

# Westine Report

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## **Swantz building to have the look of a train depot Building would house six new retail shops**

By Gautam Singh

The Village of Union Grove is moving into the future by way of building on the past.

The former Swantz Hardware building on the corner of Main Street and 10th Avenue is being renovated to look like an old train depot.

The new owners of the building, Ken and Nancy Vioski of Dover, borrowed from the past to help Union Grove track its future.

Years ago, the Union Grove Downtown Depot, located across the street, brought workers and other area visitors, who often grabbed a bite to eat at the Hotel Chartier.

“We thought it would be a good idea that it looked like a depot,” Ken Vioski said. He added, “I know there has been a lot of speculation to what the building would look like.”

The Downtown Depot will house up to six new retail tenants as well as Ruma Sports, the only current tenant.

Swantz Hardware, owned by Harmon Swantz, closed in 2006. Last month, Ken and Nancy Vioski of Dover purchased the 12,000-square-foot building. The building is being renovated by Redwood Construction of Union Grove, which Vioski also owns.

Vioski also leases the Frito Lay building, 1431 13th Ave.

According to Village President Mike Aimone, the design, rendered by Kehoe-Henry and Associates in Elkhorn, was beyond the village board’s wildest imaginations.

“This will make a true statement...of the revitalization efforts of Main Street itself,” Aimone said.

Ken Vioski said he and his wife wanted do their part to help revive Main Street.

“The history of downtown has not been one of a viable district, and hopefully this

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Union Grove Village Hall Union Grove Board

will be a catalyst to move it in the right direction,” he said.

Construction began earlier this month and Ken Vioski hopes that renovation, which will cost at least \$500,000, would be done by early next year. All the facade changes should be completed by the end of this year.

Each retail store will have approximately 1,000- to 1,100-square-feet of space; one space would be 16,000-square-feet.

Ken Vioski said he has two tenants pending and hopes to fill the rest of the building with retail stores, including a gift shop, wine store and possibly a convenience store. He added that he does not want to bring a food service shop into his building.