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PRESS RELEASE

**The Joe Knight Building in Lebanon, MO awarded \$50,000.00 from Missouri Main Street Connection's Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program**

Lebanon, MO. – The Joe Knight Building is one of thirteen properties in Missouri to receive a Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant from Missouri Main Street Connection (MMSC) and the National Park Service.

Mel's on Madison LLC c/o Robert Walker was awarded \$50,000.00 to begin a multi-phase project that will address current aging infrastructure needs of this individually listed building. In addition, to the \$50,000.00 provided by this grant, Robert Walker will invest a minimum of ten percent of the grant amount toward the final project as a match.

In its current state, there is no detractor from the visual harmony of the Main Street district, but the aging infrastructure poses risks to the safety and comfort of occupants and visitors. The rehabilitation project that was approved by MMSC will provide the funds needed to start securing the buildings structural integrity and preserve its historical value through replacing the roof and addressing windows and broken glass blocks. Robert Walker shared what this building and its restoration means to the community, "The Joe Knight Building is a beacon of Lebanon's heritage and community spirit. This project is about revitalizing the heart of Downtown Lebanon, preserving its rich history, and fostering economic growth within the Main Street District."

Upon completion of work at The Joe Knight Building it will maintain its role as a magnificent contributing building in Lebanon, Missouri and meet contemporary standards of safety, comfort, and functionality. Additionally, with the work completed in the building will be able to be used to its fullest capacity!

If you are a banking institution who would like to partner with MMSC to provide construction, commercial, and/or bridge loans for this project and/or any of the projects that have been awarded see what this looks like with MMSC's [information sheet](#).

This grant was made possible with assistance from the Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior under Grant Number P23AP01967. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of



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the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Interior.

### **About National Park Service**

Since 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) has directed the management and implementation of programming for the national parks across the country.

For over 100 years they have led the preservation of America's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. The NPS in partnership and cooperation with partners has taken care of the national parks and helping Americans take care of their communities. One way that this is accomplished is through appropriations authorized by Congress for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). The HPF, authorized through 2023, uses revenue from federal oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, providing assistance for a broad range of preservation projects without expending tax dollars.

These grants mark the fifth year of funding for the program honoring the late Paul Bruhn, executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont for nearly 40 years. For more information about the grants and the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants program, please visit [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov).

### **About Missouri Main Street Connection**

Missouri Main Street Connection is the leading statewide nonprofit organization devoted to preservation-based economic development. Through the Main Street America™ movement and our partners, we empower community revitalization by celebrating, supporting, and sustaining Missouri historic commercial districts in both rural and urban settings. Since 2005, Missouri Main Street communities have seen \$1 billion in public and private investment and MMSC has worked in over 180 communities. These Missouri Main Street communities and districts are thriving and vibrant by engaging the community members in revitalization strategies to create experiences that preserve their history and culture. Follow Missouri Main Street Connection on Facebook @MissouriMainStreetConnection and Instagram @MOmainstreet.

For additional information, contact State Director Gayla Roten at 417-334-3014. Mailing address for inquiries:  
PO Box 1066, Branson, MO 65615.