

DBA PLANS 'GREATEST' AWARDS DINNER

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BELOIT - One of the greatest shows is being planned to honor downtown Beloit's many businesses. □

The Downtown Beloit Association's (DBA) Annual Awards Dinner is set for 6 p.m. on Feb. 7 at the La Casa Grande Banquet Hall, 618 4th St.

Executive Director Shauna El-Amin said this year's dinner features a circus theme called "The Greatest Downtown," inspired by the hit musical film "The Greatest Showman."

El-Amin said organizers have sideshows planned. Each of the shows are based on one of the many events hosted by the DBA.

"That way attendees can learn more about what our events are, what they're meant to do, how they operate and learn more about the event in general," El-Amin said.

She said the event will be the final recognition of the DBA celebrating its 30th anniversary.

Of course, the event also will serve as an opportunity for the DBA to award businesses and recognize their new ventures.

This year, the DBA will be giving out a total of eight awards. El-Amin said they will be presenting awards for Best New Business, Best Facade Rehabilitation, Best Interior Renovation, Volunteer of the Year and more.

"The dinner is just to recognize our businesses, the successes they've had in the last year and any cool things they've done," El-Amin said. "We also want to highlight how many years they've been downtown, a lot of which have been way longer than us."

For example, she said the Beloit Daily News celebrated its 170th anniversary last year.

El-Amin said the DBA sent out invitations in late December to the 170 businesses of downtown Beloit.

The \$25 admission fee covers hors d'oeuvres, and a drink ticket. There also will be a cash bar. Those interested in attending must RSVP by Feb. 1.

For more information or to register, call 608-365-0150 or email crystal@downtownbeloit.com.