



Merrill Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

Member Spotlight



Little Lakes Memories Inc.



We are a unique non-profit 501 (c)(3) human service organization providing periods of respite and relief by incorporating the natural resources of Little Lakes Ranch and Lodge. We specialize in creating lifetime memories for people who would otherwise be unable to participate because of physical disabilities.

littlelakesmemories.org

Little Lakes Memories is a non-profit organization providing lodging, recreation, and hunting to physically challenged individuals. They are based in Irma and for the past ten years they have hosted people from all over central and northern Wisconsin. While working with other private and non-profit organizations, they have hosted more than forty plus hunting experiences for disabled Veterans and youth. Their adventures include wheelchair bound individuals as well. Little Lakes Memories has secured a low-cost lease with the owners of Little Lake Ranch granting the hunting rights on the preserve to them, and they have worked with Little Lakes Lodge to provide the individuals and their families/caregivers in need of a non-hunting "timeout." By having this, it has allowed them to provide year-round experiences. The Little Lakes Memories has also provided scholarships, donated to Special Olympics, and provided fish outings for their special needs friends. They say it has been a privilege for them to have worked with so many deserving people who would have otherwise been unable to create their own successful lifetime memories.

The officers and board members of Little Lakes Memories are all unpaid volunteers with the goal of providing lifetime memories for as many families as possible. They will gladly work with any other organization that wishes to partner with them to pursue these memories.

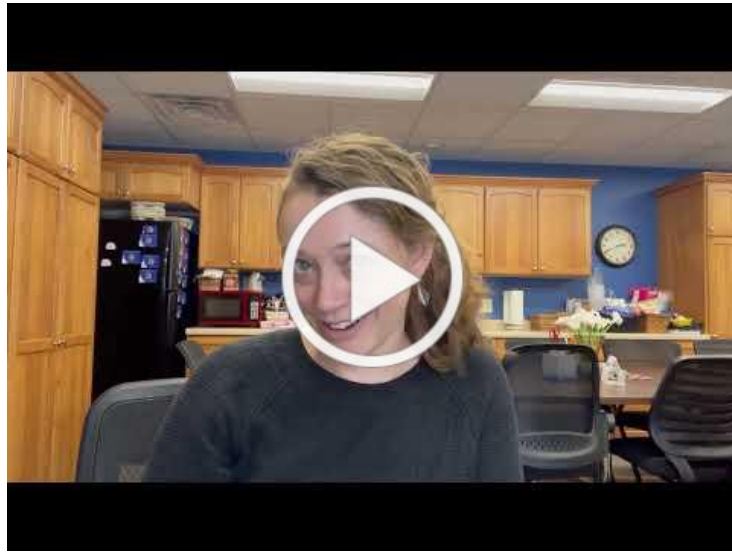
They will be hosting their **Little Lakes Memories Banquet on April 13th** at the Smith Center. Other events they host or help are Fish Outings and the Cops and Bobbers which you can inquire more about with Merrill Park and Recreation or Little Lakes Memories.

Little Lakes Memories is very fortunate to be in a community with so much support from the local businesses. "It would be hard to accomplish what we do without your support."

For more information on Little Lakes Memories please visit their website, www.littlelakesmemories.org or email any Little Lakes board member.

Visit their website

A Word from our Executive Director



Ribbon Cuttings

Ribbon Cutting



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!

[Email Cheryl](#)



[Sunset Hollow Wine and Bistro](#) opened up at 811 E 1st Street. Besides their wine, they offer a food and drink menu as well. Everything is organically made. They have featured drinks and specials as well as a regular menu. Once it warms up they plan to expand their hours and offer outdoor seating! Be sure to go check them out!!



[Plant Garden Center](#) has expanded their retail selection. If you're looking for a unique gift, a solution for a plant pest, or some quiet serene reflecting with the ability to bring some of that serenity home, look no further than this local, quality, woman owned, shop! We got to tour the greenhouses while there as well. Plant will be open for the season on April 19th.

Recent News and Events




Save the Date

for our HR Summit

DATE: MAY 15, 2024
 LOCATION: PARK CITY CREDIT UNION

More information to come.



2024 Membership

WELCOME TO THE CHAMBER

5 MORE MEMBERS!!



New 2024 Chamber Members

[OCCH Service](#)
 Sharon & Rich Schmidt

2024 Business After Hours

Come Network with fellow Chamber Members!

- Upcoming Business After Hours
- **Thursday, April 11th:** Hosted by Boys & Girls Club of Merrill and Big Brothers, Big Sisters at Sawmill Brewing Company
 - **Tuesday, April 23rd:** Hosted by and at Plant Garden Center
 - **Thursday, May 16th:** Hosted by The Chiropractic Wellness Center at Sawmill Brewing Company



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!

Travel with us to Portugal

Join us and [Harder Travel LLC](#) to an unforgettable experience in Portugal! Rated as one of the safest countries to visit in 2024, travelers will stay in Lisbon and Porto exploring the miradouros over the Tagus River, sipping port wine in the Douro Valley, and admiring the beautifully tiled buildings across the country. Registration is open!

[Click here for more info](#)



From Our Members & Partners

HUBZone? What's that?



The HUBZone program fuels small business growth in historically underutilized business zones with a goal of awarding at least 3% of federal contract dollars to HUBZone-certified companies each year.

[Learn More](#) from SBA.gov
[Learn More](#) from LCEDC

Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation (LCEDC) is here to help you. Please reach out to them or Sarah at the Chamber if you want to see if this could benefit your business.

Email
LCEDC

Email Sarah



CALLING ALL VENDORS & EXHIBITORS!!

On October 26, 2024 Bell Tower Residence is planning a Vendor Fair/Expo to give the community an opportunity to interact with area businesses, as well as experience what Bell Tower Residence has to offer. If you are interested in the vendor/exhibitor opportunity, please contact Kris McGarigle at Bell Tower

Residence 715-536-5575. Vendor registration fees will be \$50 for a 10-foot space with an 8-foot table. Many spaces will have electric available.



BrandKamp and BrandsFormation

Midwest Communications is partnering with author, agency, and small business marketing expert Chuck Mefford, whose BrandsFormation system has been used by hundreds of local businesses, transforming them into household names in their local communities.

BrandsFormation is a 4-Step system created to get measurable advertising results for local businesses.

Sign up below to attend our **free** BrandKamp for Business Seminar on Thursday, May 2nd, 2024 from 8:30am to Noon at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Rothschild.

[Register Now](#)



Grand Opening Celebration to celebrate the **NEW ODC location in Merrill** on April 5th!

Open to the public.

Ribbon Cutting & Dedication - **11AM**

Open House - **11:30 AM - 1:00**

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On April 2, 2024, residents of Merrill Area Public Schools (MAPS) will have the opportunity to vote on a referendum question to address district-wide facility needs that are too large to be covered by the District's annual operating budget, and will make the **best use of the best facilities**.

[Learn More](#)

Questions about the event? Contact Mindy Reiman at 715-818-6451 or mreiman@odcinc.com.

Voter Information



CAREER FAIR

Don't miss your chance to connect with eager employees and be apart of our upcoming Career Fair.

18TH APRIL, 2024

8:30AM-10:30AM (SETUP 8AM)

MERRILL HIGH SCHOOL
1201 N SALES ST

CONTACT US

715-536-4594

Kimberly.Stutting@mapsedu.org



Merrill High School is hosting a career fair and they'd love to have your business participate and set up a booth.

Benefits include:

- Access to a diverse pool of potential talent
- Increased brand visibility to local High School Students
- Networking opportunities with other businesses

If interested please reach out to Kimberly Stutting, Business Education Teacher to get signed up.

[Email Kimberly](mailto:Kimberly.Stutting@mapsedu.org)



Wisconsin
Childcare
SUMMIT

A Business Approach to Solving the Childcare Crisis

The Wisconsin Childcare Summit aims to bring together visionary business leaders committed to addressing and resolving the childcare crisis in our state.

[Sponsorship Opportunities](#)



Merrill Eagles Auxiliary 584

10th Annual Spring Raffle

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

RAFFLE BASKETS • BAKE SALE

Raffle basket drawing starting at 3:30 pm
Money ticket drawing at 4 pm

Music by Carl Jackson from 1:30-3:30 pm
Food provided at 3:00 pm

1205 Lake Street, Merrill, WI 54452
Only 500 tickets will be sold • \$10 each

Prizes

1st - \$1,000	5th - \$100
2nd - \$750	6th - \$75
3rd - \$500	7th - \$50
4th - \$300	8th - \$25

All proceeds go towards the Auxiliary Scholarship Program

10th Annual Spring Scholarship Raffle

Merrill Eagles Auxiliary 584 is hosting their annual scholarship fundraiser.

- Sunday, April 14th, 1:30pm to 4:30pm
- Merrill Eagles Club, 1205 Lake St.
- Raffle baskets & bake sale
- Music by Carl Jackson
- Lunch at 3pm
- Donations accepted by April 1st



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

Support is Available for Many Northern WI Businesses

Gov. Evers Announces Support is Available for Many Northern Wisconsin Businesses Affected By Lack of Winter Snow - Businesses in areas designated by the federal Small Business Administration can apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans

[Read more](#)

www.merrillchamber.org

AAC Interviews Alderperson Candidates



YouTube Videos

City Website

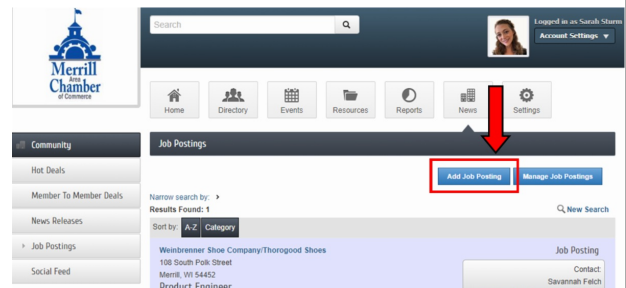
Now Hiring?

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

Login to your Member Portal and get started!

Login

Email Us for Access



View Job Postings



2023 A YEAR IN REVIEW

A Year in Review



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!

See Where GG Has
Been

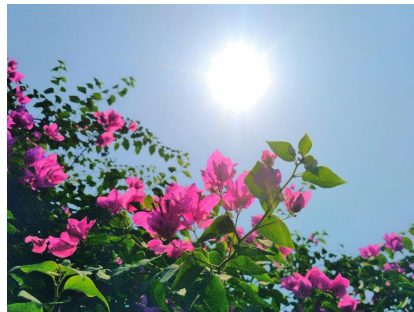


2024 Visitor Guide

Stop in and pick up some copies! We will be dispersing these all over the state and into neighboring states. This year we ordered 13,000 copies and we're almost out already, with plans to order more. We're excited to showcase all Merrill has to offer!

[Take a look!](#)

Upcoming Meetings, Events, & Holidays



- April 2: Election Day
- April 5: ODC Grand Opening Celebration*
- April 6: Children's Festival
- April 11: Business After Hours*
- April 13: Area Craft Shows, Little Lakes Memories Banquet
- April 16: Ambassador Club*
- April 19 & 20: Merrill Concertina Festival
- April 23: Business After Hours*

April 28: Raise Your Voice Awareness Walk
May 4 & 5: Brooke's School of Dance Performance
May 16: Business After Hours*
May 18: Community Wide Garage Sale, Food Truck-A-Palooza
June 3: Chamber Annual Golf Classic*
[Submit an Event](#)

*Denotes Chamber function

[Event Details](#)

Chamber Ambassadors:

- Allyson English
- Anna Schmidtke
- Bill Weston
- Carri Kennedy-Harris
- Danielle Wilcenski
- Dawn Dunbar
- Dawn Smith
- Emily Gibson
- Jennifer Porath
- Jessica Gipp
- Konner Beyer

- Korey Bloch
- Kevin Hill
- Len Kats
- Michelle Lahr
- Molly Lyon
- Sasha Everett
- Connor Sczygelski
- Shelly Storm
- Sue Kunkel
- Tim Dunbar

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

