Main Street for the Ages

Youth on Main Street
Seniors on Main Street

Le Mars, Iowa
Main Street Program
Historic Preservation Commission

Richard Zietttlow
Le Mars Youth on Main Street

Goal:
Create in High School students a greater interest in the history of Le Mars with particular focus on the historic downtown area.
Le Mars Youth on Main Street

Sponsored by:
Le Mars Main Street Program
Le Mars Historic Preservation Commission

Endorsed by:
Le Mars Community School
Le Mars Gehlen Catholic School
Le Mars Youth on Main Street

Where is the first concrete paved street in Iowa?

What was Le Mars famous for before ice cream?

What was our town’s original name?

What is “Public Art”?
Le Mars Youth on Main Street
Application Process

• Two letters of recommendation
• Written essay
• Principal or School Counselor approval
• Parent approval
Le Mars Youth on Main Street

Downtown Historical Walking Tour
Le Mars Youth on Main Street

Museum Visit
Le Mars Youth on Main Street

Downtown Second Floors
Le Mars Youth on Main Street

Downtown Second Floor Housing
Le Mars Youth on Main Street

www.Plymouthcounty.newspaperarchive.com

Research

Working Sessions
Le Mars Youth on Main Street Projects
Historical Play

...a way to show our love of local history...

“The Prairie Club” by Glada Koerselman

...showing what we had learned through the program...
Youth on Main Street Projects
Public Art

Unfortunately, due to lack of space, all of our city’s beautiful art cannot be displayed in a pamphlet, so the best way to see the art is to explore the alleys. Happy hunting!
Youth on Main Street Projects
Historic Downtown Walking Tour

- Womanless Library
- Original Name
- Runaway Horses
- First Paved Street in Iowa
On Your Own Time • Downtown Scavenger Hunt
While shopping, eating or simply enjoying one of the many Ice Cream Days’ events in downtown Le Mars, participate in a family-friendly, self-paced scavenger hunt showcasing 15 downtown buildings significant in Le Mars’ history. Pick up the scavenger hunt sheets at the Chamber of Commerce, City Hall, Visitor’s Bureau or Ice Cream Parlor. (Only available at the Ice Cream Parlor on Saturday.) Return your completed sheets to the Ice Cream Parlor by Saturday when all correct sheets will be entered in a prize drawing. The Downtown Scavenger Hunt is one of the projects created by the 2015-2016 Youth on Main Street students.
Youth on Main Street Projects

Interesting Historical Characters

C. C. Bradley

Moreton mansion

Daughter contests father's donating womanless library

Le Mars, Iowa, Oct. 15.—Miss. His daughter today had added a postscript to what T. M. Zink, donor of the world's first womanless library, had written as his final word on his favorite antipathy.

Through attorneys, Mrs. Margaret Becker petitioned that her father's will, bequeathing $35,000 for the library, be denied probate. She termed the final testament of her father “an insult to the womanhood of America, a libel, and a slander against public morals,” and said that Zink's hatred of femininity had grown into a partial insanity.
History of the Plymouth County Fair
Le Mars Youth on Main Street

...young people can and should be active in service to their communities...

...a little help from others can go a long way...

...there really is a lot more interesting history to Le Mars than just the way we got our name...

...communication is important when working in a group...

...be proud of our history...share it with others...

...the community belongs to us...

...really appreciate our home town...

...all the possibilities that are out there every day to make a difference...

Youth on Main Street has changed the way we see the world and value our heritage as we look to the future.
Le Mars Seniors on Main Street

Goal:
Create in the 55+ senior citizens a greater interest in the history of Le Mars with particular focus on the historic downtown area.
Le Mars Seniors on Main Street

Local experts

Downtown Scavenger Hunt (physical and virtual)

Sharing of personal history!

Meets weekly for six weeks in Fall and Spring
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