

LONGSTANDING BELOIT BUSINESS SHUTS ITS DOORS AFTER TWO DECADES

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Ryan Silvola/Beloit Daily News (From left): Attic Quilts manager Emily Nie and owner Sally McFerren take stock of the store's inventory before packing it up. The downtown Beloit store opened for the final day of its liquidation sale on Saturday.

BELOIT - A downtown Beloit staple has shut its doors, with Attic Quilts owner Sally McFerren deciding it's time to retire from retail.

The State Street store opened one final time on Saturday to finish up its liquidation sale. McFerren said she will likely have a garage sales to sell off boxes and baskets on Monday as most of the store's products have been sold off. For example, at one point the store had 4,000 bolts of fabric in its inventory, and the store only had six bolts left when they closed.

McFerren's quilt store has operated at several different locations in downtown Beloit over the years.

She said Beloit's downtown has come a long way since McFerren established Attic Quilts above the Nest Egg in 1997.

Two years ago she downsized her store space by moving to the other side of State Street, which has left her no space to be able to offer classes and other services.

With not having adequate store space and high rent prices, she said it seemed to be the right time to close the business.

She's enjoyed her time running a downtown business, as operating a quilt shop always has been her goal.

"I've always loved to sew," McFerren said. "I love the quilting process, including the colors, fabric and designing."

She thanked her loyal customers who visited her throughout the years, but she's looking forward to spending time with her kids who live across the country and cleaning out her house of all the quilting supplies that have accumulated over the last two decades.

She notes that her storefront will not stay vacant, as the landlord already has secured another renter.

Though her retail store has closed, McFerren still plans to do quilting for customers on a long arm machine out of her home. She plans to keep her Facebook page up and running for interested clients.

For more information, search "Attic Quilts" on Facebook.