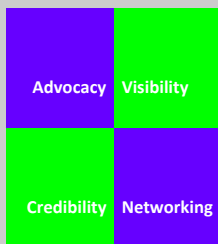


Highlights

- Membership Counts
- Reflections
- Member Programs
- Ambassador News
- Extra Nuts & Bolts
- Calendar/Events



Inside this issue:

Business after Hours	2
Chamber Foundation	2
Ribbon Cuttings	3
Business of the Month	4
Member-to-Member	4
Chamber Chat	5
Taking Notes	5

From The Director's Doorway

Happy 4th of July! or Happy Independence Day!

It's our National holiday! Either way we are commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence—July 4, 1776.

The Declaration of Independence. Most of us are more familiar with the first line of the 2nd paragraph.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.



It's a powerful line. One that has helped shape everything that we are or hope to be living in the United States of America.

Many have served our country throughout the years. Many have stayed back and kept the 'home fires burning'. Many have produced and made new discoveries to ensure that America is #1. All of us have played a role; we each are a stitch in the fabric of America.

So it is that we celebrate! We celebrate with fireworks, patriotic music/concerts, parades, picnics and family. We celebrate with the National colors of our flag—Red, White and Blue. And hopefully we take a moment to express all that our forefathers fought for and celebrated—Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness and share this with our children, so that they know why this is our National Holiday!

So lets celebrate! July is a busy time for summertime activities!

Normal Park really gets a workout!

There are band concerts every Wednesday night! There is music in the park on Thursday evenings! And there is our annual Movie in the Park on July 11!

T.B. Scott Library really turns up the heat for kids in July! They have science and magic shows! They have comedy with former Ringling Brother Circus clowns! How about reading with dogs or peanut butter picnics! Of course there are still books or computer and e-book coaching!

The Parks & Recreation Department is putting on a summertime show too! How about Music & Movement for your little ones ages 2 & 3? Or Edible Art for kids ages 6-9? There's Kids In Motion summer camp for ages 4-6 or try out Karate for ages 5 -12! There's also Family Night in the Park or a Milwaukee Brewers Trip!

And of course, what is July with out the Lincoln County Fair! This fair is being held a week later from July 30 to August 3, but will be back on its usual mid July dates next year!

Our fair is still FREE admission, only 1 of 2 free fairs still left in the state! There will be rides, music, magic, kid's petal tractor pull, outhouse races and the Royal Bengal Tigers. Plus check out all the 4-H animals and barns of crafts and projects.

But be sure to check out all the great fair food! Remember to "buy local" and support all the non-profit food stands. This event is really where they make their money to sponsor all of the wonderful programs that we enjoy throughout the year!

And of course there are picnics galore! So be sure to shop our local grocery stores—and if you are leaving, shop before you go! That goes for gas or anything else you may need for your trip—shop before your go!

And lots of you are leaving for vacations. Be sure to travel safely! And remember that Merrill is a travel destination too!

Our hotels will be busy with family, friends and visitors! And Council Grounds will be active with some of their 200,000 plus visitors that visit each year. So let's all be good hosts!

But most of all, I wish you **Happy-ness**. Celebrate **Life** with family and friends. Share what being an American means with your children. And enjoy our National holiday!

I will be celebrating the precious time spent with my 10-month old grand - "firecracker"! And his parents too!

From my door to yours,

Happy 4th of July!

Debbie

Chief Executive Officer



Business After Hours

Date: September



Business After Hours

Place: TBA

Time:

Sponsor:

Celebrate with business friends!

SUMMER BREAK!
See you IN SEPTEMBER



People

Where do we begin when talking about the people of Merrill? There are simply too many to mention. Let's focus on one type of people—Volunteers! Even then, there are too many to mention in this small space.

The Garden Club & Hanging Basket volunteers do a top-notch job in helping to make Merrill beautiful during the summer flower season.

The River Bend Trail folks have been working for 4 years but will manage to raise the funds & pave the first phase in an astonishing 1.5 yrs! Phase I will open by Fall!

How about all those volunteers that clear our trail system from ATV to snowmobile to the Ice Age Trail! These trails are used by locals & tourists.

Let's cheer on all those volunteer coaches that teach our kids the game & sportsmanship in sports from tee ball to hockey!

Service groups are faceted like a gem! They come in all sizes & there is one for every age. They support a multitude of programs benefiting the very young to our precious senior populations. These volunteers come in every size, shape, color & ability. Look around, they are everywhere making our community special! Look in the mirror & hopefully you see one looking back at you.



Location. Nature. People.

Merrill Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc. News



Friends of Normal Park



Bricks make great gifts for any occasion!

There are 4 sizes of bricks to choose from & each brick can be engraved with names, dates or special messages. The bricks make wonderful gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, holiday gifts or simply to honor someone in a permanent way.



Friends of the Merrill City Band



Friends of the Merrill City Band is kicking off a capital fundraiser to help with needed supplies and improvements to Normal Park for their concerts. The Merrill City Band has been actively entertaining Merrill residents since 1911 and now they need your help.

They kick-off their concert series on June 25. Pick up a "needs" list and make donation in support of this wonderful, long-time musical tradition.

To make a tax-deductible donation:

Friends of the Merrill City Band
Merrill Chamber of Commerce Foundation
705 N. Center Avenue
Merrill, WI 54452

Donations can be made in any amount.

Fire Department 125th Anniversary Prints



SUPPORT THE MEMORIAL! Proceeds will help to fund the Firefighter Memorial to be erected outside of the new fire station. The prints depict the current fire station blending the current and old.

Cards—25 cards/envelopes for \$20.00
8x10 print—\$25.00
10x13 print—\$35.00



Available at the Chamber of Commerce & Merrill Fire Station.

River District Development Foundation



The Capital Campaign is off & running! The goal is to raise \$1 million for the Phase I River Bend Trail that will begin downtown and travel west to Council Grounds State Park.



www.riverdistrictfoundationofmerrill.com

Donations can also be made on-line. Look for the link and/or donation button on the River District website.

You can also 'friend' us on Face Book now.

The Chamber Foundation is the fiscal administrator of the River District Development Foundation & the Friends of the River District.

Other Foundation Programs



Other programs that the Chamber Foundation administers include:

- Discover Downtown Merrill
- Emergency Relief Fund
- Courthouse Christmas Tree Lighting
- Foundation Community Fund
- For the Love of Merrill
- Hanging Flower Basket Program

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to any of the foundation programs. Send your tax-deductible donations to:

Merrill Chamber Foundation
705 N. Center Avenue
Merrill, WI 54452

Hanging Flower Baskets



The flower baskets are up & look beautiful! Thanks to everyone who made donations. The flower baskets are made possible each year through the kind donations of our community members & the work of the flower basket committee members.

Donation are gratefully accepted year-round. Just contact the Merrill Chamber Foundation.

Ambassadors Club: Beautification & Facade Recognitions & Ribbon Cuttings

Ambassador News & Ribbon Cuttings



Ribbon Cuttings



Sweeter Times



Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings

Do you know of a new business that is opening? Have them give us a call to schedule a ribbon cutting. It's great publicity for the new business!

Our Ambassadors do a great job! Tell them "thanks" when you see them!

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Sue Kunkel | Nancy Stadler |
| Chad Olsen | Dona Beyer |
| Cheryl Hanson | Dennis Grefe |
| Deb Scheif | Mark Bares |
| Dustin Peterson | Leah Nelson |
| Anna Winningham | Carri Kennedy |
| Jennifer Porath | Dena Lueck |

Wanted: Ambassadors

We are looking to grow our Ambassadors Club in 2014 and we need YOU! Our Ambassadors are the backbone of the Chamber. They celebrate new businesses, business expansions & membership!

Want to meet new businesses? Then become an Ambassador! Contact us for all the details. It's a great way to grow your business & celebrate what makes Merrill so great—our local business members!



Building Business One Ribbon at a Time

Do you know someone opening a new business that would like to have a ribbon cutting?

Have you recently remodeled your business or façade & would like a ribbon cutting? Contact us & let us know!

Member Programs



So...What's New?

24-Hour Information Center

Did you know that only Chamber members & other Chamber/visitor centers can advertise in the Information Center? Place your brochures, flyers and/or business cards for FREE. The Information Center is a very busy place & is restocked daily.

Newsletter Inserts

Did you know that only members can advertise in the Chamber e-news/newsletter? Cost is only \$25 & your message will reach over 500 people. It's also on our website that receives over 6000 hits per month.

Member to Member

Did you know that you can offer other members discounts on purchases and services as a way of advertising & marketing your business? If you are willing to offer a discount to other Chamber members, please contact us so that we can get the word out to other members!



Office Assistance

Did you know that only members can make copies free of charge at the Chamber? Or use our fax machine? Or bulk mail stamp for large bulk mailings? Contact us for details.

Red Carpet Pak

Did you know that only members can advertise & make special offers in our Red Carpet Pak's that given to new Merrill residents to welcome them & introduce them the Merrill area?



NEW Webvertising

Advertise on our website! Cost for this great new webvertising is only \$25 per month! Great way to grab attention to your business Our website & links receive 7000+ hits per month so it's an economical way to advertise!

Our membership depends on volunteers! Here are some ways that you can help:

Join one of our **NEW Events & Promotions** sub-committees and see what's new for 2014! Help us promote Merrill with new and creative programs and events!

Contact Debbe for more information. Email director@merrillchamber.org

**At the Chamber, it's all about You!
We are bringing the Best to the Best!**



The **Members Only** on our website is now working! You can do on-line credit card payments & webvertising. If you do not have a member number contact **Cheryl** at **715-536-9474**.

We are teaming up with **NorthCentral Technical College and Rasmussen College** to bring you **Chamber 101** workshops beginning this spring. Watch for details....

We are investigating starting a **Young Professionals Program**. If you are 40 years of age or under and interested in being a part of this special network, please contact **Debbe** at **715-536-9474**.



Listen for us on **WJJQ Radio** every Wednesday at 2:30 pm for **Chamber Chat!** Begins on April 2 on channel 92.5 FM

Chamber has teamed up with **CGI Productions** again to produce a new website video for our website. Watch for it in the near future!

Morning Mixer (Business before Hours) kicked off on May 28. It was sponsored by the Merrill Firefighters & attendees were able to tour the new fire station & get an up close view. Morning Mixers take place at your business from 7:30 to 9:00 am. Sign up now to sponsor a Morning Mixer! For info contact Cheryl at 715-536-9474.



Member-to-Member Club Join Today & Save

The Chamber's **Member to Member Club**, is a product discount program for Chamber members only. If your business is willing to offer a discount to other Chamber members contact us now! Gain marketing exposure & potential new business customers. Be a part of the Club!

As a Chamber member you will receive a **discount** at the following businesses:

Put Your Business Name Here!

- *Tomahawk Monument—10%
- *Ye Old Sweet Shoppe—10%
- *Blooming Wishes —10%
- *Super Lube—15%
- *Creative Card Acceptance—1/2 priced USB reader or \$25 off USB signature pad

Business of the Month NAPA Auto Parts



The Business of the Month for July is **NAPA Auto Parts** owned by Greg and Denise Brandenburg and located at 1010 East Main Street in Merrill.

NAPA is open 7 days a week. The hours are Monday-Thursday 7am to 6pm, Friday 7am-7pm, Saturday 7am to 4pm and Sunday 8am to 12pm.

Greg is a 2nd generation store owner. The **NAPA** store opened on East Main in 1964 and Roger Brandenburg took it over in 1967. Greg has worked in the business for 35 years and Greg and Denise took over ownership 8 years ago when Roger retired.

Greg credits the Merrill stores success to having good parts, great service and the best customers. The family has kept the store at its East Main location because it is centralized and Merrill is a good fit.

Greg considers the business a hometown store where they can get to know their customers and their customers know and trust them.

The **NAPA** store is a part of Merrill and part of the downtown. So much so that they are ex-

***VIP On-line Member Discounts**— to join email them at VIP@dwave.net for complete details on discounts.

***Northwood's Evergreen & Wire Co.** —20%

***Ziesemer Photography** - 15% on business portraits

***Off the Grid Technologies**—they build your website & receive 1/yr Free web-hosting

***Lincoln & Timeline Windows**—factory direct—10%



Just mention the Member-to-Member Club & start saving today!



panding! The store will be expanding into the store next door, behind the new location of The Fresh Boutique who is in the front part of the building. Greg says the expansion is due to having too much inventory. But the truth is they need more space to stock all of the parts necessary to meet the needs of their customers.

The National Automotive Parts Association (NAPA) was created 85 years ago to meet America's growing need for an effective auto parts distribution system.

Greg says he has worked in other locations and there is no place he would rather be than in Merrill. There is just something "cool" about the people that shop his **NAPA** store.

And we couldn't agree more!

NAPA Auto Parts in Merrill, just one more business that has chosen to call Merrill home for the past 50 years!

"Shop Merrill First....and make a difference in our community!"



Additional Programs



Chamber on Tour

We believe that your business is a STAR. Showcase your business by joining the Chamber Tour Program. Contact us to get your business on the tour schedule today!

Sign-up now for 2014 tours....



Morning Mixer

Sign-up now to host/sponsor this new 2014 program. Business before Hours is a great way to showcase your business & have social interaction with your fellow business members—especially if you are unable to attend Business after Hours!



Government News

This program will email blast government information to members such as City of Merrill agendas & other state & federal government information, programs & newsletters.



Chamber Education: 2014 Workshops

Coming in 2014

✓ **Social Media Series**

✓ **Peer to Peer Series**

If there are other educational programs that you would like the Chamber to bring to you, please contact us with your ideas.

Send us your suggestions via email at info@merrillchamber.org

In the subject line type: **Education Topic**



Chamber Chat....did you know?

Pork in the Park Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help with our 2nd Annual Pork in the Park Ribfest on Sept. 13. We will need help on the 12th from 3-6pm and on the 13th in shifts throughout the day! Sign-up now and help support the chamber.

2nd Annual Pork in the Park Ribfest We are also looking for rib cooks to compete in our rib contest—\$500 to the winner! If you think your ribs are the best, sign-up today!



Ireland Fundraiser—Join Us!

That's right the Chamber is planning a unique fundraiser—a 9-day trip to Ireland in March 2015! Join us as we explore this beautiful land and spend St. Patrick's Day on the Emerald Isle! Cost is

\$2975 for Chamber members or \$3175 for non-chamber members. Contact us for all the details.



Annual Movie in the Park

Coming on July 11 is our annual Movie in the Park at Normal Park. This year's feature is "Air Bud—Golden Receiver". Bring your blankets & chairs & enjoy a family friendly movie under the stars! Food will be available for purchase by Marshfield Clinic's Relay for Life Team. Movie is sponsored by Marshfield Clinic & the Chamber of Commerce!



Merrill Fire Dept. Memorial

The Merrill Fire Dept. held a beautiful ceremony to unveil their new memorial. If you have not seen it, stop by. Let's hope that not another name is ever added to the wall.



Mural Works

Check out the mural work that the gals are **Blooming Wishes** are doing on the west-side of their building.

And if you are an artist, **Generations Antique Company** is interested in doing a historic mural on the east-side of their building. Or you can "chip in" and help support either of these great projects & make them community projects!



Taking Notes.....

Congratulations

Holy Cross Sisters honored four of their own for 210 years of ministry. Congratulations Sister's Peggy Jackelin, Dorothy Niemann, Carol Croby and Celine Goessl.

Ministry Good Samaritan received certification as a Level IV Trauma Care Facility.

Geiss Meat won 1st Place for their summer sausage and several other awards. Congrats Andy!

Craig Rezin recently received the Knight of Sight Award for his work with the Lion's Eye Bank of WI. Congrats Craig!

Congratulations

Merrill Ace Hardware has been ranked the highest in customer satisfaction by J.D. Power for the 8th year in a row! Congrats D'Lacey & Tim!

Merrill AmericInn has been rated #1 on Expedia out of 30 area hotels! And received a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence. Way to go Russ!



New Farmer's Market Ministry Good Samaritan will begin hosting another farmer's market option beginning July 10. It will be held in their parking lot from 3-7pm. The market will be held every Thursday thru October.



2nd Annual Community Night Out

The Merrill Police & Fire Depts. & the Sheriff's Dept. will host it's 2nd annual Night Out on Aug. 5 at Normal Park. Meet the officers, see the vehicles up close & watch demonstration including the new dog Officer Eros!



Extra Nuts & Bolts



Requests for Merrill information only during the month of July:

Phone calls: 159

Emails: 57

Walk-ins: 368

Info mailed out: 160

Website Visits: 1937



"Positive Possibilities"

Thanks to our members, sponsors & numerous partnerships, the Chamber supports dozens of community programs & is actively involved in many initiatives that you may not be aware of.

Look for this symbol to learn more about our history & our future & the community programs we are involved in.



Promote your upcoming events

Be sure to promote your upcoming events by contacting the Chamber to get them on one of our calendars! Best way to get your event seen!



Do you have news that you would like to share with our membership? Contact the Chamber at 715-536-9474 for information!

Mark Your Calendar

July 4—Independence Day—Happy 4th of July!
The Chamber office will be closed.

July Every Wed—Merrill City Band Concert—
Come to Normal Park and enjoy music at the Gazebo
with the Merrill City Band every Wednesday at 7pm.

July 10, 17, 24—Gazebo Nights—Gazebo Nights
music kicks-off the season at 6pm with the music of
Scott Kirby.

July 11—Movie in the Park—join us at Normal Park
for our annual Movie in the Park. This year's feature is
Bud Air—Golden Retriever. Bring your blankets and
chairs and enjoy a movie under the stars. Movie begins
at dusk, but come early and purchase food and snacks
from Marshfield Clinic Relay for Life. Sponsored by
Marshfield Clinic and the Chamber of Commerce.

July 12—Mud Bogs—at Gleason Lions Park, N5179
Bradley Street in Gleason. The muddy fun begins at 12
pm.

July 22 - Family Fun Night in the Park—bring the
kids to Riverside Park from 4-7pm for family fun!
There will be a Jumpy Castle, face painting, music and
games. Food and drinks available for purchase. Spon-
sored by Park & Rec Dept. For info contact Dawn at
715-536-7313.

July 23—Milwaukee Brewer Trip—sponsored by
Park & Rec Dept. Cost is \$60/pp. Bus leaves at
7:45am for the 1:10pm game and returns after the
game. To register contact Dawn at 715-536-7313.

July 30—Aug 3—Lincoln County Fair—the date
changed this year, but there will be lots of family fun!
Rides and games for the young and young at heart! Plus
music, magic, outhouse races, pedal tractor pull and
tigers! And don't forget all the fair food vendors! Still
FREE admission! See you at the LINCOLN COUNTY
FAIR!

TB Scott Library— come check out all the FREE
summer programs at the Library for lots of summer
fun! They have some great theater style shows held at
the PRMS auditorium. Call 715-536-7191 for informa-
tion.

[Check the Chamber Calendar 1st](#)

For a complete listing of area events & activities
check out the Chamber of Commerce website
www.merrillchamber.org or the digital sign at
the Chamber office for event info.

CHAMBER MEETINGS

Legislative – No Meeting

Foundation— No Meeting

Ambassador Club – No Mtg

Board of Directors— 7/16

Crazy Daze Promotions—TBA

Pork in the Park—7/11



Comments, Questions & Concerns

The Merrill Area Chamber of Com-
merce wants you to read about area
businesses and other information that
we feel is important to our members.
If there are any topics you think we
should cover, please let us know. Call
the office (715-536-9474), fax us (715-
539-2043) or stop in at our office (705
N. Center Ave).

Our individual emails are:

Debbe Kinsey—Chief Executive Officer

director@merrillchamber.org

Cheryl Skoug—Program Manager

manager@merrillchamber.org

General information -

info@merrillchamber.org

Website -

www.merrillchamber.org

MERRILL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THE ADVANTAGE

705 North Center Avenue
Merrill, Wisconsin 54452
TOLL FREE Phone: 877-907-2757

Phone: 715-536-9474
Fax: 715-539-2043
Website: www.merrillchamber.org

Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce

Mission Statement

The Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce
is directed by its membership to support the area's businesses
to grow, succeed and thrive

Vision Statement

To promote Merrill as a community to live, work and play for
today

Executive Board

Kurt Rust – Chairman
Marty Heyne—Vice Chair
Noel Bushor – Financial Officer
Gail Bloch – Past Chairman

Board Members

Dan Frick
Andy Geiss
Pat Hinner
Val Mindak
Shelly Mondeik
Mike Raffik
Craig Rezin
Randy Wixson
Kurt Wendt
Doug Williams
Mayor Bill Bialecki
Ex-Officio
Dave Johnson—Ex-Officio

Staff

Debbe Kinsey – Chief Executive Officer
Cheryl Skoug – Programs Manager
Vacant – Office Assistant



Return Service Requested

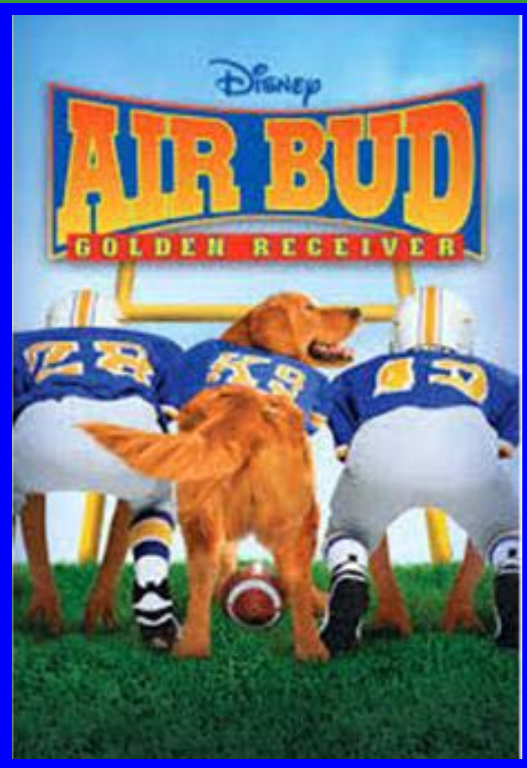
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Members.working together since 1911



5TH ANNUAL MOVIE IN THE PARK



DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 11

TIME: 7:00 PM ACTIVITIES

MOVIE AT DUSK

LOCATION: NORMAL PARK

**SPONSORED BY:
MERRILL CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE &
MARSHFIELD CLINIC**

FOR INFORMATION :

715-536-9474

WWW.MERRILLCHAMBER.ORG