

Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful designated as accredited program

7/28/2010 3:33 AM

Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful has been designated as an accredited National Main Street Program for meeting the commercial district revitalization performance standards set by the National Trust Main Street Center.

Each year, the National Trust and its partners announce the list of accredited Main Street programs that have built strong revitalization organizations and demonstrate their ability in using the Main Street Four-Point Approach methodology for strengthening their local economy and protecting their historic buildings.

"We congratulate this year's nationally accredited Main Street programs for meeting our established performance standards," said Doug Loesch, director of the National Trust Main Street Center.

"Accredited Main Street programs are meeting the challenges of the recession head on and are successfully using a focused, comprehensive revitalization strategy to keep their communities vibrant and sustainable," he said.

The organization's performance is annually evaluated by the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, which works in partnership with the National Trust Main Street Center to identify the local programs that meet 10 performance standards.

These standards set the benchmarks for measuring an individual Main Street program's application of the Main Street Four-Point Approach to commercial district revitalization.

Evaluation criteria determines the communities that are building comprehensive and sustainable revitalization efforts and include standards such as developing a mission, fostering strong public-private partnerships, securing an operating budget, tracking economic progress, and preserving historic buildings.

"Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful is pleased to receive this national accreditation," said Jeanine Henry, president of WP&B.

"It serves to reaffirm that what we are doing to revitalize downtown Waynesburg is positive and that the hard work of our volunteers is impacting our town in a positive way.

"Additionally, the monetary investment of our donors and sponsors shows that many businesses and individuals believe in our mission and are willing to support the improvement of downtown Waynesburg."

Main Street Manager Larry Marshall agreed, adding, "Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful shares a common vision with Greene County, Waynesburg Borough and Waynesburg University. With these groups all working together toward the revitalization of our downtown community, we can accomplish our goals. The National Trust Main Street Accreditation demonstrates that we have the ability to do so."

Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful is a nonprofit Main Street program that operates in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center.

Funded by the state Department of Community and Economic Development, Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful represents a community endeavor to preserve and revitalize historic downtown Waynesburg and raise awareness of the educational, cultural and historical opportunities, as well as the convenience of shopping, associated with the town.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a nonprofit membership organization bringing people together to protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter to them. The organization helps revitalize neighborhoods and communities, spark economic development and promote environmental sustainability. It provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to a national network of people, organizations and local communities committed to saving places, connecting us to our history and collectively shaping the future of America's stories.

Established in 1980, the National Trust Main Street Center helps communities of all sizes revitalize their older and historic commercial districts. Working in more than 2,200 downtowns and urban neighborhoods over the last 30 years, the Main Street program has leveraged more than \$48.9 billion in new public and private investment. Copyright Observer Publishing Co.