

Renaissance on Main receives state funding

Friday, November 11, 2005

The Kentucky Standard

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A \$75,000 grant awarded to Bardstown's Renaissance on Main Program will be used for the construction of the Farmers' Market.

"The Renaissance Board agreed to apply for the grant to help fund the proposed Farmers' Market pavilion on East Flaget Avenue that was already in the planning stages," Rita Riley, Main Street manager, said. "The pavilion would not only be used as an enlarged Farmers' Market, but will be enclosed to be able to host events and activities in the downtown area."

This way, Bardstown's downtown will benefit greatly from the new structure, Riley said.

"Having our Farmers' Market downtown at the parking lot has been an incredible asset to this community, but a permanent location there will not only provide us with the opportunity to buy fresh produce from our farmers' but also bring folks downtown to shop at other downtown stores," Rep. David Floyd, R-Bardstown, said. "I am very pleased to see Renaissance on Main grants used on this project."

The facility would cover 8,360 square feet including public restrooms.

The economic impact will also be felt, according to Gov. Ernie Fletcher.

"Renaissance on Main focuses on making downtown areas viable and economically productive," Fletcher said.

Bardstown Mayor Dixie Hibbs made the proposal for a new structure that would be used for the market and other events. It would have public restrooms for citizens and visitors who come downtown.

Earlier this year, the Bardstown-Nelson County Tourist and Convention Commission pledged \$60,000 for the Farmers' Market restrooms. The sum will be divvied out over four years, in increments of \$15,000.

The building, which has a rough estimated cost of less than \$300,000, would be constructed in the city lot on East Flaget Avenue. The current Farmers' Market, which is an open-air market, is there.

The front of the structure would come up to the sidewalk on East Flaget. It would consist of two archways that can be driven through to get to the public parking behind it.

The building would only be about 30 feet deep, Hibbs said. It would hide the existing parking from street view.

The proposed structure would be a replica of the Jewell and Hayden hardware store that once stood in that spot.