

HEDC Names New Executive Director

HARVARD, IL — The **Harvard Economic Development Corporation (HEDC)** has named **Terry Smith** as its new Executive Director.

Smith brings more than 35 years of planning and administration experience to the part-time position. He served as City Administrator for the cities of Columbus, WI (2003 - 2007), Marengo, IL (1999 - 2001) and Oakbrook Terrace, IL (1997 - 1999). He also served as Community Development Director for the city of West Chicago from 1990 to 1997, where he supervised the Planning and Zoning, Building and Economic Development departments.

Smith began his public service career in southern Illinois, first as Deputy Director for the Madison County Employment and Training Department and then as Planning Director for the city of Edwardsville. He holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees in City and Regional Planning from Southern Illinois University.

Smith fills the vacancy created by the retirement of former Executive Director **Ralph Henning** last month. He joins the privately funded organization at an important time. The HEDC recently approved its *2008 - 2011 Strategic Plan*, which includes business attraction programs that are designed to maintain the momentum created over the first seven years of the organization's existence.

"Harvard has managed to hold its own quite well, despite the economy," noted **HEDC Chairman Roger Lehmann**. "Our community is poised for retail, industrial and economic growth and Terry will help us capitalize on the opportunities that are coming our way."

Smith left retirement to take the position. "Harvard has an expanding industrial park, the beginnings of strong retail growth and a workforce that is well trained and ready," he said. "The HEDC's Board of Directors has worked very hard to put all of the pieces in place. Now it is time to build on that foundation."

Smith will be on hand on November 21, as the **Harvard Mayor Jay Nolan** 'cuts the ribbon' on the city's recently completed \$2.4 million streetscape project and flips the switch on downtown Harvard's greatly expanded holiday lighting program. That event will begin at 4:30 p.m.

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For Further Information, Contact

Roger Lehmann, HEDC Chairman
The Harvard State Bank
(815) 943-4407

Terry Smith
HEDC
(815) 943-1036

Lori Martinek, Media Relations
for Harvard EDC
(815) 333-4088