

### Highlights

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## From The Director's Doorway

**Happy June!** It's hard to believe that it is finally here & it has come on with a bang!

June means that we are swamped with activities & events, & promotion, promotion & more promotion!

The Merrill Festival Grounds is looking great. Volunteers have been painting & replacing windows in the round barn, the rodeo's permanent arena is in place, lighting is up & new manager has been hired for the grounds.

The 1st event of the season at the new festival grounds is about to take place—the Wisconsin River Pro Rodeo, June 10-12. Boy what a difference a year makes!

July will also bring in a brand new Tractor Pull event to the festival grounds on July 9 & of course the Lincoln Cty Fair will be taking place July 20-24. There are new activities planned at the fair thanks to the brand new grandstand too.

Fun is also the name of the game at the MARC this summer with the brand new aquatic center opening on June 10. This looks like an awesome place for families to cool off this summer with it's swim lanes, diving pool, kiddies pad, slides & climbing wall. There is something for every member of the family. And how great is it to have it at the MARC where families can cool off between baseball, softball or soccer games & tournaments. And locally the new bike lanes are going in & the Merrill Go Round will also make runs to the MARC.

Music is also takes the stage this month with the Merrill City Band kicking off their summer series on June 22 at 7pm. They will be at Normal Park every Wednesday night. Also Gazebo Nights kicks off their summer series on July 7 & every Thursday at 6pm thru August 25.

Mark your calendar for July 8 when the chamber's annual Movie in the Park takes place in Normal Park at dusk. This movie is made possible by Marshfield Clinic every July.

And for the foodies, you will not want to miss the 2nd Annual Lobster Fest on July 30 in front of Ballyhoos in support of the Safe Ride Home Program. They fly in fresh Maine lobster

the day before & last year they were huge! Tickets on now on sale at the Chamber for \$40 for the whole dinner.

Jumping ahead, our 4th Annual Pork in the Park is scheduled for September 17 at the MARC & we're looking for rib cook competitors. If you think your ribs are the best (even you home cooks) then put them to the test!

And our annual Chili Blast Competition will be September 24 in downtown Merrill and we also have tickets for the 9th Annual Barleyfest on October 1 at the MARC.

We can't forget the annual Crazy Daze Celebration on August 11 in downtown & happenings all over town. This year's theme is the Roaring 20's.



We will be seeing many of you in just a few days at our 38th Annual Chamber Classic at the Merrill Golf Club. We have 36 teams of 4 playing this year so it will be a fun & busy course! We have some great prizes & raffles this year such as overnight golf get-way packages. So hope for great weather!

We are also kicking off our 1st Young Professional event in Merrill on June 1 at the Sawmill Brewery with our program partner the Wausau Chamber of Commerce. If you're between the ages of 21-45, I invite you to come & check out the E3YP Program for yourself & become a member.

This month's Legislative program will be held on June 13 at city hall & our speaker will Centergy speaking about the area's economic development.

We are also working with the Dept. Revenue to bring you a workshop on tax changes that every business should be aware of.

We just completed our 1st 20/20 Vision Program with PRMS 8th grade students on May 20. MAPS breaks students down into 16 different career clusters based on their interest & test aptitudes. And as part of our Workforce Development programming designed to work with the state's Future Wis-

consin Project we designed the program to let students experience all the different job opportunities that exist in Merrill.

Area businesses really stepped up & we were able to bus the students out to 15 of the 16 career clusters for tours & talks. A big thank you goes out to our program sponsors Lincoln Wood Products & Church Mutual. The students heard about jobs from hospitality to engineering & medical professions to agriculture & everything in between. We are looking forward to working with PRMS & our businesses again next year to show students that nearly every type of job they are interested in can be found right here in Merrill.

You will also see a couple of new faces at the chamber this summer. We will have an on the job trainee here as well as a student intern—Kelsey Amelse.

We are also planning a Women of Distinction "Our Stories" luncheon for later this summer. You won't want to miss this. We have such talented & awesome women in Merrill & their stories are always heartwarming & uplifting.

There is construction in the air with the Nortrax facility underway & construction on the new Kind-hearted facility has begun on Mill Street. Construction is also beginning on the new trailhead AGRA Pavilion at the end of Park Street. This is expected to be completed before the end of summer.

In addition, the expansion of Merrill Federal Savings & Loan is almost completed & work on the new Pocket Park at the site of the former Guy's Shop will begin this summer too. And the new housing development will be starting soon also.

As I always say, 'Merrill is on the Grow' & it is especially true this year! Get out & enjoy all the great activities & events & take note of all the development taking place—**For the Love of Merrill!**

*Debbie*  
Chief Executive Officer

## Business After Hours

Date: Sept. 22

Place:

Time:



Business After Hours

**WE TAKE THE SUMMER OFF FROM BUSINESS AFTER HOURS SO THAT WE CAN ALL ENJOY THE SUMMER WITH OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.**

**BaH WILL RETURN ON SEPT. 22**



## Morning Mixer

Date: TBA

Place: Merrill Sheet Metal Works

Time: 7:30—9:00 am

Sponsor: Merrill Sheet Metal Works



## 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  Normal Park

### Community Enhancement Fund



It's that time of year again when we start to dream of spring & summer & those beautiful hanging flower baskets that adorn our streets. These baskets are made possible by a dedicated group of volunteers & cash donations from residents of Merrill.

Please help us beautify the corridors of Merrill this summer by making a contribution to the Hanging Basket Fund.

Send your **tax-deductible** donation to:

**Merrill Chamber Foundation  
Hanging Basket Fund  
705 N. Center Avenue  
Merrill, WI 54452**



### River District Development Foundation



The new trailhead will be developed east of the Center Ave. bridge on Park Street.  
[www.riverbendtrail.com](http://www.riverbendtrail.com)

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
- 125th Anniversary Fire Dept. Prints
- Merrill Events
- Community Enhancements (Hanging Flower Baskets)

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**

## So...What's New?

Our **Merrill Vision 20/20 Program** was on May 20 and was a success! We took 200 8th grade students out to local businesses in 15 of their 16 selected Career Clusters. This is part of our Workforce Development Program for our programming under the state Future Project program. We will be calling upon local businesses again next year to continue matching students with career interests locally. Now is the time to educate students about what it takes to work in your business! We will be working with all segments of our employer population linking Merrill employers with Merrill students. If you are interested in more information contact **Debbe at 715-536-9474**.



We changed our **Legislative Group** this past Fall. We will go to an every other month format with scheduled legislators & other government departments take part. Watch for details!

We are sending out a **Daily News** from WMC that will highlight the daily news of interest. Just click on the links that interest you. A simple way to get today's news highlights!

We have started a new social media marketing program, **'Chamber Moments'** that will include photos & thoughts on Face Book, mini videos & articles. Watch for these 'moments'! Chamber's around the world are taking part & posting the same info simultaneously.

We started a weekly e-blast called **'What's Up Wednesday'** that will provide updates on upcoming events/activities & things you need to know. Members may include their text only messages for \$15 up to 25 words—no pictures allowed. Call **Cheryl for details at 715-536-9474**.



## 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 2015 tours....

### Morning Mixer

Sign-up now to host/sponsor a quarterly program in 2016. 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.



# Ambassadors Club: Beautification & Façade Recognitions & Ribbon Cuttings



## Ambassador News & Ribbon Cuttings



### Ribbon Cuttings



Stacy Literski Photography



Urban Face & Body

### Diplomat Team

Here is a sneak peek at our new Diplomat Team, an arm of our Ambassador Group.



The Diplomats will be a select group of individuals who will be available to area businesses with new hires who will meet with them, take them on tours, lunch, etc. The Diplomat's role will be to answer questions about Merrill and the area and take the new hire on a tour if necessary to showcase the Merrill area.

Diplomats will be selected through an application process and selected by a Diplomat Review Team. The Diplomat's will be matched to new hires based on several criteria that will aid in comfort levels/interests.

Applications for Diplomats will be available this month. And employers we will be meeting with you beginning in July.

Merrill Airport w/Governor



EmbroidMe

*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



### 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?



### 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:

- Golf Outing ■ Crazy Daze ■ Pork in the Park
- Promotions Committee ■ Ambassador Club
- Women of Distinction ■ Music Fest

Contact Debbe for more information. Email [director@merrillchamber.org](mailto:director@merrillchamber.org)

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



### Job Fair

We are planning a Job Fair with Prairie Middle School 8th graders this spring as part of our 20/20 Vision Program. We will be looking for area businesses to take part in this exciting program.

The date of the fair is May 20. We are looking for all types of businesses to take part so that we have a great representation of businesses that require advanced training/education to those who provide on the job training or no further education required.

We should know that date of job fair later this month and will get the date out as soon as possible.

If your business is interesting in showcasing jobs and businesses available in the Merrill area, please contact us and let us know.

Send questions to Debbe at [director@merrillchamber.org](mailto:director@merrillchamber.org) or call us 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!

\*Ye Old Sweet Shoppe—10%

\*Super Lube—15%

\*Creative Card Acceptance—1/2 priced USB reader or \$25 off USB signature pad

\*VIP On-line Member Discounts— to join email them at [VIP@dwave.net](mailto: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!



## Chamber Education: 2016 Workshops

### Coming in 2016

- ✓ Dept. of Revenue
- ✓ Theft: How to Protect your Business
- ✓ DOA: Working for Small Business
- ✓ Networking 101

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](mailto:info@merrillchamber.org)

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



## Business of the Month

*Kindhearted Home Care, LLC.*



The Business of the Month for June is **Kindhearted Home Care, LLC.** located at 101 Scott Street in Merrill and is owned by Merrill native Diane Goetsch. Their telephone number is 715-218-3772.

**Kindhearted Home Care** was started just a short few years ago and is a family business. Diane has set up her team with the core values of teamwork, respect, integrity & compassion. She says that she & her staff have three main responsibilities while providing peace of mind for you & your family. (1) Clients—to ensure a safe & positive household environment & treat you or your loved one as extended family; (2) Staff—who represent the image of the company & who serve all clients with values of honesty, passion, respect, joy, and caring attitudes to build a trusting, long term relationship; and (3) Community—to provide home services with care that is tailored to each person's specific needs.

Supportive Care Services is the core of who they are. They enable you or a loved one to maintain a quality of life experience that cannot be achieved without assistance. They do this by providing the following services: Housekeeping & Cleaning; Meal Planning & Preparation; Companionship & Conversation; Coordinate & Schedule; Shopping & Errands; and Grooming & Dressing.

**Kindhearted** also operates an Adult Social Center

located at 101 Scott Street. The center is designed to meet the needs of adults who may be socially isolated, homebound, recovering from illness or injury, or experiencing a decrease in mental, physical or social functionality. They offer full or part-time services Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Services include daily planned activities, light exercise & games, arts & crafts, music, sing-a-longs, story time wellness education & field trips.

**Kindhearted** recently opened their Health & Fitness Center temporarily located at 204 Blain Street. The center offers both strength & cardio training equipment for persons age 50 years & older. Monthly rate is \$35.

**Kindhearted** recently broke ground on their soon to be new location on Mill Street where the Lincoln House once stood. The new 5000 sq. ft facility will be home to the Adult Social Center & the Health & Fitness Center by fall.

**Kindhearted Home Care**, just one more home grown business that is putting their passion for Merrill & the lives of our aging population front & center. Thank you Diane & your team for giving back to our community with love day after day.



## Reminders



### What's Up Wednesday?

Watch for your mini weekly newsletter of upcoming events every Wednesday via email and on our Face Book page at [Merrill Chamber](#).

# Chamber Chat....did you know?

## Welcome New Member

Welcome Urban Face & Body (located inside Designer's Plus)! Diana Goetsch is the owner and performs skin wellness treatments, sugaring hair removal, make-up, airbrushing, etc.



## 38th Annual Golf Classic

It's almost here, our annual Golf Classic on June 6! We have 36+ teams & there is still room for a few more. We have some Play & Stay packages this year! It's time to register yourself, a two-some or an entire team. Call us at 715-536-9474.



## Scotland & Ireland Trip

The date is set for our next networking adventure. The dates are April 1-12, 2017. Brochures & all the info is now available. Stop by & pick up a brochure today for one of the most relaxing trip, friendly adventures!



**20/20 Vision Program** On May 20 we took 200 8th graders out for a field trip to local businesses that covered 15 of their 16 Career Clusters. The students loaded 5 buses & were transported all over town to talks & tours to highlight the types of jobs available in the areas that they have shown an interest in for future careers. The purpose was to show the students what is available right here in their own backyard in the hopes that they will choose to come back to Merrill following their post high school educations. The 20/20 Program is part of the

Chamber's Workforce Development Program as a partner in the State Future Wisconsin Project.

A big thank you to the educators/counselors at PRMS and the following businesses that opened their doors: Hans Breitenmoser Farm, Waster Water Treatment Plant, Re-indl Printing, WJMT Radio, Church Mutual, TB Scott Library, City of Merrill, Merrill Fire Dept, & Merrill Police Dept., Ministry Good Samaritan Health Center, AmericInn, Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln Cty. Health Dept, & Social Services Dept., Lincoln Wood Products and the Merrill Airport. And a very big thank you to our sponsors: Lincoln Wood Products & Church Mutual.



## Pork in the Park Ribfest

Planning is already underway for our 4th Annual Pork in the Park Ribfest. If you are interested in becoming a rib competitor or a sponsor for one the largest single day events in Merrill, contact us for details. Save the date: September 17.



## Tickets on Sale

We have Rodeo tickets, Lobster Fest tickets & Barleyfest tickets now available at the Chamber office.



## Promote your upcoming events



Contact Cheryl at [manager@merrillchamber.org](mailto:manager@merrillchamber.org)



## Taking Notes.....

### Congratulations

To Taylor-Stine Funeral Home on receiving their 75 year plaque from the Federated Funeral Directors of America. Another great Merrill business!



### New Website

Keep your fingers crossed, when you receive this newsletter our brand new website should be launched!



We are very excited about this new user friendly site. Members will have access to their own webpage, and so much more!



### Young Professionals Group

The 1st Merrill gathering for the E3YP (our partnership with Wausau Chamber Young Professionals) will be June 1 at The Sawmill in Merrill at 6pm. For information or to register visit [e3yp.org](http://e3yp.org)



## Extra Nuts & Bolts



### Requests for Merrill information only during the month of May:

Phone calls: 148

Emails: 117

Walk-ins: 113

Info mailed out: 232

Website Visits: 2046 Viewed: N/A

Restock Center: 125



### "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.



## Mark Your Calendar

### June 6—38th Annual Chamber Classic

It's going to be a great time at this year's golf classic with 36+ teams playing! There is still time to join us for our shotgun start at 10:30am. Just contact Cheryl at 715-536-9474 and register today.

### June 10-12—WI River Pro Rodeo

It's the 1st event at the Merrill Festival Grounds! There are 7 events for every show plus mutton busting, boot scramble and candy toss for the kids. Advance tickets available at the Chamber office—\$12 in advance or \$17 at the gate, children \$10 in advance or \$15 at gate.

### June 11—Antique Tractor Pull

Held at Merrill Festival Grounds at 12:00 noon. Cost is free. For questions contact Jason Gruenberg at 715-297-6336.

### June 12—Lincoln Cty. June Dairy Breakfast

Breakfast served from 8am to 12 noon at the MARC. Menu includes waffles, eggs, sausage links, cheese curds, chocolate/white milk, cranberry & orange juices & coffee. Adults \$8, children 6-11 are \$4 and kids 5 & under are free. A portion of the proceeds support the FFA Alumni Scholarship. For information contact Mary Sosnovske at 715-873-4090.

### June 13—Legislative Meeting

Join us at Merrill City Hall at 8am. This month's speaker will be from Centergy and will talk about economic development in central Wisconsin.

### June 18—Dancing the Night Away

A tribute to the 1950-60's & feature local band Krazy Kheater from 4-7pm. This is a showcase of the Historical Society Exhibit held at the Merrill History & Cultural Center. Root beer floats & A&W Barbeque recipe sandwiches will be served. A free will donation is asked.

### June 22 & 29—Merrill City Band

You know it's summer when the Merrill City Band hits the Normal Park Gazebo kicking off it's summer season of music. June 22 will be an Olympic theme program beginning at 7pm.

### July 4—Independence Day—Chamber Closed

Fireworks at the MARC at Dusk. Pow Wow Days Parade in Tomahawk at 1pm.

For a complete listing of area events & activities check out the Chamber of Commerce website [www.merrillchamber.org](http://www.merrillchamber.org) or the digital sign at the Chamber office for event info.

Listen to us every Wednesday on WJQ 92.5FM & the 2nd & 4th Friday on WJMT 730 AM.

## CHAMBER MEETINGS

Legislative – 6/13

Foundation— 7/15

Ambassador Club – 6/21

Board of Directors— 6/15

Retail Promotions—TBA

RibFest - TBA

Golf - 6/6



## Comments, Questions & Concerns

The Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce 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](mailto:director@merrillchamber.org)

Cheryl Skoug—Program Manager

[manager@merrillchamber.org](mailto:manager@merrillchamber.org)

—Office Assistant

[info@merrillchamber.org](mailto:info@merrillchamber.org)

Summer Intern—Kelsey Amelse

Website -

[www.merrillchamber.org](http://www.merrillchamber.org)



[merrillchamber](https://www.facebook.com/merrillchamber)

### MERRILL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THE ADVANTAGE

705 North Center Avenue  
Merrill, Wisconsin 54452

Phone: 715-536-9474  
Fax: 715-539-2043  
Website: [www.merrillchamber.org](http://www.merrillchamber.org)

### Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce

#### Mission Statement

*The Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to its members by helping their businesses to grow, succeed and thrive*

#### Vision Statement

*The Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to promoting the Merrill area as a community to live, work and play for today*

### Executive Board

Tonia Speener—Chairman  
Randy Wixson—Chair Elect  
Dr. Shelly Mondeik—Vice Chair  
Noel Bushor – Financial Officer  
Marty Heyne— Past Chairman

### Board Members

Dan Frick  
Barb Haffemann  
Nancy Kwiesielewicz  
Val Mindak  
Kent Reinhardt  
Brian Richards  
Kurt Rust  
Jeff Schneider  
Tim Schreiber  
Kurt Wendt  
Mayor Bill Bialecki  
Ex-Officio  
Dave Johnson—Ex-Officio

### Staff

Debbe Kinsey – Chief Executive Officer  
Cheryl Skoug – Programs Manager  
– Office Assistant  
Kelsey Amelse—Student Summer Intern



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Save the Date for...

# Park City Credit Union's Summer Celebration

## Schedule of Events

Kid's Bike Decorating  
Kid's Bike Parade  
Clown Shows  
Petting Zoo  
Potato Sack Race  
Polka Music Hour  
Three-Legged Race  
Polka Contest  
Kid's Music Hour  
Wheel Barrow Race  
Live Band: Spitfire Rodeo

*Music, food, and bounce houses all day!*

**June 25th at Normal  
Park in Merrill!**

Join us for our 1st Park City Credit Union Summer Celebration! We want to help **celebrate you** with fun summer activities and events all day, starting at 11am. Then, we'll end the day with the live band, "Spitfire Rodeo!" We hope to see you there.

Free to members. Non-members are \$5 which will be donated to the River Bend Trail Fund. Food and water is included with admission.



**park city**  
CREDIT UNION

MERRILL • TOMAHAWK • MINOCQUA • RHINELANDER  
715-536-8351 • [parkcitycu.org](http://parkcitycu.org)