

# Chamber-Main Street News and Knows: National Accreditation

BY JIM DAVIES  
MAIN STREET HAMPTON  
MANAGER

Joi Austin, Senior Program Officer from Main Street America will be conducting Main Street Hampton’s Accreditation Visit on August 13.

Below are the baseline requirements of the Main Street program, documents or items needed before the visit, and the accreditation agenda for the day of the visit.

Local Programs that do not meet these baseline requirements are not eligible for Accreditation from Main Street America, though they may qualify for designation at the Affiliate level.

The Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, administrator of the Main Street Hampton program, is currently recognized as an Affiliate Program by Main Street America.

Some indicators are required as important foundational starting points for a program to qualify for Accreditation. The current baseline requirements are:

- A Board of Directors formed by a representative base of the district stakeholders and community members, dedicated to leading the district’s Main Street program.
- Communities over 5,000 in population must employ a FTE program director. Communities under 5,000 in population must employ a 20-hour minimum per week program director.
- Identified Transformation Strategy to direct the work of the program, based on community input and market understanding.
- Detailed work plans aligned with the selected Transformation Strategy that outline programming across the Main Street Four Points. Work plans include: the project, expected (measurable) outcomes, specific tasks needed to accomplish the project, assignments of those tasks showing



volunteer and staff responsibilities, timelines, and budgets.

- A dedicated budget for the district’s revitalization programming and the Main Street program’s operations.
  - Demonstrated support from the municipality for the Main Street program. This can include leadership participation, funding, in-kind donations, and philosophical support.
  - Reinvestment statistics reported as required by the Coordinating Program (monthly, quarterly, or annually).
  - Be a member in good standing with Main Street America and appropriately use the MSA logo and Coordinating Program logo on its website and/or social media.
- Documents or items needed before the visit:
- Review of their Social Media channels
  - Annual Work Plan
  - Transformation Strategy / Strategic Plans
  - Finances: Balance sheet, overall annual budget, Budget vs. actual preferred, Last filed financial report (e.g. 990 if nonprofit, audit if available, and/or completed actuals if a department of local government)
  - Board Membership List with affiliations; matrix if available
  - Board Handbook (if they have one)
  - Volunteer Handbook (if they have one)
  - Annual Report

Accreditation Visit Agenda:  
8:30AM – Program Presentation  
Attendance: Executive Director, President, others?  
9:00 - 9:50 AM – Private Partnerships  
Attendance: Chamber, Tourism, Economic Development, College, Arts organization, other community non-profits, business, and property owners. No Main Street Staff or board members (if possible)  
10:00 – 10:50 AM– Public Partnerships  
Attendance: City officials and council members  
11:00AM – District Tour  
Attendance: Executive Director. All are welcome.  
Tour to highlight recent achievements and to consider all accreditation standards.  
12:00PM – Lunch Executive Director and other leadership members are welcome.  
1:30PM – Executive Board  
Attendance: Executive Committee/Officers. No Main Street Staff.  
2:00 – 2:50 PM – Board & Committees  
Attendance: Board and committee members. No Main Street Staff.  
3:00 – 3:50 PM – Board, Committees,  
Main Street Staff Attendance: All organizational leadership including staff.  
4:00 – 4:20 PM – Visit Recap  
Attendance: Staff required. Senior board leadership and other committee/board leadership are welcome.



## WORDS OF WISDOM

This week’s trivia questions:

What country music singer had hit songs in the 1980s with “Ocean Front Property in Arizona”, “All My Ex’s Live in Texas”, and “Amarillo by Morning”? Answer: George Strait.

What country music singer had hit songs in the 1990s with “Don’t Rock the Jukebox”, “Chasin’ That Neon Rainbow”, and “Chattahoochee”? Answer: Alan Jackson.

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This week’s trivia questions:

What actress is known for her roles in the movies “Ghost”, “A Few Good Men”, and “G.I. Jane”?

What actor is known for his roles in the movies “Saving Private Ryan”, “Good Will Hunting”, and “The Bourne Identity”?

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June 18 is International Picnic Day, and National Fishing Day; June 19 is Juneteenth, and National Martini Day; June 20 is American Eagle Day, First Day of Summer, and National Vanilla Milkshake Day; June 21 is National Smoothie Day, World Day of Music, and World Giraffe Day; June 22 is World Rainforest Day, and National Chocolate Eclair Day; June 23 is National Pink Day, and National Family Owned & Operated Business Day; June 24 is Farmer Day.

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This week is National Roller Coaster Week, National Forgiveness Week, and Lightning Safety Awareness Week.

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“But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

– Isaiah 40:31

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“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

– 2 Timothy 1:7

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“But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back.

Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.”

– Luke 6:35

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### Funny church sign

“Live your life well, so we don’t have to lie at your funeral.”

“Noah was a brave man to sail in a wooden boat with two termites.”

“Don’t be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark, professionals built the Titanic.”

“You like carbs? Jesus is the Bread of Life!”

“God’s last name isn’t Damn!”

“Moses was the first person with a tablet to download data from the cloud.”

“The Emancipation Proclamation” was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on Jan. 1, 1863, during the Civil War. It called for the freedom of slaves in the Confederate states, and allowed the Union Army to recruit black soldiers.

(It did not immediately free any enslaved people, but led to the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment, which formally abolished slavery in the United States.)

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“Juneteenth” is celebrated annually on June 19th, commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

(It marks the day in 1865 when Union troops freed enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed).

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## Code Counsel: City Council Elections

BY JIM DAVIES  
MEMBER AT LARGE,  
HAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

At the June 12th city council meeting, the council considered the appointment to the Ward I Council vacancy to serve from July 1, 2025, until the canvassing of the November 2025 election. Motion by Palmer, second by Lamos to appoint Kristin Roode to the Ward I Council vacancy to serve from July 1, 2025, until the canvassing of the November 2025 election. Ayes: Palmer, Lamos, Holmstrom and Davies. Nays: Grefe. Absent: Hodge. Motion approved.

The Council consists of two council members elected at large and one council member from each of four wards as established by the Code of Ordinances. The six council terms are for 4 years each and staggered with 3 up for election every 2 years. The office of mayor is up for election every two years.

The upcoming city election is November 4. Candidate filing period is August 25 to September 18. Voter pre-registration deadline is Monday, October 20.

There will be 5 of the 6 councilors up for election this fall as well as the mayor. Normally, three of the

six council positions would be up for election. However, the two appointed positions only serve until the next election.

I have been elected to one of the two at large council positions. I am the only city councilor not up for election this year.

This is your opportunity to be a city leader. Why run for city council?

1. Make a Difference Locally  
City councils directly influence everyday issues like parks, roads, public safety, housing, and local business development. Serving allows someone to advocate for improvements and changes that benefit residents.
2. Give Back to the Community  
Many people run for office to return the support they've received from their town or city. It's a way to serve neighbors, friends, and future generations.
3. Shape Policy and Planning  
Councils set the tone for long-term planning, budgets, zoning, infrastructure, and environmental sustainability. Members have a say in how the city grows and prepares for future challenges.
4. Voice for the Unheard  
Some candidates run to represent specific groups they feel are under-

represented or overlooked. It gives a platform to highlight local issues that might otherwise go unnoticed.

5. Develop Leadership and Skills  
City council service builds public speaking, decision-making, negotiation, and leadership skills. It's a valuable experience that can lead to broader roles in government or community organizations.
  6. Be Informed and Involved  
Council members are among the first to know about city initiatives and challenges. It's ideal for people who like to stay engaged and informed about what's happening in their community.
  7. Network and Collaborate  
Members work with community leaders, government agencies, and local organizations. This collaboration helps build strong connections and partnerships.
  8. Personal Fulfillment  
Many find great satisfaction in solving problems, helping residents, and leaving a positive legacy. Being part of visible change—like improving sidewalks and roads—can be deeply rewarding.
- Contact Hampton City Hall for information on the upcoming city election.

## Lange Earns Certificate from Agriculture Credit School

Josh Lange of First Bank Hampton successfully completed the Iowa Bankers Association/Iowa State University Agriculture Credit School, June 2-6, 2025 in Ankeny, Iowa.

The school is an intense two-week program sponsored by the Iowa Bankers Association and Iowa State University. Students attend one week during their first year and complete the remaining week the following year. At the school students participate in rigorous coursework, gaining insights into risk assessment, compliance requirements, and strategic decision-making in agriculture lending. The class advances a better

understanding of the agriculture lending industry, allowing students to better meet the needs of their customers and serve their local communities.

Josh Lange and his wife, Cassidy, live in Hampton with their baby girl, Emerson. Josh began his career at First Bank Hampton in 2022 after graduating from Buena Vista University.

“I’m excited to bring all the new skills I have learned to First Bank Hampton,” he said. “I enjoy helping our customers with financing and bringing them closer to achieving their financial goals.”

*Photo provided by First Bank Hampton.*



Josh Lange

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