

# DBA TO HOST AWARDS EVENT

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BELOIT — Put on a jersey and come celebrate all of the many successes in Beloit's downtown. The Downtown Beloit Association (DBA) will hold its 28th annual awards ceremony on Feb. 9 at La Casa Grande, 618 Fourth St. The event starts at 6 p.m.

This year's theme for the event will be MVP's of sports.

"We are encouraging everybody to come in their favorite sports gear," said DBA Executive Director Shauna El-Amin.

Guests need to RSVP by Feb. 3. They can call 608-365-0150.

The \$25 admission includes hors d'oeuvres and one drink ticket. A cash bar also will be available. The festive evening also will feature basket raffles, 50-50 raffles and more.

During the fun-filled event, the DBA will be giving out eight awards including: best creative fundraising effort; best facade rehab under \$10,000; best facade rehab over \$10,000; best interior renovation under \$50,000; best interior renovation over \$10,000; best new business; volunteer of the year and the chairman's award.

"There was a lot of good projects that happened throughout the year and it's great to highlight them," El-Amin said.

There are 16 businesses which moved into the downtown area in the past year including: 608 Grafix, Beloit Psychotherapy, Chic & Unique Clothing & Furniture Boutique, CrossFit Beloit, Escape Quest, Farmers Insurance Chris Sherrard, Fresco Fajita House, Irontek, Main Therapeutique, Mastercraft

Exteriors, Porch, The Right Fit Search Firm, Royalty Lounge, Symplistic Imagery, Upperclass Awards, Apparel & Gifts and Zeta Interactive.

El-Amin said the award winners will be nominated for state level awards through the Wisconsin Main Street Association, which is part of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. The state event will be Friday, April 7, in Wisconsin Rapids.

The DBA Annual Dinner usually attracts about 100 people and is growing every year.

“It continues to be exciting and we love coming up with new themes every year,” El-Amin said.

Last year’s event featured a Superhero theme.