

News Release

Media Contact:

Michael or Penni Steen, Owners
563.570.3731
or Mary Chappell, Land & Development Programs Coordinator
City of Rock Island
309.732.2920



Skellington Manor Banquet & Event Center Opens

- What:** Owners of Skellington Manor Banquet & Event Center have scheduled a Ribbon Cutting and Open House Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 1 to 5 p.m. The event will be catered by Bridges Catering, the official cater for the center.
- Where:** 420 18th Street, Rock Island.
- Ceremony:** **The media is invited to attend a Ribbon Cutting and Open House at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 2, 2009.** Mayor Mark Schwiebert will be on hand to do the honors.
- Background:** Michael and Penni Steen purchased the former Masonic Temple building in January 2009. They plan is to remodel the 27,000 sq. ft. structure into a full service meeting and event facility. In addition, the owners plan to use a portion of the building to hold their "Terror at Skellington Manor" formerly known as "Terror in the Woods" haunted house attraction. The Steens started this event in 1993 and have built a very large and loyal following.
- Project Info:** In February of this year, the Steens applied for a \$70,220 loan through the City of Rock Island's Commercial/Industrial Revolving Loan Fund (CIRLF) program to support \$225,220 in building improvements. The CIRLF loan was granted at 4% for a term of 10 years. Modern Woodmen Bank supported the project with a loan for \$140,000. The Steens will also receive a \$15,000 Façade Improvement Grant for exterior improvements completed as a part of the renovation work.
- Due to the age and proposed use of the building, the Steens are faced with making repairs and improvements that will not only accommodate their new business but also bring the building into compliance with local building codes. Improvements made to date include the installation of a new sprinkler system, accessibility renovations to the restrooms and egress, painting, lighting, floor coverings, and new doors. The entire first level been completed renovated in a 1930's-40's theme, and the kitchen brought up to compliance for catering. The center is applying for a liquor license. The City of Rock Island is excited about the Steen project and appreciates their investment into the former 95 year old temple building.
- Contact:** For more information call Skellington Manor Banquet & Event Center at 563.344.9187 or visit www.skellingtonmanor.com.