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MAGAZINE 2024



Get to Know the Communities of

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COLBY ♦ GRANTON ♦ GREENWOOD ♦
LOYAL ♦ MARSHFIELD ♦ NEILLSVILLE
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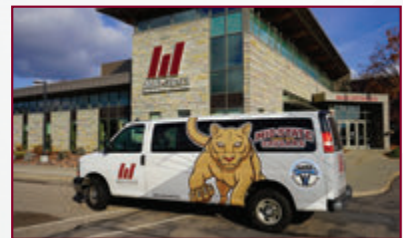
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Abbotsford...

A small community doing business in a big way

Abbotsford is known as Wisconsin's "first" city, and is home to over 160 businesses and industries which provide a wide variety of services and employment opportunities.

"We're growing," says Administrator Josh Soik. "We get a few new businesses each year."

The focus now, says Soik, is on housing.

"There's been a lot of apartments going up, mainly for one business in town. The owner of the business has been putting up large apartment complexes for his employees," said Soik. "But the city is looking at buying some land for more residential housing. Obviously there's a housing shortage nationwide, so we're trying to do our best to address that issue."

Leisure and recreational activities are a big part of what Abbotsford is about. The city has a library, softball and baseball diamonds, parks, many restaurants, a golf-driving range, and an indoor swimming pool. There are also numerous antique shops in the city and surrounding area.

Abbotsford's social calendar offers some of the best events around.

Held since 1971 on the first Saturday in December, the annual Abbotsford Christmas Parade has been a crowd pleaser for more than a half century, and keeps multiple generations of fans coming back each year. The 53rd annual parade is slated for Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. downtown. The parade features costumed characters and colorfully-lit floats and delights thousands of spectators who come from all over Wisconsin each year.

The Abby Festival, held the first weekend in June, offers something for everyone. Events include the annual Queen & Princess contests, a 5-on-5 basketball tournament at Red Arrow Park, family soccer in three age divisions at Schilling Soccer Field, the annual Craft Sale, the annual Abby Festival Parade and much more.



The Abbotsford FFA Alumni presents its annual on-the-farm dairy breakfast on the fourth Sunday in June.

This year, the 19th annual First City Days Aug. 9-11 features the Antique Tractor Pull on Friday night, along with music in the beer tent and more.

Saturday offers a full day of activities, featuring Breakfast in the Park, the Vintage Snowmobile Show & Snowmobile Swap Meet, a petting zoo, lawn tractor/ATV pulls, and a car cruise.

On Sunday, the Car, Truck, Motorcycle & Farm Tractor Show takes center stage. Highlights include Breakfast in the Park and Sunday Morning Church Service in the Park. Food and craft vendors are featured all weekend as well.

This community of over 2,500 in the heart of America's Dairyland is proud of its farm community heritage and its diverse population and culture.

Events Calendar

June 2: Abbotsford Dairy Breakfast

Aug. 9-11: First City Days, Red Arrow Park

Dec. 7: Christmas Parade, Downtown



Janalee Marten photo

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Auburndale...

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Auburndale is a small village in central Wisconsin, located within minutes of three larger towns, yet retains a very rural and friendly feel.

Auburndale serves mainly as a residential community with rural service and trade facilities available for residents of north central Wood County. A thriving school district and several annual events are the heartbeat of this community. And many times, they go hand-in-hand.

Hundreds watch each spring, as students and others drive tractors to school, in a celebratory parade marking the passage of another school year and the arrival of another planting season for area farmers. The Auburndale School Forest has become the center of several seasonal events. The annual Auburndale Ice Glow is used as a fundraiser for local charities, and features a wintry walk through groomed snow trails, with a display of more than 120 glowing ice



mounds. The Auburndale Pumpkin Glow in October and a field bursting with sunflowers in August serve as fundraising opportunities for an annual Toys For Tots campaign in northern Wood County.

For years, Auburndale Music Fest has been bringing thousands to Memorial Park during the last weekend in June. Now, the event will serve as the main fundraiser for a new project.

“I know the one thing that our park association is working on is they are redoing the playground at the park to make it handicap accessible,” Village President Tyson Weiler told us in January. “I know they’re finalizing plans right now. We have that big event every summer called Music Fest and that, with some local donors, I know, is what’s going to fund this playground.”



"As a village, I'm working on a village alert system right and just updating the website," Weiler added.

In December 2023 the Auburndale High School band represented Wisconsin well in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade, held each year in Hawaii on National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

"A lot of our students, that was their first opportunity flying, so it was neat just going to the airport with a group that size and then exchanging flights and then when we first landed in Hawaii they all got a lei and we had the opportunity to pick up some of the culture," said Principal Steve Van Wyhe, who also organized and chaperoned the trip. "We spent the day at the Polynesian Culture Center there and just learning about the culture of the Hawaiian Islands and the Polynesian people, which was an awesome learning experience. The day we spent touring Pearl Harbor was really neat to have that opportunity to go see where the USS Arizona was," Wyhe added. "Students had the opportunity to spend some time at the beach in Hawaii and then we had an opportunity to tour some of the different areas on the island, and it was really, I think, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the vast majority of us, so it was definitely a neat way to represent our area here in Auburn-dale, but also a neat opportunity just to get outside of this area and to see the world in a different way.



"We were actually asked to go," Wyhe continued. "They reach out to different schools each year and somebody must have nominated us. It was a lot of work to put it together, but in the end it was definitely all worth it. They (students) really enjoyed the opportunity. The parade itself was just a really neat experience for them to be a part of and I don't think there's a single one of them who wouldn't do it again if they had the opportunity."

Honoring and remembering veterans is nothing new for Auburndale. The students and staff at Auburndale High School do it perhaps better than anyone. The school's annual Veterans Day ceremony is followed by a meal for Veterans in the high school library, served by students.

"Mark Cournoyer and I got the idea one day during a fire drill," said organizer Joren Anderson.

After the first meal about six years ago, she said one event led to another.

"I would say our Veterans program was maybe 20 veterans," Anderson told us, during our 2023 Veterans Day visit. "Then we ended up just kind of making it bigger and better each year. So, it started out with one (Community Leadership) class. We had a Skype meeting with the Original Wisconsin Ducks (Wisconsin Dells), so then we ended up having our first Ducks trip (2018), and then everything kind of expanded," Anderson added. "So, one day we ended up going to the gas station for Community Coffee down there, and we said, 'Hey, we can do that.' So then January of the following year (2019) we started Community Coffee and then the following year we started Veterans Coffee, and then we also have Mail Call. Veterans receive mail from students K-thru-12 four times a year."

The school's Veterans Coffee Club is held the second Tuesday of each month from 8 to 9:15 a.m. in the Anderson Gym lobby. If Veterans or active service members want to be added to the mailing list, contact Joren Anderson at janderson@aubschools.com with a name and address.

"The Veterans Day program has continued to grow each year," says Anderson. "We work closely with the Stratford VFW and coordinate with the band and choir instructors, custodians, and principals of each building.

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Alice Franz Realtor

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>> AUBURNDALE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Everyone helps out to make the Veterans Day program a success. Students district-wide write letters, drawings, and cards to send, and the elementary students donate their Halloween candy to give to the Veterans at the Auburndale Veterans program.”

The school also gives candy bags to Pittsville, Rudolph, Neillsville, Loyal and Tri-County schools, along with the Highground and the American Heroes Café in Wisconsin Rapids, for their Veterans Day programs.

“It’s a group effort to continue to honor and respect our Veterans on Veterans Day and throughout the year,” Anderson added. “The veterans are very appreciative of the small acts we do, but it’s nothing compared to the sacrifices they have made for us. One of the best parts/results of all the activities we do is the relationships it has created between the Veterans and students.”

Auburndale’s student-athletes have also been a long-standing source of pride for the community. Auburndale High School’s football and boys’ basketball teams have won numerous conference championships, while its cross country and track and field participants routinely capture individual state titles as well.



Mike Warren photo

Events Calendar

April 12: Drive Your Tractor to School Day

June 21-23: Auburndale Music Fest, Memorial Park

June 30: Auburndale FFA Alumni Dairy Breakfast

Oct. 12: Pumpkin Glow, Auburndale School Forest

Dec. 14: Santa in the Park, Memorial Park



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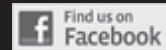
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Chili...

More than meets the eye



This small hamlet just west-southwest of Marshfield may not have some of the business and industry it once did, but a dedicated group of residents keep Chili active and forward-thinking.

The Chili Fremont Fire & Rescue Department is behind much of the activity, and a project over a decade in the making will change the town's landscape, and provide some much-needed relief for the department.

In July 2023, the town was awarded a \$1 million Community Development Block Grant to help pay for the construction of a new Fire Hall and Community Center.

"It's about ten years ago now we applied for a grant through the Department of Administration," said Erin Martin, a lieutenant with the fire department. "We hired West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning [Commission] to write that grant for us, and we didn't get it. But then the next cycle we were still eligible, so we re-wrote it and we got the grant," Martin recalled. "At that time the project cost was significantly less and the township decided to turn the grant down at that time. So, now here we are ten years later and we found out that we were still eligible for the grant, so I approached the town board and gave them some different options for grant writers and they said I could write the grant for them and we were awarded the grant."

Martin adds that some of the funds are coming from community members. She tells us an anonymous donor has given \$100,000 toward the project, while the family of Arlene Stichert – for whom the community center will be named – has contributed \$50,000.

"As the needs of fire and EMS services have increased, our need for more space has also increased," Martin added. "And the deteriorating conditions have continued to deteriorate."

Martin also said space is tight at both the fire hall and town garage, so the new facility will go a long way in alleviating those issues. The current Chili-Fremont Fire Department has two bays and measures 38 by 48 feet, or 1,824 square feet, which houses an engine, tender, two EMS rescue vehicles, a tanker filling truck, and a UTV. For these specific vehicles, Martin says the bay area should be a minimum of 3,800 square feet. The proposed new fire hall would be 72 by 82 feet, or



» CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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Courtesy of Stichert's Sleigh Rides

» CHILI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

5,904 square feet, with four bays – two of them drive-thru – and room for future growth. Martin said the total cost of the project is just over \$1.5 million, and will be built on property the town has purchased just south of Panther Creek road on Highway Y, along the east side of the road.

“The fire department will be housed there. We’ll have training space, an office and storage space,” Martin told *We Are*. “The Community Center also will be open to anybody for whatever they want to do there, like trainings or seminars. We’re going to have the technology there to make it possible to do those things. And there’s going to be a kitchenette, so if somebody has a birthday party, all the food can be kept warm and served,” Martin added.

She also said the town garage will utilize the current fire department space once those operations move to the new facility.

“In five years, the town hall will move to the new building. According to the guidelines for the grant, it cannot be a municipal building for five years,” Martin said. “They can use it, but it can’t be the town hall for five years.”

With an early summer 2024 groundbreaking, Martin says the new facility should be ready by the end of 2025, both of which are stipulations of the grant.

The department’s annual Chili Street Dance, held the first Saturday in August, is still a long-standing tradition in the community.

“Every year we try to do something different,” said Martin. “We always have a good crowd. We recently moved it down to the current fire hall, and it’ll continue to be there even after we get the new hall.”

The event features bounce houses, a kiddie tractor pull, coin scramble, Loyal Mini Rodders, live music and a beer tent, so there is something for everyone at this family-friendly community event, which serves as a fundraiser for the firefighters and EMTs of the department.

The department also hosts a chili cookoff each year, along with a Trunk or Treat Halloween event, Santa at the fire department the second Saturday in December and an annual Easter egg hunt.

Chili is also home to several long-standing family-owned businesses. Selk Electronics is on its second generation. Chili Implement has been serving the area’s agricultural community for three generations and counting. And area residents still come from miles around for the food and fun offered by Chili Corners Bar & Grill, at Highways 10-and-Y. Stichert Roofing & Lumber has been serving its area customers since 1952, and the family has added winter-time sleigh rides. The area’s Amish community and businesses are quite robust as well.

“Chili’s a good, little town,” says Martin, a resident of more than thirty years. “There’s a group of people that are really trying to bring things back and do good things for the community again.”

Events Calendar

Aug. 3: Chili-Fremont Fireman’s Street Dance, downtown

Oct. 27: Best Chili in Chili Packer Tailgate Party, Chili-Fremont Fire Department

Oct. 31: Chili-wide Trunk or Treat, Chili-Fremont Fire Department

Dec. 8: Pictures with Santa, Chili-Fremont Fire Department

Colby...

A growing community proud of its heritage

It's been said that if you're not moving forward, you are going backward. The city of Colby is most definitely moving forward.

"We have a lot of little things going on," City Clerk/Treasurer Connie Gurtner told We Are.

"We built a community drive in order to make a safer route to avoid Highway 13 from Kwik Trip to Adams Street, in order to create a safer way for people to get from Kwik Trip back to Colby.

"And in that area, we do have a large apartment complex being constructed, 72 units, right south of Kwik Trip. So, we're hoping then to bring other types of commercial buildings in that area because we have land there available for sale," Gurtner added. "We are working with a couple right now, but nothing concrete.

"Another thing we're talking about is defining our downtown by creating zoning so that we keep businesses in our downtown and it doesn't change to residential areas," she said. "We want our downtown buildings to continue to have commercial or business in the first level of their structure and so we're working on creating some zones and some specific commercial zoning districts to kind of define that, along the Highway 13 corridor and our downtown. We really just are trying to find ways to grow our commercial areas in order to support our residential areas.

"We do have a new business coming into our industrial park, which kind of fills that area up, so we're thinking of the future," Gurtner continued. "Where can we continue to develop for industrial use? We've talked about that recently."

The "new" business is Derrico Trucking, which is developing six lots as part of a relocation.

Gurtner says the city is also working with several other potential new businesses which want to build a new structure along Highway 13.

"Nothing is signed and nothing is public yet," she said. "We're just kind of working on putting in a through street and a frontage road out by the Medford Vet Clinic in order to develop and divide the lot to make it most effective so more than one business can get Highway 13 access. If you look at Highway 13 out there in front of the Medford Vet Clinic, there's this median, so if you try and have more than one business in that lot that we own, you can only turn in and out from one direction. There's no opening in the median, so it's really hard to promote those lots when you can't get access, so we're talking about building a frontage road in there in order to create more accessible lots for development."

Colby also knows how to celebrate. In 2023, the community added a new event to its roster of time-honored traditions which have existed for decades.



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>> COLBY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

“We did just start Music in the Park this last summer and we’re planning to continue our Monday night Music in the Park,” Gurtner told us. “Just Another Music Monday’ we call it. Kevin Hanson from Maurina-Schilling Funeral Home has spearheaded that and has found donors to pay for the cost. That kind of goes along with trying to get our downtown to be our downtown. Have more shopping, retail, more professional business.”

The city is also in the process of developing a 35-acre area north of Nicolet Bank and south of Forward Bank.

“Some of it’s on one side of Community Drive and some is right on Highway 13, so we’re really focusing on our growth and development in that area right now,” said Gurtner.

Colby is a city, located partially in both Clark and Marathon counties, near the junction of Highways 13 and 29.

Like most area communities, Colby celebrates June Dairy Month with an on-farm dairy breakfast the fourth Sunday in June each year, hosted by the Colby Chamber of Commerce and the Colby Future Farmers of America Alumni.

The city’s signature event is Colby Cheese Days, held annually in July. Colby Cheese



Courtesy of Colby Booster Club

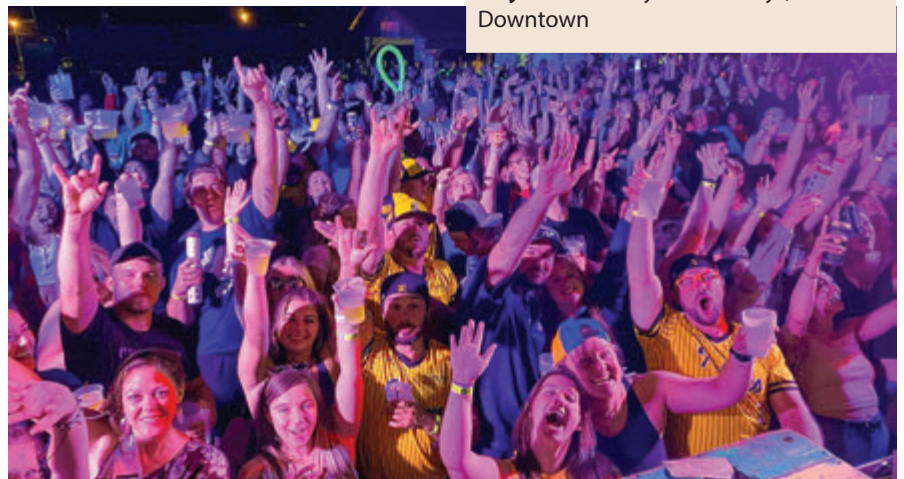
Days includes an ATV pull, Main Street Parade, street dances, tractor pull, amusement midway and plenty of free Colby cheese, along with down-home cooking and refreshments. It’s a weekend of entertainment and fun for the whole family.

The Colby School district is also a source of great pride for the community, and its students and student-athletes are often celebrating accomplishments outside the classroom, with many regional, sectional and state championship trophies.

Events Calendar

June 30: June Dairy Breakfast

July 12-14: Colby Cheese Days, Downtown



Courtesy of Colby Cheese Days

Granton...

A little town doing big things

The Village of Granton rests among long stretches of rich farmland and is nestled along the banks of O'Neill Creek. This buzzing little Clark County community sits between Neillsville and Marshfield.

For a small town, Granton is one big place. It may be small in size and population, but it lacks little. Within the Village limits is a bank, a grocery store, a hardware store, a Methodist Church and a Lutheran Church, a restaurant, a bar, a post office, a barber shop, a metal crafter, a community center, a vet clinic, a K-12 school, a ball park, a campground, a trout pond, a library and a daycare center. Just outside the Village limits are three supper clubs, a gas station, several tractor and farm supply companies, cheese makers, and a large Amish community running many greenhouses.

The pride and joy of Granton is arguably its school system. Constantly under threat of closing or consolidating with a neighboring district, Granton residents have time and time again stepped up, and have found ways to keep the K-12 district, not just going, but thriving. Its FFA chapter is always among the top chapters in the state, and is often times sending students on to national competition. The district also has a great track record of placing teachers amongst the finalists of the annual Crystal Apple Awards programs sponsored by the Marshfield Chamber Education Foundation, and in recent years, winning the award.



Courtesy of Granton Area Schools

The community is widely known for the annual Granton Fall Fest, held annually the weekend following Labor Day. The weekend's festivities include a Friday night tractor pull and queen coronation, a Saturday evening car cruise, and a Sunday chicken dinner, parade and truck pull. The parade is also used to honor Granton's Citizens



Courtesy of Granton Community Library

of the Year, making the village one of the few still bestowing such an honor.

In 2024, the Village of Granton will be reconstructing Main Street (County Road K). The activities include replacement of water mains, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, street pavement, curb and gutter, sidewalks and fire hydrants. The reconstruction will occur between Fifth and Railroad streets. The Village will fund the project with a Community Development Block Grant, monies from the Wisconsin Clean Water Fund Program, and other loans.

Events Calendar

June 2: Granton Dairy Breakfast

June 22: Granton Park Picnic

Sept. 6-8: Granton Fall Festival



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Greenwood...

City with a Heart



What's old is new again. That could be the theme for the city of Greenwood, as two of its main attractions get new leases on life, and with different looks.

For starters, the Branstiter Museum is quite literally bigger and better since getting a recent face lift.

"You get inside and you can't believe how big it is," said Chairperson Pat Lindner. "It's really neat and it's full of a lot of antique paraphernalia, from a little schoolhouse to an old-fashioned kitchen to a lot of farm things and an old-time dress shop that is similar to one in Greenwood years ago."

Don Branstiter built the museum in 1980 and it opened to the public in 1995, following Don's unexpected death in 1993.

"The family donated it to the city and then the city formed a committee to more or less take care of it and be in charge of tours. I think I'm the third committee chairman," said Lindner. "I enjoy it. Don was a real good friend of my husband's and I, so we knew him real well. He worked on this forever and didn't really [get to] enjoy it as long as he should've."

Take a trip down memory lane as you stroll past 38 miniature antique cars, coins dating back to 1934, 238 toy tractors, old tools used in the early dairying and lumbering days, stamps, and over 170 photographs of early Greenwood. Another one of its beautiful features are 17 store fronts from the early 1900s.

"It's pretty neat," Lindner added. "It's a real nice setting. About three years ago we had the outside kind of remodeled and



refurbished. It's worthwhile coming in to visit. We get a number of people from out of town, especially throughout the summer. During the summer we have regular hours or always by appointment. It's a big museum and when people get into it, they don't think it's that big," Lindner told us. The museum is located at 600 S. Main Street.

Lindner, also the Greenwood chamber president, said the city now boasts a new winery on Main Street.

"Centuries Gift Shop used to have that building," Lindner told us. "Dan Wolf, who owns the winery, he bought the building for that reason."

1891 Winery opened last summer and celebrated its grand opening in October 2023.

Across the street, the City of Greenwood has its own public library, located in the center of the city adjacent to a city park. The library offers state-of-the-art technology, as well as a book share program with other central Wisconsin public libraries.

Meanwhile, a somewhat iconic landmark is scheduled to disappear from the Greenwood landscape in the coming years, in its current location anyway.

The 80-year-old, powder blue Clark County bridge spanning the Black River along Hwy. G on Greenwood's west side is scheduled for replacement between Dec. 2024 and Nov. 2025.

"Our city, fire protection/EMS, school bus routes and citizens will have to be inconvenienced for that time period," Greenwood Mayor Dave Hansen told us via email. "It will add 22 miles to anyone that lives west of the Black River to come to town. As the year progresses,

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we will be making plans to keep materials in the city to handle summer projects that arise.”

Originally planned for 2023, the county project was delayed after questions arose regarding the historic value of the structure, the last suspension bridge left in Clark County. The Wisconsin Historic Preservation Office says there is historic value in the bridge, while other state and federal agencies contend there is no such value.

Historic designation could mean a group or individual could take ownership of the bridge, but moving expenses would be theirs.

“When completed, it will be wider and contain an ATV/UTV lane for a higher level of safety,” Hansen added.

Like many small communities, Greenwood has its own combination summer street dance, car show and carnival, which also features a parade.

Greenwood also hosts Abate of Wisconsin-Summer Hummer at Abate Acres, W8742 Capital Road.

Also featured in June is an on-farm dairy breakfast the last Sunday of the month. The following weekend features a softball tournament Fourth of July weekend. And don't forget “End of Summerfest” the second weekend in September.

Events Calendar

June 13-16: Abate of Wisconsin-Summer Hummer, Acres, W8742 Capital Road

June 30: June Dairy Breakfast

Sept. 13-15: End of Summerfest & Car Show, Downtown

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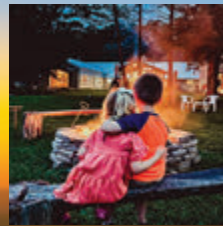
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Loyal...

A city with room to grow

With a number of projects in the works, Loyal is living up to the slogan on the city's "Welcome" sign.

"The city just purchased 58 acres of industrial land, so we're opening up a new industrial park," Mayor Carmen Englebretson told us. "It's going to be behind the county garage right off of [Hwy.] 98. We're just starting the development of it now," she said. "We hope to have those [lots] up for sale and get new business in soon. We actually bought it this past summer and we've been going through getting it rezoned. Now we're meeting with engineers to plan it out."

Mayor Englebretson said a new splash pad at West Side Community Park is also in the works.

"We had a resident that was interested in building a splash pad and she formed a committee, went out, all funds were donated. We got a big matching fund from a resident [who] grew up in Loyal [and] moved away, matched, I believe, a hundred fifty thousand dollars and the money was raised and we finally got the



go-ahead," the mayor said. "They started this in January [2020] right before COVID started. It was a tough couple years raising money, but they kept going and they have all the money raised now and we have the equipment ordered. It's in our storage facility and we will be breaking ground this summer.

"We're going to expand our walking trail," Englebretson continued. "We have phase one complete. We're going to go into phase two. That's another completely-donated...all funds raised from donations. We're hoping to get phase two going this spring before planting crops."

Agriculture is always on the minds of Loyal residents. Known for its "productive land use" and dairy heritage, Loyal serves as an agricultural

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



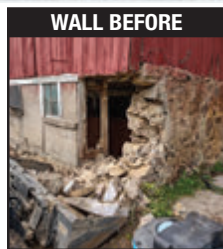


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>> LOYAL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

hub, with growing anchor businesses, such as Vita Plus and Northside Elevator, just to name a few. Area farms have also attracted the state's annual Farm Technology Days several times, including the 2022 show – one of the most successful in recent memory.

Loyal has three city parks. The largest, West Side Community Park, has two ball fields, a small golf course, volleyball court and a sheltered pavilion for family outings. The park is also home to a Veterans Memorial honoring its war veterans.

The city is perhaps best known for its annual Corn Festival each August. Get all the sweet corn you can eat when you purchase a Corn Fest button. The Corn Festival royalty is crowned, and there are also city-wide garage sales, a carnival, food for purchase and games through the weekend. Truck and tractor pulls, live music, a

bean-bag tournament and breakfast at the park are also on the schedule. Spanky's run/walk and the Jylli-bean Run take place Saturday morning. A full schedule of events is at loyalcornfest.com.



Events Calendar

April 26-28: Clark County "Spring Into the Arts" Studio Tour

June 16: Loyal Dairy Breakfast

Aug. 22-25: Loyal Corn Festival

Sept. 8: Car & Motorcycle Show, American Legion Parking Lot, 302 S. Union St.

Dec. 7: Candy, Cookie, Craft & Vendor Sale & Children's Christmas Shop, Loyal American Legion Post 175, 302 S. Union St.

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Marshfield is also home to many vibrant, cutting-edge business and industry interests, like Hastreiter Industries, Weinbrenner Shoe Company, H&S Manufacturing, Nelson-Jameson, Wenzel's Farm and so many more.

The city's retail and service outlet inventory is also expanding, with recent additions to a reimagined Northway Mall complex and North Central Ave. corridor.

"We're about to embark on a pretty big thing with this West Second Street Redevelopment Plan, trying to take the Second Street Corridor and move it to the next phase, going from Chestnut to the west over toward the ball fields," said City Administrator Steve Barg. "It's potentially the next big thing if it gets legs, in terms of opportunities to redevelopment some of those parcels on the northwest side of our downtown. The big pieces are still Weinbrenner, who we're working feverishly to relocate to our business park, and we're having really good discussions. I'm hopeful that we're going to be able to make progress here in the next few months toward that end," Barg told us in January 2024. "And then the other is would we ever

be able to relocate the (city's) public-works garage, which is a much-dicier campaign, given the price tag on that."

Barg said the city has also put an emphasis on creating new housing opportunities.

"We've got two new TIF (tax-increment financing) districts we just created to add housing," Barg said. "One a smaller project of duplexes and triplexes between Marawood (Construction) and Fleet Farm along Veterans Parkway and then the one we're high on at 21st and Washington. That one's with a group called Denyon Homes, who's done some really good work and projects in Weston and Plover and elsewhere."

Barg said the city is also still trying to fill its own Daniel's Addition, a horseshoe-shaped subdivision located on the west side of Marshfield, consisting of 23 lots.



Elizabeth Nowak photo

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“We’ve got a handful of homes built, we’ve got a number more sold,” said Barg. “I think we’ve actually sold fourteen of the twenty-three, but working with some of those buyers to get construction going. Still have nine lots left,” he added. “So, you put Daniels together with Denyon Homes and Jeff Hill – he’s the one building in the Marawood/Fleet Farm area – it could be a good year for new home development.”

Marshfield is home to 17 city parks and recreation areas which include disc golf courses, a skate park, nature trails, and many playgrounds and picnic areas.

Wenzel Family Plaza downtown will have you coming back again and again, as it plays host to numerous events throughout the entire year. In the winter there is an outdoor ice skating rink, and in the summer a splash pad, weekly summer concerts, food trucks and more.

Art lovers find themselves drawn to the Chestnut Center for the Arts, located across from Wenzel Family Plaza, and Jurustic Park on the

outskirts of the city’s north side, featuring outdoor sculptures and homemade jewelry, hand-blown glass beads, flowers and more.

Marshfield’s fair-and-festival season is second to none, too.

The city’s signature event is Dairyfest, held annually the weekend after Memorial Day. Dairyfest is a fun community celebration that honors the agriculture industry and local dairy farmers. Events include a Friday morning Dairyfest Breakfast at the fairgrounds, Picnic in the Park Friday evening at Columbia Park, a Saturday parade, kids’ activities, and more.

Hub City Days, the community’s mid-summer celebration, attracts thousands to the downtown during the final weekend in July, with a huge car show and much more.

The community’s end-of-summer bash is the Central Wisconsin State Fair, at the Central Wisconsin State Fairgrounds on the city’s south side.

The changing of seasons is marked by



Nicole Hoff photo

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



Mary Wilson photo

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Mary Wilson photo

» MARSHFIELD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

Maple Fall Fest, held mid-September at Wildwood Park and Zoo, 1800 S. Roddis Avenue. The event features over 150 arts & crafts vendors, potato pancake breakfast both Saturday and Sunday, a children's area, Amish specialties, and beverages and food for purchase. Come back to the park during the holidays, when the Rotary Winter Wonderland lights up the neighborhood with more than a million lights between Black Friday and New Year's Eve.

Events Calendar

- March 9:** Marshfield Area Empty Bowls, Hotel Marshfield, 2700 S. Central Ave.
- May 31:** Dairyfest Breakfast, 5:30 a.m., Marshfield Fairgrounds Park
- May 31:** Picnic in the Park, 5:30 p.m., Columbia Park
- June 1:** Dairyfest Parade, 11 a.m., Downtown
- June 1:** Center City Fun Day, Downtown
- June 16:** Marshfield FFA Alumni Dairy Breakfast
- July 4:** Fourth of July Fireworks Show, Dusk, Central Wisconsin State Fairgrounds
- July 25-27:** Hub City Days, Main Street Marshfield
- Aug. 17:** Udder Mudd'r Mud Obstacle Course Fun Run (3K) and Lil' Piggy Plunge, Memory Lane Farm
- Aug. 20-25:** Central Wisconsin State Fair, Central Wisconsin State Fairgrounds, 513 E. 17th St.
- Sept. 14-15:** Maple Fall Fest, Wildwood Park, 1800 S. Roddis Ave.
- Nov. 8-9:** Alpine Holiday, Columbus Catholic Schools, 710 S. Columbus Ave.
- Nov. 28:** Turkey Trot, Marshfield High School
- Nov. 29-Dec. 31:** Rotary Winter Wonderland, Wildwood Park & Zoo, 1800 S. Roddis Ave.
- Dec. 5:** Main Street Marshfield Holiday Parade, 6:30 p.m., South Central Ave.
- Dec. 6-7:** Christmas in the Barn - Live Nativity and Bethlehem experience, Memory Lane Farm



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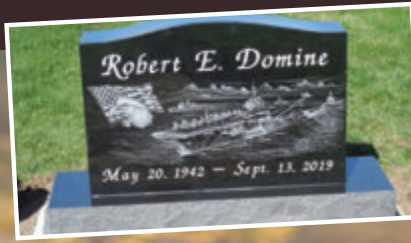
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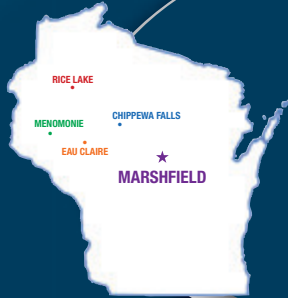
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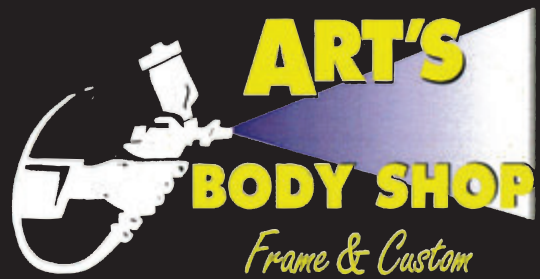
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Even though it's almost 180 years old, the city of Neillsville is going through a bit of a growth spurt right now. From new recreational opportunities to housing projects and more, Neillsville has a lot happening for it.

"Right now, we've got a group that's working on expanding a ball field over at Listeman Park. They're getting out and raising the funds and things like that," Mayor Dewey Poeschel told us. "We've got a movement, if you will, that has tried to get more youth involved in things. We got a new Parks & Recreation director (Jessica Brown). She's coming up with some different things for kids to do."

Poeschel also said housing has become a priority in Neillsville as well. "We've got S.C. Swiderski...they're going to put in some new housing units. It's a housing sub-division," Poeschel said. "We're trying to get some more housing. Hopefully, if we get some housing the way

we need it set up, we can get some more employees closer to the work. Everybody's always looking for employees right now and I'm hoping that if we get the housing, we get the employees, the economy gets going the right way, perhaps there can be some growth. We just need some growth to get our financial house in order."

Poeschel also said Lutheran Social Services is now offering "a place where guys that have been incarcerated want to get their life changed around. They just wanna become better guys," he said.

Poeschel said the city's business community is also thriving. Gross Motors is expanding with a new building and a new dealership, and they're renovating and retrofitting the former Gordy's Supermarket building into a new body shop and paint booth.

There have also been recent branch expansions by Simplicity CU, Marshfield Insurance and Century 21 Realty.

Along with some of the most scenic nine holes of golf you'll find anywhere, the Neillsville Country Club – after suffering some water damage last fall – is unveiling a freshly-renovated clubhouse, pro shop, kitchen, office and more.

A successful Neillsville School District referendum will bring some much-needed updates to the middle and high schools over the next several years.

The Neillsville Improvement Corporation has been working on a new bike trail and unveiled a new park at the trailhead last fall.

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The city is perhaps best known as the home of the Highground Veterans Memorial Park. It began as the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial project in 1984 and has grown to 155 acres with a mission to honor, educate and heal veterans, their families and all who visit. The park includes more than 15 tributes, a museum, gift shop and hiking trails.

Neillsville is not without its annual community events.

For those with Cabin Fever, Winter Carnival is Feb. 23-25 and the Sweaty Yeti Winter Festival runs March 2 at Levis-Trow Mounds Recreational Area, N1589 Fisher Ave. Experience winter camping and fat tire biking, food, drink, bonfires and hanging out among friends.

The Midwest Rockbouncer Shootout is coming to the Clark County Fairgrounds May 11. The Make-A-Wish Truck Convoy rolls into the fairgrounds June 8.

Celebrate June Dairy Month on June 9, at the Neillsville Area Chamber of Commerce Dairy Breakfast.

Neillsville Heritage Days is held the second weekend in July (11-14) at Schuster Park.

The Clark County Fair returns Aug. 7-11, followed by Autumn Harvest Fest in early October in the Sniteman Town Square along Hewett Street. There will be crafters and vendors, games, inflatables, food and beverages throughout the day.

Once the holidays roll around, check off the loved ones on your list during Neillsville Shop Small Business Saturday, Nov. 28-Dec. 1 and take in Neillsville Hometown Holiday Magic Dec. 6-8.

Whether it's enjoying the community events, the city's historic features, its many recreational opportunities or one of nearly a dozen city parks, Neillsville offers the amenities of a larger community with the appeal of a rural lifestyle.

Events Calendar

Feb. 23-25: Winter Carnival

March 2: Sweaty Yeti Winter Festival, Levis-Trow Mounds Recreational Area, N1589 Fisher Ave.

May 11: Midwest Rockbouncer Shootout, Clark County Fairgrounds

June 8: Make-A-Wish Truck Convoy, Clark County Fairgrounds

June 9: Neillsville Area Chamber of Commerce Dairy Breakfast

July 11-14: Neillsville Heritage Days, Schuster Park

Aug. 7-11: Clark County Fair

Oct. 5-6: Autumn Harvest Fest, Sniteman Town Square, Hewett Street

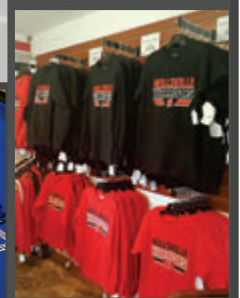
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The Highground Heroes Ride Bike Tour Reaches Milestone “40” in 2024

On Friday, August 2, The Heroes Ride Bike Tour will ride for its 40th year with rides starting in Hayward, Cottage Grove, Fond du Lac, New Richmond and La Crosse and along scenic routes in support of and toward The Highground in Neillsville, WI.

Everyone rides for different reasons and riding has changed many lives. As the dedicated bicyclists physically prepare for their three-day tour months in advance, they also pursue route sponsors and raise funds to support The Highground’s mission.

Not unlike other events organized by The Highground, the Heroes Ride is a tribute to Veterans we have lost and to honor and support those who are still with us. As Veterans experience difficulties with their transition from active duty or with challenges due to post-traumatic stress, The Highground rallies around them and offers resources for their growth beyond their service. The Highground would not be able to embrace these challenges without the unwavering support of all the Heroes Ride participants.

This ride is the organization’s largest and longest running fundraiser. It began in 1985 with Tom Miller riding 1,244 miles around Wisconsin to bring recognition to Vietnam Veterans and The Highground - at the time known as the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project. 1,244 represents the number of servicemen and women who were killed in action during the Vietnam War. The Highground has since grown to include many more Veteran resources. It offers social programs and restorative retreats that help Veterans and their families overcome the challenging emotions associated with military service.

For information and registration options for the 40th Annual Heroes Ride Bike Tour, visit the Heroes Ride website at thehighgroundheroesride.com. Information about The Highground, event updates and more are available on The Highground’s website at thehighground.us and Facebook at [Facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial](https://www.facebook.com/TheHighgroundVeteransMemorial).



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Pittsville...

A friendly, welcoming community



From a road resurfacing project through the city to park and recreation improvements, a new university-level charter school program, residential building incentives and more, the future of Pittsville looks very bright.

“Park improvements is kind of the theme of the biggest thing that the city’s doing right now,” said Alderman Mike Hobbs.

Those improvements, he says, start with Light Up the Pit, a private group that’s raised funds which are making some much-needed improvements and enhancements to Pittsville’s baseball facility at Riverside Park.

“They’ve got overhead lights, they’re building a new concession stand, they’re finally getting flush toilets in the park, they made this really nice concrete bleacher so the pit where the baseball field is – it’s Jankowski Field now – it’s a natural amphitheater, so they made this really nice concrete bleacher. It’s gorgeous,” Hobbs told We Are in early February.

Jankowski Field hosts the Pittsville High School baseball team in the spring and the Pittsville River Bandits during the summer months.

He also said the city is hoping to soon add a bandstand structure in the park.

“We’ve allocated a significant amount of money for park improvements in general, so playground equipment, hopefully a water feature will be coming in the near future, so that’s one big thing that’s going on,” Hobbs said. “We’re also working with a group that wants to start a non-profit to do some economic development. They’re hoping to actually construct a new downtown building in about two years’ time.”

Hobbs said the city is also offering residential building incentives to meet growing housing demands.

“We got a grant from WEDC (Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation) two years ago to work on a strategic economic development plan, and I just got notified that we were awarded the Thrive Rural Wisconsin grant for some of the implementation strategies of those things,” said Hobbs. “So, we’ll be working with the State Office of Rural Prosperity and some of their rural development specialists over the next two years.”

Hobbs said Pittsville is also working with the county to try to improve connectivity to city and county parks and bike and UTV trails.

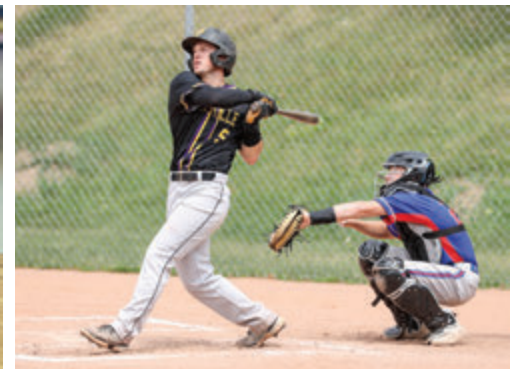
“We just joined the Connect Communities program, which is part of the State of Wisconsin Main Street program, so we’re looking forward to implementing some of those tools and revitalizing our downtown,” Hobbs added.

He also said Pittsville is not immune to the housing crunch facing many communities.

“There’s not a lot of houses that come up for sale on the market in Pittsville,” Hobbs told us. “We worked out a deal with Ruesch over by Wisconsin Rapids to build a couple duplexes.”

He said it’s worked well because it allows families to stay in the market and rent until an affordable house becomes available.

“Some of those things that we’ve worked on have helped get people aware of Pittsville, be able to live in a community a little bit to give them that confidence of buying a house,” said Hobbs, who is originally from Oshkosh. “It can be a little intimidating to buy a house in a really small community because you can’t really be sure of what you’re going to get. You hear horror stories of the ‘you ain’t from around here’ kind of attitude, but Pittsville’s very welcoming. That’s one of the messages we really want to get out there. It really is a friendly, welcoming community.”





Pittsville is the “Geographical Center of Wisconsin,” and was declared as such by Gov. Walter J. Kohler Jr. in 1952.

Aside from being the exact center of the Badger State, Pittsville is also famous for hosting the area’s only Fourth of July parade. People come from miles around to enjoy this annual event, and hundreds also participate in the Heart and Soul 2- and 5-mile race, a staple for fundraising for the Pittsville Fire Company for nearly forty years.

Outdoor recreation abounds in the Pittsville area. Riverside Park boasts disc golf, a kayak launch, a playground, tennis and basketball courts and baseball fields, all located at the edge of the Wood County ATV Trail.

“The top item on our Outdoor Recreation Plan survey was people want more events, festivals, that kind of stuff,” Hobbs disclosed. He said they hope to add a low-cost, family-friendly event in the fall.

Events Calendar

June 8: Pittsville FFA and FFA Alumni Dairy Breakfast

July 3: The Heart and Sole 2- and 5-mile race/walk

July 4: Fourth of July Parade, downtown



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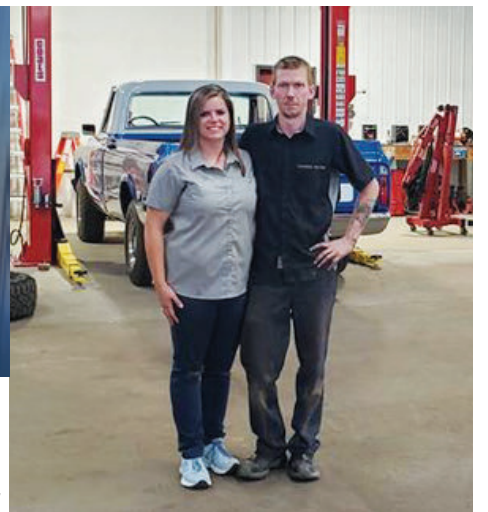
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Milladore...

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The village of Milladore, in Wood and Portage counties, is home to one of the largest wildlife areas in Wisconsin. The George W. Mead Wildlife Area is nestled in the valley of the Little Eau Pleine River and covers more than 33,000 acres of marshes, forests and grasslands. The Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center is open daily and hosts a variety of education opportunities, year-round hikes, presentations, a book club and much more. Visit meadwildlife.org for more information.

The town has excellent school districts nearby, very active 4-H chapters in the vicinity, the Sherry Volunteer Fire Department, friendly neighbors and open spaces with quiet living and plenty of wildlife to observe. Its location is adjacent to a four-lane expressway, only a few hours from many cultural centers, sports stadiums and more, and just a short drive

from retail outlets and dining in Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point.



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Sherry...

On solid ground,
then and now

The Town of Sherry is located west-southwest of Milladore in Wood County.

A post office was established in 1884, and remained in operation until 1968. The town of Sherry was established in 1885.

In 1880 Briggs & Sherry erected a sawmill in Sherry, along with a store. Briggs soon left the partnership and Henry Sherry went into business with Norman and Charles Willard who already had a sawmill running in Sherry. Their business was called Sherry, Willard & Co. and operated mills at Sherry and Hewitt. In November 1886 the Willards sold their share of the mill in Hewitt. Henry Sherry later bought out the Willard brothers' interest in the Sherry mills.

The Town of Sherry was organized on November 10, 1885, with the first town meeting held on the first Tuesday in April 1886.

During the depression of 1897, Henry Sherry and the Sherry Lumber Company found themselves in dire straits. Many of his business interests were sold to pay off his debts.

In February 1897 Benson & Anderton purchased 9,000 acres of land in Vesper from J. W. Cameron. By January 1898, most of this land was sold. In May of 1898 all of the Henry Sherry lands in Sherry and Milladore, consisting of 11,000 acres in Wood and Portage



counties, were sold to Benson & Anderton at an average price of \$4 per acre. They divided these 20,000 acres into 40- and 80-acre pieces and sold them off to settlers.

Anderton said they were careful in the class of settlers to which they sold the land. He went on to say that “none but experienced, thrifty, and energetic people have been offered any of the lands. The sales were mostly made to Hollanders and Germans, all of whom have had previous experience in farming.”

In 1906, the Presbyterian minister, Rev. Agnew, was instrumental in getting a college, the Northwestern Collegiate Institute, located in Sherry. Marshfield was a contender for this college, but Sherry won it. According to a newspaper from that time, one deciding factor was that “morally, the town was above the average.” The school was located on the old Sherry Lumber Company's farm, 500 acres on Mill Creek, now owned by Benson & Anderton. Students worked on the farm for part or all of their \$125 annual tuition. The boys worked in the fields and the girls in the kitchen. The main hall and girl's dormitory was located next to Mill Creek where Good

Tymes Bar/Sheri-Land Ballroom is located today. The school closed due to monetary problems in 1921.

In Jones' 1923 *History of Wood County, Wisconsin*, he states that “the village of Sherry has two general stores, a hotel, an auto repair shop and garage, the real estate office of Benson & Anderton, a cheese factory, and two churches. It has express, telegraph, and telephone communications with the outside world.” We can thank Benson & Anderton for the telegraph and telephone service as these were needed for their many real estate transactions.

In the special edition of the local newspapers for Wood County's Centennial Celebration in 1956, it was noted that the sawmill era saw the most growth in Sherry's history with a population of 1,000. The village had a railroad, a shingle mill, several stores, four boarding houses, a tavern and a stave factory.

In 2016 Bev Sweet Peaslee, unofficial town Historian, and her husband bought the Anderton house. In researching the history of the house, I found an article from the *Marshfield Times* dated Aug. 21, 1885, in which it was said that Norman Willard is erecting a fine residence in town which will cost in the neighborhood of \$3,000. It was also reported that a colony of 50 families have purchased lands in the vicinity and are expected in a few weeks.

The Sherry Tired Iron Tractor Club sponsors the annual Country Ride. They have a Tractor Show the last Sunday in July and then in September, they invite townspeople to go on a ride through the countryside. They get permission from landowners to cross their properties and drive on their trails. People driving old trucks, tractors (new and old), UTVs, and golf carts join in the fun. All trails lead to Anderton Park in downtown Sherry for a picnic.

- Bev Sweet Peaslee



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Spencer...

A friendly, small town with a future



As the Village of Spencer – at the junction of Highways 13 and 98 in Marathon County – marks its 150th anniversary in 2024, the community is bustling with activity in all sectors. From new housing to new business and industry, plus new recreational and entertainment opportunities, Spencer has a lot more to celebrate than just its long and prosperous past.

“We have growth going in the new Graupner subdivision. Three new houses went up last year and two new businesses built in the industrial park and we still have lots for sale out there,” said Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Deb Schafer.

Schafer said the village is also working towards the construction of a new bandshell-type facility in the Lions Park. The designers were getting ready at last word to put the project out for bids.

“We are still working hard as a community to raise some funds to build the band stage,” Schafer told We Are. “We have two major grants that we were awarded and we’re looking for someone that would like to have it be their legacy with their name on the building. Eventually it’ll be a covered shelter, but our first phase is the band stage itself. Very big project.”

The village has also recently completed a new Banquet Hall on

Highway 13 just north of Northcentral Technical College. The new facility, owned by Becky Gorst, houses Spectrum Benefit Solutions, a small cafe called The Breakfast Nook, a large conference room and banquet facilities for weddings and other large events. The banquet facilities will be available to rent starting in the fall of 2024.

Meanwhile, the fastest-growing sport in the country is also gaining popularity in Spencer, thanks to the addition of public pickleball courts. Project organizers, volunteers, village officials, community members and others gathered July 14, 2023 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, officially opening six pickleball courts at ARC Park.

School district officials worked with the Boson Company of Marshfield on an addition to the south end of Spencer Elementary, which houses the “Rookie Rockets.” District Administrator Mike Endreas said the new wing allows for the addition of 15-20 kids in the day care program.

“A huge need,” he told us, during the 2023 groundbreaking. “We all know. We see the news. We watch the need for daycare. Our priority is going to go to our community and our staff first. If anybody applies and needs a spot outside of our community they’ll be put on a waiting list.”





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After a 16-year hiatus, Spencorama Days made a comeback in 2017. The celebration is held the second weekend in June.

Music in the Park is featured every Wednesday in August at Lions Park. During the colder months, music is featured indoors, at the state-of-the-art LuCille Tack Center for the Arts. Attend one of many shows or performances at the Tack Center and you might think you're on Broadway or at a big-city venue.

If you'd like to learn about the community, stop in at the Spencer Area Historical Society's museum, located at 117 E. Clark, downtown. A great history lesson awaits, at a well-organized time capsule.

The Spencer branch of the Marathon County Public Library always has something going on, and is located in the Spencer Municipal Building.

Chris Helgestad was hired in January 2024 as the village's new Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer, after 22 years as Wastewater Treatment Operator.

Spencer, with great community pride and spirit, celebrates its sesquicentennial July 27, 2024.



Events Calendar

June 7: Spencer Dairy Breakfast, Lions Park

June 7-9: Spencorama

July 27: Sesquicentennial, Spencer Municipal Building

Every Wednesday in Aug.: Music in the Park

Sept. 8: Spencer FFA Alumni Fall Harvest Breakfast

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Stratford...

On the move



Courtesy of Stratford Area Historical Society

The future is now for the Village of Stratford. There is no shortage of activity, according to Village President Keith Grell.

“We do have two new businesses coming into our industrial park this spring or early this summer,” Grell told *We Are Magazine*. “Phoenix Express, they are going to be providing decorative rock and will be having a stockpile here within the village industrial park. They will probably be bringing four to five positions with that business.”

“Another business that is going to be coming in – we’re close to selling the property to them – is a company called Premium Impressions. They do embroidery,” Grell continued. “They will be located just to the west of AMS Bowfishing right on the corner of [Hwy.] 153 and Loyalty [Avenue]. They will be bringing six to seven jobs to the industrial park here early on.”



Courtesy of Stratford Area Historical Society

Grell said the village has also recently completed the sale of one of its former spec buildings to Marathon Metals, a division of Kulp’s Roofing.

Like most communities, Grell said housing is also a focus, and efforts continue to create new opportunities.

“The Knoll subdivision, they’re going to be putting up another spec home along Highway 153 on the west side of town sometime in 2024,” according to Grell. “And we are anticipating Sunset Ridge to add a couple more houses within the next couple of years. Nothing concrete there. That’s just my speculation,” Grell added. “We are constantly trying to reach out to find a developer who would like to bring housing, whether that be apartments or duplexes and stuff like that to Stratford. Where we struggle is, the village doesn’t own any land outside of the industrial park. We don’t have residential lots available, so when you have to start playing a middle man between a developer and a landowner, it really bogs the process down and ties up a lot of resources. So, when we see communities like Marathon and Edgar and Athens, we kind of try to see what they’re doing better than us because you see development going on there for apartments and housing and stuff like that,” Grell said.





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In 2026, Grell said Highway 153 will get resurfaced from the village's westside industrial park to Highway 107 to the east of Stratford, and the village will replace its sewer and water mains along that stretch of road at the same time.

"Looking at village staff, population, school district, etc., I would say right now we are right-sized. However, I don't want to say we're content with that. We are trying to continue to grow. I would love to say at some point we're almost the same size as Mosinee. I think that would be a fantastic fit. I don't know if that would ever be a possibility, but based on what we have for infrastructure, housing, schooling, employees for village staff, any more growth and we would have to add on police officers, public-works employees, office staff, more roads."

The village currently has three full-time police officers and one part-time officer. The village's fire department just added a second ambulance in early January, and Grell says it's adding volunteers all the time.

"We got kids that, one or two years removed from high school, and they're going through Fire 1 classes and training," he said. "We've got some recently-graduated nursing staff. They're looking to take the EMT course through the fire department and participate that way. We continue to grow, and we're a youthful, energetic group."

"I would say our biggest challenge within the next five years is going to be building some new village buildings. Our Public-Works Department is full," said Grell. "We've got some brand new equipment that we can't get under roof. The new Chief of Police (Tom Koontz) has identified a couple of shortfalls within the current police department. So, that is going to be our biggest issue – within the next four to five years trying to determine how to fund those projects," Grell noted. "For the public works we already have five acres earmarked within the industrial park that we plan on building a new facility on at some point. The Chief of Police has identified an existing village property that would work well for a new police department. But, again, this is all hypothetical. It's a wish list."

St. Joseph's Catholic School and the Stratford Public School District have long, successful traditions of education. Furthermore, the athletic programs of Stratford High School are always in the mix of teams at or near the tops of their conferences. The Stratford Tigers' football team has won eight state championships, including a record six in a row (2003-08). The Tigers' baseball and boys' track teams have also won state titles, and their girls' and boys' track and cross country participants have brought home numerous individual statewide championships as well. Another source of pride for the community is Stratford High School graduate Derek Kraus, now a member of the McAnally-Hilgemann Racing team in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series.



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Events Calendar

- May 2-4:** Rummaging Around Stratford
- June 2:** June Dairy Month breakfast, Country Aire
- June 8:** Classic Car Show
- Oct. 31:** Trunk or Treat
- Dec. 6-8:** Christmas in the Park, Klemme Park (various events with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the Community Hall)



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Stratford Homes has been providing custom-built homes using modular construction techniques since 1973. During this time, we've helped transform endless ideas of that one perfect house for new homeowners into beautiful, new custom homes. We understand that the unique process of building a custom home should be a rewarding experience for every homeowner. We've had the privilege of being part of over 11,000 new homes for families who have opted for our exceptional quality, energy efficiency, structural strength, and customization capabilities.

With two locations, Central Wisconsin and Northern Idaho, we have market coverage in areas of the Midwest and Pacific Northwest, through our network of independent Stratford Homes' Builders.

At Stratford Homes, we always welcome the opportunity to help educate those needing clarification on the terms often used in the building industry such as pre-fab, manufactured/mobile homes, traditional stick-built or site-built, and modular homes. Feel free to reach out to us or a Stratford Homes' Builder if you need a better understanding of the differences.

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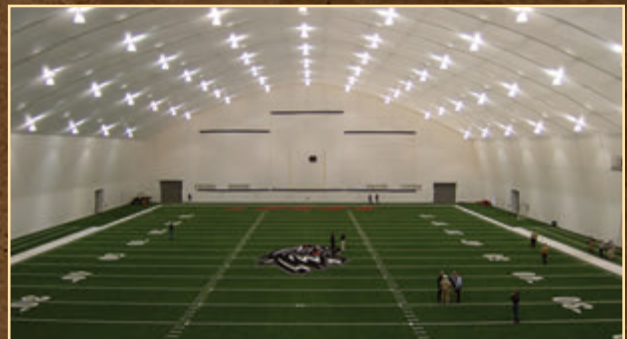
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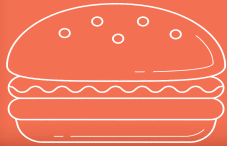
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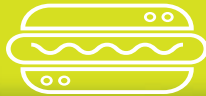
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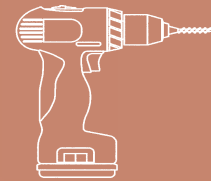
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