

Mark on Main Street – Waunakee and Columbus



Mark's first Main Street visit of the week came in Waunakee where he and the campaign enjoyed sandwiches and coffee at the **Main St. Diner**. The owner, Kevin, and a group of his friends and customers were there to greet Mark and discuss pertinent issues when he arrived. After enjoying some cookies, Mark made his way to **Fred's Village**, where he got a chance to meet the owner, Fred Loy, himself. Fred voiced his concerns about how state inspectors usually come to his business three times a week. He thought this seemed a bit excessive and that this was a waste of the taxpayer's money and a perfect example of over-regulation from the government. Mark and the campaign made their final stop in Waunakee at the **Front Porch**, a home decor store owned by Heidi Rauls and Patty Ripp, before moving on to Columbus for the rest of the day.



[\(view more photos on Flickr\)](#)



After a great visit to Waunakee, Mark made his way to Main Street Columbus where he had the privilege of visiting a fine specialty store named **Colonial Carriage Works**. Ryanne Patton, the store's general manager, treated Mark to an impressive tour of the production facility, which also serves as a museum. Colonial Carriage Works is one of only a few businesses that specialize in restoring antique horse-drawn vehicles, and it is a prime example of a successful Wisconsin small business with customers

world-wide. After posing for a quick photograph in an antique horse-drawn sleigh, Mark and Sue continued their trip with a visit to **West James Gallery**, where Mark met the owner, Kim Bates. She and Mark discussed issues relating to educational funding and what how he would address the topic as governor. After that, Mark and Sue continued on to **Sharrow Drugs**, a five-generation, family-owned drug store owned by Pattie and Nick Sharrow before wrapping up their day with an interview at the *Columbus Journal*.

[\(view more photos on Flickr\)](#)

Neumann campaigns on Waunakee's Main St.

Roberta Baumann
Managing Editor

Mark Neumann is taking a path along Wisconsin's Main Streets that he hopes will lead to the state Capitol this fall.

On Feb. 24, the Republican from Waukesha and former Congressman representing Wisconsin's 1st District, visited Main Street here before a stop in Columbus and then a debate sponsored by the Wisconsin Realtors Association in Madison.

The day before, he had been to Oconomowoc. His itinerary has him progressing north and west until he reaches Platteville.

Neumann said job creation is his No. 1 issue, and many of those jobs are at small, Main Street businesses just like the ones he is visiting.

He said the first time he ran for public office in 1995, the state was looking at growing deficits and debt.

"When I left four years later, the budget was balanced, and jobs had been created," Neumann said.

But in the last four to five years, Neumann said he has watched the country sink back in to a "state of decline."

"I honestly believe it will take people with private sector experience... to turn this around," Neumann said.

A real estate agent and homebuilder since 1990, Neumann considers himself part of the private sector rather than a career politician, he said. Neumann has co-owned and managed six Wisconsin businesses since 1999. Now that Neumann is campaigning most of the time, his son is running those businesses, he said.

"The central focus is to bring jobs here," he said.

Job losses have contributed to the decline of businesses, as the growing numbers of unemployed are in no position to purchase homes and lack any spending power.

To boost the state's economy again, Neumann said taxes need to be brought down. His theory is that if government spending is controlled, taxes can be reined in, increasing individuals' income and their capacity to either spend or save.

Recent tax increases have had the opposite outcome, Neumann said.

Neumann, a former high school and college instructor, also said the state's educational system needs to be addressed. He has created choice schools in Milwaukee that provide K4 through 12th-grade education. Neumann said those schools operate with lower costs than public schools, and so far, students are growing academically.

The crisis in Milwaukee's public school system affects the entire state, Neumann pointed out, noting that if a large number of students drop out there, they become a burden statewide.

A strong educational system can help the state attract new businesses, providing more job opportunities, Neumann said.

Neumann also noted that government rules and regulations can negatively impact businesses "to a point where businesses are harassed by government."

While he is against measures such as cap-and-trade, Neumann said business owners and Republican lawmakers should find other ways to meet environmental goals.

"We want to improve the environment, but we want to do it in a market-driven, job creating way," Neumann said.

Those who haven't bumped into Neumann along their town's Main Street can catch up with him online. He said the campaign has a top-notch technical staff operating his Web site, and he currently has 32,000 Facebook fans.

"Our race is about bringing jobs to Wisconsin. We're meeting with Main Street business owners to get their ideas," he said.