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## Harbor Place already making a mark on downtown

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It's an amazing sight.

If you work downtown, you see it every day.

If you visit there to shop or eat, you get a taste of it from time to time.

Even if you only pass through the area occasionally, you can't help but notice it.

Harbor Place is taking shape in a big way — scraping the sky and sprawling across the landscape below.

Construction of a boardwalk along the Merrimack River behind the project has also begun. New buildings next door to the main Harbor Place building are being constructed. Together, they bring the promise of an economic boost for the eastern end of downtown. **(See story, Page 1.)**

For those with short memories, here's a reminder about the project: Harbor Place is at the site of the old Woolworth building, which was an embarrassment to the city for decades.

That building on the downtown side of the Basiliere Bridge was empty for more than 40 years, before a partnership of private developers and the state demolished it, clearing the way for Harbor Place.

The new complex is designed to do for the eastern end of downtown what new developments did in recent years for the western end of downtown. There, old shoe factories became hundreds of new apartments and condos, bringing in residents who spend their money at nearby restaurants and other businesses.

Harbor Place will contain a UMass Lowell satellite campus, a variety of businesses and dozens of apartments. City officials and the development team predict that combination will bring new residents and workers who will spend their money at businesses in the eastern end of the heart of Haverhill.

Harbor Place will also have a boardwalk along the Merrimack River so the public can stroll along the waterway. It is yet another way to lure people to the area. More people means more potential shoppers and diners.

City leaders also hope to lure other new developments to Merrimack Street, injecting economic vitality into a larger area.

It's been amazing to see Harbor Place grow in such a short time.

We hope the economic boost it brings to the heart of Haverhill is just as amazing.

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