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REPORTING

FOX 12

NEWS AT NINE

Nampa, Idaho - A major facade restoration project is underway in Nampa's Historic District.

It's all part of the city's plan to attract new businesses and people to the area.

Developers believe this is the first step in revitalizing downtown.

Welcome to downtown Nampa, a place filled with shops, bars and restaurants.

"Nice place to go for walks and everything," said Terry Hoard II of Nampa.

Bob Logan, who works in Nampa, said, "It's quiet, peaceful, nice just to get out."

Soon, the Historic District will become even nicer as new businesses set up shop.

Construction on Market Limone, an upscale specialty food market and wine shop will begin in a little more than a month.

The furniture consignment store, Trading Places, will open its doors in about three and a half weeks.

Ewephoria, a high end fiber art gallery and yarn store will open on Saturday.

And folks can check out the Flying M coffee house next week.

"We so need a place for people to hangout and just commune, it's wonderful. It'll definitely add to what I'm doing, we just need more of that," said Developer, Laurel MacKinnon.

MacKinnon owns four buildings in Nampa's Historic Heart, also known as the Belle District.

She thinks these new businesses will help revitalize downtown.

"I'm hoping it translates into more development and more investment by other people as well," she said.

Also helping to bring back the history of downtown Nampa is the City's facade improvement program.

This storefront on the Trading Places building is the project's first, many more are in the works.

"We have this wonderful, historic downtown, we need to take off some of the makeup so to speak, and reveal what's underneath, I think the community will come out and appreciate what we have," said Heather Richards, the Project Development Coordinator for the City of Nampa.

Mackinnon added, "We're just bringing back the history that was once here, to give something, a sense of place, give something for people to connect to."

By preserving downtown's rich architectural heritage, the City and developers hope it will draw more folks to the area to experience what it's all about.

"It'll be nice to visit the past and just have fun," said Hoard.

12 other properties are in the design assistance phase of the facade improvement program.

City officials anticipate three of them will begin construction this summer.