

Craig, Sondra

From: Gregory Hilbert <greghilbert@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 3, 2025 1:51 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Repeat re Bubblers WITH PDF ATTACHMENT
Attachments: Bubblers La Crosse Heritage Preservation Commission.pdf

Some people who received this message don't often get email from greghilbert@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

*** **CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear City of La Crosse Council Members,

As the most frequent contributor of posts to the 35,000-member La Crosse Facebook page since January of 2023, I'm highly familiar with the issues surrounding La Crosse's ornate cast-iron bubblers and with the fact that many thousands of members — roughly 95% of those who've expressed themselves — want the bubblers preserved AND restored to continuous delivery of fresh, cold water.

At the invitation of a Heritage Preservation commissioner in 2024, I compiled and submitted a 215-page PDF appealing to the city to do what the public wants. It contains thousands of comments from people who want the bubblers preserved and operating. The PDF is attached. A quick skim will tell you what the public wants.

To update that 2024 appeal: There is virtually no opposition to the installation of wheelchair-accessible fountains, but there is considerable angst and disgust that the bubblers were turned off as *"the only way to comply with ADA"*. Timidity in the face of insanity!

IF the federal bureaucracy threatens or sues or levies a fine, fight it in court and national media and sue for trying to force the city to **needlessly** deprive citizens and visitors of every age the readily accessible water they want and some need, especially in conditions of high heat, **putting the public health at risk.**

Gregory Hilbert

To: **La Crosse Heritage Preservation Commission Board Members**
From: Gregory Hilbert greghilbert@hotmail.com Cell 860-338-4059
244 S 38th St Mesa AZ 85206 Date: August, 2024

Subject: **Request Commission Action to Preserve La Crosse's Treasured and Iconic Outdoor Drinking Fountains Commonly Known Fondly to the People of La Crosse and from La Crosse as....**

Bubblers

"Cultural and historic assets are a significant part of the heritage, education and economic base of a community. Preserving the community's heritage fosters civic pride in the beauty and accomplishments of our past...What should be preserved are buildings, sites, districts, structures, objects, and significant natural features that represent and reflect the city's cultural, social, economic, religious, political, architectural, or aesthetic heritage. "

About the Requestor and Contents

Please see the letter of my introduction by Mary Eisenhower on the next page. I grew up in La Crosse (1950-1968). My undergraduate and Master's degrees were earned elsewhere. The bulk of my career in publishing, media and founding, funding and leading non-profits was mostly in CT, secondarily in metro Chicago, central WI, and AZ where I am now retired. My familiarity with La Crosse's drinking fountain history derives from 1950-68 childhood experience and what I've gained researching for a number of posts among the 1,500+ posts I've contributed to the Facebook page "*You Might Be From La Crosse*" since January 2023, and digesting the thousands of member comments and other expressed reactions to them and the posts of others. I cannot speak for the group *per se*, which now numbers over 33,000 registrants. I am however uniquely qualified to fairly characterize the nearly unanimous sentiments and opinions of the thousands who have expressed themselves regarding La Crosse's outdoor "bubblers". I consider the large cumulative number as highly significant and revealing of the majority opinion of La Crosse residents at large.

I've been asked by Commissioner Greg Clark to speak to the historical significance, origin stories, and why preservation of La Crosse's ornate, cast-iron outdoor drinking fountains aka bubblers is important.

I will do that chiefly via screen captures of my posts and others on the La Crosse Facebook page, and responses to them. Note that the origins of the history begin with gifts of ornate drinking fountains to the people of La Crosse, the first by Mayor Dr Frank "White Beaver" Powell in 1890, and the most notable after that by Wisconsin Governor George Peck in 1910. Additional drinking fountains were installed in the early 1900's, as La Crosse built its facilities for providing clean drinking water to the public.

The familiar green "bubblers" you are asked to preserve were almost certainly cast by La Crosse's Torrance Casting when it was John Torrance & Sons Casting, and were installed beginning in the early 1920's.



Cass & 12th St in Front of the Cargill Mansion and Estate in 1931 During the Great Depression. UW-La Crosse Murphy Library photo.



January, 2003

A Letter of Introduction and Recommendation of Gregory Hilbert

It is a privilege to introduce you to Gregory Hilbert, and to commend him to you.

I was introduced to Greg by the Chairman of ePals Classroom Exchange, a participant in the consortium of organizations joining People to People International to lead the Friendship Through Education Initiative of U.S. President George Bush.

I found Greg to be more than a highly intelligent and skilled executive. He quickly impressed me as a highly articulate and compassionate leader. His September 12 Initiative was compelling and won my enthusiastic support. He accomplished his educational mission with stunning speed, and months later our organizations partnered to offer an international Peace Journals program Greg conceived and developed.

How does he do it all? I think he does it by giving greatly of himself, and by inspiring the best efforts of those whose lives and work he touches.

I've personally witnessed Greg's ability to inspire others, in December of 2001 and again in October of 2002. The first occasion was a Sept 12 International ceremony in New York organized by Greg, at which I was an honored guest. The other was at our People to People International Peace Conference and Global Youth Forum in Kansas City, where Greg spoke. Simply stated, Greg is gifted in his ability to impact his audience. On both occasions the audience was greatly moved and inspired. He received intense standing ovations in New York and from our 500 international conferees in Kansas City, and he earned my personal gratitude for his stirring validation of my own best efforts for a peaceful world. As I said, he has a gift for bringing out the very best in all of us

I am proud to call Greg a friend, and invite you to call me (within the US) at 800-676-7874; (outside the US) +1-816-531-4701 if you wish to verify the authenticity of this letter.

Sincerely,

Mary Eisenhower, CEO

Dear Commissioners:

August 2024

This is to request a series of actions to:

- (1) Preserve La Crosse's iconic and treasured "Bubblers" in place,
- (2A) Determine the number, conditions and whereabouts of those that have been removed in the past, (2B) repair as many as possible (*welding cast iron is difficult but far from impossible, and competent plumbers can repair or replace internal parts*) for reinstallation, and (2C) obtain a mold and bowl castings as needed.
- (3) Publicly display those that can't be made operable,
- (4) Retain bubblers in place as wheelchair-accessible fountains are installed, and
- (5) Because pushbutton spigots cause tepid water to be delivered, restore all installed bubblers to the continuous delivery of cold water.

The city itself states (1) that La Crosse's aquifer was not being depleted in the past nor is it now, and is in fact more than adequate to meet La Crosse's needs, and (2) that the cost of the water saved by use of the pushbutton spigots installed some years ago is a paltry \$1,750.

The screen captures on the next 200-plus pages convey the origins and history of La Crosse's "bubblers" and tell why – in the words of a huge number of people from La Crosse -- their preservation is important. They are iconic, a source of pride unique to La Crosse. Their ornate design pleases the eye and reminds of La Crosse's robust history and heritage. **They have been used and valued by tens of thousands in each of 5 generations.** They were equitably installed in virtually every neighborhood, park and school frontage, and have been a welcome part of everyday life. Experiences in common of the bubblers are so widespread and remembered so fondly and happily by so many that they contribute to community cohesion and good will. They are a symbol of a city that was determined to quench the thirst of all, rich and poor, northside and southside, young and old.

Please note that were it not for the rising instability of the software I was using to compile screenshots of posts and comments before converting this document to a PDF, that I could have included many more comments, enough to make this a 1,000-page document!

If each of you were to do no more than skim these pages, reading just a handful of comments, it would be incomprehensible to me if you did not quickly and unanimously agree to put La Crosse's bubblers on your agenda for greater preservation action than has been the case in the past. I think that among La Crosse's public at large it would likely be one of the most widely popular things the Heritage Preservation Commission has ever done.

Sincerely, Gregory Hilbert

Heritage That Matters To ALL

Sunday, June 24 1923

LA CROSSE TRIBUNE

* * * *

Up in Minneapolis and St. Paul the other day I searched in vain for a cold drink of water on a day when the thermometer was hitting over the 90 mark. The parks were filled with coatless men, stretched out on the grass in the shade. Pale, thin-faced women leaned out the windows of tenement houses, trying to get a breath of fresh air, while their babies sweltered on the fire-escapes. People who had cars or street-car fare were beating it toward the country and the lakes as fast as they could go, to get away from the heat of the city. Looking for a refreshing drink of water, I tried a bubbler in a park. The water was almost lukewarm. I bought an ice cream in a neighboring store and washed it down with the same kind of water. I went to my room in the hotel and after the faucet had been turned on five minutes took a swallow of the water and found it far from cool. Arriving home the next day I hopped out of the car at the postoffice corner, sucked up a pint or two of clear, COLD water, heaved a sigh of relief and once more gave thanks that I was back home. I wonder if we really appreciate what a valuable asset this burgh has in its wonderful water supply.

* * * *

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fromlax/permalink/2822919237858013>



You might be from La Crosseif.....



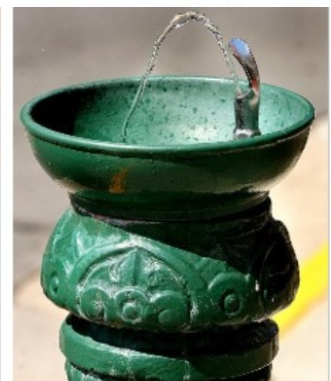
Gregory Hilbert

Top contributor · July 11 at 2:23 PM · 🌐

...

[Note: I speak only for myself in this post, not for anyone else.] If you grew up in La Crosse, chances are there was a bubbler nearby that served as a kind of watering hole in your neighborhood. A gathering place. A source of thirst-quenching water. A means of filling water balloons and squirt guns. I don't know how many bubblers there once were, but I do know they are slowly but steadily disappearing. There were about 32 remaining when in June a friend alerted me to the removal of yet another, this one from the old Trinity school block. I used the tool at the city's website to inquire but have had no reply. I had asked why the bubblers were being removed, and I wanted to know what was being done with them. Are they being discarded like so much trash? Stored somewhere? Taken by employees? Even if inoperable, why are they not being left in place or relocated as historic artifacts, reminders of simpler times gone by, of a city that did more than most for its kids? I hope a few members will comment with a photo of a bubbler that matters to them. I'd like to post one from time to time, in the hope that La Crosse's Preservation Commission to take action to preserve what remains of these unique La Crosse treasures.

**Dear Preservation Commission,
La Crosse's Treasured Iconic Bubblers
Are Disappearing!**



William Mullen, Margaret OMeara and 364 others

194 comments 32 shares

As of July 18

411

210 33

Over 600 likes, comments and shares to this one post!

Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Greg Clark Greg, I'm messaging you in your capacity as President of the La Crosse County Historical Society Board and Commissioner of the Historical Preservation Commission of La Crosse. (You may recall my post not long ago about the American Queen. You thanked me for my efforts, invited me to get involved with the Preservation Commission and/or LCHS, and accepted my response that I was able to do no more than I do here.) While I can speak only for myself and not for this group, I believe preservation of La Crosse's "bubblers" should not only be among the Commission's priorities, but a happily embraced mission project. The bubblers are familiar to almost every citizen regardless of age. They are treasured. Those remaining are scattered among all of La Crosse's wards and virtually all of its neighborhoods. This post demonstrates to you that large numbers want them preserved. Prior posts about them, which I'll submit as a collective montage in a week or so, will demonstrate that more dramatically, and I will be posting several reader-supplied photos before summer end. If the Commission embraces bubbler preservation, I'll be happy to post supportive word of it. If it subsequently accomplishes something significant -- regardless of what that may be -- I will be most happy to post praise of it when the time comes, and reminders of it thereafter. I recognize you may not be able to respond publicly to this nor even to me as an individual via Messenger. However, I would appreciate acknowledgement that you've seen this, as it will spare me the effort of preparing, printing and mailing scores of screenshots. Thank you.

Greg Clark



Gregory Hilbert thanks. As a commissioner I cannot initiate an effort. Please submit a request to me which covers the historical significance, origin stories and why it's important for preservation. You could support your request over zoom during the commission meeting if you chose. I would like to see this discussed and considered. Please submit to me and I'll make sure we get it on the agenda. Thanks

Also another effort that came recently out HPC and was successfully defended by the City Council https://lacrossetribune.com/.../article_dba3a81a-3fd8...



LACROSSETRIBUNE.COM

South Community Library remains historic landmark after La Crosse mayor's appeal denied

3d Like Reply Share 2  

Comments responding to this post follow.

Gregory Hilbert [Author](#) [Top contributor](#)

Greg Clark Thank you for your reply. I will submit a request to you addressing the areas you've conveyed, but it is not apt to arrive until late August. That's because the request will consist largely (ie not entirely) of screenshots of posts I've contributed here since January of 2023 and screenshots of the deluge of comments from La Crosse people responding to them. It will take me time to take all of those screenshots, compile and format them in Libre (publishing software similar to Word), and then convert the file to a PDF document that is universally readable and transmittable by FB's Messenger. A portion of the delay will be attributable to several more posts on the subject I'll be submitting here in the next 3 weeks, screenshots from which will be included. I guesstimate the PDF will total over 100 pages.

****I am apt to choose to support the request via Zoom at a commission meeting. Fortunately for commissioners, advanced COPD has degraded my lungs, so you will be spared most of the passionate intensity that once characterized my crusading speeches and presentations to small groups and large audiences. Attached please find a letter of introduction referencing same. At the time, Mary Eisenhower, Ike's granddaughter, was on a first name basis with most of the world's heads of state. Together, according to about ten of them, we had more than a little to do with preventing the post-9/11 wars from escalating into a catastrophic Middle East-wide conflagration, and conceivably far worse. PS I posted twice mourning the closure of the South Library, to which I owe a love of reading gained at a young age. I'll happily do a post about the Preservation Commission's success retaining its designation as a historic landmark, probably next week.

Mary Lepsch Tenant Top contributor

7th and Farnam by the tennis court....my neighborhood bubbler. I stopped for a drink during a Stepping Out In Pink walk about 10 years ago. This one and the ones by Hood park and Powell park were frequent stops by me and all the folks in the neighborhood, but especially this one for me as I lived just a block away.



Cynthia Botcher Colby Top contributor
Worth sharing again!



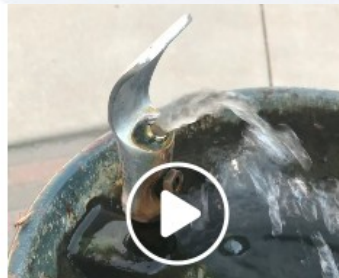
2d Love Reply Share Edited 5



Lori Ello

Jeff S King Top contributor

Here's one in action, with no gum in it!



Thov Nco Ntsoov Kuv

Miss these green bubblers...Was so useful during the hot summer days...I lived right across the street from one...lol..

3d Like Reply Share



Annette Yoshizumi

Best coldest water I ever had! Sure loved the bubblers when I was a kid...maybe they will sell them at a city auction...I would buy one for my yard.

3d Love Reply Share



Vickie Hoverud Michalko

I don't understand La Crosse, regarding taking out the bubbler's at all. You know it's nice if you are out walking and get thirsty and there is the refreshing bubbler. That is how I remember growing up in here back in the 50's 60's 70's etc. Plus then they

Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

I grew up 1/2 block away from Thomas Moore school on Weston. There was a bubbler out front that was precious to many hundreds of kids over the years. The school is gone now. So is the bubbler. Last year I posted about La Crosse's bubblers. Many responded with fond memories of the one they frequented. Several whose bubbler was still there took photos and shared them under the post. I scrolled the record of my posts but could not find that one post, and thus can't share here the photos people shared. I've also posted about the big and ornate drinking fountains that were gifts to the city, the first by mayor Powell in 1890. What's left of those big, ornate, historical fountains that triggered the installation of bubblers all over La Crosse is a remnant of one of them at Powell park. I believe the Preservation Commission should spearhead action to preserve the bubblers that remain, and obtain an accounting of what was done with all of the ones that were removed.

4d Like Reply Share Edited

15  



Nancy Alens Top contributor

Gregory Hilbert absolutely 👍

4d Like Reply Share



Sheila Rivera

Gregory Hilbert I went to school at st Thomas Moore for 1st and 2nd grade and remember that bubbler

4d Like Reply Share

2 



Terry Schmidt

Why have free water when you can just go buy plastics bottles of it?

My understanding is? They don't sell this essential part of life in Europe. Folks carry there drinking glass of choice and the water is free.

4d Like Reply Share

4 

[View all 4 replies](#)



Gia Hill

Why 🤔🤔

WALKING down town and found two both covered up...what a disgrace to the city known for them. Shame on the goverment to allow this. Where is the the historical society on this?

Let's save the "bubbler" ❤️

4d Love Reply Share

26  



Mary Lepsch Tenant Top contributor

7th and Farnam by the tennis court....my neighborhood bubbler. I stopped for a drink during a Stepping Out In Pink walk about 10 years ago. This one and the ones

John Lawrynk

They should spend the money and keep them working! They are an important and still useful historic item of LaCrosse!

Jeri Pfaff

I noticed one day, the bubbler was gone on the corner by Lincoln Middle School, which, as we know is closed. Then about a week or so afterward, it was back, good as new! 😊

4d Like Reply Share

5 👍



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Jeri Pfaff A bit of good news!

4d Like Reply Share



Write a public reply...



Thomas Welch Top contributor

I wonder how many there were at one time

4d Like Reply Share

2 👍

View 1 reply

Melanie Fife

I totally agree with you 🙌

My great grandfather worked for the water department and designed to dog watering attachment. His name was Edward Groeschner

Carol Lunke

4d Like Reply Share

2 👍

Thov Nco Ntsoov Kuv

Miss these green bubblers...Was so useful during the hot summer days...I lived right across the street from one...lol..

5d Like Reply Share



Annette Yoshizumi

Best coldest water I ever had! Sure loved the bubblers when I was a kid...maybe they will sell them at a city auction...I would buy one for my yard.

5d Love Reply Share



Jake Yahnke Top contributor

They really should be on display somehow.

4d Like Reply Share

6 

Kevin Lafky Top contributor

Didn't live in the neighborhood long but I remember the bubbler that was a welcome sight on the way to Holy Trinity.

4d Like Reply Share

9  

Marge Briggs

Let us preserve a portion of the "good old days". Tearing down historical statues and monuments seems to be the way to pretend that history never happened. Keeping the "bubblers" shouldn't offend anyone.

6h Love Reply Share



Gia Hill

Why 🤔🤔

WALKING down town and found two both covered up...what a disgrace to the city known for them. Shame on the government to allow this. Where is the the historical society on this?

Let's save the "bubbler" ❤️

4d Love Reply Share

26  



Mary Lepsch Tenant Top contributor

7th and Farnam by the tennis court....my neighborhood bubbler. I stopped for a drink during a Stepping Out In Pink walk about 10 years ago. This one and the ones

Linda Hall Kuehl Holy Trinity Bubbler disappeared last month or month before. SAD!

Gia Hill

Why 🙄🙄

WALKING down town and found two both covered up...what a disgrace to the city known for them. Shame on the government to allow this. Where is the the historical society on this?

Let's save the "bubbler" ❤️

4d Love Reply Share

26 🍊❤️

Mary Lepsch Tenant Top contributor

7th and Farnam by the tennis court....my neighborhood bubbler. I stopped for a drink during a Stepping Out In Pink walk about 10 years ago. This one and the ones by Hood park and Powell park were frequent stops by me and all the folks in the neighborh... See more



Jodi Hoscheit

These are one of my favorite memories of childhood!

4d Like Reply Share

9 🍊

3d Love Reply Share Edited 5 🍊❤️



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Mary Lepsch Tenant Outstanding, thank you Mary!

3d Like Reply Share

2 🍊

🌱 Where are these bubbles now?

1d Like Reply Share



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Carolyn J Clements Approximately 31 remain of the original number, scattered, in various locations in La Crosse. The original number is unknown (to me at least),

I'm calling special attention to this comment because raised-in-La Crosse friend William Mullen is a two-time PULITZER PRIZE WINNER.

William Mullen Top contributor

There is a feeling of something "Old World" about those sculptural green metal public drinking fountains. They strike me as something you would more likely encounter on a European city street rather than La Crosse. They should be preserved because they give the city a certain distinction. And they should be preserved because of how they hearken to a colorful regional dialect by how they are known locally, as "bubblers".

7m Love Reply Share



Nancy Alens Top contributor

Yes absolutely save the bubblers 👍

4d Like Reply Share

10

Ed Rhude

Drank from it many times!

Vickie Hoverud Michalko Top contributor

Come on La Crosse begin preserving instead of always tearing things down and destroying our history.

Celine Marie

There are some that aren't open.

4d Like Reply Share



Jacqueline Lee

I Love those fountains.....

4d Like Reply Share 2

Carmen Thienes

They were everywhere as a kid!

4d Like Reply Share 2

Chris Forsthoefel

Remembering them just makes me smile - quite a piece of downtown La Crosse!

4d Like Reply Share

2

Sandi Dummer Marrs

Great memories drinking out of them when I was a kid

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Chuck Olson

Drank from many of them as a child.

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Steve Flaten

There is no shortage of water in the upper Mississippi, keep the bubblers there and the water flowing.

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Shaun E. Pierce

Trane park, on the corner of 15th and south Ave. Anyone know if it's still there?

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Marcia Deick

Those of us who like unusual garden art would love and old bubbler if one could be purchased. Would make a cool solar fountain. Or possibly a planter. Just a thought.

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Joann Anderson

Save the bubbles

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Sandra Ash

I'd forgotten all about those "bubblers!"

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Barb Abrams

Those were so cool

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Vickie Hoverud Michalko

I don't understand La Crosse, regarding taking out the bubbler's at all. You know it's nice if you are out walking and get thirsty and there is the refreshing bubbler. That is how I remember growing up in here back in the 50's 60's 70's etc. Plus then they removed the little cups on the bubbler that dogs could get a drink when you had them out for a walk. I just don't get it. That's the little hole on the bubbler where the

Jolene Lien A very important service for people that can't afford to buy bottled water and don't carry it with.

Barbara Kooiman Top contributor

I was sitting on the Heritage Preservation Commission when the bubblers were designated as local historic landmarks. We had Public Works employees show up at our public hearing and tell us that they were disappearing because when a car would hit one o... [See more](#)

4d Like Reply Share

35  



Deb Smith Gustafson Top contributor

Barbara Kooiman great information...👍. Thanks!

4d Like Reply Share

5 



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Barbara Kooiman Thank you very much Barbara for sharing what you know and acknowledging that it was 15 years ago. As for what a concerned person can do, speaking just for myself, I'm doing what I'm able to do and best equipped to do right here, sounding an alarm of sorts, and eliciting sufficient response to show that many people want the bubblers preserved, and exceedingly few want them discarded. PS I've talked to the CEO of Torrance Casting in the past. He has a great deal of integrity and is highly community minded. I'm sure he would do castings at a cost the city could easily afford. Given that Torrance Casting's legacy is involved, he'd probably be willing to underwrite at least some of it.

3d Like Reply Share

8 

Jeanine Bollrud Juel

Bubblers 'bubbled up' in the center.

1d Like Reply Share

View 1 reply

Genevieve Martin
Powell Park

4d Like Reply Share 9 



Steven Opitz

Genevieve Martin Powell Park was a block from m house. Yes used it all the time!!!

4d Like Reply Share

3 



Genevieve Martin

Steven Opitz , you were my Grandma's paperboy.

4d Like Reply Share



Nancy Alens Top contributor

Steven Opitz has Powell park ever changed. No more skating rink or softball games. Or drinking fountain It's all cuties cute for today's generation. But they can't take our memories away from us 👍

2d Like Reply Share Edited

2 

Nancy Engebretson Top contributor

Was home in mid June, drank from each one I can acros

4d Like Reply Share

3  

Jake Yahnke Top contributor

They really should be on display somehow.

4d Like Reply Share

6 

Susan Young


My bubbler was at Market and 19th by the ball field. So many memories.....filling water balloons.....just going for a walk to the bubbler for a drink.....it was a meeting place.....the birds loved it. Those were the days my friends.

3d Like Reply Share

2 



Nancy Alens Top contributor

Susan Young I remember that one. We lived on 20th st in the mid 70's. I'd walk the kids over there to get a drink. They were fascinated with it 

3d Like Reply Share Edited





Susan Young

Nancy Alens did you ever work at St. Joseph's Nursing Home in the 80's.

3d Like Reply Share



Write a public reply...



Nancy Alens Top contributor

Yes I did. It was a nice place.did you work there???

3d Like Reply Share Edited

2 

View all 4 replies



Write a public reply...

Jodi Hoscheit

These are one of my favorite memories of childhood!

4d Like Reply Share

9 

View 1 reply

John Lawrynk

They should spend the money and keep them working! They are an important and still useful historic item of LaCrosse!

Gary Peterson Top contributor

the cold water they refreshed us with was so enjoyable all summer.

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Mariette Lovold Top contributor

Took pictures the last time I was in LaCrosse so now I have a piece of history.

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Steven Schumacher

They used to be like bus stops now there are only a few. Need to bring them back.

1d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Colleen Wienke

I drank water from these bubblers all thru my childhood and youth. It's sad if they are removing all of them 😞

1d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Kathryn Jo These wonderful bubblers are symbolic to La Crosse's rich History, that actually serves a purpose..for everyone.

[Like](#) [Comment](#) Tue Jul 30, 10:55pm

ment History

Jolene Lien A very important service for people that can't afford to buy bottled water and don't carry it with.

Judy Oestreich

Just showed several of them off to a visiting friend who had never heard of "bubblers". Please save them!

19h **Love** Reply Share



Karen Mattie Brabec

These were the best growing up. No need to carry a plastic water bottle with the bubblers on the corners. I remember the water being so cold and refreshing.

20h **Love** Reply Share



Sue Saline Durtsche

I have requested several times to purchase a couple of them because they would make terrific yard sculpture memories. I requested that several be placed in our cul de sac on Zephyr Circle as historic sculptures (not working bubblers) ---never have gotten anywhere

15m **Like** Reply Share



Gregory Hilbert **Author** Top contributor

Sue Saline Durtsche One member has commented that he had a friend in construction who obtained one somehow. One of the problems I have is that the number of bubblers installed in the 1920's and later is unknown (to me at least). The current number remaining in place is about 31. I've not been able to get reliable info as to what was done with those removed. That's one of the things I trust the Heritage Commission will determine. As I see it, they all belong to the people of La Crosse.

Barbara J. Smith Top contributor

This is the one at Johnson Park. The "new" ones just don't have the same appeal.



15m Like Reply Share

Laurie Schindler

...the image of the "bubbler" at Erickson Pool near the ball field is forever etched in my brain💧; simpler times...

1d Like Reply Share

Jacqueline Lee

Love it 😊 🍷

Mary Kay Lind Yes a piece of artwork!! Just like the statues at riverside . Keep them!!

Children love them

And runners look for them !! Please keep them 🌟 🏃

David Cuff

I remember them fondly, stopping to drink from one everytime I saw once as a child growing up in La Crosse until I moved to TN the summer of 1990. Even then, whenever I went back to visit friends and family, I always would stop to drink from one when nearby. Now that I have a child of my own, I hope to introduce her to them as well the next time we're in LaCrosse visiting family and friends.

7h Love Reply Share



Marianne Lafler

One of my favorite things about LaCrosse !❤️

59m Like Reply Share



Terry L Riddle Top contributor
Roosevelt school had one

4d Like Reply Share 4👍



Janet Steele Top contributor
Terry L Riddle I think it's still there

3d Like Reply Share



Janet Steele Top contributor
A post like this started me on a bubbler scavenger hunt for bubbles granted I only did Northside . Caledonia Street had/has the most. Start at Caledonia and St. James. 1by St. James church, Caledonia and Clinton, Caledonia and Sill St. Rose and St. Cloud, Copeland Park, Copeland right before tracks by Bottoms up. One by Roosevelt School, Goose Green Park, I took pics of all of them but doubt I can find them. One by Franklin School(now Northside elementary), Logan Middle. George and Gillette St., Hickey/Badger Park. I am sure I missed some.

3d Love Reply Share

2👍❤️

Mary Keefe Barrett Top contributor

Keeping the bubblers in La Crosse is as essential as preserving old buildings.

1d Love Reply Share



Steve Shaw

These have to be saved ! To much history of LaCrosse has vanished !

1d Love Reply Share





Just a Reminder: Thousands of Comments and Many Photos Are Not Included in This Compilation

Colleen Wienke

I drank water from these bubblers all thru my childhood and youth. It's sad if they are removing all of them 😞

1d Like Reply Share



Lars Petter Svanoe Top contributor

Please bubblers were the centerpiece of every neighborhood they are in. When I was growing up in LaCrosse they were the perfect height to ride up to and drink from while you still stayed on your bike.

To have something as iconic as these disappear is a shame and a loss to your community.

There can be no truer expression of local government service to its community than the simple luxury of a cool drink on a hot day. If the concern is sanitation and the expense of running the bubblers 24/7 why not just put motion detectors in so the bubbler will start operating when someone walks within a certain distance. If you really want to update them they could even install small refrigeration units that would keep that first sip cool.

If you can't keep them operable at least keeps them in place and put a sign on them and say this is something that used to exist.

And if they aren't compliant for those of different abilities is there no process for exceptions?

Is there no engineer in the room that can figure out a simple solution to perhaps make an addition to the existing phones to make them compliant?

Your communities making the American mistake. Which is assuming that progress always means removing the old. It is why so many people travel to Europe because they know that progress needs to include the old for perspective.

2d Love Reply Share Edited



Lars Petter Svanoe Top contributor

PS I do recall my friends and I always regretting there was no bubblers near the foot of the bluffs. After a hard day of climbing around up there you probably might have gone through all of your water it would have been a welcome sight at

Paul Lawrence

I always wanted one as a fountain for my yard

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Carl Surom

The one I used most was at the south east corner of 5th and Main.

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Laurena Finch

Drank out of those many many times!!! Northside Kid, I was!!

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

6  

Jodi Hoscheit

These are one of my favorite memories of childhood!

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

9 



Nancy Alens Top contributor

Jodi Hoscheit mine too. A wonderful memory 👍

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

They used to be like bus stops now there are only a few. Need to bring them back.

1d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Janis-Sarah Kroner Rozenbergs Top contributor

The one I remember is on the corner of Caledonia and Clinton St. Right by Wittenberg's. I would walk like the 3-4 blocks to Caledonia St from Kane St and I NEEDED THAT DRINK! 😂😂😂

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

4 



Debbie Howard Benzley

Janis-Sarah Kroner Rozenbergs I lived down the block I remember that Bubbler well.

1d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2  



Janis-Sarah Kroner Rozenbergs Top contributor

Debbie Howard Benzley yep. Remember skating at Copeland after school until my parents would pick us up and take us home?

La Crosse's Bubblor Phenomenon

Samantha Connaughty They should be preserved. I love the bubblers. I have so many memories walking with my grandma downtown and stopping at everyone for a drink of water. It was so exciting to come upon the bubbler as a child a run up to get a drink. I shared it with my children and I hope I get to share it with my grandchildren. They are something special to Lacrosse that you don't see in other cities

This document contains only a fraction of the thousands of comments expressing the living heritage the people of La Crosse want preserved. Recognizing it would be unreasonable to ask you to read them all, I ask only that you read enough to realize the phenomenon of bubblers as icons of happiness, history, and heritage.

New Hope for Preservation of Our Treasured BUBBLERS Thanks to This Group's Members

Dear Preservation Commission,
La Crosse's Treasured Iconic Bubblers
Are Disappearing!



Another 300
responded to
THIS post
2 days later

William Mullen, Margaret OMeara and 364 others

194 comments 32 shares

As of July 18

411

210 33

600 Supportive Responses to the Post Above Got Attention and Made a Difference. Please Keep It Up

Last week I sounded an alarm about the slow but steady disappearance of La Crosse's iconic outdoor "Bubblers" (aka drinking fountains). Over 500 of you responded, demonstrating that huge numbers treasure those bubblers and want them preserved. Buoyed by that, I commented to a Preservation Commission Board member, seeking action. **He replied by inviting me to make a formal request to him, saying he would like to put it before the entire board for consideration.** I replied that I would prepare and submit the request, but that it would take me until late Aug, because the bulk of the document would consist of screenshots of the several posts I've done in the past and a couple more like this one, and would include the CUMULATIVE DELUGE OF COMMENTS responding to those posts that translate to favoring preservation. *Based on what I've compiled so far, the PDF document containing all that and additional information will approach 200 pages!* Let me be clear: if the Preservation Commission takes action, it won't be my doing but YOURS! Nobody can speak for this group, but we can speak for ourselves. **If you want to help secure preservation, one way you can do that is by sharing your bubbler memories, comments and photos here, and your opinion as to why La Crosse's bubblers should be preserved.**

Barbara J. Smith Top contributor

Another LaCrosse treasure that should be cherished and preserved.

1d Love Reply Share

21   

Kevin Lafky Top contributor

They are an iconic part of LaCrosse. Please save the bubblers.

1d Love Reply Share

7  

Shayla Bell

The nostalgia that hits every time I see one of the classic green bubblers is immense; specifically on the Northside, seeing one brings back a flood of childhood memories, of riding bicycle in the neighborhood with group of kids and racing to get the first drink of water from a bubbler on hot summer days.

1d Love Reply Share

9  

Mary Brickson Gokey Top contributor

One of the things that make LaCrosse great is its past. Let's keep these bubblers

1d Love Reply Share

9  

Dawn Krause Metzger

I hope they keep them, I love struggling to lift my granddaughter up to get a slurp. Adding accessible fountains, sure, but not in place of the green bubblers!

1d Like Reply Share

10  



Dana Burt

Dawn Krause Metzger they took out the one by us this spring. Terry is still mad!

1d Like Reply Share

2 

Judy Oestreich

Just showed several of them off to a visiting friend who had never heard of "bubblers". Please save them!

19h Love Reply Share



Samantha Connaughty

They should be preserved. I love the bubblers. I have so many memories walking with my grandma downtown and stopping at everyone for a drink of water. It was so exciting to come upon the bubbler as a child a run up to get a drink. I shared it with my children and I hope I get to share it with my grandchildren. They are something special to Lacrosse that you don't see in other cities

6m [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

Shayla Bell

The nostalgia that hits every time I see one of the classic green bubblers is immense; specifically on the Northside, seeing one brings back a flood of childhood memories, of riding bicycle in the neighborhood with group of kids and racing to get the f...

[See more](#)

1d [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

9  

Mary Brickson Gokey [Top contributor](#)

One of the things that make LaCrosse great is its past. Let's keep these bubblers

1d [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

9  

Dawn Krause Metzger

I hope they keep them, I love struggling to lift my granddaughter up to get a slurp. Adding accessible fountains, sure, but not in place of the green bubblers!

1d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

10  

[View all 2 replies](#)

Robin Lundgren [Top contributor](#)

I can't imagine our city without these. They have been there my whole life. Many awesome memories I have with the bubblers. Please don't take them down.

1d [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

5  

Patricia LaRue

So many memories of these bubblers from my younger days. We walked and biked everywhere and seeing a bubbler in the next block was almost life-saving. I understand the need for handicapped accessibility, but keep the existing bubblers and add an access... [See more](#)

1d [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

4  

Robin Lundgren Top contributor

I can't imagine our city without these. They have been there my whole life. Many awesome memories I have with the bubblers. Please don't take them down.

1d **Love** Reply Share

5  

Patricia LaRue

So many memories of these bubblers from my younger days. We walked and biked everywhere and seeing a bubbler in the next block was almost life-saving. I understand the need for handicapped accessibility, but keep the existing bubblers and add an access... [See more](#)

1d **Love** Reply Share

4  

Liz Peregrine Bahr


On the practical side, these bubblers are so great when I am out walking my dog. I used to plan walks/runs along routes where I knew a bubbler was so I could give my dog a drink!

1d **Like** Reply Share



Lorinda Lee

Bring them back please!

3h **Like** Reply Share 

Sylvia Stephens

These bubblers represent days gone by. They are part of our history and heritage and should be preserved. We've already lost some beautiful old buildings due to modernization. Let's not lose these.

2h **Like** Reply Share



Karen Mattie Brabec

These were the best growing up. No need to carry a plastic water bottle with the bubblers on the corners. I remember the water being so cold and refreshing.

20h **Love** Reply Share

2  

Ann Clark

Very good points.

20h **Like** Reply Share 

Bill Spietz Top contributor

The most ornate bubbler/fountain is the "White Beaver" one that I posted about several months ago. It compliments this post nicely. My post begins with the words "You might have taken a sip or two....,"

1h Love Reply Share Edited



Bill Spietz Top contributor



1h Love Reply Share 2



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Bill Spietz Bill, thank you! I've been posting often about Dr Frank "White Beaver", his fountain donation, the fountain donation by Gov George Peck, and La Crosse's iconic "bubblers" for well over a year, and regret I didn't see your post, doubly so because the photos you shared are clear and historic. But better late than never. Rest assured they will gain additional exposure, including in the document I'll be submitting to the Heritage Preservation Commission in August.

Gale McKeeth

Just saw a post today that these are due to be replaced by new ones that are more handicap accessible.

1d Like Reply Share



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Gale McKeeth Gale I've searched and found no such post or comment responding to a bubbler post. I don't think a commissioner on the La Crosse Heritage preservation board who is also Pres of the La Crosse County Historical Society would've invited me to submit a preservation request last week if that were true. That said, if you can specify where you saw a post, I'd be greatly appreciative.



Gale McKeeth

Gregory Hilbert It appeared earlier this morning, in a post about the one by Washburn Elementary and the LaCrosse public library.

21h Like Reply Share



Gregory Hilbert [Author](#) [Top contributor](#)

Gale McKeeth Thanks for replying Gale. I found the comment. It refers to a very long-range plan to make EVERYTHING in La Crosse compliant with the Disabilities Act. A consulting firm was retained to shape that plan. It was noted that the scope is so vast and deep and costly that the key words are "very long-range". Drinking fountains get a two-word mention as to what's encompassed. I see nothing about any old ones being due for replacement. And that's not at all a commitment to preserve the historic bubblers. If nothing is done, I foresee the day when they'll be removed because the costs of Disabilities Act compliance have become astronomical. Under pressure, the cheapest fix to the drinking fountain problem is not to have ANY. So, I'd like to be hopeful, but personally I'm not prepared to rely on the Disabilities "long-range compliance plan" to preserve La Crosse's bubblers. But thank you for getting info into the discussion. It's very hard to come by!

La Crosse ADA Transition Plan – Benesch

To ensure that the City of La Crosse public facilities (buildings and parks), Public Rights-of-Way, programs, activities and services are readily accessible for persons with disabilities, the City engaged Benesch to conduct a self-evaluation and develop a Transition Plan for compliance with the Americans Disabilities Act (ADA) section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and applicable Wisconsin accessibility codes.

The review included the assessment of facility entrances and exits, parking lots, surrounding accessible routes, curb ramps, crosswalks, pedestrian push buttons, ramps, handrails, doors, drinking fountains, room signage, restrooms, playgrounds and parks. Due to the extensive nature of the project and available funding and resources, Benesch developed a multi-phased work plan, which included public participation in partnership with the City's Committee for Citizens with Disabilities.

Lorinda Lee
Bring them back please!

4h Like Reply Share 

Naomi Stetzer Miller
And let us restore them with the original silver colored bubbler ball in the center of the bowl, the reason they are called bubblers in the first place.


8h Like Reply Share

View 1 reply

Jane Foner
The bubblers are part of our history and very iconic. They bring back great memories for so many of us that grew up here. How about adding some handicap accessible to what we have?

16h Love Reply Share 

Jacqueline Haas
Thank you Gregory!

17h Like Reply Share 

Cheryl Collins
Please save them!! A legacy to La Crosse!!

18h Love Reply Share 

Yelir Hunter Top contributor
I was told when I worked at Torrance Casting they were made there. That alone preserves not just a bubbler but history of a La Crosse business! We still have one on our corner of Sill and Gillette last I remember. Many kids, ppl and animals use it. It's next to the bus depot which also helps folks waiting for the bus! It is a gem for the corner! Keep them we need them

18h Love Reply Share 

Jane Holland
It is such a novelty & such a treat to get fresh water to drink from a corner bubbler!!!



19h Love Reply Share

2  

Edward Monsoor

KEEP UP THE FIGHT, YOU ARE ON THE RIGHT PATH.

Jane Foner

The bubblers are part of our history and very iconic. They bring back great memories for so many of us that grew up here. How about adding some handicap accessible to what we have?

18h Love Reply Share

Jacqueline Haas


Thank you Gregory!

19h Like Reply Share 

Lynn Miller I don't have any photos but my memory of roller skating down town (we lived at 225 So 6 th st or was it 5 th ! with my sister and my brothers gang . We stopped at many bubblers for axdrink and our dog Jip loved the water bowl . She pulled me hanging on to her leash , I would have never kept up with the gang without Jip !


Cheryl Collins

Please save them!! A legacy to La Crosse!!

20h Love Reply Share 

Yelir Hunter Top contributor

I was told when I workers at Torrance Casting they were made there. That alone preserves not just a bubbler but history of a La Crosse business! We still have one on our corner of sill and Gillette last I remember. Many kids, ppl and animals use it. It...
[See more](#)

20h Love Reply Share 

Jane Holland

It is such a novelty & such a treat to get fresh water to drink from a corner bubbler!!!




21h Love Reply Share

2  

Judy Oestreich

Just showed several of them off to a visiting friend who had never heard of "bubblers". Please save them!

21h Love Reply Share 

Karen Mattie Brabec

These were the best growing up. No need to carry a plastic water bottle with the bubblers on the corners. I remember the water being so cold and refreshing.

22h Love Reply Share

2  



Margaret OMeara

Top contributor · Yesterday at 4:59 AM ·



8th and Main St

308

50 11



Top comments ▼



Lee Blumenstein
Bubbler!

1d Like Reply Share 2



Margaret OMeara
Lee Blumenstein Still bubbles

1d Like Reply Share



Write a public reply...



JT Rausch
Watch out for needles there,,,,,fav
spot for druggies coming out of the
park

1d Like Reply Share 3



Margaret OMeara
JT Rausch We tenants have
gotten them mostly removed

1d Like Reply Share

Scott A Boehlke
David Haberman Yes that was
my bubbler and school as
well. We lived only 1 block
from that one, at 9th & Main.
Fond memories of the Library
as well.

1d Like Reply Share



Over 350 Responsive Actions the Day After I Posted About the Invitation

Steve Evets

JT Rausch That's the bubbler I
would drink at when I went to
kindergarten at Washburn
back in 1957, a lifetime ago in
a more innocent era. Now
both the school and the
classic old library are long
gone, so casually torn down.
This is clearly a case where the
good old days were much,
much better.

1d Like Reply Share

David Haberman

Same intersection from the opposite view. A girl sits at the fountain in front of the library. Washburn elementary is in the background.



1d Like Reply Share 9

Ron French

Drank a lot of water out of that bubbler back in the days of going to Washburn school

1d Like Reply Share 3

John Shaheen

Remember them well in LaCrosse.

1d Like Reply Share 2

Joanne Day

Loved the bubblers.

1d Like Reply Share 2

Todd Wehrenberg

Future archaeologists will dig this up and assume it was for some kind of religious or astrological purpose...

1d Like Reply Share

Chuck Gundersen

Is it still bubbling?

1d Like Reply Share



Mike Skiles

Chuck Gundersen only if you push a button on top. About 10 years ago the city changed the mouth pieces so the water wouldn't run all the time.

1d Like Reply Share 2

David Haberman

That's the bubbler I drank from during my student days at Washburn elementary school.

1d Like Reply Share

View all 2 replies

Barb Mitchell-Phillips

Bubble if your from LaCrosse. Loved going to the library on hot summer days

1d Like Reply Share

Timothy F Duffy

I probably drank out of that fountain way back in the 50's.. As far as I'm concerned, one of the many landmarks of LA Crosse..

1d Like Reply Share

Valerie Neuman

Bri ngs back memories

Barbara J. Smith Top contributor
Excellent questions.

4d Like Reply Share 2 

Steve Shaw
Some had water cups on the bottom for dogs !

4d Like Reply Share 2 

Dennis Blank
So sad they are doing that.

4d Like Reply Share 

Mike Schwertfeger
Close a library, remove bubblers,
Keep a pool closed all summer, and raise taxes, I see nothing wrong with any of this

4d Like Reply Share 3 

Sheila Rivera
I remember these fondly

4d Like Reply Share 2 

Linda Jefferson Marshall Top contributor
The one on Market St. by Hogan school, 5th St in front of Fantles, Cass & West Ave.
were ones I think I used the most.

4d Like Reply Share 4 

Celine Marie
There are some that aren't open.

4d Like Reply Share 

Carmen Thienes
They were everywhere as a kid!

4d Like Reply Share 2 



Mike Skiles
Chuck Gundersen only if you
push a button on top. About
10 years ago the city changed
the mouth pieces so the water
wouldn't run all the time.

1d Like Reply Share 2 



Fritz Vold
Mike Skiles they used to run
24/7/365. one Dec. 1955
frosty morning on my way to
my 6th grade class at
Washburn School, i took a
"lick" of the icy bubbler and
got my tongue stuck frozen to
it!

1d Like Reply Share 



Gregory Hilbert

Top contributor · July 21 at 3:56 PM ·

In 2018 Mary Kurth Ameson shared this 1939 photo of her happy toddlerhood encounter with a bubbler on Fifth Avenue. The iconic green thirst-quenchers were first installed in the 1920's. Having been invited to request La Crosse Heritage Preservation Commission preservation of La Crosse's "Bubblers", I'll be submitting screenshots of posts, photos, and comments --- some 200 pages in all -- to show that overwhelming numbers of people from La Crosse treasure them, value them and want them preserved. If you're among them, this is your chance to be heard.

**Children & Adults Have Been Enjoying La Crosse's
Iconic Cast Iron Bubblers for Nearly 100 Years.
Do You Want La Crosse's Bubblers Preserved?**



241

63 17

Over 300 More Responses

Note: You'll See this photo again, from when it was originally posted by Mary Kurth Ameson in 2018

Alisa Heckelbeck Sokolik

I don't live in La Crosse, but I grew up spending a lot of time "in town." We had a ton of family on the North Side, and my dad loved shopping and dining downtown, so we spent a lot of time there.

As a child, the bubblers were a favorite feature of mine. I think I drank from every one I saw. The one that sticks out in my mind was on the NE corner of 5th and Main. I seem to remember one on Caledonia Street as well. I've been saddened to note them disappearing from the corners. I can understand why, in the name of water conservation, they were retrofitted so they didn't run all the time, but like so many other treasured icons in La Crosse (library, post office,, 2nd Street warehouses), it would be a shame to allow them to fade into oblivion. We want La Crosse to be a destination city, in part due to its historical features. These bubblers are one of those nostalgic features from a bygone era.

45m Love Reply Share



Lars Petter Svanoe Top contributor

Most definitely it's a unique feature to the city even if they come up with some way so that they don't have to be running constantly and using the amount of water that that would take. There has to be a way to affordably preserve this unique feature of a great river town

1h Like Reply Share



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Lars Petter Svanoe I'm glad you want to see the bubblers preserved Lars. Re the water usage, they came up with a way. For the cost of the push-button spigot and labor to install it, which I'd guess runs somewhere between \$50 and \$75, the city says it is saving \$50 worth of water per year, per unit. Say there are 30 bubblers. That's \$1,500 in water savings per year. Less the original cost. La Crosse faces no water shortage, but now users get tepid water instead of the always-cold water we used to get when the bubblers were run continuously all summer.

57m Like Reply Share



Lars Petter Svanoe Top contributor

Gregory Hilbert I had mentioned in a previous post it IS the 21st Century - they could put inexpensive chillers (not like a water fountain indoors - or they could a way of recirculating the water from below street level.

But I am with you....It seems like a minimal saving over running the water. They could also put timers on them so they run from 6 am to 10 pm and save a third of the water expense.

Man and that cold water was delicious. We would have laughed at you if you showed up with a bottle of the stuff.

7m Love Reply Share



Margaret Strasser

I say keep them. I wonder how many people have never heard of one.

54m Love Reply Share



View 1 reply

Kathy Berrier Top contributor

Remember the dog bowls.

1h Like Reply Share 2



Bernelle Skrede

Remember that one, it was at the bus station downtown by Market Square if I remember correctly.

1h Like Reply Share

Ruth Winder Standley

So many treasured things from our past are being destroyed, removed, or torn down. Since so many schools do not teach American history any longer, we must preserve our own local history anyway we can. LaCrosse was a great town to grow up in and I feel so blessed that I can call LaCrosse my hometown. I remember my mother being so upset when all the buildings from the riverfront were being torn down as was the court house, the library etc. That was before cities realized they should preserve the past, a great example is Faneuil Hall in Boston. It was a set of old warehouses that was turned into a thriving marketplace. It's important to preserve our past. The bubblers are unique to LaCrosse and should be preserved.

33m Love Reply Share

2



Diane Romary Top contributor

Remember it well!

21m Love Reply Share



Carmen Thienes

They were the reason we could stay away from home all day!!

7h Love Reply Share



Mary Sciborski Kime Top contributor

Absolutely

Kathy Foust

Yes!! Great memories of them

1m Maralynn Strong Top contributor

They should be preserved. Vacationers especially enjoy seeing special items like this that make a city special. ❤️

Dan Kaufmann

They should bring a couple back. And leave the water run.

1h Love Reply Share



Michelle Armoto Hutchins-Pearson

Alisa Heckelbeck Sokolik we had one on Caledonia Street that I love to go to every day



9m Love Reply Share



Michelle Armoto Hutchins-Pearson

Loved them

1h Love Reply Share



Lisa Zobeck

Thank you !!

1h Like Reply Share



Richard Tubb

Love them. Thank you.

24m Like Reply Share



Jolene Dellenbach

Absolutely! Bubblers are iconic figures of LaCrosse and elicit fond memories for many.

4m Love Reply Share



Marit Sherry



2h Love Reply Share



Terlene Keller Used to ride my bicycle all over town. We didn't have water bottles or bottled water. And many times I had my dog Spotty with me. if it wasn't for those bubblers, we wouldn't have been able to go very far from the house and if we did, we would have probably been dehydrated and gotten sick! And yes, I did train Spotty to drink from them as well. It would be very sad to see them disappear.

Lynn Rick Briese Most definitely! Those bubblers were a huge part of my childhood

Diane Romary Top contributor

they are unique and artistic! i have many fond memories of standing in my tip toes

Renee Danielson Haugen YES!!! There is so much you gotten rid of already that had history to La Crosse ,,,,,,.they don't take up any land that could be used for anything else! Please keep the Bubblers.

[Like](#) [Comment](#) Sun Jul 21, 8:55pm

ment History

Marianne Lafler
Yes!

Carol Theisen Absolutely

[Like](#) [Comment](#) Sun Jul 21, 7:32pm

Barbie Sue Scott I WAS BORN IN LA CROSSE AND MY UNCLE JOE AND AUNT ALBERTA LIVE ON A STREET NEAR GRANDDAD BLUFF, AND THERE WAS THE BUBBLER! SO UNIQUE! YES! PRESERVE THEM!!!! PLEASE!

[Like](#) [Comment](#) Sun Jul 21, 7:28pm

Sharon Potter-Geng YES

[Like](#) [Comment](#) Sun Jul 21, 7:27pm

Julie LaReau Absolutely, it is part of LaCrosse history

[Like](#) [Comment](#) Sun Jul 21, 7:04pm

Robert Melbo Water is cheap here. Even so, install an on/off switch. I hope the old ones haven't been scrapped. Bubblers for Eons!

Yelir Hunter Yes and for ones that they removed then they can put them back by recasting at Torrance casting who has been here for over 100 years too

Jolene Dellenbach Absolutely! Bubblers are iconic figures of LaCrosse and elicit fond memories for many.

[Comment](#) Sun Jul 21, 6:32pm

Michelle Armoto Hutchins-Pearson [Alisa Heckelbeck Sokolik](#) we had one on Caledonia Street that I love to go to every day^[OBJ]

John J Satory [Dan Kaufmann](#) there was one still running in Riverside Park - that's because the bill for the water came out of the Parks account — now I see even that is gone with a modern one — So sad - They all need to be saved- also the animal drinking bowl

[Like](#) [Comment](#) Mon Jul 22, 12:05pm

Libby Temkin I agree!

[Like](#) [Comment](#) Mon Jul 22, 9:17am

Denise Lange Please don't tell me that they're going to start tearing these up now. LaCrosse needs a lesson on preserving its history. Old buildings are constantly being torn down, and the history of the city is slowly being erased.

[Like](#) [Comment](#) Mon Jul 22, 7:07am

Susie Freybler The whole of my childhood summers was riding from bubbler to bubbler on the northside. We knew where they all were, we called first dibs. The waters sustained us to ride miles around in the summer heat. I hated when they turned them into the non constant running but understand water conservation. But seeing them taken out is heart breaking. My old school is apartment s now, my highschool a pool, though I did graduate from the new Logan, and my pool doesn't exist anymore. I would like them to save the last remembrance of our childhood days.

Kris Nutter [Kathy Berrier](#) I always thought that it was a great feature! I've never seen them anywhere but in La Crosse! Yet another reason for their preservation!

Kathy Rae Definitely need to be kept, I can still taste that delicious COLD water💧💧

Scott Hall [Gregory Hilbert](#) Darn. I wish I didn't have that image in my head now.

Anyway, I had happy memories of the bubblers in LaCrosse. I remember the water was cold and wonderful. And in my childhood memories I was with people I love.

Clifford G. Halmrast Remember riding up to the bubblers on my bike for a cool drink of water.

Dennis Brault [Top contributor](#)

Yes. Absolutely. One or two should be in every park in the city.

10m [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Lisa Eder Mobley [Top contributor](#)

Had a big drink from the bubbler in Old Town North today 🥰 so refreshing 😊
Thank you

Shelley Maule Tauscher Nothing ever comes close to that taste of that cold hard water.

Shelley Maule Tauscher

I couldn't ever imagine why the city would take this iconic symbol of LaCrosse history away. As a young kid riding my bike in the hot summer sun from the south side of LAX to downtown for a cold drink before heading over the bridge to Pettibone.

Mary L. Grabinski Grabski [Top contributor](#)

The bubblers were always a welcome treat when out for a long bicycle ride. Everyone knew where they were located , and we frequented them for refreshment. Puppies loved them too!



Gregory Hilbert

3 days ago · 🌐

...

Curt Hottinger shared this photo in January of his mom's friend at the Powell Park bubbler at West Ave & Jackson in the late 1930's. The familiar ornate bubbler is now gone, whereabouts unknown to me. In its place is a wheelchair-accessible drinking fountain. I'm all for wheelchair-accessible fountains, more of which are planned to be installed as time passes. But I see no reason that the ornate cast-iron treasures can't be left in place, alongside the wheelchair accessible, ... See more

**Then vs Now: The Drinking Fountain We Called
a "Bubbler" and the New One Now at Powell Park.
Do You Want La Crosse's Old Bubblers Preserved?**



   William Mullen, Leslie Viner and 221 others

101 comments 12 shares

Over 300 Response Actions Despite Multi-posti

Tamara Sumwalt-Finley

Whoever is in charge of picking designs for munipcle items and also whoever is in charge of picking out the art for parks and around the city should honestly be fired. They never preserve anything and have an obsession with in my opinion very ugly modern art

3d Like Reply Share

5 

View all 3 replies

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Well Worth Reading!

Lars Petter Svanoe Top contributor

These along with the downtown street lamps that were ingloriously removed were iconic symbols of the city. One of the reasons people travel Europe is their generally unwavering support of finding a way to incorporate the past into the present. This is such a simple affordable way to express that in a very public way that anyone driving through town will go "oh! look at that!"

On top of which, having a sip from one of those bubblers when the water is running cold only enhances the experience because it shows off the outstanding drinking water that's available in La Crosse. Consider the money well spent and put some of it in the cities promotional budget.

And if you don't feel the fountains are situated for high visibility consider taking some of the ones you've removed and placing them where they will be.

3d Like Reply Share Edited

20  



Kris Betz Top contributor

Lars Petter Svanoe you've said it so well

3d Like Reply Share

4 



Chris Shepardson Top contributor

Lars Petter Svanoe well said!

3d Like Reply Share

3 

Kevin Lafky Top contributor

Retain and restore -Save the bubblers!

3d Love Reply Share

8   

Kay Stewart

Our historic downtown deserves better. The new one looks out of place and in my opinion is rather ugly. Keep the old ones!!!

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

[View 1 reply](#)

Deb Ward

The Bubblers are LaCrosse. If I say bubbler anywhere else people don't know what I mean. A true historical tradition. They may not give water, but they could be repurposed for plants. Could also put a story on it describing the history.

3d [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



[View all 2 replies](#)

Kris Betz [Top contributor](#)

Are there any as ornate as this one left? So beautiful besides useful. I am old enough to remember all the bubblers all over town. So great when we were out biking as teenagers.

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

[View 1 reply](#)

Tony Ammann

Looks like the new version is handicapped accessible

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Gregory Hilbert [Author](#) [Top contributor](#)

Tony Ammann Yes, and that's good, but the ornate cast iron bubbler could've been left in place alongside!

Mary Olson Top contributor
They are differently bubblers...

46w Like Reply Share 3 


Gary Peterson Top contributor
I loved the one in Onalaska.

46w Like Reply Share 2 

Julie O'Connor Top contributor
I carried "bubblers" with me my entire life. No matter where I drank, it was and will always be a bubbler!

46w Love Reply Share

8  

 Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor
Julie O'Connor That's the spirit Julie, TWO THUMBS UP!

46w Like Reply Share

 Paula Lamke Jablonski
Julie O'Connor ME TOO!!

46w Like Reply Share 2 




Write a public reply...




Michael-Carol Drake
Yes

46w Like Reply Share 3 

Litchy Mkandaz
Which ones had bubbles

46w Like Reply Share 1 

Barb Rudy
Loved the added feature that was on the newer ones,....the dish for pets to drink from... bubblers for life! 

46w Love Reply Share

4  

Greg Peterson
Bubblers forever!!

46w Like Reply Share 7 

Sarah D Hemker
Bubblers. The water was always ice cold.

46w Love Reply Share Edited 2  

Neil Duresky Top contributor
Once a bubbler, always a bubbler.

46w Like Reply Share 18  

View all 6 replies

Dan Kaufmann
Yes, yes yes keep the bubblers


46w Like Reply Share 

Donald Dotterwick
Thanks. 😊😊😊😊

46w Like Reply Share 






Jane Ryan Top contributor
Yes Part of our history! We had a "bubbler" right by Holy Trinity School! We lined up to get drinks after recess! It's STILL there!!

46w Like Reply Share 6 

 Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor
Jane Ryan Ours was just a half block away at 20th and Weston in front of Thomas Moore elementary and its playground. We were like thirsty critters of every kind racing to a water hole in the desert!


46w Like Reply Share 3   

View 1 reply


 Write a public reply...    

Barb Mitchell-Phillips
Let me add as I grew up in La Crosse I thought all drinking fountains were called bubblers. I traveled to California at age 20 was in need of a drink of water and asked to find the closest bubbler . Only to be told they had no idea of what I was talking about.

46w Haha Reply Share 11  

 Ann Poellinger Hanson
Barb Mitchell-Phillips
I lived in Massachusetts and they had no idea what I was talking about either.

46w Like Reply Share 

 Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor
Ann Poellinger Hanson We don't want them to know! La Crosse child-speak should only be known to people who grew up in La Crosse. That way, if we



Kathy Gallagher Barlow Top contributor

Barb Mitchell-Phillips I have had to explain what a bubbler is more times than I can count

46w Like Reply Share



Write a public reply...



Janette Roggensack-Reget

Are there still bubbles in LaCrosse? As a kid, we loved walking to the bubbler for a drink of the best water ever. There was one in front of St. James Church.

46w Love Reply Share

6

[View all 8 replies](#)



Janette Roggensack-Reget

Bubblers. FB didn't accept that word in my previous post

46w Wow Reply Share



[View 1 reply](#)



Robin Dickson

Do NOT change the name. They are Bubblers.

46w Like Reply Share

2



Jamie Liska Larson

I've always called them bubblers, but I grew up in the Milwaukee area. When I would come here as a kid, all my cousins called them water fountains.

46w Like Reply Share

2

[View 1 reply](#)



GusnAngie Gschwind

My 'household' bubbler. was at 7th Farnum. ..if I ever wanted to just run a few houses down. I could get that refreshing. cold. drink..who needs a soda. of co/urse when we

Mark Heinzl Top contributor

The bubble castings were trashed unfortunately. Maybe someone would have a giant one made and put where Zims beloved carving was!!! 🙄

46w Like Reply Share

2

Lala Coelho
Definitely BUBBLERS!!! ❤️

46w Love Reply Share 4 🍊❤️

View 1 reply

Francis Schmitz
Yes, Always

46w Love Reply Share ❤️

Kathy Hadley Roesler
Bubbler

46w Like Reply Share 2 🍊

Rhonda Hardiman Top contributor
They ARE Bubblers! I'm looking forward to your writings on the Cargills

46w Love Reply Share 6 🍊❤️

Noreen Fish Top contributor
Regarding the Cargills, I believe the Cargill Foundation, although based in the Twin Cities, does a fair amount of giving in the area. It's been a few years since I worked with the Foundation Center database, but I remember using them as an example.

46w Like Reply Share

View all 2 replies

Marv Ramsay
They are BUBBLERS!

46w Love Reply Share 2 🍊❤️

View 1 reply

Ida Luhman
'Bubbler' at one time, there were about 46 in town.

Jeanne Steuck Top contributor
The nice thing about bubblers was that there was a place for dogs to drink also.

46w Like Reply Share 8 🍊❤️

View all 3 replies

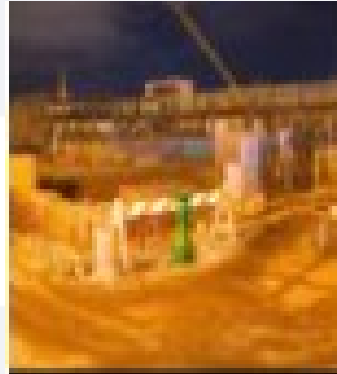
Audrey Arentz Moore Top contributor
Schools and other public buildings still have " bubblers". Or are we calling them something different now and I wasn't told?? But the outside bubblers were the best

Bob N Sonya Good

During the construction of Belle Square, this bubbler was the only artifact left undisturbed.

4th and Vine if I remember correctly.

46w [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 11  



Craig Steinmetz

Bubbler before, bubbler now, bubbler forever!! Leave it alone!

46w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

4 

[View 1 reply](#)

Mary Keefe Barrett [Top contributor](#)

They are bubblers throughout the state. We called them bubblers in Racine where I grew up. Notice the little bowl for water at the bottom, for when people walked their dogs.

46w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

7 

Marilyn Hegge Kile

I always wanted one in my garden!

Susan Decker
I loved those bubblers

46w Like Reply Share 2 

Kathleen Conlon Sieber
When I was growing up, the bubblers actually bubbled all the time. You didn't turn them on.

46w Like Reply Share

5 

Lisa Zobeck
Bubblers !

46w Like Reply Share 2 

Laurie Ceason Lane
Bubbler

46w Like Reply Share 

Marit Sherry
Wasn't there a giant, multi layered bubbler downtown?

Ellen Beardsley Top contributor
Once a bubbler, always a bubbler!

46w Love Reply Share 2  


Mary Abraham Top contributor
I believe we had one by Hogan School on Market Street.

46w Like Reply Share



View 1 reply

Jean Antony Top contributor
We still refer to them as bubblers 👍

46w Like Reply Share 2 

Deb Stachon
Yes bubblers! 😍

46w Love Reply Share 3  

Jeff Hundt
During a recent visit saw "bubblers", but no running water. 😞

Jeff Hundt

During a recent visit saw "bubblers", but no running water. 🤔



Barb Hanson

Definitely a bubbler , always will be !

46w Love Reply Share



Marilyn Dakis

Jay Skarboszewski I lived on 8th and Farnham drank from that Bubbler when waiting for the bus also when I played tennis at the court. Loved the Bubbler back in the 50ties yes it did bubble all the time!!

46w Like Reply Share

2

Diane Marcou

Yes, the original bubblers did bubble.

46w Like Reply Share

2

Sue Ann O'Brien Top contributor

Yes on calling then bubblers!

46w Like Reply Share



Stephanie Froegel

Bubbler after Benson Bubbler.. it's a brand name.

46w Love Reply Share



Rachel Murphy

Just a suggestion here -- all I ever see here is people desperately wanting to keep the fountains of old. Why not start a benefit for them, and everyone who wants to keep them could donate towards their upkeep! You might even get some donations from other people too! If there were funds (donations) available, maybe the City would help you out with preserving them! Might be worth a try!

3d Like Reply Share

2 



Lars Petter Svanoë Top contributor

Rachel Murphy It's a lovely idea but this is one of those simple pieces of maintaining a city that should fall within the cities budget. It shouldn't requires the citizenry to make special fundraising efforts. That's almost as sad as teachers having to have bake sales to get school supplies for their classrooms.

3d Love Reply Share

4  

View 1 reply



Sandi Schroder Top contributor

Rachel Murphy yes, like when they say they will put a brick on the walkway with your name on it for a certain amount of a donation! Only this would be for the preservation of the bubblers. I would donate to that.


David Neuhaus Top contributor

The city should have copies cast. I'm sure money could be raised for such a project. Wasn't Torance Foundry the original maker of the bubbles?

3d Like Reply Share

4 

Darlene Langhofer Urban Top contributor

Please don't remove these old beautiful bubblers, they are part of our home town La Crosse and full of years of memories 

3d Like Reply Share Edited

4  

Dana Brudos Top contributor

Yes, preserve the bubblers! Seeing the new one felt like a big let down.

3d Love Reply Share

4  

Jacquelyn Fuchsel
Keep the bubblers

3d Like Reply Share 3 

Rick Kast
Save the bubblers..

3d Like Reply Share 2 

Linda Fuchsteiner
Just do it!

3d Like Reply Share 2 

Linda Fuchsteiner
Absolutely!

3d Like Reply Share 2 

Kay Lee
Agreed!

Brian Kelly

Bubbler is a really Wisconsin thing.

46w

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



Lynn Miller

What happened to the original Bubbler on 16 th and Madison by Weigant Park . Now we have an ugly fountain 😞😞

46w

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)

2



Helen Lassen - Boucher

Bubblers.

46w

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



Linda Birkle

When I moved from the Chicago area as a teen to Sheboygan, I realized that the term "bubbler" was used instead of drinking fountain. When I moved to Minnesota then to La Crosse, I only heard "drinking fountain." Thank you for letting me know "bubbler " must be a Wisconsin term!

46w

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



Jay Skarboszewski

If the city has any of these in a storeroom somewhere, I'd buy one of them. Mine was at 7th & Farnam next to the (now gone) tennis courts.

46w

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



Gregory Hilbert [Author](#) Top contributor

Jay Skarboszewski Just for fun I searched but found none like La Crosse's. I found a used cast iron on eBay for \$1400 and a new cast iron elsewhere for \$600, neither as rugged or ornate as La Crosse's. Another commenter said the supplier's mold for them was destroyed. Of course there are other fountain styles that look nice and cost less, but they aren't the treasured thing we're talking about here.

46w

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



Michael F. Potaracke
Hood Park!!

46w Like Reply Share 

Jill Schwenn
BUBBLERS!

46w Like Reply Share 

Marlene Schmidt
Loved those bubblers!

46w Like Reply Share 

Janet Stearns
Keep the bubblers ! La Crosse is known for taking old beautiful things down. Were all getting sick of this practiceKeep the name BUBBLER.

46w Love Reply Share



Jill Berg
Yup. From Lacrosse and love LaCrosse and we always and still call them BUBBLERS!!!

46w Love Reply Share

3  

Nancy Schmig
I see this one has the dish on the side for dogs!. I hope that they choose to preserve these. My Dad always called them Bubblers

46w Like Reply Share



Kathy Gallagher Barlow Top contributor
Oh please, BUBBLER!!!

46w Like Reply Share



Jeri Pfaff Cameron Chris Always icy cold and good on a hot day.

Patricia Muehr

I totally agree. Once a bubbler always a bubbler. Very unique to our city.

46w Love Reply Share



Nick Griffin Miller

Hi there, formerly from Tomah here, and have had to explain bubblers to many in California and I don't even try in Mexico...hee hee. There is a pretty good article from archives that explains about bubblers, Kohler, and why they are called bubblers here: <https://www.jsonline.com/.../why-bubbler-what.../4793730002/>



JSONLINE.COM

Where did the term 'bubbler' come from, and are we the only ones who say it?

46w Love Reply Share



View all 3 replies

Nola Goetting Grorich

I do remember drinking out those bubbler growing up I wonder if any are still working.

45w Like Reply Share



Ron Anderson
Bubblers

45w Like Share

Ron Anderson

I remember the bubbler in G Hellman brewing company when I worked there after I graduated that summergreat great water

45w Like Share



Cynthia Botcher Colby Top contributor

Gregory Hilbert here is my bestie getting a drink from the bubbler. Sherri Petras do you remember this day. It was the last time I was home. It's been too long ❤️





Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Cynthia Botcher Colby It's clear to me you are great-hearted Cynthia, and that suggests Sherri Petras is also. May all your trails be Happy Trails, and at least one take you to a La Crosse bubbler!

43w Like Reply Share



Cynthia Botcher Colby Top contributor

Gregory Hilbert Sherri has been the best friend ever! Our families go back generations. She is an amazing human with so much strength.

43w Love Reply Share



Sherri Petras

Cynthia Botcher Colby love & miss you!!! 🥹

43w Love Reply Share



Write a public reply...



Sherri Petras

Cynthia Botcher Colby I do! & the "bubbler" conversation! ❤️

43w Like Reply Share



Write a public reply...



Ron Anderson
Bubblers

43w Like Share 2

Karen Rohde
Always a bubbler!

43w Like Reply Share 2

Ne Ne Christal
Yes

3d Like Reply Share 2

Judy Oestreich
Yes!

3d Like Reply Share 2

Terlene Keller
The new ones are dull and boring looking.

3d Like Reply Share



Nancy Alens Top contributor

Definitely want the bubblers back. They are an important part of our history in LaCrosse
Please return our history

Nancy Alens

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Betty Weber

Kay Stewart I could not agree more. Those "bubblers" as we called them are absolutely iconic and belong back in our beautiful city!

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Brian Smith

The old water fountains are much nicer.

2d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Ne Ne Christal

Yes

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

Judy Oestreich

Yes!

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2  

Michele Zabel

Yes! Keep the bubblers!

2d [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2  

Nikki Fuchs Top contributor

I just drove through that intersection last weekend and of course... no bubbler. The entire Powell Park area has been renovated... for the worse!!! Please bring back the ball field and the original bubbler and make the area come alive again. (I believe the most activity at the park these days is seeing the worker cutting the lawn).

3d [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2  

Vickie Hoverud Michalko Top contributor

I just think about how many people walk everyday and ride their bikes and etc. Now with this heat today we are experiencing, a cold drink out of a bubbler would be like arriving at an oasis!! Especially when their water bottles are empty and could be refilled. Seriously, I just don't get it. Come on La Crosse get this done and save the Bubblers..

3d [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) [Edited](#)

2  

Jeanette Heth

Yes please!

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 


Terlene Keller

The new ones are dull and boring looking.

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Dennis Blank

Keep the old ones!


3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) [Edited](#) 

Steven Opitz

I grew up a block down the street and spent my summers and winters there. I'm sorry to hear they revamped the park

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Carolyn J Clements

 I would love to have a bubbler from LaCrosse, WI.

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Sharon Dorschied

Of course!!

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Lois Geiwitz Top contributor

Keep the bubblers

That cold drink was so memorable

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Carolyn Theisen

I thought the bubblers had to be saved as they are apart of lacrosse's history

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Carolyn Theisen

It's sad to see them disappear

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Vickie Hoverud Michalko Top contributor

I just think about how many people walk everyday and ride their bikes and etc. Now with this heat today we are experiencing, a cold drink out of a bubbler would be like arriving at an oasis!! Especially when their water bottles are empty and could be refilled. Seriously, I just don't get it. Come on La Crosse get this done and save the Bubblers..

3d [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) [Edited](#)

2

Francis Schmitz

Go back to bubbler

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Andrea Pederson Top contributor

Insane

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Jeanette Heth

Yes please!

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Kathy Rae

Yes!

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Paulette Schmidt


Yes preserve them.

3d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Dennis Blank
Keep the old ones!

...


3d Like Reply Share Edited 

Deb Ward
The Bubblers are LaCrosse. If I say bubbler anywhere else people don't know what I mean. A true historical tradition. They may not give water, but they could be repurposed for plants. Could also put a story on it describing the history.

3d Love Reply Share



View all 2 replies

Carolyn J Clements
 I would love to have a bubbler from LaCrosse, WI.

3d Like Reply Share 

Tami Woodruff Top contributor
While I agree, No style.
I also would see it as easier for handicapped.
Not only did you drink from them...you would also get set on them...lol

3d Like Reply Share 

Steven Opitz
I grew up a block down the street and spent my summers and winters there. I'm sorry to hear they revamped the park

3d Like Reply Share 

Jeanette Heth
Yes please!

3d Like Reply Share 

Kathy Rae
Yes!



Gregory Hilbert

June 6, 2023 · 🌐

...

When we were thirsty there was nothing like the cold water those bubblers delivered! And they were mighty handy for filling water balloons too. Drinking fountains? What the heck are drinking fountains?



La Crosse's Bubblers!

Where Was the One You Recall? Is it Still There?



You, Jane Ryan, Leslie Viner and 577 others

309 comments 78 shares

Over 900 Likes, Comments and Shares!

Susan Hemker Schwiebert

Hogan, Hogan, Hogan! What a great neighborhood school! I still visit that bubbler when I'm in town.



1y

Love

Reply

Share

5



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Susan Hemker Schwiebert Great photo! Love it!

1y

Like

Reply

Share



David Bridges Top contributor

Went to Hogan for 5th & 6th grand ~ 1970. I know that bubbler!

1y

Like

Reply

Share

3





Julie Seitz Maciosek

Susan Hemker Schwiebert I love that bubbler! Lived just a block away from there growing up!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



[View 1 reply](#)



Mary L. Grabinski Grabski Top contributor

Susan Hemker Schwiebert Great photo! Thanks for sharing.

Karen Hoyt-hass

The one By St Thomas Moore.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2



Susie Burns

Karen Hoyt-hass I went to St. Thomas Moore. Then Aquinas.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2



Write a public reply...



Samantha Jean Harter

The one on the north side by the pet shop lol **Ben Harter**

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2

Joab Chase

Corner of Caledonia and Windsor st, Logan middle school had one, also across the street from Dana's wash, one on the corner by Genzies pub. There used to be one on the corner of Caledonia and Clinton st basically all the way down Caledonia north of the train tracks.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) [Edited](#)

4

[View 1 reply](#)

Max Walsh

Someday they will be in a museum



1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

4

David Bridges Top contributor

Hello from Vermont. Hass Park, photo of Bubbler in October 2022, because it was my bus stop to Emerson Elementary in 1964, 65, 66. I went back to LaCrosse after 38 years to see the town, old friends and Octoberfest.



1y Love Reply Share 17  

Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

David Bridges Great sharing David! I lived in CT from 1980 to 2010, skied and camped often in VT so Burlington is very familiar to me. It's great that you made it back to our hometown.

1y Like Reply Share 

Karen Hoyt-hass

David Bridges named After my Grandfather Who Donated the Land For the Park Edward Hass Sr.

1y Like Reply Share  

Cheryl Heppner Top contributor

David Bridges I also live in Vermont now. I return to La Crosse every year. I always bring back some Lefse and visit the Sweet Shop my teenage hangout. Of course I'm still a Packer fan!

1y Like Reply Share 

Josh Niles Tovsen

David Bridges that's my stomping grounds back in the day.... My parents lived on Leonard st. Few blocks away from HP

1y Like Reply Share 

Mary Lepsch Tenant Top contributor

7th and Farnum by the tennis court across from Con's Grill....all just memories now. 😞

1y Care Reply Share

7  

[View all 3 replies](#)

Corky Bentzen

Corner of St. Andrew and Kane St. Yes it's still there.

1y Like Reply Share

9  

[View all 12 replies](#)

William John

If there is ever a debate on whether it is a drinking fountain or a bubbler I have the answer for you. They are actually both things at the same time. The entire ensemble is a drinking fountain whilst the little part where the water comes out is a bubbler. This is whether or not it is free flowing or if there is a button or valve. Source: Installation guide for a Kohler drinking fountain.

1y Like Reply Share

12  



Gregory Olsen

Corky Bentzen Right out Koelbl's side door

1y Like Reply Share

4 

[View all 2 replies](#)



Tom Weise Top contributor

Corky Bentzen made a lot of dams there and set people on it!!!! 😂👍👍👍

1y Haha Reply Share

3  

[View all 2 replies](#)



Gregory Olsen

A couple of the female bartenders at Koelbl's experienced that back in the 80's

1y Like Reply Share

2 

Jay Skarboszewski

7th & Farnam - gone now. Tennis courts too...

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



[View all 2 replies](#)

Donna Smalley

Does lacrosse still have them?

Remember when we were younger

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2

[View 1 reply](#)

Roger Averbek

Bluffview Park at 28th and Jackson St.



Anita Gooderum [Top contributor](#)

Got my mouth stuck on one in winter by Roosevelt school. Mom had to come with warm water.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Gregory Hilbert [Author](#) [Top contributor](#)

Anita Gooderum Reminds me of needing warm-water rescue when my tongue got stuck to an iron railing. I'd wanted to find out if the scene in A Christmas Story was realistic!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Sandy Noble

I had a bird S on my head and I washed it out at Hogan school 19th and Market

1y [Haha](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Topher Mengelt

I recall quite a few of them. I'm not sure why I would only recall one.

1y Like Reply Share



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Topher Mengelt I figured most people would have a childhood favorite they were most familiar with, AND I figured most people would not like being asked to give the locations of whatever number they might recall. If you want to give the locations of the "quite a few" you recall, here's your chance. I'll watch for it.

1y Like Reply Share



Topher Mengelt

Gregory Hilbert I didn't think about it that way, thank you for the [08] clarification.

Mariette Lovold Top contributor

I remember a bowl positioned on the lower portion for dogs to drink.

1y Like Reply Share

10

Robin Armoto

By my old house at Caledonia and can't remember the cross street. Across from the old Sportsman's bar.

1y Like Reply Share

4

Mike Lawrynk

Thomas S. McDonald it was never tepid from the constant flow bubblers

1y Like Reply Share



Stephanie Smith

Powell park

1y Like Reply Share 7

Sharon Stalsberg

Roosevelt school

1y Like Reply Share 7

View 1 reply

Lukas Allen

Holy Trinity school - unsure if it's still in use or not!

1y Like Reply Share

10

View all 3 replies

Paula Rendler Bloom Top contributor

19th and Market. By Hogan.

1y Like Reply Share

7

Mary L. Grabinski Grabski Top contributor

Holy Trinity School corner, in the days when we still had Catholic Schools. Best BUBBLER around! Lots and lots of children and teachers enjoyed our Holy Trinity School bubbler, especially during our recesses, until the school was closed and made into some sort of

Phil Yehle
Caledonia and Clinton

1y Like Reply Share 9

Rhonda Hardiman Top contributor
Market St by Hogan's ball field.

1y Like Reply Share 7

Jeff Ceason Top contributor
George & Ghores
Loomis and Hayes

1y Like Reply Share 5

Jane Ryan Top contributor
Right outside Holy Trinity School! Right where I Was teaching!! Many drinks from THAT bubbler!

1y Like Reply Share Edited 6

Jeanne Bornitz Top contributor
Corner 5th and main by Cremers Jewelry

1y Like Reply Share 6

Sandra Kay
5thn main

1y Like Reply Share 3

GusnAngie Gschwind
Corner 7th. Farnum. where. we enjoyed our tennisCourt. which I hear is `no more`...what a joy refreshing cool. bubbler drinks when we played tennis...love..

Lauri Phillips
3 on Caledonia st alone i think

1y Like Reply Share

John Lucey
Corner of 16th and Cameron at "Old Central" by baseball field.

1y Like Reply Share 2



Joe Lucey
John Lucey do you remember the one by the backstop of Powell Park. It had 3 fountains in one big bubbler.

Becky Hatke
5th and hood

1y Like Reply Share 4

View 1 reply

son

y Share 2

Lynn Rick Bries

Corner by Trane Park. Not sure if it's still there don't live in Lacrosse anymore

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

3 



Janice Becker

Lynn Rick Bries That's the site I was thinking too.

Brenda Joyce Top contributor


My friend and I hitch hiked to downtown LaCrosse a lot back in the 70s. Got a ride in a Baracuda with side pipes and burned my leg getting out. I spent an hour with my leg up on top of one of those city bubblers while the giant blister grew. I will never forget that day.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) [Edited](#)

5   

Maralynn Strong Top contributor

Always loved the bubblers.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 4 

Sandi Schroder Top contributor

The northeast corner of Main street and 4th Street, next to the bank building. It was across from Doerflingers. We went to Dr. Barge's chiropractic clinic in the bank building, so we were there every week.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

4 

Nathan Eddy

by perl street outside rocky recocos

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

Jane Rivera Top contributor

The bubbler on the corner by the old post office

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Susan Decker

We used to walk around the north side between bubblers and drink at each one.

1y [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

4  

Susie Freybler [Top contributor](#)

Southeast corner on the Roosevelt School block. Drank there everyday in the summer.



1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

4 

Edna Patschull Davis

Right over here on starlight drive by the park..i can see it out my back window.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

3 

Jim Preidel [Top contributor](#)

Trane Park.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 3 

Tammy Seifert

We could be sitting on our front steps but if we got thirsty we would get on our bike and go a couple blocks away to the bubble

Thanks for the memories

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

3 

Jim Sill

19th and Market

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 3 

Jean Feely

On the block of the old Central High School

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Gregory Hilbert [Author](#) [Top contributor](#)

The bubbler I fondly remember was less than two blocks from my house, on Weston Street by the St Thomas Moore school and playground. The school was demolished a few years ago.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

4 

View 1 reply

Sandra Kay

Paul's park west ave

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Penny L. Burkhardt Hobbs Top contributor
Rose st across from sports nut

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



View 1 reply

Sandra Naegle Gilge

One in Goose Green near the skating rink. Drank from it many times in my youth.

David Neuhaus Top contributor

Does anyone know what company made these bubblers? Could it have been Torrance Foundry in La Crosse?

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



View 1 reply

Mary Nelson

there used to be one downtown, sitting on the red light you had time to get out of the car, get a drink and get back in the car before the light turned green

1y [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Kathleen Lathrop Miskovic

I had to show my stepkids a bubbler the first time I brought them to LA Crosse. They LOVED it!

I'm sure health inspectors now would be appalled at the thought...

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Kim Olson

Mine was at the corner of Caledonia and Sill Streets. It was kitty corner from my house. Not sure if it's still there. I'll have to drive by and check it out.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Nathan Eddy

by perl street outside rocky recoccas

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Jane Rivera Top contributor

The bubbler on the corner by the old post office

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Andrew James

Longfellow or south branch library

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



SE Marsh Top contributor

Lincoln Jr high school North West corner

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Jane Lee Chaffee
Main & 4th by Doerflingers!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 


Jean Spearin [Top contributor](#)
I know I'm home when I see them. In all my travels I've never seen them anywhere else.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

Stephen J. Scott [Top contributor](#)
Drank out of one on the north side today.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 3 

Rick Hamilton [Top contributor](#)
I used to plan my bike rides to ride by the locations of the bubblers

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

Jeremy Marshall
Lot of bubbler still around so we aren't that worry. Lol

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

Peter O'Kane
They were the life blood way back in the day. You knew where they all were located when you rode your bike. Very few are left. But then there aren't near as many kids riding bikes today like there was with us Baby Boomers.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

Sharon Lueck Siam
Hass park elm street 😊

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

Randy Ziebell
3rd and main st.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

Janet Wuensch
North side by the church

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Valerie Ellenz
Longfellow Junior High/middle school. 20th and Denton

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

Patrick McCain

Loved them during football season and runs around the city.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

David Grimsled

Outside of the St Thomas church playground.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Karen Mattie Brabec Top contributor

every other street corner! they were the best when we were out playing.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Bill Peterson

The hole toward the bottom was where a dish was available as a dog water dish. I remembered the as a kid, you and the dog could both get a drink.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Ernestine Dawn Olson

St Andrew and Kane St

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

Carol Dotterwick

Caledonia and Clinton

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

David Walters

Caledonia and Sill St.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

Barbara Sullivan

Roosevelt School. Loomis and Hayes.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Patty Tentis

By cathedral School and Hogan administration ❤️

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) [Edited](#)

2 


Cheryl Collins

8th and Division I think. By Lincoln school.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

Becky Randall

By the main library

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

David Neuhaus Top contributor

Bubbler got its name from these fountains, but not with the "modern" plumbing. The same fountains had a pipe coming directly out of the center of the bowl that was partially covered so that flowing water would "bubble" out of the end of the water pipe. I'm still looking for a picture of these original bubblers.

1y Like Reply Share

2

Jeff S King Top contributor

Hood park, corner of 5th & Hood. There was always a wad of gum in there and bird poop on the edge

1y Wow Reply Share Edited

3

Cheryl Heppner Top contributor

Bubbler on the corner of Roosevelt elementary school. No idea if it is still there. I hope so.

Laura Heiam Cozart Top contributor
powell park

1y Like Reply Share

Jacqueline Haas
Hood Park

1y Like Reply Share

Stacey Smith Mitchell
19th and Market by the Hogan school playground

1y Like Reply Share

Carol Dotterwick
Caledonia and Clinton

1y Like Reply Share

Barbara Sullivan
Roosevelt School. Loomis and Hayes.

1y Like Reply Share

Ellen Cordry Top contributor

I think there was 1 across from the Hollywood theatre in front of Fantles - I think was the name of that store then..

1y Like Reply Share

Kathleen Conlon Sieber
The bubblers I remember actually bubbled.

1y Like Reply Share

Ron Bendel Top contributor

The pipe that came out the lower part of the fountain is for dogs! I just thought Whalen I was a kid It was a great step for me

Deb Smutny
I remember those days!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Mary Beth Burgett
Hogan Elementary in the 70's

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Leslie Hansen
The ones downtown

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Carol Rendler
5th & Market by CIO hall.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Don Plapp
Lots of fun and mischief around the bubbler, pre TV.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Paul Chenier
13th and Ferry, and 19th and Market.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 


Dan Peterson Top contributor
Caledonia and Clinton Street intersection: refreshing stop while on the way to Copeland Park or to the Black River Beach. Still there? I will check for it next time I make it to La Crosse.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Dennis Blank
Yes it is!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Lisa Tippery Top contributor
Downtown, 3rd and Pearl I think.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Dennis Stalsberg
Weight, Powell Park.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Sarah Bluske Top contributor
By st James school

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Bill Peterson
Always a "bubbler".

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Jill Berg
Corner of Main & Fifth Ave.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Lorri Fielding Top contributor
There's one by Longfellow Middle

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Sarah Beth
I can still taste the iron

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Nancy Sue Hegenbarth
5th and Market by the Firestation

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Cheryl Rose Top contributor
5th and Market St, but don't know if it's still there. 7th and Farnam. I think that it's gone, but don't know for sure, cuz I haven't been in that area for a long time..

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) [Edited](#)


Robin Marie
Trane park:)

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Ann Poellinger Hanson
Roosevelt school and St James church are the two I remember

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Ernestine Dawn Olson
Goose green park. Don't know if it is still there

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 


Maureen Kavaney Tillman
Love this! Thanks for the memories. And the water was cold and quenching!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Thomas Welch Top contributor
I wonder if they are even made anymore

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Steven Opitz
Powell park not sure if still there

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Bob Christiansen
12th and Pine

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Mark Flick
19th and Market St

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Bev Revels Paar
They were sure welcome when you went
then and it was free, fresh and cold!!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

Jeffrey Brown
Farnam between 29th st and 30th St.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Shirley Marquardt
I remember those days!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Shirley Marquardt
I remember!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Shirley Marquardt
I remember those days!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Michael N Linda Mettill Top contributor
Absolutely.. Also the one by Longfellow

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Lisa Smith Skaleski
Longfellow and Holy Trinity

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Sandra Jaworski
I remember those days! Loved them

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Chandler Head
Erickson Pool!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Mari Mutkala

North side by the old Jefferson school. I loved those bubblers, I would go out of my way just to get a drink there. "Free water, free drink"

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



JP Wiltinger [Top contributor](#)
Wygent Park

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

Gene Ellefson

7th and Denton, I believe by the old La Crosse Garment Factory and Hamilton Elementary.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Mary Jo Graves

Is there still one at Erickson park?

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Randy Nicholson [Top contributor](#)

The one I remember was from George st. about a block or two north of Rublee. Looked just like that one!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Marion Downey [Top contributor](#)

There was one by Holy Cross school

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Gregory Olsen

16th and Madison, Central High practice field/Weigent Park.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Mark Potter [Top contributor](#)
Caledonia st

Maralynn Strong Top contributor

Please preserve the old ones. When tourists come to visit, those are the types of items they find interesting and set our city apart. ❤️

3d Like Reply Share



John J Satory Top contributor

These need to be saved

3d Like Reply Share



Bill Huiss

Bubbler if you were from la crosse

Bob Dohnal

by Hogan school

1y Like Reply Share



Roxyandchuck Kurtz
5th and Main st

Janet Steele Top contributor
Rose and St Coud

1y Like Reply Share



Eric Spencer

They were everywhere in the 50s and they were lovingly referred to as bubblers. I thought every city in America had them...

1y Like Reply Share



John Sutton Top contributor

West avenue and jackson, powell park even had the white beaver on the side , for doc powell " White Beaver :

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

12  

Michael Olson

The one by old Roosevelt School on Liberty Street. A lot of memories on that corner. It also reminds me of when I was in Santa Clara California. It was hot out and I asked this guy on the sidewalk where the nearest bubbler was. And he looked at me like I was out of my mind. 😏

29w [Haha](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2  

Eric Pederson

Weigant and Powell parks

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

Annette M Williams

I remember those days! Their was one right a cross the street from our house on the corner of 5th Street by the fire department.

Tammi Greeno
Copeland park

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Tricia Walters
19TH AND MARKET

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Gary Welscher
St James Church!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2 

Bill Huiss
Windsor and Caledonia st james church

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2  

Kelsey Laura
Trane Park

Susie Burns

I totally remember those delicious green inviting vessels-yum

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Betsy DeBiase

Wisconsin, bubbler was only one word added to my vocabulary when first came to WI

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Kuldip Kalsy [Top contributor](#)

Some people call it a drinking fountain, some a bubbler! Downtown, but can't remember exactly where!

Bill Huiss

Windsor and Caledonia, clinton and Caledonia, logan bar on Caledonia, one by Jefferson school on Caledonia i believe

Ken Michelle Hulverson

Longfellow middle school. The best after playing football on the field there!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2  

Cindy Jo Langman

By rosevelt school on north side

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Lynn Rick Briese



Pat Daley

Hogan, corner of 19th and Market.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

3  

Our bubblers were awesome!

Ro

P

Richard Siam

1

At 1 time almost every 2 two 3 blocks had 1 now they are almost gone the last 1 I seen was river side park.

Rich Simonis

One? They're everywhere!

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

David Haberman [Top contributor](#)

There was one right outside of Washburn school on the corner. It ran clear and cold 24/7.

It refreshed my thirst many a time.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

Robyn Koozin

Right across the street from my old apartment on Caledonia and Windsor Street.

1y [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Michael Loomis
Goose Green

1y Like Reply Share 3  

Jeff Bettin

In the corner of Market and 19 th street by Hogan Elementary School

1y Like Reply Share

RozAnn Lehrke Peterson

I remember those days! They were everywhere in LaCrosse

1y Like Reply Share 

Betty Parkyn
16th & Madison Sts.

1y Like Reply Share 

Mary Mangan
St. Marys

1y Like Reply Share 

Carol Garber
I remember th

Beth Deneau
Always used the one at a corner by Trane Park (our summer hangout)..


1y Like Reply Share 

1y Like Reply

Michael Finn
By hogan

1y Like Reply Share 

Doug Taylor
On the corner

Debbie Spies
I believe there was one on 4th and Main, downtown LaCrosse 

1y Like Reply Share 

1y Like Reply

Philip MrWizard Christiansen
Use these all the time!

1y Like Reply Share 

Dennis Blank
None of them run continously anymore.



Gregory Hilbert

December 27, 2023 · 🌐

...

This one is as much fun to include in this week's reposting of some of my 2023 favorites as it was to post this past summer. I've added two of the photos members added to their comments to show the bubbler they frequented as kids was alive and well. Many hundreds recalled them fondly as neighborhood oases offering cold, fresh water, and as thirst-quenching icons of La Crosse that should be called what most always called them, BUBBLERS. They were if you will altogether a cascade of glacial meltwater that swept aside the handful who insisted they are nothing but "drinking fountains" devoid of bubbles or that they delivered nearly warm water. Thus was our heritage and collective memory preserved!

La Crosse's Bubblers!

Where Was the One You Recall? Is it Still There?



Susan Hemker Schwiebert & friends at Hogan



Mary Lepsoch Tenant at 7th and Farnum



Jane Ryan, Michael West and 534 others

220 comments 57 shares

Over 750 Response Actions to a Repost in Winter!

[illegible]

Nels Olsen

These fascinated me as a kid when I lived there. Every time I visit, I make a big deal out of them to everyone else.

Dean Elmer Top contributor

I've used a couple of those

29w Like Reply Share 

Mary Marcou Top contributor

Powell Park , Holy Trinity, and South Branch Library

29w Like Reply Share 9  

Jane Ryan Top contributor

Right outside of Holy Trinity where I was teaching second grade! Lots of drinks from that bubbler!!

29w Like Reply Share 4 

Diane Callahan

I drank from the one at Hogan as we lived across the street. Not sure if it is still there. We spent many days at that playground and softball field 🍌

29w Like Reply Share 6 

View all 3 replies

Becky Sprain Rosas Top contributor

Goose green park

29w Like Reply Share 7  

Connie Purcell Top contributor

Jeanine Bollrud Juel yes!

29w Like Reply Share 2 

Patrick J Flannery Top contributor


White Beaver one at Powell Park...

29w Like Reply Share 3 

View all 3 replies

Jeanine Bollrud Juel

Bubblers that I remember bubbled up in the middle. Anyone else remember those originals?

29w Like Reply Share 18  

Dennis Blank

Jeanine Bollrud Juel I just remember them running continuously.

29w Like Reply Share 2 

Naomi Stetzer Miller

Jeanine Bollrud Juel yes , I recall the center bubbler being changed sometime in mid 50s I believe. Supposedly more sanitary to use the arched water spray rather than the "true" bubbler.

Rita Kennedy
Holy Trinity and Powell Park.

29w Like Reply Share 3

Ralph Davis
8th and Main

29w Like Reply Share

James Hellerud
Caledonia & Clinton Street. I think it still there but not being used.

29w Like Reply Share 4



Ken Limberg Top contributor
James Hellerud Walked by it on the way to Sweet shop

29w Like Reply Share 3



Jeanine Bollrud Juel
Ken Limberg does it bubble up in the middle?

29w Like Reply Share



James Hellerud
Jeanine Bollrud Juel yes it did

29w Like Reply Share

Arlan Wooden
Yes!

Ken Limberg Top contributor
Susi Latshaw Walked by it on the way to Northside Beach on black river

Paul Maack

Susi Latshaw I remember that....I was a Jefferson Patrol/Crossing guard.

Naomi Stetzer Miller
Jeanine Bollrud Juel yes for sure, thus the name bubbler. There was a big one in
apark near Sunbeam bakery, that had at least three bubbles going.

29w Like Reply Share Edited 2

View all 3 replies

Marion Downey Top contributor
Jeanine Bollrud Juel yes the one I mentioned by Holy Cross school was that way

29w Like Reply Share 3

Sandra Naegle Gilge
Jeanine Bollrud Juel Yes, we had a bubbler at Goose Green.

29w Like Reply Share 3

Mary B. O'Neill

The one on Doerflinger's corner. We called them "bubblers"! They had an overflow bowl at the bottom, that I thought was for dogs 😊

29w Like Reply Share

5  

Mike Jamesson

There were so many for years. Best one was on Farnam St. Between 28th St and 30th [st.at](#) the old park. Now all homes for over 40 years. Loved that park. Learned how to ride a Vespa scooter and snowmobile there as a kid. We lived just onto 30th off Farnam.

29w Like Reply Share

3 

View all 3 replies

Cindy Quade

Truly a fun part of the good ole days!!

29w Like Reply Share

3  

Peter Weigel

Harry spence

John Thompson

on the corner by Jefferson Elementary. The one at Copeland Park, too.

29w Like Reply Share

9 

Adam Stone Reinsvold

Powell Park and yes there is even one on 13th near where I live now

29w Like Reply Share

3 

Timothy F Duffy

I sipped out of those for years..

29w Like Reply Share



David Freeman Top contributor

Remember the "BUBBLERS" with the dog water bowl at the bottom?

29w Like Reply Share

8 

View all 3 replies

Michael Nuttall

16th and Madison. Weigent Park

29w Like Reply Share

6 

Bob Dohnal

by Hoeschler drug

Terlene Keller

By Hogan Elementary on East Avenue/19th street. I think it's still there???

29w Like Reply Share

5 



Mary Abraham Top contributor

Terlene Keller I remember that one too because I went to grade school there. Not sure if it's still there.

29w Like Reply Share



Write a public reply...



Matt Garson

Jill Fleming who has the picture of us from the paper?

29w Like Reply Share

Marion Downey Top contributor

Well, there were several that I used growing up but the one I remember most was on 13th and Ferry Street on the corner by the (Former) Holy Cross school.

29w Like Reply Share



Marion Downey Top contributor

I wish there was a picture of one of the older ones that bubbled up in the middle

29w Like Reply Share

Harold Utecht Top contributor

Roosevelt school and I do not believe it's there any longer but I have been up there in a while 🙄

29w Like Reply Share



Judy Johnston

Wasn't there one at West Ave. And Jackson St.?

Anita Schubring

Badger Park on Northside

29w Like Reply Share 3 Like icons

Tammy Klein

Trane park...

29w Like Reply Share 5 Like icons

Margaret OMeara Top contributor

8th and MainSt

29w Like Reply Share 2 Like icons

Margaret OMeara Top contributor

Converted to stop wasting water

29w Like Reply Share

Jerijo Bowman

4th & State, corner of old post office.

Karen Schwartz Top contributor

There was one on the corner by Lincoln school. I know, I got sat on it a lot of times.

Digger Birnbaum Top contributor

It's funny today all these diseases and phobias and what not but back in the day we had bubblers on almost every corner nobody's worried about any diseases or fun guy

29w Like Reply Share



Jessie Myhre



Jessie Myhre also posted her photo
in response to another post

Rebecca Hunt
Great job 👍

29w Like Reply Share 3

Judith Zielke
Love this!!! St Thomas more

29w Like Reply Share 3



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor
Jessie Myhre Four thumbs up Jessie, two for each child!

GusnAngie Gschwind

I love this picture.of my li.ttle sister Mary. Lepsch Tenant... hugging our `family`. bubbler on 7th Farnum. what a treat when we played tennis on our. corner court the water was so. cool and delicious we made lots of trips several houses down just to enjoy...great memories...much...love..

29w Like Reply Share Edited 3

Mariette Lovold Top contributor

I remember some with an extra bowl near the bottom for dogs to drink.

29w Like Reply Share 2

Jacqueline Haas

Drank volumes of water from these two bubblers, 7th & Farnam and 5th & Hood! ❤️

29w Like Reply Share 5

Allen Campbell

5th and Hood. Use to jam twigs in holes and would makes a jet of water into the street. Got yelled at a lot as a kid.

29w Haha Reply Share 🤪

Mary Ellen Davies Top contributor

The one I remember was at Cass and West Avenue, maybe Cargill House corner.

Scott Baker

corner of 3rd and pearl downtown. not sure if its still there

James Larrabee

Goose green, corner Kane st , across from koelbls tavern

29w Like Reply Share 5

Stewart Roloff Top contributor
the one at powell park

29w Like Reply Share 2

Katina Marie
5th and Market St
5th and Hood
Powell Park

Nancy Hatch-Johnson
Oh how we remember these

29w Like Reply Share

Beth Deneau
Right on corner by Trane Park.

Jeffrey Hoefer
Hass park

David Haberman Top contributor
On the corner by Washburn school (oops, I guess that doesn't exist anymore) on Main Street across from the library

29w Like Reply Share

Carrie Severson
On the corner by Fantles across from Hollywood theater.

Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor
The bubbler at 20th and Weston slaked the thirst of great numbers because it was located in front of Thomas Moore school. Alas, it and the school are gone, and there's not even a brass plaque to show where the bubbler once stood!



29w Like Reply Share 2

Terry Schleifer
Awesome

Steven Opitz
Powell park

Helen Brickson Roesler-Fricke
Powell park



Mike Jamesson
Gregory Hilbert I went there too. Used it often as well.

29w Like Reply Share 2



Marilyn Hegge Kile
Mike Jamesson me too! Lived on 20th, a short trip to it.

29w Like Reply Share 2

Karen Rohde

19th and Market Street by Hogan's Ball field.

29w Like Reply Share

Lisa Kottmer Montey Tourville

Goose Green.. if you were one of the lucky ones, you got sat on it!!


George Howe

I loved them and it's a damn shame they don't have them running anymore, because of all the ignorant fools complaining that it was a waste of water. They didn't understand that there is absolutely NO shortage of water here in the Mississippi River Valley, and that you need to run at least a tiny amount of water out, in order for it to be cold, fresh, and safe! Also, in a large city water system, a few dozen bubbler trickles is infinitely insignificant!

29w Love Reply Share

3  

Kathryn Jo

I remember 1 being on corner of Caledonia by St James church (across the street from The Sweet Shop!) 

29w Like Reply Share

2  

Terry Gibbons

I NEVER SAW A TOWN TAKE CARE OF THIRSTY PEOPLE LIKE LACROSSE ,THOSE FOUNTAINS SURE WORKED FOR ME

29w Like Reply Share

5  

Darlene Langhofer Urban Top contributor

I remember 3rd and Main St. It was a bubbler in the 40's &50's

29w Like Reply Share Edited



Rhonda Hardiman Top contributor

Market St. By Hogan ball field.

29w Like Reply Share



Rachel R. Gregory
Yes

Jeffrey Hoefer

Hass park

Andrew James

Longfellow or south branch library

29w Like Reply Share



Ralph Larrabee

I remember those days! at the corner of Kane Street and St. Andrew. Goose Green Park!

Mary Lee Waldsmith Top contributor

The bubbler we drank from before walking over the bridge to the beach is still there!

29w Like Reply Share



Peter Thompson Top contributor

I'm old enough to remember the small pipe that jutted out near the bubbler base with a bowl attached for dogs and cats to drink from

29w Like Reply Share



Carol Lunke

My grandfather worked for the water dept. and he invented the dish that caught the water for dogs to drink. They have since been removed, but the pipe is still there that it was connected to. This was in the 30's I think'

29w Like Reply Share



Cynthia Botcher Colby Top contributor

29w Love Reply Share 5 Like Love

Sherri Petras

Cynthia Botcher Colby Jules tea in hand! ❤️



Markos Apparel · Follow

We have one at 3rd and Pearl st. Hasn't been running for a year. The city needs to turn these back on to keep water running cold. These were cast by the Torrance Foundry a local biz. Remember the bowls for dogs to drink. Somebody talked the city into turning these historic fountains off. We say get them running again. Forward La X!!

29w Love Reply Share



Ralph Larrabee

I remember those days! at the corner of Kane Street and St. Andrew. Goose Green Park!

Linda Medinger Bechly

I wish they still "bubbled". Sadly the water is not cool that comes out of them now,

29w Like Reply Share



Donna Miller

16th and Madison Street Dogs drank from the bowl near the bottom often.

29w Like Reply Share

Dick Arlt

Paul's Park. Long gone.

29w Like Reply Share

Nikki Darling

I used to roller blade all over La Crosse, and I would try to go to every bubbler I knew about to get my drinks of water. Back when the water was ice cold because the ran all the time.

29w Like Reply Share



Dan Saugstad Top contributor

19th and Market, 16th and Division, by Holy Trinity...

29w Like Reply Share

3

View 1 reply

Sharon Harnisch

Powell park had one!

29w Like Reply Share 2

Maralynn Strong Top contributor

There was one on the southwest corner by the old post office. There were actually several downtown.

29w Like Reply Share



Peter Chritton

Holy trinity

Bonnie Kerr

Corner of Caledonia and St. James ..
Jefferson School. Lived across the street.

29w Like Reply Share



Zachary Norris

Jackson park

Rick Hamilton Top contributor

Back in High School I used to have a path from Shelby to downtown where I would ride my bike past every bubbler that I knew about

29w Love Reply Share

5  



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Rick Hamilton Two thumbs up for a Bubbler Champion!

29w Like Reply Share



Michael Olson

I meant Loomis Street.

29w Like Reply Share 2 



Cheryl Miller

Rick Hamilton  

29w Like Reply Share 

Lisa Swan

Copeland Park

29w Like Reply Share 2 

Bobby Lorenz

The old Jefferson school had one running all day and night since I was a little kid. Hass Park still has one, as I made a point to find some when I last visited. Back in the day, the brewery gave water away and it was very good quality water. Those were good times, great memories and very refreshing to have water on tap 😊 It's in the history books now.

29w Like Reply Share

3 

Kathleen Lathrop Miskovic

My stepkids, who are from the east coast, loved the name "bubbler" and thought they were the coolest!!

29w Like Reply Share



Jill Schwenn

I absolutely love those bubblers! Nothing like it where I live.

Thomas Welch Top contributor

Lincoln school

Cheryl Miller

It was on the corner by old Central High..

29w Like Reply Share



Robin Zwanziger Abraham

Fred Abraham

Doug Thesing

Yes, At Trane park.

29w Like Reply Share

Therese Friedman

They lasted forever! Not like ones today

Yvette Stotesbery

I remember those days!

29w Like Reply Share 

Ryan Bott

Corner of Rose and Avon. Just down the road from Grandma and Grandpa Bott's

29w Like Reply Share

2 

Julie Mangino

I remember those days! awesome

By Longfellow Middle school in La Crosse

Market at a fire station in La Crosse.

Pat Kessler Top contributor

Kerry Twite Top contributor

I remember those days! Bubbler at Hood park

29w Like Reply Share Edited

2 

Steven Kolb Top contributor

Marcena Sandvick

I have one that my dad collected, cleaned down and primed sitting in my garage. It is waiting for me to decide what color to paint it. I'm going to make it a bird bath.

According to her profile she works for a construction company.

Sarah Bierce

By Holy Trinity grade school. Everyone got 3 Mississippi's to drink! 😊

29w Like Reply Share

3 

Dick Record Top contributor

Someone should take a census of the existing fountains. Then we could play a game by sipping from each one.

29w Like Reply Share

2 

Tony Mouasician Top contributor

I go to some just to hangout and drink sometime.. oneday it won't be there anymore

Sandi Schroder Top contributor

Why can't the new accessible bubblers just be put next to the old ones? And for goodness sakes, make them look like the old ones! They can ask someone artistic to help. I will help, if needed, (yes I'm volunteering) but I bet they have someone in the department that is artistic.

2d Love Reply Share



View 1 reply

Ed Koegel

Not ADA compliant

3d Like Reply Share



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Ed Koegel Installing ADA compliant fountains does NOT require that the iconic cast iron ones be removed!

Milner Grimsled
16th & Cass.

29w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Amber Lor
Powell park, we'd play in it squirting each other for hours.

28w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Thov Nco Ntsoov Kuv
I remember those well...loved them during the summers while riding our bikes...water break..lol

28w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)


Jean Spearin [Top contributor](#)
I wish more places had them

28w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Peter Thompson [Top contributor](#)
Rose and St Cloud. I believe it is still there.

28w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Caitlin Smith
Hass Park, corner of Elm Dr and Easter Rd! It was officially summer when the bubbler turned on every year!

28w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2  

Sandy Yarolimek
yes,I do. There was one on 7th and Pine St for many years

28w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 

Stan Severson [Top contributor](#)
I remember the water being real cold out of a bubbler.
I live in FL now. A person can't get a cold drink without 7-11.

Michael Larkin

My three favorite bubblers were by Holy Cross, Holy Trinity, and West Ave/Powell Park. We never called it Powell Park ... just West Ave.

5y Like Reply Share



Corinne Hoyt-Santoso Top contributor

I recall drinking from those green bubblers around La Crosse Library, lol.

28w Like Reply Share



Ron Bendel Top contributor

I used to love the pipes sticking out of the side of the bubbler so I can get up and I found out for dogs back in the day. And then somebody thought it was a bad idea and it took it out

28w Like Reply Share



Kathy Garbers

The one I recall was in front of St. Thomas More grade School. Not there any longer. It was only a block from my house. 😊

Gretchen Reinsvold

Rick Kris Miller when you asked for a bubbler, they acted like you were from Mars in Montana. Even drinking fountains were rare. Post Office or Woolworths.

28w Like Reply Share



Roger Humm

I used the one at Trane park when I was a kid. Cold water all summer!

Carol Bina

Powell Park. Had one for the dogs too!

29w Like Reply Share

Abbey Meisch

I thought they only called them bubblers in Milwaukee

29w Like Reply Share

View 1 reply

Lyle E Shaner · Follow

ROOSEVELT SCHOOL.

29w Like Reply Share



Michael Kopski

19th to and Market

Sue Rasmusen

Yes I remember!! Holy Trinity School!!! Still there!!

29w Like Reply Share

Patricia Belke-Becker

Corner of St James Church, Northside

...

29w Like Reply Share

2  

Steve Evets Top contributor



5th Ave. and Hood St. at Hood park where our specialty was not using the bubbler to make water balloons but to sit kids on the bubbler.

29w Like Reply Share



View 1 reply

Dan Kaufmann

Too bad they can't let the water run in them anymore so the water is cold and taste better Why not city fathers ???



29w Like Reply Share



Annette M Williams

We had one right across the street from our house.It was on 5th and Market.

29w Like Reply Share

2 

Doug Thesing

Yes, At Trane park.



Gregory Hilbert

August 27, 2023 · 🌐



Should the La Crosse City Council pass a resolution declaring that La Crosse's cherished green drinking fountains should be referred to as "BUBBLERS" at such informal times and places as might whimsically preserve and honor the heritage of generations of La Crosse children who called them Bubblers?

This is only for fun – laughter is the best medicine, right? – but wouldn't it be even more fun if the La Crosse City Council heeded the outcome if the result of the poll showed a clear majority voted YES? Let's find out, what the heck, **vote YES!** Nobody will know that you voted or how, unless you tell in a comment.

Besides, I've never seen the polling function used here, and if it works slickly for this, I have a more important use for it as a companion to a post in September.



YES!

98% >



NO, I'M A GRUMPY, HUMORLESS PARTY POOPER

2% >



Jessica Kathryn

Love seeing my kids sip from them, having to stand on the peg because they are not tall enough. Loved that when I was little

8y Like Reply Share



Debborah Peschang Connery

Every time I ask for a bubbler in the Detroit area I get blank stares. Love seeing that word again.

8y Like Reply Share



Rachel Schwandt

Thank you so much for posting this. Fond memories of them...and only in LaCrosse are they called Bubblers!

8y Like Reply Share





Gregory Hilbert

Top contributor · 11h ·

...

La Crosse's cherished and iconic bubblers are slowly but steadily disappearing. They are not being left in place when wheelchair-accessibles are added but can be. Cracked ones are not being repaired when they could be, by welders experienced with welding cast iron. They now dispense tepid water because the city installed pushbutton spigots in response to the misguided belief of some that costly and scarce water was being wasted. It turns out the city itself assures us La Crosse's aquifer is and always was more than adequate. It continuously replenishes itself of the water the city draws from it, and the cost to return to the continuous delivery of cold water during the summer months is a paltry \$1,750! **If you want the bubblers preserved and cold-water delivery restored, now's the time to speak up.** Having been invited by a commissioner of the Heritage Commission, I'll soon be submitting over 200 pages* to show what people from La Crosse want, and why, mostly via screen-captures of member comments, my posts and several posts of others years ago. *About the photos: Jessie Myhre shared the 2023 photo of her children at a La Crosse bubbler, and you'll note that her boy went for the bubbler water even though he and his sister already had treats and "store-bought" beverages. Brian Shanley shared the photo below right in 2015, showing him at a downtown bubbler circa 1977. *There were enough comments to fill 1,000 pages but my PC was becoming unstable at 210!*

**The Way Kids Have Loved La Crosse's Bubblers,
You'd Think They Dispensed Root Beer or Candy.
Especially Back When the Water was Cold!**



**This may be Your Last Chance to Comment
in Support of Preservation and Cold Water.**

  David K. Erdman, Lori Mahoney and 154 others

60 comments 15 shares

Mary Udulutch Guentner

Please save the bubblers. They are a wonderful part of La Crosse.

9h [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2

[View 1 reply](#)

Beth Cuta Swertfeger

There was one on the corner of 7th & Farnam when there were tennis courts there. We used it all the time as kids. Push button spouts were a big mistake. The cold running water was so refreshing.

9h [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

4

[View all 2 replies](#)

Laurie Ceason Lane

There used to be a bubbler on the corner of George and Gohres streets many years ago. When we were young we used to ride our bikes a lot and it was a nice stopping place.

11h [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

3

[View all 3 replies](#)

Kim Otto

Just loved stopping by them and getting a nice cold drink of water. Why oh why do they think they have to get rid of our past? Just like all of the beautiful old buildings that they have torn down that other cities cherish? We are such a throw away society where as we should be preserving all of the beauty of our past.

11h [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

6

Kevin Lafky [Top contributor](#)

Save the bubblers, they are as much about LaCrosse as Grandad Bluff.

10h [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

9

Sheila Bissen [Top contributor](#)

It would be nice if the powers to be in La Crosse would listen before it is too late.....but that does not appear to be the case in La Crosse. 😞

10h [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

3

Sue George

Please save the bubblers and our La Crosse uniqueness 💧

10h [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

4

David Haberman Top contributor

The subject should be re-visited by the city at a common council meeting or something.

8h Like Reply Share

4

Peggy Jirsa

So many of the bubbles from the past are missing. Such a shame. Please repair and replace. Do not remove anymore.

8h Like Reply Share

4

Nellie Mallette Top contributor

Even though I no longer live here I was born and raised here!The "Bubblers are part of my Childhood and History! So I am all for saving them! Go get em Gregory!

8h Care Reply Share

2

James Michael

bring them back or vote the idiots out who want them removed.

7h Like Reply Share

2

View 1 reply

Linda Stone Top contributor

Preserve the bubblers! I've been saying this for years. LaCrosse can never make up for the devastation of beautiful old buildings and history like city hall and the post office but they can start preserving history now! We claim to promote tourism and preserving and highlighting historical treasures is a huge part of that. Anybody who has traveled around our country knows our many small towns thrive by doing it.

7h Love Reply Share Edited

2

Abigail Kruger Top contributor

Save them!

6h Like Reply Share

Steve Flaten

Cold,fresh,clean, and free. No plastic bottles for a cleaner environment.

6h Like Reply Share

2

Brian Carrier

These bubblers are iconic and definitely need to be saved. They remind me of home and drinking ice cold water at Hass Park before and after hiking or riding my bike around the neighborhood. I think it's worth mentioning that they are certainly better made than any replacement and would create, at least some, work for a local craftsman. Win win

Vickie Hoverud Michalko Top contributor

Gregory Hilbert You keep pushing and we as citizens are publicly saying: We want the BUBBLERS BACK!!!

5h Like Reply Share

2

Connie Hilliker

Those 2 kids are my grandkids!

4h Care Reply Share 2

Tim Blank

Guess we need one of those famous feasibility studies that the council loves on this subject.

4h Haha Reply Share

3

View 1 reply

Nikki Fuchs Top contributor

A lot more people will use the bubblers on the corner than will ever see or use a new bathroom at city hall. Shame on the City Fathers!

3h Like Reply Share

2

Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

This is satire meant to put the matter of cold bubbler drinking water in context.

“Can I get you a nice room-temperature beer, or a glass of tepid water from the nearest bubbler?”



Imagine If the City Disconnected All Refrigerator Cold-Water Dispensers to Save \$1,750 Because Residents Would Then Drink That Much Less Water? Then You Learn La Crosse Has a Huge Aquifer That's At Zero Risk of Being Over-drawn. And You Learn This From the City Itself.

Mary Lee Waldsmith Top contributor

Bubbles are special to La Crosse area! You don't find them everywhere! Please persevere part of our history!

Steve Evets Top contributor

The bubblers. When we were kids, we could never contemplate them ever not being here since they were just part of our landscape. Sadly we are left with the crew at city hall to deal with their fate so we can be reasonably sure how that will go based upon their prior actions.

1h Like Reply Share

Sheila R. Hilke

We want bubblers back!

1h Like Reply Share

Steve Evets Top contributor

Ever remember a place you knew there was a bubbler, maybe years ago as a kid but when you go there it is gone? You feel a sense of loss. Not a big, important loss but one where somebody removed a part of your past, one you assumed would always be there, without a care.

Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Steve Evets Yes, it happened to me when I visited the site where I went to grade school (Thomas Moore) half a block from where I grew up. It was hard to behold that it was no longer there. It was harder to see that the bubbler was also gone, because it didn't have to be.

**A School and Another Bubbler GONE.
Another Neighborhood Loses the Oasis
Where Thousands Happily Drank Cold Water**



Annette M Williams
Love them

1h Like Reply Share





Gregory Hilbert

January 20 · 🌐

...

Of course most of our bubbler memories are summer-related, but this 1949 photo (street corner unknown to me) reminds we once enjoyed OUR bubblers year-round, and so did our **feathered and furry friends**. Comments responding to my 2023 posts established that the great majority of members call La Crosse's iconic drinking fountains "Bubblers" (you betcha!), and that they were (and for many still are) the scenes of countless thirst quenchings and fun times. Many who shared the location of "their" bubbler heard from neighborhood friends they'd not seen or heard from for many years, more so among women using or including their maiden names. *PS If you've been hankering to see something about the fountain you recall that "bubbled" water up from the center, rest assured you won't have to wait till summer.*

Bubbler Memories

Birds Liked La Crosse's Bubblers, and Dogs Liked the Ones Equipped With Bowls They Could Reach



Jane Ryan, Leslie Viner and 334 others

62 comments 25 shares

Over 400 Response Actions.

Margaret Ablan

When I referred to "bubbler" in other places I lived, people always laughed. I loved that we had "bubblers." 😊

10w Like Reply Share

16 🍌❤️😂



Steve Evets Top contributor

Margaret Ablan I had the same thing happen when I would ask where the bubbler was and get a puzzled look. They are also called "bubblers" in Rhode Island.

Michael F. Potaracke

We used to use our thumb to squirt into the street and make ice. Bad boys 😞

26w Like Reply Share

6 🍌

- View all 7 replies

Pamela Ph

Yes

26w Like Reply Share 🍌

Karen Desmond

Bubbles, a staple in our lives.

26w Like Reply Share 🍌

John Sutton Top contributor

Our giant schnauzer just stood to drink from the bubbler, no need to bend over.

26w Haha Reply Share

2 😂

Digger Birnbaum Top contributor

I believe that's on 8th Street down the street from Hamilton School

26w Like Reply Share

- View all 2 replies

Sue Ann O'Brien Top contributor

Love the bubblers

26w Like Reply Share

Jeanne Steuck Top contributor

16th and Madison St. by old Central field

WyattandCarrie Jones

This bubbler is located on the corner of Sill st and Caledonia st

26w Like Reply Share

6 🍌

- View all 2 replies

Jim Dotterwick Top contributor

Looks like Caledonia and Sill st. Across from Fish's.

Lori Blom



26w Like Reply Share

Rosemary Nelson

Should still have them.

26w Like Reply Share 2

Pamela Ph

So pet friendly even back then

26w Like Reply Share

Norm Farrington

Top contributor

Cast iron wonders!

26w Like Reply Share 2

Rob Reuter

Wish I had one

Ed Rhude

I remember!

Monte Stadtler

I liked the bubblers . Hogan school had one.

26w Like Reply Share

Carolyn J Clements

Are there any bubblers stored away anywhere?



Oh I remember these and they still have them around town..last I saw one was over by Lincoln School area

26w Like Reply Share

Peter O'Kane

Back in the day. My bike and I were inseparable. We would be over the whole South Side every day during the summer. The Bubbler was the key. I knew just about where every Bubbler on the South Side was located when I got thirsty. Now, there maybe 1 or 2 left. But then riding your bike today doesn't come close to what it was like back when Boomers were kids.

26w Like Reply Share

8



Steve Evets Top contributor

Peter O'Kane Back then our bike freed us from the limitations of where we could go and what we could do and when. And that bubbler water was so good during a hot ride.

Karen Vance

Remember the one by Erickson pool. Had like 4 or 5. Can't quite remember

26w Like Reply Share

Karen Vance

Downtown used to have quite a few

26w Like Reply Share

Alisa Heckelbeck Sokolik

I didn't live in La Crosse. I grew up in Medary. However, my mom usually worked Friday nights, so my dad and I would go downtown to eat (usually at the older Coney Island on 3rd Street) or maybe the McDonalds at Manlay Garden) then shop and/or window shop. I remember the bubbler at 4th and Main, by the bank (Batavian, maybe?).

26w Like Reply Share

3  



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Alisa Heckelbeck Sokolik For purposes of this group, Alisa, Medary is among the many cities, towns and villages encompassed when I say "La Crosse" in a post headline. Sometimes I say "La Crosse area" or "La Crosse County" or "the Coulee Region", but even those don't encompass everyone for some posts. In other words, you belong here as much as anyone else, me included. Coincidentally I'll be posting something soon about the bubbler you remember.

26w Like Reply Share

2  

Rhonda Olsen

Wow....the good old days...bubblers...

Rhonda Olsen



Diane Romary Top contributor

Diane Byers Romary. I liked using the bubblers downto

Tony Mouasician Top contributor

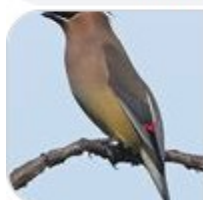
I'm off work tomorrow.. someone share the locations ima go cruise and just take a drink... nostalgic asf... time passes by

William Mullen Top contributor

And you will notice about two-thirds of the way down from the top of the bubbler where the birds are perched is a cup-like dish extending out for the dogs to stop by and lap up some cool, cold water too in the hot noonday sun.

David Florian Heinz

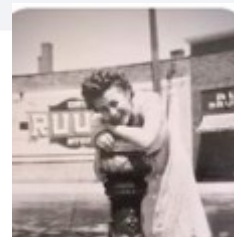
birds in photo are cedar waxwings> small flocks were usually seen in springtime roosting in berry trees over a water source, perhaps in migration. i have not seen them in many years. the bubbler at 11th and johnson by powell park was a hotspot in march>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedar_waxwing



EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Cedar waxwing - Wikipedia

26w Like Reply Share Edited 2  



Curt Hottinger Top contributor

The Powell Park bubbler at West Ave & Jackson. Late 1930's with Ruud's Drug Store in the background.

The girl's one of my mom's friends, I don't recall her name.

Sherri Engh
I remember those

Kerry Twite Top contributor



Norm Farrington Top contributor

Last one I saw was at the "Eagle" turnaround At Riverside park.

26w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Joanne Day
Loved the bubblers!!!

26w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



David Denson Top contributor

It appears that this was at the corner of Caledonia and Sill street. My Grandparents lived on that corner also.



Gregory Hilbert

June 7 · 🌐

...

Most of us who grew up in La Crosse have fond memories of its “bubblers”, the name we assigned drinking fountains. The first one in La Crosse was donated by Dr Frank “White Beaver” Powell in 1890 and its remnant is now in Powell Park. Another was donated by George Peck in 1910, after his years in La Crosse and as governor of Wisconsin from 1891 to 1895. I’ve found newspaper reports of a few more drinking fountains being installed in the early 1900’s. **Of the many familiar cast-iron green ones installed later, only 30 or so remain.** The City Water Dept has not responded to my inquiry. It happens that back in February I talked to William Torrance, CEO of Torrance Castings, one of La Crosse’s very oldest businesses of any kind. He told me of a fountain now outside the Onalaska Public Library that Torrance cast back in 1898. (I posted a photo of it in February. The hoods of the old ornate fountains were removed while still in use.) William said Torrance cast more fountains for La Crosse but he couldn’t prove it. **Well, guess what. The ornate drinking fountain across the street in 1915 from the old La Crosse Public Library that was demolished at 8th and Main is either the one now in Onalaska or one of the same design cast by Torrance, whereabouts unknown. (If it’s the one now at the Onalaska library a memorial plaque should say it is a gift from the people of La Crosse to its good friends and neighbors of Onalaska.)** (If it’s the one now at the Onalaska library a memorial plaque should say it is a gift from the people of La Crosse to its good friends and neighbors of Onalaska.) **Given this isn’t a “big deal”, why does it matter?** It matters because many of La Crosse’s grand old public buildings have been demolished. Many of the ornate old drinking fountains and bubblers we treasured are gone, whereabouts unknown like so much trash. Many of La Crosse’s historical artifacts are gone, and even considerable portions of its rich history are buried, forgotten, unknown to the people of La Crosse. People like Powell, the man who gave La Crosse its first fountain and all that surrounded him *in La Crosse*: Buffalo Bill Cody, the Wild West Show, Annie Oakley, the Sioux and plainsmen on horseback. The paddlewheel steamboats, the huge sawmills, the surrounding farms, all disappearing. I could go on with examples for hours. Compare that to the cities and villages of Europe. Tourists and locals alike love the preservation of their historical treasures, and they’ve managed to prosper and make progress for centuries regardless. Yes, it’s just one old ornate drinking fountain. But many of our ancestors – some of our own great grandparents and grandparents – drank from it. Such things were sources of thirst-quenching **and pride** for almost everyone, wherever they came from, wherever and however they toiled in the La Crosse area. They ought to be for us also. **They are not so much trash!**

(Post photos and graphics are on next page)



Gregory Hilbert

June 7 · 🌐

Bubbler Fans! Look, an Ornate Drinking Fountain across street from La Crosse’s Public Library in 1915 at 8th and Main!

Bubbler Fans! Look, an Ornate Drinking Fountain across street from La Crosse's Public Library in 1915 at 8th and Main!

Onalaska Drinking Fountain ("Bubbler") Cast in 1898 by La Crosse's John Torrance & Son



Just like the one now outside the Onalaska Public Library

👍👀 Janice Lanke, William Abbott and 30 others

1 comment 2 shares

Janice Lanke Top contributor

(The Screenshot Janice provided of a 1927 article about Peck's fountain is on the next page, enlarged. Below is a wiki re Peck.)

Peck was born in New York in 1840. He came to Wisconsin in 1843 where he remained until his death on April 16, 1916. ~~~ He was affiliated with several Wisconsin newspapers and was unquestionably the best-known writer from Wisconsin. His fame grew from his "Peck's Bad Boy" stories.

From 1891 to 1895 George W. Peck served as Governor of Wisconsin.

Sept. 18, 1927

Peck's Fountain Relegated To Junk Heap

ONE of La Crosse's most famous landmarks, and perhaps the least known as well, last week made way to its successor, after over thirty years of long and valiant service. The landmark was only a humble drinking fountain, but it had a history.

The fountain was originally presented to the city of La Crosse by the then governor of Wisconsin, George W. Peck, famed as author of "Peck's Bad Boy" and former editor of a newspaper here.

Peck's gift was placed at the southeast corner of Fifth and Main streets, and for around thirty-five years, according to the memory of those familiar with the old drinking fountain, it served its purpose well.

Drink from New Bubbler

In the past three or four years, however, time and the constant use the old fountain was given, made it inefficient, and lately, when it was found out that the cost of putting it into good shape again would be excessive, it was decided to have it removed. Now thirsty urchins or adults who have taken drinks from the fountain almost since they can remember, drink from a new bubbler.

In the early days, according to Charles A. Hoeschler of the Hoeschler Brothers' drug store, Fifth and Main streets, the fountain presented a much different appearance than it did of late. When Peck gave it to the city, the fountain was covered by a canopy. Mr. Hoeschler does not remember if the top was rounded or square, but he recalls that four iron posts held the top. He says that thirty-five years ago, the water came from the top of the fountain down through an iron pipe. There was an old, battered tin cup there, Mr. Hoeschler says. When persons wanted a drink, they would take this cup from where it was suspended on one of the posts, and hold it under the pipe, to be filled with clear water.

Pipe and Cup Go

More modern regulations as to health, however, decreed that the old pipe and cup were unsanitary, and rather than to replace the fountain entirely, the pipe and the top were removed, and the water came up through the bottom, to gush over a clean, white enamel bubbler.

It will be recalled how there were four supports around the top of the fountain which were originally intended to hold up the top.

When the fountain was first installed, it boasted a silver plate with the words "This drink is on me, boys," in Peck's characteristic humorous vein. A facsimile of the signature, George W. Peck, appeared below. Later, however, unsympathetic laborers obliterated the plate with paint.

But that is not all there is to the history of this bubbler, according to Mr. Hoeschler, who has been in business on the corner of Fifth and Main for over twenty years, and knows whereof he speaks.

Came There For Water

In the earlier days, Mr. Hoeschler relates, when the business houses were building up in the downtown district, there was scarcely any room for pumps for drinking water. River water was the only kind provided in the running water fountains, and for that reason many persons would come to Peck's fountain to fill a pail with drinking water.

The fountain was of practically the same type as that given to the city by Dr. Frank Powell, better known as the "White Beaver." This fountain is located on the northeast corner of Second and Main streets, and will probably follow the trail of Peck's monument within a few years.

Peck's fountain has been taken to the city pumping house, it is reported.



Gregory Hilbert

February 15 · 🌐

...

The ornate 1898 fountain shown below is now at the Onalaska Public Library. The photo was supplied to me to share with you by William Torrance, CEO of Torrance Castings (the 2024 name of 1898's John Torrance & Son), **one of La Crosse's very oldest businesses of any kind**. I spoke to William by phone while searching for information about the history of early drinking fountains, fondly known to many from La Crosse as "bubblers". I've posted about them often and will continue as I learn more and find photos. Currently I'm learning that the story of supplying safe drinking water to the people of La Crosse is long, rich, complicated and filled with surprises. I'll also be on the look-out for some of the ornate castings William said Torrance made for many of La Crosse's still-standing old buildings.

Onalaska Drinking Fountain ("Bubbler") Cast in 1898 by La Crosse's John Torrance & Son



👍❤️ Jane Ryan, Margaret O'Meara and 156 others

19 comments 13 shares

Over 150 More Likes, Comments and Shares

Ben Kiara Aslesen

glad we have a great historical water fountain in front of are wonderful library

20w Like Reply Share



Naomi Stetzer Miller

I recall water bubbled from a steel ball n the center of the bowl, hense the term bubbler. Those side mounted fountains replaced the bubbling fountains in the 50 s I think. They were supposed to be more sanitary.

22w Like Reply Share

Nola Goetting Gorich



Susan Decker

Loved those bubblers.

8w Like Reply Share 2



Dawn Wilson

I love it



22w Like Reply Share



Marion Downey Top contributor

It's a beautiful piece

22w Like Reply Share



Bekke Geier

Where in Onalaska was it located?

22w Like Reply Share

Marilyn Johnson Henry

Very unique

22w Like Reply Share



Jean Spearin Top contributor

So beautiful.

22w Like Reply Share



Mary Wakeen

Unique

Kerry Twite Top contributor



22w Like Reply Share



Timothy Hass



9w Like Reply Share



Kerry Twite Top contributor



Jane Ryan Top contributor

The city just removed the one outside of Holy Trinity School! Sooo sad!

8w Sad Reply Share



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Jane Ryan Ouch, I think there are roughly only about 30 remaining. If I can find a spare few minutes I'm going to contact city Water Dept, say how popular they have been for generations, ask what they're doing/have done with the removed ones incl outside Trinity school, how many are left, etc.

8w Like Reply Share



Jane Ryan Top contributor
good idea

8w Like Reply Share



Nancy Hatch-Johnson

miss those bubblers they would come in handy for the homeless

9w Like Reply Share



Kevin Lieder

They still had some of them bubblers in the sixties

9w Like Reply Share



Kathy Songer

Loved getting drinks at the fountains when we went shopping. Wish they still used them. Sadly another thing that is not safe .

9w Like Reply Share

3



Margaret Ablan

When I referred to "bubbler" in other places I lived, people always laughed. I loved that we had "bubblers." 😊

9w Like Reply Share

16



Steve Evets Top contributor

Margaret Ablan I had the same thing happen when I would ask where the bubbler was and get a puzzled look. They are also called "bubblers" in Rhode Island.

9w Like Reply Share

3





Gregory Hilbert

May 16 · 🌐

...

Some members may want to know what street is shown, or what businesses existed there at the time. Others may be keen to nail the year by inspecting the vehicles. I see Newburg's, Gamble's and the Casino, but otherwise I was just glad to find and show you another old photo that includes a bubbler.

Downtown La Crosse circa 1935-39? Early 1940's? More Importantly, There's a Bubbler on the Corner!



Michael West, William Mullen and 210 others

89 comments 12 shares

Over 300 More Response Actions

Roger Bjorge Top contributor

When ya kids were downtown in the summertime, in the 1960s, riding our bikes around, we'd always stop and get a fresh drink of cold water from the bubblers! They were the best!!!

9w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

3

Gregory Hilbert [Author](#) Top contributor

Margaret Ablan Bubblers then, bubblers now, bubblers forever!

10w Like Reply Share

5 

Maralynn Strong Top contributor

Margaret Ablan They were/are bubblers. The water bubbles up. 😊😊

8w Like Reply Share

2 

Kathy Songer

Loved getting drinks at the fountains when we went shopping. Wish they still used them. Sadly another thing that is not safe .

10w Like Reply Share

3 

Susan Decker

Loved those bubblers.

9w Like Reply Share

2 

Kevin Lieder

They still had some of them bubblers in the sixties

9w Like Reply Share





Gregory Hilbert

April 28 · 🌐

...

Being an enthusiast about La Crosse's bubblers, and having posted about them many times, I'm always on the look-out for photos of them. The old song that goes *"How much is that doggie in the window?"* immediately came to mind when I saw a reflection of a bubbler (aka drinking fountain to those not raised in La Crosse) in this photograph. The window is in Pato Azul. Pato Azul translates to Blue Duck. It's a restaurant serving tacos and other Mexican cuisine at 127 S 4th St. in downtown La Crosse. The owners also operate the Bleu Duck in Rochester.

Dear Pato Azul, How Much Is That Bubbler In the Window?



Photo by Henry Anderson, UW-L The Racquet



Jane Ryan, William Mullen and 44 others

4 comments 2 shares



Gregory Hilbert

February 15 · 🌐

...

Founded in 1876 as John Torrance & Son, Torrance Casting is one of La Crosse's very oldest businesses of any kind. I first became aware of it while searching for information about La Crosse's earliest outdoor drinking fountains, known fondly to most from La Crosse as "bubblers". I talked to CEO William Torrance, who provided me with a photo of one he knew Torrance had cast in 1898, now located outside the Onalaska Public Library, which I'll post separately. I was greatly impr... See more

La Crosse's Torrance Casting, Since 1876!

Local Family Owned, a Rich History Lived With La Crosse's,
Great Values, Outstanding Community Citizen,
State-of-the-Art Capabilities and Performance. ★★★★★



Margaret OMeara, Dan Elliott and 56 others

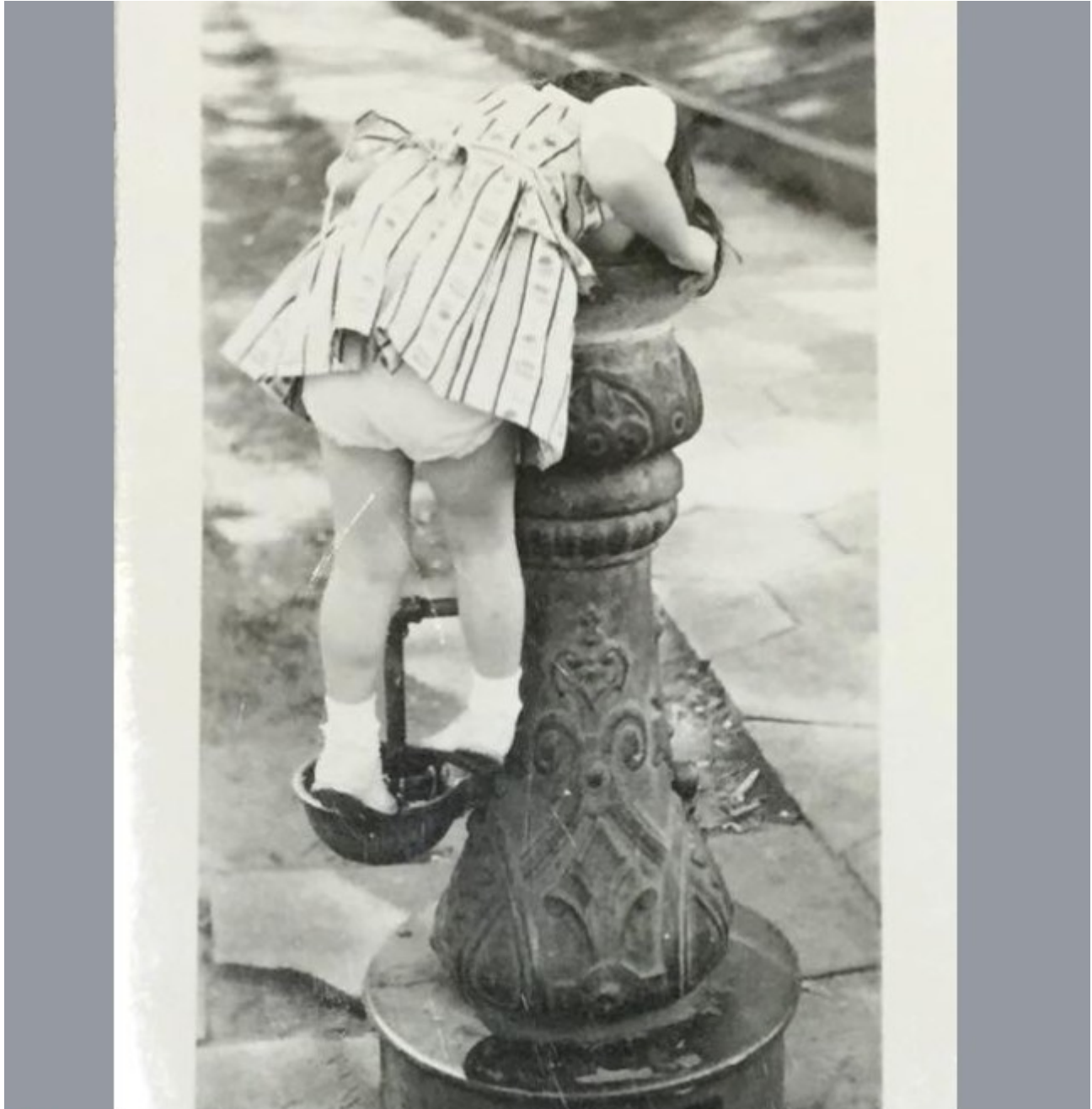
4 comments 4 shares



Mary Arneson Art

July 24, 2018 · 🌐

My early encounter with a bubbler on 5th Street.... circa....1949! (Mary Kurth Arneson)



 Michael West, Curt Hottinger and 310 others

60 comments 25 shares

Nearly 400 Response Actions to This Post in 2018

Michael West Top contributor

Cold drink at ball park " all heavy things happened at or aroound bubbler " lol. On powell park.

5y Like Reply Share



Jackie Degenhardt

Those we the days Used to fill up balloons with water and throw them at each other !

5y Like Reply Share

3

Brenda Kirchner

Loved those bubblers. Ice cold on a hot day! 😊

5y Like Reply Share

2

Beth Mackey

Sure wish they still had these!

5y Like Reply Share

2



Gabriele Volten
They doooo!

5y Like Reply Share

3



Jim Thompson Top contributor

Yes, they do indeed. There's one of this model at the fire station, 5th and Market.

5y Like Reply Share

2

John Hefti

so what ever happened to the 4 spout bubbler donated by Dr. Powell ???my memory is it was on 2nd and main in the middle of the street back when they had an island there . might be nice to see it restored and put in the park on West ave. and Jackson that also carries his name.

5y Like Reply Share

3



Sherry Michaelson
In city hall, I think, on display.

5y Like Reply Share



Butch Luedke

I believe it has been removed from City Hall lobby and is elsewhere. This was discussed here before but I don't remember where it is now. I'm sure someone does know. I drank from it many times.

5y Like Reply Share



Barbara Kooiman Top contributor

Butch Luedke, actually these bubblers were cast by the Torrance Foundry here in La Crosse, and it is my understanding that they still have the molds, or if not, they could recast them with existing bubblers. The city has been removing the ones that have been damaged, and I was told that they city keeps the undamaged parts. Most typically the part that breaks if hit by a car or something is the bowl. Also, these bubblers were installed in the 1920s, so really in that transitional period after horses. I was told by John Satory that the little bowls were designed for dogs. The city ultimately removed them because they found that toddlers wanted to drink out of them, too, and that was considered a health hazard. All of the existing bubblers in the city (about 35 last count) are designated as city historic landmarks.

5y Like Reply Share

4 



Mary Arneson Art Author

Bill Torrance is my brother-in-law so I'll try and remember to ask him! 😊

Karen Amundson Brady

Anyone know if any of these bubblers are available for sale or who might know??

5y Like Reply Share



Karla Jorann

Yeah..Bring on those great.... memories..♥

5y Like Reply Share

2 

Linda Hauser

I have to add that we had one by my grade school.

Tim Larkin Top contributor

ha, nice pic. there is the dog fount. In grade school we used to pick up our girl friends and sit them on the fountain--Hogan on Market. Also filled water balloons off the fountain/bubbler

Linda Coulson

loved those bubblers

5y Like Reply Share 2 

GusnAngie Gschwind

Grew up w delicious cold water from bubbler 7th & Farnum would even walk over to have a drink but tennis players really found it great...love...

5y Like Reply Share

4 

Maralynn Strong Top contributor

One of my favorite memories of my childhood in La Crosse in the 40s and 50s

5y Like Reply Share

8 

Kathy Peterson-Dahl
Wonderful moment in time captured on film!

5y Like Reply Share

2 

Carol Rhode
sweet little memories aren't they?

5y Like Reply Share



Kathleen Murray
Great picture!

Jean Laubenthal
I was so sad when these went out of use. Bring them back!

6y Like Reply Share

2 

View 1 reply

Tim Toepel
My old neighborhood!

6y Like Reply Share



View all 3 replies

Kathi Stone
It was definitely a kinder time.

6y Like Reply Share



Brian L Brose Top contributor
Roosevelt grade school, by the bike racks.....

6y Like Reply Share

2 

Sandi Schroder Top contributor
Yes!! Please keep the bubblers ...

13m Love Reply Share





James Bakalars

April 26, 2018 · 🌐

...

1931 ... Getting a cool drink on the corner of West Ave. & Cass street .. next to the Cargill house ..
Back when the "bubblers" had the bottom bowl for thirsty dogs .. 🐱🐶🐕



👍❤️ Jane Ryan, Amy Córdova Boone and 233 others

48 comments 21 shares

Nearly 300 Responses to This 2018 Post

Sandy Sieber

You knew it was spring when the bubblers were running.

6y Like Reply Share

2 👍

Karen Schwartz Top contributor

There was one on the corner by Lincoln school. Being short I got set on the bubbler more times than anyone I think.

6y Like Reply Share

3 👍😂

Alan Froegel

Fond memories of that bubbler

6y Like Reply Share

👍

Ellen Rone

Loved the one across the street from my grandparent's house baseball all summer and

Vicki Hart

Our beautiful green bubblers!! How I miss them!

6y Like Reply Share

4 

Mike W Stellick

Nice.

6y Like Reply Share

James W. Terman

The fence behind is still there.

6y Like Reply Share 

Ken Richard Kline-Walczak

They were called bubblers, I think.

6y Like Reply Share

James Bakalars

Author

Top contributor



6y Like Reply Share 6  

Gale Paulson

no where else in the world does anyone know what a "BUBBLER" IS....blessed to be from La Crosse

6y Like Reply Share

4  

Dan Helgeson

I think La Crosse still has some fountains like this downtown.

6y Like Reply Share

2 

Glenn A Pederson

Or small kids

6y Like Reply Share

Kathy Gibbs Nimm

When I was a toddler we lived in the coach house behind the Cargill House. The grounds were my playground. I had many drinks from that bubbler.

6y Like Reply Share

3 



Frank Grover
what year ??

6y Like Reply Share



Kathy Gibbs Nimm
1953 until about 1958

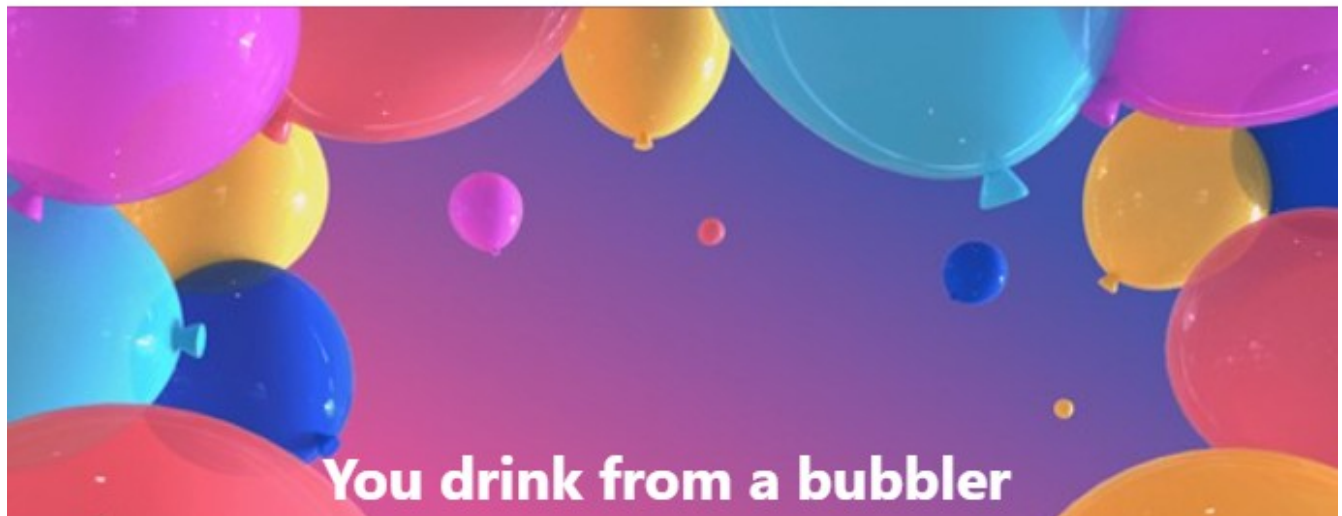
You Might Be From La Crosse If...



Rick Faas

March 20, 2019 · 🌐

...



Michael West, Mary Lepsch Tenant and 193 others

47 comments 5 shares

Kay Kriese Luther

They will ALWAYS be bubblers to me!!!

5y Like Reply Share



Over 200 responses to 2019 post without a photo

Ryan Gampa Wolfhausen Johnson

Copland park and a few other north side spots. As good as garden hose water! Love it.

Kim Hansen



5y Like Reply Share 5

Stephanie Froegel

Yes! Bubbler! Elsewhere drinking fountains.

Linda Coulson

for 29 yrs I drank from bubblers in La Crosse 😊

Carmen Thienes

On most corners downtown!

5y Like Reply Share



James Larrabee

We had s bubbler on kane and st Andrew st in goose green.

Michael West Top contributor

Powell park behind main back stop !!!!! Longfellow junior high by ball diamond !!! Ive drank at morebsenior momemt !!!

5y Like Reply Share

Michael West Top contributor

YES!!



5y Like Reply Share

Judith M. Bankes
I Remember

5y Like Reply Share

Chris Reichgelt Noelke

There used to be a really neat, square one by the old court house. I think it had 4 bubblers one on each corner.

Deborah Pollei

The "lovely", one of a kind word: "Bubbler"! Only in the Midwest!!! Yea

5y Like Reply Share

Karen Currie Hoel
Yup.

5y Like Reply Share

Nancy Mules



5y Like Reply Share

Allan K Holloway

GusnAngie Gschwind

Oh yes the best cool drink of water and right on the corner from our house..7th Farnum..especially great for the tennis players ..love our `Bubbler`...love...

Shelley Maule Tauscher

And it was the best tasting cold water.

5y Like Reply Share



Robert J. Rosson

Over on the corner by Lincoln..

5y Like Reply Share

Jeff Smolek

I still do

Only in the Midwest!!! Yea

Todd Vander Velde Top contributor
Bubbler!

5y Like Reply Share



Lala Coelho

So did !!!

5y Like Reply Share

Laura Dovenberg Bonum

Yes, I do!

5y Like Reply Share

Michele Bowden

Damn right



Gregory Hilbert

February 23 · 🌐

...

Your guess is as good as mine as to what looks to me like a bubbler in the middle of the grocery store that once occupied the building at 1001 Fifth Ave. A service to customers at a time when good drinking water was hard to come by? It dispensed apple cider? It's for sale? It only looks like a bubbler but is actually something else? Ya got me! The date of the photo is 1918. *PS Among people who didn't grow up in La Crosse, bubblers are known as "drinking fountains"! Please don't make fun of them, it's not their fault that they don't know any better!*

1918 Grocery. See the Bubbler?



The Bubbler



The Grocery Store at 1001 Fifth Ave in 1918 Is Now an Apartment Building.



Edwin Wittrock, Kerry Twite and 88 others

25 comments 3 shares



Melissa Updike

May 24, 2021 · 🌐



Im on way to K.Trip I saw really open already
Wow by one block from sweet shop smile



Jane Ryan, Leslie Viner and 697 others

154 comments 40 shares

**Nearly 900 Response Actions to a 2021 Post
About the Bubblers Having Been Turned Back On**

Rita Kennedy

The bubbler!! Love it.

3y Like Reply Share

Nola Goetting Gorich

I remember those bubblers.

3y Like Reply Share

Kristen Tadewald Lundstrom

I would love to have one!

3y Like Reply Share

Cindi Sundberg

This very one we used to run to from home!

3y Like Reply Share

Linda Coulson

that one could use a make-over... I love bubblers!!

3y Like Reply Share



Ann Gemoll

One on Market by Hogan, one on Ferry by Holy Cross... had cups for dogs to drink too

3y Like Reply Share

Julie Denzer

Those "bubblers" bring back a lot of memories for this north side girl.

3y Like Reply Share



View 1 reply

Christopher C Berg · [Follow](#)

That butler is broken. It doesn't have a foot rod for the little ones and it's not running constantly 24/7

3y Like Reply Share

Roxanne Mickow

A bubbler!

3y Like Reply Share 3

Bob McHenry

This is outside St James Catholic Church. Many - many drinks from this one

3y Like Reply Share

2

Mary Jo Zimmerhaki

When I refer to bubblers up here in mpls no one knows what I'm talking about!!

3y Like Reply Share

View all 2 replies

Greg N Joan

I would love to purchase one of these old drinking fountains and restore it.

3y Like Reply Share



Susie T-Bo
I remember those.
Great picture

3y Like Reply Share

James Larrabee
Bubbler in goose green

3y Like Reply Share

Caroline Barge
Our treasured bubblers

3y Like Reply Share

Judy Stamberger
Bubbler

Terry Gibbons
Those fountains are very rare clasics they come in very handy on a hot summers day

3y Like Reply Share

Karen Eidys
I miss the bubblers

Tommy Bridges
There used to be one on the corner of Jackson Street and 28th St. South. All the baseball players needed that bubbler! I guess it's called Bluffview park now. 💧 😊

3y Like Reply Share



[View all 3 replies](#)

Linda Wing
I have one two Blocks from my house on the Northside of LaCrosse! We always get a drink there when were out for a walk!

3y Like Reply Share



Laura Shields Adams
Used to see them all over downtown.

3y Like Reply Share

Mary Hopes
The good old days.

3y Like Reply Share



Sue Brekke
I loved them.

Susan Wiersgalla
Love this photo and the memories it brings.Thanks for posting this!

Pat Weber Meyer
These were great ! People did not need to carry around a water bottle....

3v Like Reply Share



Judy Stamberger

We had a bobble at my grade school, Roosevelt on the north side of LaCrosse

3y Like Reply Share

Sue Brekke

We called them a "bubbler". Strictly a Midwest word.

Lisa Kottmer Montey Tourville

Remembr when they would put you on it? Goose Green had one that I had happen to me.

3y Like Reply Share

2  

Nancy Mules

We had one 1 block away. By Holy Cross school

3y Like Reply Share

2 

Robert Melbo

To Heck with water fountains! That is a real, genuine Midwest bubbler.

3y Like Reply Share

6 

Greg Roraff

Now that's a bubbler.

3y Like Reply Share 2 

Greggko Olson

Remember playing some softball and watching it at Powell park. Then take short walk to Bendel's

3y Like Reply Share

Amy Córdova Boone Top contributor

They are so iconic to our childhood, growing up in La Crosse. Such a welcome sight on a hot, humid summer day.

3y Like Reply Share Edited

13  

Stephanie Froegel

A sure sign of summer.

3y Like Reply Share

Jane Zeroth

Love it.

3y Like Reply Share

Rolly Skifton

Right on the corner in front of St. James church. I used that bubbler hundreds of times while going to elementary school at St. James.


Robert Melbo

I'm certain that they are more than 100 years old. There is one on the southeast intersection of Caledonia and Clinton streets.

3y Like Reply Share

Marilee Fronsee

That'd be a "BUBBLER"!! LOVE IT!!!

3y Like Reply Share 2 

[View all 2 replies](#)

Rox Anne Linhart

A favorite stop by the playground at St. Thomas More school!

Sue Weaver

Those things must be literally 100 yrs old or older. I'm 64 lol

3y Like Reply Share

Elaine Levay

A bubbler

3y Like Reply Share

Erich Dahl

5th and Market in front of fire station is the one I remember most! Grandmas was kitty corner from fire station across from freedom!

3y Like Reply Share

Carol Rendler

I remember there was a bubbler on 5th and Main by Hoeschlers Drug Store and also one on the corner of 5th& Market by CIO Hall....later #1 fire station.

3y Like Reply Share

Norm Farrington Top contributor

"White Beaver's" bubbler was 1 block from my house at Powell Park, 11th & Johnson- and yes, they were also good for filling water balloons!

3y Like Reply Share

6



Ellen Rone

Norm Farrington my grandparents lived on 11th and Johnson. Loved the bubbler and watching ballgames with grandpa.

3y Like Reply Share



Norm Farrington Top contributor

Ellen Rone 1011 Adams for me

3y Like Reply Share



Jean Hassett Henry

Ellen Rone , my grandparents lived there too? 🤔

3y Like Reply Share



Jean Hassett Henry

Ellen Rone ❤️🤔

Karla Larson

Visited this fountain many times. Nostalgic memories flowing.

3y Like Reply Share

3



3y Like Reply Share



Jim Schieche

They turned our bubblers into drinking fountains by putting buttons on them. Birds are dying of thirst. Noone drinks out of them. Who wants warm water in summer

3y Like Reply Share

6

Diane Jones
Visited many, many times 50's-60's. Glad yu found one

3y Like Reply Share



Jean Lafky
I grew up across the street from this one.

3y Like Reply Share



Maryjo Fish
A bubbler ❤️

3y Like Reply Share 6



Kathy Mattie
Drank from many of them

3y Like Reply Share

Sonja Aliesch Top contributor
How beautiful are these bubblers (THAT'S RIGHT BUBBLERS); love the photo and that some are still hanging in there!

3y Like Reply Share



Nikki Darling
I miss when those bubblers used to run constantly. The water was always ice cold. Now it's warm. Loved those back in the day!

3y Like Reply Share



Mike W Stellick
They need to paint the bubblers.

3y Like Reply Share

Lala Coelho
Drank from that one many years ago!! I lived across the street from the Sweet Shop, long time ago !! Lol!

Chad Keppen
People in the south don't even know what a bubbler is. We used to fight at Roosevelt Elementary who got to be crossing guard at the corner with the bubbler!

3y Like Reply Share



View all 4 replies

Marilyn Skarpac
Known for the bubblers!!! At least when I lived there. 😊

3y Like Reply Share



3y Like Reply Share



Lois Homewood
I so remember them and also the Sweet Shop!



Curt Hottinger

May 29, 2021 · 🌐



Thank God for bubblers !! 😎



Leslie Viner, Amy Córdova Boone and 654 others

119 comments 39 shares

Over 800 Response Actions to Curt's 2021 Post

Carol Sumner Kroll

This is a part of our history that I hope never goes away!

2y Like Reply Share



Cheryl Miller
A classic!

2y Like Reply Share

Charles R Whaley Top contributor

Anybody know the year(s) of manufacture for these green beauties? Just curious!

Helmut von Packerbacker

My favorite bubbler growing up. It has the dog dish on the side we used as a step to boost the little ones up!

2y Like Reply Share Edited

Pat K Rank
Yes!!!!

3y Like Reply Share

Pat Meinert

Are there any left.....there were some around years ago.

3y Like Reply Share

Tobey Marie Hofmeister

I moved from LaCrosse/Onalaska area years ago to Colorado. i get funny looks when i mention the word "bubblers"

3y Like Reply Share

2 🤔

View 1 reply

Linda Jefferson Marshall Top contributor

Hogan, went there for Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd...lived on Market...not a block away...loved that neighborhood.

Cheryl Miller

Love the bubblers back there!

3y Like Reply Share 2 👍

Lee Ann Prestwood

so many bubbler memories..love them

3y Like Reply Share 2 👍

Craig A Sheffield

I drank from that one when I went to Hogan Elementary (That building in the foreground)

Mary L. Grabinski Grabski Top contributor

I lived in the good old days (40's and 50's) when bubblers were around everywhere. We took them for granted, but such wonderful memories. The Town maintenance guys kept them in TOP condition!

3y Like Reply Share Edited

2 

Bob Priem

Good source of ammo for water balloon fights

Edward W Sexauer

LaCrosse is the only place I've lived that has had bubblers. Don't forget about the artesian wells like goose island the original bubbler. If you can handle the high iron content.

3y Like Reply Share Edited

3 


Mary Kasten

We called them "Bubblers"

3y Like Reply Share

Mary Marcou Top contributor

Powell Park had one !

3y Like Reply Share 2 

Roland Zimmerman

Used to have the lower bowl for dogs and horses.

3y Like Reply Share

5 

Kathie Hilliard

I moved west and on the first day of school I asked my kiddos to keep moving and not stop at the bubblers. They had no idea what I was talking about.

5y Like Reply Share



View all 2 replies

Tami Stawar

Meet me at the bubbler

5y Like Reply Share 2 

Ann Karen Gronbeck-Peterson One of La Crosse's most sensible & nostalgic fixtures.

Wishing the original locations could all be restored... would likely cut down a bit on the one-use plastic water bottles.

Jolene Lien

They were everywhere around the city before bottled water

3y Like Reply Share

2 

Chris Martin Top contributor

Nothing like a hot day in our youth after a good ride and rolling up on a bubbler and sticking your whole face right in the cold artesian well water

3y Like Reply Share

Karen Schwartz Top contributor

If they don't have water bubbling out of the middle they are not bubblers. I aught to know Don Richmond sat me on enough of them.

3y Like Reply Share

Robert Dolan

That's Hogan school in the background. I went to kindergarten there in 1957.

3y Like Reply Share



Jeanne Schultz-Larson

There was one on the corner of Roosevelt School. I think it is still there.

3y Like Reply Share



Tracy Fuchsteiner Gray

A picture of my childhood

3y Like Reply Share 

Melissa Updike Top contributor

yep it is drink water yet?? i did few day ago i was post too. 😊..

3y Like Reply Share



Scott Schaub

Peaches bath.

Rhonda Hardiman Top contributor

I'm 63 and spent my 1st 54 years in La Crosse. This very bubbler was our life saver when we had to run the entire block in gym class at Hogan School. I attended there K-6th. That bubbler got a lot of use during the Spring and Summer ball games at that field too.

3y Like Reply Share Edited

5  

Jim Schieche

No bubblers are left in lacrosse. Some fool thought how dirty thwy were and how wasteful so they put buttons on them. Now they are warm water fountains.



Kathy Gibbs Nimm

July 9, 2019 · 

Yes they are bubblers.



Wisconsinology

June 24, 2014 · 

They are not "drinking fountains". In 1888, Kohler Water Works of Kohler Wi developed the original trademarked BUBBLER. They became popular, and other companies developed similar products under the generic term "drinking fountain." They are BUBBLERS(original invention)....not "drinking fountains"(cheap imitations).



Amy Córdova Boone, Mary Lepsch Tenant and 193 others

42 comments 38 shares

Over 200 Responses to this post in 2019

Michael Larkin

My three favorite bubblers were by Holy Cross, Holy Trinity, and West Ave/Powell Park. We never called it Powell Park ... just West Ave.

5y Like Reply Share



David Dittler

Bubblers, I loved them when I lived in La Crosse. I'd plan my bicycle rides so I could pass a few bubblers on my route.

5y Like Reply Share



Kathleen Conlon Sieber

We always called them bubblers.

5y Like Reply Share



Jeff Hughes

They are something different in Milwaukee

5y Like Reply Share

Royce Ann Hanson King

BUBBLERS!!!

5y Like Reply Share

Mary Keefe Barrett Top contributor

My mom was from Milwaukee. She called them bubblers too.

Michael Larkin

My three favorite bubblers were by Holy Cross, Holy Trinity, and West Ave/Powell Park. We never called it Powell Park ... just West Ave.

5y Like Reply Share



David Dittler

Bubblers, I loved them when I lived in La Crosse. I'd plan my bicycle rides so I could pass a few bubblers on my route.

5y Like Reply Share



5y Like Reply Share



James Larrabee

We had a bubbler on the corner of st andrew and kane st

Barb Orcutt

Bubblers outside, I miss LaCrosse!!! water fountains inside buildings

5y Like Reply Share

GusnAngie Gschwind

Oh yes many times I would think `a drink of water` and ran to the corner 7th & Farnum for the coolest most refreshing drink ...better than any soda...hmmm..maybe that's why I just reached healthy `90`...love...

5y Like Reply Share

6 

Luke Saunders

Trademark doesn't mean squat. Show me the PATENT.

5y Like Reply Share

Teri Roraff

very few around , but they are still swesome!

5y Like Reply Share

Sheila R. Hilke

Bubblers forever! No one knew where they were in New York...

5y Like Reply Share



Robert J. Rosson

On the corner by Lincoln.

5y Like Reply Share

Mary Hanratty Hemker

Isn't there still one in Riverside park?

5y Like Reply Share

Jim Schieche

We no longer have bubblers in La Crosse. Some fool put buttons on them and they are now drinking fountains that spew luke warm bad tasting water when the button is pushed. Bubblers constantly flow period. Part of reason more song birds dont hang out in La Crosse any more

5y Like Reply Share Edited

Susan Mcdonald

1st dibs

5y Like Reply Share

2 

Heidi Rochester

Drinking fountain

5y Like Reply Share

Genny Petrulis

I wonder where the real Bubblers still are?

5y Like Reply Share



Vanessa Ivey

Bubbler 😊

Diane L Tooke

in the Bubbler Museum.

Brian Freisinger

I was working in Dubai years ago (late 90's) and I said something about drinking from a "Bubbler" and this UAE colonel overheard me. He starts repeating it over and over "Did you say Bubbler? Bubbler?" I thought I insulted his mom or something, then he says..."Are you from La Crosse?" Turns out he was an exchange student in the 70's at UWL.

8y Like Reply Share

25 

Rene Dokken

My parents met at a bubbler in LaCrosse!

8y Like Reply Share

3 

John Torrance

Thanks for referencing us Barbara!

We are still here and willing to make more for La Crosse when the time comes. They used to have a doggy dish add on i believe too.

They truly are La Crosse landmarks!

Thanks for sharing the history on these.

8y Like Reply Share

9 

Jessica Kathryn

Love seeing my kids sip from them, having to stand on the peg because they are not tall enough. Loved that when I was little

8y Like Reply Share



Charlie Dierkop



Charlie Dierkop

When I was a little boy maybe first grade and all my friends seemed to be going to school at Holy Trinity I met Fr. Guille at the bubbler and as the story goes I asked him how much does it cost to become a Catholic? I don't remember his response but I did start going to Holy Trinity grade school. Fr. Plecity was at the parish then.

8y Like Reply Share

4 



Patricia Mary Angela

I remember Monsignor Plecity. He was nice.

8y Like Reply Share



Charlie Dierkop

Yes he was a very gentle soul. Never pushed his beliefs on anyone.

John Torrance Comments, Torrance Casting

John Torrance

Another historic landmark my ancestors were involved with is located at the Onalaska Library. Another "Bubbler" dating way back!



8y Like Reply Share 9

View 1 reply

John Torrance
another shot.

John Torrance
another shot.



8y Like Reply Share 8

Wanda Breitsprecker

I remember them as akid growning up in La Crosse these are awesome

8y Like Reply Share

John Dolan

The hole in the side was for a dog dish connected to the piping. 5th and Hood St, Hood park has one. I used to stand on the dish to get a drink.

8y Like Reply Share

4

View 1 reply

Dennis Marker

Do you remember how old you were when you realized everyone did not know what a bubbler was?

8y Like Reply Share

View 1 reply

Jeri Williams

I was camping at Goose Island with my family and met some kids from Illinois. Probably middle school and they had no idea what a bubbler was and I remember being very surprised! Lol

8y Like Reply Share

Fran Severson-Bergum

Had one by Goose Green park had a lot of fun playing in it !

8y Like Reply Share

Honoring Greg Allen

When i was 7 my family took a trip to Disney World. I asked a dude at the gas station where the bubbler was. He looked at me like i was from outer space. My mom came in & he said i was looking for a bubbler. Mom said "he wants a drink of water". Ohhh, a fountain, it's right over there.

8y Like Reply Share

3 

Bob N Sonya Good

Last January, over \$60 Million dollar "Lot C" project and the only remaining relic in left in place: the Green Bubbler.



8y Like Reply Share 9 

Thomas Welch Top contributor

The water in todays bubblers does not taste as grefreshing as when the water was flowing freely

8y Like Reply Share



Rodney Gantka

where is that one at ?there still is one at riverside park under the flag with eaglen one at powell park on 11th n ? not sure of street thuo

8y Like Reply Share

Nola Goetting Grorich

oh yea i remember drinking out of them in the summer many times..

Thomas Welch Top contributor

At least let ONE downtown bubbler run all day .

8y Like Reply Share

Jeanine Schlicht

I loved all the bubblers!

8y Like Reply Share

Helmut von Packerbacker

Think its worth mentioning that our bubblers were a gift to the city from Dr Frank "White Beaver" Powell. He was an early mayor here and friend of Buffalo Bill. He was also famous with the children hereabouts for his children's parade and picnic at Myrick park. He had to rent nearly every horse and wagon in town and ran the town out of ice cream!

8y Like Reply Share

5 

Robert Ferrier

A sign of summer and youth to older folks!

8y Like Reply Share



Sandy Sieber

Did you know the lower side pipe (now capped off) was used to by dogs to get a drink?

8y Like Reply Share

Rick Valentine

A retired friend of mine actually has one of these bubblers in his back yard facing Lake Onalaska. He was associated with a well known construction company, and somehow got the chance many years ago to acquire one of these beauties. What a lucky dog! It really adds to the beauty of his property.

8y Like Reply Share



Lorna Sherman

Yes!!

Todd Vander Velde Top contributor

I have traveled extensively and the only place I have ever heard them called bubblers was in my hometown of La Crosse!!

8y Like Reply Share

3 

[View all 5 replies](#)

David Naas

Served me many a drink in my childhood. Great post...

8y Like Reply Share



Peggy Benrud

They were also great for making water balloons. We used to do that at Hogan.

8y Like Reply Share

2 

A Very Short Charlie Dierkop **Bubbler Story** Told By Charlie, Here, in 2016.



**You've Seen Him in Hit Movies
Starring Robert Redford & Paul
Newman. He's from La Crosse.
Raised on Denton St, went to
Aquinas, joined the Marines.**

XX



Charlie Dierkop


When I was a little boy maybe first grade and all my friends seemed to be going to school at Holy Trinity I met Fr. Guille at the bubbler and as the story goes I asked him how much does it cost to become a Catholic? I don't remember his response but I did start going to Holy Trinity grade school. Fr. Plecity was at the parish then.

XX

**THE TRASHING OF TREASURES THAT BELONG TO THE PEOPLE OF LA CROSSE
MUST STOP! THE BUBBLER CHARLIE REFERS TO WAS RECENTLY REMOVED!!**

Charlie's was a rags to riches story after growing up in La Crosse, leaving Aquinas to join the Marines during the Korean War and then becoming a famous actor, but he loved La Crosse and La Crosse loved Charlie. Below is the comment Charlie made when responding to a post about La Crosse's bubblers here in 2016. **Charlie passed away 6 months ago, but I'm pretty sure he'd want La Crosse's bubblers preserved!**

"When I was a little boy, maybe first grade, and all my friends seemed to be going to school at Holy Trinity, I met Fr Guille at the bubbler. As the story goes I asked him how much does it cost to become a Catholic? I don't remember his response but I did start going to Holy Trinity grade school. Fr Plecity was at the parish then."

 Leslie Viner, Jane Ryan and 169 others

41 comments 19 shares

Over 200 Likes, Comments and Shares

Here's Charlie's comment, a reply, and what Charlie had to say about the Monsignor Plecity.



Charlie Dierkop

When I was a little boy maybe first grade and all my friends seemed to be going to school at Holy Trinity I met Fr. Guille at the bubbler and as the story goes I asked him how much does it cost to become a Catholic? I don't remember his response but I did start going to Holy Trinity grade school. Fr. Plecity was at the parish then.

8y Like Reply Share

4



Patricia Mary Angela

I remember Monsignor Plecity. He was nice.

8y Like Reply Share



Charlie Dierkop

Yes he was a very gentle soul. Never pushed his beliefs on anyone.

Beth Mackey

Sad how lots of the vintage things are destroyed in LaCrosse

5d Like Reply Share

8

View 1 reply

Becky Berzinski Top contributor

Put them ALL back!

5d Love Reply Share 4

Sally Wuest

Bubblers were the best drinking fountains in La Crosse.

5d Like Reply Share

3

Lynn Miller

Great photo John

5d Like Reply Share 3

Martha Clark Ping

Save the bubblers!!! Love your story! Pretty cool... bubblers and story!!!

5d Love Reply Share

3

Lori Bagniewski

The bubbler by holy trinity was removed when they remodeled the old school into apartments. The bubbler was at a perfect spot for a quick drink while walking my dog on a hot summer day. In fact I had seen many a dog jump up and drink from the bubbler too. Now it's just a concrete and dirt area..

4d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Carolyn Theisen

I have many memories at the bubbler by holy Trinity, with living just down the street on park Ave when I was a kid

5d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Vickie Hoverud Michalko Top contributor

Becky Berzinski I agree with 100%,

5d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Ava Mae

We used to have one outside of Hamilton elementary school

5d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Penny York

iconic La Crosse ...

5d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Nellie Mallette Top contributor

Thanks for sharing this! I also have fond memories of "The Bubblers"! And I saw many Movies with Charlie in them! He was a great Actor!

5d [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



John Kjos

The City of La Crosse, Wisconsin doesn't care at all what the people want.

Lara Pedretti Staley

I always share my bubbler stories with friends and family! Such a special part of La Crosse!

5d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Janet Dee [Top contributor](#)

Think only removed if unable to repair is what I thought I read in comments in one of these posts - I wonder if someone could be the voice on historical society type &/or start a funding program plea for repair?

5d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

[View 1 reply](#)

Tom Wendy Williams [Top contributor](#)

Use to Be One in Goose Green

5d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

[View all 3 replies](#)

Doug Smith [Top contributor](#)

I think I remember bowls on them also for our 4 legged friends. And the bowls aren't there anymore either.

5d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Sue Powers [Top contributor](#)

Where was the bubbler 13th and Denton?

5d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Jon Nygren

Holy Trinity bubbler had to have a picture with my daughter 2016



5d [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

9  

[View all 5 replies](#)

Gregory Hilbert **Author** Top contributor

Jon Nygren This is great Jon! It helps convey that generations of loved ones, friends, neighbors, and schoolmates were glad the bubblers were there and used them, that they mattered to us and still do.

5d Like Reply Share

2 



Jane Ryan Top contributor

Gregory Hilbert saw so many children drink from this bubbler!

5d Like Reply Share Edited

2 



Jon Nygren

Jane Ryan as did her mom Andrea Ring.

5d Like Reply Share



Jane Ryan Top contributor

Jon Nygren I taught all the Ring children! Nice family!

5d Like Reply Share



Jane Ryan Top contributor

Amy, Andrea, Amanda, Ben, am I remembering correctly?? It's been over 30 years!!

Joe Pradovic

This one is at Hass park



Jane Ryan Top contributor

This was a great story, Greg! Oh so many of my students drank from that "bubbler". Monsignor Plecity was Holy Trinity when I was there also! Charlie Dierkop was a friend of my cousin! He was a GREAT actor and a nice man!

5d Love Reply Share

7  



Bill Spietz

April 11 · 🌐

...

You might have taken a sip or two from this fountain prior to 1976 in downtown La Crosse. The Trane Weld Engineering Group repaired it.



Reconstructed Dr. Frank "White Beaver" Powell fountain that is displayed in La Crosse's city hall today.



Once the fountain, heavily damaged when a car jumped the curb at Powell Park, was reconstructed, this team celebrated the accomplishment. From left: Dick Biering, retired; Lee Gabrielson, then a summer intern from Utah; Dan Hanesworth (see his story below); the late Mitchell Klody; and Dave Stegner, manufacturing technology, La Crosse Business Unit.



You, Leslie Viner, Kuldip Kalsy and 120 others

31 comments 10 shares



George Tabbert

Janice Lanke I remember Barb "Bambi" as a guest at a child development class at UWL many years ago. I also remember her dad and uncle showing up one day at my kindergarten class in Holmen -- and her mom and dad volunteering at the old Oak Forest Nursing Home in Onalaska years later. The Blackdeer family has greatly enriched the lives of area residents. They are wonderful people.

14w Like Reply Share

2 🌐

14w

Love

Reply

Share

20



Gregory Hilbert Top contributor
Janice Lanke Bravo!

14w

Like

Reply

Share

Holy Trinity-Longfellow Neighborhood Association Top contributor · [Follow](#)

Here's a photo of the fountain taken this morning. It is in Powell Park at the intersection of West Ave. and Jackson St. Looks like it recently had a fresh coat of paint.



13w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 4

[View all 3 replies](#)

Janice Lanke Top contributor

Bambi Blackdeer standing alongside Dr. Frank "White Beaver" Powell fountain. ~~~ Bambi is the great-granddaughter of Moses Decorah. ~~~ Source: "An Eagle Blessed Our Home" by, Muriel J. Blackdeer.

Note: When this photograph was taken the fountain had been moved from the northeast corner of 2nd & Main Streets, across from Dr. Frank Powell's Medical & Surgical Institute, to 11th & Johnson Streets next to Powell Park, on land purchased for use as a city park & play field area from Doctors George & Will Powell.

Janice Lanke Top contributor

Moses Decorah being a mutual friend of both Powell & Cody was invited to take part in the dedication of a new drinking fountain to the citizens of La Crosse, Wisconsin donated by Dr. Frank Powell.

The fountain was placed at 2nd & Main streets near Powell's medical and surgical institute. ~~~ Inscribed with the date 1890 on one side of the base, "Dr. Frank Powell" on another side, "Lob Ska Ska" (Sioux / ? Winnebago translation for "White Beaver") on another side, and a white beaver carved in relief on the fourth side.

After the dedication speeches, Dr. Powell took the first drink from the new fountain, "Buffalo Bill" Cody took the second drink and he was followed by Moses Decorah.

The Fountain was restored in 1977 through the efforts of Betty Hyde, of the La Crosse County Historical Society, and others. It is currently exhibited in a fenced in area of the main floor lobby at La Crosse's City Hall.

Sources:

"An Eagle Blessed Our Home" by, Muriel J. Blackdeer

Photo Credit: Lori J. Strom

Write-up posted @ La Crosse City Hall next to the White Beaver Fountain.



Kate and Moses Decorah, when Moses returned from his travels with Buffalo Bill. Note the cowboy hat combined with his Indian clothing.

14w Love Reply Share Edited 8

William Mullen Top contributor

That ain't no fountain! It's a bubbler!

14w Haha Reply Share 7

Gregory Hilbert Top contributor

Bill Spietz and **Janice Lanke** Having posted many times here in 2023 about Powell, his drinking fountain gift to La Crosse, bubblers, and Buffalo Bill Cody and the Wild West Show etc in La Crosse, it's EXCITING to see this great information and several historically significant photos I'd not previously seen. THANK YOU!

14w Like Reply Share

2



Gregory Hilbert Top contributor

A 2023 post: Powell was a legend in his own time and the man we can thank for starting La Crosse's bubbler tradition that so many of us treasure. He donated the City's first ornate cast iron drinking water fountain (aka bubbler) in 1890 and had it located at the corner of 2nd and Main Streets to welcome steamboat and train travelers to La Crosse. It had a beaver and his name carved in its marble base, and was equipped with a metal canopy and 8 drinking cups chained to the base which were later removed for being unsanitary. The fountain was moved to Powell Park in 1971, damaged by a car in 1976, repaired by volunteers from Trane Company, and after being on display at City Hall from 1978 until 2018, was returned to Powell Park where it resides today.

La Crosse's First **"Bubbler"** was an 1890 Gift From Mayor Dr Frank **"White Beaver"** Powell



Powell at right with his friend and biz partner Buffalo Bill Cody of Wild West Show fame at left





Gregory Hilbert

January 28 · 🌐

...

If you're from La Crosse you know that its bubblers are treasured icons still found in many locations around the city, and are the scenes of many happy memories. I was delighted to find a photo to share of the big center-bubbling one many recall seeing on Main Street years ago.

Ornate Downtown La Crosse Bubbler, 1920



Mollie Fredrickson and Syl Kettleson at Bubbler in Downtown La Crosse 1920
Fred W. Fries Collection



Jane Ryan, Margaret OMeara and 386 others

99 comments 44 shares

Over 500 Likes, Comments and Shares

Dennis Brault Top contributor

The city should invest in replicating the old bubbler system throughout the downtown. It could help revitalize the downtown.

25w Like Reply Share

19 



Mary Keefe Barrett Top contributor

Dennis Brault I think that all cities should do that, and we would rely less on plastic water bottles that cause PVC's.

25w Like Reply Share

5  

[View 1 reply](#)



Mike McCormick

Dennis Brault about 12 years ago the decision was made to not have constant running fountains. Water is saved using the now push button mouthpiece, but the drink is not near as cool and refreshing.

25w Like Reply Share



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Mike McCormick Worse, the amount of money saved comes to \$1,500 a year, and the city says La Crosse has ample water!

Sue Ann O'Brien Top contributor

That's a keeper!

25w Like Reply Share



Anne Fischer Nicklay

Great picture! I love it.

25w Like Reply Share



Steve Evets Top contributor

Isn't that the bubbler that was put in city hall after it was restored. Back in the late '70s can remember that bubbler was stored at the city's farm up on FA before it was restored.

25w Like Reply Share

[View all 3 replies](#)

Kerry Twite Top contributor



Nikki Fuchs

Wonder what they did with the old ornate bubblers?!?! Did they just dump them at the IslaPlume dump!

25w Like Reply Share

2  



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Nikki Fuchs I don't know where this one went to Nikki, but like you I'd like to know. If it wasn't foolishly discarded, it should be displayed. I know the location of one that was preserved and will be posting about it very soon.

25w Like Reply Share

2 

Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Steve Paar Mike McCormick The fountain in the 1920 post photo above is NOT the same fountain that was displayed at City Hall. As Mike noted, the fountain that was displayed at City Hall from 1978 to 2018 was relocated to Powell Park, where it resides today. I'll be posting about that one tomorrow, and will provide photos showing it is not the same fountain as the one shown in the 1920 photo above, the whereabouts of which is unknown to me.

Mike McCormick

Of all the LaCrosse water fountains approximately 30% are ADA wheel chair accessible by being shaped like an upside down "L"

25w Like Reply Share



Mike McCormick

Gregory Hilbert I believe sometime back the City of Onalaska had contacted Torrence foundry to attempt to make like reproductions of older fountains. One was outside Onalaska City hall. It seems to me Again ADA issues may have put a halt to this method. Take info for what it's worth.

25w Like Reply Share



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Mike McCormick Got it Mike, when I have a spare minute I'll go hunting for that Onalaska fountain and also Torrence (perhaps sp Torrance) foundry. I vaguely recall something about the casting mold not having been kept.

Rick Skiles Top contributor

back in the day when i worked in the Lax water dept everyfriday someone would go around with a wire brush to clean the bowls and inspect for damage

24w Like Reply Share

2 

Rick Skiles Top contributor

Nikki Fuchs When one would get bit buy a car or broken some other way we used parts from one to repair another because you couldnt just get parts if hit by a car or a plow the base would crack or break and be hard to put back together

24w Like Reply Share





Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Rick Skiles Rick, no doubt you're referring to the bubblers of which there were many all over the city, some of which are still in place. What many including me want to know is what happened to the one shown in the photo above. (Note: I'm aware of the one now at Powell Park. I'm referring to the one that was given to La Crosse by Gov George Peck and had been located at 5th and Main.)

24w Like Reply Share



Rick Skiles Top contributor

Gregory Hilbert Im afraid i dont have any information on that one

Rosemary Bonnar

I remember the bubbler on the corner of the old Holy Cross school which has since been torn down.

25w Like Reply Share



Sharon Taylor

One of my favorite things growing up on French Island was getting to drink from a bubbler. It was such a treat to me. It may be why yet today green is my favorite color. Such a fond memory.

25w Like Reply Share

2 

Lois Zenke
Miss Them



John Duresky

January 29 · 

...

Hoped to find a Tribune showing that couple and the bubbler. No luck with that, but did find this 1927 article with quite a lot of history about the bubblers and early La Crosse

Sidra January Johnson

Love the bubblers!!!!!!

25w Like Reply Share





You William Mullen and 1 other



The La Crosse Tribune and Leader-Press



LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1927

Peck's Fountain Relegated To Junk Heap

ONE of La Crosse's most famous landmarks, and perhaps the least known as well, last week made way to its successor, after over thirty years of long and valiant service. The landmark was only a humble drinking fountain, but it had a history.

The fountain was originally presented to the city of La Crosse by the then governor of Wisconsin, George W. Peck, famed as author of "Peck's Bad Boy" and former editor of a newspaper here.

Peck's gift was placed at the southeast corner of Fifth and Main streets, and for around thirty-five years, according to the memory of those familiar with the old drinking fountain, it served its purpose well.

Drink from New Bubbler

In the past three or four years, however, time and the constant use of the old fountain was given, made it inefficient, and lately, when it was found out that the cost of putting it into good shape again would be excessive, it was decided to have it removed. Now thirsty urchins or adults who have taken drinks from the fountain almost since they can remember, drink from a new, bubbler.

In the early days, according to

Charles A. Hoeschler of the Hoeschler Brothers' drug store, Fifth and Main streets, the fountain presented a much different appearance than it did of late. When Peck gave it to the city, the fountain was covered by a canopy. Mr. Hoeschler does not remember if the top was rounded or square, but he recalls that four iron posts held the top. He says that thirty-five years ago, the water came from the top of the fountain down through an iron pipe. There was an old, battered tin cup there, Mr. Hoeschler says. When persons wanted a drink, they would take this cup from where it was suspended on one of the posts, and hold it under the pipe, to be filled with clear water.

Pipe and Cup Go

More modern regulations as to health, however, decreed that the old pipe and cup were unsanitary, and rather than to replace the fountain entirely, the pipe and the top were removed, and the water came up through the bottom, to gush over a clean, white enamel bubbler.

It will be recalled how there were four supports around the top of the fountain which were originally intended to hold up the top.

When the fountain was first installed, it boasted a silver plate with the words "This drink is on me,

boys," in Peck's characteristic humorous vein. A facsimile of the signature, George W. Peck, appeared below. Later, however, unsympathetic laborers obliterated the plate with paint.

But that is not all there is to the history of this bubbler, according to Mr. Hoeschler, who has been in business on the corner of Fifth and Main for over twenty years, and "knows whereof he speaks."

Came There For Water

In the earlier days, Mr. Hoeschler relates, when the business houses were building up in the downtown district, there was scarcely any room for pumps for drinking water. River water was the only kind provided in the running water faucets, and for that reason many persons would come to Peck's fountain to fill a pail with drinking water.

The fountain was of practically the same type as that given to the city by Dr. Frank Powell, better known as the "White Beaver." This fountain is located on the northeast corner of Second and Main streets, and will probably follow the trail of Peck's monument within a few years.

Peck's fountain has been taken to the city pumping house, it is reported.

Gregory Hilbert [Author](#) Top contributor

John Duresky Wow John, a great find! First, it corroborates what I've said about the 1920 photo, noting toward the end of the article that Powell had gifted La Crosse with a fountain in 1890, and provides its location as being at 2nd and Main, today's Powell Place location and during Powell's time the location of his office. It also provides the location of Peck's later gift of a fountain (the one in the 1920 photo) and gives its location as 5th and Main. Also indicates where it was destined to go. Something also interesting is that the article says of the Peck fountain, things that were officially attributed to the Powell Fountain. "This drink's on me" is a dead ringer for the kind of thing Powell would've said. Methinks the article writer attributed it to Governor Peck in error. There's more! Peck was a contemporary and political ally of Powell (who died in 1910) in La Crosse and at the state level and would've been keen to follow in Powell's footsteps with a fountain! Below is the pertinent portion of the Wikipedia about Peck, among other things publisher of the short-lived Sun in La Crosse. I don't know at the moment if the Sun is archived.

Wikipedia re Governor Peck, Gift-giver in 1910 of a cast iron drinking fountain of a type like Powell's 1890 gift.



Peck's childhood home in Cold Spring

had two sons. In 1863 he enlisted in the [4th Wisconsin Cavalry Regiment](#) as a private. He was taken prisoner and held at [Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia](#). After he was released in a prisoner exchange, he was appointed to the [United States Military Academy](#) by [Abraham Lincoln](#). He was promoted to lieutenant and served until the regiment mustered out in 1866.^[3]

Peck became a newspaper publisher who founded newspapers in [Ripon](#) and [La Crosse](#), Wisconsin. His La Crosse newspaper, *The Sun*, was founded in 1874. In 1878 Peck moved the newspaper to [Milwaukee](#), renaming it *Peck's Sun*. The weekly newspaper contained Peck's humorous writings, including his famous "Peck's Bad Boy" stories.^[4]

In the spring of 1890, Peck ran for mayor of Milwaukee. A [Democrat](#), Peck was elected despite a [Republican](#) majority in the city.^[4] The state's Democratic leaders took notice and made Peck the party's nominee for the 1890 gubernatorial race. Peck won the election, beating the incumbent [William Hoard](#), and resigned as Milwaukee's mayor on November 11, 1890. He was reelected as governor in 1892, defeating Republican [John C. Spooner](#), but lost a third term to [William Upham](#) in 1894. He ran again in 1904 but lost to the incumbent [Robert M. La Follette Sr.](#)^[3]

Peck died in 1916 in Milwaukee at age 75 of [Bright's disease](#) and was buried at [Forest Home Cemetery](#).^[5] After his death, his "Peck's Bad Boy" writings became the basis for several films and a short-lived television show, including *Peck's Bad Boy* and *Peck's Bad Girl*.^{[6][7]}

His former home in La Crosse is located in what is now known as the [10th and Cass Streets Neighborhood Historic District](#).

Cindy Guggenbuehl Koeller

Gregory Hilbert this original photo was part of my grandfather's collection, Fred W Fries. He was a pharmacist at Hoeschler's Drug Store downtown La Crosse at the time.
David Guggenbuehl

Gregory Hilbert [Author](#) [Top contributor](#)

David Guggenbuehl Thank you for jumping in and sharing this photo from your grandfather's collection David! Would love to see the other photo you have, most especially if it reveals a different location than the one documented by a 1927 newspaper article stating the location was at Main and Fifth. That article, found by John Duresky, says the fountain (not fountains) was a gift to the city from George Peck, a contemporary of Powell's (donor of the first fountain in 1890) who was La Crosse's police chief, publisher of the Sun, originator of "Peck's Bad Boy", and elected governor of Wisconsin in 1910, the same year Powell died. When I look at the photo you've shared above, it makes me wonder if it's the same fountain as the post photo of 1920, but taken before 1920, before one of the ornate "legs" was removed so as to install the water pipe and shut-off shown in the 1920 photo. BEYOND THAT, as I shared with your evident sister, is your grandfather's collection of photos archived with the La Crosse Public Library or La Crosse County Historical Society or otherwise accessible for viewing on the internet? I'd give my eye teeth to see and post a few here!

24w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



David Guggenbuehl [Top contributor](#)

Hey Greg - Thanks for your message. I've attached another view of the original photo that started this thread. Hopefully it adds additional points in the background that may be recognizable. This photo includes Amelia Hammes, one of my grandfather's co-workers at Hoeschler. I believe that Mr. Kittleson (?sp) was also somehow connected to the same place. Anyway, hope this helps solve the mystery. As for the other photos, I will be gradually posting a few at a time as time allows. They have essentially been sealed in my grandpa's original photo book for over 100 years. I am hopeful that others from our community will also recognize some of their ancestors. Always a treasure to discover important pieces of our past.

Julie Denzer

The few ones left in LaCrosse are still so memorable. I wonder how many coats of green paint are on them? I wonder what color they can be without the green paint?

24w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)





24w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) 2

Gregory Hilbert [Author](#) [Top contributor](#)

David Guggenbuehl And thank you David. The several documented facts I'm certain of, including those found by John Duresky, lead me to conclude all three photos are of the same fountain donated by Peck, originally located at 5th and Main, a few years after the one donated in 1890 by Powell, originally located at 2nd and Main. I believe the photo I posted shows the Peck fountain after a leg was removed to allow installation of a pipe and shut-off valve. Hoeschler said in 1927 that most water at the time was from the Mississippi, whereas the Peck fountain was good water (piped I think from Grandad), so many people filled buckets at the Peck fountain for drinking water. That would explain removal of a leg to install a pipe with a shut-off valve. It's good you'll be sharing more photos over time, I'll be on the lookout to see them!

Barbara Stetzer

This looks like the one on State Street on the way to River Side Park. Did they go the way of the old trolley cars?

Keith Magnuson

Nothing like those old bubblers

24w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

Peter Weigel

coo0l bubbler



Jimmy Hurley

January 26, 2023 · 🌐

Here's an interesting shot of the Cargill house



You, Leslie Viner, Jane Ryan and 275 others

42 comments 16 share

Over 300 Likes, Comments and Shares

Nellie Mallette Top contributor
I remember the "Bubbler" fondly!



1y Like Reply Share 

Steve Flaten
No need for plastic water bottles or carrying one's water. With the strategic placement of bubblers one was always in close proximity to cold flowing water. If someone told us that in the future people would be buying water we would have thought they were insane .

1y Like Reply Share

5 

Cheryl Collins
I love those bubblers too!!!

1y Like Reply Share

Janet Stearns
Now they're both gone. The Cargill house and the bubbler. ! SAD.....

1y Like Reply Share



Tom Weise Top contributor
Bubbler at goose green, was used for drinking, making a water dam, and setting people on them. 🙌😂

Michael West Top contributor
Drank off lots of Bubblers(favorite Powell park)

1y Like Reply Share

3

View all 2 replies

Frankie Heilman
I love those old water fountains

1y Like Reply Share



View 1 reply

Carol Wermuth Jacobson Top contributor
Yes! I remember.

1y Like Reply Share

View 1 reply

Gloria Olson
Loved growing up with bubblers.

1y Like Reply Share



Denise Lange
Bubbler!!

1y Like Reply Share



Nancy Hatch-Johnson
Ahhh the bubblers I remember them well.

1y Like Reply Share

Lynda Pedersen
Only La Crosse had bubblers!

1y Like Reply Share

Debbie Poorman Market
I loved the bubblers

1y Like Reply Share

Barbara Trane Top contributor
Played there often.....invaders 🤖

View 1 reply

Betsy Meyer
Water bubbler

1y Like Reply Share



Debra Meyer
I remember drinking from these

David Guggenbuehl Top contributor
Interesting discussion! The original post on this thread is a photo taken by my grandfather, Fred W. Fries, who was a pharmacist at Hoeschler Drug Store on Fifth and Main. He worked there for many decades, starting prior to his service in WWI. He took numerous photos of the downtown area during his life, many of them in the 1910s and 1920s. In this photo, one of his co-workers took a shot of him walking away from the bubbler at Fifth and Main. This is a different bubbler than the one featured above. I believe I have a different angle of the original post that may be helpful in identifying its location.



24w Love Reply Share Edited 8



Alice Cepek

I remember the water bubbler bring back great memories of my childhood

1y Like Reply Share



Jay Skarboszewski

7th and Farnam was my bubbler...

1y Like Reply Share

Barbara Lockington

Love those bubblers!

1y Like Reply Share

Roger Bjorge Top contributor

Those bubblers had danged good water for drinking!

1y Like Reply Share



KimDave Anderson

With the pet bowl on the side..

1y Like Reply Share

Bobby Bigb Froney

I used to love the water fountains. I knew exactly where everyone was at and would plan my route in the summer time on my bicycle around them. 🚲

1y Like Reply Share

Jim Reynolds

Remember them bubblers

1y Like Reply Share

Paul Erickson Top contributor

Unique to La Crosse. It even has a bowl for dogs at the bottom.

Marilyn Skarpac

I'd be interested to know how many bubblers are still there and working. 🙄



Gregory Hilbert

August 28, 2023 · 🌐

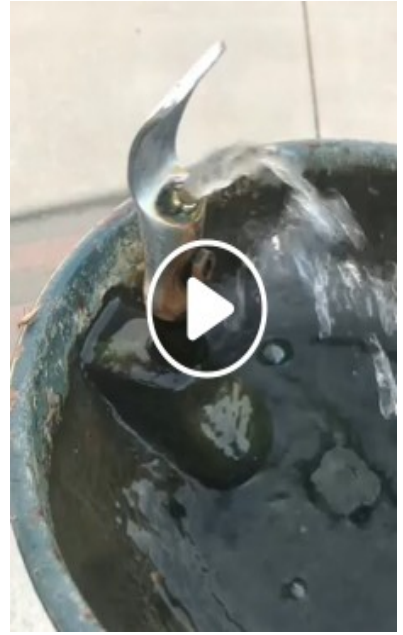
...

You won't understand this MEANT-TO-BE-FUNNY MOCK POST if you didn't see my post yesterday about Bubblers and its companion Poll post where – for fun -- 98% of voting members said yes to a proposed La Crosse City Council resolution that bubblers should be called bubblers. In fact, the photo was taken by popular photographer Bob Good, during the construction of Belle Square at Vine and 11th Streets, showing that the only artifact left standing was a bubbler. Also in fact, the c... See more

BREAKING NEWS...Enraged La Crosse Facebook Mob Storms City Hall With Bulldozers For Failure of Council to Heed Poll Finding 98% Want Resolution for Bubblers To Be Called Bubblers! Only a Bubbler Was Left Standing. Contractors Scrambling to Rebuild. Spokesperson Vows More Bulldozing If Bubbler Resolution Isn't Passed.



These photos were shared by Mary Lepsch Tenant,
Cynthia Botcher Colby, Jeff S King, Lori Ello, Bob Good and Linda Stone.



**Linda Stone post 2018. People were unhappy
about pushbutton tepid water.**

Jeff Hundt shared this PHOTO ART he saw in La Crosse.
Do You Want La Crosse's Bubblers Preserved?



Jeff saw this photo art on the wall of an office in La Crosse. Having been invited to request La Crosse Heritage Preservation Commission preservation of La Crosse's slowly but steadily disappearing "Bubblers", I'll be submitting screenshots of posts, photos, and member comments --- over 200 pages in all – to show that overwhelming numbers of people from La Crosse treasure them, value them and want them preserved. If you're among them, this is your chance to be heard, and if you've commented previously, it's okay to comment again!

Dennis Brault Top contributor

Yes. Yes. Yes. You're damn straight I do.

La Crosse's circa 1891-1894 Plan for Supplying Water to “Pre-Bubbler” Drinking Fountains.

It Came on the Heels of Dr Frank Powell's Donation of La Crosse's First Drinking Fountain at Second & Main in 1890. Red X's show the placements that ensued. Gov Peck's donation fountain was installed at Fifth & Main.



A Pitiful, Shameful Disgrace!

La Crosse Bubblers Once Delivered Cold Water Continuously. In 2012 the City bought Push-button Spigots for La Crosse's 35 Remaining Bubblers, to save only \$1,750 of water per year! And now the Remaining Bubblers Deliver Tepid Water!



Meanwhile the number of Remaining Bubblers Has Further Fallen, to about 31.



Gregory Hilbert

July 31 at 8:53 PM · 🌐

For starters, the continuously flowing cold water wasn't literally being "wasted". It didn't evaporate, but went back into the ground, and was eventually recycled. **Moreover and in any case**, the current city website says *"Of primary importance is the capacity of the aquifer from which the Utility obtains its water supply. An examination of data kept by the Utility shows **no depletion of the water levels in the aquifer, and its capacity appears to be more than adequate to sustain the needs of the City.**"* The Utility page on the city website says *"In 2014, the total water pumped into the distribution system was around 3.9 billion gallons of water"* and that it [currently] costs *"less than a penny per gallon"*. Translation: To have bubblers that deliver cold water would take one tenth of 1% of the aquifer water that is more than adequate and not being depleted! To my mind, given those facts, it's worse than foolish to make the children and adults of La Crosse – and visitors to it -- drink tepid water to reduce its water bill by \$1,750 per year. Especially in a country suffering an obesity epidemic among adults AND children, worsened by drinking large amounts of sugared soda instead of cold water. God almighty, isn't a contribution to children's health

worth \$1,750 a year? *And they can be left in place when and if wheel-chair accessible fountains are installed!* Please see my comment for documentation of the city's estimate of savings for delivering tepid water. **PS Don't tell me the city can't afford \$1,750. A 5-yr prelim city capital budget proposes to spend \$400,000 on City Hall BATHROOM REMODELING and plumbing repairs!**

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTATION BELOW

Following is a **2012** WKOW report to document what I've said that you can't find on the city's website. Note that the city's own estimate of savings per bubbler using the pushbutton spigots was only \$50 per year per bubbler (\$50X35 bubblers = \$1,750 per year):

"LA CROSSE, Wis. — The drinking fountains scattered throughout downtown La Crosse can be a source of refreshment on a hot summer day, but some people think they are a big waste. That's because the water runs whether they are being used or not. City Officials say they have found a solution. They plan to purchase new push-button spigots for all 35 fountains meaning water will only run when they are being used. The city estimates between four and five million gallons of water flow through the fountains every year. With the new spigots, a fraction of the water will be used and they say the change won't ruin the historic design of the fountains. "The bodies and the bowls of the fountains will stay the same, the new devices simply thread in or screw into the existing bowls so there would be no conversion other than changing that spigot," says the city's Utilities Manger Xxxx Xxxxxxx. The spigots could save the city up to 50 dollars a year per fountain. The city's utilities manager says they hope to have them installed by the end of April."

Below is from the City website

La Crosse's source of water is an aquifer consisting of a deposit of glacial outwash sand and gravel in the valley of the periglacial Mississippi River. The sand and gravel aquifer is approximately 170 feet in depth in the La Crosse area, bounded on the east by the bluffs and on the west by the Mississippi River.

Of primary importance is the capacity of the aquifer from which the Utility obtains its water supply. An examination of data kept by the Utility shows no depletion of the water levels in the aquifer, and its capacity appears to be more than adequate to sustain the needs of the City.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTATION ABOVE

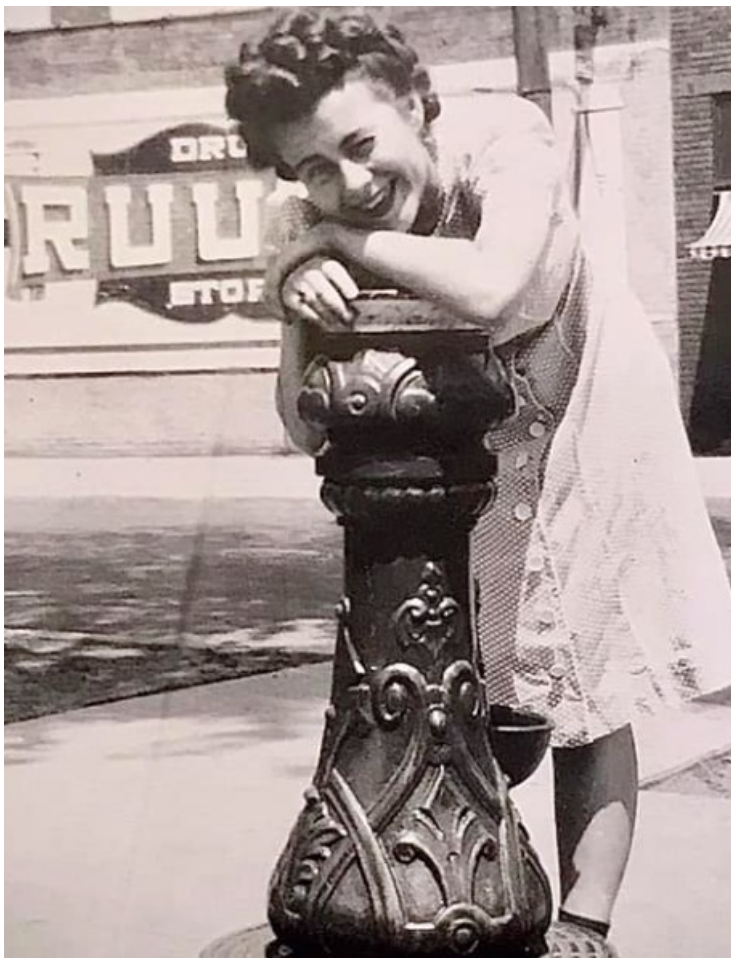


Gregory Hilbert

July 31 at 6:47 AM · 🌐

In January Curt Hottinger shared this photo of his mom's friend at the Powell Park bubbler at West Ave & Jackson in the late 1930's. The familiar ornate bubbler is now gone, whereabouts unknown to me. In it's place is a wheelchair-accessible drinking fountain. I'm all for wheelchair-accessible fountains, more of which are planned to be installed as time passes. But I see no reason that the ornate cast-iron treasures can't be left in place, alongside the wheelchair accessible, even if in some cases they can't be operational. Having been invited to request La Crosse Heritage Preservation Commission preservation of La Crosse's "Bubblers", I'll be submitting screenshots of posts, photos, and member comments --- some 200 pages in all -- to show that overwhelming numbers of people from La Crosse treasure them, value them and want them preserved. If you're among them, this is your chance to be heard!

**Then vs Now: The Drinking Fountain We Called
a "Bubbler" and the New One Now at Powell Park.
Do You Want La Crosse's Old Bubblers Preserved?**



**Over 300 Likes,
Comments, and Shares**



William Mullen, Leslie Viner and 233 others

107 comments 12 shares

Lars Petter Svanoe Top contributor

These along with the downtown street lamps that were ingloriously removed were iconic symbols of the city. One of the reasons people travel Europe is their generally unwavering support of finding a way to incorporate the past into the present. This is such a simple affordable way to express that in a very public way that anyone driving through town will go "oh! look at that!"

On top of which, having a sip from one of those bubblers when the water is running cold only enhances the experience because it shows off the outstanding drinking water that's available in La Crosse. Consider the money well spent and put some of it in the cities promotional budget.

And if you don't feel the fountains are situated for high visibility consider taking some of the ones you've removed and placing them where they will be.

1w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) [Edited](#)

21  

– View all 2 replies

David Neuhaus Top contributor

The city should have copies cast. I'm sure money could be raised for such a project. Wasn't Torance Foundry the original maker of the bubbles?

1w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

4 

– View 1 reply

Karla Rediske Woody

Keep the bubblers and put the newer ones in different areas, like parks

1w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

– View all 2 replies

Kay Stewart

Our historic downtown deserves better. The new one looks out of place and in my opinion is rather ugly. Keep the old ones!!!

1w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Lars Petter Svanoe Top contributor

These along with the downtown street lamps that were ingloriously removed were iconic symbols of the city. One of the reasons people travel Europe is their generally unwavering support of finding a way to incorporate the past into the present. This is such a simple affordable way to express that in a very public way that anyone driving through town will go "oh! look at that!"

On top of which, having a sip from one of those bubblers when the water is running cold only enhances the experience because it shows off the outstanding drinking water that's available in La Crosse. Consider the money well spent and put some of it in the cities promotional budget.

And if you don't feel the fountains are situated for high visibility consider taking some of the ones you've removed and placing them where they will be.

1w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#) [Edited](#)

21  

[View all 2 replies](#)

David Neuhaus Top contributor

The city should have copies cast. I'm sure money could be raised for such a project. Wasn't Torance Foundry the original maker of the bubbles?

1w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

4 

[View 1 reply](#)

Karla Rediske Woody

Keep the bubblers and put the newer ones in different areas, like parks

1w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

[View all 2 replies](#)

Kay Stewart

Our historic downtown deserves better. The new one looks out of place and in my opinion is rather ugly. Keep the old ones!!!

1w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

2 

Deb Ward

The Bubblers are LaCrosse. If I say bubbler anywhere else people don't know what I mean. A true historical tradition. They may not give water, but they could be repurposed for plants. Could also put a story on it describing the history.

1w [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



[View all 2 replies](#)

Kris Betz [Top contributor](#)

Are there any as ornate as this one left? So beautiful besides useful. I am old enough to remember all the bubblers all over town. So great when we were out biking as teenagers.

1w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



[View 1 reply](#)

Tony Ammann

Looks like the new version is handicapped accessible

1w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



Gregory Hilbert [Author](#) [Top contributor](#)

Tony Ammann Yes, and that's good, but the ornate cast iron bubbler could've been left in place alongside!

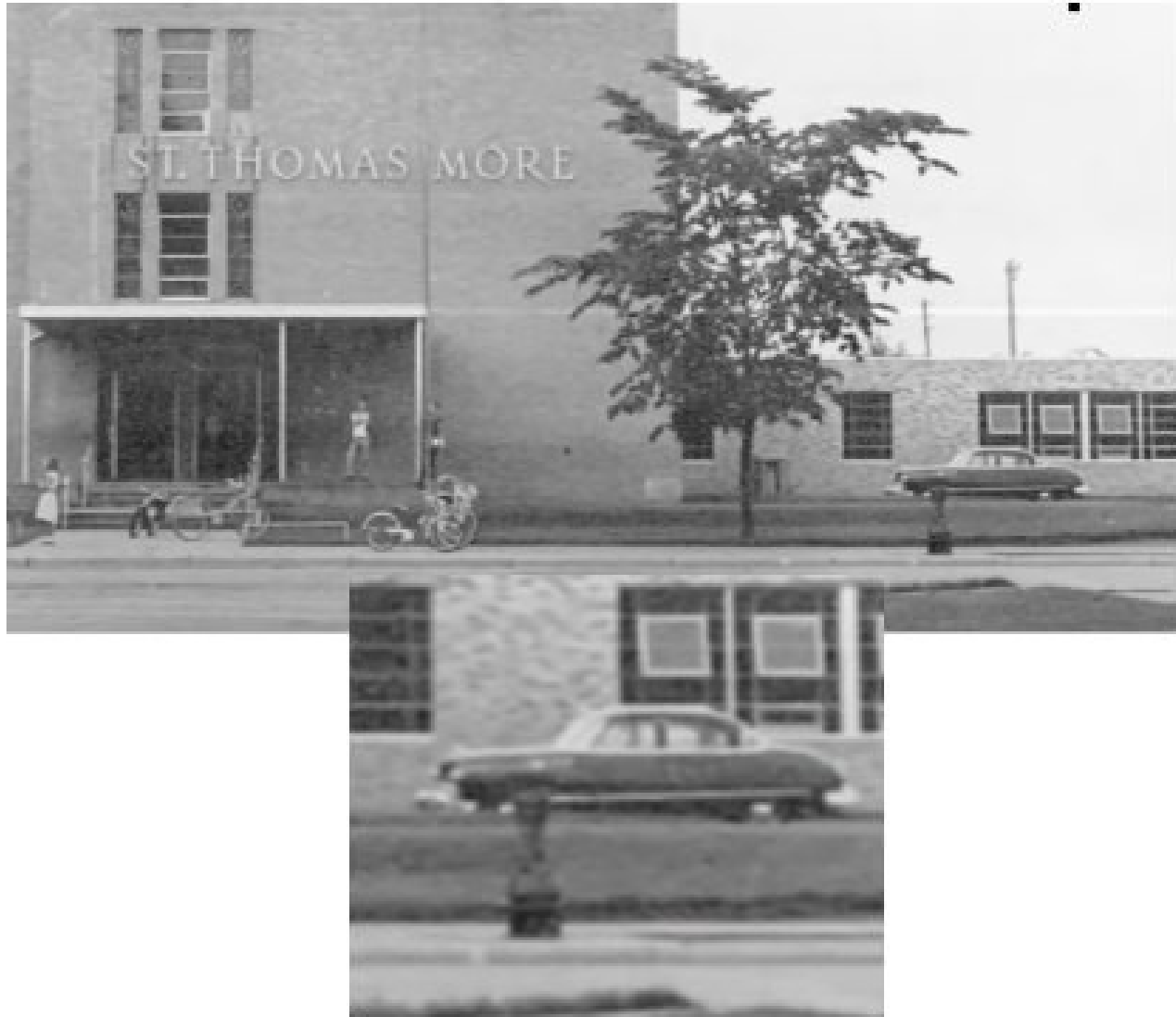
Sandi Schroder [Top contributor](#)

Why can't the new accessible bubblers just be put next to the old ones? And for goodness sakes, make them look like the old ones! They can ask someone artistic to help. I will help, if needed, (yes I'm volunteering) but I bet they have someone in the department that is artistic.

1w [Love](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)



A School and Another Bubblers GONE.
Another Neighborhood Loses the Oasis
Where Thousands Happily Drank Cold Water





Gregory Hilbert

2 days ago · 🌐

...

La Crosse's iconic cast iron green bubblers are slowly but steadily disappearing. Only about 31 remain, and they've been outfitted with push-button spigots causing them to deliver tepid water instead of the cold water that flowed continuously during the summer and quenched the thirst of tens of thousands in the past. That was done to save what some misguidedly thought was a waste of water. The water people don't drink is eventually recycled, the overflow costs the city a total of only \$1,750 per year, and it turns out that the La Crosse aquifer never was being depleted at all and would be more than adequate to meet La Crosse's needs even if the bubblers flowed all year. In some cases the bubblers are being replaced with wheelchair-accessible fountains, even though the bubblers could be left in place and stand alongside them.

I'm nearing the end of posting repeatedly about this and will soon submit a request to preserve the bubblers to the La Crosse Heritage Commission, in response to a commissioner's invitation. The request will include 200 pages of screenshots of **thousands** of member comments responding to posts about bubblers. (There are enough comments to fill 1,000 pages but that would crash my already stressed computer.) Almost every commenter wants them preserved.

La Crosse Without Its Ornate Bubblers Would Be Like La Crosse Without Grandad or Grandad Without the USA Flag on Top!



Brad Benrud Top contributor

Great Post! I have fond memories shopping downtown with my Mom and running at the fountains for a drink whenever I saw one! ❤️

David Haberman Top contributor

I wonder what foundry cast them. Are they steel or iron or what? I know they're built like a brick shithouse.

2d Like Reply Share



Matt Paulson

David Haberman would be really cool if they came from Torrance

2d Like Reply Share



David Haberman Top contributor

Matt Paulson

2d Like Reply Share



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

David Haberman Matt Paulson It's believed La Crosse's Torrance Castings cast them. Its CEO William Torrance told me by phone that he believes so, but that he can't provide proof. I think he's a man of integrity and everything I know points to Torrance as the foundry that cast the bubblers. There is proof that Torrance cast ornate fountains that preceded the bubblers, which I've posted in the past.

2d Like Reply Share

Kevin Lafky Top contributor

Thanks for your efforts Greg

2d Like Reply Share 2

David Haberman Top contributor

I bet if they reverse engineered one of the old ones they could make them again.



Gregory Hilbert

2 days ago · 🌐

...

For starters, the continuously flowing cold water wasn't literally being "wasted". It didn't evaporate, but went back into the ground, and was eventually recycled. Moreover and in any case, the current city website says *"Of primary importance is the capacity of the aquifer from which the Utility obtains its water supply. An examination of data kept by the Utility shows **no depletion of the water levels in the aquifer, and its capacity appears to be more than adequate to sustain the needs of the City.**"* The Utility page on the city website says *"In 2014, the total water pumped into the distribution system was around 3.9 billion gallons of water"* and that it costs *"less than a penny per gallon"*. Translation: To have bubblers that deliver cold water would take one tenth of 1% of the aquifer water that is more than adequate and not being depleted! To my mind, given those facts, it's worse than foolish to make the children and adults of La Crosse – and visitors to it--drink tepid water to reduce its water bill by \$1,750 per year. Especially in a country suffering an obesity epidemic among adults AND children that's worsened by drinking large amounts of sugared soda instead of cold water. Good grief, isn't a contribution to children's health worth \$1,750 a year? *And don't tell me the bubblers aren't wheelchair accessible. The bubblers can be left in place when and if wheel-chair accessible fountains are installed!* Please see my comment for documentation of the city's estimate of savings for delivering tepid water. PS The city can easily afford \$1,750. A 5-yr prelim city capital budget proposes to spend \$400,000 on City Hall BATHROOM REMODELING and plumbing repairs!

**La Crosse Bubblers Once
Delivered Cold Water
Continuously. In 2012 the
City bought Push-button
Spigots for La Crosse's 35
Remaining Bubblers, to
save only \$1,750 of water
per year! And now the
Remaining Bubblers
Deliver Tepad Water!**



**Meanwhile the number of Remaining
Bubblers Has Further Fallen, to about 31.**

🗨️ Leslie Viner, Neil Duresky and 62 others

47 comments 2 shares

James Bakalars Top contributor

Probably need that money to install more round-a-bouts in low traffic neighborhood area's where they're not needed ... 😊

2d Like Reply Share

9 🍌 🤔



Sheila Bissen Top contributor

James Bakalars and more bike lanes in areas that don't make any sense. Oh and don't have lifeguards anymore on the beaches or even fix the public pool. And is the splash pad still down on the north side? Since moving back to La Crosse I'm amazed at the silly, senseless money wasting decisions La Crosse government makes. Certainly the children in La Crosse do not seem to be a priority.

2d Like Reply Share Edited

6 🍌

View 1 reply



Neil Duresky Top contributor

James Bakalars You hit that on the nose. They installed one at the end of our cul de sac off 29th Court without sending individual notices of hearings to home owners. Reason they gave was speeding on 29th. Have to say I never noticed that problem in the 45+ years we lived there.

2d Like Reply Share

2 🍌

Bob Maney Kathy Marco

The continual running water served 2 purposes. One it kept the water cold and two it helped to clean the basin.

2d Like Reply Share

2 🍌

David Neuhaus Top contributor

Some of the old bubblers had an overflow bowl of some sort near the bottom for dogs, squirrels and any other beast that was thirsty.

2d Like Reply Share

2 🍌

Sarah D Hemker

Bring back the bubblers and the ice cold water! Sad that kids now days can't experience such a treat, Always knowing that if you were out playing as a kid that there was always a bubbler within walking or bike riding distance to quench your thirst.

2d Like Reply Share

2 🍌

Thomas S. McDonald Top contributor

I remember Floyd loving bubbler water, by filling up gallon jugs with it and then riding off into the sunset on his bike

2d Care Reply Share

🤔



Roger Averbeck

June 9, 2023 · 🌐

Bluffview Park at 28th and Jackson St.





Lynn Rick Bries

June 6, 2023 · 🌐



Peter O'Kane

November 15, 2022 · 🌐

...



Margaret O'Meara, Margaret O'Meara and 1.1K others

314 comments 103 shares

**Over 1,500 Likes, Comments and Shares
in Nov of 2022**

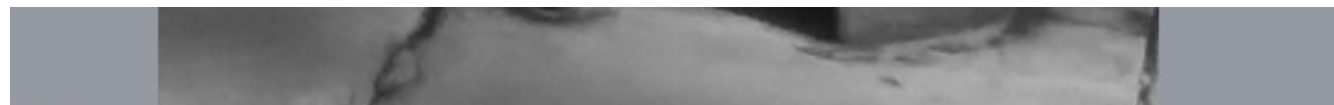


Penny Curnutte

December 9, 2017 · La Crosse, WI · 🌐



I've never seen these anywhere else. Anyone else?



Sara Lindsay Hinrichs, Gail Goetting and 311 others

265 comments 26 shares

Over 500 Likes, Comments and Shares in 2017

Ken Atchison

They're still a few around but not like they used to be. They had one on just about every corner downtown

6y Like Reply Share



Joe Bott Top contributor

"I get first dibs, I get first dibs" I remember running with 3 or 4 other kids to a "bubbler" and we all were yelling this.

6y Like Reply Share



Mary Brickson Gokey Top contributor

Remember the one by Powell Park. It's gone they modernized the park. Yuck

6y Like Reply Share



Miranda Lynn Lundgren

I've lived in a lot of towns but lacrosse is the only one that I know has bubblers and they used to be everywhere. I remember at a kid

6y Like Reply Share

View 1 reply

Sue Lacoste

These are considered historic now in lacrosse in case people didnt know that. 🤔

6y Like Reply Share

2

Sarah Reynolds
Bubler

Margarette Peterson

Yes they were at just about every major corner. Had a couple on Northside. The water was always so cold & during the winter ice would form on them. Yes reproductive s would be great in material that's not so prone to cracking or breaking.

6y Like Reply Share

2



Steve Paar Top contributor

One is at the corner of George & North St on the Northside.

6y Like Reply Share



Penny Curnutte Author

1 on Caledonia & Clinton, & 1 in front of St.James

6y Like Reply Share



Corky Bentzen Top contributor

One on Kane St and St. Andrew St.

6y Like Reply Share



Chris Martin Top contributor

As to the original posters question other cities had them but they were usually locally designed and manufactures which made each towns unique . I thought Torrence originally cast those bubblers maybe it was badger or fountain city? I do know at one time there were a bunch in surplus at the city water works

“a bunch in surplus at the city water works”

The person below made a similar comment in 2016.
Note reference to unbroken portions in storage.

Barbara Kooiman Top contributor

Several years ago, the La Crosse Heritage Preservation Commission realized that many of the city's bubblers were "disappearing", being replaced by modern equivalents. So, looking into it, they found that when a car would hit one of the cast iron bubblers, and a part broke, Public Works would replace it with a new version. So, the Heritage Preservation Commission did an inventory of how many were left (35, I believe) and designated ALL of them as local landmarks. At the time of the public hearing, the Public Works department let the Heritage Preservation Commission know that the unbroken portions are in storage (usually it is the bowl that breaks), and representatives from La Crosse's own Torrance Foundry (where these were designed and manufactured in the 1920s) said they still have the moulds (or could make new moulds), and could reproduce the broken parts. I don't know as if anyone (from the city) has requested that, but if there was a public push, it is possible that many of them could be repaired or replaced with replicas.

6y Like Reply Share

25 

Colleen Wienke

Gotta ❤️ my hometown- beautiful and unique in so many ways!

6y Like Reply Share

Margarette Peterson

I thought there were others but couldn't remember exactly where they were. Thanks

6y Like Reply Share

Austin Dayton

Thats a bubbler

6y Like Reply Share

Amy Max

I miss those bubblers, there was one a block from my grandma's. They are so cool and pretty. Some things from the past should never leave. The newer ones are boring.

6y Like Reply Share

John Sutton Top contributor

there were several downtown, most main corners, where is the one that honored white beaver ? or Dr Frank Powell at one time it was at powell park on west ave. ?

Patricia Pratt Top contributor

Oh, I do remember them. What a great memory of LaCrosse.

6y Like Reply Share

Margaret Strasser

The White Beaver one is not in city hall anymore.

6y Like Reply Share

[View all 5 replies](#)

Jenny Stettner

Yes I love them especially when you could step up to drink miss them

6y Like Reply Share

2 

Kathy Hadley Roesler

It was always so refreshing, nice and cold!

6y Like Reply Share



Rick Valentine

Loomis and Palace st.

6y Like Reply Share



Gabriele Volten

There's one on fifth and hood

6y Like Reply Share

Lisa Zobeck

Let's try and bring them back ! Especially if they are in storage. We have already lost so many amazing things in our town . Here's one we can save and bring back . Thank you to the water dept for saving them in storage

6y Like Reply Share

2 

GusnAngie Gschwind

Oh yes that was my `little` step we Lepsch girls were `Little` a few years back when they had a write up of `bubblers` my littelist sis Mary Helen put a pic on legs and arms just hugging our 7th st bubbler..wish I knew how to print it so cute...love..

Tina Pohlman

They are/were downtown.

6y Like Reply Share Edited

Steve Bailey

By Piggies? or up river?

6y Like Reply Share

Keri Freem

Thanks for sharing this picture. Brings back good childhood memories.

6y Like Reply Share

Tina Pohlman

Wonder if those could be molded into steal?

6y Like Reply Share

[View all 5 replies](#)

Jerry Lachman

Never had one on INDIAN HILL. Had to drink out of the La Crosse river.

6y Like Reply Share

5  

[View 1 reply](#)

Rene Dokken

Bubbler! My parents met at a bubbler in LaCrosse.

6y Like Reply Share Edited

Micheline Kennedy-Teston

Haven't been in LaCrosse since I moved to DC area in 1982. Still call fountains bubblers and my children always correct me. 😊

Wanda Riddle Winslow

I loved our bubblers! Some of them had little bowls down lower that the water would flow into and dogs could take a drink.

6y Like Reply Share

4 

Andrea Pauline

Not like those. I miss the old bubblers

6y Like Reply Share

Bill Ramsay

Appleton and Oshkosh had those, "back in the day". Miss them!

6y Like Reply Share

Peggy Benrud

Of course a bubbler. By Hogan on Market...was used a lot for drinking and water balloon fights. I have seen them in a few other cities. It won't be long and this history in La Crosse will be gone too as a few will bitch about the waste of water or something.

6y Like Reply Share Edited



Helmut von Packerbacker

Some may have seen the post, around New Years Day, that the one by Hogan got hit by a car and broken.

There was talk on this page of repairing or re casting. John? Torrance of Torrance Foundry, even got into the discussion offering to help.

I don't know who or how, but the bubbler was back in its usual place, doing its usual thing, by summer this year.

To whom ever got that done... Thank You!

6y Like Reply Share Edited

6

View all 5 replies

Patricia Wolden

One. Downtown on 3rd an pearl

Phil S Addis Top contributor
Riverside Park...



6y Like Reply Share 14

Bubbler

6y Like Reply Share

Rachel Schwandt

Yup, a bubbler

6y Like Reply Share

Royce Ann Hanson King
Bubbler!!!! Yippee!

Barb Orcutt

Home sweet home!! Love La Crosse

6y Like Reply Share

2 

D Tom Sneath

There was one on Copeland and Island street but Im not sure if it still is.

6y Like Reply Share

Rick Valentine

I know a fellow that worked for one of the contractors in La Crosse, and he has one of these as an ornament in his back yard. It fits the decor perfectly!

6y Like Reply Share



Thomas Welch Top contributor

It seems to me there was one on the corner of just about every elementary school in the old part of town . (East of west Ave.) Is the one at Lincoln school still there ? SE corner of 8th and Division St.

6y Like Reply Share

[View all 2 replies](#)

Nola Goetting Gorich

I remember using those years ago when i was a kid... 😊❤️

6y Like Reply Share

William Mary Lisser

Bubbler by Powell Park.

SE Marsh Top contributor

Where were they made?

6y Like Reply Share

Rick Valentine

Torrance Foundry.

6y Like Reply Share

[View 1 reply](#)

George Miles

I think they are cast iron and weigh a ton

6y Like Reply Share



Joan Worth

Im historic

Rick Valentine



6y Like Reply Share 4 

George Miles

I remember lifting up and setting a girl on one of these when I was a kid... Do I have to resign my job Al Franken?

Kay Kriese Luther
BUBBLERS!!!!!! LOVED THEM!

Patricia Potter Top contributor

Gregory Hilbert Please SAVE THE BUBLERS !!

Trink Copsey

Great childhood memory, we lived on 6th Market and there was a bubbler on 5th Market, my friends and I used all the time. Even played in it on hot summer days.

6y Like Reply Share

Rick Valentine

We filled many water balloons at the one at Roosevelt School.

6y Like Reply Share



Ferdinand Erlewein

They were all over town one of the best kept secrets in LaCrosse. As you travel, just ask people where the 'Bubblers' are.

6y Like Reply Share



Rick Brague

No where else!

Used

the one at Jackson and West Ave a lot!

It had a bowl for the dogs on the side!

6y Like Reply Share

4



[View all 2 replies](#)

Sharon Tolley

Saw this in Portland, OR otherwise has never seen any like the ones in LaCrosse

Lynn Russ

Nope. They're a La Crosse original

6y Like Reply Share

[View all 2 replies](#)

Sharon Tolley

Besides at Powell park there was one on the corner of Holy Trinity school. On Sunday you'd go to church then stop at the fountain on your way home.

6y Like Reply Share

4



Linda Hauser

We had one on the North side by the park. It was taken away. George Hickey Park

6y Like Reply Share

Lisa Hall-Koerner

Only in LaCrosse!!!

6y Like Reply Share

View 1 reply

Rodney Gantka

there was 1 at powell park on 11th avenue n jackson, old ice rink

6y Like Reply Share



Jean Lafky

I grew up across the street from that bubbler!

6y Like Reply Share



Teri Fiers Top contributor

There was one on the corner of Caledonia and Sill St. ...

5y Like Reply Share

Patricia Potter Top contributor

Someone HAS to preserve them !! Please !! Pp

5y Like Reply Share



[View 1 reply](#)

Linda Shannon

I love these bubblers!

5y Like Reply Share



Dick Almos

All over downtown LaCrosse, some even had a watering station for dogs. 🍀 🇺🇸

5y Like Reply Share



Lala Coelho

I remember them well. ❤️

5y Like Reply Share

Linda Coulson

northside usually had them at parks and by schools

5y Like Reply Share

Jenny Stettner

They had one Logan Jr High then it became Logan Middle School ?

5y Like Reply Share



[View 1 reply](#)

Jerry Potaracke
Hood park

6y Like Reply Share 

Shirley Atchison
They were great

6y Like Reply Share

Valerie Ellenz
is there still one by Longfellow?

6y Like Reply Share

Dan Thompson
Down at river side park there is one. I used it a lot when I was playing Pokemon

6y Like Reply Share



Rene Dokken
My parents met at a bubbler in LaCrosse.

6y Like Reply Share 2  



Kristle Sveen

There is one on the corner where the old Holy Trinity Catholic school was



6y Like Reply Share 8 

Patricia Andre-Perren

We have them here in la crosse in some places

6y Like Reply Share 

Jay Skarboszewski

There was one on 7th and Farnham - by the tennis courts

6y Like Reply Share 

[View all 3 replies](#)

Diane L Tooke

I've seen them in other WI / MN towns. in the past.

6y Like Reply Share

Lynette Neumann

I have seen bubblers around La Crosse. They have many names, water fountain, drinking fountain etc. I have always called them bubblers.



Curt Hottinger

March 19, 2019 · 🌐



Copeland Park~1969



Michael West, Sara Lindsay Hinrichs and 234 others

60 comments 71 shares

Over 350 Responses in March 2019



David Guggenbuehl

January 19, 2023 · 🌐



Downtown La Crosse, approximately 1920. Photo taken in front of Hoeschler Bros Drug Store on Fifth Ave and Main. Note the water fountain (bubbler).



Margaret OMeara, Jane Holland and 386 others

55 comments 27 shares

Over 450 Likes, Comments and Shares Jan 2023



Brian Shanley

April 29, 2015 · 🌐



Me getting a drink of water downtown around 1977.



David K. Erdman, Nancy Rae Zinn Nielsen and 173 others

70 comments 3 shares

Over 200 Likes, Comments and Shares in 2015



Trudy Mara

February 20 · 🌐

...

A streetcar on 5th Ave looking towards downtown from Market Street. I believe the building on the left is the old Bohemian Hall.(Where the Fire Station is now)



👍❤️ Margaret OMeara, Neil Duresky and 191 others

50 comments 17 shares



Gregory Hilbert Top contributor

There's lots to like about this old photo, but the feature I like the most is the BUBBLER!

23w · Like · Reply · Share

29 👍❤️

Steve Evets Top contributor

Gregory Hilbert "Bubbler". I wonder how many of us who were kids back then thought that "bubbler" was the name for drinking fountains?

23w Like Reply Share

2 👍❤️

Gregory Hilbert Top contributor

Steve Evets I've posted about La Crosse's bubblers many times, and based on members comments responding to those posts I can say unequivocally that they were known as bubblers to the overwhelming majority. And they still are, most fondly.

23w Like Reply Share

10 👍

Dan Saugstad Top contributor

The building on the left was Germania Hall I believe.

It may have later been the AFL-CIO hall before being torn down for the fire station.

23w Like Reply Share

14  

View 1 reply

Mary Burbach Top contributor

It was Germania Hall when I was a child. My Aunt had her wedding reception there. We used that bubbler weekly. It may be closed now, I don't remember.

23w Like Reply Share

4 

Terry Gibbons

OUTSTANDING WAY COOL NOTICE THE HISTORIC DRINKING FOUNTAIN

23w Like Reply Share

2 

View 1 reply

John Duresky Top contributor

That is actually one of the very early "trolley cars" using an electric pole on top of it to get electricity from an overhead wire. Around 1920 I think they were replaced by more generic street cars that just ran on tracks without the trolley pole on top. Like the dirt street, the two kids walking hand-in-hand, and wonder if that is a bike rack or horse hitching thing behind the bubbler? If those are elm trees on the right they are fairly young.

Roger Bjorge Top contributor

Gregory Hilbert yup. We always called them "bubblers."

23w Like Reply Share

3 

Gregory Hilbert Top contributor

Bob Knull Bubblers forever!!

23w Like Reply Share 2 

David Florian Heinz

Trudy Mara where did you find this old photo? i have never seen it before

23w Like Reply Share

Jim Hartman

bubblers run constantly -- drinking fountains have a open/closed valve... This look like a true bubbler.



Gregory Hilbert

4 days ago · 🌐

...

Pushbutton spigots were put on La Crosse's treasured cast iron Bubblers because some people mistakenly believed they wasted costly or scarce water by running continuously. As a result, the bubblers deliver tepid water. It turns out that La Crosse's aquifer holds abundant water. It was never being drawn down, still isn't, and wouldn't be impacted at all if the bubblers were again run continuously so the drinking water would be cold. The cost? Less than \$1,750 per year for the entire city. The city draws roughly 4 *Billion* gallons from the aquifer yearly, of which 0.1% (one tenth of 1%) would go to the bubblers if run continuously in the warm months, BUT NATURE IS CONTINUOUSLY REPLENISHING THOSE BILLIONS OF GALLONS!

Beautiful But Not For Drinking.
Preserve the Bubblers. Spend the \$1,750 It
Would Take to Deliver Cold Instead of Tepid Water



Marqaret OMeara, Jeannie Kendhammer and 162 others

57 comments 9 shares

Over 200 More Likes, Comments and Shares



Gregory Hilbert

Top contributor · Yesterday at 4:06 PM · 🌐

...

John Torrance came to La Crosse from Scotland as a skilled artisan, first living at the southwest corner of 8th and Cameron in 1873. In 1876 he established the La Crosse Foundry and Machine Works, later renamed Torrance & Sons Castings. It grew to be important in the industrial development of the city and produced ornate drinking fountains, including the ones that came to be known as bubblers. Built in 1885, the John Torrance House at 726 Cameron in the photo below is surrounded by a cast iron fence that was probably constructed at the Torrance Foundry. The foundation appears to be limestone from Grandad Bluff. *See my comment below for interior photos of a fireplace and mantle to die for, and handsome pocket doors and beautiful built-in cabinets.*

1885 John Torrance House, 726 Cameron Ave **Founder, Torrance Castings, Built Our Bubblers**



Leslie Viner, Margaret OMeara and 207 others

62 comments 17 shares

Another 300 likes, comments and shares, in just one day

Christine Torrance Beaudry

John Torrance is my great great grandfather. My brother, also John Torrance, now runs the state-of-the-art foundry with my dad Bill (William).

1d Like Reply Share

21

Greg Clark
Check out the fencing around the Historic Hixon House.

1d Like Reply Share

2

ter



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Greg Clark Here's the best photo I could find for showing the cast-iron fencing around the Hixon House. The cost of that much antique cast iron aka wrought iron today, if accompanied by analogous documented history, would buy a very nice home in a very nice neighborhood today!



air
ney!

4d Like Reply Share

7

Nancy Alens Top contributor

Absolutely bring the bubblers back 👍

4d Love Reply Share

6

Sarah D Hemker

Push button drinking fountains are definitely not the same as the old "bubblers".

4d Like Reply Share

5

Rick Hamilton Top contributor

There never coming back

4d Like Reply Share 3

View all 2 replies

David Haberman Top contributor

As far as public services, it would be a dirt cheap. If you divide it by the total number of residents and tourists who marvel at the ice cold crist sip if water they can take

Paula Rendler Bloom Top contributor

What an absolutely beautiful home. And I love knowing the history of who manufactured our bubblers. I just remember as a kid 4-5-6 years old, knowing that we would have ice cold water on like every other corner in town if I remember correctly in the 60s and into the early 70's. Our green cast iron bubblers! 🍷

1d Love Reply Share

2

Douglas Buehrle
Love our bubblers

Alex Metry

The old bubblers are an icon of La Crosse and should be preserved and restored throughout the city. They definitely are unique and set La Crosse apart from other cities. The new ones are fine, but they are ugly and plain compared to the old ornate ones.

I understand wanting to have fountains that are ADA accessible, but isn't there a way to make the old ones accessible, too? Or at the very least, leave the old one next to a new one, if a new one does need to be installed.

Nancy Alens Top contributor

Thanks **Gregory Hilbert** for sharing these amazing pictures with us. What beautiful history of LaCrosse!!

1d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

3 

Jacqueline Lee Love the fountains...I was born and raised in La Crosse..always enjoyed the fountains and drank from them every time I was downtown..

Jackie Smith Top contributor

Again Love the history of La Crosse that you are doing and keep it coming!!

1d [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Share](#)

3 

Angie Mikkelson Top contributor

My grandfather and my uncle both worked and retired from Torrance.

Historic Torrance Casting, Founded in 1876.

Torrance Cast Our Treasured Bubblers!



Cold-water Bubblers! Loved for Generations Since 1890.

Preserve & Restore Cold!

Christine Torrance Beaudry shared this 1882 photo of the family-owned and operated Torrance foundry when it was on Jay St between Front & Second. She also shared the photo at bottom right of her own daughter at a Torrance drinking fountain that was cast in 1898 and is now outside the Onalaska library. La Crosse's first drinking fountain was a gift of Dr Farnk White Beaver Powell in 1890. In a comment I'll share a screen-capture of Christine's memories of drinking cold water at La Crosse's iconic green bubblers, and her support of action to preserve them. Last, Christine shared old Torrance business cards showing it was first on Jay St, then at 328 South Front St before moving to its current location at 3131 Commerce St in the 1970's. Today Torrance Castings is a community-minded and state-of-the-art operation La Crosse is blessed to have. I'll share more about it in a comment.

Christine Torrance Beaudry

Gregory Hilbert I think it's wonderful you are trying to preserve the bubblers. Like so many, I have fond memories of cold sips of water taken from these iconic drinking fountains on La Crosse's sidewalks.

I love our unique bubblers, from their style and color to the word itself. "Bubbler" is such a fun regional term; it identifies others as true Wisconsinites even when we are far from home.

That area bubblers came from my family's foundry so many years ago makes them all the more special to me. I have lived in many places outside of my beautiful home state and never seen bubblers quite like those in La Crosse. I'm proud of them and I know many others love them too. I believe they are part of the area's heritage worth saving.

(I'm attaching a picture of my daughter, circa 2009, with a 1898 bubbler outside the Onalaska library.)



4h Love Reply Share Edited 



Gregory Hilbert Author Top contributor

Christine Torrance Beaudry Thank you Christine! Your wonderful, helpful remarks speak for many, and the darling photo adds a generational dimension to the bubbler legacy that is unique to Torrance Castings, Torrance employees past and present, and the Torrance family!

Tess Meader

When riding my bike around LaCrosse in the summer, there was nothing as sweet as the taste of the water from those bubblers- and you could just lean over to reach them- fabulous!!

3d Love Reply Share

4  

3d Love Reply Share 4

John Duresky Top contributor

Total number of annual tourists who visit La Crosse to see the new Court House and similar buildings: Zero. Total number of tourists who visit La Crosse to see the old bubblers and buildings: All the other visitors. Most effective way to reduce tourist traffic: Tear down old things and put up new things with no charm.

3d Like Reply Share

2

John Duresky Top contributor

Great post and with city and family connections!

3d Like Reply Share

2

Marion Downey Top contributor

What a great collection of history

1d Like Reply Share

Ne Ne Christal

My dad worked there for many many years

1d Like Reply Share

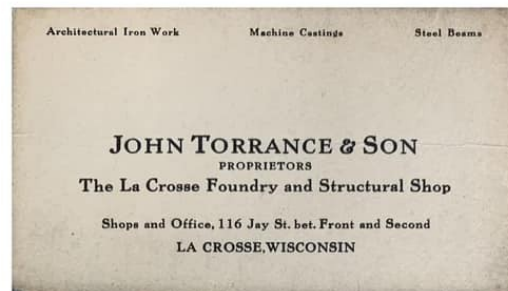
Betty Freybler

My dad worked there years ago

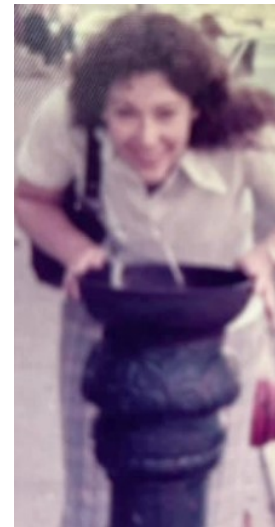
3d Like Reply Share

Torrance Biz Cards

116 Jay St between Front & Second
Later 328 South Front



La Crosse Without Its Ornate Bubblers Would Be Like La Crosse Without Grandad or Grandad Without the USA Flag on Top!



La Crosse's iconic cast iron green bubblers are slowly but steadily disappearing. Only about 31 remain, and they've been outfitted with push-button spigots causing them to deliver tepid water instead of the cold water that flowed continuously during the summer and quenched the thirst of tens of thousands in the past. That was done to save what some thought was a waste of water. It saves a total of only \$1,750 per year, and it turns out that the La Crosse aquifer never was being depleted at all and is more than adequate to meet La Crosse's needs even if the bubblers flowed all year. In some cases the bubblers are being replaced with wheelchair-accessible fountains, even though the old bubblers could be left in place and stand alongside them. I'm nearing the end of posting repeatedly about this and will soon submit an appeal to preserve the bubblers to the La Crosse Heritage Commission, in response to a commissioner's invitation. **The appeal will include 200 pages of screenshots representative of thousands of member comments responding to posts about bubblers. Almost everyone wants them preserved. There would be enough comments to fill 1,000 pages but that would crash my already stressed computer.**



Thank you for skimming a representative fraction of thousands of comments from people who want bubblers preserved and those who also want them to deliver always-cold water. Few don't.

Craig, Sondra

From: Gregory Hilbert <greghilbert@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 4, 2025 1:41 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: One Last Thought Before Tues Aug 5 Bubbler Meeting

Some people who received this message don't often get email from greghilbert@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

*** **CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear La Crosse City Council Members,

Regarding the Notion That the Only Solution to the ADA Non-Compliance Problem Is To Keep The Bubblers Turned Off Despite Public Opinion.

I find it hard to believe that there's a tall stack of cases where the federal ADA bureaucracy has successfully sued or fined a city or town that is installing compliant drinking fountains, for keeping century-old bubblers running when they have been designated for preservation on historical and heritage grounds, and when turning them off puts public health at risk.

If they threaten to sue or fine, or do, see them in court, and see them in the courts of public opinion reaching higher authority via national media.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH RISK: Ample hydration is often urged by physicians and other healthcare sources of every kind. In conditions of high heat, so are the warnings to avoid dehydration. Some consequences like muscle cramps are temporary, but heat stroke can be quickly fatal. Heat stroke occurs when heat — typically accompanied by dehydration — causes the body's temperature to rise rapidly, the sweating mechanism fails, and the body is unable to cool down. When heat stroke occurs, the body temperature can rise to 106°F or higher within 10 to 15 minutes. It can quickly damage the brain, heart, kidneys and muscles. The damage gets worse the longer treatment is delayed, which increases the risk of death. I'm talking about 60,000 Emergency Room cases, 7,800 hospitalizations, and 1,600 deaths per year nationally.

This is but one of many reasons to restore La Crosse's treasured bubblers to the continuous delivery of fresh, cold water that prevailed for 100 years. Nothing that all those city councils did for all those years pleased more citizens and visitors at a cost anywhere near as low as the pittance for bubblers.

Sincerely, Gregory Hilbert