

Editorial by Steve Pappas
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Lucky City

Barre has been very fortunate over the last seven months to have a partner like Luck Brothers Inc.

The contractor hired to oversee the North Main Street reconstruction not only finished the \$10.6 million project ahead of schedule, literally paving the way for the holiday season, but did the work in concert with the many needs of a demanding community, from the merchants and City Hall to the pedestrians and other citizens.

The job for this construction season is finished, and the downtown looks fresh, elegant and vibrant.

Up and down Main Street, despite summertime gripes about dust and a few grumbles about converting the back of stores into entrances, Luck Brothers' employees and its subcontractors went out of their way to accommodate the community at large.

Sue Higby, executive director at Studio Place Arts, tells one story with great pride: She had met with public relations officer Beth LeClair at the end of the summer and told her that the slow summer season was ending and things would be getting busy shortly. She told her about a four-day retrospective for Rebecca Merrilees, a 90-year-old artist with failing health. "I told her that all of Rebecca's friends would need to have access to the short event to honor her career, and asked if there was any way at all that they would repair the plaza (which was bumpy with dirt) and entrance to SPA in time for the event."

Not only did the company do the work at SPA, it made accommodations for parking for Merrilees' guests.

In turn, Higby honored Luck Brothers' employees this week with a small reception at her gallery.

In another instance, merchants said they had observed some young men being rude toward some older citizens trying to navigate the torn-up sidewalks. Some Luck Brothers employees witnessed the exchange and called the men out on their behavior. When the men became belligerent, one of the Luck Brothers workers was overheard yelling, "I'm down here working because I'm proud of what I'm doing. If you've got nothing to offer except being rude to people, you don't belong here."

Today, there is great pride in how the downtown looks. This is not a fresh-coat-of-paint kind of feeling good. This is come-look-at-our-downtown feeling good.

It has been a while since Barre has felt that pride. Barring unforeseen problems in the future, we have been given countless opportunities to reshape our brand, future and economy.

Barre was very lucky to have Luck Brothers. Our community owes each of you a debt of gratitude.