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**Lt. Governor Becky Skillman Welcomes the
Town of Clay City as Indiana Main Street Participant**

Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman welcomes the Town of Clay City to the Indiana Main Street (IMS) program. IMS is administered by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). The program provides economic revitalization and professional assistance to participating Indiana cities and towns. As the traditional heart and hub of government, commerce, justice and social interaction, the downtown business district portrays a city's overall image.

“Viable downtowns are crucial to the economic health of our state,” said Lt. Governor Skillman. “I’m pleased to welcome Clay City to Indiana Main Street. The program is creating opportunities for revitalization and restoration, as well as encouraging a favorable environment for businesses.”

The Town of Clay City will join more than 100 other Indiana Main Street Communities dedicated to the revitalization of their downtown areas. The IMS is founded on a Four Point Approach to downtown development: organization, design, promotion and economic restructuring. Each of these points represents an aspect of the downtown which is vital in the restoration efforts of the community.

Clay City USA Foundation, Inc began in 1999. The group has purchased two buildings: the former Collins building in 1999 and the old downtown gas station in 2000. The Collins building was restored and used as a branch extension of the Brazil Public library but the library closed due to a lack of funding. The community rallied around the efforts of some dedicated individuals, and in 2008 an all volunteer library opened in the same building. All books, materials, and time are donated from the local community. The old downtown gas station and restored the facility to house the Clay City Welcome Center. The group and the Clay City residents coined and copyrighted the term ‘Mayberry of the Midwest’, which led to the town’s appearance on the NBC’s Today Show. The group continues its efforts in revitalizing the downtown.

Indiana Main Street Program Manager Shae Kmicikewycz stated, “We are honored to have the Town of Clay City as part of the Indiana Main Street family. They know and understand the importance of a thriving downtown and have community members willing to assist in the revitalization efforts of their downtown. We are very proud of Clay City and are happy to recognize them today.”

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The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs was created by legislation in 2005, making rural Indiana a major focus for the first time. For additional information on OCRA and its programs visit www.in.gov/ocra. For updates from the Lt. Governor and the agencies she oversees, please sign up at www.in.gov/lgov.

For information on Indiana Main Street, visit <http://www.in.gov/ocra/2364.htm>