



***MISSION:*** "Encouraging the economic development, historic preservation, and continuous improvement of downtown Kendallville."

**Kendallville Heartbeat**

**February 2025**

## **IN Landmarks Bring Preservation Trades to Region**

### **Partners Awarded \$277,500 from Strategic Development Commission**

Just a few weeks ago, Historic Downtown Kendallville and Indiana Landmarks had the unique opportunity to present to the Regional Strategic Development Commission about a new program being developed in the region called the **Preservation Trades Collaborative**. As a result of this presentation, the Collaborative was awarded a grant of \$277,500 to develop the program.

#### **About the Program**

The Collaborative brings together local and statewide partners to eliminate and rehabilitate blighted properties while attracting and growing talent in the trades arena through a Heritage Trades training program. Targeting the immediate five county area around Kendallville (where the program will be launched in partnership with IMPACT Institute), the Collaborative will be a pilot project assisting development of this approach as a model for implementation across the state of Indiana.

Heritage Trades skills are becoming increasingly scarce, despite the growing need. In fact, the need for new trades people is a well-known issue across the US, and Indiana unfortunately fits that trend. A particularly critical need in the region are trades people who understand and have skills specifically targeted to historic, older homes and buildings. With a preponderance of these structures constructed before WWII making up the target area's building stock, the initiative seeks to begin to fill that need.

Using Kendallville as a "working lab," this program will fill the gap by providing training and instruction in these highly sought-out skills, while also identifying and building the capacity of individuals within the target area to be future instructors and mentors in the field.

Historic Downtown Kendallville has witnessed the ongoing skills challenge through the implementation of the \$2M PreservINg Main Street award in 2021. The project experienced significant delays and bidding roadblocks due to a lack of available contractors with skills to undertake the scope of services specified for the buildings located in the Kendallville National Register District. This lack of competition was partially responsible for the higher than estimated project costs. Work such as masonry repair, plaster work, window restoration, the rebuilding of cornices, cupolas, historically appropriate features, along with paint and other work that would retain or revive the historic integrity of the buildings all experienced shortages of available and qualified contractors. In fact, it took nearly 2 years and multiple RFPs before the execution of a successful bid award -- and even then, required tapping contractors from outside of Indiana. Indiana Landmarks' experience shows a need in every county for these specialized skills.

### **Project Partners**

The Collaborative is facilitated and will be managed by Indiana Landmarks in partnership with Kendallville Restorations, Inc., Historic Downtown Kendallville, the City of Kendallville, the Dekko Foundation, Ivy Tech, and IMPACT Institute. Each partner brings experience and passion to develop these crucial preservation skills, create a working laboratory for existing construction trades business owners, and students and recent graduates who wish to learn the art of historic preservation and start their own specialty business.

## **Kendallville in the News**

### **City Featured in Various Publications**

- ***Site Selection Magazine*** has just named Kendallville, Indiana the **39th most micropolitan city in the US**, tied with Wabash, Indiana.
- Kendallville is being highlighted for their **strategic investments, innovation, and close-knit, collaborative community** in a 10-page feature article in ***Business View Magazine***.
- Kendallville was featured in the January/February 2025 edition of ***Indiana Preservation Magazine*** for their ongoing work in historic preservation, as a recipient of the PreservINg Main Street grant. Read the full article [HERE](#).



**SIDE NOTE:** Noble County is also getting some much-deserved attention, as the county was ranked **first in the state for tourism spending growth**, with a **33.2% increase** from the year before. Total traveler spending in the county was \$43 million in 2023.



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## February Blog Post

Historic Downtown Kendallville posted the following article in the month of February.

Click the link below to read the article in full.

***“Enhancing Your Business's Appeal: Why Updating Your Rear Facade Matters”***

[February Blog Post](#)

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## Main Street Resources & Incentives

There are many resources and incentives available to Kendallville's Main Street businesses, including various grant opportunities and tax credits. Click [HERE](#) to download our recently updated publication, which outlines these benefits and provides important contact information and requirements for each.

**Have questions or want something added to this publication?** Give us a shout at 260-318-0883 or email [kendallvillemainstreet@gmail.com](mailto:kendallvillemainstreet@gmail.com).

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## Heart on Main Street Offering Retail Workshops

**Register Today for One or More of These Online Events!**

### **About the organization:**

Heart on Main Street is committed to providing independent retailers with the tools they need to succeed. Through grants, educational resources, and strategic connections, we empower businesses to thrive and help revitalize Main Streets across the country.

The organization also works to connect downtown retailers to quality service providers through their "Friends of Main Street" initiative. You can check out their list of service partners [HERE](#).

### **About the workshops:**

The following virtual webinar events are **FREE** to attend, but you must register in advance. Space is limited, so don't wait!



## UPCOMING MAIN STREET MATTERS WEBINARS

Join us for invaluable insights and practical tips from industry experts who have paved the way for success. Discover how to elevate your retail business, connect with your customers, and stay ahead of the curve.

FEBRUARY

**26**

1pm CST

### Retail Store Visual Merchandising Techniques

Whether you're looking to make little tweaks or a whole new redesign, the team from Retailworks Inc. can set you on the path to realizing your visual merchandising dreams.

[Click Here to Register](#)

MARCH

**12**

1pm CST

### Rooted in Retail: Rooting For Your Success

"The Wolf of Main Street" Crystal Vilkaitis of Rooted in Retail joins this webinar to share her expertise on how retailers can evolve their businesses.

[Click Here to Register](#)

APRIL

**23**

1 pm CST

### Picture Perfect Branding

Elevate your product and store photography with Janzen Tew of Demin & Velvet. Learn simple phone camera tricks to capture professional-looking images for your social media, emails, and website.

[Click Here to Register](#)

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**Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events in  
Historic Downtown Kendallville!**



**JOIN**  
US FOR



*Social*  
**CIRCLE**

*Social time, professional skills discovery, and valuable insights for leadership success*



FEATURING PRESENTER  
**LYNNE KOEPPER**  
*Ecosystem Navigator  
NEI Small Business Development Center*

**February 21st Topic**

## *Leveraging LinkedIn*

- Optimizing your professional profile
- Finding the perfect job for YOU
- Networking tips for success



**REGISTER NOW** (space is limited)



**FRIDAY, FEB 21  
@ 10AM**



[https://www.eventeny.com/  
events/socialcircles-15997/](https://www.eventeny.com/events/socialcircles-15997/)



FREE

# SMALL BUSINESS

*Resources, Advice, and Mentoring*



**Lynne Koepper**

Ecosystem Navigator  
lkoepper@isbdc.org  
260-481-5449



**Angie Harrison**

Entrepreneurship Coach  
aharrison@niic.net  
260-399-1676



Northeast  
Indiana  
Innovation  
Center



- Where can I find small business loans and/or capital?
- How do I write a compelling business plan?
- How should I price my products?
- Do I need a CPA or an attorney?
- Is my business idea viable?
- What marketing tools can help boost my sales?



231 S Main | Kendallville

Join us for

**OPEN OFFICE  
HOURS**

**3rd Fridays | 11:00am - 2:00pm**  
(after Social Circle Workshops)





# On The Main Boutique & Gifts

15 FEBRUARY 2025 - 121 S MAIN ST KENDALLVILLE IN  
10 AM - 5 PM

## Perfume Bar

Hosted by

**Jackie Fuller & Rhonda Barr**

Come discover your new signature scent.

Made with essential oils from France, inspired by some of the most iconic fragrance of all time. Clean, affordable, & Boujje.





# Valentine's Day *Trivia Night*



SAT, 2/15  
6:00PM - 9:00PM



- Families/Teams of 2-4 players welcome
- \$20/person includes an XL 1-topping pizza, soft drinks, & order of breadsticks per team/table (beer/wine available to purchase)
- Also includes game play & Valentine's cookie decorating
- Trivia Topic: Guess the Valentine's Music, Movies & Emojis for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to Pizza Forum

Space is Limited/Reservations Required  
120 S Main Street | 260-343-9699



Historic Downtown Kendallville, 231 S Main Street, Kendallville, IN 46755, 260-318-0883

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