Chamber-Main Street News and Knows—Economic Impact Reports  
by Interim Director Jim Davies

Hampton has been a Main Street Community since 1991. Chamber and Main Street merged in 2010.

Hampton is one of over 50 Iowa communities in the Main Street Iowa program. Iowa is one of 40 programs across the country connected to the Main Street America Coordination Program.

One of the requirements of participating in the Main Street program is to report data by filling out and submitting a quarterly Economic Impact Report (EIP).

Quarterly EIP reports are due to Main Street Iowa via Iowa Grants by midnight of the last business day of the month following the end of the quarter. Hampton’s 4th Quarter 2024 report (October 1 – December 31) is due January 31, 2025.

There are three components within each status report: General Information, Quarterly EIP (projects/activities/volunteer hours/etc.) and Commentary (miscellaneous items).

The General Information section contains the report type, quarter start and end dates, the title, the due date and the report status.

The quarterly EIP Component of the report includes:

1. Investments in the Main Street District Projects. When a project is completed, the dollar amount is listed under the appropriate column (public, public, other grants). Dollar amounts invested can be obtained from building permits, owner or building manager, contractor, or best estimate. Projects include:

* Completed building rehabs and façade improvements such roof work, tuckpointing, paint enhancements, wood, cleaning brick, masonry repairs, window replacement, new signage, and awnings. Interior items such as remodeling expenses, painting, carpeting, plumbing, electrical, water, etc. are also included.
* New Construction.
* Improvement of publicly owned buildings. Examples include city hall, library, and courthouse.
* Public improvement of non-buildings including park benches, banners, flags, sidewalks/streets, infrastructure, streetlights, trash receptacles, pocket parks, etc.

2. Buildings Sold. The address, current and future use, and the dollar amount of the sale is to be included. A residential record is reported if the first floor is commercial and/or it is a multi-family residential space and is a commercial enterprise (income producing). Types of Uses: Industrial, Parking, Retail, Service, Food Establishment (Restaurant/Bar) Government Services, Non-Profit, Vacant, and Unknown.

3. Business Changes. New businesses opened, closed, expanded, downsized, and relocated out of the Main Street District. Transfer of ownership or relocation within the district is not listed. Business types: Retail, Service, Food, Government Services, and Non-Profit. Reporting is based on business status:

* New to the district.
* Closed.
* Expanded—increased the number of employees.
* Downsized—decreased the number of employees.
* Relocated out of the district. The question is “Do the jobs still exist in the district?”

4. New Housing. Commercial producing properties only, not residential.

5. Main Street Events & Activities hosted by the local Main Street program. This section is useful when evaluating the success and effectiveness of the event/activity. This information should be taken from the event/activity written action plan.

6. Volunteer Hours Invested in Main Street in the revitalization work done as well as time spent by volunteers at training and workshops.

The Commentary section is for miscellaneous items that don’t fit into the other areas of the report broken out by the four points (design, promotion, economic vitality, and organizational), program updates, and suggestions for state staff.

If you would like to know more about Chamber/Main Street and volunteer, please stop by the GFCCC office at 5 First St. SW, Hampton or call the office at 641-456-5668. You can also call or text me on my cell phone at 641-425-4707.

