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Specialty Retailers Show Confidence in Downtown Manitou Springs
Coquette Creperie and Girl of the Golden West set to open in downtown Manitou Springs

Manitou Springs, Colorado (August 12, 2009) – Walk down the street in Historic Manitou Springs and you do not know there is an overall downturn in specialty retail districts across America. The vibrant central business district has relatively few vacant store fronts, heavy pedestrian traffic on their newly revitalized sidewalks and a special vibe that earned it the Coolest Small Town in America designation in 2008.

Two new store openings enhance the overall brand of one-of-a-kind, locally owned and operated. Both stores will be opening in the next few days; Coquette Creperie and Golden Girl of the West. “These stores demonstrate a confidence in our community by investing when the visitor season is coming to a close,” stated Kitty Clemens, Economic Development Director for Manitou Springs. “In the early 90’s our 800 phone line was the central visitor information source. Spring, call volume would increase as many of the inquiries were calling to ask if Manitou was open. We had so many businesses that closed in the winter, the perception was that we just closed the entire town when our visitor season ended. Today, we have year-round traffic from our regional trade area, an active evening dining atmosphere, live music, and many, many stores that offer a fantastic shopping experience.”

Manitou Springs embarked on their transformation a few years ago when voters overwhelmingly approved a bond to implement the Avenue Plan, a streetscape design that had been lingering on the shelf for more than 30 years. The Avenue Plan was first approved in the 1970’s. It was updated and reapproved more than once through the 1990’s. Each effort to ask voters to approve the debt was thwarted until November of 2003.

Since the successful election, many changes have been made to encourage business investment on Manitou Avenue. The shopping district that was once relevant only to a visitor shopping base has gained numerous new stores that cater to locals year-round. In the past few years the district added a kitchen store, several new galleries, new clothing boutiques, new live music venues, expanded outdoor dining facilities, a book store, ice cream shop, wine emporium, toy store, children's clothing, gourmet chocolate, framing shop, jewelry repair, bike shop and much more.

Coquette Creperie adds a new and exciting dining dimension to downtown while **Girl of the Golden West** will add one more fun reason to shop for women's fashions and special accessories.

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