



Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

Member Spotlight



Merrill Forward Together Healthy Community Initiative (MFTHCI)

Merrill Forward Together was a small non-profit organization incorporated in 1992. A few years later, another group of people formed the Healthy Community Initiative. The two organizations realized they shared common goals and were merged. Their mission is to enhance the well-being of youth and families by promoting positive development of youth assets through a community-wide partnership.

The projects of the organization included the drug free post graduation and post prom parties. A group of parents has since taken on the graduation party. Two projects added over the years include Make A Difference Day, where youth and adults work together to rake leaves for the elderly and disabled, and the Backpack Project, where free backpacks and school supplies are provided for those students in grades K-8 who qualify for free and reduced lunch under federal guidelines.

MFTHCI receives funding through community contributions and donations of school supplies. The group accepts monetary contributions throughout the year. Anyone wishing to donate to the organization can send checks to MFTHCI • PO Box 793 • Merrill WI 54452. Contact Linda Becker at 715-218-1806 if you have questions. Working Together – We Can Make A Difference.

A Word from our Executive Director



Ribbon Cuttings



The Gruling's held a Ribbon Cutting with us and all the key players in making their playground by The Agra Pavillion happen. Thank you to everyone who helped make their dream a reality! There will a lot of happy kids (and parents) now!!



A Ribbon Cutting was held at our newest member, US Cellular in Rib Mountain! They are excited to get to know more individuals in our community and hope you stop in and say hi when you're in the area.

Ribbon Cutting



Do you have a reason to celebrate!? Maybe you have recently had a remodel or just made some beautification updates. Have you opened a new location or new business? Let us know, and we can work with you to plan an Official Chamber Ribbon Cutting. If you don't have a physical location, that's okay. We can do it in front of our Chamber sign. Just [email Cheryl](#) to get this set up!

Recent News and Events

Recap of 2024 Chamber Annual Celebration

We had a wonderful time at our Annual Celebration! Below are our 2024 Businesses of the Year that you voted for! Our Ambassador of the Year was also announced, and that was Molly Lyon (Church Mutual)! We thanked Kurt Rust (Nicolet Bank) and Ryan Martinovici (MAPS) for their time on the Board, and we welcomed Melissa Wrycha (Park City Credit Union), Nancy Stadler (Nicolet Bank), and Trisha Detert (MAPS).



Large Business of the Year: Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes



Midsized Business of the Year: Associated Bank



Small Business of the Year: Lincoln County Humane Society



Hometown Business of the Year: Westside Market



Nonprofit Business of the Year: Merrill Police Association



Legacy Award: Weinbrenner Shoe Company

Thank you to our sponsors!

Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors

Brickner's Park City Interflex Group
Incredible Bank Ziebell Door Company

Bronze Sponsors

Culvers of Merrill
The Dirks Group

Have you seen our new website yet!?

Our new site aims to be more modern and hopefully more user friendly for our community and visitors!! Check us out at merrillchamber.org. Here's a peak at our 'About Merrill' page to help families or individuals make a smooth transition to Merrill, as well as how to get started with a new business. Check it out!



HOME MEMBERS ▾ EVENTS ▾ COMMUNITY ▾ RESOURCES ▾ ABOUT ▾

About Merrill

A bit of old-fashioned small-town charm describes our Merrill Community: a population of 9,347. We are located in North Central Wisconsin in Lincoln County: Mother Nature's own bit of place perfection. The four seasons are fully appreciated and offer outstanding beauty and abundant outdoor opportunities. Clean air, water, and the natural environment make Merrill a wonderful place to call home.

Below you will find resources to help make sure your transition to Merrill goes smoothly. If you're looking to make a move or open a new business, we're here to help.



Individual and Family Relocation

The City of Merrill has launched a dedicated webpage for those considering relocation, making it easier than ever to explore all that Merrill has to offer. Whether you're looking to learn more about the local school system, check out job openings, or browse homes for sale and rental properties, this resource has everything you need to start your journey. Discover what makes Merrill a great place to live, work, and grow, with convenient access to key information all in one place. Please head over to their website to find all of this information and more!





2024 Christmas Card Winner!

We had five entries this year! This is the card that the Board voted on as this year's winner! Congrats to Sandy Laehn and her painting of The Sawmill Brewery!

Register now to take part in the lighted Christmas parade on December 7th. This is a high-spirited community event involving businesses, clubs, schools, church groups, choirs and organizations. The parade has no theme other than all entries must be holiday/Christmas related and be lighted up! The parade is not judged, it has been created for enjoyment purposes and is done in the holiday spirit.

Online Form

Paper Form



2024 Business After Hours

Come Network with fellow Chamber Members!

Upcoming Business After Hours

- **Thursday, November 14th:** Hosted by O'Tannenbaum Tour held at Ballyhoo's
- **Thursday, December 12th:** Hosted by Cross Bridge Community Bank, Courtside Furniture and Sunrise Broadcasting at Eagle's Club in Merrill.

Please reach out if you are interested in hosting a Business After Hours. Business After Hours begin at 5pm and last about an hour or two. They are a great way to

From Our Members and Partners



Centergy is excited to invite you to the Spring Central Wisconsin Economic Development Organizations and Municipalities meeting! In partnership with the WEDC (Wisconsin Economic Development Corp.), Centergy wants to create active conversations and connections in the region. We kindly request that only Economic Organizations and Municipalities attend this event due to limited space. This event is not open to the general public, and we regret to inform you that media coverage is not permitted. Registration is required

[More Info & To Register](#)



Centergy is proud to be a sponsor for UWSP's annual Women Trailblazers Conference. The conference offers a unique experience for all attendees, whether attending in person in Stevens Point, Wisconsin or virtually from anywhere on November 6th. You'll hear directly from 25+ women leaders about their experiences making new things. Chart your own learning path and join sessions that will have a direct impact on your growth and development. Whether you are a trailblazer, founder, and entrepreneur, professional, artist, volunteer, student, or parent will find sessions and speakers that support your experience and interests. Registration is open!

[More Info & To Register](#)



Join Centergy for the unveiling of the 2024 Wisconsin Manufacturing Report™, the state's premier annual assessment of the manufacturing landscape, commissioned by the Wisconsin Center for Manufacturing & Productivity (WCMP). This comprehensive report offers unparalleled insights into the perceptions and outlooks of over 400 manufacturing executives across Wisconsin, alongside findings from five focus groups conducted statewide. Beverages



NTC Announces 2024-2029 Strategic Plan

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) has unveiled its strategic plan for 2024-2029, aimed at enhancing educational access, promoting workforce development, and fostering community engagement.

[Read More](#)

and breakfast items will be provided.

[More Info & To Register](#)



The 20th annual Central WI Days is quickly approaching, and Centergy is excited to extend an invitation to become a valued sponsor of this annual advocacy day at the Capitol in Madison on April 10th, 2025.

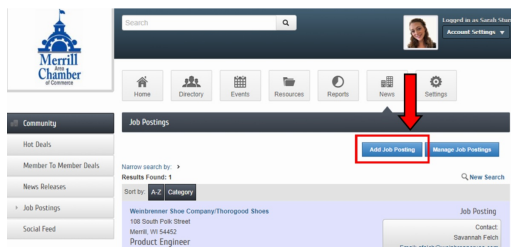
What is Central Wisconsin Days?

Central Wisconsin Days is a high-profile event that brings together representatives from business, education, and local government. Our shared mission is to educate lawmakers about policy issues critical to the economic vitality of Central Wisconsin. This collaborative effort serves as a powerful platform for driving change and advocating for the betterment of our region.

Why Sponsor Central Wisconsin Days 2025?

- Unique Exposure: By becoming a sponsor, your company will gain unique exposure to an audience of diverse stakeholders, including business leaders, educators, and government representatives.
- Advocacy and Networking: Participants gather to learn from issue experts, prepare with teammates, and meet with lawmakers in their Capitol offices. It's an opportunity to advocate for vital policy changes and establish valuable connections within our community.

[Email Centergy for More Info](#)



Now Hiring?

Did you know you have access to post your job listings/links to our website?

The MORE listings you have our there for your positions the higher search results you'll receive!

Login to your Member Portal and get started!

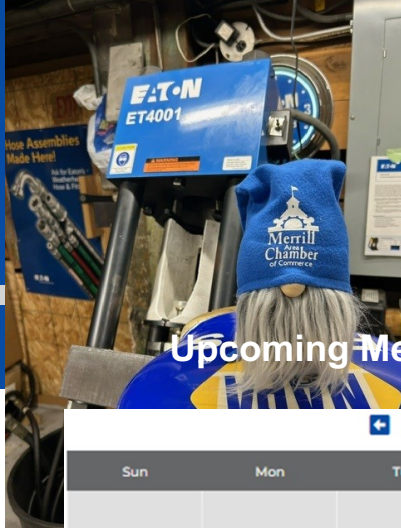
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[Ask for Access](#)

[View Job Postings](#)

Gregory Gnome

Gregory Gnome (that's pronounced Reg-oree No-mm, the "G's" are silent) is looking for a business to hang out with! Who wants to take him!? His goal is to bring our members closer together by getting to understand what a day in



the life is at their business. The person receiving Gregory Gnome will be asked to take a picture with Gregory Gnome and share the photo as well as a recount of his adventures with all of us. They will then pass Gregory Gnome on to the next business. We hope you enjoy this fun way to get to know each other better!

See Where GG Has Been...

Upcoming Meetings, Events, and Holidays

November 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|--|--------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | Italiano Friday Pasta Night | Flatbread Saturdays Food For Kids "Love Your Neighbor" Banquet |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Gleason Area Lions Pancake Breakfast and Blood Drive Holiday Porch Pots | Chair Yoga Windsock Turkeys with Jordan - Kids Workshop Notary Public Service Hours | Harvest Centerpiece with Tanya - Adult Workshop | Strength & Balance Tix17 Holiday Busted Carvas | Homemade Soup Thursday Ladies Night Cocktail Hour Deer String Art with Jordan - Adult Workshop | Italiano Friday Pasta Night | Merrill Area Fall Craft & Vendor Sales Real Writer's Group Flatbread Saturdays |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| BINGO | Library Closed for Staff Development - All Day Chair Yoga | Beginner Crochet with Jordan - Adult Workshop | Turkey Time Music Party Strength & Balance Introduction to Fly Tying | Homemade Soup Thursday Notary Public Service Hours Ladies Night Cocktail Hour Business After Hours Autumn Button Tree with Lisa - Adult Workshop Decoupage a Antique Crate with a Holiday Image MACA presents Jeremy Stolle Jeremy Stolle Concert | Italiano Friday Pasta Night | Christmas Porch Gnomes Turkey Day Marshmallow friends with Jordan - Kids Workshop Flatbread Saturdays |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| | Chair Yoga Notary Public Service Hours | Ambassador Club Fall Memory Cafe Girls Night Out Chunky Chicken Crochet with Jordan - Adult Workshop | Strength & Balance | Homemade Soup Thursday Cover to Cover Book Club Ladies Night Cocktail Hour Knitting and Crochet Circle Love, Joy, Peace Sign with Lisa - Adult Workshop | Italiano Friday Pasta Night | Fall leaf spray painting with Jordan - Kids Workshop Flatbread Saturdays |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| BINGO | Chair Yoga | Coffee with the Superintendent | Strength & Balance | Homemade Soup Thursday Ladies Night Cocktail Hour | Italiano Friday Pasta Night | Small Business Saturday Flatbread Saturdays |

November 5: VOTE!!
November 11: Veteran's Day
November 14: Business After Hours*
November 19: Chamber Ambassador Meeting*
November 28 & 29: Chamber Closed for Thanksgiving weekend.
November 30: Small Business Saturday
December 7: Chamber Christmas Parade*
December 12: Business After Hours*
December 24: Chamber Closed for the afternoon for Christmas Eve
December 25: Chamber Closed for Christmas
December 31: Chamber Closed for the afternoon for New Year's Eve
January 1: Chamber Closed for New Year's Day

*Denotes Chamber function

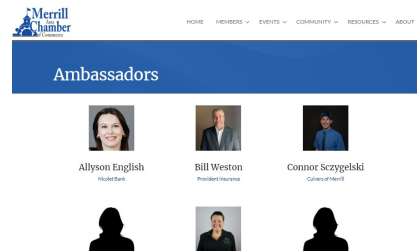
[Submit an Event](#)

[Full Event Details](#)

Chamber Ambassadors

Visit our new webpage dedicated to our wonderful Chamber Ambassadors!

[Visit their page](#)



Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce
Sarah Sturm, Marketing Director
715-536-9474
[ssturm@merrillchamber.org](mailto:ss Sturm@merrillchamber.org)



Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce | 705 N. Center Avenue | Merrill, WI 54452 US

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