

# Brookville approves Main St. application

BY AMY GRIFFITH  
Staff Writer

BROOKVILLE — The Main Street revitalization organization received approval Tuesday from Brookville Town Council members to apply for a \$50,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Commerce.

The grant would help "make our Main Street a place you'd want to go to and a place you'd want to run your business," said board member Carla Kemper Austin.

She said the Main Street group hopes to accomplish this by enhancing the general design and appearance of Main Street storefronts, and by working to improve the street's economic climate through support of current and future businesses.

The grant application required a letter of intent signed by council members. Once the letter reaches the Department of Commerce, representatives will travel to Brookville and decide how much funding to appropriate. The maximum amount is \$50,000. Donors must provide a 10 percent cash match to funds contributed by the Department of Commerce.

Main Street board President Sid Bradley said \$5,000 from an anonymous private donor has already been secured.

No funds from the town government will be required.

"I think only good can come out of it," said Dana Riddle, project manager with the Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. Results of the grant application should be determined within the next 30 days, Riddle said.

Specific projects funded by grant money will be determined by suggestions from Brookville residents, Department of Commerce representatives and Main Street organizations in nearby towns, Austin said.

"We don't intend to dictate what the design of Main Street should look like," Austin said. "We would like to be the group to bring people together."

Austin said the Main Street revitalization effort was started several months ago, spearheaded by the Brookville/Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Ideas from Chamber members inspired Bradley, who left his position as Chamber president to focus on the Main Street group.

Board members of the Main Street group include Bradley, Austin, Lowell "Teen" McMillin, Sozi Frye and Mick Wilz.

The group's next meeting is Monday, Dec. 22, at noon in the Brookville Public Library. Austin said the public is encouraged to attend.