

Shops helped with 'first impressions'

Benjamin Lank | The Journal Gazette

Even in a tough economy, Fort Wayne businesses are willing to spend on improvements should an incentive be provided.

Mayor Tom Henry on Wednesday announced that the city has awarded \$400,000 in commercial facade grants, a program he promised when running for office.

Henry said the program initially called for \$200,000 in grants, but the response was so overwhelming, he doubled the pot. He said the businesses will use the grants for \$1.2 million in projects.

The money will help revitalize neighborhood business corridors, Henry said, providing lively shopping places within walking distance for residents.

"Soon, work will begin on several corridors and gateways that is so much more than cosmetic: it's the economics of the first impression," Henry said.

One of the recipients was Anthony M. Henry, the mayor's brother, who will receive a \$4,250 grant to improve property on Wells Street. Mayoral spokeswoman Rebecca Karcher said the mayor's brother submitted a project under the normal process and met criteria for the grant.

Julie Sanchez, a city redevelopment specialist, said the city received 27 applications for the grants but was able to give money to only 21 businesses. While the awards are called facade grants, the money was given for a variety of projects, including parking lot improvements, doors and windows.

Sanchez said the city plans to offer the program again when money becomes available.

blanka@jg.net



Laura J. Gardner | The Journal Gazette

With a cup of coffee in hand, Mayor Tom Henry talks about the city's new facade grants at Firefly Coffee House on Anthony Boulevard. It's among 21 businesses receiving money.

Grant winners

The city has awarded facade grants to the following businesses:

Name	Grant amount	Project amount
George's International Grocery	\$40,000	\$180,000
Prairie Quest	\$35,500	\$165,500
The Reclamation Project	\$40,000	\$135,000
Metro Real Estate 2	\$20,000	\$100,000
Knitting Off Broadway	\$20,000	\$86,000
Quimby Village Association	\$40,000	\$80,000
Casselwood-DKJ Holdings	\$10,000	\$65,000
LMA Enterprises-Firefly	\$32,369	\$64,738
Intrascap Inc.	\$20,000	\$54,000
Lutheran Homes	\$20,000	\$51,720
Metro Real Estate 1	\$20,000	\$45,000
Shambaugh Family Ltd.	\$21,800	\$43,638
Old Crown Inc.	\$20,000	\$43,500
Darryl Gorman	\$20,000	\$41,000
G.I. Joe's Army Surplus	\$10,000	\$20,000
Zesto Ice Cream	\$8,426	\$16,851
Hyde Brothers Booksellers	\$6,200	\$12,407
Great Panes Glass	\$5,555	\$11,110
Engine House Development	\$4,657	\$9,313
Anthony M. Henry	\$4,250	\$8,500
Gouloff-Jordan Surveyor	\$3,500	\$7,000

Source: City of Fort Wayne

