A timely delivery

New clocks adorn Farmington Village Center

Feb. 8, 2014 |
0 Comments

Lumichron owner Ian Mcartney's crew takes apart one of the old clocks at Farmington Village Center Tuesday morning. / Photo by Joanne Maliszewski

Written by
Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Ian Macartney of Grand Rapids delivered something very timely for the Farmington Village Center Tuesday — brand new clocks for its landmark tower on Grand River Avenue.

At one point in his early morning drive from Grand Rapids, Macartney considered turning around because of the frigid temperatures and hard-to-drive freeway.

The new clock designed by Ian Mcartney of Lumichron in Grand Rapids is 6-feet in diameter. / Photo by Joanne Maliszewski

ADVERTISEMENT

But as Macartney and his crew got to work once in Farmington, he was pretty glad he kept driving. By midmorning, a brand new clock was installed on one side of the Bellacino's tower.

As soon as that 6-feet-wide clock was in place, the crew began removing the old clock on the other side of the tower. "We went back to the original plans," Macartney said, referring to the design of the clocks.

Macartney and his wife, Karen, own Lumichron in Grand Rapids. The small company creates clocks for commercial use and partners with Swiss master clock controller Mobatime. And the ones that he recently installed in Farmington are pretty high-tech.

“Ian is an engineer and designer. He does the actual work to design the clock,” said Karen Macartney, company vice president. “Most of the clocks we do are custom made.”

The new clocks boast Roman numerals that are actually metal so they appear to be 3-D. But that’s the start of interesting facts about Macartney’s clocks. “They have auto sets so they adjust for daylight saving time,” he said.

The clocks also adjust for power outages and anything else that might disrupt their accurate tick-tocking. The clocks have computers — master clock controls — inside that are set for the exact longitude and latitude of the shopping center’s tower. The computer is the brain inside the huge clocks.

“It follows the time the sun goes up and when the sun comes down,” Karen Macartney said.

The clocks also are LED, meaning their illumination will last longer than florescent, for example, and consume less energy, making them far most cost-effective than the former clocks.

Though the clocks stand near the top of the towers, anyone with a good eye will be able to discern that they are made of metal, not plastic, and their faces are not glass or plastic but a polycarbonate with a UV coating to maintain a clear appearance.

The clocks were ordered last fall by Nu-Vest Associates, which manages the center.

The existing clocks at the center hadn’t worked in years. Although just fixing the clocks was considered, Karen Macartney said the metal had rusted and they were outdated.

jmaliszews@hometownlife.com