



## Merrill Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

### Member Spotlight



McCoy Construction & Forestry is your John Deere Construction and Forestry equipment dealer. Backed by certified parts advisors, factory-trained technicians and an extensive parts inventory, our specialties include new and used equipment sales, equipment rental, product support, parts, and service. We have twenty-four dealerships throughout the Midwest: Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee. We have partnerships aimed at serving your site development needs. With our relationship with APEX Technologies, we offer a wide range of Topcon equipment and services that automate the construction process. For your site developments, we offer quantity takeoffs and construction modeling.

We value our customers and strive in providing the best service. Our unmatched dedication to customer service is further strengthened by our parent company, McCoy Group. Headquartered in Dubuque, IA, and family-owned and operated since 1958. The McCoy Group brands include a transportation division (Foodliner & Quest Liner), semi-truck dealerships (Truck Country and Stoops Freightliner-Western Star, and Stoops Trailers).

[Visit their website](#)

### A Word from our Executive Director





[Iron Angel Arts](#) is a gift store specializing in repurposed handmade, hand-cut, metal art. They also have antiques and vintage items. They are a new member of the Merrill Chamber.

### Ribbon Cutting

Let us know of any remodels, beautifications, new locations, or new businesses you may know of! You don't need to be a Chamber Member to receive an Official Chamber Ribbon Cutting. We're happy to hold one for you. If you don't have a physical location to have one, we can do it in front of our sign. Just email Cheryl and let us know!

[Email Us!](#)

## Recent News and Events



### Christmas Cards and Prints are HERE!

We had a tie when our Board Members voted on the Christmas Card submissions this year, so we went with both! Congratulations Tamara and Debbi!

#### Christmas Card and Print Pricing

Single Card: \$3.00  
Pack of Cards (25 cards with envelopes):  
\$30.00  
8x10 print: \$30.00  
Bigger prints can be ordered. Inquire for cost.

## Gregory Gnome

Meet our new mascot, Gregory Gnome (that's pronounced Reg-o-ree No-mm, the "G's" are silent.) You've heard of Flat Stanley right? Well this is our version. 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!

## 2024 Business After Hours

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 & Partners



Sponsor Event

## Food Truck-a-Palooza Event

The City of Merrill is putting together an exciting new event! May 18th, 2024 they will be having a Food Truck-a-Palooza Event at the Merrill Festival Grounds. They believe this will be a yearly event that will bring in people from all over the area to Experience More to Life here in Merrill. There will be multiple food trucks, musical entertainment, a craft and vendor show, along with a Cornhole tournament.

They are looking for sponsors to help get this event off the ground. If you and your business would be willing to donate to this event please reach out to Hallie Savall at [Savall.Hallie@gmail.com](mailto:Savall.Hallie@gmail.com) for more information. They are expecting a great turnout and hope your business will be a part of building this event.



Restore Main Street and Vacancy-to-



Central Wisconsin Days 2024 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. As they gear up for another successful event, scheduled for February 13, 2024, they invite YOU to join them in shaping the future of Central Wisconsin through sponsorship.

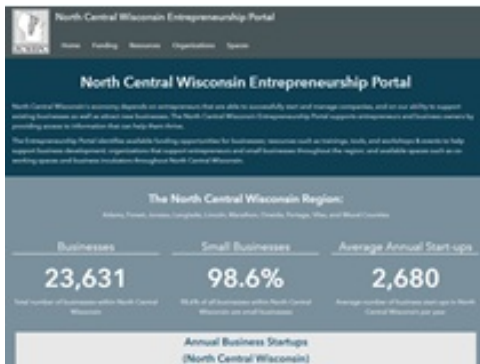
**Register for the Event**

**Vitality**

WHEDA is pleased to announce that today two new loan programs are available to developers because of the unprecedented bipartisan investment in affordable housing made by the Wisconsin legislature earlier this year.

Developers are urged to review program details including term sheets, summary overviews, award plans, and timelines for each program. Applications for the first cycle are due to WHEDA by December 29, 2023.

**Register Now**



**Announcing the North Central Wisconsin Entrepreneurship Portal**

North Central Wisconsin's economy depends on entrepreneurs that are able to successfully start and manage companies, and on our ability to support existing businesses as well as attract new businesses. The North Central Wisconsin Entrepreneurship Portal supports entrepreneurs and business owners by providing access to information that can help them thrive.

**Visit website**



**Merrill Fire Dept. 5-Year Strategic Plan Community Meeting**

You're invited! The Merrill Fire Dept. is updating it's current department vision and goals. They are asking the community members for your help in shaping the future of the fire department. (refreshments and snacks will be provided)

6PM-9PM at the Merrill Fire Dept.  
110 Pier Street on the following dates:  
Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024  
Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024  
Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024  
Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024

RSVP to Jana Johnson  
jana.johnson@ci.merrill.wi.us

**RSVP**



## Entrepreneurial Training Program

Grow your business

Elevate your entrepreneurial journey and invest in yourself and your business!

Join the Entrepreneurial Training Program and dive into a transformative learning experience designed to cultivate the skills and mindset needed for business success.

You'll be provided with support throughout the program with the instructor, your classmates, and our Small Business Development Center consultants.

Want to know more about the Entrepreneurial Training Program and if it's the right fit for you? Register for their no-obligation informational orientation!

[Register](#)



## Save the date for the Wisconsin Lender's Conference!

Thursday, May 16, 2024  
Kalahari Resort & Convention  
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

The 2024 conference is a one day, in-person event that provides educational information and updates for commercial lenders through presentations from SBA, SBDC, RMA, regulatory agencies, and more!

A variety of sessions will be available for new and experienced lenders and those who work with SBA loans. The conference features the SBA Lender Awards, breakout sessions, exhibitors, and a networking reception.

Registration will open March 2024. Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities available. If interested, reach out to [uwspce-bus@uwsp.edu](mailto:uwspce-bus@uwsp.edu).

[More Info](#)



[Check out Training Opps](#)

## Small Business Training Opportunities

Did you know that you can tap into the other training opportunities available throughout the Wisconsin Small Business Development Center network? You do not have to be a SBDC client or a client of the center offering the training.

Check out the available training opportunities across our SBDC centers.

## Ice Age Trail has new status as National Park!

On December 7, National Park Service Director



ICE AGE TRAIL  
ALLIANCE

Chuck Sams made an [exciting announcement](#): the Ice Age, North Country, and New England National Scenic Trails are now official units of the National Park Service.

[Read More](#)



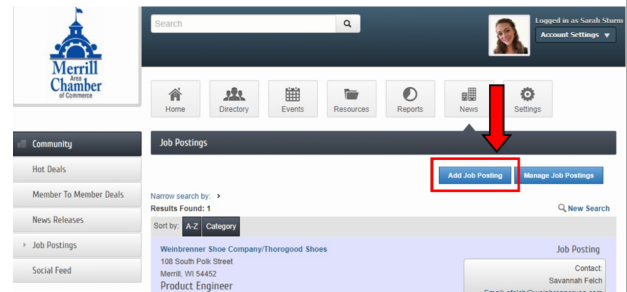
## Tis the Season to Show Others What Merrill Has to Offer!

Share the gems of the Merrill Community. Help people discover what to do and learn what is great about your favorite businesses and attractions. Show us your favorite day trip, family fun entertainment, and favorite date night. By uploading your photos you're giving us permission to use your photos to promote our community, giving you photo credit of course!

[Learn more about Shrpa here!](#)

### Now Hiring?

We're partnering with The City of Merrill to drive more traffic to our [Job Postings](#) page on our website. Did you know you have access to post your job listings/links to our website? Login to your Member Portal and get started!



Login

View Job Postings

Email Us for Access



### 2023 Visitor Guide

A great resource to help not only visitors and new employees, but our local long time community members too!

[Take a look!](#)

Upcoming Meetings, Events, & Holidays

**December 16:** Annual Santa in the Firehouse & Red Higgins Classic Country Christmas  
**December 17:** Santa at Auntie Ray's & Charcuterie Workshop  
**December 18:** Ribbon Cutting at Walgreens\*  
**December 19:** Ambassador Meeting\*  
**December 20:** Chamber Board Meeting\*, Ribbon Cutting at Thrivent\*, Christmas Music Bingo at Sawmill, Christmas Brass at Trinity,



We will be **CLOSED** December 25th **through** January 1st!

[Submit an Event](#)

\*Denotes Chamber function

[Event Details](#)

#### Chamber Ambassadors:

- Allyson English
- Bill Weston
- Carri Kennedy-Harris
- Danielle Wilcenski
- Dawn Dunbar
- Dawn Smith
- Diane Goetsch
- Emily Gibson
- Jennifer Porath
- Jessica Gipp

- Kathy Olson
- Konner Beyer
- Korey Bloch
- Kevin Hill
- Len Kats
- Molly Lyon
- Sasha Everett
- Sue Kunkel
- Tammy Strehlow
- Tim Dunbar



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

To allow more time with our families, the Chamber Office will be **CLOSED** the following dates:

December 25th **through** January 1st  
(corrected from previous email)

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



