



Downtown Fremont HAS IT ALL

“There really is something for everyone” in historic district

Tribune Staff

Fremont’s roots are anchored in its Historic Downtown and it is as vibrant as it was when the city was first established in 1856.

In 2018, Fremont’s Main Street was included on a USA Today list of “charming Main Streets” across the country. The list featured a Main Street from each state in the country, highlighting Fremont’s main street as the representative for Nebraska.

As pointed out by the USA Today entry—which makes mention of longtime local retailer Sampter’s and recently opened Milady Coffeehouse—much of

Downtown Fremont’s charm can be found in the melding of preserved history and constant efforts to grow and evolve the area with cutting-edge businesses and events.

While some people make the trip to downtown looking for a piece of the past at one of the many antique shops that have led to the area being dubbed “North-east Nebraska’s Antique Capital”, some will also browse through the numerous boutiques and shops.

Downtown Fremont also serves as a spot for entertainment, events, bars, restaurants and live music—while also attracting local residents for more day-to-day services like banks, legal services,

real estate, auto and home repair, counseling and many other needed services.

There are over 15 restaurants and bars downtown.

“I think it’s that balance that makes Downtown Fremont so unique,” Shannon Mullen, Fremont & Dodge County Convention and Visitors Bureau Director, said. “Not only do we have a bustling retail and entertainment industry, but we also have all these great service-based businesses that bring it all together.”

Many longtime Fremont residents have many fond memories of heading downtown for food, fun and any number of the annual events held in the area but also are

drawn in by the area’s charm. It is easy to see this through people’s passion to preserve the district’s history while also adding new amenities and events to move downtown into the future.

Historic Downtown’s tallest structure, the 505 Building, was purchased in 2019 with plans to renovate the upper floors into housing with commercial/dining on the main floor and basement.

Improvements have been spurred by a variety of entities including MainStreet of Fremont, the Business Improvement District Board, and local business owners and residents who all want to simultaneously preserve and improve Downtown Fremont.