

MCMA great for MC's downtown

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The Michigan City Mainstreet Association is an organization that has tremendously helped rebuild the downtown district to become what it is today. Whether it is bringing thousands of people to the area for the Taste of Michigan City or supporting the local breweries at the Shelf Ice Brewfest, the Mainstreet board has accomplished so many wonderful things.

The MCMA holds many annual events every year. These events support local farmers, brewers, artists, clothing designers, restaurants and any other small, self-owned business. MCMA has provided many resources for the public to use. An example of this is in the winter, the board decided to help with the funding of putting up an ice skating rink.

One event that is held by the downtown is the Taste of Michigan City. You have probably been to the Taste of Michigan City at least once in your life — if not more times — and if you haven't, it is definitely worth trying out. At the Taste, as many as 30 restaurants come and line the streets in the downtown district. Restaurants not only come from Michigan City to participate in this event, but places from La Porte and Porter come as well. It's not only food either, there is a Beer Garden that is set up for the adults. Many local breweries come to participate in this such as Shoreline Brewery, Burn'em Brewing, Backroad Brewing, Zorn and The Shady Creek Winery.

I interviewed a few people who are business owners or part of the MCMA board, including Sarah Weaver, who has been involved with Mainstreet for three years. I asked her "How has Mainstreet helped improve the downtown district?" She said that the MCMA board has brought many great events into the downtown area for people to enjoy. Also, she said that it is amazing that so many wonderful people volunteer their time to be involved with the organization.

I also interviewed Abigale Thayer, who has been involved with the district for about 7 or 8 years. I asked her the same question. Abigale said that she has seen a tremendous amount of positive change and growth happen in the area. She also said that the people who will invest their time and selves into this area to make it what it is today are amazing. Abigale mentioned Julia Neilson, Christopher Grohs, Nichole Sheaffer and all of the other amazing volunteers and shop owners in the district who are with the betterment of the Uptown Arts District (UAD).



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In the Middle

The last person I spoke to is Linda Mickevicius. Linda has been in the area for about five years. During her time here, she believes lots of attention has been focused on the area that was not here before. Linda says that Mainstreet has been a huge help with promoting all small businesses with the different events. Also, the area is now more appealing in appearance, thanks to all of the lights on the trees and the new banners.

These are just some of the many things that the Michigan City Mainstreet Association has done for our Arts District and our community.

Arnica Sheaffer is a student at Barker Middle School. In the Middle is a regular column produced by MCAS middle school students.