



Those efforts include a return to Fremont's moniker as "The White Light City," which is a tradition that originally began back in the 1970s when longtime local residents Ray and Marianne Simmons took a trip to Williamsburg, Virginia.

While Ray passed away in 2002, Marianne says that during their vacation to Williamsburg her husband became enamored by white lights in the windows of buildings throughout the city — and endeavored to start a similar tradition back home.

"The lights were really simple and inexpensive, but they just created such an interesting atmosphere that Ray wanted to bring it back to Fremont," Marianne Simmons said.

When the couple returned home, Ray began contacting residents all along Military Avenue, Broad Street and Nye Avenue — encouraging them to put white lights in their windows.

Eventually, then-Mayor Donald B. "Skip" Edwards made an official proclamation, declaring Fremont "The White Light City."

In 2018, a group known as the

"I think it's that balance that makes Downtown Fremont so unique. 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."

Shannon Mullen, Fremont & Dodge County Convention and Visitors Bureau Director

Fremont Downtown Development Group brought that tradition to Downtown Fremont as buildings throughout the district got the "white light" treatment.

Now, each night when the sun falls below the horizon, Downtown Fremont lights up as white lights run along building tops throughout the area.

The newly created Fremont Fall



TRIBUNE FILES

Several pieces of artwork created by artist Anthony Deon Brown inside of Fia + Belle, 108 E. Sixth St. Fia + Belle was previously featured in the annual Nebraska Passport program presented by the Nebraska Tourism Commission.

Festival was held for the first time in 2018.

The event featured a variety of fall-themed activities for all members of the family and included the "White Light City Film Festival."

The holiday season running from early fall through the New Year is also a busy time in Downtown Fremont as people flock to

the area for the annual Halloween Hysteria where children trick-or-treat at hundreds of local businesses, and the Christmas Walk event where downtown businesses offer dozens of festive events, entertainment, food and deals throughout the day.

No matter the time of year, Downtown Fremont has something for everyone to enjoy.