



# Historic Downtown La Crosse Update

May 05  
edited by Margaret Norden



**“Downtown La Crosse is experiencing a renaissance that’s a model for other cities.”  
--Governor James Doyle**

## Greetings from Bud.....

To all those who attended our Annual Meeting on May 10, **thank you!** We had a tremendous turnout of 350 guests. To Gov. Tommy Thompson, President of LHI, **thank you** for your wonderful words of encouragement for our economic future. To Don Weber, Chairman and CEO of LHI, **thank you** for the heart-warming, personal, and committed words on the future of LHI in downtown La Crosse. Both Tommy and Don gave memorable and electrifying speeches.

To our Corporate Sponsors and Members listed in the program and newsletter, **our downtown today is your success story!** DMI is the only private business organization working with the public sector addressing all economic and beautification projects and programs in the downtown and riverfront. Because of your financial support, we have achieved “common goals that benefit all of our region’s companies and citizenry.”

A special DMI **thank you** goes to John Satory, Satori Arts and retiring city council member. John was one of the honorees receiving a DMI “Making a Difference Award.” Besides being an outstanding downtown business owner, John has contributed years of **volunteer efforts** to the board of DMI, city council, park board, city historian, PAL, DMI design committee, Historical Society, and welcoming the big boats at our historic levee. John has always been willing to help and assist in the promotion and protection of our downtown and city. His gifts of time and talents, always concentrating on the improvement of our city, are deeply appreciated. His dedication to the future of downtown goes unmatched. Some people sit by the wayside and reap the benefits...some dig in, do the work, contribute, and lead. The latter is John Satory. Thanks, John, and stay involved!

DMI welcomes Jim Bloedorn, newly elected city council member for the 7<sup>th</sup> District that includes historic downtown. We look forward to working with Jim to continue the economic redevelopment and beautification of downtown and the

historic riverfront. Our success continues to enhance the entire 7<sup>th</sup> District, and DMI will continue to assist Jim in improving the entire district to the benefit of all. Best of luck, Jim.

Welcome to four new businesses moving to downtown La Crosse: Peddlin’ Pat, 123 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St.; Treasures on Main, 722 Main St.; Great Wall Chinese Restaurant; 322 Main St. (opening in June), and Los Tres Compadres Restaurant (opening the end of May).

*“DMI is similar to a co-op in that it's a group of people demonstrating self-responsibility and working together to meet our own needs, rather than waiting around for someone else to do the work for us. The success La Crosse has had in breathing new life into its downtown in the last dozen years is because we've worked together to create our own success. A success for one is a success for all.”—Michelle Schry, general manager, People’s Food Co-op, from comments made at DMI’s annual meeting, May 10.*

## New and Renewing Members

Since our last newsletter, the following have shown their support of DMI with their membership. We extend sincere thanks! An updated member list is attached.

**Visionary Level:** Associated Bank  
City of La Crosse

**Corporate Level:** Trane Company

**Associate Level:** Davy Engineering

**General Member:** Jules’ Coffee House  
Liberty Title Corporation  
Smith’s Cycling & Fitness

## DMI co-sponsors WWTC seminar

DMI is co-sponsoring an interactive seminar on customer service entitled “Our Service Is...the Difference.” The curriculum was developed by WWTC and the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, and is being offered on Wednesday, June 8, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Fees for DMI members and their employees are \$55, and \$75 for non-members. Anyone who interacts with customers is encouraged to attend. For further information, call 785-9232.

## DMI conducts business, honors members at annual meeting

At the DMI annual meeting on May 10, returning Board members Bill Weber (Kitchen Solvers), David Ring (Reinhart Companies), Chris La Shorne (Chris La Shorne Architecture), and Audrey Kader (City Council and County Board) were re-elected. Newly elected members are Bob Howard (Wells Fargo Bank) and Wayne Oliver (State Bank of La Crosse). They will serve three-year terms. We congratulate them and thank them for their service.

“Making a Difference” Award recipients at the annual meeting were Community Credit Union; People’s Food Co-op and Hackberry’s Bistro; Tim Kabat and Tim Acklin of the City Planning Department; Steve Burgess and Bob Bue, retiring DMI Board of Directors members; and John Satory, retiring La Crosse City Council member.

The 350 members and sponsors who attended the meeting were given a preview of the joint DMI/City of La Crosse marketing DVD, “Grand River, Great City.” Architectural renderings of Logistics Health, Inc.’s building project were on display.

## Foundation announces “Phase II”

The La Crosse City Vision Foundation has announced their Phase II of the Main Street Clock Plaza project, and Foundation president, Bill Weber, says it is tentatively scheduled to be launched this summer.

Hanging flower baskets and flower gardens will line the walkway between the plaza and



Riverside Park. The sale of engraved honorarium brick pavers will be sold to fund the project. The bricks, gardens, and hanging baskets will eventually be continuous from

the park to the plaza, creating a beautiful and welcoming entrance from the riverfront to our historic downtown.

**Please patronize and support our member businesses.**

## Noteworthy Dates:

**May 17, Appreciation Social** for Charlotte Markos-Kann and Judy Rowley, at Ebenezer’s, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

**May 19, What’s Up Downtown** meeting, 8:00-9:00 a.m., 712 Main.

**May 25, Business Over Breakfast**, Chamber of Commerce, 712 Main, 784-4807. This month’s topic is “The Mature Worker: A Solution to Your Worker Shortage.” See the attached flyer.

**June 1, WWTC seminar, “Our Service Is... The Difference”**, 1-4 p.m. Call 785-9232 to reserve. DMI members receive a discount.

**July 21, Crazy Daze.** Merchants who wish to continue the sale on July 22 and 23 have permission from the City to do so.

## Riverboats a-comin’

The Delta Queen Steamboat Company has announced its 2005 shorestop schedule. Riverboats will be docked at Riverside Park on the following dates:

Thurs., July 14	Mississippi Queen	1-5 p.m.
Mon., July 18	Mississippi Queen	8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Thurs., August 4	Delta Queen	1-5 p.m.
Mon., August 8	Delta Queen	8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Thurs., August 18	Delta Queen	1-5 p.m.
Mon., August 22	Delta Queen	8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sat., October 1	Mississippi Queen	1-5 p.m.
Wed., October 5	Mississippi Queen	8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sat., October 15	Mississippi Queen	1-5 p.m.
Wed., October 19	Mississippi Queen	8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sat., October 29	Mississippi Queen	1-5 p.m.
Wed., November 2	Mississippi Queen	8 a.m.-1 p.m.

As always, let’s make sure La Crosse extends greater hospitality than any other stop on the river!

## Update on downtown brochure

**Thanks to the dedication of Margie Wanek, Stamp ‘n Hand**, the “Experience Historic Downtown La Crosse” brochure will go to print this month. Information about businesses, events, and public art, as well as a walking tour guide to historic architecture, will be featured in the brochure. We are already getting requests for copies from Wisconsin Visitor Centers around the state and corporate offices here in La Crosse.

**If your business or company is not already making this brochure available in your customer service or reception area, please give us a call at 784-0440.** We’ll gladly deliver copies to you at any time throughout the year. To all businesses whose listing will appear, we thank you for your support of our historic downtown.