



# CHAMBER Chatter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER JAN 19

## Happy New Year!

This will be the year of changes, progress and innovation for the Tomah Chamber and Visitor Center. We are off to a fresh start for 2019 with two new staff members, a new logo coming out, and some new activities for the community.

Kari Mlsna and Shay Jilek have rounded out our staff and have started to plan out some great events for the year as well as workshops for members. We are looking forward to helping our members better market themselves and create brand awareness through events!

Our success comes as a result of a strong membership. Members who understand that our community grows together. We support our members by assisting with marketing, workforce initiatives, referrals and spotlighting events. We are honored to be a part of every member's growth.

This upcoming year, you can expect some of the same great things along with some new ideas. Happy New Year to you all!



# MEMBERSHIP & BOARD

NUMBER OF CURRENT MEMBERS: 328

## *December Renewals*

1st Community Credit Union, 3 years  
Bauernfeind Business Technologies, 21 years  
Boys & Girls Club of West Central Wisconsin, 18 years  
CASA for Kids, 1 year  
Close to Home, 21 years  
Family Vision Center of Tomah, 34 years  
Graceland Fruit Wisconsin, 2 years  
Joan Hanson, 30 years  
Ho Chunk Cinema, 15 years

Lakeview Vending, 16 years  
Joe and Carrie Martinez, 28 years  
Monroe County Title, 15 years  
Morgan Stanley, 21 years  
R. Moake Excavating, 2 years  
Ryan Pierce Construction, 3 years  
St. Matthews Church, 1 year  
Timberwood Bank, 42 years

## *New Members*

Anytime Fitness Tomah

## *Current Chamber Board*

### **BOARD OFFICERS:**

President- Robin Pierce  
Past-President- Donna Evans  
Treasurer- Michelle Hagman  
Derek Burnstad  
Jeff Cram  
Jeff Gray

### **BOARD DIRECTORS:**

Matt Buswell  
Christian Dawley  
Kyle Evans  
Paul Harms  
Connie Hurd  
Mitch Koel  
Griffin Moe  
Kevin Ravenscroft  
Kim Voigt

### **EX OFFICIO:**

City of Tomah- Roger Gorius  
VA Medical Center- Matthew Gowan  
WTC: Tomah- Nicole Purvis  
Fort McCoy- Tonya Townsell  
Tomah School Dist.- Cindy Zahrte



## THE WELLNESS BITE: *A Fresh Start to 2019*

It's that time of year, we start feeling motivated, its a chance to start clean! Out of curiosity...what is your resolution of choice? Chosing better eating habits? Financial wellness? Stress management? Weight loss? Maybe a vow to be more present?

These are all fantastic lifestyle topics to improve on. Goals are so important, but sometimes the big picture can be a very overwhelming view and can be easily justified to quit. This year, go ahead and make that resolution, but maybe take a different strategy to make the goal a more attainable. First things first. Write down your resolution and put it somewhere visible. Next, create a game plan by using mini-goals. Maybe break it down to monthly or quarterly goals to build self efficacy and celebrate each accomplishment. Stay positive and reassess what works and what doesn't. Talk about these goals to stay accountable, or keep a journal.

Setting yourself up for success, instead of just winging it will make you one of the few who will make this resolution come to fruition! You'll build confidence and feel amazing about what you've done to improve your life!

All the best in 2019!



### ADVERTISE WITH US

*cost per page*

*ad format*

*due to chamber*

ONLY \$25  
FULL COLOR

PDF or JPEG  
(OTHERS UPON REQ.)

A WEEK PRIOR TO  
MONTHS END

Ads are placed in the order that they're received. Send ads to [info@tomahwisconsin.com](mailto:info@tomahwisconsin.com)

*\*space is only available for current chamber members\**

# January

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3	4	5 <b>AYCE Chili Supper</b> at KC Hall by the Tomah Historical Society <i>4:30pm - 6:30pm</i> <hr/> <b>Snowshoe for Beginners</b> at Whitetail Ridge <i>2pm</i>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 <b>NASA Craft Beer Fundraiser</b> at Break Room <i>5pm - 8:30pm</i>	18	19 <b>Basket Class Fundraiser</b> at First United Methodist Church 9am
20	21	22	23	24	25 <b>Casa for Kids Awareness Event</b> at Cork and Barrel, Sparta	26
27	28	29	30	31		



## Resolve to protect yourself from scams

A new year is here and while common resolutions include eating healthier, going to the gym, or saving more money, why not make it a priority to protect yourself and your family from scams and fraud? According to Experian, consumers reported \$905 million in total fraud losses in 2017. Phone calls were the primary method of contact by scammers at 70%, followed by email, websites, and mail.<sup>1</sup>

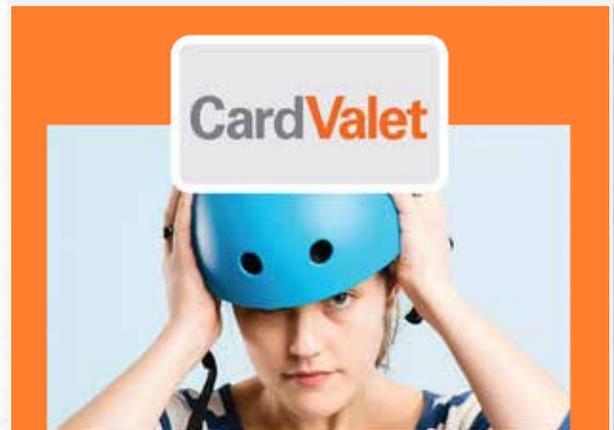
While there is not a foolproof way to protect ourselves, please be careful and take extra considerations when approached with “emergencies” or earning money with little to no effort. Here are a few tips from the Wisconsin Bureau of Consumer Protection to help you avoid scams:

- ◆ **Do your research.** Do business with companies you know or that come recommended by those you trust. Get as much information as you can about a business or charity before you pay. Check out a business with the Bureau of Consumer Protection before you act.
- ◆ **Don't wire transfer money to anyone you don't know.** Money sent via wire transfer or money cards is practically impossible to track. Pay by credit card (not debit card) whenever possible, since you can dispute charges easily.
- ◆ **Just don't answer.** Be cautious when responding to telemarketers, door-to-door sellers, and email or text pitches. Instead of responding to unsolicited offers, decide when and where you want to go shopping.
- ◆ **It's personal, keep it that way.** Never give out your Social Security number, credit card or bank account number or other personal information to anyone you don't know who contacts you.
- ◆ **You don't have to pay if you are a winner.** Anyone who demands an upfront fee or purchase for a prize is trying to scam you.
- ◆ **Protect your computer.** Don't click on links within unsolicited emails. Don't enter personal information on unfamiliar websites. Make sure that you have updated anti-virus software installed, use a firewall at all times and use strong passwords you change regularly.
- ◆ **Check your credit report regularly.** You're entitled to one free credit report per year from each nationwide credit bureau. To access your free credit reports, visit [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com) or call 1-877-322-8228.

Lastly, is it too good to be true? It's probably a scam! Before you act, Stop, Think, Ask & then get it in writing.

Please remember that the staff at Timberwood Bank is here to help! If you feel that you may have been a victim of a scam or any type of fraud, please contact us right away.

<sup>1</sup> Identity Theft Resources, Experian.com



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[timberwoodbanks.com](http://timberwoodbanks.com)  
(608) 372-2265



# **nasa of Tomah**

*North American Squirrel Association "Helping the Elderly and Physically Challenged Enjoy the Outdoors"*

## **Fundraising Raffle & Craft Beer Night !**

The North American Squirrel Association (n.a.s.a) of Tomah will be holding a fundraising raffle on Thursday January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Breakroom from 5 pm to 8 pm. Artwork, Outdoor gear, Yeti Cooler, and many many more items on a Chinese Raffle.

Pre-banquet raffle tickets also on hand. 1<sup>st</sup> place Mossberg Patriot .270 snow camo. 2<sup>nd</sup> place 9 mm SCCY pistol. One ticket for \$ 5.00, Three for \$ 10.00. All proceeds go toward the construction of a handicap accessible playground in Butts Park.

Three Sheeps Brewing Company of Sheboygan, WI will be featuring some of their delicious craft beer! Sip and sample some yummy IPA's, stouts and nitro beers.

Please join us for this fun event at the Breakroom Sports Bar & Grill located at 1123 Superior Ave, Tomah. See you there!

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual N.A.S.A. Fundraising Banquet**

Will be held on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Recreation Park in Tomah. Only 400 tickets will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. Tickets go on sale January 15<sup>th</sup>.

50/50 raffle, sweetheart raffle, seasons raffle, mystery raffle, print raffle, Plinko, bucket raffle and much more! Guaranteed door prizes for each banquet attendee. Over \$ 40,000 in prizes to be given away! \$ 60.00 for individual ticket or purchase a sponsor table (for 8) for \$ 800.00. All money raised stays in the Tomah Community.

For tickets and information, visit our website [www.tomahsquirrels.org](http://www.tomahsquirrels.org)  
To donate to our banquet call 608-343-4676 or email [tomahsquirrels@gmail.com](mailto:tomahsquirrels@gmail.com)  
and one of our volunteers will stop by and pick up your donation.

# Spotlights

## ON BASE AT FORT MCCOY

*by Theresa Fitzgerald*

### **88th Readiness Division Welcomes New Commanding General**

Maj. Gen. Jody J. Daniels took the helm of the 88th Readiness Division when she accepted the unit colors during a change of command ceremony at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, on Dec. 1, 2018. Daniels, who previously served as the chief of staff for U.S. Army Forces Command, officially assumed the duties as 88th RD commanding general Dec. 8. Daniels also serves as Senior Commander, Fort McCoy.

### **Early Catch-And-Release Trout Season At Fort Mccoy Opens Jan. 5**

Wisconsin's early catch-and-release trout season, which includes Fort McCoy streams and tributaries, opens 5 a.m. Jan. 5 and continues until 11:59 p.m. May 3.

Only artificial lures may be used during the early catch-and-release trout season, and all fish caught must be released immediately. The appropriate Fort McCoy permit, Wisconsin license, and trout stamp are required.

Fishing licenses and permits for 2018 are valid through March 31, 2019. A 2019 Wisconsin fishing license, trout stamp, and related Fort McCoy permit will be required starting April 1.

Anglers are reminded to read the new Fort McCoy fishing regulation that is on the Fort McCoy iSportsman web site, <https://ftmccoy.isportsman.net>. Several changes were made related to access control in regards to fishing, hunting, trapping and firewood cutting activities. Most important is the new requirement for anglers to check in and out of iSportsman each time they go fishing at the installation, beginning in March. The only exception is on the cantonment area and at the Pineview Campground.

Refer to the regulation, available on iSportsman, for more information about violations.

Anglers looking for more information about installation fishing regulations should go to the Fort McCoy iSportsman website at [ftmccoy.isportsman.net](http://ftmccoy.isportsman.net), or contact the Permit Sales Office at 608-388-3337. For more information about police enforcement of regulation and rules requirements, call DES at 608-388-2266 and ask for a conservation warden.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

*by Kari Msna*

As we begin 2019, we want to remind our members the benefits of our website, [www.tomahwisconsin.com](http://www.tomahwisconsin.com). This is a great marketing tool for our members and it's included in your membership.

On our website, you are able to list your hours of operation, location, contact information, a description of your services and products, put your logo, add photos of your business/group and so much more. You can also add a link to your website and any social media pages your business may have on the Chamber page. This is a great way to attract more customers and clients to your site. If your business or group does not have a webpage, this is a great tool to get your information out to any potential customers.

If you are unsure of what you currently have on your site listing, please login to your chamber account and take a peek. This is an important tool for your business/organization that is included in your membership.

If you have any questions about how to add or change your content, please contact me ([kmlsna@tomahwisconsin.com](mailto:kmlsna@tomahwisconsin.com)) and I can assist you with it. I hope everyone's 2019 is off to a phenomenal start!

# Memories

It's Christmas Eve and our family has just come home from the Candlelight service at St. Paul's Church in downtown Tomah. My dad's family has gone to church there for three generations. When we're all together, there's quite a group of us including aunts, uncles, cousins, cousin's kids, and of course, my grandmother, the matriarch of our family, who can run circles around the rest of us at age 90. It feels almost complete, but we each silently still miss grandpa, who passed 16 years ago. The church is quiet and dark. Each of us enjoy singing the familiar hymns, embracing our kids and sharing this moment of holiday peace. After the service, I walk the three blocks back to grandma's house with whichever kids want to walk with me, just like grandma walked with me when I was a kid.



This has been my Christmas Eve for each one of my 41 years on this earth. These are my favorite moments of my favorite day of the year.

As I type, I'm sitting in silence in my living room, enjoying a fire and the lights of the Christmas tree, dimly lighting the room. Chip and our kids have gone to bed and the silence is a welcomed reprieve from the normal volume of life. For some reason, I'm sitting here thinking of all of you...of our membership and community members in Tomah. I'm wondering what you're doing, if you're able to enjoy some peace and what your favorite memories are.

This year at the Chamber, we didn't traditionally decorate the tree with ornaments. We're decorating our tree with memories and we're asking you to help us decorate.

Send us a note with your favorite memory in Tomah. You can include your name or remove it, (that part is up to you.) Our intention is to share the memories in various, positive ways throughout the next few months, in the hopes of sharing a little winter joy with the community. Maybe your memory is the birth of your child at Tomah Memorial Hospital, maybe it's of your bachelor party, maybe it's of when you played basketball for Tomah High School. Whatever your Tomah memory is, we want you to share it.

Memories can be sent to us in various ways:

Email to: [info@tomahwisconsin.com](mailto:info@tomahwisconsin.com)  
Mail to: P. O. Box 625, Tomah, WI 54660  
Fax to: 608-372-2167

This is the town where I threw my first pitch, sang my first solo, made about a thousand Old Fashioneds, got married, had my children and watched them throw their first pitch...etc...I have a million memories here, and I know you do too. Please pick your favorite(s) and send them to us!

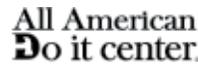
I hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday season, I look forward to working with you in 2019 and beyond. Thank you for your time, talents, spirit, enthusiasm, challenges, opportunities and overall camaraderie that happens when people grow together. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it. Thank you for your contributions, and thank you for loving Tomah as much as I do.

# MEMBERSHIP TIERS

Lead

Influence Accelerated

Growth



Bertrami's Jewelry Studio