From the Mayor’s Office

Special points of interest:

- We have joined a nationwide initiative to end Veteran homelessness. Learn more at: http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/Mayors_Challenge.asp
- For the sixth year in a row, the City is partnering with the La Crosse School District to provide Christmas gifts to children and families in need.
- While attending the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative in Dubuque, I learned just how important the Mississippi is to the nation’s economy. The river supports 1.3 million jobs and generates $405 billion in annual revenue.

Ellen Hixon: A Champion of Grandad Bluff

As summer draws to a close and fall brings cool nights and warm colors, exciting things are happening in our city. Two weeks ago I was fortunate enough to participate in the commemoration of a statue celebrating one of our city’s most influential citizens.

If not for Ellen Hixon, La Crosse may not have one of its most recognizable natural resources. In 1909, Grandad Bluff was a rock quarry on its way to destruction. Hixon decided to step in, raising $3,000 and donating $12,000 of her own money to purchase the bluff and surrounding land. Hixon gifted Grandad Bluff to the city in 1912. 103 years later, we have a natural treasure that attracts people from all over to our city.

Improvements at City Hall

As part of the effort to make City Hall more welcoming, workers are installing a rain garden just outside the south entrance. As opportunities arise, more projects are planned for City Hall. Next year we hope to add 20-25 new parking spots to the 6th Street lot. Future projects include landscaping for the West Courtyard, adding a rain garden at the north end of 6th Street, and replacing the medians in the North Parking Lot. Converting the old fountain into a rain garden is also under consideration.