

# Cornerstones

## Preservation Alliance of La Crosse

May 2007



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May is National Preservation Month...  
Celebrate with PAL!

May 12 Walking Tour of Historic Downtown La Crosse

May 21 Annual Heritage Awards Banquet

PAL is now online—  
[www.preservation-alliance.org](http://www.preservation-alliance.org)

PAL is very excited about its new web presence. Log on to learn more about the organization, keep up to date on upcoming events, purchase medallions, renew membership, view photos of past events, find links to other preservation organizations, and more.

It's all online at [www.preservation-alliance.org](http://www.preservation-alliance.org).

Content is still being added, so check back often!

We're especially grateful to our web guru and designer, Kathy Pride, who has put many long hours into creating the website!

## Historic Walking Tour of Downtown La Crosse

PAL President and architectural historian Barbara Kooiman will conduct a one hour walking tour of historic downtown La Crosse on **Saturday, May 12**. The focus of the tour will be on architecture and preservation efforts in the downtown area. The tour will begin at **11am on the corner of 2nd and Main Streets, by the Powell Building**.

## PAL Board of Directors Vacancies

PAL's Board of Directors currently has three vacancies. Our Board is active in promoting preservation efforts in the La Crosse area and in planning and executing PAL's various events throughout the year, including the Heritage Awards and the Heritage Home Tour. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining the PAL Board of Directors, please contact our office.

## Seeking Homes for Annual Heritage Home Tour

Would you like to see a Fifth Annual Heritage Home Tour? PAL's four previous home tours have successfully showcased some of La Crosse's most well-known and beautiful homes for the public to see. We're currently looking for suggestions for this fall's tour—perhaps you have a home you'd like to feature! You can view photos of previous tours at [www.preservation-alliance.org/hometours.html](http://www.preservation-alliance.org/hometours.html).

## 2007 Heritage Awards Banquet

As part of PAL's celebration of National Preservation Month, it's PAL's tradition to honor individuals and organizations that have made significant preservation efforts.

This year we have four Heritage Awards recipients lined up. Our theme this year is primarily about Downtown La Crosse, with three of our awards winners in the downtown area.

Crossfire Ministries owns the building at 422 Main Street. This late 19<sup>th</sup> century two story brick commercial building was originally constructed for the Richardson & Frye shoe and boot company. The second floor was a physician's office. By 1939, Woolworth's department store moved into this building, and stayed there until 1992, when Crossfire Ministries, a Christian youth group, purchased the building for their facility. They have done extensive remodeling to the exterior, removing the non-historic façade, and restoring the building to its original 1890s appearance.

The Fred and Deb Wakeen Home on the top of Fayze's is our residential nominee. The Doerre Building at 135 South Fourth Street was constructed in the Queen Anne Commercial style in 1890. It has been home to Fayze's Restaurant for the past several years, and the Wakeens remodeled the top floor with a new penthouse for the residence.

Mike Keil is this year's downtown Distinguished Individual recipient. Mr. Keil is a business developer who has done projects such as the rehabilitation of the Jackson Plaza on Jackson Street/State Road, and he is in the process of rehabbing the Doerflinger Building on Fourth and Main streets. He also is part of the development at Three Rivers Plaza, where the new Festival Foods is on the Causeway. Mr. Keil has long been a supporter of historic preservation, and his projects show this.

Outside of La Crosse's downtown we are honoring an individual from neighboring Vernon County. Elaine Lund, a lifelong resident of the Westby area, has been involved in the preservation of the Country Coon Prairie Church in rural Vernon County. This church, established as a Norwegian Lutheran church, was built in 1909 using a design by La Crosse architects Parkinson & Dockendorf, with the interior decorated by La Crosse interior designer Odin Oyen. Mrs. Lund was instrumental in forming the Country Coon Prairie Church Preservation Inc. in 1985, raising fund for the deteriorating church's restoration. We are honoring Elaine for her outstanding efforts in preserving part of Vernon County's heritage.

Please join us for our Heritage Awards Banquet and Presentation on Monday, May 21.

**Where:** Waterfront Restaurant at the new Logistics Health Building, at Front and Jay streets on La Crosse's riverfront.

**When:** Monday, May 21

**Cocktails:** 5:30 pm

**Dinner:** 6:00 pm

**Presentations start:** 6:30 pm

Dinner, \$22/each for PAL members, \$25/each for nonmembers.

RSVP by Thursday, May 17.

Please call 784-1976 or

email [preservationalliance@gmail.com](mailto:preservationalliance@gmail.com).

If you are coming for JUST the presentations then you may join us for free. (No RSVP necessary.)

Help us celebrate our region's heritage!