

March 18, 2010

Grants could help fund historic project

Scott Spielman
Editor

A new distinction may mean new funding for the City of Northville.

The city has applied for a grant through the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, said Lori Ward, director of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The program is a relatively new one, which means the city has relatively few competitors for the grant.

“There are only 21 cities in Michigan eligible for these funds,” she told members of the DDA board Tuesday morning.

The CLG program was formed as a way to help preserve and promote historic sites at the grass roots level, she said. It’s administered through the National Park Service (NPS) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The funding for projects comes from the federal level.

She said the City of Northville applied to become a Certified Local Government earlier this year and hasn’t heard back yet, but officials were urged to go for the grant, anyway. The grant would be for \$25,000 and include a local match of \$25,000, which means there would be \$50,000 available to promote historic sites in the downtown area. The DDA has \$50,000 in its budget for a historic signage project this year.

“There are a lot of places in the downtown area with a story to tell,” said Ward.

The historic marker plan would fall under the category of grant eligibility and it is already in the works, said Ward. The idea is to use the markers as the first phase in the development of an overall downtown walking tour that would increase pedestrian traffic throughout the DDA. City Council-woman Nancy Darga has already done some preliminary research on the sites as well as design possibilities for the signs.

Ward said the first phase of the grant would provide funding to help research, write and develop the markers. Next year, the city could apply for additional funds to design and install them. The deadline to apply is April 2.

“We’re on our way,” said Ward.

<http://www.journalgroup.com/Northville/10824>

No Comments Posted

Start the Discussion

New! Talk about more Northville issues in **Journal Talk**.

Five Colleges.
One focus.
Your career success.

VR
Metro
LLC

Your One Stop Website
Website
Design, Development, Promotion, Ho

Copyright © 2010 **Associated Newspapers of Michigan**. All rights reserved.