



Great News for Downtown

What fantastic news for downtown Manitowoc!

After going through quite an interesting facelift over the past several months, in terms of infrastructure and décor, a new business has popped up to redevelop a very visible vacancy.

First, the facelift – kudos are due here to the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Parks and Recreation Department (Parks). These two departments and their outstanding staffs had to manage multiple new high priority tasks, during what is traditionally their busiest time of the year.

If you haven't noticed some of the detail, the first job of DPW and Parks was rebuilding all the downtown benches and repainting all of the trash receptacles.

Next, DPW installed decorative lighting on the eighth and Tenth Street bridges while also doing their street concrete slab replacement and spring and summer city-wide clean-ups.

In late spring and early summer these departments plus our engineering department partnered to complete the Quay Street extension to the Carferry and our south lakefront.

DPW is just finishing the removal of our old tattered and battered lamp pole banners and hardware and are almost complete with the installation of our new banners which are the result of collaboration among our DPW, the Manitowoc City Centre Association and the Assistant to the Mayor.

Speaking of collaboration, the City partnered financially with the Wisconsin Maritime Museum to produce their beautiful new banners with the installation aided by City maintenance staff.

This facelift notwithstanding, the really, really big news for our downtown is that yet another new business has decided that downtown is a great place to locate and market its wares.

Add to 100 Maritime Place, the RiverLoft Condos, Port City Hot Dogs and the many wonderful existing downtown retail and other businesses, the brand new “TWH Collectibles”.

TWH Collectibles will locate in the vacant and “historic” Kresge Building most recently home to Cook's Corner.

TWH Collectibles' owner, John Hemken, says he will develop his business into a “visitor destination” featuring intricate and detailed scale models of things ranging from Manitowoc Cranes to historically significant buildings.

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Hemken's business plan includes retail sales, museum quality displays, marketing, planning and design. We're not aware of the exact timeline for the opening of this new store, but we are extremely excited that the vacancy at 8th and Franklin will soon be filled.

By the way, the rumors regarding a big, new department store that will locate in the HarborTown Retail center persist. Hopefully, we'll learn of their accuracy soon.

Manitowoc Mayor Kevin Crawford may be reached at 920-686-6980.