

October
2017

NEWSLETTER



Construction Committee

Work on the Agra Pavilion is continuing. Outside overhead doors have been installed. **Lincoln Wood** donated and installed windows. Patio doors have been prefinished by Eagle Scouts. Inside bathrooms are the priority and are being installed by **J & J Lee**. Design and budget plans are being developed for future insulation, heat, interior wall finishing to determine fundraising and timelines. **The WPS Foundation** has donated \$3,000 toward lights, fans and furnace. The Park St. overlook plan calls for repair of the existing bridge abutment, railing layout and landscaping. Work has begun on South Park St. by the city to be paved soon. Mile markers have been placed on the trail and will have name plates of large donors on them.

Construction Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 pm at the Agra Pavilion, South Park Street on the trail.



Quarter
Mile
Markers

Real Estate Committee

Feasibility studies are being done and projected costs looked at for each new section of the trail going east after Cooper St. Funds need to be raised ahead of construction.

Boardwalk construction techniques are being discussed-can we make our own on the first stretch of the trail where needed?

Kinzel Street easement has been signed and recorded.

- Priorities 1) trail to Walmart area
2) Hwy 64 to MARC
3) Prairie River Route

Real Estate meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm at the New Pine Ridge.

Friends and Marketing

The Friends Group has been working on:

- Sales of the 2018 Photo Calendar
- Raising money for the bathrooms and interior remodeling of the Agra Pavilion
- Planning a Grand Opening when the trail going east is open
- Planning a chalkfest event in the Spring



The Friends/Marketing Committee meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Lower Level of Johnson's.

**The River District
Development Foundation
Board** meets the 4th
Wednesday of the month at
6:00 pm at the Chamber.



2018 Calendars on sale \$10.00

Monthly photos of the trail
by local artists
Pick yours up at
Johnson's Downtown
1st St. Coffee Station
Ace Hardware
Courtside Furniture
Curves

Proceeds go to the
bathroom fund

Capital Campaign Committee

A Lumberjack Grant has been applied for. A campaign to find new donors and revisit past donors has begun.

Members will meet with Jean Tehan at the Community Foundation about other grant possibilities. Ideas for a Cellcom grant were discussed and funds for invasive species removal and replanting of native species will be requested.

Capital Campaign meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Chamber.

Notes

October 7th – Barleyfest

100% of this years proceeds will be donated to the River Bend Trail

Chips held a fundraising day on Sept. 18th where 10% of sales went to the trail!

Hugo's is having a fundraiser for the trail all of October – for each large slice of pizza costing \$1.95 - \$1.00 will go to the trail.

Visit our website
Riverbendtrail.org to find
out more about the trail.



Friends of the River Bend Trail
Facebook page
Invite your friends

The River District Development Foundation of Merrill provides resources, initially through the creation and upkeep of the River Bend Trail, that encourage residents and visitors to enjoy the natural beauty and precious spaces of the city's river corridors.

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Tammy at work

If you are wondering about the interpretive signs you see on the River Bend Trail, such as the Hobo sign near the Nicklaus Family Bridge, they are being made by Premier, a local company established in 2001. With the design help of Tammy Engel, we are in the process of creating more signs for the trail that will give historical information and fun facts about the Merrill area.



Premier is a family owned operation with 60+ employees located at 2210 Heldt St. in Merrill. Sub companies include Premier Manufacturing, Premier Touchless Drying and Vacs, Precision Laser Cutting, Premier Mounting Solutions, Nauti Turtle (Fremont, WI), and Pier 5 (Fremont, WI). Along with signs, company services also include banners, laser etching, metal fabrication, robotic welding, laser cutting, powder coating, roto molding, hospitality and dining (Fremont). We are happy to be working with them to add amenities to the trail.



Plan a fall
walk.



Meet your
friends on
the trail!

**A SPECIAL
THANK YOU**

To D'Lacey and Tim Haight from ACE Hardware for donating materials and working on the Nicklaus Family Bridge to recoat it. It looks fantastic!

We need a little help from our Friends

There is always work to be done on the trail. Please consider joining the **Friends River Bend Trail on Call Maintenance Crew**. We are looking for friends who want to join our crew in maintaining the trail as needed. This could include staining benches or the bridge, clearing brush, planting trees, weeding, etc. If interested email Shelley Hersil shersil@co.lincoln.wi.us or Greg Hartwig greghartwig00@gmail.com

We are halfway to our goal of \$20,000!



If you would like to see bathrooms on the trail and you can help send your donation to:

**Friends of RBT
POB 561
Merrill, WI 54452
Attn: Bathrooms**



This is the first of many fundraising projects we will be holding to rehab the interior of the trailhead pavilion. We will be needing lights, heat, a concession area and other amenities for the building.

Greg Hartwig and Gene Bebel accept a \$5,000 grant donation from Jeff Schneider of Sierra Pacific toward the Agra Pavilion bathroom project.

For more information about the trail, to make a donation or to become a Friend of the trail contact the Merrill Chamber Office at 715-536-9474 or e-mail Sarah Williams, sarahj724@gmail.com or Gene Bebel, kgb607@charter.net.