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PRESS RELEASE

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To: Belton Star-Herald

contact:

Gayla Roten, State Director, Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc.

PO Box 1066, Branson, MO 65615; 417-334-3014; e-mail: info@momainstreet.org

Missouri Main Street Connection Inc. (MMSC) is pleased to announce that Downtown Belton Main Street Inc. has been selected in a competitive application process to participate in a new cost-sharing grant that provides training and technical services to local revitalization programs in historic commercial districts.

MMSC staff will conduct an initial consultation with the Downtown Belton group to evaluate the revitalization program and set up a schedule of services customized to address the local revitalization needs.

The Downtown Merchants Organization is expected to be a partner in the Main Street revitalization effort. Downtown Belton Main Street is also reaching out to youth and volunteer groups to involve them in the program and build its leadership capacity. Downtown Belton's major historic assets and foundation for future growth are the Belton Museum and Carrie Nation carriage house.

The grant period is for two years. During that time Downtown Belton Inc. will receive on-site training from MMSC that will develop the leadership skills necessary to conduct the revitalization efforts. Representatives of Downtown Belton also will attend regional revitalization workshops and conferences conducted by MMSC. The goal of the grant is to create a local organization that can develop a long-term, self-sustaining revitalization program.

The grant is a 40/60 match, requiring the community to contribute 40% of the cash value of the services, and MMSC to contribute 60% in services.

As a result of Belton's successful applications, the program is also designated as an Affiliate in the MMSC Tier Structure, which ranks revitalization progress on standards established by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Center. The Missouri Main Street Connection oversees the programs in Missouri and is currently working with over 70 communities, educating and training them in to conduct sustainable revitalization.

For more information about the MMSC Affiliate grant program, contact Gayla Roten at 417-334-3014 or info@momainstreet.org

Missouri Main Street Connection

PO Box 1066, Branson Missouri 65615 ☎ 417.334-3014 ✉ glroten@momainstreet.org 🌐 www.momainstreet.org