

# Bayfield County Times

A Periodic Publication for County Municipal Officials Providing Updates on Ongoing and New Program Opportunities in Bayfield County

## HIGHLIGHTS

- *AARP Tax Assistance*
- *Senior Meal Program Schedule*
- *2025 Clean Sweep Schedule*
- *Community Wellness Initiative*
- *A New Crop By and For Bayfield County*
- *Zoning Code Rewrite*
- *Senior Housing Proposed in the Town of Bell*
- *Operation We Got Your Six*
- *Zoning Department Scam Alert*
- *Tourism Date Collection Tool*
- *Avel eCare Crisis Care*

## Bayfield County Youth Government Scholarship Available!



Bayfield County strives to involve youth in local Government to help ensure interest and involvement.

Bayfield County will be awarding up to four \$500 scholarships to High School seniors that reside in Bayfield County. Applicants will need to complete two qualifiers:

- ⇒ Attend one municipal **AND** one County Board meeting between January 1 and May 7, 2025
- ⇒ Submit a 500-word essay on one of two options

There is only one more County Board meeting date that would fall in the timeline:

- ◆ April 15, 2025

The deadline to complete these qualifiers and turn in your application is **May 7, 2025.**

To view the full scholarship details, please visit: [www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/1392/Youth-Government-Scholarship](http://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/1392/Youth-Government-Scholarship)

**VISIT BAYFIELD COUNTY GOVERNMENT FACEBOOK PAGES TO STAY UP TO DATE.**

## TREASURERS

### OFFICE REMINDER:

Second installment property tax payments are due to the Bayfield County Treasurer's Office by July 31, 2024.

*Questions? Please contact the Treasurer's Office at: 715-373-6131*

**YOUR SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS BAYFIELD COUNTY**

[www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](http://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov)



## Washburn Tax-Aide 2024 Tax Season

Every Wednesday in March—April 16, 2025

Free Tax Preparation offered by AARP, IRS, & Wisconsin Department of Revenue

**AARP Foundation Tax Aide volunteers will offer in-person tax preparation. All tax returns will be completed in the Bayfield County Board Room located in the upper level of the Bayfield County Courthouse.**

### **APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED**

Taxpayers must pick up an envelope containing paperwork that needs to be completed before an appointment can be made. Instructions for making an appointment are included in the packet.

Individuals must complete all of the forms included in the packet before arriving for their appointment, otherwise the appointment will need to be rescheduled. In addition to the forms in the packet, you will need to provide either originals or copies of all 2024 tax documents.

These documents may include, but are not limited to:

- ⇒ Social Security Statements
- ⇒ 1099's
- ⇒ W-2's

**Taxpayers can pick up the required envelope at the following locations beginning January 15th:**

- ⇒ Bayfield County Courthouse  
117 E 5th Street Washburn  
8:00-4:00 Monday – Friday

***NOTICE: Look for the Tax-Aide signage. Packets will be available at the courtroom entrance. No staff or volunteers are on site to answer questions or provide service.***

- ⇒ Ashland, Bayfield, Cable, and Iron River Libraries
- ⇒ Town of Bell Town Hall in Cornucopia

**All taxpayers will be required to show a picture ID and proof of Social Security Number.**

**The tax preparers will not be allowed to file any out of state returns which includes the Minnesota returns that have been done in the past.**

# Psst...We're Talking About Pests

The Bayfield County Land Conservation Invasive Species Staff monitor terrestrial invasive species. For more information, visit the Land Conservation webpage here: [www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/145/Land-Water-Conservation](http://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/145/Land-Water-Conservation).

Bayfield County is abundant in natural resources which many residents use for both recreation and as part of their daily lives. However; there are some invasive species that now call Bayfield County their home, including both the Spongy Moth and Eastern Tent Caterpillars.



*Spongy moth caterpillar*

Spongy Moth Caterpillars are characterized by a fuzzy/hairy appearance with five pairs of blue bumps that are followed by six pairs of red bumps down the length of the caterpillar's back. Very young caterpillars appear mostly back with the markings being quite difficult to see for one to two weeks.

These caterpillars are known for primarily feeding on oak, crabapple, linden, willow, birch, aspen, and more than 300 other species of trees through early July. While they don't normally cause vast amounts of damage, the caterpillars can strip trees overnight during an outbreak.

To manage the caterpillars, especially during an outbreak, it is recommended using barrier bands, collection bands, or applying insecticides to trees that you are hoping to spare from the damage. Spongy moth egg masses should be scraped from surfaces and plunged into soapy water.



*Eastern Tent Caterpillars*

Eastern Tent Caterpillars are characterized with a bright white/yellow stripe running down the center of its entire back with small blue spots along the side of the center stripe that also run down the length of its back. These caterpillars are also quite fuzzy/hairy in appearance.

This type of caterpillar gets its name from the way it constructs tents in trees where the branches fork. Eastern Tent Caterpillars make their tents most frequently in cherry, wild cherry, crabapple, and apple trees.

The caterpillars are known to cause some damage to the trees they make their homes in May to early June which is their feeding time. Rather than attempting to remove the tents by pruning the tree, it is recommended that tree owners wait until dusk and strip the tents along with the caterpillars from the trees with their hands while wearing rubber gloves. Then the caterpillars and their tents can either be plunged into soapy water, buried, or burned farther away from the tree.

**For more information, check out these resources:**

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/spongymothinwisconsin/life-cycle-and-biology-3/life-cycle-and-biology/>

<https://spongymoth.wi.gov/Pages/home.aspx>

# Bayfield County Senior Meal Programs



Did you know that Bayfield County Human Services offers meals for seniors? Those 60 and over can visit one of seven sites around the County open weekly (except on holidays). Dining together provides many benefits including improved nutrition, improving social connectedness and a chance to serve others by volunteering to help at the meal site.

All sites require advanced reservations. Please just call the meal line at (715) 373-3396, leave your name, phone number and the site you want to attend. Human Services staff will do the rest! Participants are given the opportunity to contribute to the cost of their meals. The suggested contribution is between \$3-\$5 a meal. All the money collected supports the continuation of the meal program. See the following chart to find a site near you!

## 2025 Congregate Meal Information

<b>Barnes Town Hall</b> 3360 County Hwy. N Barnes, WI 54873	Meal Days: Thursdays Reservation required? Yes <b>Call by 9:00 a.m. the day before.</b>	Site Opens: 11:30 a.m. Meal Served: 12:00 noon
<b>Bell Town Hall</b> 22620 Ash Street Cornucopia, WI 54827	Meal Days: Tuesdays Reservation required? Yes <b>Call by Monday at 8:30 a.m.</b>	Site Opens: 11:30 a.m. Meal Served: 12:00 noon
<b>Cable United Church of Christ</b> 13445 County Hwy. M Cable, WI 54821	Meal Days: 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month Reservation required? Yes <b>Call by Thursday at 12:00 noon</b>	Site Opens: 11:30 a.m. Meal Served: 12:00 noon
<b>Iron River Community Center</b> 8275 E. Mill Street Iron River, WI 54847	Meal Days: 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs. of the month Reservation required? Yes <b>Call by Monday at noon</b>	Site Opens: 11:30 a.m. Meal Served: 12:00 noon
<b>First Lutheran Church</b> 83105 Washington Avenue Port Wing, WI 54865	Meal Days: Wednesdays Reservation required? Yes <b>Call by Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.</b>	Site Opens: 11:30 a.m. Meal Served: 12:00 noon
<b>Time Out Restaurant</b> 4 Bayfield Street Washburn, WI 54891	Meal Days: Wednesdays Reservation required? No  <i>*Please be respectful of the restaurant and do not arrive earlier than 1:00 p.m.</i>	Seating Opens: <b>1:00 PM*</b> Meal Served: 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. Site Closes: 3:00 p.m.
<b>St. Louis School</b> 713 Washington Avenue Washburn, WI 54891	Meal Days: Fridays Reservation required? Yes <b>Call by 3:00 p.m. Wednesday</b>	Site Opens: 11:30 a.m. Meal Served: 12:00 noon

There is also an option for seniors who are homebound – Home Delivered Meals or Meal on Wheels are delivered around the County on 6 different routes, 3-5 days a week. Qualifying participants may have difficulty getting and preparing food or providing care for an older loved one in the home. Beyond just delivering meals, friendly drivers check in on people several days week for a little more piece of mind. The suggested contribution is \$3-\$5 a meal. All contributions are voluntary and appreciated. Wonder if you or a loved qualify ? **Please call us at 715-373-3396 and leave your name, phone number and tell us you would like to talk about home delivered meals!**

# Stop the Spiny!

*By: Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Andy Teal*

Many people love living in or visiting The Northland, particularly for all the opportunities that Lake Superior, inland lakes, and many miles of rivers offer to water enthusiasts. Perhaps you, dear reader, have enjoyed an activity that was on, in, or near the water. Maybe you have not, but plan to do so in the future. It is because of this love and enjoyment of our waters that I am urging folks to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), also known as non-local beings, by following these best management practices before launching and before leaving:

1. **Inspect** watercraft, trailer, and equipment (and pets, if they were in the water).
2. **Remove** all plants, animals, and mud.
3. **Drain** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment
4. **Never** move plants or live fish away from a waterbody

These are the minimum steps required by Wisconsin State Law; however, many people do more by taking their boats to a car wash or further disinfecting and drying their equipment at home. Some boat landings have disinfection stations and a few organizations even have power washing units to help recreationists with this.

While following the steps listed above will do wonders to prevent the spread of AIS of all kinds, there is one species I would like to focus on. If you have ever gone fishing at certain spots on Lake Superior, you might have noticed that upon reeling in your

lures or downriggers, your lines build up a collection of pokey, whitish globs of a snot-like substance. If they got thick enough, those globs may have even fouled up your reels. When they dried out, they may have looked like tufts of cotton. That substance is clusters of small, individual animals called spiny water fleas.

These critters belong to a group of animals known as zooplankton (microscopic animals) and they drift in the water. Spiny water fleas (SWF) are small to us, but to small fish, they seem quite large. So large, in fact, that small fish which depend on a diet of zooplankton and phytoplankton cannot eat them, due to the long spines that give them their name. Worse still, spiny water fleas are predators, and they eat a lot of the same things that small fish use as a food source. This in turn can cause fish starvation and zooplankton population decline, creating issues throughout the whole food web.

Do not despair, though. Any water recreationist can do their part by hosing off their watercraft and equipment to remove the adults. Pay special attention to removing sediment from anchors and other equipment that sit on the lake bottom too, to ensure no spiny water flea resting eggs are transported to other areas. Douglas County also started a project called Stop the Spiny Campaign, supplying a few partners in Bayfield County with a short video (available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwW859gtbqA>) and a neat handout for anglers. At select Lake Superior and inland lake boat landings (and while supplies last) anglers can receive a Swedish dish cloth with the Stop the Spiny message printed on it—these can be used to grip and wipe free any SWF built up on fishing and downrigger lines. As a bonus, these cloths are durable and reuseable, and non-branded versions are available locally in a few stores. Whatever you happen to do in, on, or near the water, be sure to “wipe out” spiny water fleas!





## 2025 NW Wisconsin Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

Bayfield County UW Extension is coordinating this year’s county pickup, scheduled for Thursday, July 31, 2025 from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at the Bayfield County Highway Garage located in the City of Washburn.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Thursday, June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Taylor	<b>Medford</b> – Taylor County Fairgrounds, State Hwy 13 & WI-64 (No Rx)*	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Kyle Noonan Taylor County Zoning Department (715) 748-1485
Friday, June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Rusk	<b>Ladysmith</b> - County Hwy Shop, N4711 State Hwy 27	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Charmaine Riddle Rusk County Recycling (715) 532-2167
Saturday, June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ashland	<b>City of Ashland</b> – Ashland High School Main Parking 1900 Beaser Ave	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Lissa Radke Ashland County UW Extension (715) 682-7017
Thursday, July 31 <sup>st</sup>	Bayfield	<b>City of Washburn</b> – Co. Hwy Garage, 311 South 1st Ave E	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Theresa LaChapelle Bayfield County UW Extension (715) 373-3285
Thursday, August 14 <sup>th</sup>	Douglas	<b>Town of Gordon</b> – Gordon Transfer Station 14358 S St Croix Rd,	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Abigail Gilberg NWRPC (715) 635-2197
Friday, August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Burnett	<b>Siren</b> - Burnett Co. Hwy Dept 8150 St. Rd. 70	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Abigail Gilberg NWRPC (715) 635-2197
Saturday, August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Washburn	<b>Spoooner</b> - HHW Site, 1650 Cottonwood Ave (No Rx)*	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Abigail Gilberg NWRPC (715) 635-2197
Tuesday, September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Sawyer	<b>Hayward</b> – Sawyer County Fairgrounds 14655 Co. Hwy B (Accepts Rx and Sharps)	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Ariga Grigoryan Sawyer County UW Extension (715) 638-3295
Wednesday, September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Price	<b>City of Phillips</b> - Phillips City Hall 174 S Eyder Ave (No Rx)*	2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Evan Lund Price County Land Conservation & Zoning (715) 339-2550

**For residents of Bayfield County, please note that the Cleansweep event being held in Bayfield County will be held on Thursday, July 31, 2025 in the City of Washburn and the Bayfield County Highway Garage located at 311 South 1st Ave E from 2:00 PM—6:00 PM.**

**For more information regarding this event, please contact Theresa LaChappelle with Bayfield County UW Extension at: 715-373-3285.**



# 2025 NW Wisconsin Household Hazardous Waste Items Accepted & Fees

### CLEANSWEEP WILL ACCEPT

Household hazardous waste will be accepted at the above locations and only at designated times. Items will be taken for free from residential properties, except for FEE ITEMS noted below. Acceptable items include materials such as, oil-based paints, aerosol spray paints and lubricants, solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, household and hazardous cleaners, corrosives, flammables, mercury, lead tackle and shot, old gas, antifreeze, and other chemicals you wouldn't consider dumping. Mercury containing thermostats, switches, and thermometers, and lead based paint will also be accepted.

### FEE ITEMS

- The items below will be accepted at the collection events for a fee.
- \$2.00 per circular & U shape fluorescent tube, & CFL bulb
  - \$2.00 per 4' or less & 5' and over fluorescent tube
  - \$2.00 per standard Incandescent light bulb
  - \$4.00 per shatter shield tube any size
  - \$6.00 per tanning bed or UV bulb
  - \$3.00 per HID or LED bulb
  - \$3.00 lb. PCB Ballast
  - \$2.00 lb. Non-PCB Ballast
  - Lithium Ion & LI Primary Batteries \$10.00 lb.
  - All other batteries \$2.00 lb.

### CLEANSWEEP WILL NOT ACCEPT

- Latex Paint
- Empty Paint Cans
- Oil Filters
- Motor Oil
- Explosives, Flares or Fireworks
- Freon 11 & 12
- Radioactive Materials (including smoke/Co2 alarms)
- Ammunition
- Compressed Gas Cylinders-any size
- Recyclables
- Appliances
- Asbestos
- Biological or Infectious Wastes
- Sharps or EpiPens
- Spray Foam Cylinders
- Incandescent Light Bulbs
- PFAS Containing Items

### WHO CAN ATTEND

Residents from each participating county can utilize any of the cleansweep collection events. Proof of residence may be required.

Businesses qualified as Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQG) and Agricultural Producers (farmers/farms) wanting to dispose of chemicals should contact Colin Barrington, Veolia Environmental Services at [colin.barrington@veolia.com](mailto:colin.barrington@veolia.com). Preregistration is required at least two weeks in advance of the event, including a full list of materials and prepayment/authorization. Farmers/Farms may dispose of up to 200 pounds of pesticides for free at the collection events, with preregistration and proof of business required.

### UNWANTED Rx MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Residents having expired and unwanted medications may bring items to the events listed above. Please leave pills in packages and containers with labels attached to assist in identification of medications. No sharps or EpiPens will be accepted.

\* Price, Taylor, and Washburn Counties will not have an unwanted Rx medication collection event.

**Northwest Cleansweep is a cooperative venture supported by: Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor and Washburn Counties; Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and Northwest Regional Planning Commission.**



## Business Park Addition

Bayfield County is committed to providing local businesses a spot to grow. In 2025 Arganbright Road in the Town of Eileen will be expanded to connect State Farm Road and Highway 137. A new business is planning to begin construction in 2025 creating and retaining 30 local positions. If you are interested in learning more about available lands contact the Bayfield County Administrator's Office at 715-373-6181. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is partnering with the County to help fund the road project.

## Bayfield County Facility Upgrades Once in a Generation Projects

County Facility Upgrades across Bayfield County are nearing completion. The past five years has seen multiple new facilities and major improvements undertaken



One time funding has been put to use for a new highway garage in Cable, a new multi departmental garage and office facility in Grandview and three construction projects at the courthouse and annex in Washburn.

The Washburn Projects included major HVAC overhauls and office renovation projects, major electrical and lighting upgrades, accessibility improvements, new entryway and vestibule additions for the health department and new offices and meeting rooms in both the annex and courthouse.



Department of Administration Secretary Blumenfeld joined in the Bayfield County Public Health Department Addition and Renovation Project Ribbon Cutting.

A variety of matching grants and one time funds dramatically reduced the costs for these generational projects.





# All Things Budget



**Beginning in May every year, the Bayfield County Board holds a budget priority session. This time of year is the perfect opportunity for members of the public to share ideas about the county budget. Share your ideas with members of the County Board. The annual budget process begins in the Spring and concludes in October with the adoption of the next year’s budget.**

## Say “Hello!” to the Bayfield County Board



On April 16, 2024, the County Board of Supervisors were sworn in for the new term from 2024-2026. Below is the list of supervisors and their districts:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ⇒ District 1: Steve Sandstrom                | ⇒ District 8: Fred Strand (Vice-Chair) |
| ⇒ District 2: Mary Dougherty                 | ⇒ District 9: Jeff Holte               |
| ⇒ District 3: Larry Fickbohm                 | ⇒ District 10: Marty Milanowski        |
| ⇒ District 4: Charly Ray                     | ⇒ District 11: Madelaine Rekemeyer     |
| ⇒ District 5: Jan Lee                        | ⇒ District 12: Jim Crandall            |
| ⇒ District 6: Jeff Olsen                     | ⇒ District 13: Sue Rosa                |
| ⇒ District 7: Dennis Pocernich<br>(Chairman) |  |

For more information on how to contact your district supervisor, please visit the Bayfield County website at: <https://bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/295/Board-of-Supervisors>

## Bayfield County Health Department Community Wellness Initiative

### **Municipalities are encouraged to apply for this year's 2025 Bayfield County Community Wellness Initiative (formerly Health Infrastructure Grant)**

**Project Description:** A community wellness initiative that promotes the health infrastructure of Bayfield County, its residents and visitors.

**Purpose:** Provide the community with assistance to create the opportunity for a better place to live by supporting infrastructure for physical activity, promoting health and wellness.

**Grant Details:** Applications are open from February 14, 2024, through **Sunday, April 27, 2025.**

- Cost sharing of 50% from Bayfield County with local communities.
- Up to \$5,000 per project for cost-sharing. Minimum of \$1,000 request for grants.
- Up to \$30,000 of funds available county-wide.
- Grant funds may only be used for materials, equipment and contractual costs.
- Community may include donations of equipment, materials, parts, labor, and time in 50% cost-sharing. (Labor contributions up to \$15/hour.)
- Approved grant expenses will be reimbursed upon project completion.
- Any funds awarded must not be used to replace (supplant) funds that have already been appropriated for the project.
- **Projects must be completed by June 30, 2026.**



Apply online at: [www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/communitywellnessgrant](http://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/communitywellnessgrant)

#### **Criteria for Selection:**

- Projects must create an opportunity for physical activity and/or promotion of healthy living. Special preference will be given to projects that promote health and wellness for persons of all ages.
- Projects must focus on improving wellness opportunities in Bayfield County.
- Project proposals will be accepted from towns, cities, village or tribe located within Bayfield County. Community groups may work through these government entities.
- Project proposals must demonstrate local commitment in the form of two letters of support from community members or organizations.
- Selection of projects will be determined by the Community Wellness Initiatives Committee.
- **Grant recipients will be announced by May 14th, 2025.**
- **Projects may start any time after May 15, 2025, contingent upon authorized signatures.**

#### **Suggestions for Project Proposals:**

- Improvements or outdoor exercise systems including bicycle paths, walking path development, accessible walking paths or hiking trails. Include letters of support from partners that own property.
- Playground equipment or interactive outdoor exercise equipment
- Establish or expand community gardens or farmers market infrastructure.
- Safety or user accessibility enhancements in parks or at swimming beaches (example: lifejacket stations, lifeguard chair, benches, accessible walkways)
- Basketball, volleyball, pickleball or tennis courts, skateboard or wheel parks.
- ***Other proposed projects are welcome.***

Call (715)373-6109 or email [Health@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:Health@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov)

# HIGHWAY PROJECTS AND WORK ZONE SAFETY

As road construction season begins, it is important to remember to be patient as travel times may be extended. It is important to allow yourself extra time to accommodate any possible construction, rushing will only put yourself and the work zone crew in danger.

These tips can help you get in and out of a work zone safely:

- **Eliminate distractions** like eating, drinking, talking on the phone, or fiddling with electronic devices. Expect the unexpected. Speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people and vehicles may be working on or near the road.
- **Slow down.** A car traveling 60 mph travels 88 feet per second, and the faster you go the longer it takes to stop.
- **Give yourself room.** Rear-end collisions are the most common work zone crashes, so don't tail-gate.
- Especially in busier areas, it pays to know the basics on the zipper merge.
- **Allow about four seconds of braking distance.** At 60 mph, this equates to about 350 feet.
- **Look for signs.** Orange, diamond-shaped signs usually give you ample warning of lane closings, construction areas, and flaggers and other workers ahead.
- **Be patient.** If you don't see workers, that doesn't mean they're not there. Observe the signs until you see one that says you've left the work zone.
- **Plan ahead.** Leave early or map out an alternate route. Find the latest road conditions and work zone news at [511 Wisconsin](http://511.wisconsin.gov).
- **Follow the law.** Slow down and move over, if possible, when you see flashing lights.
- **Expect Delays.** Check [511wi.gov](http://511wi.gov) for details about what's ahead before your next road trip.

Texting and driving is illegal in Wisconsin. Also it is illegal to talk on a handheld cell phone while driving through a work zone. Please give undivided attention to the road for the safety of our workers.

*Remember everyone wants to make it home to their families! Please visit WIDOT's website for more information on work zone safety.*

<https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/safety/education/workzone/WZsafedriving.aspx>



# Bayfield County Criminal Justice & Bayfield County Jail Programming

Since July 1, 2010, the Criminal Justice Department has received the Becky Young Community Corrections Recidivism Reduction Community Services grant of \$50,000.

This grant supports two contractual mental health service providers to offer counseling to jail inmates with addiction and mental health issues. Inmates eligible for services are on Department of Corrections active community supervision or extended supervision.

- ◇ Alicia Carlson, meets with inmates each Monday. Alicia has provided services to inmates since 2012 in group and individual capacity.



- ◇ Benjamin Britain, provides a weekly AODA group on Friday mornings. Ben has provided services to our inmates since 2022.



From 7/1/23 through 6/30/24, **54 Bayfield County Jail inmates** on Active Community Supervision participated in DOC jail programming. Participants engaged in individual counseling sessions and/or group sessions. There were **243 total sessions** offered last fiscal year. On average, inmates participated in a combination of **6 individual/group sessions** throughout the fiscal year.

- Combined mental providers conducted **209 individual counseling sessions** with **41 participants** and **34 group sessions**, for both men and women, with **26 participants** throughout the fiscal year. Inmates attended an average of **5 individual sessions** throughout the fiscal year.

### Other Jail Programming offered to Bayfield County inmates include:

#### 2025 Jail Programs:

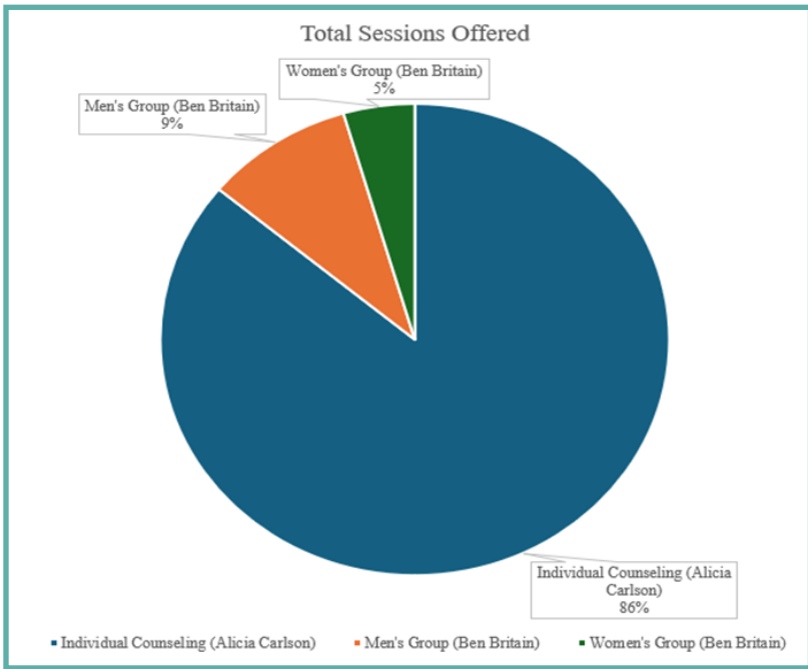
- Gideons International
  - Salem Baptist Church Groups
  - Grace Fellowship Groups
- University of Wisconsin -Extension Programming
  - Literacy Link
  - Parenting Inside Out
- General Education (GED) Program
- Alcoholics Anonymous Group
- Mental Health– Southern Health Partners (crisis based)

The goal of the programming is to reduce recidivism rates. Participants in the Bayfield County programs show a lower recidivism rate.

# Jail Programming Session Participation Statistics

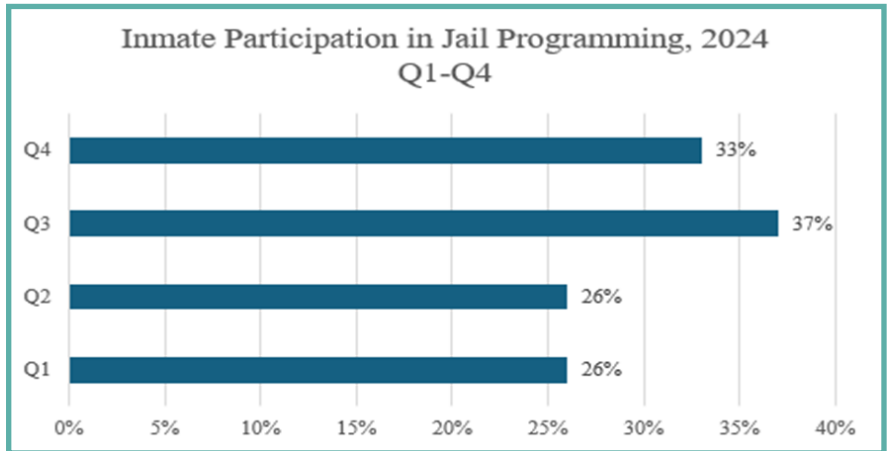
## Total Sessions Offered

	Individual	Men's Group	Women's
<b>Total</b>	209	23	11



Out of the 243 sessions offered in 2024, 9% of the sessions were Men's Group Sessions and 5% were Women's Group Session (both group sessions were facilitated by Ben Britain) with the remaining sessions being Individual Sessions facilitated by Alicia Carlson.

Program participation held steady throughout the first and second quarters of 2024 but increased during quarter three. By quarter four, there was a slight decrease in participation.



### Bayfield County Criminal Justice Department Staff:

- ⇒ Barb Flynn, Criminal Justice Coordinator
- ⇒ Austin Sann, Treatment Court Case Manager
- ⇒ Andy Mika, Courthouse Security-Hybrid (OWI/Drug) Treatment Court Deputy
- ⇒ Bayfield County Sheriff's Office Deputies


# Getting Connected Digitally

In 2024, Bayfield County was the recipient of a Digital Connectivity and Navigators (DNC) Program Grant through the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC).

This is a two year project providing technical assistance to county residents as well as provide laptop and tablets available to loan through partnership with the six county libraries. Bayfield County, through the Northwest Workforce Investment Board has employed a Digital Navigator that is now available to provide computer assistance at the libraries as well. The project will continue through 2026.

In addition to device lending and computer assistance, the project also includes broadband service at the Bayfield County and City of Washburn Housing Authority properties.

*Below is a list of dates and times that the Digital Navigator will be visiting the libraries throughout the county:*



Questions? Contact Eric Faber at [efaber@nwwib.com](mailto:efaber@nwwib.com) or (715)-204-7501

# APRIL

**2025**

Eric Faber  
Digital Navigator

**CLICK & Learn!**

Struggling with technology?  
We're here to help with your laptop, tablets, and phone!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Drummond Public Library 10am - 3pm	2	3 Red Cliff Ginanda Gikendaasomin Library 10am - 3pm	4	5
6	7 Iron River Public Library 10am - 3pm	8 Bayfield Carnegie Library 10am - 3pm	9 Cable Forest Lodge Library 10am - 3pm	10 Washburn Public Library 10am - 3pm	11	12
13	14 Washburn Public Library 10am - 3pm	15 Drummond Public Library 10am - 3pm	16	17 Red Cliff Ginanda Gikendaasomin Library 10am - 3pm	18	19
20	21 Iron River Public Library 10am - 3pm	22 Bayfield Carnegie Library 10am - 3pm	23 Cable Forest Lodge Library 10am - 3pm	24 Washburn Public Library 10am - 3pm	25	22
27	28 Washburn Public Library 10am - 3pm	29 Drummond Public Library 10am - 3pm	30			

NOTES

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Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need assistance with this information, please call us through Wisconsin Relay Services (7-1-1) or at 800-947-3529. To request information in an alternate format, including language assistance or translation of the information, please contact us at 715-685-1425. This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number CPFFN0201 awarded through Bayfield County from funds of \$1,220,226 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury through the American Rescue Plan Act and the State of Wisconsin, acting by and through the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

**Eric Faber has been hired as the Digital Navigator, if you would like to contact Eric, please reach out via email at [efaber@nwwib.com](mailto:efaber@nwwib.com) or via phone at 715-204-7501.**

## Fraudulent Billing Alert!!



The Bayfield County Planning and Zoning Department was made aware of fraudulent billing attempts. Scammers requested payment via a WIRE transfer.

Be aware that the department will NOT ask applicants to wire any funds. Please contact planning and zoning at [zoning@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:zoning@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov) or call 715-373-6138 with any zoning related questions.

If you have other questions related to possible scams, please reach out directly to the Bayfield County Sheriff at (715) 373-6300.

## BAYFIELD COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

*BY: JAKE BENSON, BAYFIELD COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER*

Winter is ticking away and with longer and warmer days we are starting to turn our attention to summer projects.

The winter of 2024-2025 is shaping up to be a little more average than the winter of 2023-2024 was. It has still been a light winter when compared to previous winters and especially the winter of 2022-2023. As of 2/24/2025 we are showing an average snowfall of 82 inches. When we are turning in storm reports to WIDOT we take an average snowfall measurement from all across the county. As of Monday, March 17, 2025, frost depths are running at 60 inches. We will continue to monitor frost tubes and see how warmer weather predictions affect the depth. Weight limits were put in place on March 3, 2025.

We are looking at summer projects and starting to prepare. We have put out RFP's (Request for Proposal's) for paving. As of now we plan on paving from USH-2 in Iron River north on CTH-A to the intersection of CTH's A and B. We also plan on paving CTH-E from Sandor Rd east to the CTH- E and H intersection.

We plan to continue our pavement preservation projects that we started last year. We are hoping to chip seal, shoulder, and paint all of CTH-D and CTH-M from the intersection of D east to Dells Rd. This is a total of 19.2 miles.

Our WIDOT work plan is not complete yet, but we do know we will be crack sealing STH-118 and doing some much needed patch work on US-63 between Cable and Drummond. We are in the process of setting up a meeting with WIDOT representatives to solidify other work they are hoping to complete.

We also intend to continue to work with other departments on projects around the county. We usually work with forestry and have some work planned to help the courthouse with the removal of the fuel tanks as well as at the County Fair.

On a town level we would like to touch base and remind everyone that we are here to help. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance. Some services we can provide but are not limited too.

- Crack sealing
- Culvert replacement
- Culvert liners
- Material hauling
- Ditching and riprap

If you are wondering about something that you do not see on the list, please give us a call and ask.

I'd also like to mention that the LRIP pilot program which took administrative duties from the highway commissioner and moved them to a consulting firm is coming to an end and needs to be resigned by June of 2025 if it is to continue. I'd like to get feedback from the towns/cities on how this went and if they would like to keep it with the consultants or move it back to the county. Also, if you are unaware of this program or have any questions about it, please feel free to contact me also.

Jake Benson  
Bayfield County Highway Commissioner  
715-373-6115  
[jake.benson@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:jake.benson@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov)

## A New Crop By and For Bayfield County

*By: Jason Fishbach*

Back in 2007, we launched the Upper Midwest Hazelnut Development Initiative (UMHDI) with the goal of providing a new high value crop for Bayfield County, northern Wisconsin, and as it's turning out, the eastern USA. Though it is taking longer than we had planned, it has been exciting to see Bayfield County leading the way. Our very first research planting was started at the Betzold Farm (now Blue Ox Cidery) in 2009 from which we selected the UMHDI Go-First™ Series of hazelnut cultivars, plants that are now in propagation and will be available to growers starting in 2026. In 2022, we established a new 6-acre breeding plot at the former Ashland Ag Research Station (now the Bayfield Business Park). This planting is being used to demonstrate production of the new cultivars as well as breeding even better cultivars. Hausers Superior View Farm in Bayfield is helping with propagation and nursery stock production. Our UMHDI hazelnut pilot processing line, the only one of its kind east of Oregon, is located at Northland College. The pieces are now in place for this new crop and our goal over the next five years is to help farmers in the region start establishing new plantings. To learn more go to [www.midwesthazels.com](http://www.midwesthazels.com) or contact [jason.fischbach@wisc.edu](mailto:jason.fischbach@wisc.edu).



*A row of new hazelnuts in the Bayfield Go-First Farm at the Bayfield County Business Park near Ashland.*

## Ashland-Bayfield County Joint Dispatch

On December 15, 2024, Bayfield County and Ashland County merged their 9-1-1 dispatch facilities. The merged center is the first in the State of Wisconsin and serves an annual population of over 33,000. The center is not the largest population-wise, but is the largest in Wisconsin geographically. The success of this project is directly related to the highly skilled and dedicated dispatchers serving these two counties as well as their ability to adapt to the new changes so efficiently.



## Innovations in Employment

Bayfield County is on track to have the “oldest” population per capita by 2040. This, combined with the advent of remote work options and more people aging out of the workforce than are entering, are providing a significant recruitment challenge for employers. Employers are forced to be more creative in their recruitment and retention efforts, and more efficient in their service delivery. Bayfield County and its municipalities have a strong history of collaboration including: elections, public safety, public works, etc. The county is open to discussing any collaborative efforts that can assist in providing the most cost effective and quality services to its citizens and visitors. Citizens can sign up to receive notifications of vacant county positions or apply at [www.BayfieldCounty.Wi.Gov/jobs](http://www.BayfieldCounty.Wi.Gov/jobs).



**Employment**



# Comprehensive Zoning Code Rewrite

Bayfield County has embarked on a comprehensive zoning code rewrite project to modernize the existing code. HKGi was hired to assist with the project. The existing zoning code has been in place for over 50 years, undergoing only incremental updates. Project goals involve reorganizing the contents to establish a user-friendly format; utilizing tables, graphics, and clear and concise language; looking for opportunities to support additional housing opportunities; and incorporating sustainable and resilient design.

## ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

An online community survey was created and shared widely throughout the county to solicit input on the current zoning code, including topics that should be addressed as part of the project, preferred types of development in the county, areas of the code that need improvement, and insight into the relationship between towns and the county.

Individuals can still complete the survey by scanning the QR code below or going to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NNZX9D3>



To date, over 100 surveys have been received. The following themes have emerged from the survey responses:

- ⇒ An emphasis on the need for affordable housing and options to accommodate people in a variety of situations
- ⇒ Support for higher-density development in targeted areas
- ⇒ A strong desire to preserve the natural resources of the County and concerns about sprawl and the impacts of development
- ⇒ Frustrations with the permitting process for building, special, and conditional use permits

- ⇒ Support for simplifying the zoning code and making it easier for the public to understand
- ⇒ Interest in improving communications and transparency in zoning decision-making
- ⇒ Concerns around standards for septic systems, shoreland setbacks, wireless facilities, short term rentals, and lot sizes

## ADDITIONAL CODE ANALYSIS:

County staff helped annotate the existing code to point out sections that are vague or seem inconsistent, create issues with enforcement, or are otherwise problematic and should be revisited as part of the rewrite project. HKGi has compiled these comments into a spreadsheet to assist with tracking and to help identify high priority areas to be addressed.

In light of all of the information collected to date, there appear to be seven broad areas that should be addressed as changes to the code are initiated:

1. Reorganization of code content for improved public navigation and accessibility
2. Simplification or clarification of information (regulations, definitions, processes, etc.) to help the general public or permit applicants understand what is expected and the standards of evaluation
3. Updated standards/regulations to better address the needs of property owners and businesses
4. Revisions to zoning districts to accommodate additional housing in targeted areas
5. Updated language or standards to align with current State or Federal regulations
6. Address process questions related to permitting or approvals, especially interjurisdictional (between county and towns)
7. Removal or modification of standards/regulations that lack a clear purpose or the intent is not able to be determined

## LISTENING SESSIONS:

HKGi and county staff facilitated multiple listening sessions throughout the county January 27-29. Over 150 individuals attended these listening sessions to provide input on the existing code.

## Comprehensive Zoning Code Rewrite Cont'd.

### NEXT STEPS:

HKGI will prepare a Zoning Diagnosis memo summarizing all of the information and outlining the areas of change to be carried out over the course of the year.

Applications for a Stakeholder Group will be sought. It will be made up of 12-14 individuals from across a range of professional backgrounds who have knowledge and understanding of the County's housing, development, and environmental pressures, as well as the zoning and land division codes that regulate them. This group is expected to include representatives in the following areas:

- ⇒ 3-5 town representatives for various areas of the county who are willing
- ⇒ to represent the interests of their town and region
- ⇒ Red Cliff Tribe
- ⇒ Realtors / Developers
- ⇒ Builders / Contractors / Plumbers
- ⇒ Housing (Kelly at UW Extension is one)
- ⇒ Tourism / Recreation
- ⇒ Commercial / Retail business owner
- ⇒ Design professional – planner, architect, engineer, surveyor
- ⇒ Natural resources / Environmental

This group is anticipated to be appointed by the Planning and Zoning Committee at their March 20, 2025 meeting. The first of four work sessions with the Planning & Zoning Committee and the Stakeholder Group is planned for April. Those interested in participating in this group should contact Ruth Hulstrom, [ruth.hulstrom@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:ruth.hulstrom@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov) or (715)373-3514.

A survey will be distributed to all towns to assess the following:

- “Second look” by each town of the adopted County Future Land Use Map and whether it aligns with their vision
- Zoning District review
- Classification List review

A web page will be developed on the county website, <https://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/147/Planning-Zoning>, so the public can track the progress of the project. This web page is anticipated to be in place by the beginning of March 2025.

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## Calling All Citizens!

Interested in getting involved in local government? Join one of the Bayfield County committees as a citizen member. Type “Online Application” in the search bar on the county website at: [www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](http://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov) and complete the online application form by submitting your name and indicating your interest area.





# New Senior Housing Proposed in the Town of Bell

To Provide Options for Local Residents to Age in Place

Like much of rural northern Wisconsin, Cornucopia is experiencing a demographic shift with an increasing number of retirees choosing to settle in the area. At the same time, a booming outdoor tourism economy accelerated by the pandemic, has resulted in the rapid growth of short-term rentals in the area. This shift has reduced the availability of affordable housing for year-round residents, making it hard for local employers to recruit or retain workers. A lack of new development means there are limited options available for seniors who wish to downsize from their single-family homes



Area residents gathered at the Design Wisconsin workshop in Cornucopia to provide input about the new senior housing proposal.

In the Town of Bell's Comprehensive Plan (2010- 2029), this was identified as a key goal moving forward:

*“Provide elderly and assisted living residences and services within the Town of Bell. The Town of Bell will pursue resources that will allow the aging population to remain in their homes or in their community.”*

without leaving the community.

Thanks in part to a grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and the Office of Rural Prosperity, the effort to develop a proposal for new housing in Cornucopia for independent seniors is moving forward. As part of the two-year Thrive Rural grant initiative, the Bayfield County Housing Authority will receive up to \$50,000 to cover pre-development expenses related to the effort, including necessary market research, site assessments, legal expenses, community engagement, and more.

With Bayfield County Extension and the Town of Bell Senior Housing Work Group, a recent housing survey was completed in the Town of Bell, followed by an interactive “Design Charrette” to gather public input and design ideas for the future development.

Here are some of the key takeaways:

- 71% of respondents expressed a preference for a greater variety of housing options with the community.
- 49% of all respondents, regardless of age, expressed interest in moving into independent senior housing.
- Among respondents aged 60 or older, 39 individuals indicated they likely move into independent senior housing if it was available in Cornucopia.

These responses reinforced results from a 2006 housing survey in the Town of Bell, which showed 46% of respondents favored more housing options for elderly residents who wished to remain in the community. Today, the population of the Town of Bell has a median age of 64.8, which is substantially higher than the statewide median age of 40.5 (though lower than the median age in the Village of Cornucopia, which is 71.8).

The working group has identified a potential location and is proceeding with a site survey to be completed this spring. If you'd like to learn more about the effort, the Town of Bell Senior Housing Work Group meets regularly at the Bell Community Center at 5 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month.

# OPERATION WE GOT YOUR SIX

Bayfield County VSO and Red Cliff Tribal VSO have partnered to create our first community event **Valor Support & Appreciation Day** which will be held on **June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 9am – 3pm**, at [Legendary Waters Resort & Casino](#) in [Bayfield, WI](#).

**UNDERSTANDING THE THEME** - We got your six. In the military the clock is used to inform position. Twelve o'clock (in front of you), three o'clock (to the right of you), nine o'clock (the left of you), and six o'clock (behind you). Many say, "I got your six" which means I got your back.

[OPERATION WE GOT YOUR SIX](#) will focus on providing resources and education for the benefits our Veterans earned, provide peer support, and of course promote community engagement.

OPENING CEREMONY:

- VFW Color Guard & Flag Carriers
- Grand Entry and Flag songs by Red Cliff Drum and Singers
- Posting of the Veterans Eagle Staff & Flags

RESOURCES FOR VETERANS:

- VHA - Healthcare/Community Care
- VBA - Disability, Pension, DIC, Education
- NCA - Burial Benefits
- WDVA - State Benefits for Veterans
- All other benefits available

RESOURCES FOR ALL:

- Hearing Impaired Phones
- It takes a Village Program – Register to Volunteer your time or services
- Mental Health
- AND
- Camaraderie & Community!!!!

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES:

- Learn the Military Alphabet..... "CHARLIE MIKE" aka Continue Mission
- Face Painting – Camouflage "Incognito" style
- Thank a Vet Program – Thank you Cards and coloring pages –(These will be sent out to our local Veterans within the community for Veterans Day 11/11/2025)
- Raffles

Lunch will be provided for all who attend. Open to EVERYONE in the community. Please come out and show your support and meet our local heroes - You do not need to be a Veteran to attend.

Follow the event to see new vendors, activities, etc. being added for [OPERATION WE GOT YOUR SIX](#)

Exhibitors attending and information regarding what they offer:

- ⇒ [ADRC](#) – Bayfield County Aging and Disability services
- ⇒ [CapTel](#) – Hearing Impaired Free Phone
- ⇒ [Caption Call](#) – Hearing Impaired Free Phone
- ⇒ [Delta Dental VADIP](#) – Dental insurance for Veterans and CHAMPVA eligible dependents
- ⇒ [Indianhead Community Action Agency – SSVF Program](#) (Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) provides temporary financial assistance and case management to help veterans, and their families find or keep safe, stable housing or emergency housing.
- ⇒ [VetCenter Duluth](#) & Mobile Unit – Mental Health for Veterans and families
- ⇒ VHA – [HUD-VASH Voucher Program](#) -Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
- ⇒ WDVA – [Outreach and Recovery Program](#)
- ⇒ [Workforce Resource](#) - Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program

.....many more pending



## Artesian Well Protection and Private Water Inspection Program

The Bayfield County Health Department is working with the Wisconsin DNR to become certified to conduct water supply inspections for private residences. This will expand on the health department's existing services of public water supply inspections.

The new services resulted from requests from residents for residential well inspections and from the new Well Protection and Private Water Systems Ordinance. <https://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17381/Title-16-Chapter-3-Well-Protection-and-Private-Water-Systems?bidId=>



- **Drinking Water Tests**

Laboratory testing of water samples: The Bayfield County Health Department tests public and private drinking water for residents and non-residents. Coliform Bacteria, E-Coli Bacteria and Nitrates are tested at our in-house laboratory. Bacteria/E-Coli tests are \$25 and Nitrate tests are \$25. Test kits for Arsenic, Lead and nitrites are analyzed at a partner laboratory.

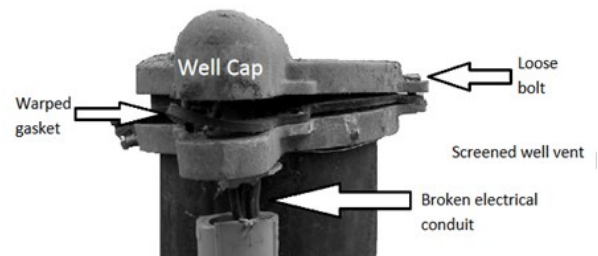
- **Well and Water System Inspections**

We are expanding our public water system inspection service to private residences through the DNR well delegation program. The water supply inspection will cover a well and pressure system inspection and testing for coliform bacteria, E-Coli bacteria, nitrates and arsenic.

The inspection will look for specific features that do not comply with the state's well regulations in NR 812, Wisconsin Administrative Code including compliance with separation distances from potential sources of contamination or flooding.

The inspector will identify any visible and known noncomplying features of the well and pressure system. Some features - such as well casing depth - and some possible contaminant sources are buried and cannot be seen without opening the well, excavating, or conducting a records search. The inspector will note whether additional investigation is recommended to assess features that cannot be seen.

Detailed information on what the inspection entails can be found at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/DrinkingWater/Publications/DG091.pdf>



- **Ground Water Protection**

Prevention of ground water contamination will ensure safe drinking water for all Bayfield County residents. Unused wells or those that have been abandoned pose a significant contamination risk to groundwater. The empty well pipe is a direct path from the surface to the groundwater. Contaminants can easily flow from the surface to the groundwater through these unused pipes. There is state and county funding available for residents to help properly seal unused wells to prevent groundwater contamination to the aquifer. The water supply specialist will reach out to residents with new wells who may need assistance in sealing old wells.

**For more information, please contact the Water Supply Specialist, Peter Morrissette at [peter.morrissette@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:peter.morrissette@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov)**

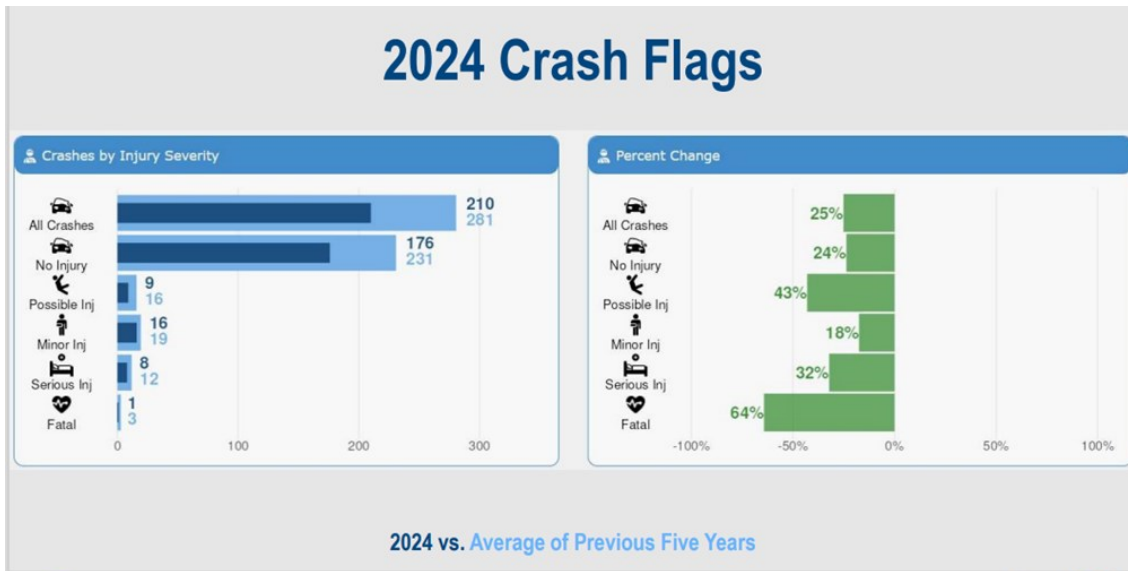


## Stay Connected with Your Tribal Resources!

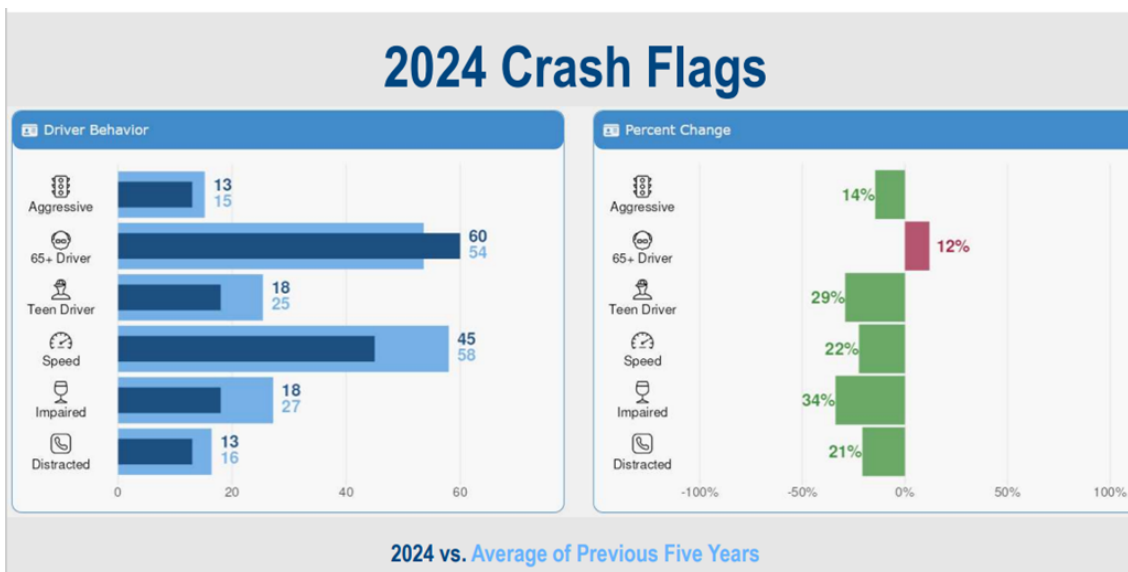
Check out the Red Cliff Tribal Newsletter by following this [link](#). This newsletter is an excellent source of information for upcoming news and events on the tribe and also provides great insight to the many services that the Tribe provides for Tribal residents!

# Crash Statistics

## -Bayfield County Sheriff's Office-



In total, there were 210 automobile crashes reported in Bayfield County in 2024, 176 of these crashes reported no injuries and one of these crashes resulted in a fatality. Overall, the total number of crashes was down 25% from the previous year. Out of the total number of crashes, 60 crashes were caused by drivers aged 65 and up, which is a 12% increase from the previous year and 18 were caused by teen drivers, which represents a 29% decrease. The number of crashes caused by impaired drivers is down a whopping 34%!



## Getting Ready to Enter in the Fair!



The Bayfield County Fair is being held August 7-10, 2025 and is shaping up to be another great event!

Bull riding will be back in the grandstand, along with Tuff Trucks and the Dirt Dash. The carnival will be there along with a magician and petting zoo and of course, the Market Sale, but the core of what makes the Bayfield County Fair special is the exhibits. Hundreds of people from 5 to 105 put their skills to the test and enter thousands of exhibits to compete for the coveted Blue ribbon and you can be one of them! This year we are waiving the fee for exhibitors to enter the Fair, and *exhibitors get a complimentary Season Pass which is good for all 4 days of the Fair*. A Season Pass includes parking, admission, carnival rides, grounds entertainment, and grandstand shows.

There is a Department for any hobby or skill you may have. Whether you like to garden, cook, sew, build things, ferment things, or just putter in your spare time, there is a place for you at the Fair: Plant & Soil Science, Flowers & House Plants, Natural Sciences, Cultural Arts, Photography, Beer and Wine, Computers, Woodworking, Electricity, Mechanical Projects, Foods & Nutrition, Clothing, Knitting & Crocheting, Home Furnishings, Family & Child Development, and so many more to choose from.

Maybe you have a young child who just wants to “dip their toe in the water” and enter a project they have worked on. We have you covered for that, too, with our Exploring & Cloverbuds Department.

Are you in a club, group, church, school, or nonprofit organization, and want to show what you do for the community? You can enter a booth and make a display that highlights your organization.

Whatever you choose to grow, cook, bake, or make, entering the Fair and winning that ribbon will be easy this year with our new online software. Just go to the Fair website ([www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/fair](http://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/fair)), download the Premium List (hard copy available for a nominal fee) to see what you want to enter, and then click on either Open Division or Junior Division, and enter your item. Please read all the rules carefully in the Premium List, as each Department has specific rules. If you have any questions, please contact David Eades at 715-373-3493 or email us at [thefair@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:thefair@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov).

See you at the Bayfield County Fair!

### **Bayfield County Economic Development:** **New Contacts**

The Bayfield County Economic Development Corporation has partnered with CEDA an area economic development firm to provide local business assistance for planning and finances. Steve Gershman will serve Bayfield County. Steve can be reached at 253-732-0232 or via email at: [Steve.gershman@cedausa.com](mailto:Steve.gershman@cedausa.com).




Need help with local, state, or federal funding options or need to talk through your business plans? Call today!

For additional resources go to the Bayfield County EDC website at: [www.bayfieldcountyedc.org](http://www.bayfieldcountyedc.org)



VETERANS SERVICES

ADVOCATES  
FOR VETERANS  
& THEIR  
FAMILIES

-  (715) 373-6137
-  [veteransservice@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:veteransservice@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov)
-  <https://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/153/Veterans-Service-Office>

**WHAT IS A VSO? WHAT DOES A VSO DO?**

VSO stands for Veterans Service Office.

A VSO is trained and accredited by the VA to provide assistance and advocate for veterans, servicemembers, dependents, and survivors. We are part of Veterans Service Organization known as WDVA (Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs), American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

VSOs have your best interest in mind and exist to help YOU get the benefits for which you are eligible. We strive to educate, empower, and assist on various benefit claims for veterans and dependents where applicable.

The VSO is meant to represent the Veteran. The goal of this representation is to help you understand your benefits and the process. We also know what the VA is looking for with each claim.

- If you're sick, do you not go to your doctor?
- If you're in trouble, do you not seek a lawyer?
- Same scenario here - if you're a Veteran or family member, seek the VSO. Our services are absolutely free!**

*Please note: Attempting to navigate the system without this representation can cause a lot of headaches. Instead of trying to figure it out on your own, it's best to use a VSO that knows the process. DO NOT let anyone charge you a fee for filing veterans' benefits as there are what we call "Claim Predators" out there that prey on Veterans and their families.*

**WHAT BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?**

As a veteran, you may be eligible for a range of benefits including:

VA disability compensation, VA health care benefits, VA home loans, VA education benefits, VA pension, burial benefits, readjustment counseling, and career counseling depending on your service record and discharge status.

Key points about veteran benefits:

Disability compensation:

If you sustained a service-related condition - You got sick or injured while serving in the military—and can link this condition to your illness or injury (called an in-service disability claim), **or**

You had an illness or injury before you joined the military—and serving made it worse (called a pre-service disability claim), **or**

You have a disability related to your active-duty service that didn't appear until after you ended your service (called a post-service disability claim)

You may be eligible for monthly disability compensation based on the severity of your condition.

VA health care:

Veterans can access medical care through the VA system, including preventive care, inpatient treatment, and prescription drugs.

VA home loan:

Veterans can often qualify for favorable terms on home loans with a VA guarantee.

Education benefits:

VA education benefits help Veterans, service members, and their qualified family members with needs like paying college tuition, finding the right school or training program, and getting career counseling.

VA pension:

Veterans with limited income who served during wartime may be eligible for a monthly pension.

Burial benefits:

VA burial benefits can help service members, Veterans, and their family members plan and pay for a burial or memorial service in a VA national cemetery. Family members can also order memorial items to honor the service of a Veteran.

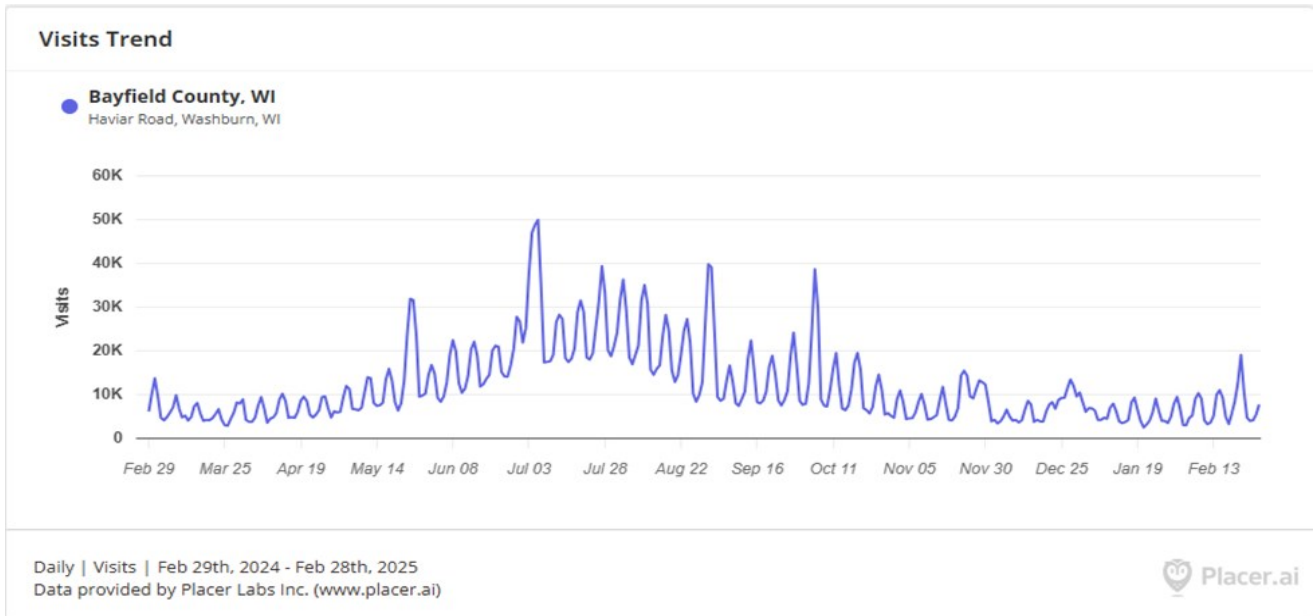
**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SPECIFIC BENEFITS AND ELIGIBILITY, CONTACT US DIRECTLY AT: 715-373-6137.**



# Tourism Data Collection Tool

The Bayfield County Tourism Department has partnered with the Cable Area Chamber of Commerce and the Bayfield Chamber and Visitor Bureau to subscribe to a data collection tool in 2025 called Placer.ai. This is an online platform, providing detailed information on the power and impact of tourism, including how many visits people are making to Bayfield County, where visitors are traveling from, and their spending habits. Contact the Bayfield County Tourism office at 715-373-6125 for access to this highly specialized data for your event, business, or organization.

Example – Overview of the Number of Visits in the last 12 months:



## Superior Days 2025:

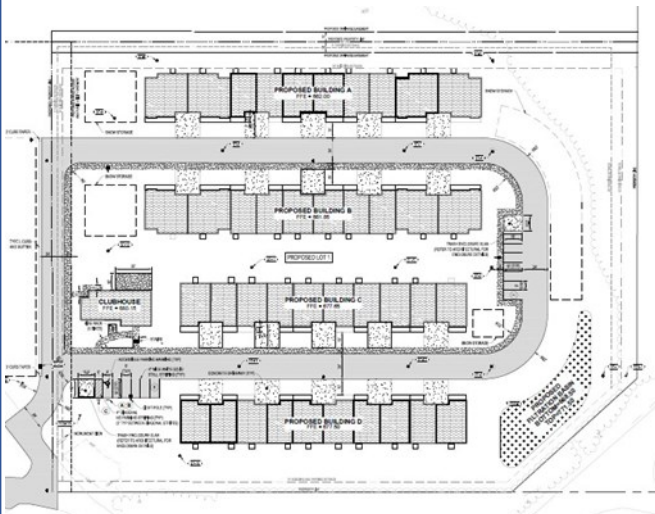
Superior Days is a grass roots event allowing residents of NW Wisconsin to share issues of local concern with state legislators. This year five Bayfield County residents and six high school students participated in the event.

Participants began reviewing issues and preparing topic statements in the Fall with several meetings held locally before the event took place in the second week in February.

Participants felt this years event was a success at sharing local input as well as from an educational perspective.



## Aurora Place: New Housing in the City of Washburn



Since 2022, Bayfield County has been working with Cinnaire Solutions, Inc. to develop a County-owned parcel to provide new rental housing in the City of Washburn. After an unsuccessful application for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in 2023, it was very exciting to get some great news in 2024; the County was awarded a \$1,000,000 federal grant to prepare the site and install critical infrastructure and the project was approved for a \$1,137,999 LIHTC award that would bring in \$8,904,449 in investment dollars. Along with several other sources secured by the developer, this project, now called Aurora Place, is fully-funded!

The development will feature a total of forty 1, 2, and 3 bedroom apartments and work will begin in April 2025, with a groundbreaking event in the last week of May. The new units will be open to residents in the spring of 2026. Anyone interested in applying can call 1-800-988-9123, mailbox 5 to receive more information.

There's good news for those who are more interested in homeownership opportunities, too! Our new two-county community land trust is an affordable housing nonprofit organization serving households at or below 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI) to help make buying a home more affordable – for a household of four, an income up to \$104,000 per year will qualify. We all know that wages aren't keeping up with housing prices, and the community land trust model is a great way to keep housing affordable for year-round residents!



In January, CheqBUILT hired its first Executive Director, Alex Nelson. With support from WHEDA, Bayfield County, and private donors, CheqBUILT is working to get the first 2-5 homes ready for local buyers in 2025! Interested parties should visit [www.cheqbuilt.org](http://www.cheqbuilt.org) or email [alex.nelson@cheqbuilt.org](mailto:alex.nelson@cheqbuilt.org).

## Avel eCare Crisis Care Expands to Wisconsin with Bayfield County Sheriff's Office

**Washburn, WI** – Avel eCare is expanding its Crisis Care program into Wisconsin with the Bayfield County Sheriff's Office, marking the first law enforcement agency in the state to implement the telemedicine service. This addition brings the total number of sites utilizing Avel eCare Crisis Care to 154 nationwide.



### Providing Critical Support to Law Enforcement

Bayfield County deputies now have 24/7 access to behavioral health professionals via telemedicine, offering real-time de-escalation support, safety planning, and referrals to community resources. This program ensures individuals in crisis receive immediate care, reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and incarceration.

“This program enables us to assist individuals in crisis by offering immediate services, ensuring they receive the necessary resources from the comfort of their own home,” said **Lt Tristan Kern** from Bayfield County Sheriff's Office.

“With our innovative technology, we are able to connect with law enforcement wherever they are dispatched, providing a mental health assessment for individuals in crisis,” said **Amber Reints**, Behavioral Health and Crisis Care leader at Avel eCare.

### Connecting to Community Resources

Crisis Care strengthens local mental health support by partnering with **Bayfield County's Department of Human Services (DHS)** to provide immediate referrals.

“The co-responder model of behavioral health providers responding with law enforcement is the gold standard. Avel's Virtual Crisis Care team allows our deputies to respond with that same gold-level standard in rural communities,” said **Tom Croteau**, Behavioral Health and Community Programs section manager.

“Again, what we're able to do is de-escalate, help them feel seen and heard, and create a safe space over technology,” added **Reints**.

### A Growing National Impact

Avel eCare Crisis Care now operates in 154 locations, helping law enforcement manage mental health-related calls. With rising demand for crisis intervention, Avel eCare continues to expand access and improve mental health outcomes nationwide.



*New generator to replace the previous unit.*

### Northern Lights Focus

Northern Lights Services, Inc. is the county's only skilled nursing home. In partnership with Bayfield County, Northern Lights has undertaken major facility improvements including a new generator, upgraded electrical, new air handlers, heaters and air conditioners, window, telephone system and new roof. 2025 projects include cooker and freezer replacements, more air handlers and air conditioning units, insulation and HVAC controls.



*The older windows were replaced with windows that would be a lot easier for staff and residents to open.*

**Bayfield County**

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*Serving the Citizens of  
Bayfield County**Bayfield County Courthouse  
Built 1908***2026 Budget Input Wanted**

With the 2025 Budget underway it is already time to set our sights on 2026! If you have ideas or suggestions for budget items in 2026 please send them on. Here is the budget calendar for the year.

- January-March: Develop broad budget initiatives for 2026
- April: Community Survey on 2026 initiatives
- May: County Board Budget Planning and Priority Setting Session
- June: Direction to County Department Heads
- August: Departments submit proposed budgets
- September: County Administrator submits a proposed, balanced budget
- September / October: County Executive Committee meet an average of four times to review and modify the proposed budget as presented
- October / November: Budget is presented to the full board for consideration

**Share your thoughts today!**Email: [Mark.Abeles-Allison@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:Mark.Abeles-Allison@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov)

The 2025 Budget is available for viewing online at:  
[www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/1097/County-Budget](http://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/1097/County-Budget)

## **FORECLOSURE? TROUBLED FINANCES? HELP IS AVAILABLE**

Every year property owners risk losing their home due to foreclosure. Resources are available to help residents access critical resources during these very difficult times. Counselors are available at local non-profit organizations that can help make the best of a difficult and unfortunate situations. Their services are free and confidential.

The Wisconsin 2-1-1 call service or 877-947-2211 can help connect you to resources for assistance today.

You can also call receive Mortgage Delinquency and Default Resolution Counseling through Catholic Community Services in Superior at 888-831-8446.

If you or someone you know is on the tax delinquency list and are experiencing financial hardship it is important to get help now.

**Foreclosure is final. We can't help if you don't call.**