



Merrill Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

Member Spotlight

Merrill Foto News



The Merrill Foto News is Merrill's hometown newspaper, keeping readers informed for the last 67 years. Founded in 1956 by Jim O'Day, the Merrill Foto News has grown to print more than 14,600 newspapers every week and includes distribution to every address in Merrill via the US Postal Service and to Gleason, Irma, and Athens, as well.

In late 2012 the Patrick Wood family and Multi Media Channels acquired the Foto News, along with 12 other Central Wisconsin publications from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. MMC is an employee-and-family-owned-and-operated Wisconsin media company that traces its publishing roots back three generations. Today MMC has grown to 32 total weekly newspapers, four magazines, and hundreds of specialty publications in Northeast and Northcentral Wisconsin, as well as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

"We pride ourselves on being stewards of the community, bringing information to our readers and being watchdogs of government happenings," said MMC Regional General Manager Tim Schreiber.

"To our advertisers, we are full-service advertising consultants. We offer many print-related advertising options with our newspaper and specialty magazines, along with website advertising. To our readers, we are the best choice for hyper-local news, high school sports, government meetings, and entertainment coverage in the area. We print and deliver free to our readers weekly, and at the same time we can be read daily online via our local websites."

"Just like the belief that radio was going to die when TV came along, many people think newspapers will die with the internet. This myth is very untrue," Schreiber said.

"Local hometown newspapers provide a service you can't get anywhere else and are still flourishing. There is no doubt the daily paid newspaper model is struggling, mainly due to the high cost of having to print a paper every day and deliver it. But weekly print publications, both free and paid, continue to be well-read and a vibrant part of small towns all over Wisconsin."

We are proud to be part of the Merrill community, where we help other businesses grow their businesses, much like the Merrill Chamber also does, and we look forward to being a part of this community long into the future.

[Visit their website](#)

A Word from our Director



Ribbon Cuttings and Ground Breaking



[Merrill Ice Reflections Figure Skating Club](#) held a ribbon cutting to commemorate the club becoming a Full U.S. Figure Skating Member Club.



[Old Time General Store and Mercantile](#) in Gleason, has new owners and they became members of The Chamber. We held a ribbon cutting to celebrate this new adventure for them!



[Auntie Ray's Coffee House](#) has expanded into the building next door. This new expansion provides more room for customers to come and enjoy their food and beverage.



[Smoke House TX BBQ](#) is a new restaurant in Merrill. They are located at 722 E 2nd Street. If you haven't tried their food yet, you're missing out!

Ribbon Cutting

Let us know of any remodels,



A new business has opened in town named [Glaringly Objective Audit Tax, LLC](#). If you're looking for help navigating tax laws look no further!

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



Welcome to the Chamber!

- [Klug Insurance Agency, LLC](#)
- [IBA Resources](#)
- [Old Time General Store & Mercantile, LLC](#)
- [Merrill Physical Therapy](#)
- [CWAV LLC](#)
- [McCoy Construction & Forestry](#)
- [Barnes Creek Daylilies](#)
- [Glaringly Objective Audit & Tax, LLC](#)
- [JAS Enterprises, LLC](#)
- [Iron Angel Arts & Antiques](#)

Chamber Annual Celebration Recap

'United and Growing as a Family'

Business of the Year Recipients



Large Business
AGRA Industries

Honorable Mentions:

- Nicolet National Bank
- Tractor Supply Company

Midsize Business
Los Mezcales

Honorable Mentions:

- Bell Tower Residence
- Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes

Small Business
Geiss Meat Service

Honorable Mentions:

- Kindhearted Home Care
- Merrill Sheet Metal

Hometown Business
Auntie Ray's Coffee House

Honorable Mentions:

- Ballyhoo's
- Westside Market

Nonprofit Business
O'Tannenbaum Tour

Honorable Mentions:

- Pine Crest Nursing Home
- Pine River

Legacy Award Winner



Merrill Sheet Metal Works
For 110 Years of Service in Merrill



Check out Photos from the Event!

Our theme for the Annual Celebration this year was, "United and Growing as a Family." This was to highlight that when you're a member of The Chamber, you gain so much more than just a membership to a place, you gain a family. We look out for each other. We cheer for each other. We support each other. We wanted to tie this theme into our celebration in a variety of ways. Hence, the creation of our Awkward Family Photo Wall!

[Take a peak at the fun!](#)



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!

CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS LOVERS!!

November 10th at Noon. We are looking for VOLUNTEERS to help put the Christmas Wreath up at the Court House!

It's a fun way to get in the Christmas Spirit and help our City look festive for the season. If interested just show up that day, or email us so we can get a head count and let you know if anything changes.



[Volunteer!](#)



[**Register NOW!**](#)

Registration is OPEN for The Very Merrill Christmas Parade!

Register now to take part in the lighted Christmas parade. 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.

2023 Business After Hours

We're looking for host(s) for a November 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



CENTERGY
Central WI Alliance for
Economic Development



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE WAUSAU AREA

The Boys & Girls Club are happy to announce that our Boys & Girls Club at the Prairie River Middle School (PRMS) site is going well! They are looking to have opportunities for their members at PRMS site to tour or speak with surrounding businesses. If you would consider doing so please complete the following survey.

[Business Engagement Survey](#)

Show your support for the Centergy Region

As a 501(c)4 nonprofit regional marketing and economic development organization, Centergy relies upon investments made by companies, organizations, and governmental entities within the Centergy Region.

If you are interested in joining those who support our work, please contact Centergy.

[Learn More](#)



The Merrill Enrichment Center publishes a monthly newsletter for our community, highlighting opportunities focused on social connections, education, and wellness!

Our newsletter is published by LPI which provides an advertising avenue for local businesses. We appreciate the support of all of our local businesses. **We are currently looking for new or previous businesses to advertise with us for 2024.**

We print 1700 newsletters each month and distribute them throughout the community as well as into Gleason and Tomahawk. In addition, people can subscribe to our newsletter online where your ad's are visible. We support our advertisers and share your information when services are needed.

Please contact Ruth Schlitz for questions and pricing at: rschlitz@lpicommunities.com or 800-950-9952 x2671



Registration is Now Open for:

Future Wisconsin Summit

December 5, 2023

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center, Madison, WI

[Register Here](#)

Thank you for your consideration in supporting the MEC.
Sincerely,
Tammie Mrachek



Gazebo Nights Shatters Records in 2023

The Gazebo Nights team is celebrating after yet another successful season of Thursday night concerts.

Each week local nonprofits attend the event in hopes of raising money for their organizations. This year the following nonprofits benefited from the concerts:

[Read More...](#)



Tue, Nov 28, 2023 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

[Register Now](#)

Central WI EDO and Municipalities Meeting

Centergy is excited to invite you to the Fall 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.

Northcentral Technical College, Workplace Skills and Etiquette Needs your Help!

NTC is designing a course for students to learn soft skills and etiquette in the workplace. To ensure they are creating a course that meets our community's specific needs, they would LOVE to get your input and suggestions of topics to include in the course. They are also looking for volunteers to be interviewed and highlighted in a video for a lesson! Volunteers could be hiring managers, supervisors, team members, or YOU!

They would greatly appreciate it if you could complete the very short survey

(linked below) by October 31st, 2023.



WORKPLACE SKILLS *and Etiquette*

We Need Your Help!

In response to community employer's needs, NTC is designing a class to help our students be successful on the job: **Workplace Skills and Etiquette**. This course will incorporate NTC's Success Skills: COMMUNICATES EFFECTIVELY, MODELS INTEGRITY, THINKS CRITICALLY, and RESPECTS DIVERSITY.

Course topics may include soft skills such as etiquette tips in the workplace, explore various business code of conduct examples, and communication with supervisors.

To better serve you and our community, we would greatly appreciate your input on the content you would like our students (your future employees) to learn.

Please complete the short survey linked below in this email.

Thank you!

Take the Survey



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!](#)

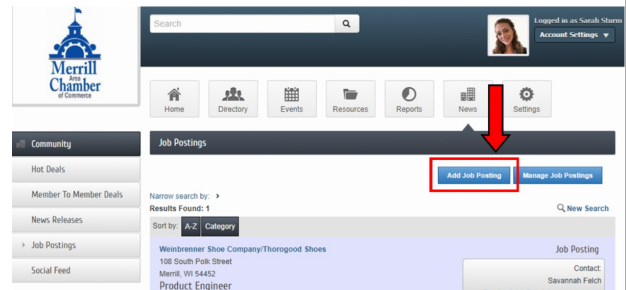
Now Hiring?

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

Email Us for Access

View Job Postings





A great resource to help not only visitors and new employees, but our local long time community members too! Request copies if you need some to give out. In the meantime, [Take a look!](#)

Upcoming Meetings, Events, & Holidays

October 31: Trick-or-Treating

November 1: Women Trailblazers & Entrepreneurs Conference; Ribbon Cutting at Klug's Insurance*

November 2: HAVEN, Inc. Fundraiser

November 4: Make a Difference Day

November 5: MACA Charlie Albright Concert

November 9: Lincoln County Sports Club 29th Gun Raffle

November 10: Holiday Market

November 11: Craft Shows in Merrill; Merrill Veterans Day; 2023 Holiday Preview; Holiday Market

November 16: Nicolet Bank Chili Cookoff

December 7: Business After Hours*



[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
- Konner Beyer
- Korey Bloch
- Kevin Hill
- Len Kats
- Molly Lyon
- Sasha Everett
- Sue Kunkel
- Tim Dunbar

Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce

Sarah Sturm, Marketing Director

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