



Dec 20, 2021

# Main Street Monday!



Today our hearts are with those in western Kentucky. While Mayfield, Dawson Springs, & Princeton are not currently in the Main Street program they have participated in the past and we at Kentucky Main Street and the Kentucky Heritage Council are here to help in any way we can.

During devastating events and conditions such as those that came with COVID we are first and foremost Kentuckians and we are here to help one another be it personally or professionally. We lift each other up and help when and wherever we can. Know that our team of KY Main Street network communities and the KHC team is here when you need us.

The photos we have seen are heart wrenching. How do we assist those small businesses and families who have lost everything. We are speaking with our fellow state coordinators who have weathered hurricanes and tornados to learn from them and to follow best practices. Offers to assist have come from across the country. Know that the entire Main Street America network is praying and contributing to assist western Kentucky.

The paragraph below was already on the page for this edition weeks ago. It seems fitting to leave as we look at what we can preserve and how we can provide a sense of place for those who have lost so much. Hearing community members talk about the beloved structures such as the Graves Co courthouse and others where generations have memories of activities or their culture provide a sense of belonging. The Kentucky Heritage Council is and will continue to do our best to help provide assistance and education on how to preserve those that can be saved to continue to tell the story of a community and provide them with a sense of place that will not only preserve part of their past, but help them create the future.

Main Streets are the socio-economic centers of communities. Their ability to thrive is essential to the continued economic success of small cities and towns, and these centers provide their residents with a sense of place. This awareness is often tied to the past, being set in the present and looking toward the future. Facing today's challenges means keeping Main Street surviving and thriving. Tomorrow's future doesn't mean leaving everything behind but, rather, acknowledging what to save and what to improve. Reimagining Main Streets can enliven stakeholders and residents in new ways.

This newsletter typically shares events and celebrations and things to come. Today we find it most appropriate to take time to reflect upon the past week and to remember this time of the year where family and friends are so important.

We encourage you to do something that will make a difference in the lives of those in western KY or in your own community. Visit a shut-in, bake cookies with a child, stop in your favorite shop to support them or just to tell them how much you appreciate them and their business.

Main Streets and communities are resilient and as we know brighter days follow every storm. May each of you be blessed and find joy in the small things. And may each of you have the wonder of a child at Christmas.

All the best and wishing each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.