



# MISSOURI MAIN STREET CONNECTION

Our mission is to enhance the social, cultural and environmental well-being of historic downtown business districts located in Missouri's diverse cities and towns, through education using the Main Street Four-Point Approach® to Revitalization, as developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

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August 17, 2017

PRESS RELEASE

### **Rockaway Beach Receives Downtown Revitalization Grant from Missouri Main Street**

Contact: Gayla Roten, State Director, Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc.  
PO Box 1066, Branson, MO 65615; phone: 417-334-3014.

The White River Community Development, Inc., in Rockaway Beach, has been selected in a competitive application process to participate in a cost-sharing Affiliate Grant that provides training, mentoring, and technical services to revitalization programs in Missouri's historic commercial districts. The grant is provided by Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc. (MMSC)

MMSC staff will visit with Rockaway Beach's downtown community leaders to evaluate existing and future needs of the downtown, and then schedule a series of customized training and mentoring sessions equipping them to concentrate on their local revitalization goals. ***The goal of the grant*** is the development of a sustainable, volunteer-based organization that will carry out an economic development program based on the preservation of historic assets in the downtown, using the Main Street Four-Point Approach® to Revitalization.

With support from MMSC, the Rockaway Beach revitalization group anticipates:

- Utilizing the tourism industry in Taney County to bring visitors to Rockaway Beach.
- Developing the lakefront downtown district for entertainment and shopping.
- Gathering community input on the district in order to create a downtown all citizens are proud of.

During the next two years MMSC will provide Rockaway Beach with training and mentoring to establish a revitalization organization that will engage the entire community as a participant and beneficiary. The group also will attend regional revitalization workshops and conferences conducted by MMSC.

The Affiliate Grant is a 40/60 match, requiring the community to contribute 40% of the cash value of the services. The total value of the grant in training and mentoring services is \$24,000. Rockaway Beach also is now designated as an Affiliate in the Missouri Main Street Tier Structure which ranks progress on standards established by the *National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Center*. Throughout its history, MMSC has served over 178 Missouri communities.

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PO Box 1066, Branson Missouri 65615 • 417-334-3014 • [glroten@momainstreet.org](mailto:glroten@momainstreet.org) • [www.momainstreet.org](http://www.momainstreet.org)