



Downtown Marshall businesses hope for turnaround

THE ENQUIRER • SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

MARSHALL — Some are thriving, some are just surviving and some are leaving, but Marshall's downtown business owners are hoping for an economic turnaround.

Main Street Manager Diane Larkin said that will take forward thinking, more local shoppers and new industry that brings new jobs.

Of the 58 retailers downtown, about seven downtown storefronts are currently vacant, and another two are in the process of going out of business because of a continued decrease in sales in a tough economy. "New industry with additional jobs is going to be crucial for us," Larkin said. "The casino (FireKeepers Casino in Emmett Township) is going to be a boost." Retailers are struggling statewide. According to a report by the Michigan Retailers Association, "August was the 10th consecutive month that the number of retailers reporting decreased sales has outnumbered those reporting increases." *See the full story Saturday in the Enquirer and at battlecreekenquirer.com.*

In Your Voice

READ REACTIONS TO THIS STORY

[fountaintown](#) wrote:

Yes, and on the same token, the MPD should not be allowing people to loiter downtown as they have for so many years. It is not all innocent fun as some of them that do are noisy, obnoxious, destructive, and so on. We are the only community that allows it, and who the heck wants to shop

downtown or have a business open in the evenings when people take up the parking spaces to hang out, yip and holler and so on.

9/27/2008 1:37:20 AM

[Recommend](#)

[New post](#)

[Reply to this Post](#)

[Report Abuse](#)

customersfirst wrote:

One of the essential elements of a thriving business is that you are OPEN for business. There seems to be plenty of customers. At least that's what we see with local customers and customers from Canada, Ohio, Traverse City, Battle Creek, Lansing, Florida, South Bend (just last Thurs. list alone). They always ask "Why aren't more stores open?". We don't have an answer for them, but they always answer it themselves with "I guess they just don't need or want our business". So I guess if you convince yourself that you might as well not open because you won't have customers.....you won't.

Treat customers like they matter, show them respect and accommodate them.