

**For Immediate Release**

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**CAPE GIRARDEAU WOMEN WIN DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION AWARDS**

Cape Girardeau, MO – Cape Girardeau took home state-level awards for Outstanding Public Official and Business Excellence during the Missouri Main Street conference in Kansas City.

Assistant to City Manager Heather Brooks was named Outstanding Public Official by the organization. Nominees for this award are required to continually demonstrate effort and support of their local downtown revitalization efforts, and must have at least 5 years of public service.

Brooks' valuable service to Cape Girardeau and downtown revitalization has included work with the Old Town Cape Board of Directors, DREAM Development Team, Downtown Strategic Plan, wayfinding for downtown Cape Girardeau's visitors, assists with the Cape Girardeau Downtown Community Improvement District Steering Committee, United Way of Southeast Missouri, River Corridor Connections, Bicycle Committee, Girardeau Goes Green Advisory Board, Zonta Club, and more.

"At the core of her belief is the fact that it is up to us as individuals to be part of the change that we want to see in our communities and that our actions as leaders are examples for others," said Marla Mills, Executive Director of Old Town Cape. "We are more and more successful each year because of her assistance, guidance and support."

Missouri Main Street's 2011 Business Excellence Award went to Annie Laurie's Antiques, owned and operated by Laurie Everett.

Annie Laurie's Antiques, located at 536 Broadway, is known for its eclectic charm. Their building, originally built as a funeral home with an attached apartment, was completely renovated by Everett and her husband. The family uses the attached apartment, making the Everett's both downtown business and home owners.

"Everett works hard to integrate her business in the downtown community and promote her business in unique and entrepreneurial ways. At Annie Laurie's Antiques, they love to mix things up and have fun," said Mills. "They're always looking for a new twist."

Everett has partnered with students, artists, musicians, the Arts Council of Southeast Missouri and Old Town Cape for special events and volunteering. Annie Laurie's Antiques participates in the downtown and local arts community's First Friday gallery openings each month, and has been featured in several other downtown events including Old Town Cape's Historic Home and Garden Tour.

Everett is a member of the Community Improvement District steering committee working to enhance the commercial area of downtown Cape Girardeau. Other volunteer work includes the United Way of Southeast Missouri, St. Mary's, Lutheran Family Children Services, and area veteran's golf tournaments.

Brooks and Annie Laurie's Antiques continue Cape Girardeau's success at the Missouri Main Street Conference from 2010: Outstanding Business for Rust Communications/Southeast Missourian, Top Facade Rehabilitation for Breakaways Bar and Billiards, and Volunteers Jim and Teresa Maurer.

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