

# Welcome To Madison Minnesota

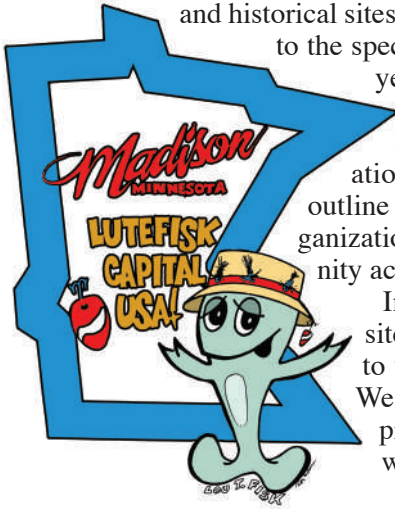


# WELCOME TO MADISON

We hope you enjoy this complimentary visitor's guide. Madison, "The Lutefisk Capital of the United States," is a unique city located in Lac qui Parle County set amidst the southwestern prairie of Minnesota. The heritage, history and resolve of both the early settlers and current residents make this town special.

This guide will take you on a walking tour of important and historical sites in the area and invite you to the special events throughout the year that are unique to Madison. It will also list the options for recreation during your stay and outline the various clubs and organizations that keep the community active.

Information about these sites and events is extended to welcome you, our guests. We hope you enjoy and appreciate them as much as we do.



Lou T. Fisk also extends a welcome to you!



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Events include: Around the Town Rummage Sales, Summerfest and Stinker Day, Dragonfest, Rock the Block, LqP Heritage Day, LqP Co. Fair, Oktoberfest, Norsefest, Christmas Promotion, and more!

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Recreation and attractions include: Madison Country Club and Golf Course, Madison Speedway, The Grand Theatre, Prairie Wildlife, LqP Co. Fairgrounds Rest Area, Ice Skating Rink (winter months), Ball Diamonds, Swimming Pool, Basketball Courts, and Tennis Courts.

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## The Western Guard



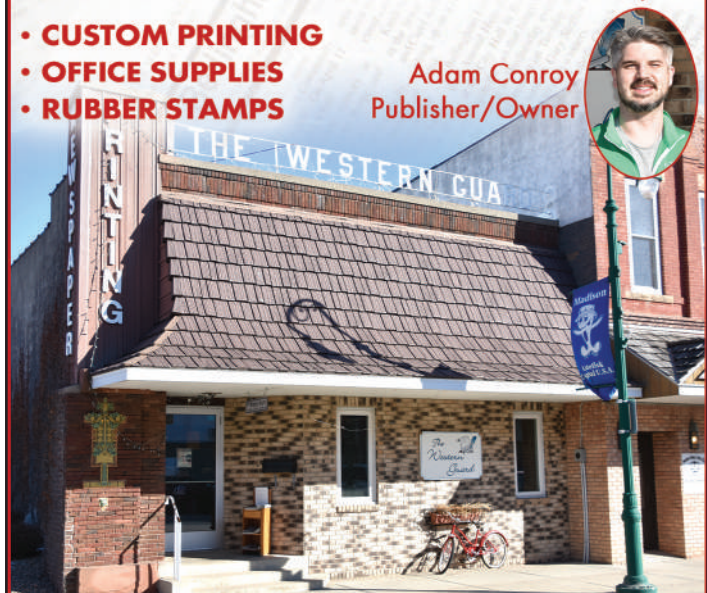
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## CITY OF MADISON WALKING TOUR



- 1 J.F. JACOBSON PARK** - Home of Lou T. Fisk! Picnic facilities, shaded parking and modern campsites make this a popular stopover for tourists and other visitors to the Madison area.
- 2 LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY HISTORICAL CENTER** - The “Smithsonian” of western Minnesota is located adjacent to the J.F. Jacobson Park and the Lac qui Parle County Fairgrounds along south Highway 75.
- 3 NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY** - Built in 1914, this noble building stands out among armories in the State of Minnesota.
- 4 MADISON CITY HALL** - A stately building which is on the National Register of Historical Buildings also serves as home to the Senior Citizens’ Center.
- 5 MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY** - A unique Carnegie Library listed on the National Register of Historical Buildings, and a member of the Pioneerland Library System, with more than 900,000 titles to choose from. The renovated library is handicapped accessible.
- 6 PRAIRIE ARTS CENTER** - The Lac qui Parle Players host visiting artists to present live theater on the prairie at this building. The annual Country Christmas is a popular production that plays to a packed house.
- 7 LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE** - Listed on the National Register of Historical Buildings, the courthouse is worth the visit. The beautifully maintained building is surrounded by lush lawns and wonderful flowers.
- 8 THEODOR S. SLEN PARK** - Lou’s Pond (swimming pool) is a good place to cool off at this park. Two shelter houses and restroom facilities are available for those who want to have a picnic at the park. Playground equipment, basketball and tennis courts are available, as well as off-street parking.



# J.F. JACOBSON PARK



The following is taken from an article in the *St. Paul Dispatch* dated Oct. 30, 1926:

"In Lac qui Parle County, people refer to Jacob F. Jacobson as 'King Jake'.

"The name is a tribute to the man who for more than 50 years has been not only a participant but leader in events that have made county history.

"It was Mr. Jacobson with his two brothers who led, in 1869, the first colonists from Iowa to found the earliest settlement in Lac qui Parle County at the village which now bears the county's name.

"It was Mr. Jacobson who was the county's pioneer merchant in the frontier town of Lac qui Parle. Later, it was he who led the group that came from the river settlement to found the town of Madison. It was 'King Jake' who led again the day the county seat was moved forcibly from Lac qui Parle to the newer city. On the day that citizens dragged the old courthouse 15 miles across country to Madison it was 'King Jake' astride the ridge pole of the kidnapped building, who had charge of the abduction.

"Later, Lac qui Parle County residents sent Mr. Jacobson to the Legislature where he obtained the passage of a law that legalized the court-house transition. That was the beginning of his political career that brought him to leadership of the Republican Party in Minnesota.

"He fought for reforms, fighting mainly against the railroad lobby, then the most powerful special interest around the capitol.



"He put through the 'were' law, which compelled railroads to handle freight on joint rates where lines intersected. He led in getting a law for the taxation of railroad lands. Then he battled for increase in the railroad gross earnings tax.

"He was chosen as gubernatorial standard bearer in the campaign of 1908, and, though defeated by the late Governor John A. Johnson, the Democratic candidate, Mr. Jacobson waged a campaign that made him known throughout the state.

"The reverse he suffered in this, his first and only venture in the statewide political arena, injured his prestige not the least in his own county. Although he retired from political life soon after that defeat, he did so to devote more time to his own business interest in civic affairs of his city and county."

Jacobson went to the legislature in 1889 and served until 1902.

In 1886, he moved from Lac qui Parle to the new village of Madison and continued his business there. Jacobson was one of the owners of the original townsite of Madison and was always found in the front ranks when anything appeared that would help the new town in its growth and improvement.

Jake Jacobson died on April 19, 1938, following an illness of several years and was in his 90th year.

On Feb. 7, 1972, Mr. Vern Molstad and Judge Theodor S. Slen appeared before the city council of Madison. They asked council members to consider renaming the Wayside Park on Highway 75 the J.F. Jacobson Memorial Park to honor Mr. Jacobson. Both men stated it was appropriate to use the centennial year of the city and county fair, since Mr. Jacobson was a member of the Lac qui Parle County Agricultural Society at the time of the first fair.

Their efforts met with success, and today, the park still bears the name of this highly respected founder and citizen of Madison.

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## A FISH NAMED LOU

One of the most notable attractions of J.F. Jacobson Park is a giant fiberglass cod fish that welcomes visitors coming to Madison.

Two Madison Chamber members, Dick Jackson and Scotty Kuehl, suggested to the Madison City Council on Dec. 8, 1982, that Madison should be named the Lutefisk Capital of the United States.

As part of this project, a large fish statue was ordered from F.A.S.T. Corporation in Sparta, Wisc. The 25-foot-long cod was constructed from fiberglass and sealed with a special finish using Dupont acrylics.

The Madison Chamber of Commerce funded the total cost of the project, \$8,000 for the base, artwork, and the landscaping, with short-term help from the city.

The fish, later named Lou T. Fisk, was officially dedicated at a ceremony held on June 23, 1983. Lou paraded through the streets of Madison to the Jacobson Park, where he still holds court.

Lou's dedication was featured on many media sources including Jim Klobuchar's column in the *Star Tribune*, the Boone and Erickson Show on WCCO and KFGO Radio, KSTP and KCMT TV, and the Associated Press wire service.

An advertising campaign placed large billboards at Morris, Wheaton, Pipestone and Olivia inviting visitors to come to Madison - the Lutefisk Capital of the United States - to see Lou and enjoy the town.

Designed to be placed on a travel trailer, Lou became an ambassador for Madison at parades and events around the country. However, even greater adventures awaited Lou!

An entourage, including Dave and Pilla Wasberg, Dick Jackson and

Steve Townly, all former Madison residents, took Lou T. Fisk on a tour of the country, especially for the observance of President James Madison's 236th birthday. These events kicked off the 200th year celebration of the U.S. Constitution.

Stops were made at cities and places named Madison in Wisconsin, Ohio, New Jersey, and New York with the final stop at Madison, Connecticut.

Lou's fame spread on this trip with media coverage including all of the wire services, CBS and NBC National Television (with a later segment on the Today Show from Madison), the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and more.

In June of 2003, Lou was removed from his pedestal and taken to Sparta, Wisc. where employees of the F.A.S.T. Corporation, who originally designed and manufactured him, gave Lou a face lift and a new paint job.

On July 31, 2008, Lou was knocked from his perch by a tree that fell to straight line winds. He sustained damage and made another trip to Sparta, Wisc. returning to Madison in early 2009.

In the summer of 2023, Lou once again received a facelift. This time the artist, Dustin Young, of Dickenson, N.D., came to Lou, repainting Madison's favorite fish at JF Jacobson Park.

The Madison Area Chamber of Commerce privately funded his renovation, and he is in tip-top shape to greet visitors to Madison as they approach our fair city on south Highway 75. Stop and say hello to Lou!



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## LQP COUNTY HISTORICAL CENTER



The vision of one man gave idea to the Lac qui Parle County Historical Center. A native to the county, Melvin Wroolie, became a teacher and superintendent of the rural schools in Lac qui Parle County. He was a dedicated educator and an avid historian.

The Minnesota Territorial Centennial Celebration would soon take place throughout the state. Mr. Wroolie invited 14 interested citizens to an informal meeting on Feb. 13, 1948 to discuss the territorial centennial. With Wroolie appointed chairman of the County Centennial Committee, he secured the assistance of Richard Hackett, deputy director of the Minnesota Territorial Centennial Committee, and they officially organized a historical society at another meeting ten days later. On Feb. 23, 1948, the Lac qui Parle County Historical Society was created.

The group acquired one room in the Lac qui Parle County Courthouse for the members to meet. They planned to participate in the territorial centennial 1949 celebration by having a float in the parade. By May 1948, the committee grew with a chairman from each of the 22 townships appointed to help.

A booth at the Lac qui Parle County Fair promoted the newly formed organization. They aimed to gain the interest of citizens in the history of the county and to remind them of the brave pioneers who came to this prairie after the Sioux conflict of 1862, work the younger generation would continue as they became the leaders of tomorrow.

The group wanted a county museum and worked toward attaining the goal. Important documents, photographs, and small artifacts were collected and stored at their meeting room in the courthouse. By 1957, they secured two rooms on the second floor of the Madison City Hall. The collecting, recording, and planning for better facilities continued while they focused on the preservation of donations as interest and enthusiasm grew.

### THE BUILDINGS

In 1949, Floyd Boraas donated an 1870s log cabin, and it was moved to the Lac qui Parle County Fairgrounds. After being a home, the cabin became the first school in Hantho Township. It was a granary until the renewed interest in history saved its deterioration. The society restored, furnished, and shows the building at the fair every year.

Many rural schools closed due to declining enrollment and the addition of buses to the city schools. The District #43 rural school building was donated by school board members in 1961. It was placed near the log cabin and was furnished and is maintained by the society.

Lac qui Parle County Fair Board donated property to the society for the establishment of the museum. The 46' X 120' museum building was completed during the summer of 1972. The log cabin and schoolhouse were moved onto the donated grounds. The county dedicated the museum in an impressive service on Nov. 12, 1972. With

the completed museum as a focal point, county history came alive.

In 1973, the agricultural building, which was built near the south end of the historic center's grounds, was completed. During the past 30+ years, it has been filled with historic tools, farm machinery, and vehicles of early transportation.

An 18' X 36' addition to the museum was completed in 1981. In 1982, Ethel Mellum, a long-time member of the society, made a major contribution of 200 dolls and enough furniture, artifacts, and various items to furnish a Victorian living room, dining room, and bedroom.

The appropriately named Ethel Mellum Addition was added to the museum in 1985 and 1986. This room serves as a meeting room for the society and features a small kitchen. It has a full basement with a fireproof vault.

Marvin Wicks donated the old village blacksmith shop in 1990, and it was set up in the agricultural building.

### NOTEWORTHY PEOPLE

**Theodore Christianson** was governor from 1924 to 1930. He was born ten miles east of Madison, and his birthplace is still owned and used by family members. Christianson attended District #7 County School and graduated from high school in Dawson in 1901.

With four brothers, **J.F. Jacobson** formed a caravan of 40 families in covered wagons. They traveled from Winneschick County, Iowa, in 1869 and opened the settlement around Lac qui Parle Lake and along the Lac qui Parle River. This settlement became Lac qui Parle Village. In 1908, Jacobson ran as Republican candidate for governor but lost to John A. Johnson. He acted as a powerful leader in his community, his county, and state offices from 1888 to 1918. Jacobson fought for all causes concerning the county from which he came and accomplished a great deal in his lifetime.



**Robert Bly** was born Dec. 26, 1926, on a farm a few miles south of Madison. He attended rural school near his home and Madison High School where he became valedictorian of his class in 1944. Bly is nationally and internationally famous as a poet, writer, author, and literary critic. He donated his studio, the former District #83 schoolhouse, in which he did his early writing for 20 years - the late 50s, 60s and early 70s.

An immense amount of historical documents are housed in these buildings which are now a part of the Lac qui Parle Historical Center.

### EXHIBITS

Museum exhibits portray Native American artifacts, the mercantile trade, a millinery, pioneer medicine, a church, period furnishings, and settler lifestyles. There is an extensive research library and archives.

A Civil War exhibit was added to the museum in 2001. Donated by Howard and Edith Kittelson, of Louisburg, this is the largest and most complete Civil War collection for miles around.



Another exhibit at the museum is the Township Row. This project was intended to promote local government by making a booth focusing on each of the 22 Lac qui Parle County townships. Each booth is identified with a nameplate, and many have given an 8" X 10" photo of the 1993 town board members as well as contributed generously to the cost of its construction. This has become an important educational tool as young students visit the facility.

**HOURS**

The Historical Society offers summer hours from May 1 through Oct. 31. It is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The winter hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is an extensive obituary file in the library, and family genealogy is encouraged. As a county historical society, members are dedicated to the collection and preservation of Lac qui Parle County history. This rich history is available to the many friends, visitors and to the Lac qui Parle communities.



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## THE ROBERT BLY STUDIO

Also located at the Lac qui Parle Museum is the Robert Bly studio, where the famous poet did much of his writing from 1964 to 1979.

Robert Bly was born near Madison in 1926 to parents of Norwegian stock. He enlisted in the Navy in 1944 and spent two years there. After one year at St. Olaf College, he transferred to Harvard and thereby joined the famous group of writers who were undergraduates at the time. These included Donald Hall, Adrienne Rich, Kenneth Koch, John Ashbery, Harold Brodsky, George Plimpton and John Hawkes. He graduated in 1950 and spent the next few years in New York.

Beginning in 1954, he attended two years at the University of Iowa at the Writers Workshop.

In 1956, he received a Fulbright Grant to travel to Norway and translate Norwegian poetry into English. While there, he found the works of a number of major poets whose force was not present in the United States.

He determined then to start a literary magazine for poetry translation in the United States, and so began *The Fifties*, *The Sixties* and *The Seventies*. It also published essays on American poets and insults to those deserving. During this time, he lived on a farm near Madison.

In 1966, he co-founded American Writers Against the Vietnam War and led much of the opposition among writers to that war. When he won the National Book Award for *The Light Around the Body*, he contributed the prize money to the resistance.

During the 1970s, he published 11 books of poetry, essays and translations, celebrating the power of myth, Indian ecstatic poetry, meditation and storytelling. His book, *Iron John: A Book About Men*, published in

1990, is an international bestseller which has been translated into many languages.

In the early '90s, with James Hillman and Michael Meade, he edited *The Rag and Bone Shop of the Heart*, an anthology of poems from the men's work. Since then, he has edited *The Darkness Around is Deep: Selected Poems of William Stafford*, and *The Soul is Here for Its Own Joy*, a collection of sacred poetry from many cultures.

The Robert Bly studio was donated to the Lac qui Parle County Historic Center in 1999. Fundraisers were held to pay for the cost of moving the former school building onto a new foundation at the museum grounds and for refurbishing and painting. Bly and one of his sons, Noah, and many of his contemporaries were present for the dedication ceremony on July 25, 1999.

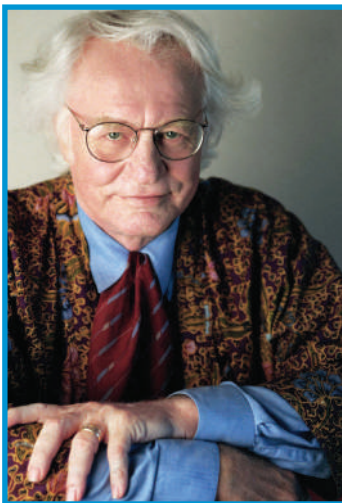
Occasionally, Bly returned to his old studio during the Lac qui Parle County Fair. Bly and Bill Holm, a fellow poet, held a poetry reading at the studio during the 2005 fair, signing autographs for many.

In 2006, the University of Minnesota was presented with Bly's library.

In 2008, Governor Tim Pawlenty named Robert Bly the first poet laureate of the state of Minnesota. The poet laureate may promote the reading and writing of poetry, preside over poetry awards and contests, and write poetry or select poets to compose works for significant state occasions.

In 2013, Bly received the Frost Medal from the Poetry Society of America.

Bly passed away on Nov. 21, 2021, at the age of 94.



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Completed on Nov. 6, 1914, the original National Guard Armory cost \$1,488 to the city of Madison and \$15,000 to the state of Minnesota. Built in 1923, the addition to the Armory cost \$25,000 to the state of Minnesota. The final addition of the garage was completed on Sept. 6, 1961, at a cost of \$8,910 from state funds and \$13,800 from federal funds.

Numerous remodeling projects in recent years include new insulated glass and steel entrance doors, new insulated garage doors, new windows, tuck pointing, sidewalks, sign and boiler. Extensive work has been done to the interior of the building as well, including a new heating system, updated kitchen, new locker rooms and new flooring upstairs and downstairs. In 2010, an elevator was added making the armory handicapped-accessible.

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## MADISON CITY HALL

On Dec. 17, 1901, the village of Madison passed this ballot issue: "Bonds of the village of Madison be issued and negotiated in the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of erecting and furnishing for the use of said village, a city hall, engine room, and village jail combined."

The city hall, now called the municipal building, was built in

1903. This red brick building

is part of the historical registry and adds much to the appearance of Sixth Avenue. Over the years, there have been many improvements. The basement has been enlarged, the auditorium redecorated and the jail moved.

The auditorium had many uses. In the early days, graduation exercises for both the public school and the Lutheran Normal School were held there.

During World War I, the large front room on the second floor was the scene of great activity. Women of the city, under the direction of Mrs. Annie Gammell, a nurse and wife of Dr. Gammell, made bandages, pneumonia jackets, woolen helmets, scarves and socks for the "boys overseas".

Every winter, there would be either concerts or lecture series by nationally-known speakers. There were plays and other types of musical entertainment. The city hall, or "opera house" as it was often

referred to, was a place the outside talent loved to play in. Of special interest is the Christy Obrecht troupe. The Obrecht family grew up in Madison, moved away, and as adults came back as real actors and actresses. The community responded to these events with overwhelming support by selling out performances and purchasing reserved seats.

Over the years, the kitchen has had more than its share of use. The public school children used the facility until 1959, when a kitchen was added onto the school. Oyster and lutefisk suppers were served. Uses expanded further with the Kiwanis serving pancake suppers and the Democrats holding a regular oyster supper. Farm

meetings, school concerts, political meetings, flower shows, senior meetings and rummage sales all made use of the kitchen. Presently, the kitchen and basement are used regularly for senior citizen group meetings.

In 2005-2006, the city hall was updated to provide handicap accessibility, and since 2022 the building received a full exterior facelift.

For over 100 years, the Madison City Hall has been the business center, as well as the social, entertainment and educational meeting place for the residents of Madison and the surrounding area. The current mayor is Maynard Meyer. Tim Volk, Adam Conroy, Paul

Zahrbock and Julie Stahl comprise the City Council. Val Halvorson serves as city manager, and Christine Enderson as city clerk.

The web site for the city of Madison is [www.ci.madison.mn.us](http://www.ci.madison.mn.us) and for the Chamber of Commerce [www.madisonmn.info](http://www.madisonmn.info).



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## MADISON LIBRARY



Shortly after the turn of the century, plans for a library for the city began. An \$8,000 appropriation from the fund set apart by Carnegie Library was assured to be used for the construction of the library after the usual formalities were observed. Madison was one of 2,800 cities in the United States receiving Carnegie building funds in 1905.

Architect Butler, of Minneapolis, designed the original building in Gothic Doric style. A leading contractor for public buildings in western Minnesota, Gerhardt Herriges, was contracted for \$6,216.85 to build the present Madison Library.

It was built with quality and is on the National Register of Historic Sites, along with the Madison City Hall and the Lac qui Parle County Courthouse.

The first librarian was Mrs. Ingebrog Jerde, who also served as janitor, took care of the lawn, and put on and took off the screens and storm windows. In 1907, the librarian was paid a salary of \$30 a month for all this work.

The library retained the Carnegie name until 1990 when it was changed to the Madison Public Library. The library is currently a member of the Pioneerland Library System and shares unbelievable resources of knowledge.

A computerized system has long since replaced the rows upon rows of card catalog drawers found in libraries in the past, with all the materials and library cards now bar coded.

In addition to books, the library offers a vast array of materials to the general public including DVDs and BLU-RAYS, audiobooks, CDs, newspapers and magazines, as well as e-materials, including ebooks and digital audiobooks. For the researcher, there is a wealth of information available on microfilm, including copies of local newspapers. Computers, iPads and wireless internet are also available, with free access to the Internet and Microsoft Office software programs available to all members of the public via their desktop computers.

For the younger children, there are story hours, weekly crafts and reading programs.

The Madison City Council voted at their regular board meeting on Aug. 14, 2000, to build an addition and remodel the present building. The city pledged \$250,000 toward this project. A \$150,000 grant was received from the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning in state matching funds for accessibility.

The library was relocated to the former Satre building for over a year from April, 2001, to April 29, 2002, during the renovation project.

The addition to the public library was very tastefully blended into the original building, making the new facility very airy, light and user-friendly with the latest in technology to serve the many library patrons.

The entrance to the library was moved to the south side with entrance possible either via a set of stairs or by the use of the elevator.

The addition and renovation brought the Madison Public Library into the 21st century with a much-needed facelift.

The lower level is devoted to children with computer stations, iPads and shelves filled with children's fiction and non-fiction books. There is also an audiovisual section with children's movies, TV series and

audiobooks. Storage bins are filled with easy reading material and there is an area for playing board and video games, as well as a MakerSpace filled with the latest tech gadgets.

Handicapped accessible bathrooms and a meeting room are found in the remainder of the original building on the lower level.

On the east end of the upper level of the old building is a periodicals room with newspapers and magazines for adults. The audiovisual section with adult CDs, movies and TV series is located on the north-east end.

The computer area faces the stairway leading to the lower floor. Large windows on the south allow lots of sunshine to enter the room. Rows of shelving filled with fiction and nonfiction and reference books occupy the remainder of the upper level addition.

The library is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. (closed 1 to 1:30 p.m. for lunch), and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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# PRAIRIE ARTS CENTER



The Prairie Arts Center, located at 506 6th Street in Madison, was formerly the First Lutheran Church and is home to the Lac qui Parle Players, a local community theatre organization founded in 1984 "to stimulate and encourage theatrical activities in the region." And they continue to do just that.

In 1973 civic-minded members of the Madison Chamber of Commerce Cultural Affairs Committee worked with local citizens to purchase the building to provide a place where drama, music, dance and art could flourish in this Minnesota prairie town. Upon completion of the financial arrangements, the building was gifted to the City of Madison. In 2022, Wayne Borstad purchased the property and plans to keep it as a performance center. Over the years improvements were steadily made: a stage was built up,

theatre seats were purchased and installed, a new light board (1993), new shingles (1994), the seats were painted and upholstered (1999-2000), air conditioning to make summer productions more pleasant (2000), fire escape added (2001), handicapped accessible bathroom and ramp (2002), carpet in the entryway and theatre aisles (2003), sandblasting and repair of exterior and fresh signs (2005-2006), re-vamping of stage area to improve safety and space for performers to work (2006), new backstage stairway (2010), major lighting upgrade (2015), and basement and bathroom renovations (2018).



Throughout all these years many plays, musicals and variety shows have graced the stage of the beloved PAC, usually ending the year with a Christmas show, which has become a popular tradition in Madison.

In 2023, under the ownership of Wayne Borstad, the Prairie Arts Center received a much needed rejuvenation, undergoing complete renovations inside and out, making the building both structurally sound as well as visually stunning. The renovations were revealed to the public during the first performance in the updated building, which fittingly was a Christmas performance in December 2023.

If February 2026, the Madison Art and Innovation Center became the newest owners of the Prairie Arts Center when it was donated to them by Borstad. Their goal is to help the community grow and maintain art and culture



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## LQP COURTHOUSE



It is unlikely there ever existed, at any time in any county of any state, any piece or parcel of land that has been subjected to more county seats than the territory which now constitutes Lac qui Parle County.

William Mills was one of the very early settlers in Lac qui Parle County. He settled on the banks of the Lac qui Parle River in 1868. The following year,

Peter Jacobson led a caravan of about 20 families from Iowa to this location. They brought with them quite a few horses and about 150 head of cattle.

Jacobson's claim adjoined Mills' claim, and that very summer, the two men platted the first townsite in the county. It was named Williamsburg.

A few months later, F.B. Andrews and L.S. Hines platted a townsite about a mile north of Williamsburg. They also built a store.

That fall, Peter Jacobson bought approximately 11 tons of flour and quite a supply of other provisions and opened a store on his farm. He soon developed trade with the Indians and exchanged their furs for provisions.

Settlers flooded into the area and began to organize towns. On occasion they puzzled how to proceed to make everything legal. J.F. Jacobson once remarked in his usual quaint manner, "There was not a law book west of New Ulm but then we had William Mills. He was a walking encyclopedia, and we soon also got Chamberland. He was another one."

The first election was held in the Mills house. They elected a full set of county officials. As they had no county yet, it didn't mean much.

Another town began to sprout up east of Williamsburg.



The legislative act forming Lac qui Parle County was approved on May 6, 1871. In November of that year, they held their first regular election. The main issue was to elect a county board which was authorized to designate the county seat.

For county commissioner, the Williamsburg ticket carried the names of S.A. Anderson, J.F. Jacobson and Frederick Ehlers. The Lac qui Parle ticket presented Browning Nichols and Colben Anderson. The county seat fight started in full swing.

At this election, the Lac qui Parle ticket won with Colben Anderson, Browning Nichols, and Frederick Ehlers elected county commissioners.

At the first meeting of the board in January of 1872, the board designated Lac qui Parle Village as the county seat and appointed the county officials. Thus, Lac qui Parle Village became the official county seat. The county business was transacted in a rented building. In 1883, a court house was erected at the approximate cost of \$1,000.

In late 1884, the Wisconsin, Minnesota and Pacific Railroad Company built a line through the county. This established the towns of Boyd, Dawson, Madison, and Marietta. The line was leased and operated by the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad Company.

A lot of people considered this the end of Lac qui Parle Village. Some business concerns moved to Dawson and some to Madison.

The moving of the county seat appeared a foregone conclusion, except to the people who stayed in Lac qui Parle Village.

In the spring of 1885, the people of Dawson circulated a petition requesting the county seat be moved to Dawson. Madison circulated a similar petition with an increased number of petitioners. The "fight was on" once more.

At subsequent hearings before the county board, the Madison petition gained approval over the Dawson petition but was subject to a vote of the electors.

At the election held Nov. 2, 1884, the voters of the county ratified the designation of Madison by a handsome majority.

However, the Lac qui Parle Village boosters belonged to a class usually designated as "die-hards." They immediately started an action to contest the election and secured a court injunction, restraining county officials from transacting any county business except at the county seat.

Just ten days after the election, a group of men traveled to Lac qui Parle Village and took possession of the county records, bringing them to Madison.

On Nov. 12, 1886, 150 men and 40 teams of horses met during the night on the "Leather Breeches" farm located roughly seven and a half miles east of Madison. This group traveled to Lac qui Parle Village with determined intentions.

The courthouse was placed on wagons and started on the 15 mile trip across the prairie to Madison. A severe snowstorm stopped the move three miles west of the village. Days later, an axle repair delayed the movers. After overcoming many obstacles, the courthouse building was brought to Madison.

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Madison now retained the records and the building. Lac qui Parle Village held the officials. Thus, for a period of four weeks, county business remained at a complete standstill.

On Dec. 8, the county auditor, treasurer, sheriff, clerk of court, and register of deeds decided they would ignore the restraining order and conduct county business at Madison.

In the spring of 1887, the county officials were cited to appear before District Court Judge John H. Brown to show cause that they should not be fined for contempt of court. The restraining order, preventing officials from conducting business out of the county seat, was finally dismissed.

While many might consider this the final battle, the end was nowhere in sight.

The state supreme court in the summer of 1887, ruled the law under which the election was held was unconstitutional and the county records returned to Lac qui Parle Village.

In the election of 1888, J.F. Jacobson was elected a member of the legislature, primarily ensuring that a valid law was enacted.

The matter resurfaced at a special election in May of 1889, and Madison was again victorious. The revolving records were returned to Madison by the county board.

During the fall election of 1898, a proposition to vote bonds in the amount of \$36,000 dollars for a new courthouse was submitted and defeated. At a special election held May 14, 1899, the bond issue finally carried.

With a new courthouse finally being built in Madison, the original

court house building moved to 7th Avenue and was divided into two. One half was remodeled into a dwelling which remains today. The other half provided timbers for a house next to that dwelling.

The new courthouse was completed and accepted by the board of county commissioners on Nov. 29, 1899.

It is a handsome two-story brick building with a basement of native boulders and trimmings of Minnesota sandstone. The building cost \$30,689 and stands 59 by 134 feet wide. A high central tower with an open arcade dominates a view of Madison. The exterior features of the courthouse have not been altered in all these years.



The interior is finished with marble and quarter-sawn oak. Originally, there were nine offices and four fire-proof vaults on the first floor. Six office rooms and the large court room comprised the second floor.

Over the years, remodeling and improvements have been made to better serve the public while still retaining the historical integrity of the building.

An elevator was added in 1993, and the main floor flooring was replaced in 1995. The front of the building had tuck pointing added in 1998 with the three remaining sides completed in 2000.

The front steps were repaired in 1999, and from 1999-2000, old style lights were added on the courthouse lawn.

In 2012, an estimated \$800,000 geothermal mechanical system was installed.

Over the last few years the courthouse has had interior updates to accommodate department restructuring.

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## THEODOR S. SLEN PARK

Mayor Dr. Nels Westby wasn't pleased with the sight of what was known as the swimming pool park. To say the least, it was a mess. However, the unhappy mayor did something about it.

Westby reportedly liked trees and held a great interest for the quality of life in the community. He felt upset with the condition of the street, barbed wire fences, and the mud in the lots around the so-called swimming pool park.

When fellow tree lover Arthur Hauck was appointed to the city council, the two men promoted a resolution to establish a park in Madison.

The city council soon hired local nursery owner Martin Sohlt to head a "tree planting bee" along the borders of the park. Over the years, trees were planted and the ground was landscaped. The swimming pool was completed in 1938.

In 1996, the park saw many improvements. Two new tennis courts, a new basketball court and sand volleyball courts were constructed. A new handicapped accessible shelter house with bathrooms was built. Colorful playground equipment for the younger children was added.

Theodor S. Slen Park was named for a judge from Madison. He was born to Sarah (Wroolie) and Mons Pederson at Delaven, Oct. 15, 1885, the grandson of pioneer immigrants from Telemark and Voss, Norway. Later, he and his brothers reclaimed their original Norwegian family name of Slen.

When he was 12, the family moved to a farm near Boyd, and he attended schools in Boyd and later the Lutheran Normal School in Madison.



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He taught in the rural schools of Lac qui Parle County for two years before going to study at St. Olaf College, Northfield where he earned a B.A. degree in 1912 and distinguished himself with state honors in oratory and debate. He won the Ware Cup from Carleton College for St. Olaf in oratory. He earned a law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1915 and returned to Madison to establish a law practice late that year.

With Madison's Company "M" of the 2nd Minnesota National Guard, he was sent in 1916 to the Mexican border and the following year began military service in World War I, rising to the rank of captain. Wounded in action at Cantigny, France, he was decorated by General John J. Pershing with the Purple Heart and also received a Silver Star and France's Croix de Guerre. Following the Armistice in 1918, he was assigned to participate in the occupation of Germany, and he was present at the 1919 meeting in Paris which led to the formation of the American Legion and later the VFW.

The year 1919 also marked his return to Madison. He began a legal career that would span more than six decades. These years included his law practice, several terms as city and county attorney, municipal judge and county judge of probate and juvenile courts for 15 years.

Mr. Slen served two terms in the Minnesota State Legislature in the late '30s. During the next few years, he took the leading role in the merger of the Farmer-Labor party. This led to the formation of the DFL party in 1942, of which he was the first state chairman. He was also called the state's top Democrat but was the unsuccessful Democratic nominee for governor in 1940. He acted as Democrat National Committeeman from 1940-44.

Throughout his long life, Mr. Slen was active in his church, singing in the choir for 30 years, was Sunday school superintendent 25 years, and held a variety of other posts. He was an active participant in many organizations in Madison and on the state level. He was a charter member of Kiwanis, American Legion, VFW, Veterans of WWI, and the Lac qui Parle County Historical Society. He was a member of Kiwanis Legion of Honor. He received the Minnesota Distinguished Citizen Award in 1970 and was a Judge Advocate Emeritus. In 1970, he was the first recipient of Madison's Jaycees and Chamber of Commerce "Outstanding Citizen" Award, partly for his years of contribution to the Citizen's Advisory Board and the Park Board, particularly the early years of planning the city's park system. An avid gardener and tree fancier, he was pleased beyond words when the city park was renamed in his honor.

Twice he was WCCO's "Good Neighbor".

Judge and Mrs. Slen were grand marshals of the parade when Madison celebrated their centennial in June of 1985. Four months later, when he himself reached the age of 100, the local VFW

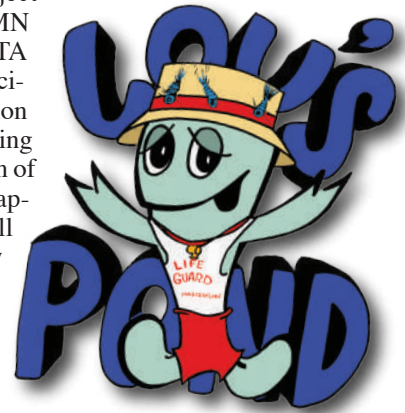
supplemented the family celebration with a large community party at which he was a speaker. Also on his 100th birthday, the Minnesota Supreme Court cited him as "Distinguished Lawyer, Legislator and Judge".

Judge Theodor S. Slen died July 4, 1986, and will be remembered by the city of Madison.

In 2025, the city of Madison kicked off their fundraising campaign to rebuild the tennis and basketball courts, add pickleball courts, a hydration station and paved walking paths from the north-west and southwest corners, and reconstruct the parking lot.

The project is estimated to cost a total of \$980,000. Reconstructing the tennis courts has an estimated cost of \$427,200, court lighting improvements cost \$50,400, basketball and pickleball courts cost \$227,300, reconstructing the parking lot costs \$145,500, ADA accessible walking paths cost \$115,100, and the hydration station costs \$14,500.

Funding for the project consists of a \$350,000 MN DNR grant, a \$40,000 USTA (United States Tennis Association) grant, city contribution of \$330,000 and a fundraising goal of \$260,000. A portion of the city's contribution (approximately \$70,000) will be in-kind work done by city employees, including lighting improvements and other work they can do.



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# MADISON CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## APRIL

- 4: Easter Eggcitement
- 19-25: Earth Week Events
- 24-25: City-Wide Rummage Sales



## SEPTEMBER

- 10-13: Lac qui Parle County Fair



## JUNE

- June - August: Western Guard Yard of the Month
- 3: Madison Healthcare Auxiliary Golf Fundraiser
- 24: Block Party



## OCTOBER

- 1-3: Oktoberfest
- 2-3: Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales
- 2-4: The Meander Art Crawl
- 3: Oktoberfest Car Show
- TBD: Outstanding Citizen Award
- 31: Main Street Halloween parade and trunk-or-treating

## JULY

- 4: Fourth of July Events & Fireworks
- 8: Chamber Night at the Ballpark
- 9-12: Stinker Day and Dragonfest: Sales, parade, ribfest, Madison Ambassador Program and more!
- 26: Heritage Day at LqP County Museum



## NOVEMBER

- 11-14: Norsefest
- 27: Santaland Opens



## AUGUST

- TBD: Farmer Appreciation Golf Outing at Madison Country Club
- TBA: Rock the Block



## DECEMBER

- Santaland, Free Movies, and much, much more!

**\*ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE\***

## APRIL



### EASTER EGGCITEMENT

**APRIL 4** Join the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce for a morning of Easter egg hunting at Slen Park. There will be prizes and 'eggcellent' fun for kids.

### EARTH WEEK

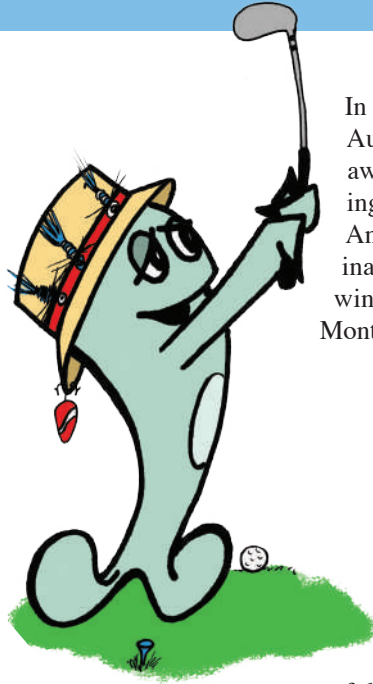
**APRIL 19-25** Celebrate Earth Week in Madison with events including the Earth Week 5K!

### AROUND THE TOWN RUMMAGE SALES

**APRIL 24-25**

The early bird won't find any worms but instead some bargains at the many rummage sales held in town these days. There are typically 20-25 rummage sales registered and published on a map in The Western Guard.

## JUNE



### YARD OF THE MONTH

In the months of June, July and August the Western Guard awards a yard a month - crowning them "Yard of the Month." Any Madison yard may be nominated for the competition and winners receive a Yard of the Month sign and gift basket.

### MADISON HEALTHCARE SERVICES BENEFIT

**JUNE 3**

The Annual Madison Health Care Benefit is held at the Madison Country Club and promises a full day of play for avid golfers.



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## Block Party June 24

The Annual Block Party will be held June 24, 2026 at Slen Park.

In 2012, a block party was held on main street to raise money for the Grand Theatre, with a tremendous turnout raising over \$30,000. Since then, the event has

become a town staple, raising money for worthy causes.

The event features local volunteers on the grill, beverages from the Happy Hour Sports Bar, a live band made up of local talent and area residents having a good time for a good cause.



# JULY



## Fourth of July July 4

Celebrate summer and the Fourth of July with fireworks at the Lac qui Parle County Fairgrounds. Fireworks begins at 10 p.m. and entry is free. Enjoy the show from the comfort of your vehicle or pull up a patch lawn (just don't forget your mosquito repellent!)



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## CHAMBER NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK JULY 8

Take in a game and enjoy an evening of food and activities at the Madison Memorial Baseball Field.

## STINKER DAY JULY 10

Black Top Days held in 1957 led to the present day Stinker Day celebration. After two years of muddy streets, the city of Madison decided to pave the city's streets. The project of \$500,000 in tax payers' money was to pave not just main street but also residential roads and parking lots at some of the larger institutions.

A wet spring, 4.44 inches in May, and a torrential rainstorm that dumped 7.3 inches on Madison in 24 hours, hampered the construction work which pre-

ceded the paving project.

Again, Mother Nature dealt a severe blow on Aug. 1 when a storm ripped a path through the northern part of the county 18 miles long and 12 miles wide. Residents reported golf ball sized hail and at least four tornadoes in the area.

The cost of that storm was estimated at \$1 million. Almost every home in Bellingham was damaged, 18 barns were flattened, and 60 sections of farm land were a total loss.

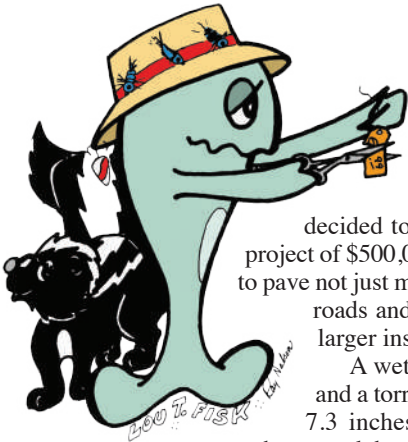

Eventually, the last of the tarring project was completed during the

Aug. 6 through 10 "Black Top Days" which the Madison businessmen held to celebrate the new paved streets.


That five-day event was perhaps a chance for area residents to walk away from the traumatic summer of 1957. And the crowds came. One stand offered free ice cream and dished up 3,000 cones.

In downtown Madison, a special shopping event was coined "Stinker Days" and offered such deals as new tires for \$5 each, blouses and shorts for 59 cents, 95-cent desk lamps, \$37 mattress sets, and portable radios for \$4.99.

An annual Stinker Day has been held every year since with the exception of 2011, due to Madison's 125th Celebration.

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## Parade July 11

The Madison Parade will be held on July 11. The parade forms along First Avenue and proceeds through the downtown area. To enter a unit, contact parade chairman Maynard Meyer at the Madison Chamber of Commerce Office at 320-698-3503.



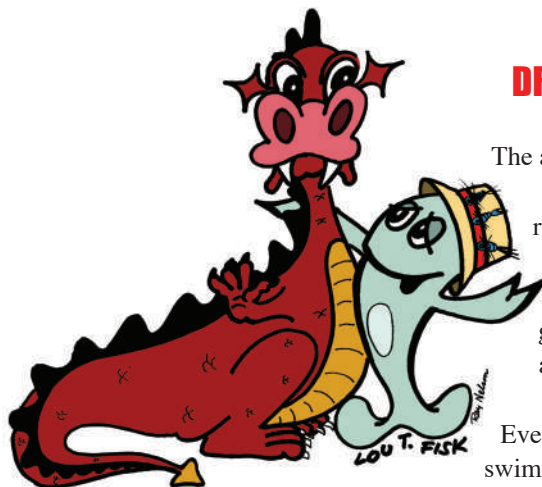
# AUGUST

## Farmer Appreciation Golf Outing Aug: TBA



The annual Farmer Appreciation Golf Outing will be held at Madison Country

Club. Madison Chamber of Commerce businesses team up with local farmers in a three-person scramble. Numerous door prizes are donated by many generous businesses, and a supper is served making this event a hit year in and year out. Funds raised are used for chamber and city projects.



## DRAGON FEST JULY 9-12

The annual Dragonfest celebration runs in conjunction with Stinker Day, giving Madison a weekend long celebration.

Events include free swimming, a parade,

Wing and Ribfest, a 5K run and walk, a main street vendor fair, a coin dig and coin dive, a street dance, the Madison Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Program and much more!



## Rock the Block Aug: TBA

Rock out on Main Street! Along with live music, vendors from around the region line the street to offer tasty drink and dinner options.



## LqP Historical Society Heritage Day July 26

Each year, hundreds of people enjoy demonstrations, music, costumes, and ethnic foods during Heritage Day. Believed to be the idea of Gerda Dolman, former curator of the museum, Heritage Day began in 1989. This event centered on the Norwegian people and their culture.

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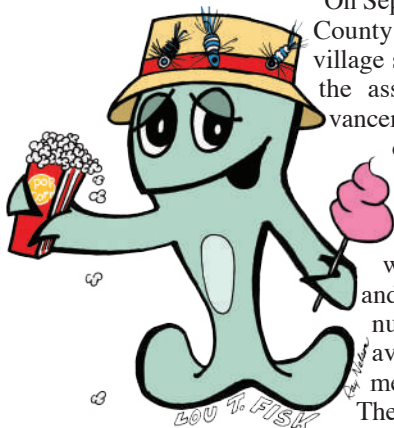
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## SEPTEMBER

### LQP COUNTY FAIR SEPT. 10-13

The Lac qui Parle County Fair is the last county fair of the season and directly follows the Minnesota State Fair. Our county fair soon gained the nickname of the “Little Minnesota State Fair.”

#### HOW IT ALL BEGAN



On Sept. 30, 1873, the Lac qui Parle County Ag Society organized at the village school house. The purpose of the association promoted the advancement of agricultural and horticultural products and the mechanical and household arts. At first, the association was a membership group, with life members paying \$5 and other members paying annual dues of \$1. There was an average membership of 120 members in the first ten years. The first fair was held in 1873 at a blacksmith shop in Lac qui Parle

Village. The animal exhibit consisted of one horse.

The current fairgrounds are located on land purchased in 1886 at the cost of \$15 per acre, and 1887 saw the first building erected. Exhibits of clothing, fruit, vegetables, baked goods, fancy work and livestock were accepted in the early days.

Over the years, the amount of land changed as ten acres of land were sold in 1891 to Nick and Gerhard Herriges and E. Berg for erecting a grist mill. This is the present location of Cargill. In 1971, the fair board deeded the land which is now J.F. Jacobson Park.

#### THE GRANDSTAND

In 1887, a race track for horses was completed and the surrounding area fenced with a grandstand built to hold 500 people. Horse racing was a big part of the early fair. In 1890, the Trotting Association leased the track and grandstand for a term of 20 years. After 1895, only horses owned in the county were allowed to race. Baseball was also played in front of the grandstand, along with tin pigeon shooting.

Automobile racing joined the fair entertainments. As late as 1920, only horses and cars owned in LQP County were permitted to race at the fair.

To make room for a larger midway, the grandstand and track moved south in 1948. Then, in 1961, a new grandstand was built with garages below the seats to house the Madison Public School buses. The first tractor pulling contest was promoted at the fair.

The popularity of horse racing faded, but the auto races continued to draw the crowds from South Dakota and many other areas to the fair.

#### FAIR BUILDINGS

In 1920, “The Little Minnesota State Fair” barn was built and is still used today.

The county 4-H council was granted permission to build a permanent exhibit building in 1956. This building also served as a roller skating rink, dance hall, and recreation center for a time.

In 1970, the Gehant Arena was erected in memory of long-time LQP County Extension Agent George Gehant II. The sales of 4-H livestock took place in this building.

A commercial exhibit building was built in 1972 and a large industry building in 1974. This building housed all of the school buses, and the grandstand bus compartments became additional space for exhibits at fair time. In 1979, the newly constructed wildlife building became a very popular item at the fair for nature and animal lovers.

#### ANNUAL IMPROVEMENTS

The wonderful county fair board strives to keep the fairgrounds and buildings in excellent shape to provide visitors with quality entertainment. Continuous work and improvements are completed every year. New siding, new windows, and refurbishing of the round windows renewed the look of the school house in 2000. Many remodeling projects took place in 2002. The grandstand, the long open front livestock building, the bus garage building, and the wildlife building all received attention and improvements; 2003 improvements included the remodeling of the home and garden building and a security shed on the west end of the fair board office. A new roof for the east commercial and poultry building was completed in 2004, along with normal maintenance, cleaning, and painting. In 2005, updating and improving the exterior of the buildings continued in readiness for the 2006 fair. A new “eco friendly” lighting system and upgrades to the East Commercial Building were added in 2012.

*(continued on next page)*



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LqP County Fair continued

In 2013, the new LqP Events Center was built to house a variety of activities. In 2017, a new carnival - Gopher State Exhibitions - provided entertainment on the midway and will be back again this year. Added in 2018 were new restrooms with showers.

The Fairboard recently completed work on a new state of the art outdoor music and entertainment venue on the Fairgrounds. This new stage offers a high ceiling, elevated performance deck, power and lighting, and a large spacious area able to accommodate larger musical acts, bands, and other entertainment. In addition, the stage is situated in front of a large open seating/viewing area capable of handling thousands of fans and fair goers. This community asset was made possible in part by the ongoing support of local private businesses and individuals, as well as the public.

The 1913 Lac qui Parle County Fair marked the milestone of the oldest successive fair in the state of Minnesota. The first night football game ever to be played in Minnesota was held at the LqP County Fairgrounds in 1926. Through the ongoing efforts of the fair board, visitors will be able to experience such milestones and history for a long time to come. See you at the fair!



## OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OCT. TBA

Madison's Outstanding Citizen is named during October. In 2025, Bart Hill was named Outstanding Citizen.

## HALLOWEEN OCT. 31

A new event started in 2013 was the Halloween parade. Children (and some adults) dress up in costumes and fill main street, collecting candy and a enjoying a free hot dog meal. Then it is around the town for more trick-or-treating.



## OCTOBER

### OKTOBERFEST OCT. 1-3

Oktoberfest is held the first weekend of October each year and includes many events.

A hearty German meal is available this week at the Madison American Legion Auxiliary.

Meanwhile, around the Town Rummage Sales take place on the Friday and Saturday of Oktoberfest, bringing individuals to town searching for the best bargains.

On Saturday, a car show is held in the parking lot of Madison NAPA Auto Parts on Highway 40. This is a great opportunity for antique car owners to show off their special cars and to enter them into a number of contest categories.



### THE MEANDER ART CRAWL OCT. 2-4

The Meander Art Crawl is a free, self-guided tour of artist studios featuring 40 local artists from the Upper Minnesota River Valley.

This event has more than 30 individual studios in and near the Western Minnesota Communities of Ortonville, Appleton, Madison, Milan, Dawson, Montevideo and Granite Falls.

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NOVEMBER

**NORSEFEST**  
NOV. 11-14

Norsefest offers area residents and visitors an opportunity to be immersed in Scandinavian culture and food in the **Lutefisk Capital of the World.**

Nov. 11 begins "A Lutefisk Madness" promotion put on by the downtown merchants. Get an early start on your Christmas shopping as we start the celebration of our Scandinavian heritage.

Scandinavian delicacies such as krumkaka, rommegrot, lefse and, of course, lutefisk will be available at restaurants and meals served around town. Some of the past events held during Norsefest include a potato klub dinner, talent competition, pancake breakfast, bingo, bridge, buck euchre, a craft fair and a Scandinavian arts and crafts fair.

A lefse eating contest and the famous lutefisk eating contest is

held at the Madison VFW. The contest was recently changed to a timed event, with each contestant eating as much lutefisk as they could in an hour. In 2025, Jimmy Oellien, Jerry Osteraa and Mark Blekestad tied as champions, each eating 11 pounds in one hour. Our small community Scandinavian celebration has received some big time coverage over the years having been featured on the *Prairie Home Companion* radio show, the *Sunday Morning* show, and *Taste of America*.

Norsefest has become a very popular and enjoyable event throughout the years. The arts, crafts, food, fun and entertainment draw many area residents and visitors to Madison. Some even enjoy the lutefisk!

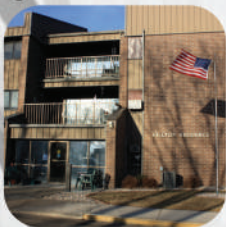


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# DECEMBER

## CHRISTMAS IN MADISON

Christmas is a magical season in Madison!

Longtime favorite attractions include Santaland at Heather Floral on Madison's Main Street, free movie matinees at the Grand Theatre, a Christmas Musical at the Prairie Arts Center,

baking and decorating contests and the ever popular Christmas medallion hunt.

The Madison Chamber of Commerce continues to innovate with new holiday attractions, with recent additions including Christmas Car Bingo!

## CHRISTMAS BAKING CONTEST & COMMUNITY COFFEE PARTY

This annual event takes place during the first weeks of December. It is held at the festively decorated Madison City Hall auditorium. Contestants range in age from grade school children to senior citizens. After the judging, the coffee party gives visitors a chance to taste the fruits of everyone's best recipes.

## SANTALAND USA

In 1985, a committee designed the first Santaland, located outdoors in J.F. Jacobson Park. The following year, the committee looked for an indoor location because of the extremely cold winter season. Duane Hastad, the (then) owner of Heather Nursery, kindly offered the use of the mezzanine above his store, giving Santaland USA an indoor cozy and spacious home and making it more pleasant for visitors.

With scenes inside, the child-size buildings delight both youngsters and adults who visit. The buildings, including a church, manger scene, barn, house, bakery, toy store, Santa's workshop, school house, and many other buildings, create old-fashioned Christmas memories.

A special part of Santaland is the display of model trains by Madison resident Rhonda Helgemo. Visitors, small and large, enjoy watching the trains travel through a small village and tunnels, over bridges, and by hills and trees.

In 2010, Santaland received a complete renovation. Thanks to the vision of Nathan Kells and help of many others, Madison's version of Macy's came to life. While it took on a whole new look, the train still remains a favorite. It just isn't Christmas without a visit to Santaland.



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From racing, to cinema, to outdoor sports, there's no shortage of options for recreation and entertainment in Madison.

For sports enthusiasts, Madison's many public parks include tennis, volleyball and basketball courts, a disc golf course, multiple ball diamonds, swimming pool and a seasonal outdoor skating rinks equipped for hockey matches, while the Madison Country Club offers a nine hole golf course.

For those looking to watch, rather than play, during summer months baseball games are regularly hosted at the Memorial Field on the south end of Madison and racing enthusiasts can take in a match every Saturday at the Madison Speedway, located on the south end of the Lac qui Parle County Fairgrounds.

The Grand Theatre, meanwhile, provides entertainment for all ages, regardless of the season or the weather. With two screens and nightly showings Friday through Monday, cinema lovers can enjoy newly premiered movies in the renovated theaters, which sports digital projection, surround sound, cozy seating, and freshly popped popcorn, snacks and the Grand's signature slushies.



# Madison Chamber of Commerce

Lou T. Fisk  
Welcomes Everyone  
to Madison!

EARTH WEEK . . . . . APRIL 19-25	ALL-AROUND TOWN RUMMAGE SALES . . . OCT. 2-3
ALL-AROUND TOWN RUMMAGE SALES . . . APRIL 24-35	CAR SHOW . . . . . OCT. 3
BLOCK PARTY . . . . . JUNE 24	MEANDER . . . . . OCT. 2-4
FIREWORKS . . . . . JULY 4	OUTSTANDING CITIZEN DINNER . . . . . OCT. TBA
CHAMBER NIGHT AT THE BALL PARK . . . . . JULY 8	HALLOWEEN PARADE . . . . . OCT. 31
STINKER DAY & DRAGONFEST . . . . . JULY 9-12	NORSEFEST . . . . . NOV. 11-14
PARADE . . . . . JULY 11	CHRISTMAS PROMOTION KICKOFF . . . . . NOV. 27
AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIP . . . . . JULY 11	SANTALAND OPENS . . . . . NOV. 27
HERITAGE DAY . . . . . JULY 26	SANTALAND, AND MORE . . . . . DEC. TBA
FARMER APPRECIATION GOLF OUTING . . . . . AUG. TBA	CHRISTMAS AT THE MUSEUM . . . . . DEC. TBA
ROCK THE BLOCK . . . . . AUG. TBA	
LQP COUNTY FAIR . . . . . SEPT. 10-13	
OKTOBERFEST . . . . . OCT. 1-3	

The Madison Area Chamber of Commerce is made up of about 90 businesses and individuals who are concerned about keeping the City of Madison active and networking with each business.

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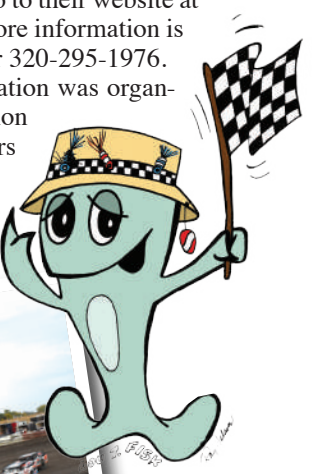
Love to golf? A visit to the local course is a must for visitors.

Madison Country Club offers a nine-hole, par-35 course that is fun and challenging. Whether you're playing a water hazard or plotting a 350-yard dog-legged par four, golfers enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Madison Country Club.

Located just one-half mile west of Madison off Highway 40, the 2,800-yard course offers reasonable green fees and memberships. Rental carts are also available.

Men's League is set for Thursdays, and Ladies' League is held on Tuesdays.

For a tee time or to find out about a membership, contact the club house at 320-598-7587.



**MADISON SPEEDWAY**

Madison Speedway is a wide high-banked 3/8 mile dirt track featuring Wisconsin Modifieds, Super Stocks, Midwest Modifieds, Street Stocks and Pure Stocks, Hornets and Limited Late Models.

For a complete racing schedule, go to their website at [www.madisonspeedwaymn.com](http://www.madisonspeedwaymn.com). More information is available by calling 320-226-5365 or 320-295-1976.

The Lac qui Parle Racing Association was organized in 1979. The non-profit association is overseen by a board of directors elected by shareholders and sanctioned by Wisconsin Promoters Association.



**GREEN FEES**

	WEEKDAYS	WEEKENDS
9 HOLES.....	\$20	\$25
18 HOLES.....	\$35	\$40

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## REST STOP & CAMPING

### LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Located in J.F. Jacobson Park, at South 6th Avenue (2 blocks south of Highway 40 & Main Street), is a recently updated rest stop/camp ground equipped with water, electricity and modern bathroom facilities. This park is adjacent to the LqP County Fairgrounds and the LqP County Historical Center. Contact Madison City Hall for more information.

## ICE SKATING RINK

The Madison Ice Skating Rink is located next to the MMN Elementary School. The arena is a busy place during the winter months. There are two rinks, one for figure skating and one for hockey and a supervised warming house. The arena is open afternoons and evenings to the public at no charge.

## BASKETBALL COURT

A lighted basketball court is located at Slen Park, adjacent to the tennis courts. There are also two outdoor basketball courts at MMN Elementary.

Located on east end of Centennial Park, near the softball field, Madison's Community Dog Park is fully fenced and features separate areas for large and small dogs.

## KIWANIS PARK

A modern playground facility located near the softball fields in Centennial Park.

## BALL DIAMONDS

Madison has three excellent ball diamond facilities. One baseball diamond is located at the Madison Memorial Field on East

Highway 40 and two softball fields are located at the Madison Recreational Complex on the north edge of town. The ball diamonds are open to the public at no charge.

## DISC GOLF

Madison offers a disc golf course beyond the fences of the softball field park.

## SWIMMING POOL

Madison Swimming Pool underwent a major renovation in 2014, being completely rebuilt with a zero-entry pool, expanded seating area and a large waterslide. Fundraisers and donations from a variety of generous people and organizations made the over \$1 million renovation possible.

Lou's Pond is located at the Theodor Slen Park. Daily swim tickets are available as well as single and family season passes.

An excellent swimming lesson program is offered by certified Red Cross instructors. Water aerobics and water volleyball are also offered by pool staff.

## TENNIS COURTS

Two tennis courts are located at Theodor Slen Park. The tennis courts are lighted and open to the public at no charge.

## Grand Park

Located next to the Grand Theatre on Main Street, Grand Park boasts a pollinator garden, picnic tables, exercise equipment and outdoor musical instruments.

# The Main

### SHORT-TERM RENTAL:

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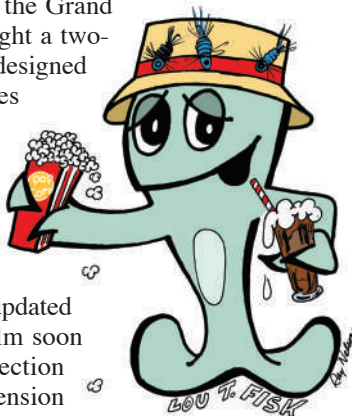
## THE GRAND THEATRE

### PROVIDING ENTERTAINMENT SINCE THE EARLY 1900S

A center for young and old to gather to enjoy Hollywood's greatest features, the Grand Theatre has provided entertainment for the community since the early 1900s.

Early recollections of the Grand Theatre come from the notes of Alden Chester who once worked as an usher. Chester recalls his parents talking of a Mr. Novak first owning the Grand and then selling it to William Lyons around 1920. In those days, the audience relied on a piano player to provide music to suit the tempo of the scenes. Some of the early pianists included Mrs. Gust (Gladys) Klefsaas and Mrs. Walter (Esther) Little who worked for Mr. Novak around 1915 and 1916. During this period, admission for kids was 15 cents, which was quite a bit of money in those days! A piece of candy at the concession stand would cost you two cents.

S.B. (Bert) Hulett purchased the Grand Theatre in 1923. Mr. Hulett bought a two-turntable phonograph especially designed for accompanying silent movies and installed a speaker in the auditorium. Chester's daughter, Susan, sat at the controls watching a cue sheet and changing records on the turntables to suit the mood of the movie scene. Sound equipment updated the Grand in 1929, and color film soon followed. Cinemascope projection brought a new wide-screen dimension



to the medium.

Tragedy struck the Grand Theatre on Oct. 25, 1942. A fire, which originated in the projection room, destroyed the entire building and killed projectionist Elmer Hendrickson. The Oct. 30th edition of the *Western Guard* carried the story with pictures of the devastation. Although it is unknown exactly what happened in the projection booth, it is apparent the film ignited and Mr. Hendrickson's clothes caught on fire when he tried to save the extremely flammable film. The news article states Hendrickson became a "human torch" and attempted to run down the steps. Some spectators tried extinguishing the flames with a coat but efforts came too late. Fifty-year-old Hendrickson was taken to the Ebenezer Hospital in Madison and died the following Wednesday. Fortunately, James Putnam, the relief operator also on duty, was not injured, nor were any other employees or movie goers.

Hulett rebuilt the Grand Theatre and opened for business on March 20, 1943. *China Girl* starring Gene Tierney and George Montgomery was the opening attraction. The Grand could seat 600 people.

After his death in 1958, Mr. Hulett's daughter, Susan Berg, operated the Grand Theatre. Showtimes continued until the summer of 1978 when the city discontinued the municipal heating system and the theatre closed.

Ken Holley, who operated the Canby Theater, purchased the Grand from Mrs. Berg in 1980. The Madison Kiwanis Club members repaired and painted the marquee. The Madison Jaycees poured the floor in the boiler room and assumed responsibility of installing a new heating system. The Lions Club painted the auditorium ceiling, and the VFW raised money for new neon lighting. A local group of high school boys removed old seats while a group of Jaycees helped transfer newer seats from Milbank to Madison.

Jim Helgemo ran the theatre for a short period. Lonny Bulock purchased and carried out a major remodeling project, which turned the Grand into a twin-screen facility. The theatre opened for business in 1990 but closed in 1993 due to economic reasons.

The partnership of Rick Gail and Maynard Meyer leased the theatre from the City of Madison in December of 1993. The theatre ran four nights a week. In August 1994, Kristi Kuechenmeister replaced Gail in the partnership.

In 2013, Grand Theatre completed a very successful fundraising drive to install digital projection equipment in both auditoriums. This replaced the aging 35-millimeter film projectors which were being phased out by movie companies. The project, costing nearly \$115,000, also included new digital surround sound and new screens. Then in 2017, the community once again pledged their support for their theatre, donating funds for a complete seating renovation. More recently, the digital projection equipment was again updated.

Meyer and Kuechenmeister continue to operate the Grand Theatre, featuring first-run movies with shows held Friday-Monday. The character of the 1943 Grand Theatre remains untouched including the unique "Art-Deco" interior. No visit to Madison is complete without a visit to the Grand Theatre.

In 2025, a Friends of the Grand program began, gathering volunteers to help operate the theatre.

*Donations to the theater are welcomed and are tax deductible through a project fund set up with the Madison Community Foundation. Checks may be made payable to the Grand Theatre. Mailing address is Box 70, Madison, Minnesota, 56256. Anyone with questions should call Maynard Meyer or Kristi Kuechenmeister at 320-598-7301.*

**THE GRAND THEATRE**

**SHOWTIMES**  
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**TWO SCREENS!**  
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**MOVIE HOTLINE: 320-598-7791**

## PRAIRIE, WILDLIFE, AND HISTORY ABUNDANT IN LAC QUI PARLE

Little remains of the once common tall grass prairies of Minnesota. These seas of grass once covered 18-20 million acres of our state, where today less than one percent (180,000 acres) remain.

In western Minnesota, we are fortunate to have many publicly owned sites that contain native prairie tracts. Below are directions for four tracts which contain native virgin prairie.



### PLOVER PRAIRIE

From Madison travel 14 miles north on Highway 75 and two miles east. Plover Prairie is the home of **Marsh Lake**, a man-made reservoir on the Minnesota River which has one of the only two nesting colonies of the white pelican in Minnesota. Visitors enjoy viewing them up close below the Marsh Lake Dam as well as other locations along the river. Marsh Lake is also an excellent spot for shore fishing. **Plover Prairie Nature Conservancy Preserve** occupies 655 acres of level, rocky terrace. A large population of small white Lady's Slipper is one of the preserve's features. There is also habitat for upland sandpiper and marbled godwit and numerous other animals.

### YELLOW BANK HILLS SCIENTIFIC & NATURAL AREA

From Madison travel 13 miles west on Highway 40 to Marietta, 4 miles north on County Road 7 or one mile east of Nassau.

### KEMEN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

From Madison, 3.5 miles west on Highway 40, one mile south on County Road 55.

### LAC QUI PARLE STATE PARK

From Madison travel six miles east on Highway 40, turn right and travel 9.5 miles east on County Road 20 and 1.5 miles north-east on County Road 48. This 530-acre state park has 56 campsites, 33 picnic sites, a swimming beach, drive-in boat launch, six miles of hiking and horseback trails, horseback campgrounds, five miles of cross country ski trails and several canoe access points. An additional attraction to the park is **Lac qui Parle Lake** (lake that speaks). The lake is stocked with three million walleye fry every third year. There are over 30 species of fish, including bluegill, large-mouth bass, northern pike, yellow perch, black crappie, white crappie, and white bass.

### CAMP RELEASE

Camp Release is the first state park established by the State of Minnesota. This monument commemorates the release of 269 captives on Sept. 26, 1862, by the Dakota Sioux. An estimated 1,500 Dakota Sioux women, children and men surrendered at Camp Release.

Visit the many historical and preserved natural sights in Lac qui Parle County, including more virgin prairie, Red River Trails, and the Amos Huggins Site.

### KING OF TRAILS

In 1917, attorney W.W. Brown, of Kansas City, conceived the idea of a trail extending from Winnipeg to the Gulf of Mexico. This was to be the ultimate trail and was named "The King of Trails."

In 1918, communities all along the "King of Trails" formed a KT Association. In September of 1918, a log book was published for the benefit of these communities and the travelers of the KT. The "King of Trails" was hailed as "the best marked road in the United States." Log books were printed and distributed. They promoted communities along the highway who displayed the KT signs, yellow bands extending around a pole with the letters KT stenciled in black.

By 1925, the speed limit was established at 30 miles per hour. License plates from all over America and Canada could be seen as tourists began to explore in their cars. In 1926, the U.S. government numbered highways, and the KT became U.S. Highway 75.

In the mid 1930s and into the 1940s, Highway 75 underwent major reconstruction and some rerouting for safer and speedier travel.

The 2001 Minnesota Legislature designated Highway 75 as the "Historic King of Trails." There is still the beauty of the northern tallgrass prairie here. View the panorama of the land along the trail. Discover the quaint towns, enjoy fun festivals, see unique attractions and most of all, visit with the friendly people.

The website [www.highway75.com](http://www.highway75.com) has a variety of information on events coming up in the various communities along Highway 75. There are brochures in the Madison Chamber office which contain information on the "King of Trails."

Get off the fast lane and leisurely travel "The King of Trails."

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## SONS OF NORWAY LODGE CONTINUING NORWEGIAN TRADITIONS

Norwegian immigrants founded Sons of Norway in 1895 in Minneapolis. The Sons of Norway Nornen Lodge #41 was organized in 1905 at Madison.

Some benefits are ABM.WorldLink great long-distance rates to Norway, Barnebirkie, a cross-country ski event for boys and girls ages 3 to 13, discounts at all Best Western motels in the United States, Canada, and abroad, discounts on tours, language camp at Camp Norway for students 16 and older, cultural skills program with topics ranging from cooking to genealogy to crafts and folk dancing, many scholarships, Sports Medal program for participating in walking, biking, skiing and general sports, and the Viking magazine.

The group meets the second Sunday of the month at the Sons of Norway Hall on north Highway 75. There is a time for cultural sharing at each meeting.

The Madison Lodge was 100 years old on March 15, 2005, and celebrated their anniversary on June 12.

Other activities include sponsoring scholarships for youth to attend language camp, card parties, bingo, Easter egg hunt, participating in parades, Norwegian Day Camp for youth, St. Hans Däg Observance at Lac qui Parle County Park and observance of legal holidays with special events. The group also sponsors Tubfrim (cancelled stamps collection) for the national office for youth activities.

## VFW AUXILIARY POST #1656

The Auxiliary to Lac qui Parle Post #1656 Veterans of Foreign Wars' motto is "In Fortitude and Loyalty" to serve our veterans and community. Both men and women are members.

The Auxiliary has helped to secure veterans' entitlements, provided for children of deceased or disabled veterans through the VFW National Home, and brought joy to the veterans who are hospitalized.

They provide assistance to the community by offering help and support and promote patriotism by presenting flags to schools, churches, courthouses, city halls, post offices, parks and wherever there is a need or request. The Auxiliary supports many projects. One of the main projects is the cancer aid and research, which is a great support to all members who are stricken with the disease. The VFW and Auxiliary raises many of its funds with the catering of weddings, anniversaries, birthday parties, many community functions.

Auxiliary #1656 meets on the third Monday of the month.



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## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

VFW Post #1656 of Madison was organized in 1941 with 40 charter members, all World War I veterans. The Post purchased its present home on 2nd Street near Highway 75 in 1966, with additions and renovations to the structure in 1971, 1984 and 1995. Its large ground level banquet room can seat 300 people, and use of it is offered free of charge for benefits and for church and nonprofit organizations' fund raisers and meetings. The clubroom facilities are available to members and guests six days a week.

The Post sponsors and financially supports the local Cub Scouts. Summer baseball for youth ages 12-16 has been supported since 1990, the Madison Christmas Decorating Contest since 1949, and the "Voice of Democracy" speech contest since 1974.

The Post and the Madison American Legion sponsor the annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs. In 2003, the two organizations co-sponsored the "Avenue of Flags" project. Monthly steak fries, open to the public, have been held for over 35 years, and the Post...

...is noted for its pancake house at the county fairgrounds.

The first annual "Free Christmas Dinner for Those Alone" was held in 1989 and has been enjoyed every year since.

Gambling receipts have enabled the Post to contribute generously to community organizations and veterans' causes. The Post meets the third Monday of the month at 8 p.m.

### VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1054 received their charter on May 7, 2011 with 106 charter members. It is a congressionally chartered veterans organization specifically for Vietnam Veterans (1961-1974) and Vietnam Era Veterans (1964-1975). Chapter 1054 is headquartered in Watertown, S.D. with a catchment area covering a 100 mile radius of Watertown, including Western Minnesota.

The chapter's website can be found at [www.NESDVVA.org](http://www.NESDVVA.org), and a bi-monthly newsletter is published for chapter members and associates.

The associate program is open to anyone who is not eligible for full membership, but would like to help and assist the cause of all Vietnam Veterans.

Chapter 1054 meets at the Elks Club in Watertown, S.D. on the third Thursday of the month.

### AMERICAN LEGION POST #158

The American Legion Post #158 was organized in Madison Sept. 8, 1919, with 45 charter members. The American Legion is a civilian organization of veterans who have served their country. These men and women serve their community as doctors, lawyers, shopkeepers, farmers, school teachers, and almost every occupation.

Lac qui Parle Post 158 of Madison is an important part of the

community. They contribute to the community by sponsoring many programs, principally in Americanism and children and youth. Other contributions the Legion makes to the community include the Community Fund, Fire Department, Children's Miracle Network, Food Shelf and the Lac qui Parle Health Care Services, just to name a few.


Post #158 meets at the Madison VFW Post 1656 clubrooms on the second Monday of the month.

### AMERICAN LEGION AUX UNIT #158

The American Legion Auxiliary is a civilian organization of women who are eligible through the membership of a veteran who served in the Armed Forces of the United States between certain dates. Their main purpose is to serve the veterans, their families, and the community and promote Americanism.


The Lac qui Parle Unit was chartered in 1921. They support or sponsor such programs as American Education Week, bike rodeo, free use of hospital equipment, Girls State representative, scholarships, Memorial and Veterans Day programs, children's Christmas shopping, POW/MIA Week, and Remember Gold Star members. They provide aid to homebound veterans, furnish tray favors, Mother's Day corsages, and provide and mail Christmas cards and items for MHS Care Center residents, including birthday and holiday placemats, which are also sent to all the veterans' homes and hospitals. They provide funding for all veterans hospitals and veterans nursing home programs in Minnesota.

Unit #158 meets at the Madison VFW Post 1656 on the second Monday of the month.



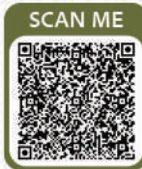
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Welcome to Nordhaven — a Scandinavian inspired retreat in the heart of western Minnesota. Enjoy a fully equipped kitchen, comfortable bedrooms, spa-inspired bath, and strong WiFi. Whether you're visiting family, working remotely, or seeking a quiet reset, Nordhaven is your calm place to land and recharge.



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EST. 2022

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205 8<sup>TH</sup> AVE MADISON

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TUESDAY-SATURDAY:  
11 AM - 11 PM  
(Kitchen open 11 am - 9 pm)

SUN: 11 AM - 8 PM




## MADISON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Madison Area Chamber of Commerce consists of around 90 businesses and individuals who are concerned about keeping our community active. They support approximately 18 promotions a year. Some of these are Summerfest, Heritage Day, Stinker Day, Dragonfest, Rock the Block, Oktoberfest, Halloween Parade, Norsefest, and the Christmas promotion. The chamber also sponsors the Outstanding Citizen Award.

### SILVER DOLLAR DAY

The Silver Dollar Day group is a branch of our Chamber of Commerce. They sponsor a drawing every Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

The amount begins at \$100 and will increase \$25 each week, until there is a winner; then it will begin again at \$100.

The name drawn each time is announced on KLQP Radio on Tuesday only, and the person whose name is announced must be in a participating business. The winning person must let a clerk or manager know immediately that they are in the business establishment. The names that are in the drawing will remain, and no one will have to sign up again.

Participating merchants have signs posted that they belong to the Silver Dollar Day group. Each merchant has registration cards to sign up for the drawings, so just ask them for a card and register.

### THE MADISON SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

The Madison Senior Citizens Club meets in the City Hall basement the first Wednesday of every month, except for July and August, for dinner and a meeting. Several times a year, speakers are scheduled. In

March, a Food Shelf collection is held. A Christmas party is held at the December meeting. Bingo is played every Wednesday afternoon.

The club is associated with the Minnesota Senior Federation.

### LAC QUI PARLE STUDY CLUB

The GFWC Lac qui Parle Study Club was founded in 1967. Its motto is "We saw a vision. It became a reality." The club is involved in numerous volunteer activities in Madison, including planting flowers each year at Theodor Slen Park (the swimming pool park); contributing funds to the library, elementary school reading program, Junior Achievement, Operation Smile, and many other worthwhile projects. The Club is affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an international organization founded in 1890. The Club meets the first Monday of each month from September through April at which the members discuss projects the Club is involved in or wishes to become involved in and also listens to speakers who provide information about our land, health, safety, education or community.

### MADISON STUDY CLUB

Madison Study Club was organized in 1920 from the disbanded Ladies Literary Circle. The objectives of the club are to create a more thorough understanding of the history, basic principles, and functions of our government, study historical and current events, to review current books, to sponsor civic enterprises, support projects such as the local library and various charities, and, to the best of their ability, contribute to the welfare of their community.

The meetings take place the second Monday of the month and involve studying topics relating to the objectives.

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**4-H CLUBS**

4-H, the largest of all out-of-school youth education programs, is for all young people, grades kindergarten through college freshman. 4-H brings youth together to share ideas, learn new and exciting things, make new friends, help others, and to make things happen - all while having fun!

A young person may participate in 4-H through a community club, after school program or club and 4-H adventures, school enrichment, fun and interesting workshops or the many different camps and leadership opportunities. Youth can learn about everything from bicycling to photography, from horses to computers, from fishing to clowning. Young people can teach others, travel to other places, improve their community, or explore possible career directions and acquire skills that will last a lifetime.

To find out how to get involved in a 4-H youth development program sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension Service call 320-598-3325 or 1-800-255-0736.



**KIWANIS CLUB**

Kiwanis Club activity began in Madison with the 1929 charter and has played an active role in the community since that time. Kiwanis International has a global membership of 8,400 clubs with volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time. "Serving the Children of the World" is the motto of Kiwanis.

Madison Kiwanis is involved with many community activities including giving a Dollars for Scholars scholarship yearly at LqPV High School, coordinating the Gifts for Kids which provides gifts for families at Christmas, assists with resident social activities at the Madison Lutheran Home, holds the LqP County fairgrounds annual cleanup, sponsoring pins for the 4-H clubs in this area and sponsoring the Book Bingo at MMN Elementary.

Kiwanians are currently raising \$110 million to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus which takes the life of a child every nine minutes around the world.

Kiwanis completed a fundraising effort to build a new playground at the Madison softball fields, raising \$50,000 in just a few years.

The club meets each Tuesday noon at the VFW Post 1656 in Madison.



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PRODUCE DEPARTMENT



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**HILLTOP RESIDENCE**  
**INDEPENDENCE WITH PEACE OF MIND**

At Hilltop Residence, older adults can have the best of two worlds. The Hilltop Residence Housing with services provides people over age 62 with a life of independence within their own apartment, while receiving the services they need.

The apartments include one bedroom, a full kitchen, living room, and bathroom, as well as a large walk-in pantry for storage. Rent subsidies are available from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Services, including meal delivery and home care, are available and staff is on site 8-12 hours per day, and emergency staff is available 24 hours per day.

County programs may help pay for the services. Contact Pam Zahnow, housing manager at 320-598-7536 for more information.



**EASTVIEW TOWNHOMES**

In 1994, Madison Economic Development Authority met a need for apartment housing, determined by an in-depth housing survey conducted in 1993.

In 1994, there were eight units of two- and three-bedroom apartments built in the southeast part of Madison, located on the former football field of the Madison High School. In 1995, an additional six units of three bedroom apartments were added to the complex. An additional eight units of two-bedroom apartments were completed in early 2000. There are a total of 22 units in the entire complex.

**PRAIRIE FIVE RIDES**

Prairie Five Community Action Council, through Prairie Five RIDES, offers transportation within the city of Madison and surrounding communities. This public transit system is available to residents of all ages in Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift and Yellow Medicine Counties.

A bus or a volunteer driver provide rides to surrounding communities for medical appointments, visiting, shopping, etc.

Contact dispatch at toll-free 1-877-757-4337 for regional rides outside of Madison, Monday - Friday.

RIDES would like a 24 hour notice for all out of town rides.




**DeToy's**  
**FAMILY RESTAURANT**  
**320-598-3886**



**We are BIG on to go orders**  
**320-598-3886**

**Open 7 Days a Week**  
**We have Wi-Fi!**

**Home Cooked Noon Specials!**  
**Broasted chicken is our specialty!**

Owned & operated by Darwin & Teresa Hoyles since 1992!



**VFW Post 1656**

**Club Hours: Mon.-Sat. Open at 3 p.m.**

**Drink Specials • Short Orders Available**

<b>Steak Fry</b>	<b>BINGO</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Every Thursday Evening at 6:30 p.m.

**Happy Hour Every Day from 3 - 7 p.m.**

**Banquet Facilities for up to 300 people**



**320-598-7498**  
**Just off Hwy 75 in Madison**

**MADISON HEALTHCARE SERVICES**

**WELCOME TO MADISON HEALTHCARE SERVICES  
YOUR PARTNER IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

When illness, injury, or long-term care needs arise, Madison Healthcare Services is here for you and your loved ones. As a trusted healthcare provider in our community, we're proud to offer exceptional care right here at home. Whether you're relocating to Madison or visiting, you can count on us for top-tier medical services, delivered with genuine compassion and respect.

**COMPREHENSIVE CARE FOR ALL AGES**

Madison Healthcare Services offers a full spectrum of healthcare services to meet the needs of individuals at every stage of life. Our campus includes: **Family Medicine Clinic, 51-Bed Care Center, 12-Bed Critical Access Hospital, Specialty Clinic, Home Care, Assisted and Senior Living, and Therapy Services through Big Stone Therapies.**

Our integrated services make Madison Healthcare Services the ideal destination for your healthcare needs, all in one convenient location.

**ACCESS CARE ON YOUR SCHEDULE**

Our Madison Clinic is open six days a week, with flexibility to accommodate your busy life. We offer both Saturday and virtual visits, ensuring that medical care is available when you need it, not just during traditional office hours.

**SPECIALIST CARE, CLOSE TO HOME**

Why travel for specialist care when experts can come to you? Our outreach and specialty clinic brings top specialists to Madison monthly, including experts in: **Audiology, Cardiology, Urology, Orthopedics, Podiatry, Surgery, and Dermatology.**

We also partner with the Central Minnesota Heart Center to provide advanced cardiovascular care, and our in-house cardiac rehab services support recovery in the comfort of your own home.

**STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES FOR COMPREHENSIVE CARE**

Our modern hospital features a fully equipped surgery suite with two operating rooms and four pre-op and post-op rooms. With cutting-edge technology, we provide both inpatient and outpatient surgeries, keeping patients close to family during their recovery.

Our radiology department offers the latest in diagnostic imaging, including on-demand CT scans, digital mammography, nuclear imaging, and MRI. We also have a certified high-complexity lab for intricate tests and direct access lab testing — no referral needed.

**QUALITY CARE FOR SENIORS**

Madison Healthcare Services offers a range of options for aging gracefully in a familiar environment. Our skilled nursing care center ensures residents receive compassionate care, while Prairie Winds Senior & Assisted Living allows you to live independently with the support you need, all close to your family and friends.

Whether you're visiting or making Madison your new home, Madison Healthcare Services provides comprehensive, compassionate healthcare for all. We're here to support you every step of the way.



**DRIVE-THRU & DINING**

**DQ**

**MADISON DAIRY QUEEN**

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711 8th Avenue - Madison, MN 56256  
*Libby and Jason Kilpatrick, owners and operators*



# MADISON HEALTHCARE SERVICES



HOSPITAL • CLINIC • CARE CENTER • SENIOR & ASSISTED LIVING  
ALL YOUR HEALTHCARE NEEDS IN ONE CONVENIENT LOCATION

THE MADISON HEALTHCARE SERVICES CAMPUS INCLUDES A 51-BED CARE CENTER, A 12-BED CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL, A FULLY STAFFED MEDICAL CLINIC, PRAIRIE WINDS ASSISTED LIVING, AND THERAPY SERVICES PROVIDED BY BIG STONE THERAPIES.

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THE MHS CLINIC IS OPEN

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. | SATURDAY 9 A.M. - NOON

**CALL 320-598-7551 FOR APPOINTMENTS**

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900 SECOND AVENUE, MADISON, MINNESOTA, 56256  
WWW.MHSMN.ORG

**LITTLE BLESSINGS PRESCHOOL**

Little Blessings Preschool is a faith-based preschool for students ages 4 and 5. Located in Faith Lutheran Church, Little Blessings is limited to 10 students per year, and focuses on providing a safe, healthy, caring and creative environment.

Students take a variety of field trips throughout the year, including trips to local businesses as well as a trip to the Children's Museum in Brookings, S.D.

Little Blessings held their first class in the fall of 2007.

**LITTLE EAGLES DAYCARE**

Little Eagles Daycare opened in 2019 and provides more than 75 daycare spots for infants, toddlers and preschool age children. Little Eagles is located in the east wing of MMN Elementary and is operated by Lac qui Parle Valley Community Education. The daycare center offers full-time daycare and part-time care for Headstart students. Little Eagles provides the highest level of quality child care and accessible early learning in a warm, nurturing and educational environment to meet the needs for children and families of Madison and the surrounding communities while also helping children prepare for elementary school.

For more information on Little Eagles Daycare, contact the Program Coordinator at 320-698-3161.

**LAC QUI PARLE COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR INFANTS TO KINDERGARTEN**

LqPV ECFE (early childhood family education) offers a variety of opportunities for families with young children to spend time together as a family or one-to-one (one parent, one child) at three sites in the school district including the MMN Elementary school in Madison.

ECFE is a great place to get acquainted with other parents in the community who have young children. Classes offer parent-child activities that give parents a special time with their child as well as a time to discuss parenting issues with other parents.

You can find more information on ECFE by going to their Facebook page or emailing [commed@lqpv.org](mailto:commed@lqpv.org)

Community Education partners with Prairie Five/Head Start to have six preschool classrooms in our district, three of which are located at the MMN Elementary School in Madison. This provides excellent educational opportunities for three and four-year-olds.

For more information about their preschool, call 320-598-3118 or go to [lqpv.org](http://lqpv.org)

**PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN**

Community Education offers a variety of classes throughout the school year and during the summer, ranging from enrichment classes like "Kids in the Kitchen" and "Arts and Crafts," to recreation classes like tae kwon do and youth baseball.

You can find a listing of all their current programs at [lqpv.org](http://lqpv.org).

**LEIN LUMBER**  
 ESTABLISHED IN BOYD IN 1961, LEIN LUMBER IS READY TO COVER EVERY PART OF YOUR NEXT NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT OR RENOVATION

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**RURAL RADIANCE MED SPA**  
 WHERE ADVANCED AESTHETICS MEETS SMALL-TOWN CARE

**OUR SERVICES**

- Laser Skin Treatments & Rejuvenation
- Laser Hair Removal
- Tattoo Removal
- Neurotoxins (Botox®/Dysport®)
- Dermal Fillers
- IV Nutrition Therapy
- Medical Weight Loss Programs

PERSONALIZED CARE. NATURAL RESULTS. **CONFIDENCE THAT RADIATES.**

SCAN TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT!

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 Call or Text to Book Your Appointment

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**MMN ELEMENTARY  
MADISON-MARIETTA-NASSAU ELEMENTARY (MMN) SCHOOL**

The newly remodeled Madison-Marietta-Nassau Elementary (MMN) is a great place for students to start their education. With an enrollment of about 140 students in kindergarten through fourth grade, it's the perfect size for learning.

With smaller class sizes, students are given individual attention from teachers, administration and support staff. Each child is given

the best possible start to their educational career. Students receive a balanced education in the classroom along with art, music and PE/fitness classes.

**KIDSTIME**

Kidstime provides child care for children from Kindergarten to 12 years of age. The current programs that are offered are: after-school care, full-day care on non-school days and a summer care program. Kidstime is located within the MMN Elementary building near the cafeteria, using the north parking lot entrance, and is operated by LqPV Community Education. Kidstime provides the highest level of quality child care and accessible early learning in a warm, nurturing and educational environment to meet the needs for children and families of Madison and the surrounding communities. Kidstime primary purpose is:

- To provide a community-based program to serve families with school-age children
- To encourage friendship, responsibility and independence through crafts, sports, free-time and intergenerational activities
- To help each child discover his/her own self-worth, self-esteem and encourage its growth

**SCHUELKE ELECTRIC**

Mark & Dianne Schuelke

**Commercial, Farm, Residential  
Wiring & Trenching**

Madison, Minn.  
**320-598-7747**

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**LAC QUI PARLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

Lac qui Parle Valley High School is a good example of the cooperative efforts this rural area has made to provide opportunities for its residents. Madison and other area communities have worked together to provide quality education and opportunities to prepare students for a bright future.

With an enrollment of around 800 students, Lac qui Parle Valley offers some “big” school opportunities in a “small” school setting, including a wide range of “College Now” courses.

The goals of the school are to provide a broad curriculum, flexibility and to maintain cost efficiencies.

LqPV offers students the latest in technology and an at-

mosphere which is conducive to learning at this state-of-the-art school.

In addition, activities ranging from sports to scholastic clubs are offered to all students.

The school, which underwent extensive renovations starting in 2020, is set in the middle of the four districts in the Minnesota prairie. Students and staff have worked hard to create an institution dedicated to learning and helping the students achieve.

In 2023 LqPV passed another referendum to updated their athletic fields and facilities, and fully remodel the high school theater.



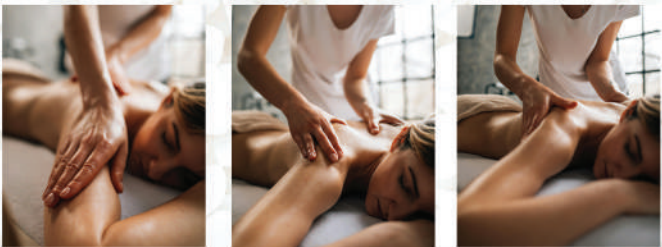
  
**Hair Razor' n' Cain**




**CUTS, STYLING, COLOR AND HIGHLIGHTS, UPDOS,  
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 PEDICURES AND FACIAL WAXING**



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 COMMUNITY OR SMALL GROUP SOUND BATHS  
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  611 3RD STREET, MADISON, MN

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# LAC QUI PARLE VALLEY

# WE ARE LQPV



LAC QUI PARLE VALLEY  
**EAGLES**  
*WE SOAR AS ONE*



LAC QUI PARLE VALLEY  
**LQPV**  
*SCHOOLS*

2860 291st Ave. Madison, MN 56256

*WE SOAR AS ONE*

320-752-4800  
LQPV.ORG

# YOUR LOCAL JOHN DEERE EXPERTS

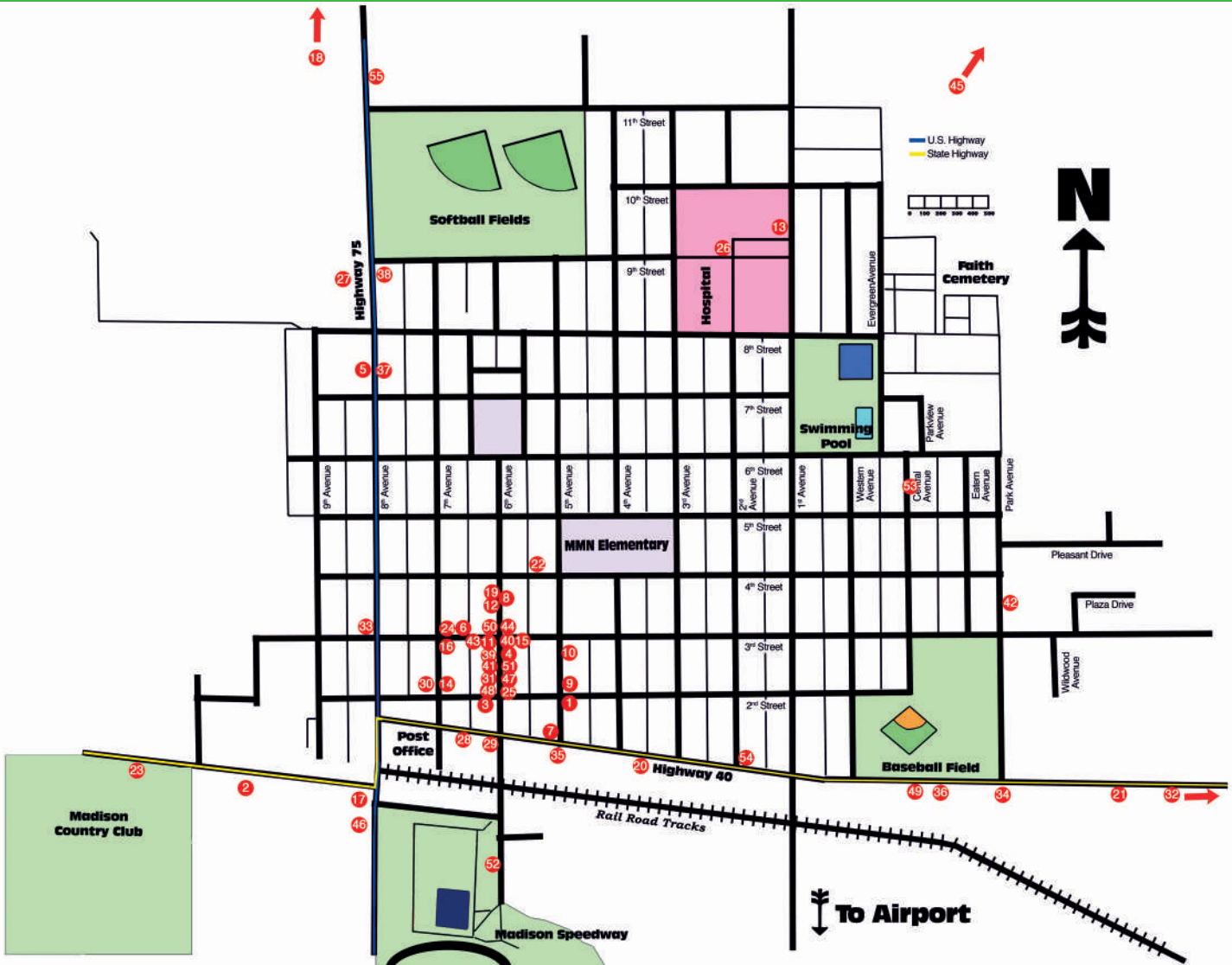


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MACHINERY CO**

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- |                                    |                                        |                                          |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1 AgCountry FCS, of Madison        | 20 Lein Lumber                         | 39 Odden & Zimelman                      |
| 2 Cargill, Inc.                    | 21 Madison Bottling Company            | 40 Old National Bank                     |
| 3 Culligan                         | 22 Madison Chiropractic Clinic         | 41 Pantry Cafe & Catering                |
| 4 Dahle and Olson Realty           | 23 Madison Country Club                | 42 Park Avenue Apartments                |
| 5 Dairy Queen                      | 24 Madison Dental Clinic               | 43 Rural Radiance                        |
| 6 Dave's Plumbing, Heating & AC    | 25 Madison Hardware and Sporting Goods | 44 Rural Solutions                       |
| 7 DeToy's Family Restaurant        | 26 Madison Healthcare Services         | 45 Schuelke Electric                     |
| 8 The Grand Theatre                | 27 Madison Hometown Lodge              | 46 The Sticks                            |
| 9 Hair Razor N' Cain               | 28 Madison Liquor Store                | 47 Swenson, Nelson & Stulz               |
| 10 Happy Hour Sports Bar           | 29 Madison Mercantile                  | 48 Thrifty White Pharmacy                |
| 11 Healing Journey Massage by Sue  | 30 Madison VFW                         | 49 Tofte Auto & Sales                    |
| 12 Heather Nursery, Floral & Gifts | 31 The Main                            | 50 United Prairie Bank, member FDIC      |
| 13 Hilltop Apartments              | 32 Midwest Machinery                   | 51 Western Guard                         |
| 14 Jubilee Foods                   | 33 MTech Services and Repair           | 52 Western MN Heating & Cooling          |
| 15 Klein Insurance                 | 34 NAPA Auto Parts                     | 53 Wollschlager Concrete                 |
| 16 KLQP-FM Radio/Madison Chamber   | 35 Net's Old Barn Antiques             | 54 Zahrbock Funeral Chapel and Crematory |
| 17 Lac qui Parle Co-op Oil- Genex  | 36 New World Auto Salvage              | 55 Ziegler                               |
| 18 Lane's Electric                 | 37 Nordhaven                           |                                          |
| 19 Larry's Refrigeration           | 38 Northern Plains Tiling              |                                          |



*For more information on the following businesses see their ads throughout this Visitor's Guide*

City of Madison City Hall .....320-598-7373  
404 6th Avenue  
Chamber of Commerce .....320-698-3503  
623 3rd Street

***Attractions & Entertainment***

Grand Theatre .....320-598-7791  
310 6th Avenue  
Lac qui Parle County Historical Museum .....320-598-7678  
Hwy 75 South  
Madison Public Library .....320-598-7938  
401 6th Avenue  
Madison Mercantile .....320-698-7121  
605 1st Street West

***Automotive Repair***

MTech .....320-598-3515  
307- 8th Avenue (Highway 75)  
Tofte Auto & Sales/New World Salvage .....320-598-3770  
225 1st Street East (Highway 40)

***Automotive Retail***

NAPA .....320-598-3423  
523 1st Street East

***Banks***

Old National Bank .....320-598-2020  
222 6th Avenue  
United Prairie Bank .....320-598-7541  
303 6th Avenue

***Bars/Lounges***

Happy Hour .....320-598-3434  
218 5th Avenue  
Madison VFW Post 1656 .....320-598-7498  
711 2nd Street  
The Sticks .....320-698-7498  
205 8th Avenue South

***Car Dealerships***

Tofte Auto & Sales/New World Salvage .....320-598-3770  
225 1st Street East (Highway 40)

***Computers/Technology***

Rural Solutions Inc. ....320-698-4747  
320 6th Avenue

***Concrete***

Wollschlager Concrete .....320-269-1182  
516 Central Avenue

***Dining***

Dairy Queen.....320-598-3858  
711 8th Avenue (Highway 75)  
DeToy's Family Restaurant .....320-598-3886  
502 1st Street West  
Madison Mercantile .....320-698-7121  
605 1st Street West  
The Pantry Cafe & Catering .....320-598-3377  
217 6th Avenue  
The Sticks .....320-698-7498  
205 8th Avenue South

***Florist***

Heather Nursery & Floral .....320-598-7337  
309 6th Avenue

***Food & Grocery***

Jubilee Foods .....320-598-7448  
208 7th Avenue

***Funeral Home***

Zahrbock Funeral Chapel .....320-598-3339  
108 2nd Avenue

***Gas Stations***

LqP Co-op Oil Co.....320-598-3652  
127 8th Avenue South

***Grain Elevator***

Cargill .....320-324-6491  
2237 Hwy 40

***Hardware/Building Supplies***

Lein Lumber .....320-698-7151  
319 1st Street  
Madison Hardware and Sporting Goods .....320-598-7776  
212 6th Avenue

***Housing with Services***

Hilltop Residence .....320-598-7536  
915 1st Avenue  
Madison Healthcare Services .....320-598-7551  
900 2nd Avenue  
Park Avenue Apartments .....320-598-3374  
310 Park Avenue

## ***Implement***

- Midwest Machinery .....320-598-7575  
2390 241st Avenue  
Ziegler.....320-598-3150  
2488 Hwy 75

## ***Industries***

- Madison Bottling Co. ....320-598-7573  
P.O. Box 68 (Hwy 40 East)  
Northern Plains Tiling .....320-598-3999  
904 8th Avenue

## ***Insurance/Financial Consultation***

- AgCountry .....320-598-7505  
112 5th Avenue 1-800-450-7505  
Klein Insurance .....320-598-3979  
222 6th Avenue

## ***Law Office***

- Swenson, Nelson, & Stulz PLLC .....320-598-7578  
214 6th Avenue

## ***Liquor Store***

- Madison Liquor .....320-598-7900  
607 1st Street West

## ***Lodging***

- Madison's Hometown Lodge .....320-598-7518  
815 8th Avenue  
The Main ..... Find them on Airbnb  
Nordhaven ..... Find them on Airbnb

## ***Medical***

- LqP Clinic .....320-598-7551  
900 2nd Avenue  
Madison Chiropractic Center .....320-598-3089  
508 4th Street  
Madison Dental Clinic .....320-598-7433  
622 West 3rd Street

## ***Newspaper & Commercial Printing***

- The Western Guard .....320-598-7521  
216 6th Avenue

## ***Nursing Home***

- Madison Healthcare Services Care Center .....320-598-7551  
900 2nd Avenue

## ***Pharmacy***

- Thrifty White Pharmacy .....320-598-3864  
205 6th Avenue 1-866-297-5904

## ***Radio Station***

- Q92-KLQP .....320-598-7301  
623 3rd Street

## ***Realtors***

- Dahle & Olson Realty .....320-598-7830  
222 6th Avenue

## ***Recreation***

- Madison Country Club .....320-598-7587  
West on Highway 40, 1/2 mile  
Swimming Pool/Skating Rink .....320-698-3766

## ***School District***

- Lac qui Parle Valley High School .....320-752-4200  
2860 291st Avenue  
MMN Elementary .....320-598-7528  
316 4th Street

## ***Shopping***

- Heather Nursery & Floral .....320-598-7337  
309 6th Avenue  
Madison Hardware and Sporting Goods .....320-598-7776  
212 6th Avenue  
"Net's Old Barn" Antiques .....320-598-3669  
421 1st Street (Highway 40)  
Odden & Zimbelman .....320-598-3768  
219 6th Avenue  
Thrifty White Pharmacy .....320-598-3864  
205 6th Avenue

## ***Salons, Spas and Wellness***

- Hair Razor N Cain .....301-752-7608  
210 5th Avenue  
Healing Journey Massage by Sue .....320-250-6226  
611 3rd Street  
Rural Radiance .....701-866-3710  
609 3rd Street West

## ***Utilities***

- Culligan .....320-598-7511  
611 West 2nd Street  
Dave's Plumbing .....320-598-3761  
616 3rd Street West 507-829-5821  
Lane's Electric .....320-226-4988  
Nassau, MN  
Larry's Refrigeration & Heating .....320-598-3334  
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