

Welcome To Madison Minnesota



Welcome to Madison

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

This guide will take you on a walking tour of important and historical sites in the area and invite you to the special events throughout the year that are unique to

Madison. It will also list the options for recreation during your stay and outline the various clubs and organizations that keep the community active.

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



Lou T. Fisk



also extends a welcome to you!



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Eight stops include: Lou T. Fisk at J.F. Jacobson Park, County Historical Center & Robert Bly Studio, National Guard Training and Community Center, Madison City Hall, Madison Public Library, Lac qui Parle County Courthouse, Prairie Arts Center, Theodor Slen Park.

Calendar of Events.....Page 17-26

Events include: Bird Watchers Weekend, Around the Town Rummage Sales, Summerfest & Stinker Day, LqP Heritage Day, LqP Co. Fair, Fly-in, Pampered Stroll, Oktoberfest, Norsefest, and Christmas Promotion.

Recreation & Attractions.....Page 27-32

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

Clubs & Organizations.....Page 33-45

Sons of Norway, VFW & Auxiliary, American Legion & Auxiliary, Disabled American Veterans, Lions Club, Kiwanis, Senior Citizens, 4-H, Madison Study Club, Health Care Auxiliary, LqP Study Club, Boy Scouts, Medical Services and Schools.

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City of Madison Walking Tour



- 1** **J.F. Jacobson Park** - Home of Lou T. Fisk! Picnic facilities, shaded parking, playground and modern campsites make this a popular stopover for tourists and other visitors to the Madison area.
- 2** **Lac qui Parle County Historical Center** - The "Smithsonian" of western Minnesota is located adjacent to the J.F. Jacobson Park and the Lac qui Parle County Fairgrounds along South Highway 75.
- 3** **National Guard Armory** - Built in 1914, this noble building stands out among armories in the State of Minnesota.
- 4** **Madison City Hall** - A stately building which is on the National Register of Historical Buildings also serves as home to the Senior Citizens' Center and Madison Mealsite.
- 5** **Madison Public Library** - A unique Carnegie Library listed on the National Register of Historical Buildings, and a member of the Pioneerland Library System, with more than 900,000 titles to choose from. The renovated library is handicapped accessible.
- 6** **Prairie Arts Center** - The Lac qui Parle Players host visiting artists to present live theater from the prairie at this building. The annual Country Christmas is a popular production that plays to a packed house.
- 7** **Lac qui Parle County Courthouse** - Listed on the National Register of Historical Buildings, this 113-year-old courthouse is worth a visit. The beautifully maintained building is surrounded by lush grass and wonderful flowers.
- 8** **Theodor S. Slen Park** - Lou's Pond (swimming pool) is a good place to cool off at this park. Two shelter houses and restroom facilities are available for those who want to have a picnic at the park. Playground equipment, basketball and tennis courts and sand volleyball are available as well as off-street parking.





J.F. Jacobson Park

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

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

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

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

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

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

"He fought for reforms, fighting mainly against the railroad lobby,



then the most powerful special interest around the capitol.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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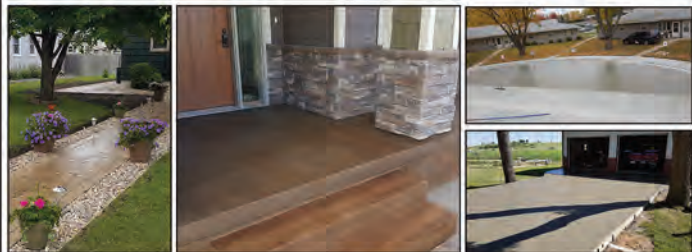
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A Fish named Lou

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Designed to be placed on a travel trailer, Lou became an ambas-

sador for Madison at parades and events around the country. However, even greater adventures awaited Lou!

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

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

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

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

gave Lou a face lift and a new paint job.

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

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



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Lac qui Parle County Historical Center



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

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

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

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

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

The Buildings

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

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

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

In 1973, the agricultural building, which was built near the south end of the historic center's grounds, was completed. Dur-

ing the past 30+ years, it has been filled with historic tools, farm machinery, and vehicles of early transportation.

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

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

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

Noteworthy People

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

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

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

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

Exhibits

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

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



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

Hours

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



*Lac qui Parle
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& the log cabin*

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Robert Bly studio

Editor's note: A portion of the following was submitted by Robert Bly.

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

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

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

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

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

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



During the 1970s, he published 11 books of poetry, essays and translations, celebrating the power of myth, Indian ecstatic poetry, meditation and storytelling. His book, *Iron John: A Book About Men*, published in 1990, is an international bestseller which has been translated into many languages.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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National Guard Armory

The Armory is 116 by 151 feet in size and contains 21,326 square feet of space. The estimated value is \$2 million.

With its round observation tower and firing ports on the top of the roof, the design of the Armory makes it unique among armories in the state of Minnesota.

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

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



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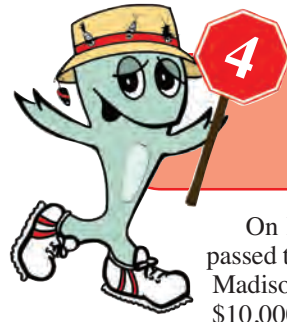
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L-R: Mary Olson, Jan Kirchberg, Logan Stamp, Michael Dahle



Madison City Hall

On Dec. 17, 1901, the village of Madison passed this ballot issue: “bonds of the village of Madison be issued and negotiated in the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of

erecting and furnishing for the use of said village, a city hall, engine room, and village jail combined.”

The city hall, now called the municipal building, was built in 1903. This red brick building is part of the historical registry and adds much to the appearance of Sixth Avenue. Over the years, there have been many improvements. The basement has been enlarged, the auditorium redecorated and the jail moved.

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

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

Every winter, there would be either concerts or lecture series by

nationally-known speakers. There were plays and other types of musical entertainment. The city hall, or “opera house” as it was often referred to, was a place the outside talent loved to play in. Of special interest is the Christy Obrecht troupe. The Obrecht family grew up in Madison, moved away, and as adults came back as real actors and actresses. The community responded to these events with overwhelming support by selling out performances and purchasing reserved seats.

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



suppers and the Democrats holding a regular oyster supper. Farm meetings, school concerts, political meetings, flower shows, senior meetings and rummage sales all made use of the kitchen. Presently, the kitchen and basement are used regularly for senior citizen group meetings and for the senior dining site.

In 2005-2006, the city hall was updated to provide handicap accessibility. An elevator has been added as well as handicap accessible restrooms on the main floor.

For over 100 years, the Madison City Hall has been the business center, as well as the social, entertainment and educational meeting place for the residents of Madison and the surrounding area. The current mayor is Greg Thole. Maynard Meyer, Tim Volk, Adam Conroy and Paul Zahrbock comprise the City Council. Val Halvorson serves as city manager.

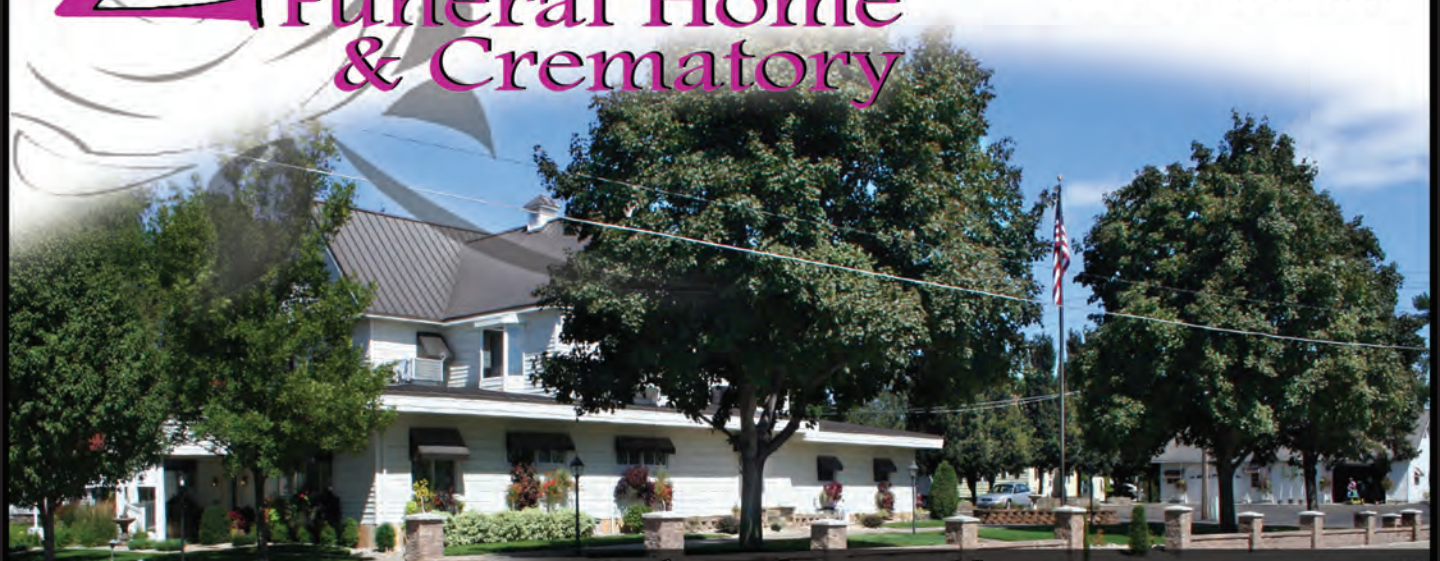
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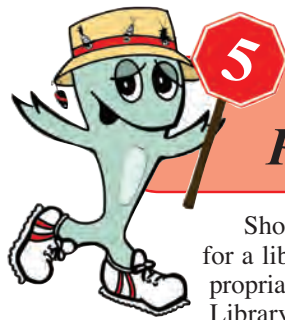
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Madison Public Library

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The entrance to the library was moved to the south side with



entrance possible either via a set of stairs or by the use of the elevator.

The lower level is devoted to children with computer stations, iPads and shelves filled with children's fiction and non-fiction books. There is also an audiovisual section with children's movies, TV series and audiobooks. Storage bins are filled with easy reading material and there is an area for playing board and video games, as well as a MakerSpace filled with the latest tech gadgets.

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

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

The circulation desk is located in the middle of the upper level.

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

The library is open Monday and Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday: 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is closed daily from 1 to 1:30 p.m.

The addition and renovation brought the Madison Public Library into the 21st century with a much-needed facelift. Using terms that also would probably please Andrew Carnegie - "Madison Library: Check it Out."

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Prairie Arts Center

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

In 1973 civic-minded members of the Madison Chamber of Commerce Cultural Affairs Committee worked with local citizens to purchase the building to provide a place where drama, music, dance and art could flourish in this Minnesota prairie town. Upon completion of the financial arrangements, the building was gifted to the City of Madison, which continues to maintain the facility. Over the years improvements were steadily made: a stage was built up, theatre seats were purchased and installed, a new light board (1993), new shingles (1994), the seats were painted

and upholstered (1999-2000), air conditioning to make summer productions more pleasant (2000), fire escape added (2001), handi-



capped accessible bathroom and ramp (2002), carpet in the entryway and theatre aisles (2003), sandblasting and repair of exterior and fresh signs (2005-2006), revamping of stage area to improve safety and space for performers to work (2006), new backstage stairway (2010), major lighting upgrade (2015), and basement and bathroom renovations (2018).

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



Photos from 2018 "A Christmas Story"



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Lac qui Parle County Courthouse

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

William Mills was one of the very early settlers in Lac qui Parle County. He settled on the banks of the Lac qui Parle River in 1868. The following year, Peter Jacobson led a caravan of about 20 families from Iowa to this location. They brought with them quite a few horses and about 150 head of cattle.

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

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

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

Settlers flooded into the area and began to organize towns. On occasion they puzzled how to proceed to make everything legal. J.F. Jacobson once remarked in his usual quaint manner, "There was not

a law book west of New Ulm but then we had William Mills. He was a walking encyclopedia, and we soon also got Chamberland. He was another one."

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

Another town began to sprout up east of Williamsburg.

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

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

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



At the first meeting of the board in January of 1872, the board designated Lac qui Parle as the county seat and appointed the county officials. Thus, Lac qui Parle became the official county seat. The county business was transacted in a rented building.

In 1883, a court house was erected at the approximate cost of \$1,000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the spring of 1887, the county officials were cited to appear before District Court Judge John H. Brown to show cause that they should not be fined for contempt of court.

The restraining order, preventing officials from conducting business out of the county seat, was finally dismissed.

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

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

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

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

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

With a new courthouse finally being built in Madison, the orig-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Theodor S. Slen Park

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Slen served two terms in the Minnesota State Legislature in the late 30s. During the next few years, he took the leading role in

the merger of the Farmer-Labor party. This led to the formation of the DFL party in 1942, of which he was the first state chairman. He was also called the state's top Democrat but was the unsuccessful Democratic nominee for governor in 1940. He acted as Democrat National Committeeman from 1940-44.

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

Twice he was WCCO's "Good Neighbor".

Judge and Mrs. Slen were grand marshals of the parade when Madison celebrated their centennial in June of 1985. Four months later, when he himself reached the age of 100, the local VFW supplemented the family celebration with a large community party at which he was a speaker. Also on his 100th birthday, the Minnesota Supreme Court cited him as "Distinguished Lawyer, Legislator and Judge".

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



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Events to Lou'r you to Madison



April



26-27: Around the Town Rummage Sales

27-28: Bird Watching Weekend

September

5-8: Lac qui Parle County Fair
The "Little Minnesota State Fair" - an event not to miss

October

3-5: Oktoberfest

A German meal is served along with other fun events including the Pampered Stroll, Car Show and Around the Town Rummage Sales

31: Halloween

Halloween parade and trunk-or-treating

Outstanding Citizen Award



June



June 19: Madison Healthcare Auxiliary Golf Fundraiser

June 26: Block Party & Miss Madison/Little Miss Madison Program

November

7-9: Norsefest

Scandinavian Food, Lutefisk Eating Contest, Craft Show, Outhouse Race & More!



July

July 1-6: Summerfest

Firemen water fights, Parade & Fireworks

12: Stinker Day

Main street Madison transforms to accompany shoppers taking in special one-day only bargains. Fun run, Outhouse Race and many other activities.

12-13: Dragon Fest

A celebration combined with Stinker Day, Dragon Fest has a golf tournament, free swimming and coin dive, a vendor fair on main street, Rib Fest, a street dance and many other activities. Thinking about a class reunion? This is the weekend to have it in Madison.

28: Heritage Day at LqP County Museum

December

Nov. 29 - Dec. 8: Christmas Promotion

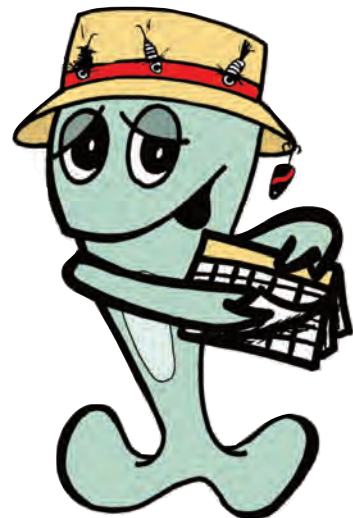
Lighted Christmas Parade, Santaland, Christmas performances, free movies, Christmas Baking Contest & too much to mention!



August

TBD: Farmer Appreciation Golf Outing at Madison Country Club

TBD: Air Fair





April



Salt Lake Birders Birders flock to area for Salt Lake Event April 27-28

The Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is quite possibly the most popular and unique birding experience in Western Minnesota Prairie Waters and perhaps all of Minnesota. Salt Lake is the only salt water lake found in Minnesota. Because of this unique and rare characteristic, Salt Lake WMA attracts migrating shorebirds and waterfowl from across the country.

Some birds to watch include Western Grebe, Cinnamon Teal, and Ruddy Turnstone. The lucky bird watcher might also spot breeding populations of Eared Grebe and American Avocets.

At the Saturday evening dinner, a tabulation is made of birds viewed that weekend. This information is submitted to the Minnesota Ornithologist union, and they use this to formulate a scientific basis for this area.

The Marietta Legion Auxiliary serves the Saturday breakfast and noon meal. The Sons of Norway in Madison serve the Saturday evening meal.

Conducted caravans leave Marietta between 7 and 8 a.m., and caravans are conducted again on Sunday.

The 2019 event is scheduled for April 27-28.

Around the Town Rummage Sales April 26-27

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

June



Madison Health Care Benefit June 19

This year the 27th Annual Madison Health Care Benefit will take place on June 19 at Madison Country Club. It is a full day of golf, bridge, noon and evening meals, silent auction and raffles that people of all ages enjoy.

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Block Party

The Block Party and Miss Madison/Little Miss Madison Program will be held June 26.



This year, the Block Party will raise money for the Little Eagles Daycare. In 2012, a block party was held on main street to raise money for Grand Theatre, with a tremendous turnout raising over \$30,000. Since then, the event has become a town staple, raising money for worthy causes.

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

Little Miss Madison, Miss Madison and Madison Ambassador will be crowned this evening as well. These royalty are given the honor of representing Madison by riding on the Madison Chamber of Commerce float at area parades and participating in celebrations during the year.

July

**Summerfest
July 1-6**

The Summerfest Parade will be held on July 4. The parade forms along First Avenue and proceeds through the downtown area. To enter a unit, contact parade chairman Maynard Meyer at the Madison Chamber of Commerce Office at (320) 598-7301.



Madison Fire Department holds their annual water fights and brat feed fundraiser alongside Madison VFW and their beer garden.

To top off the Fourth, the Chamber of Commerce sponsored fireworks will be held beginning at dusk.



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July

Stinker Day July 12

Black Top Days held in 1957 led to the present day Stinker Day celebration.

After two years of muddy streets, the city of Madison decided to pave the city's streets. The project of \$500,000 in tax payers' money was to pave not just main street but also residential roads and parking lots at some of the larger institutions.

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

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

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

Eventually, the last of the tarring project was completed during the Aug. 6 through 10 "Black Top Days" which the Madison businessmen held to celebrate the new paved streets.

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

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

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



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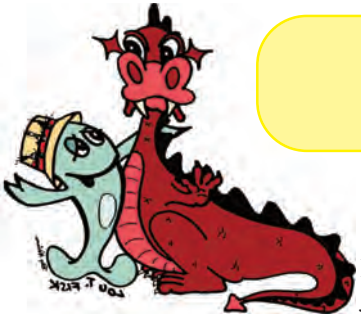


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July



Dragon Fest July 12-13

The seventh annual Dragon Fest celebration runs in conjunction with Stinker Day, giving Madison a weekend long celebration. Events include free swimming, inflatables for kids, three person scramble golf tournament at Madison Country Club, Rib & Wing Fest, 5K run & walk, a main street vendor fair, coin dig and coin dive, disc golf tournament, street dance and much more. This is the must be in Madison weekend of the summer.



LqP Historical Society Heritage Day - July 28

Each year, hundreds of people enjoy demonstrations, music, costumes, and ethnic foods during Heritage Day. Believed to be the idea of Gerda Dolman, former curator of the museum, Heritage Day began in 1989. This event centered on the Norwegian people and their culture. The next year highlighted the culture of Germany, and the celebration of Swedish heritage followed in 1991. An International Heritage Day was held on Aug. 30, 1992. This celebration focused on

the many different nationalities of the residents of Lac qui Parle County.

In 1998, the Historical Society celebrated its 50th anniversary and paid tribute to 100 years of health care providers in Lac qui Parle County.

The 2011 event featured the Civil War, 2012 honored all veterans as well as featured the traveling World War II exhibit "Home Front," 2013 looked at life in the 1800s on the banks of the LqP River, 2014 Susan Armington revealed the Lac qui Parle River Stories Map she created, in 2015 Heritage Day included "The Story of Robert Bly" with speaker Dr. David Pichaske, author, professor and photographer, and 2016 had a "Stone Soup and Salad" event. 2017 honored the Roth family and Madison Bottling's 100th anniversary. 2018 celebrated the churches of Lac qui Parle County and the 75th anniversary of the Madison Lutheran Home.

August



Farmer Appreciation Golf Outing

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

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Flying High in Lac qui Parle County

The Lac qui Parle County Airport is the site of an annual Fly-In/Drive-In event each year.

In 2019, the event will be held in August, and will feature a breakfast served by Madison Kiwanis, individual airplane rides and other activities.

Planes of many different shapes, sizes and ages fly into the Madison airport from cities in three states. The fly-in typically draws participants from across Minnesota and North and South Dakota.

The Madison Airport was established in 1939. The airport building was enlarged and a hard surface runway constructed in 1978.

Some of the services available at the airport include instrument approach, 100LL fuel, a lighted 3300 foot runway, overnight tie-downs and overnight hangar space available.

There is a lounge at the airport which is open 24 hours a day and a courtesy car for pilots.



September

Lac qui Parle County Fair "Little Minnesota State Fair"

Sept. 5-8

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

How It All Began

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

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

work and livestock were accepted in the early days.

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

The Grandstand

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

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

To make room for a larger midway, the grandstand and track moved south in 1948.

In 1961, a new grandstand was built with garages below the seats to house the Madison Public School buses. The first tractor pulling contest was promoted at the fair.

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

Fair Buildings

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

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

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

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



LqP County Fair continued

Annual Improvements

The wonderful county fair board strives to keep the fairgrounds and buildings in excellent shape to provide visitors with quality entertainment. Continuous work and improvements are completed every year. New siding, new windows, and refurbishing of the round windows renewed the look of the school house in 2000. Many remodeling projects took place in 2002. The grandstand, the long open front livestock building, the bus garage building, and the wildlife building all received attention and improvements; 2003 improvements included the remodeling of the home and garden building and a security shed on the west end of the fair board office. A new roof for the east commercial and poultry building was completed in 2004, along with normal maintenance, cleaning, and painting. In 2005, updating and improving the exterior of the buildings continued in readiness for the 2006 fair. A new "eco friendly" lighting system and upgrades to the East Commercial Building were added in 2012. In 2013, the new LqP Events Center was built to house a variety of activities. In 2017, a new carnival - Gopher State Exhibitions - provided entertainment on the midway and will be back again this year. Added in 2018 were new restrooms with showers.

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



Oktoberfest

Oct. 3-5

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

Of course, Oktoberfest means lip-smacking, hearty German food is available this week. The American Legion Auxiliary hosts a dinner with German food served by waitresses in German costumes.

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

On Oct. 5, there will again be a car show. This is a great opportunity for antique car owners to show off their "special" cars and to enter them in a number of contests.

Outstanding Citizen

Madison's Outstanding Citizen is named during October. In 2017, the Roth family, who celebrated the 100th anniversary of Madison Bottling Company, was named Outstanding Citizens.

Halloween Events

A new event started in 2013 was the Halloween parade. Children dressed up in costumes and filled main street, going from business to business collecting candy before finishing at Madison VFW for a free hot dog meal. Then it is off to Madison Healthcare Services and around the town for more trick-or-treating.



October



Pampered Stroll

The Pampered Stroll was started in 2009 during Oktoberfest. This event features many different activities and deals while strolling from business to business.

The event includes seminars, treats, discounts, sales, wine tasting, supper and more.

This year's Pampered Stroll will kick off Oktoberfest on Oct. 3. Tickets sell fast and are limited, so get your request in early.



46th Annual Norsefest

November

November 7-9

This year marks the 46th year of this Scandinavian tradition. Norsefest offers area residents and visitors an opportunity to be immersed in Scandinavian culture and food in the **Lutefisk Capital of the World**.

Nov. 8 begins "A Lutefisk Madness" promotion put on by the downtown merchants. Get an early start on your Christmas shopping as we start the celebration of our Scandinavian heritage.

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

The famous lutefisk eating contest will be held at Madison VFW. Lutefisk competitors choose from three classes of competition, based on amounts served. Guppies receive

1/4 pound per serving, Walleyes receive a 1/2 pound, and big fish eaters enter the one pound per serving Sharks division. Cash prizes are awarded and competition is intense.

In 2018, Madison's own Jerry Osteraas, the reigning World Lutefisk Eating Champion, repeated as champion.

As eaters pound home lutefisk, local musicians keep the crowd engaged and entertained.

Our small community Scandinavian celebration has received some big time coverage over the years having been featured on the *Prairie Home Companion* radio show, the *Sunday Morning* show, and *Taste of America*.

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



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December

*Christmas in Madison,
something for everyone*

Holiday Activities

At the Grand Theatre, free matinees are shown many of the Saturdays in December. Santa Claus Day will be held one Saturday in December. Kids will be invited to have lunch with Santa and participate in many fun activities.

The Lac qui Parle Players' Christmas production is always popular and entertaining!

Many area businesses and organizations take part decorating the Christmas trees for visitors to admire.

Participate in finding the hidden medallion worth \$100 in Madison Bucks.

The VFW sponsors a contest for all homes decorated with outdoor lighting. What better way to view the lights than sleigh rides (or hay rides) which are held for people to sip hot cocoa and look at Christmas decorations around town.

Christmas Baking Contest & Community Coffee Party

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



Christmas Parade

What could be more fun and more fitting than to have a lighted Christmas parade in Madison to celebrate the season and being Minnesotans? In the past, units in the parade included the Madison town band providing Christmas music from the back of the flatbed trailer. Other entries include local businesses, churches, clubs, and a few units from other communities with horses, floats, antique cars and tractors for a good mix.

The 2019 Parade of Lights will be held at 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 8. Come to Madison and enjoy refreshments on the Klein Plaza and the festive sight of an evening winter parade.

Santaland USA

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

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

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

Annually, a hard-working group of volunteers give Santaland USA a fresh new look and prepare it for the approximately 800 visitors.

Santa Claus delights children during the weekends, and at scheduled times a local photographer, Charlie Smith, is available to capture the precious visit of your little ones with Santa Claus. There are also cutouts of a snowman, carolers, and an angel for little ones to stand behind for a photo.

Many area families make this a part of their holiday traditions and pay a visit to Santaland.

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



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Madison Country Club 2019

Clubhouse Hours

Weekdays - 8 a.m. to Closing
 Weekends/Holidays - 8 a.m. to Closing

Men's League
 Thursday • 1 p.m.

Ladies' League
 Tuesday • 2 p.m.

Green Fees

	Weekdays	Weekends
9 holes.....	\$10.....	\$14
18 holes.....	\$16.....	\$20
All Day.....	\$25.....	\$30

2019 Events

LADIES LEAGUE	MAY 7
MEN'S LEAGUE	MAY 9
MADISON HEALTHCARE BENEFIT	JUNE 19
LADIES INVITATIONAL	JULY 9
DRAGONFEST	JULY 13
HAPPY HOUR TOURNAMENT	AUGUST
CHAMBER AG APPRECIATION	AUGUST 21
LAST CHANCE TOURNAMENT	SEPTEMBER
NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY BALL	TBD
MADISON CUP	TBD

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

The club opens each day at 8 a.m. Men's League is set for Thursdays, and Ladies' League is held on Tuesdays.

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



Madison Speedway

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

Races open Memorial Day and run Saturday evenings through the summer, concluding with a double header Sept. 27 & 28.

For a complete racing schedule, go to the website at www.madisonmnspeedway.com. More information is available by calling 320-226-5365 or 320-444-6407.

The Lac qui Parle Racing Association was organized in 1979. The non-profit association is overseen by a board of directors elected by shareholders and sanctioned by Wisconsin Promotors Association. Madison Speedway is celebrating its 40th season, and received the Wisconsin Strong Award for 2018.



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Recreation

REST STOP AVAILABLE

Lac qui Parle County Fairgrounds

Located at South 6th Avenue (2 blocks south of Highway 40 & Main Street). Water and electricity are available at this rest stop located adjacent to the LqP County Fairgrounds and the LqP County Historical Center.

ICE SKATING RINK

The Madison Ice Skating Rink is located next to the MMN Elementary School. The arena is a busy place during the winter months.

There are two rinks, one for figure skating and one for hockey and a supervised warming house. The arena is open afternoons and evenings to the public at no charge.

TENNIS COURTS

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

BASKETBALL COURT

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

KIWANIS PARK

A brand new park located near the softball fields.

BALL DIAMONDS

Madison has three excellent ball diamond facilities. One baseball diamond is located at the Madison Memorial Field on East Highway 40; two softball fields are located at the Madison Recreational Complex on the north edge of town. The ball diamonds are open to the public at no charge.

SAND VOLLEYBALL

A sand volleyball court was constructed at the Slen Park during 1996.

DISC GOLF

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



SWIMMING POOL

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

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

An excellent swimming lesson program is offered by certified Red Cross instructors.

Swimming lessons are taught to children from seven area communities. Water aerobics and water volleyball are also offered by pool staff.



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Grand Theatre

providing entertainment since the early 1900s

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

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

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

Tragedy struck the Grand Theatre on Oct. 25, 1942. A fire, which originated in the projection room, destroyed the entire building and killed projectionist Elmer Hendrickson. The Oct. 30th edition of the *Western Guard* carried the story with pictures of the devastation. Although it is unknown exactly what happened in the projection booth, it is apparent the film ignited and Mr. Hendrickson's clothes caught on fire when he tried to save the extremely flammable film. The news article states Hendrickson became a "human torch" and

attempted to run down the steps. Some spectators tried extinguishing the flames with a coat but efforts came too late. Fifty-year-old Hendrickson was taken to the Ebenezer Hospital in Madison and died the following Wednesday. Fortunately, James Putnam, the relief operator also on duty, was not injured, nor were any other employees or movie goers.

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

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

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

On Jan. 29, 1981, the silver screen glowed with Don Knotts and Tim Conway in *The Private Eyes*. Holley operated the Grand Theatre into the late 1980s. Jim Helgemo, still a part-time projectionist at the Grand, ran the theatre for a short period. Lonny Bulock purchased and carried out a major remodeling project, which turned the Grand into a twin-screen facility. The theatre opened for business in 1990 but closed in 1993 due to economic reasons.

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

In 1997, volunteers removed 200 seats from the theatre in Wattertown, SD and installed them in the Grand. Repairs during 2000 resulted in better heating and cooling, and 2003 produced the installation of new heating and central air conditioning. In February 2008, the marquee went up. Other planned improvements include the front exterior and a new ceiling in theatre two.

Meyer and Kuechenmeister continue to operate the Grand Theatre, featuring first-run movies with shows held Friday-Monday. Longtime projectionist Jim Helgemo remains to this day.

The character of the 1943 Grand Theatre remains untouched including the unique "Art-Deco" interior. No visit to Madison is complete without a visit to the Grand Theatre. *The Popcorn is Poppin' and the Fun's Never Stoppin'* at this landmark on Madison's main street.

In 2013, Grand Theatre completed a very successful fundraising drive to install digital projection equipment in both auditoriums. This replaced the aging 35-millimeter film projectors which are being phased out by movie companies. The project, costing nearly \$115,000, also included new digital surround sound and new screens.

Then in 2017, the community once again pledged their support for their theatre, donating funds for a complete seating renovation.

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

Grand Theatre

310 6th St., Madison
Movie Hotline: 320-598-7791



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Prairie, Wildlife, and History Abundant in Lac qui Parle

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

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

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

YELLOW BANK HILLS SCIENTIFIC & NATURAL AREA - from Madison travel 13 miles west on Highway 40 to Marietta, 4 miles north on County Road 7 or one mile east of Nasau.

KEMEN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA - from Madison, 3.5 miles west on Highway 40, one mile south on County Road 55.

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

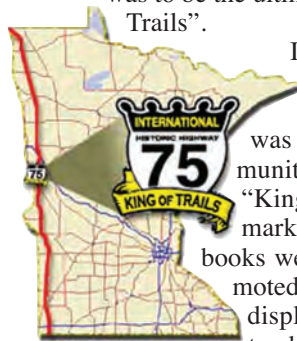
CAMP RELEASE is the first state park established by the State of Minnesota. This monument commemorates the release of 269 captives on Sept. 26, 1862, by the Dakota Sioux. An estimated 1,500 Dakota Sioux women, children and men surrendered at Camp Release.

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

King of Trails

Native Americans developed trails as routes for shelter, food gathering and trade. Early pioneers used some of these trails to market farm produce and deliver mail. The increase in traffic caused by a new invention, the automobile, required improved roads.

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



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

stenciled in black.

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

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

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

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

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

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Sons of Norway Lodge

Continuing Norwegian Traditions

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

Some benefits are ABM.WorldLink great long-distance rates to Norway, Barnebirkie, a cross-country ski

event for boys and girls ages 3 to 13, discounts at all Best Western motels in the United States, Canada, and abroad, discounts on tours, language camp at Camp Norway for students

16 and older, cultural skills program with topics ranging from cooking to genealogy to crafts and folk dancing, many scholarships, Sports Medal program for participating in walking, biking, skiing and general sports, and the Viking magazine.

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

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

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

Naturally, food is an important part of the group's activities. During the year, the group serves the MOU (bird watchers) annual banquet, a klub dinner, serving at the Madison and Dawson nursing homes for Syttende Mai, a booth at Norsefest, potluck suppers, a torsk meal, a salad luncheon, a picnic and an Easter buffet.

The lodge is available to be rented for events.

VFW Auxiliary Post #1656

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

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

They provide assistance to the community by offering help and support and promote patriotism by presenting flags to schools, churches, courthouses, city halls, post offices, parks and wherever there is a need or request. The Auxiliary supports many projects. One of the main projects is the cancer aid and research, which is a

great support to all members who are stricken with the disease. The VFW and Auxiliary raises many of its funds with the catering of weddings, anniversaries, birthday parties, many community functions.

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



Veterans of Foreign Wars

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

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

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

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

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



VFW Post 1656

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

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5:30 - 8 p.m.

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- WEATHERIZATION
- HEAD START
- CHILD CARE AWARE OF MN
- FOOD SHELVES (4)
- COUNTY CLOTHING CENTERS (4)
- HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT REBATE
- TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM
- FHPAP (Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program)
- EMERGENCY SERVICES
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- MOBILE COMMUNITY CENTER (coming soon)
- SENIOR DINING (Congregate, Home Delivered and Frozen meals)



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- Clothing Centers (4)
- Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Swift & Yellow Medicine

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.....	or 1-800-292-5437	Fuel Assistance	320-269-7976
Rides Transportation.....	320-269-8727	Crisis Assistance.....	320-269-7976
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American Legion Post #158

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

Lac qui Parle Post 158 of Madison is an important part of the community. They contribute to the community by sponsoring many programs, principally in Americanism and children and youth.

Other contributions the Legion makes to the community include the Community Fund, Fire Department,

Children's Miracle Network, Food Shelf and the Lac qui Parle Health Care Services, just to name a few.

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



American Legion Auxiliary Unit #158

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

The Lac qui Parle Unit was chartered in 1921. They support or sponsor such programs as American Education Week, bike rodeo, free use of hospital equipment, Girls State representative, scholarships, Memorial and Veterans Day programs, children's Christmas shopping, POW/MIA Week, and Remember Gold Star members. They provide aid to homebound veterans, furnish tray

favors, Mother's Day corsages, provide and mail residents Christmas cards, and items for Madison Lutheran Home residents, including recycled greeting cards, and birthday and holiday placemats, which are also sent to all the veterans' homes and hospitals. They provide funding for all veterans hospitals and veterans nursing home programs in Minnesota. The Auxiliary has a taco salad/potato bake supper the fourth Tuesday of each month, and a bake sale in November as their fundraisers.

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



Lions Club

The Madison Lions Club first began in 1980. The early goals emphasized hearing and sight. Since then the club collects eye-glasses, hearing aids, slightly used shoes (Soles for Souls) - which 60 percent stay in the United States - diabetes programs, Leader Dogs for the Blind, Can Do Canines (dogs that serve people with diabetes, autism, immobility, ptsd, and other health problems, and Project New Hope (free counseling for veterans and families).

The Madison Lions Club has served the community in many ways. In the beginning, they helped paint the ceiling of the Grand Theatre. They provide funds for the family Christmas program, gifts for kids to give to parents, Food Shelf, MLH, swimming pool, theatre and LQP Homecoming. Funds come from Christmas wreath sales, Turkey Bingo and snow-cone sales.

Eye-glasses and hearing aids can be left at Fisher Furniture and eye-glasses, hearing aids and slightly used shoes can be left at the City Hall basement and at 724 7th Avenue.

The Madison Lions club meets at 6:00 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays of each month at the Madison City Hall.

Everyone is welcome.



Vietnam Veterans of America

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

At present, there are approximately 25 members from Western Minnesota; from Boyd, Browns Valley, Dawson, Madison, Marietta, Marshall, Minneota, Pipestone and Jasper. The chapter's website can be found at www.NESDVVA.org, and a bi-monthly newsletter is published for chapter members and associates.

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

The mottoes are "Veterans Helping Veterans," and "Never again will another generation of Veterans be left behind."

The 30+ member Honor Guard has presented at several veterans' funerals.

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





Madison Area Chamber of Commerce

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

Silver Dollar Day

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

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

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

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

The Madison Senior Citizens Club

The Madison Senior Citizens Club meets in the City Hall basement the first Wednesday of every month, except for July and August, for dinner and a meeting. Several times a year, speakers are scheduled. In March, a Food Shelf collection is held. A Christmas party is held at the December meeting. Bingo is played every Wednesday afternoon.

The club is associated with the Minnesota Senior Federation.

Lac qui Parle Study Club

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

Madison Study Club

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

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

Madison Chamber of Commerce

Lou T. Fisk Welcomes Everyone to Madison!

UPCOMING EVENTS

BLOCK PARTY & MISS (LITTLE MISS) MADISON	JUNE 26
SUMMERFEST	JULY 1-6
PARADE/FIREWORKS	JULY 4
DRAGON FEST & STINKER DAY	JULY 12-3
HERITAGE DAY	JULY 28
FARMER APPRECIATION GOLF OUTING	AUG.
AIR FAIR	AUG.
LQP COUNTY FAIR	SEPT. 5-8
OKTOBERFEST / PAMPERED STROLL / CAR SHOW	OCT. 3-5
FALL CITY-WIDE RUMMAGE SALES	OCT. 4-5
HALLOWEEN PARADE & TRUNK-OR-TREATING	OCT. 31
NORSEFEST	NOV. 7-9
CHRISTMAS PROMOTION KICK-OFF	NOV. 29
PARADE OF LIGHTS	DEC. 8

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



Located in the KLQP Radio Station Bldg., 623 3rd St. West, Madison, MN 56256

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A Fun Place to Visit! A Great Place To Live!

Clubs & Organizations

4-H Clubs

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



A young person may participate in 4-H through a community club, after school program or club and 4-H adventures, school enrichment, fun and interesting workshops or the many different camps and leadership opportunities. Youth can learn about everything from bicycling to photography, from horses to computers, from fishing to clowning.

Young people can teach others, travel to other places, improve their community, or explore possible career directions and acquire skills that will last a lifetime.

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

Boy Scout Pack 300



The purposes of boy scouting are character development, spiritual growth, good citizenship, sportsmanship and fitness, family understanding, respectful relationships, personal achievement, friendly service, and fun and adventure.

Each year the scouts attend Many Point Camp and hold the Pinewood Derby races.

The scouts participate in a number of community activities.

Kiwanis Club

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



Madison Kiwanis is involved with many community activities including giving a Dollars for Scholars scholarship yearly at LqPV High School, coordinating the Gifts for Kids which provides gifts for families at Christmas, assists with resident social activities at the Madison Lutheran Home, holds the LqP County fair-

grounds annual cleanup, sponsoring pins for the 4-H clubs in this area and sponsoring the Book Bingo at MMN Elementary.

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

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

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

Hey, Culligan Man!!



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Wednesday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-Noon

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Madison Healthcare Services

Why Madison Healthcare Services?

When you or a family member is ill or injured or needs long term care, where do you turn? If you're like most in our community, you turn to Madison Healthcare Services.

You turn to us because you know you will receive top-notch medical care close to home. And you also know that you'll be treated like a real person, by dedicated, compassionate health professionals in a warm, family oriented environment. Madison Hospital, Care Center, Lac qui Parle Clinic, and Hilltop Residence is a healthcare complex located at 900 Second Avenue in Madison offering a wide variety of services for people of all ages providing a foundation for a lifetime of care.

Our healthcare campus includes a skilled nursing facility, a 12-bed critical access hospital, home care services, fully staffed medical clinic, secure 36-unit independent living apartment building, and therapy services provided by Big Stone Therapies.

The medical staff at Lac qui Parle Clinic :

- Brant Hacker, M.D. Family Practice Physician
- Maria Nolte, MD, Family Practice Physician
- Michael Deyo, Physician Assistant
- Maribeth Olson, Physician Assistant
- Paul Hodge, APRN, CNP, Nurse Practitioner



- Melanie Miller, DNP,AORN,CNP, Nurse Practitioner

Why Drive? - Specialists Come to You at MHS

The hospital provides outreach services on a monthly schedule with visits from specialists in Audiology, Allergy/Asthma, ENT, Cardiology, Urology, Orthopedics, Podiatry, Surgery, Oncology & Hematology, Pain, and Nephrology.

Dr. Hacker and Michael Deyo also perform Cardiac Stress tests in-house in conjunction with our outreach

Cardiology providers. The hospital has a new and updated surgery suite with state-of-the-art equipment composed of two operating rooms and four pre-op and post-op rooms for preparation and recovery.

Madison Healthcare Services provides both inpatient and outpatient care. Using the latest technology, the hospital Radiology Department offers in-house CT scans at a moment's notice. Digital mammography, Nuclear Imaging and magnetic resonance imaging are provided on a regular basis through mobile units. In-house ultrasound is offered five days a week, as well, and the Radiology Department is well equipped to perform all general X-ray exams. The hospital laboratory is certified as a High Complexity Testing Lab and is able to perform the most intricate tests in-house. Direct Access Lab Testing is also available, allowing individuals to order lab tests without a physician's order. Expansion in telemedicine services has improved patient access to specialized services such as e-Emergency.

Physical, occupational, and speech therapists are available for referrals provided by Big Stone Therapies.

The care center offers skilled nursing care for the elderly or short recuperative stays to help people retain their independence and return to their homes. Home care services are also available to help this transition, and the hospital's Home Care Department has a full staff of nurses and home health aides. Nursing, dietary, activities, social services, and environmental services staffs work together to provide optimum care during the length of a resident's stay at the care cen-

ter.

Madison Healthcare Services has enjoyed a long legacy of providing health services to the community and surrounding area. In fact, the hospital has been in operation since 1902, and the care center since 1943.

Why Work For Us?

Madison Healthcare Services is one of the largest employers in Lac qui Parle County. We employ almost 200 employees in a variety of jobs. While the demands and stresses of healthcare are many, so are the rewards that come from helping people in need. You can take pride in knowing that everything you do supports families and patients right here in our community.

We offer competitive wages and benefits and are always looking for new graduates. Join our expanding team of professionals at Madison Healthcare Services.

Madison Health Care Auxiliary

Since 1976, Madison Health Care Auxiliary has been fundraising for Madison Lutheran Home, Madison Hospital, and Lac qui Parle Clinic. The proceeds they raise go directly towards care and comfort items for patients and residents. For years, their efforts have fulfilled many requests for equipment for the hospital, care center, and clinic enhancing services for patients and residents. The purpose of this group is to educate its members on local health services and to contribute to the mission of Madison Healthcare Services. The gift shop, located in Madison Lutheran Home's lobby, is managed by the auxiliary and open Monday-Friday from 2-4 p.m.

In order to raise funds, the Madison Health Care Auxiliary conducts the following events throughout the year:

- April: Spring Salad Luncheon and Phone-a-Thon
- May: Submarine Luncheon and Bake Sale
- June: Madison Healthcare Benefit
- September: Quilt Raffle
- November: Norsefest Pie & Coffee Social.

Madison Healthcare Benefit

The Madison Healthcare Auxiliary will host the 27th annual Madison Healthcare Fundraiser June 19th at the Madison Country Club. It is a full day of golf, bridge, morning, noon and evening meals, silent auction and raffles that people of all ages enjoy.





Hilltop Residence offers independence with peace of mind

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

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

Services are available on an a la carte basis or as a flat rate package. The package includes two meals per day (noon and evening), coffee hour, light housekeeping and laundry, bathing and personal care, nurse monitoring of medications, activities and exercise program, and medical/transportation/shopping management. Staff is on site 8-12 hours per day, and emergency staff is available 24 hours per day.

County programs may help pay for the services. Contact Kelly Maatz, housing manager, at 320-598-7536, or Marissa Stahl, RN/Home Health director, at 320-598-7556 for more information.

Prairie Five RIDES

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

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

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

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



Eastview Apartments

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

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

Park Avenue Apartments

Housing & Redevelopment Authority of Madison

Rent is based on income minus approved medical deductions

Rent includes: heat, water, sewer, garbage & electricity

FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Security cameras, doors locked at night.
- Large community room, craft room, sun room & lounge with bingo, card parties, birthday club & coffee sessions.
- Prairie Five Senior Nutrition meals served at noon M-F.
- Monthly Communion Services provided by Faith Lutheran Church
- Home Health services can be contracted.
- Groceries and prescription drugs can be delivered.
- Limited number of garages for rent.
- Hallways are air conditioned.
- Two handicapped accessible apartments.
- Kitchen areas are being remodeled.



HILLTOP RESIDENCE

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Convenient Living

Features Include:

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- Two meals/day
- Medication supervision
- Skilled nursing visits
- Homemaking services
- Personal care services
- Supervised activities & outings
- Medical appointment set-ups/travel arrangements
- On-site staff
- 24-Hour emergency response system
- Patio & picnic area in a spacious courtyard
- Laundry room & services available
- Attached to clinic, hospital, nursing home, and chapel
- And much more!

Are you an older adult in need of a new place to call home? Hilltop Residence offers independent living with an array of optional services for individuals 62 years and older. Tenants at Hilltop Residence enjoy a comfortable, clean environment, a full social program, and a warm and caring atmosphere.

If you have questions or need assistance applying, please contact Kelly Maatz at (320) 598-7536.



HUD Subsidized Housing Offering economic assistance to those who qualify.

310 Park Ave., Madison, MN 56256 • HUD Public Housing
Contact Kathy Bungarden at 320-598-3374



Lac qui Parle Community Education

Programs for infants to kindergarten

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

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

Classes and activities are also listed on the Community Education link at www.lqpv.org.

In the parents and infants class, parents and infants do not separate. Topics include infant massage, attachment and bonding, sign language, and activities that encourage physical, emotional, and social development. Child care will be provided for siblings during the sessions.

In Madison, these classes are held at the MMN Elementary preschool room.

Lac qui Parle Community Preschool is for all preschool children who are at least three years old by Sept. 1.

These classes are co-sponsored by Lac qui Parle Valley School Readiness and Prairie Five Head Start. The goals are to help preschoolers enter school with the skills and behavior necessary to be successful in school and in life and to involve parents in their child's learning and education.

Classrooms are located at the MMN Elementary School. The four-tiered fee schedule is based on state and federal guidelines.

Little Eagles Daycare

Little Eagles Daycare opened in 2019 and provides more than 50 daycare spots for infants, toddlers and preschool age children.

Little Eagles is located in the east wing of MMN Elementary and is operated by Lac qui Parle Valley Community Education.

The daycare center offers full-time daycare as well as drop in. Little Eagles also provides an educational element to daycare, helping children prepare for elementary school.

For more information on Little Eagles Daycare, contact LqPV Community Education at 320-752-4567.



Little Blessings Preschool

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

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

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

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Madison-Marietta-Nassau Elementary

Madison-Marietta-Nassau Elementary School is able to get their students off to a good start with an enrollment of about 150 students. The fifth and sixth grade classes were moved to the Lac qui Parle Valley High School beginning with the 2007-08 school year.

With smaller class sizes, students are given individual attention from teachers, administration and support staff. Each child is given the best possible start to their educational career. Students are able to take private piano lessons as early as kindergarten.

The latest in educational aids are available with new technology including Internet access and great educational opportunities for the students from Accelerated Reader to art, recreational and informational special events.

Through the program at MMN, the students are very well prepared as they advance to Lac qui Parle Valley High School.


Other programs offered at the elementary school located at Madison are the Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) program for preschool children (age infant to kindergarten), school readiness classes for three- to five-year-old children, community education recreation and enrichment classes, and Kidstime, an after school child care program for students grades K-6 providing a creative, safe, fun, and healthy environment.

Another program at the school is the Child Guide Program. The Child Guide helps connect children in grades K-6 with positive activities in our community and school. When children become involved in these groups, their as-

sets, which will continue with them in life, are being built. The Child Guide also spends time during the school day visiting, working with, and teaching children how they can build assets in themselves and others.

The Child Guide program is made possible by the local Strengthening the Family Team, Bush Foundation, Martinson Foundation, area churches, Southwest Foundation, your community, and the LQPV School District.



MMN Elementary is the place to be for children to get a good educational start during their formative years. Information about the school can be found on Lac qui Parle Valley's website, www.lqpv.org and click on MMN.


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Lac qui Parle Valley High School

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

With an enrollment of around 800 students, Lac qui Parle Valley offers some "big" school opportunities in a "small" school setting. Grades five and six joined the high school students in the 2007-08 school year.

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

LqPV offers students the latest in technology and an atmosphere which is conducive to learning at this state-of-the-art school.

There is an outdoor learning center, and in 1997, a wind generator was constructed on the school site.

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

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



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LAC QUI PARLE VALLEY

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2853

'We Soar As One'

Lac qui Parle Valley ISD 2853 offers a high quality, well-rounded, and comprehensive curriculum.

- Over 780 students enrolled, serving the communities of Appleton, Madison and surrounding areas
- 1-to-1 Chromebooks for students grades 5-12, with other technology integration opportunities at the elementary level
- Several early childhood programs offered, including Pre-K classes, ECFE, Little Eagles Daycare
- Excellent Athletics Programs, with several State qualifying teams including Robotics, Danceline, One Act Plays, Golf, Cross-Country
- Over 30 College Credit classes offered per semester at the high school level
- Wide Variety of Arts & Enrichment programs offered including Asset Builders, jazz and pep band, swing choir, FFA, Speech, Knowledge Bowl, Drama and several others
- Youth and adult recreation and enrichment classes offered through Community Education.
- Several Career and Tech courses offered including Family and Consumer Science, Industrial Technology, Agriculture Education, Eagle Eye News Network Video Production Class
- 95% graduation rate over the past 5 years
- 11-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio



Madison Directory

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

- City of Madison City Hall.....320-598-7373
404 6th Avenue
- Chamber of Commerce320-598-7301
623 3rd Street
- Madison Hospital320-598-7556
900 2nd Avenue
- Lac qui Parle Clinic320-598-7551
900 2nd Avenue

Attractions & Entertainment

- Grand Theatre320-598-7791
310 6th Ave.
- Lac qui Parle County Historical Museum320-598-7678
Hwy 75 South
- Madison Public Library320-598-7938
401 6th Avenue

Automotive

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

Banks

- Old National Bank320-598-7522
222 6th Avenue
- United Prairie Bank320-598-7541
303 6th Avenue

Bars/Lounges

- After Five Supper Club320-598-7920
205 8th Avenue South
- Happy Hour320-598-3434
218 5th Avenue
- Madison VFW Post 1656320-598-7498
711 2nd Street

Car Dealerships

- Erickson Chevrolet-Pontiac320-598-3515
307 8th Avenue, Highway 75 1-888-852-4218
- Tofte Auto & Sales/New World Salvage320-598-3770
225 1st Street East

Computers/Technology

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

Concrete

- Wollschlager Concrete320-269-1182
516 Central Ave

Dining

- After Five Supper Club320-598-7920
205 8th Avenue South
- Dairy Queen.....320-598-3858
711 8th Avenue, Highway 75
- DeToy's Family Restaurant320-598-3886
502 1st Street West

- The Pantry Cafe & Catering320-598-3377
217 6th Avenue

Financial Consultation

- AgCountry320-598-7505
112 5th Avenue 1-800-450-7505
- Heinrich & Ludvigson Accounting320-598-3327
214 6th Avenue
- United Prairie Insurance320-598-7541
South Entrance, 303 6th Avenue
- Farm Bureau Financial Services320-598-3544
525 1st Street East

Florist

- Heather Nursery & Floral320-598-7337
309 6th Avenue

Food & Grocery

- Jubilee Foods320-598-7448
208 7th Avenue

Funeral Home

- Zahrbock Funeral Chapel320-598-3339
108 2nd Avenue

Gas Stations

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

Grain Elevator

- Cargill320-598-7351
2237 Hwy 40

Hardware

- Builders FirstSource320-598-7949
319 1st Street West
- Hardware Hank.....320-598-7776
212 6th Avenue

Housing with Services

- Hilltop Residence320-598-7536
915 1st Avenue
- Park Avenue Apartments320-598-3374
310 Park Avenue

**Any business wishing to be in the Visitor's Guide
can contact The Western Guard at 320-598-7521**



Implement Dealerships

Lund Implement, Inc.320-598-3150
2488 Hwy 751-800-598-3155

Industries

Madison Bottling Co.320-598-7573
P.O. Box 68 - Hwy 40 East
Northern Plains Tiling320-598-3999
904 8th Avenue
Ludvigson Tiling320-226-7022
1637 191st Avenue

Insurance

KleinInsurance320-598-3979
222 6th Avenue
United Prairie Insurance320-598-7541
South Entrance, 303 6th Avenue
State Farm320-598-7318
209 6th Avenue
AgCountry320-598-7505
112 5th Avenue1-800-450-7505
Farm Bureau Financial Services320-598-3544
525 1st Street East

Law Office

Swenson, Nelson, & Stulz PLLC320-598-7578
214 6th Avenue

Liquor Store

Madison Liquor320-598-7900
607 1st Street West

Medical

LqP Clinic320-598-7551
900 2nd Avenue
Madison Chiropractic Center320-598-3089
508 4th St.
Madison Dental Clinic320-598-7433
622 West 3rd Street
Madison Optical320-598-7566
323 6th Avenue

Pharmacy

Thrifty White Pharmacy320-598-3864
205 6th Avenue1-866-297-5904

Newspaper & Printing

The Western Guard320-598-7521
216 6th Avenue

Nursing Home

Madison Lutheran Home(320) 598-7551
900 2nd Avenue

Radio Station

Q92-KLQP320-598-7301
623 3rd Street
KDMA320-269-8815
PO Box 513 - 4454 Highway 212 West - Montevideo

Realtors

Dahle & Olson Realty320-598-7830
222 6th Avenue
United Prairie Realty320-598-7541
South Entrance, 303 6th Avenue

Recreation

Madison Country Club320-598-7587
West on Highway 40, 1/2 mile
Swimming Pool/Skating Rink320-598-3766

School District

Lac qui Parle Valley High School320-752-4200
2860 291st Avenue
MMN Elementary320-598-7528
316 4th Street

Shopping

Odden & Zimbelman320-598-3768
219 6th Avenue
"Net's Old Barn" Antiques320-598-3669
101 8th Avenue South
Thrifty White Pharmacy320-598-3864
205 6th Avenue
Builders FirstSource320-598-7949
319 1st Street West
Heather Nursery & Floral320-598-7337
309 6th Avenue

Utilities

Schuelke Electric320-598-7747
2341 250th Street
Greg Thole Electric320-598-7928
Highway 75
Lane's Electric320-226-4988
Nassau, MN
Western MN Heating & Air Conditioning320-598-3354
205 6th Ave South
Larry's Refrigeration & Heating320-598-3334
321 6th Avenue
Dave's Plumbing320-598-3761
616 3rd Street West507-829-6190
Nesvold Pump & Well320-297-0464
2352 Highway 75701-388-9638

Water Conditioning

Culligan320-598-7511
611 West 2nd Street

