

## Community Update with Mayor Nickels

11-08-2009

### “Healthiest Companies in America – Manitowoc!”

This past week The City of Manitowoc was recognized as one of the “Healthiest Companies in America” by Interactive Health Solutions.



According to Jim Banks, the CEO, “The Healthiest Companies winners provide true preventative care because employers and employees take an active role in their own healthcare, allowing them to assert added control over costs.”

The impact of preventative care extends from the individual employee, who may enjoy a longer, more active life, to the employer, who gains healthier, more productive workers, and an effective means of impacting healthcare costs.

The City of Manitowoc won awards in two key categories: Most Improved and Healthiest Companies Overall. The recognition program measures year-over-year improvement among employees in such areas as blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose and triglyceride levels.

This is a very exciting award to receive. The City of Manitowoc’s health premiums are only going up 5% over last year. That is compared to the national average of 10-15%, and the County which is going up in double digits.

I also want to thank everyone who attended my listening sessions this past Wednesday. The crowd was not as large as I hoped it would be, but I would still encourage you to call or contact me anytime if you wish to discuss the proposed 2010 budget. The Finance Committee has met twice to discuss the budget, and it looks as if it will pass with minor changes. The only change so far is the Finance Committee has gone on record supporting whatever fee structure the recreation committee sets for the Aquatic Center. I have proposed resident and non-resident fees, allowing anyone who contributed \$100 or more and lives outside the City to pay only a resident fee. I strongly encourage you to contact your Alderman and share your views about resident and non-resident fees. You are their boss, and they should listen to you.

The public hearing for the Budget in front of the City Council is scheduled for Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Please attend and share your views with the City Council and myself.

If you have an opportunity stop down to Nutty Guys which is the newest business to locate in downtown Manitowoc. You may have seen them at the Farmers Market this summer, and their success there has led them to open full time downtown. They are located at 906 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street right across from the Mad Hatter and Book World. If you love all different sorts of nuts and candies, stop down and support this new business.

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This upcoming Wednesday, the 11<sup>th</sup>, is Veterans Day in America. We have a special Ceremony beginning around 11:00 at the Veterans Memorial. Please keep our past and present soldiers in your thoughts and prayers this Veterans Day, especially those who gave their lives or were wounded this past week at Fort Hood in Texas.

Thank You to all our veterans, Happy Veterans Day.

