

## Community Update with Mayor Nickels

7-05-2009

### “Wisconsin Hometown Stories – WPT”

I hope everyone had a Happy and Safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July this past weekend. The Independence Day picnic at Washington Park was a huge success and brought in hundreds of citizens to enjoy the Manitowoc Marine Band, the Rod Scheuer Group, and activities and food for the entire family. A special thank you to Joe McLafferty and his staff for organizing the event to making sure everyone enjoyed their afternoon, the fireworks were spectacular as well.



This past week Governor Doyle signed the state 2 year budget. The budget closes a record \$6.6 billion [dollar] shortfall over two years by raising \$2.1 billion [dollars] in taxes and fees, spending federal economic stimulus money, cutting state agencies and reducing aid to local governments and schools. By acting last Monday, the state completed their budget before the start of the fiscal year for the first time since 1977. Past budgets have dragged on for months past the July 1<sup>st</sup> start of the fiscal year. The cut to local governments, and specifically Manitowoc, means a 3% cut in shared revenue. This equals \$150,000 [dollars] less received than last year. Now that we know the definite number, I will begin budget discussions this week. Each department will be submitting their individual budgets to me this week, and over the next few weeks I will be reviewing each of them and determining how I wish to submit my executive budget to the City Council.

Also, this past week, Wisconsin public television aired “Hometown Stories, Manitowoc – Two Rivers”, a documentary focusing on the rich history of our port cities. You can view the documentary online at [www.wisconsinstories.org/manitowoc](http://www.wisconsinstories.org/manitowoc). Wisconsin Hometown Stories: Manitowoc-Two Rivers follows the evolution of two cities whose culture, commerce and recreation have been shaped by neighboring Lake Michigan.

The program includes tales of shipwrecks and life-saving operations, the development and proliferation of wooden type and aluminum manufacturing, the region's participation in the World War II home front effort, and the emergence and growth of new businesses in recent decades. I strongly encourage you to watch this documentary if you get an opportunity. If you do not have a computer at home with internet you are always welcome to stop down to the Manitowoc Library and utilize their computers.