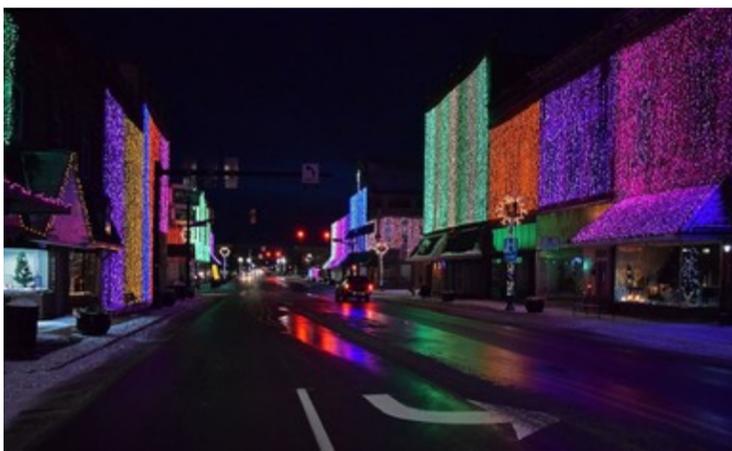




OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL AFFAIRS
MAIN STREET
Main Street Monthly
A monthly publication from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs

Happy holidays from OCRA!



As we celebrate this festive time of year, we also want to say thank you for all the hard work, dedication and passion you all have displayed this year. Just like the scene above in Elwood, enjoy making your downtown beautiful as you celebrate this holiday season. From all of us at OCRA, we wish you happy holidays and we will see you all next year!



Take advantage of the early bird rate for the 2019 Main Street Conference

Register for the 2019 Main Street Now Conference in Seattle, Washington, from March 25 - 27. Convened annually, the Main Street Now Conference showcases implementable best practices, time-tested solutions and innovative ideas from our national network of practitioners, as well as those in adjacent fields who share in the goal of creating economic and social prosperity in downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. With beautiful Seattle and its surrounding communities as our living laboratory, this year's conference will leave you feeling inspired and equipped with tools to help you in your work.

Registration is now open! We encourage you to take advantage of the early-bird and member rates.

Complete the Main Street Assessments before February

Important Dates

- Wednesday, Jan. 9 – Award Ceremony
- Monday, Jan. 14 – QulP Opens
- Wednesday, January 16 – QulP webinar
- Thursday, January 17 – CDBG Rd 2 Programs Award Announcement

[Click here to view our full calendar.](#)



2019 Community Exchanges are scheduled

The 2019 Indiana Main Street Community Exchanges have been finalized. Following are the dates and locations for the four Community Exchanges, each held on a Friday:

- April 12, in Corydon
- June 7, in Brookville
- Oct. 11, in Crawfordsville
- Dec. 6, in Pendleton

We are excited to host the inaugural Great Lakes Midwest Main Street Conference:

Sunday, August 18 through Tuesday, August 20, 2019 – South Bend

Grants for Preservation Education

Indiana Landmarks partners with Indiana Humanities to offer Historic Preservation

Don't forget! The 2018 Indiana Main Street Assessment and Return on Investment forms are available to complete. **The deadline for inputting data is February 1, 2019.** Both forms must be completed through the following links:

- Assessment: [Click here.](#)
- Return on Investment: [Click here.](#)

Also, a 2018 Assessment and ROI webinar is scheduled for January 16. Please contact [Mary Shaw](#) if you have any questions.

Small Business Saturday was a success!



From the main streets in towns like Galesburg, Illinois to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, there was strong support for local independent businesses on Small Business Saturday. Shoppers across the nation made a powerful statement with 88 million consumers "Shopping Small" on the day, up 14.9 percent from

just a year ago. This according to the results from the Small Business Saturday Consumer Insights Survey, released today by the [National Federation of Independent Business](#) (NFIB) and American Express.

[READ MORE](#)

Education Grants, up to \$2,500 for educational projects relating to historic places. Eligible projects include lectures, workshops, exhibits, digital productions, tourism programs, and educational publications. The Indiana Jewish Historical Society is using a grant to develop a web page noting the history and architecture of synagogues across the state, including the former B'nai Israel Synagogue in South Bend (above). Beginning in 2019, applications will be accepted twice a year: Feb. 28, 2019 (round 1) and Aug. 31, 2019 (round 2). For more information, visit [indianahumanities.org](#).



Be a part of a national network of Main Streets. Visit [mainstreet.org](#) or call 312-619-5611 to join Main Street America



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