



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
2021

7 May

Yancey County Economic Development Commission Announces First 2021 Grant Award through Downtown Entrepreneurship Assistance Program

The Yancey Economic Development Commission announces the first 2021 grant award made under the Burnsville Downtown Entrepreneurship Assistance Program. “I’m pleased to announce a grant made through Yancey EDC’s Downtown Entrepreneurship Assistance Program was awarded to new the Lamp Post Vintage Market, a new business located on West Main Street in Burnsville. The business is a new enterprise of local Burnsville Main Street merchant Samantha Robinson, the proprietor of Magnolia & Wren Ltd. Boutique.” said EDC Director Jamie McMahan. “Samantha is a prime example of a successful local entrepreneur. When the Yancey EDC first announced its new Downtown Entrepreneurship Assistance Program in 2018 Samantha was the first recipient of the grant for Magnolia & Wren Ltd. Boutique, then a new startup for her. We are pleased that effort has grown into a successful local business and that she is expanding her operations” added McMahan.

The store, the newest addition to Burnsville’s growing Main Street business community, will be opening at 127 West Main Street in Burnsville. Lamp Post Vintage Market will be a multi-vendor marketplace featuring a wide variety of merchandise from over 50 local crafters, artisans, and vendors. The new space will also feature a live music venue in-house offering a busy schedule of events featuring local musicians.

“The key to economic prosperity in any town, but especially in small town America, is a proactive approach to recruiting and developing our best assets; those in our own backdoor- the entrepreneur” added EDC Director McMahan. “Creating a community that supports entrepreneurial development will generate profit for the entire county and will also fill a gap that directly benefits our specific economic needs.”

The Burnsville Downtown Entrepreneur Assistance Program (DEAP). DEAP is an incentive grant program with the goal of creating new jobs, increasing revenue, and making downtown Burnsville an attractive option for business development. The purpose of this program is to support business recruitment by assisting new start-ups within the critical first six months of business.

The DEAP program requires applicants submit a written business plan when applying for the grant and may, depending upon the applicant's previous business experience, require attendance of business management and training courses at Mayland Community College through the Mayland Small Business Center, or other accredited institution offering the required courses and will require recipients to create at least one new full time equivalent job. In addition to the grant award of \$2,500 the grant will also cover the cost of the recipient's first year of membership in the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce.

For more details on how to apply for the grant program contact Jamie McMahan, Executive Director of the Yancey County Economic Development Commission, at (828) 682-7722 or via email at yanceyedc@gmail.com. Application information may also be obtained at the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce or the Mayland Community College Small Business Center.

###