the district
new london historic waterfront

Board Member Profile
Frank McLaughlin

As Frank McLaughlin nears the end of his one-year term as Main Street's Board President, he reflects on his involvement with the organization. Frank joined New London Main Street about five years ago after he attended the Valentine Party at Union Station. When he met CEO Penny Parsekian, he was impressed with her enthusiasm, dedication, and her knowledge of what was going on downtown. At the time, Frank was looking for a way to utilize his experience and skills to become involved in New London in a meaningful way. This seemed like a good fit. Some of the projects Frank has worked on that are near and dear to his heart are the light pole banner project, for which he's handled sales, the development of the downtown property database and the ongoing development and enhancement of Main Street's website. He's enjoyed leading the Board and will continue to be an active member, as Immediate Past President. Frank attends almost all of the Main Street events, and we can always count on him for his help and enthusiasm.

Frank says that it's been rewarding to become more involved with City Government and to help make the city council more aware of the contributions Main Street makes. "Today the City funds 25% of our program and makes additional funding available (like the $125,000+ funding for district gateways)." When asked what he's gotten out of his experience as Board President, Frank's first reaction was "high blood pressure!" He then added, "…seeing various city organizations communicating with each other and starting to share *the vision*."

Frank's passion is evident when he states, "We need to continue with baby steps towards the ultimate goal of having a vibrant city filled with businesses, retail and service shops, and residents. It takes patience, planning and persistence. There is no silver bullet or single thing that will bring this about."

For Frank, Main Street is a family affair. Lynda, Frank's wife and partner of 42 years, has provided constant inspiration, support and guidance. Lynda attends almost all of the events with Frank and has volunteered for Main Street on numerous occasions. Frank's son and business partner, Brendan, has also been willing to help out with Main Street activities. Frank recently recruited his daughter Stephanie, a graduate accountant, to take on the bookkeeping responsibilities at Main Street; "hopefully she will be there long after I'm gone," says Frank.