

Grant to help downtown businesses

Main Street McMinnville awarded \$25K

By LISA HOBBS

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(McMinnville, Tenn.)

McMinnville is one of 10 Tennessee Main Street and downtown communities to be awarded a \$25,000 Community Development Block Grant Commercial Facade Program Grant.

"Main Street McMinnville is pleased to be awarded this much-needed grant," said Randy Garrison, president of Main Street McMinnville. "Our Design Committee, working with local businesses and the Historic Zoning Commission, has accomplished a lot with its Facade and Awning Grant Program, but is only able to do only so much due to



Main Street McMinnville has been awarded a \$25,000 Community Development Block Grant in order to continue assisting downtown property owners with improvements to their properties. Pictured, from left, are MSM members Randy Garrison, Carla King, Cheryl LeCornu, and Ryan J. Moore.

limited funding. This \$25,000 grant is a great stimulus to a very important Main Street program."

The grant will be divided into 14 matching grants: Five for \$1,900 each to open back doors and enhance the appearance of the back of the property, two for \$1,900 each to improve areas dealing with public safety, health and welfare, five for \$1,900 each to improve building facades, and two awning grants for \$1,100 each.

This is the first time for CDBG funds to be used for commercial facade improvements in down-

town areas. The grants are designated for improvements, including new awnings and signs, paint, building repair and other upgrades.

The grants are part of \$27 million in Community Development Block Grants recently approved to assist 66 Tennessee communities with infrastructure, health and safety projects and downtown improvements.

The announcement was made by Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bill Hagerty. The CDBG program is administered by

the Department of Economic and Community Development. Allocation of CDBG funds is based on priorities set at local levels where community needs are best known.

"We would like to thank Rachel Killebrew and Mary Robbins for their time and expertise in writing this grant," said Main Street McMinnville Executive Director Carla King. "We appreciate all they did to make this happen."

For more information, or to apply for the Awning and Facade Program Grant, contact Main Street McMinnville at 506-5335.



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