

**GENERAL NEWS**

**Chamber of Commerce investigates Main Street program**

By Heather Mathes  
 Of the Carlisle Mercury Staff  
 The Chamber of Commerce met May 26 in the basement of the Library with Scott Barkdale and Shes Murphy of the Main Street Program to coordinate with the Kentucky Heritage Council.  
 The Main Street Program, as explained by Barkdale, is an economic revitalization of downtown using preservation techniques.  
 He said, "This is not a paint job, fix-up program but is aimed at revitalizing economically as well as the community."



Down town beauty - This shot of Main Street in Carlisle includes the primary block of Main Street in Carlisle. Although fire swept through this block around 1900, most buildings were repaired and now serve as functional parts of downtown. - Heather Mathes/Pic

He added, "When dealing with the business community you are dealing with money and in turn, if you want them to upgrade, you have to show them how to make money."  
 The Main Street Team has worked with 23 communities and has expanded their program to include the small towns as well as the larger communities. The program is a grass roots type.  
 Barkdale explained, "We do Barkdale's presentation with slide show introducing and explaining the program. The responsibility must come from planning further the improve-

ments that have been utilized in other communities."  
 She said, "Kentucky is the first state in the union to be involved in a state wide program that utilizes all its resources and that makes us very proud."  
 Murphy first spoke on the emergence of shopping centers and strips.  
 "We now have commercial shopping centers and strips such as Walmart that are setting in smaller and smaller communities but totally lack the uniqueness and character of downtown, but do look like every other shopping center and mall in every other area."  
 Urban Renewal has also been a great source of problems for historical areas.  
 Murphy said, "Urban Renewal Projects would come in and totally demolish historical or historical buildings and hope that new industry or even parking lots would settle in the area."  
 "Carlisle is fortunately unimpacted."  
 A requirement for being in the Main Street Program, receiving funding and the first point of the program is organization.

She said, "A Main Street Manager, employed at least part-time, is required and a grant of \$5,000 given to be matched by local funds to be at the head of the organization structure."  
 The manager must be a professional acquainted with architecture and organization.  
 Others in the organizational cycle could be local and state government officials, hands, chamber of commerce or other

**"This is not a paint-up, fix-up program but is aimed at revitalizing economically as well"**  
 Main Street Spokeman  
 Scott Barkdale

**Mercury Menu Builder**

- 1 medium sweet pepper, sliced into rings
- 1/2 of a small red onion, sliced and separated into rings
- 1 cup bean sprouts
- One 2 1/4-ounce can sliced pitted ripe olives, drained
- 1 medium plum tomato, cut into thin wedges
- 1/4 cup dairy sour cream
- 2 tablespoons green goddess or creamy buttermilk salad dressing
- 1 teaspoon snipped fresh basil or 1 teaspoon dried basil, crushed

For extra color, use half of both a red and yellow sweet pepper. For extra convenience, make the salad several hours ahead and store, covered, in the refrigerator until serving time.

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