

Copps & MetroJam

The new Copps food store is as beautiful as any retail operation could possibly be! Visiting the store this past week on the night prior to its actual opening was a treat. It was amazing to see the types of display technologies employed to make the food shopping experience exciting and fun.

I've not yet seen everything the new Copps has to offer, but it surely can be said that shopping in the new store on Calumet Avenue is an eye opener to the quality marketplace that Manitowoc has become.

And more than beautiful, the new Copps is "green". From advanced methodologies employed in the parking field to control and "clean" storm water run off, to motion detectors that turn off lighting in unused aisles, the new Copps touches mother earth gently.

Store Director Lane Landon and Regional Manger Tom Pozorski both talked of the loyalty of Copps customers and how good the people of Manitowoc County have been to their business. In a similar light, it's amazing that a single retail store actually built and "lived in" three different stores on the same piece of property: starting out as a department store in the white building that became K-Mart, then building a new store in the mid-eighties and now another new store in 2008. I guess we can say that Copps is loyal to our community, too. Congratulations to Copps and all your associates. It's great to have you here!

After the announcement that GM was closing its Janesville truck plant, Jeff Alexander of Channel 2 news made his way to Manitowoc to discover what it was that we did locally to rebound from the devastating impact of Mirro offshoring 1,400 jobs to Mexico in 2003 and closing down its area plants.

We discussed the success and stories behind Koenig-Vits, Orion Energy and Tramontina and our efforts to bring vital new "retail" to Manty in the face of hard times.

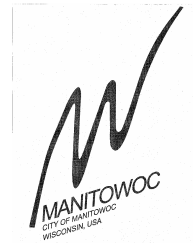
Local unemployment has dropped from a high of around 10% in 2003 to its current 4.4%. And Mirro's flight to Mexico has not stopped manufacturing from continuing to be the primary force behind our economy. 31% of our county's jobs are in the manufacturing sector. The average wage for a manufacturing career is \$44,110. And more than 1,300 manufacturing jobs were added to the northeastern Wisconsin economy in 2007.

Our hearts go out to the soon to be dislocated GM employees in Janesville and to all impacted by this terrible act of our global economy. Hopefully, just like in Manitowoc, this current threat to the Janesville area economy can be turned in to an opportunity for future success.

Next weekend brings the Thirtieth Anniversary edition of MetroJam to downtown Manitowoc's Washington Park. Always exquisitely staged, Bob Mittnacht's and Tom Chermak's two wonderful days of free musical entertainment is one of summer's highlights!

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3 MINUTES WITH The Mayor



If you were there you know that last year's encore number "All Along the Watchtower" was spectacularly performed by a collaboration of recording artists from groups "Nine Days" and "Stroke Nine".

This year's line up promises equally exciting opportunities for aficionados of great music! Friday night's headliner is "DE LA BUENA", a ten piece Afro/Cuban Latin Jazz band. DE LA BUENA plays at 7:30 and is preceded by the Reggae music of "The Urbanites".

Saturday brings both the Garden Fair and MetroJam to the Park with a fascinating line up of Rock and Roll to Country Crossover. Saturday's music begins at noon and finishes the evening with Philadelphia band "Hoots & Hellmouth"; "Caddle" from Birmingham AL; Chicago based "The Redwalls"; and headliner "THE KNACK" featuring their hits "My Sharona" and "Good Girls Don't".

MetroJam is a great event here in the heart of Manitowoc. Head down to the park and join the party!

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