



The Flint Journal • Ryan Garza

▲ The Wade Trim Building in downtown Flint.

City block on the mend

By Melissa Burden

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FLINT — What a difference a few years can make. A stroll down two blocks of brick-paved South Saginaw Street earlier this decade

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would have met with several closed-up storefronts and empty, deteriorating buildings. The scene is much different and more vibrant in the 400 and 500 blocks of South Saginaw today — the day a new, \$5.2-million, three-story building is being unveiled to the public.

The Wade Trim Building, named for the engineering firm anchoring it and occupying 8,500 square feet on the second floor, was to be open from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. for public tours.

Newest arrival

About the Wade Trim Building:

- **Where:** 555 S. Saginaw St., near Second Street in downtown Flint.
- **What's there:** The Flint branch of civil engineering firm Wade Trim occupies the entire second floor. About 1,200 square feet has been leased for a new Mexican restaurant. WNEM (Channel 5) has 2,500 square feet on the ground floor. Four loft apartments round off the third floor.
- **Tours:** Public tours were planned from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. today.
- **Price tag:** \$5.2 million, paid for by Uptown Developments and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, with \$1 million from Baker College of Flint.
- **For rent:** Three retail spaces on the ground floor, about 1,000 to 1,300 square feet, are available for \$950 to \$1,400 a month. One loft remains available for \$1,450 a month.
- **Details:** www.uptowndevelopments.com, (810) 238-5555.

► City, A2

City: DOWNTOWN

area on mend | A1

The building at 555 S. Saginaw St. is just across the street from the \$20-million building that will house Rowe Professional Services Co., which is expected to be completed in mid-2009.

None of this is happening by accident.

"We've got a lot of momentum," said Tim Herman, president of Uptown Reinvestment Corp., the nonprofit agency behind much of downtown Flint's redevelopment. Herman also is chief executive officer of the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce.

There's more news about downtown to come, said Ridgeway White, project manager of Uptown Developments, a real-estate development and management company that, with partners such as the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, has helped pour \$35 million into downtown Flint in recent years.

An announcement is planned next week on "the rest of the block," White



Flint Journal files

A recent Flint Journal feature showcased one of the loft apartments in the Wade Trim Building. Find a link at mlive.com/flintjournal.

said, speaking about the 500 block of South Saginaw, dubbed the Mott block because it's home to the Mott Foundation Building.

And talks between Uptown Developments and HealthPlus of Michigan to try to bring the health insurance company from Flint Township to a new building on the site of a parking lot on South Saginaw, south of the University of Michigan Flint Pavilion, are continuing. That move could bring nearly 400 employees downtown.

"We're not stopping with these projects," White said.



Photo • Uptown Developments

should open by Dec. 1.

The 1,200-square-foot restaurant will have seating for about 50 people.

"My tamales and enchiladas are going to be a hit," said Soyla Roberts, 45, of Mundy Township. She will co-own the restaurant with her husband, Dave Roberts, production manager for The Flint Journal.

For the warmer months, there's hope for outdoor seating in a new grassy area that was developed between the building and Second Street, Dave Roberts said.

The Rotary Club of Flint gave \$60,000 to beautify the plaza, and the Ruth Mott Foundation also provided funding, White said

Here's a view of the interior of the new Wade Trim Building. More photos are online at mlive.com/flintjournal.

Uptown Developments, which focuses on mixed-use projects with housing, retail and office space, is seeking to add more retailers such as florists or restaurants to its buildings downtown. It's already helped bring more than 20 loft apartments downtown, with eight more on tap for the new Rowe Building.

"Our goal is to have five new restaurants in downtown operating within the next two years," White said.

Herman said Uptown Developments' multi-use focus follows protocol on what has made other downtowns successful.

"If you have a strong, vibrant downtown, you can attract businesses from out of state, out of town," White said.

Wade Trim and its 25 employees moved into their new Flint quarters in early August, from a location just a few blocks north on South Saginaw, said Jason Kenyon, Wade Trim vice president and office manager for the Flint office.

Kenyon said employees are energized about their

new "state-of-the-art" work space and excited to be part of downtown's revitalization. And many stay downtown and walk to get a sandwich at lunchtime, Kenyon said.

"It wasn't often you'd see them walk downtown for lunch," he said. "Instead of hopping into their cars and heading to Miller Road, they're staying" downtown.

Michigan Lottery

Here are the winning numbers

selected Monday, Oct. 6

Midday Daily 3	8-8-1
Midday Daily 4	4-3-9-2
Daily 3	9-8-9
Daily 4	7-0-7-3
Fantasy 5	6-10-21-23-26
Keno	7, 8, 11, 25, 26, 27, 34, 44, 46, 50, 51, 56, 60, 61, 62, 65, 68, 71, 75, 77, 78, 79.

Here are the winning numbers

selected Sunday, Oct. 5

Midday Daily 3	3-8-3
Midday Daily 4	9-5-3-4
Daily 3	8-8-0
Daily 4	0-8-7-1
Fantasy 5	14-26-37-38-39
Keno	4, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 30, 33, 35, 36, 40, 41, 44, 47, 57, 58, 59, 61, 64, 69, 72, 79.