

GENERAL NEWS

Main Street Manager explains program

By John Shepley
 The Carlisle Mercury Staff
 Carlisle Main Street Manager Jo Lynn Garrett said she is concerned people have a misconception of how the Main Street Program functions.

The Carlisle Main Street Board has drafted a list of long and short term goals and objectives designed to improve both the economic and aesthetic value of downtown Carlisle.

"The Main Street office cannot function without the cooperation and enthusiasm of the merchants and people in Carlisle. These goals we have established for Carlisle are designed to conform to a four-point plan, Organization, Promotion, Design, and Economic Restructuring," Garrett said.

"The key to the success of Main Street is a desire for people to see Carlisle beautiful again," Garrett said. As a member of the Nicholas County Historical Society, Garrett said, she has seen over 300 buildings in the area recognized in the National Historic Register, which, considering the size of Carlisle, is a remarkable asset.

"There are many ways we can use this to help Carlisle economically. We are not trying to add things to the town. Our main purpose is to revitalize and renovate existing structures and use them to our advantage."

"The architecture here is incredible. Compare buildings constructed today to those that were built in this town. Nearly a century ago, when architecture was made not only to be of practical use but also pleasing to the eye, and there is no comparison. The older buildings are better," Garrett said.

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 Next Meeting, Tuesday Sept. 5 (because of holiday)

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Throughout the past forty or so years, Garrett said, there have been many different approaches to revitalizing the economic structure of small town America, the worst of these was the idea of covering the architectural facades of buildings with a skin of aluminum. "Where there is an empty building, we want to bring a new business in to fill it," Garrett said. "We want to develop a City-County Area Council and have a regular calendar of cultural events either at the courthouse level or in a theater of some kind."

"Buildings began to look more and more alike. They lacked distinction. Luckily, though, Carlisle was able to avoid much of this."

"However, Main Street is not simply a paint and fix-it program. That alone accomplishes only a fraction of Main Street's intentions. In fact, it only accomplishes one of seven goals we have established," Garrett said.

"Main Street also wants to improve Carlisle's self image," Garrett said, by pinpointing our assets and making our location more visible to those outside of the community as well as improving the community's own self-esteem.

"Because people have lived in this town for so many years, we tend to take many things here for granted. If people would stop and take a good hard look at downtown Carlisle, they will see a beautiful town with a lot of potential to improve, if not for outside economic improvement, then for our own sense of love for Carlisle," Garrett said.

"The most important factor to the success of this program is an interest of all people to improve the community. Community support is tantamount to our success," Garrett said.

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