## Auburn gets downtown grant



Staff Reports

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INDIANAPOLIS — At a Statehouse ceremony Friday, Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman awarded grants totaling \$45,000 to fund nine Indiana downtown enhancement projects.

The Downtown Auburn Business Association received \$5,000 to fund a facade improvement program in Auburn.

The Downtown Enhancement Grants are administered by the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, and were created to fund projects that support and promote community-based planning, marketing, and restoration efforts for Indiana Main Street communities.

"Viable downtowns are crucial to the economic health of our state," Skillman said. "This grant program gives awarded communities the opportunity to complete projects that revitalize and restore local downtown districts to make them a better place to work, visit, or live."

The Downtown Auburn Business Association has partnered with the Auburn Downtown Advisory Committee and the City of Auburn to create the matching facade improvement grant program and to provide funding for the project. Building owners in the downtown will be able to apply for matching grants for exterior work such as exterior painting, masonry repairs/restoration, new or renovated signage and/or awnings, and window and door replacement/restoration. The project will be used as a catalyst to continue downtown improvements.

Indiana Main Street, a division of the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, was established to provide economic revitalization and professional assistance to participating communities. Indiana Main Street encourages the revitalization and restoration of downtown areas in Hoosier cities and towns.

## **Images**



Auburn officials receive a downtown enhancement grant Friday in Indianapolis. From left are Bill Spohn, Mike Littlejohn, Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, Mary Hohler, Mayor Norman Yoder and Merv Delagrange.PHOTO **CONTRIBUTED**