

January  
2019

# NEWSLETTER



## Construction Committee

Exterior concrete work has been completed connecting the handicap sidewalk to the trail. Inside the pavilion the wall coverings of corrugated metal and rough sawn red pine are being installed by Ott Construction. The ceiling will also be red pine and when completed heating will be added.

Amenities for the eastern trail section such as lights, viewing areas and mile markers are in the works. The river handicap access fishing pier has been delayed until spring. The east berm of the parking lot has been planted with evergreens. Additional boulders and ornamental grasses will be added in the spring.

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



## Real Estate Committee

When a transaction is finalized regarding the old HURD property we will be able to work on a walking trail from the Thrivent Loop to Kinzel St. to South State St. Public Service has removed the two buildings on the trail and now it is green space.

Real Estate meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm at the Pine Ridge Restaurant.

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

**February's RDDF Board meeting** will be a planning session for 2019 with Art Lersch, UW-Extension Director. This meeting will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the County board room at the Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N. Sales St.

Traditionally, accomplishments from the past year, plans for the coming year and goals for the future are discussed. Everyone who has an interest in the trail is invited to join the group.



## Friends and Marketing

A Friends project for 2019 will be to authorize production of a community patio and raised fire pit north of the Agra Pavilion in Rotary Park. The patio will be 35' x 40' using repurposed clay bricks from downtown along with new engraved bricks that can be ordered via this website:

[www.rbt.donationbricks.com](http://www.rbt.donationbricks.com)

Bricks can be in memory of someone, to honor a person, a meaningful inscription, in your name, for your organization or for your business with your logo.

The Friends/Marketing Committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 6:00 pm in the lower level of Johnson's Downtown.

## Capital Campaign Committee

Members of the committee are continuing to meet with the Park & Rec Department regarding their taking over the Agra Pavilion. The goal is for this to happen in March if not sooner.

**The Capital Campaign Committee is looking for new members who are familiar with grant writing. If you are interested contact Tom or Brenda Mueller**  
[bjmueller2@yahoo.com](mailto:bjmueller2@yahoo.com)

## Notes

**If you would like to schedule an event on the trail or reserve the pavilion you will now have to contact the Merrill Park and Rec office at 715-536-7313.**

Visit our website  
[Riverbendtrail.org](http://Riverbendtrail.org) to find out more about the trail.

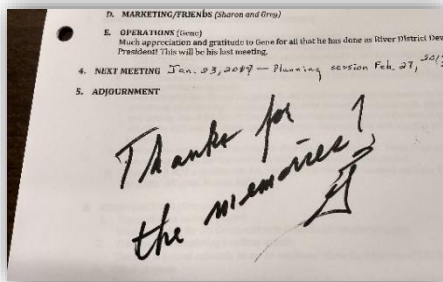


*Friends of the River Bend Trail*  
Facebook page  
Invite your friends

*The River District Development Foundation of Merrill works to provide the community with a healthy living environment and economic growth potential through the creation of the River Bend Trail and other future endeavors connecting location, nature and people.*

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## The River District Development Foundation of Merrill says farewell to its founding leader.

Gene Bebel has decided to retire from the board after serving as President since the foundation was organized in 2011. His involvement in bringing the River Bend Trail to Merrill began in 2005. With his relentless drive over the past 13 years the dream of a walking/biking trail through Merrill was realized.



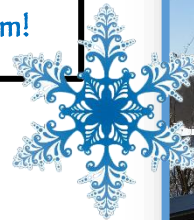
Greg Eichelkraut presented a check for \$700.00 to Greg Hartwig for the River Bend Trail. The money was raised this summer from the Black Squirrel Scurry triathlon. The triathlon features a 2 mile paddle down the Prairie River, a 19 mile bike ride featuring the River Bend Trail out to the countryside of Lincoln County, and a State 5k trail run through the Merrill Area Rec Complex and Council Grounds Park. For more information go to [blacksquirrelscurry.com](http://blacksquirrelscurry.com)

“Many people and organizations have made various contributions to the development of Merrill’s Wisconsin River area, including the River Bend Trail. Gene Bebel’s leadership in this effort will be sorely missed. As long time president of the River District Development Foundation of Merrill, he kept its board members and volunteers focused on enhancing Merrill through riverfront development. His dedication to this cause and many other community projects has made Merrill a better place to live and play.

When you see Gene out and about, thank him for the love he has for Merrill and its people.”

Art Lersch  
RDDF Board member

Winter is here!  
Ask a friend to walk  
with you on the trail  
today. Dress warm!



To make a donation toward the completion of the Agra Pavilion for interior work, heating, insulation, flooring, etc. send a check to:

Friends of RBT  
POB 561  
Merrill, WI 54452  
Attn: pavilion



For more information about the trail, to make a donation or to become a Friend of the trail contact Greg Hartwig [greg.hartwig00@gmail.com](mailto:greg.hartwig00@gmail.com) or the Merrill Chamber Office at 715-536-9474