

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Mount Jackson Introduces the MOUNT JACKSON 5 Program Participants

Mount Jackson, VA – The Town of Mount Jackson is thrilled to announce the five talented entrepreneurial teams selected for the inaugural **MOUNT JACKSON 5** community business grant program. This exciting program, made possible by a generous Community Business Launch (CBL) grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, aims to foster entrepreneurship and revitalize the downtown area. The goal of the MOUNT JACKSON 5 program is to stimulate economic growth and create new opportunities within the community.

“We are incredibly excited to launch the MOUNT JACKSON 5 program and support these promising entrepreneurs!” said Olivia Hilton, Mount Jackson Town Manager.

The five selected participants bring a diverse range of business ideas to the table:

- **Brice, Trey, and Greg Nelson** are bringing their love for outdoor adventure to life with a new **bike and run shop** adjacent to future home of the Rail Trail.
- **Jillian Korugic**, a local culinary talent, is sharing her passion for cooking and plans to expand her business (Jillian’s Farmstead Kitchen) by offering scratch-made meals, catering, and homemade goods in an **eatery** in Mount Jackson.
- **Claire McEachern** is creating a **dynamic space** that combines co-working, DIY crafts, and a **local artisan gallery** to foster creativity and collaboration.
- **Curtis Robinson** is bringing his fitness expertise to Mount Jackson with a new **gym and health spa** that includes childcare services.
- **Anthony High** and **Ethan Kissam** are teaming up to open a **card shop** that will be a haven for collectors and gamers alike.

The MOUNT JACKSON 5 program offers a comprehensive package of support, including mentorship, business planning workshops, and a competitive pitch competition with a \$50,000 prize pool. Participants will also benefit from ongoing resources and collaborations with local organizations such as the Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Development Center, and the Shenandoah County Economic Development Office. Program participants will have until the end of 2025 to open their new businesses in Mount Jackson. Available commercial spaces will continue to be identified and secured in the coming months as these individuals prepare to open.

Governor Glenn Youngkin announced in July 2024 over \$690,000 in CBL grants for 16 projects across the Commonwealth, highlighting the importance of supporting small businesses and revitalizing historic downtowns. Mount Jackson is proud to be a recipient of this funding and is committed to leveraging these resources to create a vibrant and prosperous community.

The Town of Mount Jackson invites the community to join in celebrating the launch of the MOUNT JACKSON 5 initiative and to support these entrepreneurs as they embark on their exciting journeys.

For more information about the MOUNT JACKSON 5 or the town, please visit www.mountjackson.com or contact Ms. Olivia Hilton, Town Manager at 540-477-2121.