

# Main Street Monday!

January 12, 2026

Reminder: Community Accreditation documents and reinvestments are due to the KYMS office January 15th.

Training and grant opportunities also have deadlines coming up this week and the end of the month.



To help small businesses grow, innovate, and support their local communities, American Express is teaming up with Main Street America to launch the Amex Shop Small Grants Program, which will fund 250 grants of \$20,000 each to eligible small business owners across the U.S. Applications are currently open with a **January 16, 2026, deadline for submission**

Grant funds must be used to help the small business grow and/or innovate and support their local communities. Example projects:

- Large capital expense projects, a physical or marketing refresh, or adding new revenue streams.
- Creating or improving a community-centric space within the business such as a patio, performance stage, or area used for community gatherings, or hosting events in existing spaces.



Main Street America is looking for stories, but be sure to share with us too! Being one of the oldest states KY has a lot to share!!

Every Main Street has a place where a historical event took place that all locals seem to know about, but few of these stories are known outside of their communities. That's why, to coincide with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country, we're collecting and mapping history as it happened on our Main Streets.

We are asking you to share a historic event that took place on your Main Street. Your submission will help bring these stories to life on an interactive online map, showing how our Main Streets have contributed to the rich history of the United States. Together, we can show the collective impact of our network, because history happens on Main Streets.

We are looking for examples of times your community played a role in an event with transformational impact, like "this was where the text for the Fair Housing Act was drafted" or even "this is where sliced bread was first invented." These events can be from before your Main Street district was formed, and even before the country's founding — we're looking for prehistory to the present!

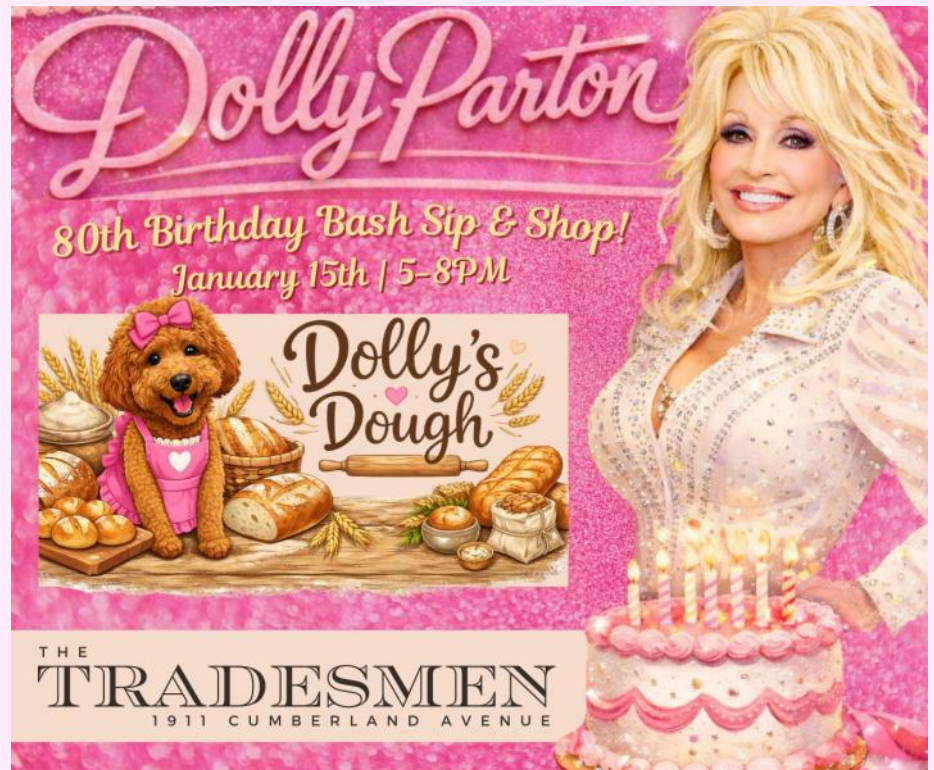
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This short form should take approximately 10 – 15 minutes to fill out. We ask that you limit your response to **one** story per Main Street community.

[Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary | Main Street America](#)



After working 9:00 -5:00 head over to downtown Middlesboro for a fun evening to celebrate Dolly! You may spy Jolene in a coat of many colors or it could just be our director Celia either way a good time is guaranteed for all! Be sure to travel more than Two Doors Down to see what all Middlesboro has to offer as they will be having a party!



**The FY 2026 EPA Brownfield Grant solicitation is still available** – applications are due January 28, 2026. Offerings include Community-wide Assessment grants, Assessment Coalition grants, Cleanup grants and Multipurpose grants. For more information on registration and submittal, visit [Solicitations for Brownfield Grants | US EPA](#). For additional information on types of grants, visit [Types of EPA Brownfield Grant Funding](#). If you are applying for a grant this year and need a letter of support, please email [brownfields@ky.gov](mailto:brownfields@ky.gov).

**Community-Wide Assessment Grant Guidelines** – Funding up to \$500K  
**Assessment Coalition Grant Guidelines** – Funding up to \$1.5M  
**Cleanup Grant Guidelines** – Funding up to \$500K or between \$500,001 and \$4,000,000  
**Multipurpose Grant Guidelines** – Funding up to \$1M

## FREE Small Business Support

### Stuck on Step 1?

Franchising Is Your Pre-Made Business Idea

Tuesday, January 13, 2026  
Noon (ET)/11AM (CT)

**Speakers:** Dave Oetken, Entrepreneur, Franchise 500; Megan Zapp, Public Health; Dave Oetken, Entrepreneur, Franchise 500.

### toolkit tuesday

**SBDC WEBINAR**

**StartupVille**

**The Startup Station Registration Clinic:**  
Name It. Claim It. Launch It.

Northeast Regional Library  
15 Bellevoir Ct., Louisville, KY  
Wednesday, January 14, 2026  
Walk-in from 6PM until 7:30PM(ET)

**Speakers:** Dave Oetken, Entrepreneur, Franchise 500; Claire Brinkley, Entrepreneur, Franchise 500; Rhonda Jones, Entrepreneur, Franchise 500.

### Food Service Permitting Process

Thursday, January 15, 2026  
6:30PM (ET)/5:30PM (CT)

**Speakers:** Megan Zapp, Public Health; Dave Oetken, Entrepreneur, Franchise 500.

### Partnering with UK to Grow Your Business

Tuesday, January 20, 2026  
Noon (ET)/11AM (CT)

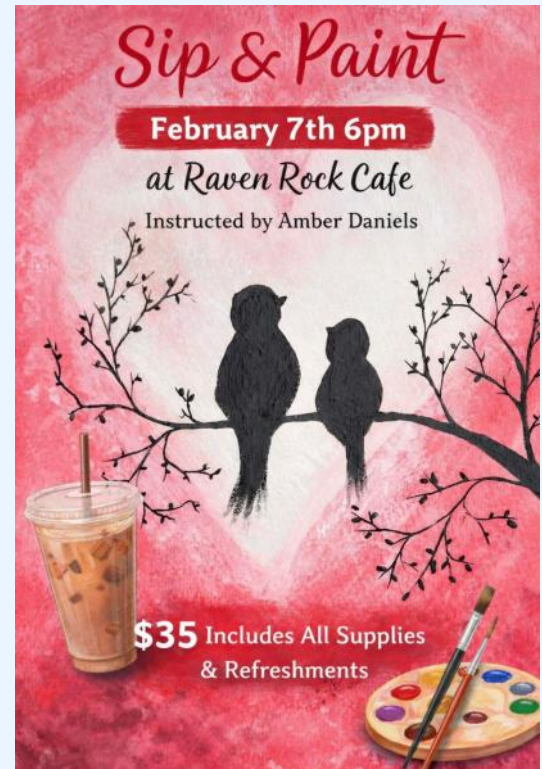
**Speakers:** Karline Clark, UK; Dave Oetken, Entrepreneur, Franchise 500.

For additional business webinar options through the Kentucky Small Business Development Center (SBDC), visit the website <https://kentuckysbdc.com/webinars/> or scan the QR Code below.





For more information contact Candace at  
Mainstreetpville@gmail.com



In downtown Cumberland. Come check  
out the new Raven Rock Café!



A Little something different in Murray. Go to their FB  
page for more details :)



Just because its winter the music doesn't  
stop. Here is an upcoming show in Pikeville.  
The Bell Theatre in Pineville keeps the music  
flowing as do other Main Street venues  
across the state to get out and enjoy!

The Kentucky Arts Council is now accepting applications for the new Kentucky Arts Rising (KAR) Grant, a program created to support small, community-based arts and cultural organizations that provide year-round arts programming for Kentuckians.

Kentucky Arts Rising offers \$1,500 in operational support to help strengthen and sustain grassroots arts organizations with limited operating budgets.

This opportunity is designed for small Kentucky-based arts and cultural organizations that:

- Have an average annual operating revenue of less than \$100,000.
- Provide ongoing, year-round arts programming.
- Operate as an independent nonprofit organization **or** are in the process of obtaining IRS 501(c)(3) status.

Organizations that do not yet have nonprofit status but are considering applying are encouraged to contact the program director before submitting an application to discuss eligibility and next steps.

Organizations with annual operating revenue exceeding \$100,000 should apply for the Kentucky Arts Partnership (KAP) grant, which provides larger operating support awards for established arts organizations.

Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to review the [full application guidelines](#) before applying.

**Application deadline: Feb. 15 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern**

Applicants with questions may contact **Brett Ratliff, arts organization director**, at [brett.ratliff@ky.gov](mailto:brett.ratliff@ky.gov) or 502-782-1615.



Through T-Mobile Hometown Grants, towns with a population of 50,000 or less can get up to \$50,000 to bring your community project ideas to life. The current grant cycle began Monday, January 5, and will close on Tuesday, March 31, 2026. Learn more and apply: <https://bit.ly/3Krb09H>

Interested in housing? Main Street America has a resource for that. You can learn about that and more at [mainstreet.org](https://www.mainstreet.org).

<https://www.mainstreet.org/howwecanhelp/>



Startup Resources Series	
Date & Time (New)	Every month on the Third Tue, until Jul 21, 2026, 7 occurrence(s)
	Jan 20, 2026 11:00 AM Eastern Time
	Feb 17, 2026 11:00 AM Eastern Time
	Mar 17, 2026 11:00 AM Eastern Time
	Apr 21, 2026 11:00 AM Eastern Time
	May 19, 2026 11:00 AM Eastern Time
	Jun 16, 2026 11:00 AM Eastern Time
	Jul 21, 2026 11:00 AM Eastern Time



Early Bird Registration is now open!  
[2026 Main Street Now Conference](#)



KYMS is getting ready for Love Your Downtown! Make plans now to celebrate our small business owners and our beautiful historic downtowns!



Hurry Hurry it's time for the La Grange Chocolate Crawl and it will sell out early!!!



Burger Week returns to downtown Paducah Jan 26-31! Let us know your favorite!