

Business vision a welcome change

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It was good this week to see the positive results of one man's vision and determination to offer local businesses a place to not only showcase their business, but to make it affordable for them to do business in our community.

At the end of last year, Eric Tegl of Mountain Centers decided to convert one of the larger buildings that was sitting empty in the Broadway Plaza Shopping Center into a grouping of six business locations that would each have their own store front. His thought was that the community could attract those businesses more easily than one huge building that only works for a few types of businesses, such as national stores.

Three of the new tenants are stores that are new to Sterling, and three are existing businesses that relocated from another area of the city. New tenants include a trophy shop, an optical shop, a salon, a sports medicine and physical therapy office, a specialty clothing shop, a photographer and a furniture store.

Tegl has done some major cosmetic updates and needed repairs since acquiring the Broadway property three years ago. When five of his current tenants renewed their leases for five years, he took that as an indication that the improvements and investments were working for the tenants, and he decided to go ahead with the conversion of the large building.

Those tenants who made the move also demonstrated their forward-looking thinking and their confidence in the business community in Sterling. Making such a decision does not come easily, nor without extra work and a sincere dedication to do what will work the best for the customers.

We have seen several examples of that confidence in our business community recently.

We have a new meat market and a farm/feed store in the process, businesses are expanding or adding new features, and a new department store is on the way â just to mention a few.

Our city government and community benefactors have shown their confidence with economic development and recreation, library and street improvements as well as fundraisers â just to mention a few.

It is that kind of foresight and belief we need to continue in our community. It is that kind of pride we need to have in our community to continue to go forward.

We say congratulations and good job to Tegl and all the business owners in the Broadway Plaza Shopping Center for their efforts and commitment to making it happen. We hope others will follow their lead, believing what is possible and following through to make it a reality. We do want to add one point. The move to Broadway Plaza does not mean businesses have given up on downtown. Maybe what Sterling needs at this point is more people with a vision like Tegl, people who will see the future as an investment opportunity. Sterling's downtown does have a lot to offer. The question should not be if, but who will step up, and when.

In this column alone is the Journal-Advocate's opinion expressed.

Journal-Advocate Editorial Board