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**PRESS RELEASE****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Main Street Wadsworth Receives 2021 National Main Street Accreditation**

*Wadsworth, Ohio (July 15, 2021)* -- Main Street Wadsworth has been designated as a nationally-accredited Main Street™ program for its fifth year in a row for meeting rigorous performance standards. Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the list of accredited programs to recognize their exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach™.

“We are proud to recognize this year’s 889 nationally accredited Main Street programs that have worked tirelessly to advance economic vitality and quality of life in their downtowns and commercial districts,” said Patrice Frey, President & CEO of Main Street America. “During an incredibly challenging year, these programs demonstrated the power of the Main Street movement to drive impressive local recovery efforts, champion small businesses, and foster vibrant downtown districts.”

“A revitalized downtown enhances quality of life for a community,” stated Main Street Wadsworth Executive Director Adrienne Patrick. “A vibrant downtown makes a city a more attractive place for residents to live and for companies to do business and attract employees. Main Street is a powerful economic development tool that also builds community. We saw six new small businesses open downtown during the pandemic. Wadsworth has much to celebrate about its downtown, including an art mural program, over 30 downtown events each year including farmers markets and First Fridays, and grants that preserve historic architecture.”

Main Street Wadsworth’s momentum is reflected in measurable economic development data since Wadsworth became Ohio’s 22nd accredited Main Street Community 5 years ago in 2016:

- Over 20 new small businesses
- Over 100 new full-time and part-time jobs
- Over 100 free and family-friendly events
- Over 50 building façade and rehabilitation projects
- Over \$2 million dollars in private-public partnerships
- Over \$500,000 in grant dollars for historic building improvements
- Over 12,000 volunteer hours donated by the community
- 6.2% first floor vacancy rate



Main Street Wadsworth's performance is evaluated annually by Heritage Ohio, which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify programs that meet 10 national performance standards. Evaluation criteria determines the communities that are building meaningful and sustainable revitalization programs and include standards such as fostering strong public-private partnerships, documenting programmatic progress, and actively preserving historic buildings.

Along with one full-time staff and one part-time staff, 15 local leaders and residents comprise the Main Street Wadsworth Board of Directors: Ayten Anderson; Adam Barton; Dr. Andy Hill; Mayor Robin Laubaugh; Emily Little; Rod Loveless; Jeff Novak; Ron Palitto; Johanna Perrino; Stacey Renner; Jason Sanders; Daniel Slife; Tom Stugmyer; Randy Toddy; and Jon Yurchiak.

In 2020, Main Street America programs generated \$4.14 billion in local reinvestment, helped open 4,356 net new businesses, generated 14,988 net new jobs, catalyzed the rehabilitation of 8,488 historic buildings, and clocked 983,702 volunteer hours.

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## **ABOUT MAIN STREET WADSWORTH**

[Main Street Wadsworth's](#) mission is to create an unmatched downtown experience. Now in its fifth year, Wadsworth became Ohio's 22nd accredited Main Street Community in 2016. As a volunteer-driven non-profit organization, Main Street Wadsworth is dedicated to the comprehensive revitalization of downtown Wadsworth using Main Street America's Four-Point Approach™ of Design, Economic Vitality, Promotion, and Organization. Wadsworth, a city near Akron and Cleveland with a population of 23,000, is the third fastest-growing city in Northeast Ohio and the fastest-growing city in Medina County. Learn more at [www.mainstreetwadsworth.org](http://www.mainstreetwadsworth.org) and [www.facebook.com/MainStreetWadsworth](https://www.facebook.com/MainStreetWadsworth).

## **ABOUT MAIN STREET AMERICA**

[Main Street America](#) has been helping revitalize older and historic commercial districts for 40 years. Today, it is a network of more than 1,600 neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, who share both a commitment to place and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. Since 1980, communities participating in the program have leveraged more than \$89.57 billion in new public and private investment, generated 687,321 net new jobs and 154,435 net new businesses, and rehabilitated more than 303,836 buildings. Main Street America is a program of the nonprofit National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit [www.mainstreet.org](http://www.mainstreet.org).