



Congrats to MCCA – Go EDC!

Congratulations to the Manitowoc City Centre Association and their off shoot “Main Street” committee, Mainly Manitowoc, for receiving one of three designations granted for 2008 by Governor Jim Doyle making our downtown a “Main Street” Downtown.

Getting this designation means that our downtowners and the new organization they form to manage our downtown will receive five years of intensive assistance from the Main Street Division of Wisconsin’s Department of Commerce. The assistance is meant to aid MCCA in developing a plan to operate our central city retail, service and entertainment venues in a consistent manner, recruit new businesses to our downtown, and develop fundraising strategies to provide sustainability to the organization itself.

The city provided start-up funds in the amount of \$50,000 using the economic development tool called Tax Incremental Financing. In order to access these funds, MCCA needed to come up with a dollar for dollar match from private contributors. They did, and now the program is underway.

Congratulations to all the downtowners involved in this successful application process, and again, this is another effort where the Economic Development Corporation of Manitowoc County (EDC) played an important role.

Actually, the EDC is starting to leave its fingerprints on lots of development projects throughout Manitowoc County. We had a chance to enjoy another of the successful local projects where the EDC played a partnership role on Saturday when we dined for the first time at “Al Corso” in downtown Collins.

Wow! Talk about bringing vitality back to an area of our county that like so many places needs a little help, Al Corso is doing the trick.

Al Corso’s number can be found “in the book”. It’s just a short trip west on JJ to J. Left on J back to JJ, then to W in Collins, with a hard left before the “tracks”. A few minute ride takes you to a gorgeous restaurant in mid-Manitowoc County.

The food was fantastic and portions generous, with reasonable pricing.

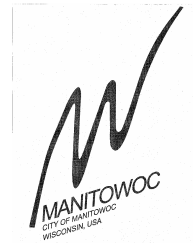
Here, the EDC helped out with business plan guidance and the use of its revolving loan fund to help fund furniture and fixtures.

Coincidentally, if I’ve got this right, “Al Corso” means “the main street”.

Finally, the EDC is partnering with the City of Manitowoc to assist a large local manufacturing facility in some of its expansion plans. The organization is hoping to attract a new line of business to add to its already amazing core manufacturing processes that will aid the plant in staying competitive in the increasingly more difficult “new world” of \$200/barrel oil.

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At the plant, we're working with an energetic new manager and his very able financial person.

We hope to assist the potential expansion using funds that we received for economic development purposes from the Department of Commerce's Wisconsin Development Fund. These funds are originally loaned to a business in the growth mode by the state for jobs creation. When the company pays back its loan, it pays the money back to the municipality that arranged the financial assistance in the first place. Those dollars are then recycled into a loan fund for the specific purpose of assisting businesses grow. The EDC is working with my office to arrange Job Training Credits from the state to assist the new employees hired by the company, if we are all successful, to learn the skills necessary to operate the new processes included in the potential expansion.

Any questions or need for help, both my home and office are listed in the white pages.

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