



For Immediate Release

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MILAN MAIN STREET RECEIVES 2018 NATIONAL MAIN STREET ACCREDITATION

Milan, Michigan (May 18, 2018) – Milan, Michigan has been designated as an accredited Main Street America™ program for meeting rigorous performance standards set by the National Main Street Center. Each year, the National Main Street Center and its Coordinating Program partners announce the list of accredited Main Street America programs in recognition of their exemplary commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach.

“We are thrilled to honor this year’s 829 nationally accredited Main Street America programs for their commitment to preservation-based economic development and the revitalization of their commercial districts,” says Patrice Frey, President & CEO of the National Main Street Center. “The power of Main Street shines across the country through these vibrant communities, who have all worked to generate impressive economic returns, preserve community character, and celebrate local history.”

In 2017 alone, Main Street America programs generated \$4.48 billion in local reinvestment, helped open 6,211 net new businesses, generated 30,294 net new jobs, catalyzed the rehabilitation of 8,737 historic buildings, and clocked 2.7 million volunteer hours.

The Milan Main Street performance is annually evaluated by Michigan Main Street, part of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) which works in partnership with the National Main Street Center to identify the local programs that meet ten national performance standards. Evaluation criteria determines the communities that are building comprehensive and sustainable revitalization efforts and include standards such as fostering strong public-private partnerships, documenting programmatic progress, and actively preserving historic buildings.

In 2017, Milan’s downtown leveraged \$452,025 of private investment and volunteers invested 3,132 hours of support. In addition, the community has presented several major events that boosted the economic vitality and image of the community including Let’s Chill Winter Fest, 3rd Thursdays, Bloom, and the Crooked Tree Play Festival. Several businesses have expanded or opened including Northern Chicks, The Hair Lounge, FitMod, The Owl, and Adventure, Ink Comic Books.

According to Milan Main Street director Jill Tewsley, a key to their success is community engagement and involvement.



“Community members want to be part of the transformation. They actively participate in strategic planning as well as event planning and execution,” said Tewsley. “It’s an invaluable investment which creates an undeniable connection to community and pride in place.”

The Milan Main Street program has gained national attention for their efforts. In April, Tewsley and Jade Smith, Milan’s City Administrator presented at the National Main Street conference in Kansas City about The MarketPlace, a long-term pop up market that Milan Main Street operated in 2016-17. They also spoke on panel entitled “Main Street and the Municipality: Working Together for Enhanced Economic Growth.”

Milan Main Street is a Select level community in Michigan Main Street, an official affiliate of The National Main Street Center (Main Street America), which is committed to creating high-quality places and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development.

Main Street America has been helping revitalize older and historic commercial districts for more than 35 years. Today, it is a network of more than 1,600 neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, who share both a commitment to place and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. Since 1980, communities participating in the program have leveraged more than \$74.73 billion in new public and private investment, generated 614,716 net new jobs and 138,303 net new businesses, and rehabilitated more than 276,790 buildings. Main Street America is a program of the nonprofit National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

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