



Jeff Doyle - Developer

JEFF DOYLE BREATHING
NEW LIFE INTO
HISTORIC BUILDING IN
HOWELL

Photos and Story by Phil Eich,
Storyville Social, as part of the
Michigan Main Street Story
Series

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THAT'S WHY WE'RE GIVING NEW LIFE TO THIS
BUILDING. IT'S A GREAT OLD STRUCTURE."**

"My wife and I have always wanted to live downtown, right in the middle of a walkable community. We want to be able to walk across the street to a restaurant or a shop and then walk home...and we don't want a yard to mow anymore!

Our dream was to buy an old building, live upstairs, and rent out the first floor. Then this building in downtown Howell popped up. A friend of mine knew the owner, so I emailed him and asked, 'Hey, do you want to sell your building?' And he said, 'As a matter of fact, I do.'

The building was built in 1928, but it burned in 1935. It originally had three stories in the front, but when they rebuilt it in 1935, probably in the depths of the Great Depression, they took the top story off.

It's a big project, and we wouldn't be able to do it without the help of Howell Main Street grants and the Michigan Community Revitalization Program grant that have made this project possible.

People being able to live in a downtown makes a huge difference in its viability. I'm a home builder, and we build a lot of houses out in the suburbs. But I think there's a real draw for people to come back and be part of a community instead of just having 10 acres to themselves.

We enjoy being part of the community and that's why we're giving new life to this building. It's a great old structure. We've invested in downtown Howell before, so this just seemed like a natural fit for us and a great place to live. We're excited to be here."

—Jeff Doyle, Developer of the Pearl building in Howell, Michigan



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