transportation center and a destination for dining, arts and entertainment".

Don's favorite events are *Fish Tales, Tugs & Sails* and *Celebration of Lights & Song*, where the looks on children's faces say it all. He also enjoys the food strolls. After treating his two teenage sons to the spring stroll, they actually said they were full after making their way to virtually every restaurant! His older son enjoyed the experience so much he turned to his father and said, "This was great! I don't understand why New London gets such a bad rap". You can say that again!

Don and Joanne live in East Lyme with their three children, all of whom volunteer for Main Street.