



**Volume 5 Issue 6
June 2006**

Downtown Agenda

Monthly Newsletter for Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. (DECI)

Due to the popularity of Volume One's "Sounds Like Spring Concert Series," music in Phoenix Park will continue through the summer. If interested in sponsoring a concert, contact Mike Schatz at 839-4914 or Nick Meyer at 552-0457.

Phoenix Park Art Selection Committee Selects Model for Recommendation

The Phoenix Park Art Selection Committee reunited on May 4th to analyze the public input results and vote on a model to recommend for placement in the Park.

The models were displayed along with a suggestion box for public input at the Eau Claire Regional Arts Center from March 1st-15th, the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library from March 16th-31st, and the Oakwood Mall from April 1st-17th.

"Most of the people I've heard from really enjoyed seeing the models," said selection committee member Nicole Smethells. "People really appreciated the public input process and took it seriously."

"I think we gave the public the opportunity for as wide of a response as we could, and I think most people were touched by the sculptures," added selection committee member Bill Benson.

A total of 551 votes were collected from the three display sites. Comments from voters can be viewed on www.downtown-eauclaire.com. Phil Johnson, Director of the City's Parks Department, said he was happy with the feedback and said it was mostly positive with people sharing their honest opinions.

In the end, the selection committee did not vote for the most popular piece from the public input process. The committee voted unanimously for "The Weather-vane" (shown above). They all agreed that this piece would stand out the most in the park and be the easiest to maintain. The committee believed that the most popular piece, "Changing Course," would blend in too much with the already existing landscape.

"'Changing Course' " could enhance the design and landscape of the park, but that was not the initial goal of the project," selection committee member Michael Christopherson said. Selection committee member David Knowlton said he was not excited about "Changing Course" because "it would be placing something in the park that is already there."

The committee discussed that many people are drawn to what they are familiar with, but that they didn't think a sculpture is something that is supposed to fit into a setting. "A sculpture is supposed to be something noted; not discovered," Johnson said.

Mr. Johnson and the selection committee presented the piece at the Waterways and Parks Commission meeting on May 24th for approval to move ahead and recommend the piece to the City Council. The Waterways and Parks Commission voted to table their decision until their next meeting so they could do more research on the subject.



The selection committee's recommendation



The popular "Changing Course"

Thanks to Houligans for renewing your DECI membership. We appreciate your support!

Road Report - Galloway and North Dewey Street are now open!

Downtown Events

Friday, June 2

The Agree to Disagree Tour Act 3 at The Stone's Throw, 10 p.m., \$3 cover.

Monday, June 5, 12, 19, 26

The Adam Braatz Quartet at The Stone's Throw, 9:45 p.m., free.

Thursday, June 8

Thick Shoe at The Stone's Throw, 10 p.m., \$3 cover.

Friday, June 9

Sue Orfield Band at The Stone's Throw, 10 p.m., \$3 cover.

Saturday, June 10

MoonDawg at The Stone's Throw, 10 p.m., \$3 cover.

Thursday, June 15

Pat McCurdy at The Stone's Throw, 10 p.m., \$7 cover.

Friday, June 16

Victor Barnes at The Stone's Throw, 10 p.m., \$4 cover.

Saturday, June 17

The Pimps at The Stone's Throw, 10 p.m., \$5 cover.

Thursday, June 22

Franklin Airmen at The Stone's Throw, 10 p.m., \$3 cover.

June 22-23

The Pied Piper of Hamelin at Valleybrook Church. Thursday 10:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Friday 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Adults \$6, youth \$4.

June 23-25

The Mikado at the Masonic Temple, Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 1:30 p.m. Presented by the Theatre Guild as a 25th anniversary fundraiser in a special dinner theater experience. Adults \$30, student \$25.

Saturday, June 24

New Congress at The Stone's Throw, 10 p.m., \$3 cover.

THANKS TO OUR SPRING SPRUCE UP VOLUNTEERS!

Although our May 13th clean-up event was cancelled due to inclement weather, we appreciate our volunteers who were ready to lend a hand on May 20th. A lot of trash was collected, streets were swept, and our downtown was better after!

Committee Activity

DECI Board - Met May 3rd. Discussion of DECI's new mission statement, financial reports, committee reports, housing survey results, and executive directors report.

Downtown Business Improvement District #1- Met May 16th. Discussed DECI's value to the BID, South Barstow reconstruction report from Brian Amundson, downtown flowers report from Deb Foster, assessments report from Mike Schatz, financials report from Tom Reiter, and discussion of goals and priorities.

International Fall Festival Subcommittee - Met May 17th. Discussed progress on vendors, performers, parade, grants and sponsorships, and promotions.

Phoenix Park Art Selection Committee - Met May 4th. Discussed and voted on model to recommend to the Waterways and Parks Association.

Retail/Restaurant Committee - Met May 23rd. Voted on new name for monthly evening promotions downtown. Voted on placing a fee on being in the retail/restaurant brochure and giving the brochure a new look.

Transportation Committee - Exploratory meeting held May 18th to define the committee's direction. Discussed focusing on pedestrian and bike safety especially by the new Downtown Farmers Market. Next meeting to be decided.

Mark your June Calendar - Upcoming Meetings

June 5th - Retail/Restaurant Committee, 8 a.m., Purple Petunia

June 7th - DECI Board, 7:30 a.m., N. Conference Room, City Hall

June 8th - Arts Committee, 7:30 a.m., N. Conference Room, City Hall

June 14th - Festivals Committee, 5 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall

Downtown Business Update

The Strobel Building ribbon cutting, held on May 4th, celebrated the revitalization of 130 S. Barstow and the businesses located there which include: Allstate Insurance, Strobel Insurance, Riverside Counseling, Willow Creek Women's Clinic, Losby & Pauls Law Offices, and attorneys David Farr and Glenn Stoddard.



Just Local Food Co-op has moved to 772 First Avenue. Hours include Mon-Fri 10am to 6pm, Thurs 10am to 8pm, and Sat 9am to 5pm.

Trend Setters has moved into 201 North Barstow St. and carries urban and sportswear clothing and accessories. Welcome downtown!!

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Clearwater Development Corporation Approves Loan for Entropy Multimedia

Entropy Multimedia, a web software applications company received an \$85,000 loan from the City of Eau Claire and the Clearwater Development Corporation to purchase and renovate 309 S. Barstow. The company currently has five employees at Banbury Place and four employees at satellite offices in New York City. With the purchase of the building, Entropy Multimedia will consolidate their operations at the S. Barstow office in Eau Claire and create three new positions within five years. The owner, Aaron Harder, said that he is dedicated to growing talent and establishing his headquarters in Eau Claire.

Downtown Housing Input Welcome

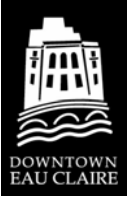
DECI and Volume One have posted a downtown housing survey on their websites to gather community input regarding interest in living downtown. The Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Group was also surveyed, and DECI held two housing forums at City Hall in early April. Out of 169 surveys received so far, results have included:

- 71 percent would consider living in new apartments if they were reasonably priced and of good quality with an attractive character.
- 48 percent prefer to own.
- 33 percent prefer to rent.
- 45 percent of those considering ownership prefer to purchase in the range of less than \$200,000.
- 26 percent of those considering renting prefer to pay in the \$500-699 range.
- 20 percent of people would consider moving downtown within a year.
- 61 percent of respondents would not consider living in existing downtown apartments. The top reasons given for this include perceived low quality, old age, perceived dirtiness of the buildings, and the preference to own.
- **The top five important factors of respondents in choosing their next place to live include neighbors and neighborhood status, parking, close proximity to restaurants, a public park, and a grocery store.**

The largest percent of respondents are between the ages of 26 and 35 and 20 percent have a household income of less than \$30,000. These surveys will help the Redevelopment Authority have a better understanding of the needs of the community regarding downtown housing. The survey is still online at www.downtown-eauclaire.com. Everyone's input is welcome.

Downtown Farmers Market to Move Soon

The Downtown Farmers Market is now open in the Railroad Street Parking Lot, and is scheduled to move to its new location in Phoenix Park in early July. The Farmers Market is scheduled to be open from June 3rd to October 28th on Saturdays from 7:30am-1pm; Wednesdays from 7:30am to 1pm; and Thursdays from 1 to 5pm. Check out www.ecdowntownfarmersmarket.com for promotions and photos of the construction progress.



Downtown Eau Claire, Inc.

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Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the development of business, housing and cultural resources and activities within Downtown Eau Claire.

Choice Corner Office Available 1st time in 19 years

401 South Barstow

- 650 square-foot-office
- Ground floor corner office available
- \$500-600/month(depends on remodeling needed)
- Contact Mark Nelson,
Nelson Properties at
715-835-2090.

