



Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

Member Spotlight



ODC, Inc

Opportunity Development Centers, Inc. (ODC) is a private not-for-profit (501c3) that has been serving the Central Wisconsin area since 1965. Our mission is to “empower people with disabilities to achieve their work and life goals.”

Every person is valuable and has unique abilities and ideas to contribute to the workplace and the community. ODC supports over 1,200 individuals on an annual basis and operates in 22 of Wisconsin’s 72 counties. We offer a variety of programs and services, which include employment (job development and supported employment) community pre-vocational training, group supported employment, self-employment, school transition, Project SEARCH, mental health services (including outpatient mental health clinics), children’s long-term support, community day services, independent living skills, housing counseling, virtual services and community connection services.

All of ODC’s programs are designed and intended to promote independent living, inclusion and community integration of people with disabilities within the workplace and all aspects of community life. In Merrill, our focus is on offering community day services that facilitate volunteer opportunities with organizations such as Meals on Wheels, Children’s Wisconsin, Pine Crest Nursing Home, and St. Stephens Church. Additionally, our Merrill location provides employment services, independent living skills training, and resources for building community connections.

For further information, please go to our website at www.odcinc.com or email Mindy Reiman at mreiman@odcinc.com.

A Word from our Chairperson, Andrew Polzin



Ribbon Cuttings



It had been a long time waiting, but we finally got a ribbon cutting done for new business **Huhta Homestead!!** What a beautiful place to stop and pick up your meat or maple syrup or eggs! For more information visit <https://huhtahomestead.com>



We recently celebrated new small business, **The Humble**, located in Downtown Merrill. They are a faith based small business with modern Christian apparel, home decor and gifts, all pointing to Jesus. They also serve homemade chocolates with The Sweet Shoppe recipe. Check out their website <https://www.thehumblellc.com/> to see some of the fun things they have for sale!



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](mailto:Cheryl) to get this set up!

Recent News and Events

Have you seen our new website!?

Our new site aims to be more modern and hopefully more user friendly for our community and visitors!! Check us out at merrillchamber.org and stay tuned to our Facebook Page as we'll be featuring some fun new interactive pages!



Annual Christmas Card Contest

We are thrilled to continue our Annual Merrill Community Christmas Card Contest! Each year, we invite local artists of all ages to submit their artwork that captures the essence of Merrill during the holiday season.



Deadline to submit: September 30th

[Christmas Card Application](#)

Please join us for the
**Merrill Area
Chamber of Commerce
Annual Celebration
and Awards**

**Thursday,
October 10, 2024**

Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes
1208 N Center Ave
4:30pm Social Hour
5:30pm Dinner

Dinner cost: \$50 per person
Please make dinner selection and
return to the Merrill Chamber by
September 30th.
(see insert to make selection)



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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

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 network with area businesses. Let us know if you have any questions about hosting!

From Our Members and Partners



Who will make it in the Top 16!?

Our very own Weinbrenner Shoe Company was in the running! Announcement for Top 16 made today on madeinwis.com.



WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has opened a grant program for local organizations to start innovative programs to support small businesses.

Local and regional economic development organizations, municipalities, tribal governments, and counties are all eligible to submit proposals. Up to 40 communities will be awarded grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000. This Small Business Development Grant (SBDG) program is designed to build on the success of the popular "Mainstreet Bounceback" program from 2021-2022. The deadline for applications is **October 18**, with winners announced in early 2025.

[More Info](#)

Lincoln County, WI



[More Info](#)

More details have been released!

Lincoln County was established in 1874 as the second largest County in Wisconsin and we are celebrating its birthday. We are excited to celebrate with YOU on October 19th.



[Pssst don't forget to buy your shirt!?](#)



Space for Lease
Location + Visibility = Success!
Across from the landmark Lincoln

2024
The Wisconsin Manufacturing Report

Chris Baichoo
CEO / Executive Director
WMEP Manufacturing Solutions

PRESENTED BY: GAMBER JOHNSON, CENTERGY, CWIMA, WMEP MANUFACTURING SOLUTIONS

EVENT PARTNERS: GAMBER JOHNSON, CENTERGY, CWIMA, WMEP MANUFACTURING SOLUTIONS

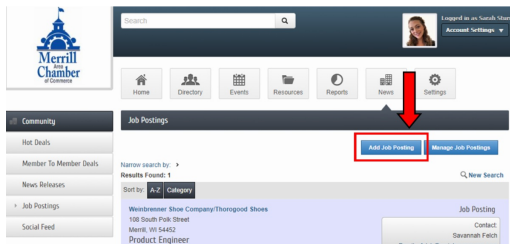
Register to attend the 2024 WI

Country Township, at the corners of Main and Center Avenue, this professional office space is perfect for your business!

[More Information](#)

Manufacturing Report™, the state's premier annual assessment of the manufacturing landscape, commissioned by the Wisconsin Center for Manufacturing & Productivity (WCMP).

[Register for the Event](#)



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!

[Login](#)

[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



[Submit an Event](#)

September & October Weekends: Grace & Sophie's Pumpkin Patch, Haunted Sawmill, Grampa's Farm

September 25: Ribbon Cutting at Gruling Playground*

September 28: MEC's Fall Craft & Market, Everything Goes Sale, Comedy Night at Rusty Moon Acres

October 1: Lincoln County Baby Shower

October 4: LinCon the 13th

October 5: Pine River Annual Open House

October 6: Fall Market at Sawmill Brewing Co.

October 10: Chamber Annual Celebration*

Full Event Details

October 12: Ribbon Cutting at U.S. Cellular*
October 19: 150th Lincoln County Celebration
November 14: Business After Hours*
December 7: Chamber Christmas Parade*

*Denotes Chamber function

Chamber Ambassadors

Visit our new webpage dedicated to our wonderful Chamber Ambassadors!

[Visit their page](#)

Ambassadors



Allyson English
Nicolet Bank



Bill Weston
Provident Insurance



Carri Kennedy-Harris
The Chiropractic Wellness Center



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



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