

The Downtown DISH

Downtown Lakeland Partnership
Newsletter

Through October 2009



Downtown LAKELAND

A little mecca of cool!



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Catalyst for Downtown Lakeland's Vitality



Julie Townsend, DLP Executive Director

Let's play six degrees of Kevin Bacon -- Downtown Lakeland style.

Okay, so you have to change Kevin Bacon to Marcobay, but the concept is the same. Pick a property in downtown and within a few associations...you find a connection to Marcobay, one of Lakeland's flagship development firms.

It all started back in 1993 when Citrus & Chemical Bank contracted with Marcobay to redevelop the old Autotel building for the bank's downtown branch. Shortly thereafter Marcobay contracted with Watkins Motor Lines to renovate the old Mass Bros. location for its office space.

"That's when we became really interested in Downtown Lakeland. Kentucky Avenue was largely in disrepair, but with the 200 plus employees Watkins would bring, we saw downtown's potential," says Howard Bayless, President of Marcobay Construction, Inc.

"In 1993 we purchased the building where Molly McHugh's Irish Pub sits today. We originally planned for a coffee shop in the front and our offices in the back. Instead we partnered with Gerry McHugh to renovate the space for Molly's."

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