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CONTACT: Megan Pester
Secretary, Board of Directors
director.mstrenton@gmail.com

MAIN STREET TRENTON RECEIVES DESIGNATION AS A 2026 MAIN STREET AMERICA AFFILIATE PROGRAM

This national designation recognizes Trenton's strong commitment to community-based revitalization and positive local impact

Trenton, Missouri (July 1, 2026) – Main Street Trenton has been designated as a 2026 Affiliate Main Street America program for meeting high performance standards. Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the roster of designated programs in recognition of their commitment to creating meaningful improvements in their downtowns through preservation-based economic development and community revitalization using the Main Street Approach™.

“We are proud to recognize Main Street Trenton as a 2026 Affiliate Main Street America program for your unwavering commitment to grassroots transformation and the extraordinary abilities of your staff, board of directors, and volunteers to respond to the needs of their community,” said Erin Barnes, President and CEO at Main Street America. “Main Street Trenton demonstrates a dedication to investing in the people and places that make your downtown district special and contribute to the collective power of the Main Street movement to build vibrant spaces and durable economies.”

Main Street Trenton is one of 453 nationally recognized Affiliate Main Street America organizations and is a part of a network of over 1,600 communities leading positive commercial district transformation efforts throughout the United States.

Main Street America recognizes two tiers of national designation — Accredited and Affiliate. These designations are a powerful tool, signaling to community members, civic leaders, decision makers, funders, and others that the Main Street program holds an established position within a nationwide movement with a 45-year proven track record of generating impressive economic returns, fostering welcoming and inviting communities, and creating lasting impact.

Main Street Trenton's performance was evaluated through assessments conducted by the organization's personnel and board of directors, and Missouri Main Street Connection, which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify local programs that meet rigorous national community evaluation standards.

These standards provide the Main Street America network with a strong framework for reviewing progress, recognizing strengths, understanding trends, and identifying strategies to move Main Street programs forward.

To qualify for Affiliate status—Main Street America's second designation tier—communities must demonstrate a strong commitment to the Main Street model and dedication to achieving

outcomes in six areas: broad-based community commitment to revitalization; inclusive leadership and organizational capacity; diversified funding and sustainable program operations; strategy-driven programming; preservation-based economic development; and demonstrated impact and results.

In 2025, Main Street America programs generated \$9.4 billion in local reinvestment, welcomed 6,936 net new businesses, facilitated the creation of 36,549 net new jobs, rehabilitated 10,623 historic buildings, and leveraged 1.8 million volunteer hours. On average, for every dollar a Main Street program spent on operations, \$23.13 was reinvested in its downtown district.

“Receiving this designation is an exciting milestone for Main Street Trenton and our community,” Megan Taul, Board President, shared. “This recognition reflects the dedication of our volunteers, board members, business owners, and community partners who believe in the future of downtown Trenton. We are proud of the progress we’ve made and look forward to building on this momentum to create an even more vibrant and welcoming downtown for residents, businesses, and visitors.”

Over the past year, Main Street Trenton saw continued growth in community engagement and downtown activity. Through events such as the Farmer’s Market, Wine & Beer Walk, and seasonal promotions, the goal was to help drive traffic to local businesses and showcase downtown as a destination. Volunteer-led beautification projects and collaborative partnerships strengthened the appearance and vitality of the district, while strategic planning efforts focused on building a thriving downtown. These achievements demonstrate the positive impact of community-driven revitalization and the shared vision for downtown Trenton’s future.

ABOUT MAIN STREET TRENTON

Main Street Trenton is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving the historic charm of Downtown Trenton. We aspire to strengthen the thriving and vibrant downtown core through social, economic and cultural revitalization. For more information, visit www.mainstreettrentonmo.org.

ABOUT MAIN STREET AMERICA

Main Street America leads a movement committed to strengthening communities through preservation-based economic development in older and historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. For more than 40 years, Main Street America has provided a practical, adaptable, and impactful framework for community-driven, comprehensive revitalization through the Main Street Approach™. Today, the network includes more than 1,600 communities across the country working to build stronger places through preservation-based economic development. Since 1980, the Main Street movement has resulted in \$124.67 billion reinvested locally, 188,583 net new businesses, 852,443 net gain in jobs, 356,424 buildings rehabbed, and 41 million volunteer hours. Main Street America is a nonprofit subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit mainstreet.org.