

# TOWN OF CALEDONIA

WAUPACA COUNTY, WISCONSIN

FALL 2025

## Upcoming Dates

- September 13: Caledonia Fest
- November 17: Budget Hearing & Electors Meeting
- Mid-December: Tax bills mailed



## 2025 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

*Progress you can see, plans you can trust*

There's been steady progress on the key initiatives to strengthen our community, improve our local infrastructure, and provide enhanced recreational facilities for our residents. Here are some highlights:

**Gruetzmacher Park Progress Continues!** Construction and planning continue to shape this incredible recreational space for residents of all ages. This project reflects our commitment to enhancing the quality of life in Caledonia and creating more outdoor opportunities. Construction is moving rapidly and completion of the park is expected in August 2026. Thank you to the Park Committee and volunteers who are making it happen.

**High Speed Broadband Internet** access for all residents has been a priority for the Town Board for more than a decade. While progress has been made, significant challenges remain. We are waiting for the decision on the grant proposal from Brightspeed that, if awarded, would provide fiber optic installation to the remaining underserved residents of Caledonia.

The **ANR Pipeline** project is progressing smoothly with careful coordination between the Town Board and all the stakeholders. The project is ahead of schedule and the pipe laying portion of the project should be completed by the end of August. We appreciate the patience and cooperation of all those impacted during the construction.

Well-maintained **roads** are important to the Town Board. With Hwy W and State Road 96 recently improved, Caledonia has been seeing a generous share of road improvements on county and state roads within the Town. The Town is proud to have roads that are in above-average condition because of smart planning, budgeting, and intentional efforts with ongoing road maintenance. Plans are in the works to begin the rebuild Weiland Road in 2025 and 2026.

The Town is in the process of preparing to select an **Assessor** for the 2026-2030 term. The first step in the process was to review and revise our assessment strategies, which has been completed. The Town Board will be seeking bids for this service this month.

Project updates for the Town's key 2025 projects are inside this newsletter...

**[www.TOWNOFCALEDONIA.com](http://www.TOWNOFCALEDONIA.com)**

Watch the town website for meetings and other important town news!

## TOWN STAFF

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Town Board Meetings

3rd Monday

of every month

Caledonia Community Center

E9181 State Road 96

Readfield, WI 54969

## Benefits for Seniors: Medicare Open Enrollment Period Assistance

Waupaca County's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) provides an Elder Benefit Specialist who can help you find all sorts of resources and assistance. This service is free of charge to all county residents who are 60 years old and older. Our Specialist is Jennifer Schwirtz. She describes her role as being "... trained to help older persons who are having a problem with their private or government benefits. Elder Benefit Specialists can help with a variety of programs and issues including: health insurance and access (Medical Assistance, Medicare A/B/C/D, SeniorCare, help with prescription drug costs), income support (Food Share, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income), benefit checkups, and much more.

The Medicare Open Enrollment period occurs annually from October 15 to December 7. During this time those with Medicare can make changes to their coverage, such as switching plans or adding prescription drug coverage. Those changes take effect on January 1 of the following year. According to Jennifer, she "...can assist with comparing plans for either Advantage Plans (Part C) or Prescription Drug Plans (Part D) and help with enrollment." Take note that she does not sell Medicare Supplemental (Medigap) Insurance, as these services are provided by a licensed insurance agent.

During the 2025 Medicare Open Enrollment period, Jennifer will be at the Readfield Community Center on November 6 from 10:00 to 3:00 to meet with residents by appointment. To schedule your appointment, call the Waupaca County Aging and Disabilities Resource Center (ADRC) at 715-258-6400. Tell the receptionist that you want to meet with Jennifer on November 6 in Readfield, and she will call you to set things up.

~ Written by Helen Adams & Shari Fudge

## GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SCHEDULE

- **Recycling** is collected **bi-weekly on Thursdays**
- **Garbage** is collected **every Thursday**

To ensure efficient pickup, please place your barrels **at least 4 feet apart**. For most households, positioning one barrel on each side of the driveway works best.

**Dale Fire and Rescue** is looking for Fire and EMS volunteers to serve our community. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Deputy Chief/EMS Service Lead Bob Wilkins (920) 850-2691 or Fire Chief Chad Degal at (920) 213-5324

## Caledonia Broadband Expansion Project

For nearly a decade, the Town Board has been working diligently to bring reliable high speed internet service to every household in Caledonia. Recognizing the importance of broadband, the Board has pursued every opportunity to expand service to our residents.

Our early efforts included successfully partnering with Waupaca County to secure a federal grant to install two wireless internet towers served by Waupaca Online in Caledonia. We joined a regional partnership to apply for a major federal broadband grant. While that application was ultimately not selected, we didn't stop there. We were delighted when Charter Spectrum received grant funding to install fiber optic cable across about one third of the town. That project is now complete and many residents already benefitting from this high-speed option.

**In February 2025, Brightspeed submitted a grant application to extend fiber optic cable to the remaining areas of Caledonia not already served by Spectrum. If approved, this would bring fiber to 100% of our residents.** This is a crucial opportunity for our town. Unfortunately, political shifts in Washington DC caused the federal BEAD program to undergo substantial unexpected last-minute changes. These changes introduced major uncertainty into the grant selection process, leaving communities like ours in limbo. While we originally expected a decision by mid-summer, timelines have been pushed back to later this year.

We've been informed that this may be the final round of federal broadband expansion grants. If Brightspeed's application is denied, there may be no future opportunities for funding which is a deeply frustrating outcome after years of sustained effort and collaboration.

At this point we are awaiting the final outcome of the Brightspeed grant, which is expected later this year. Regardless of the outcome, the Town Board remains committed to advocating for broadband access for all residents and will continue to seek out every viable solution.

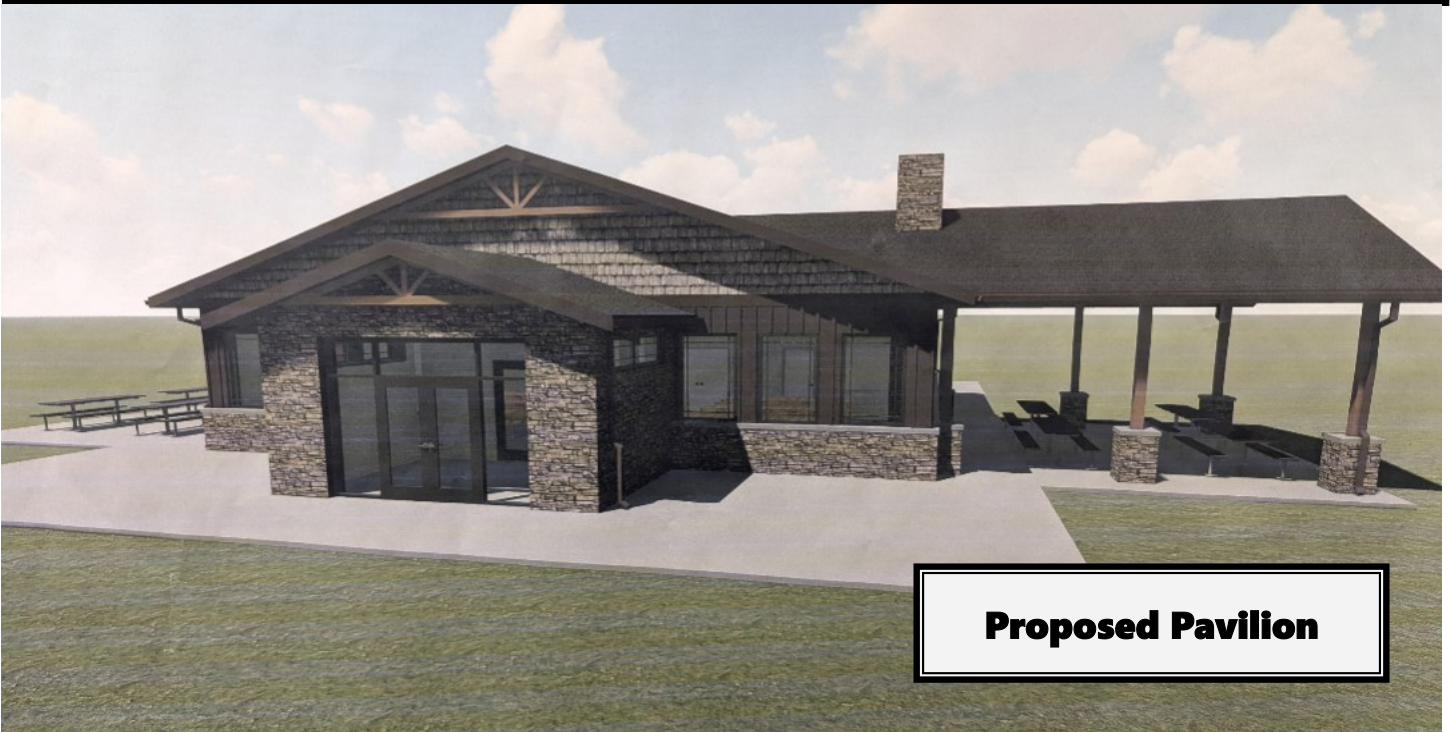
We'll keep residents updated as soon as we receive official word on the Brightspeed grant.

## ANR Pipeline Replacement Project





## GRUETZMACHER PARK



**Proposed Pavilion**

Gruetzmacher Park progress continues! Plans for the pavilion, playground, and pickleball courts are moving forward!

The park will remain closed through construction. We're counting down to completion in late 2026!



**Proposed Playground**

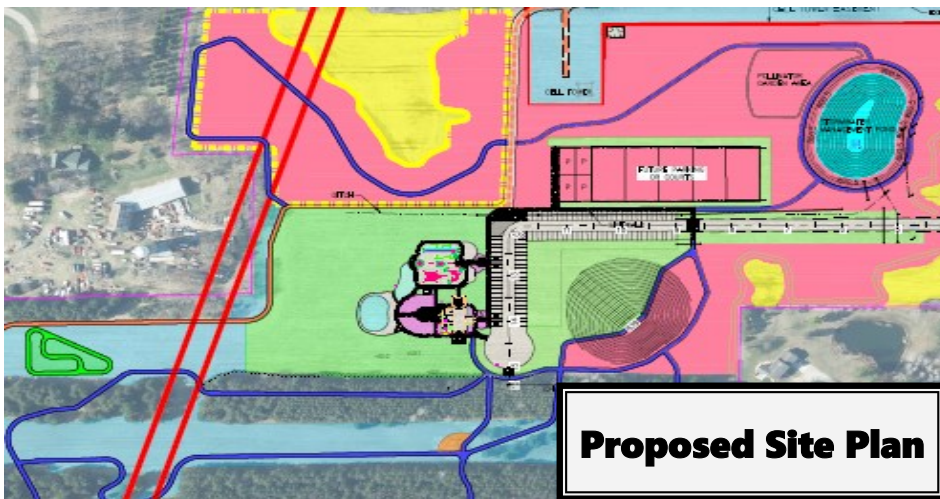


# GRUETZMACHER PARK

Construction is officially underway on Caledonia's newest community space - Gruetzmacher Park! This exciting project is the result of years of thoughtful planning and grant writing. It reflects the Town Board's commitment to improving the quality of life in Caledonia.

Significant progress has already been made. Buffer trees have been planted along the perimeter and major site work is complete, including grading and establishing the driveway and parking areas. The trails and maintenance garage will be built this fall. The pond's park will be excavated with the removed soil repurposed into a sledding hill. Native prairie planting is planned for fall to establish a sustainable and beautiful landscape. Bid packages for the pavilion and playground are nearing completion and will be open for bidding soon.

While there's still much work to be done, the project is on track for a grand opening celebration in August 2026. Rentals will not be available until 2027 or later. The Town Board extends its sincere gratitude to everyone involved in bringing this project to life!



## Phase 1 includes:

- Pavilion
- Playground
- 4 Pickleball Courts
- Sledding Hill
- Pump Track & Skills Course
- Trails
- Pond, Prairie, Wetlands

Additional features will be added in the future!

The success of this park project relies on donations as no tax dollars will be used. Contributions from businesses, groups, and individuals are greatly appreciated.

## DONOR INFORMATION:

Donated by:

Donation Amount

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

Phone & Email:

## Acknowledgement Preference:

☐ In memory of ☐ In Honor of ☐ From ☐ No acknowledgement

Name to Acknowledge:

## PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

Make checks payable to **Town of Caledonia**

Mail this form to:

**PO Box 190, Readfield WI 54969**

or drop it in the secure drop box in the front door of the Caledonia Community Center.

## County Highway W Rebuild

This summer, Waupaca County completed a major upgrade to County Highway W between Hwy 96 and Cut-Off Road thanks to a grant from the State of Wisconsin.

This project included:

- Replacing culverts
- Reclaiming existing pavement
- Grading and paving
- Shouldering & line painting

The work wrapped up in just six weeks and the results are impressive. Combined with a previous project that rebuilt the lower section of Hwy W, **the entire stretch of Hwy W in Caledonia has now been fully rebuilt.**

Project coordination was key. There were concerns about the timing of this project overlapping with the ANR Pipeline work; however, the project teams and Town Board worked closely together to avoid conflicts and prevent the need for any rework.

We wish to thank Waupaca County for completing this project and investing in our township.

**What about County Highways H and HH?** These roads are recognized by the County as needing significant repair. While they are on the County's list for future work, no timeline has been established yet. The Town Board will continue to advocate for improvements and keep residents informed as updates become available.



**County Hwy W Rebuild**



**Gruetzmacher Park  
Tree Planting**

## Weiland Road Reconstruction Work

Weiland Road has been on the Town's repair plan for quite some time and it is now the next planned road improvement project.

The much-needed rebuild was delayed due to heavy truck traffic from the ANR pipeline project, which relied on Weiland as a primary route. Now that the pipeline project work is wrapping up, the Town Board is preparing to move forward with major repairs to Weiland Road.

To get ahead of this project, the Town Board set aside funds in advance and required ANR Pipeline to post a bond for any potential road damage. A final assessment of the road's condition will be completed once pipeline activity ends but at this point little, if any, damage has been seen.

Phase 1 of the project includes:

- Reclaiming, paving, and shouldering from Robe Rd to the Ernst Rd intersection
- Replacing 4 culverts and repairing an annual frost heave
- Completing safety upgrades at the Ernst & Weiland intersection where limited sightlines pose a concern

The goal is to complete the Phase 1 work in late September this year but the timeline may shift to spring 2026 depending on when the ANR project is complete. The Town Board is planning for a Phase 2 of the Weiland project by rebuilding the section from Robe Rd to Rawhide Rd in 2026.

While short-term traffic disruptions will be necessary, the good news is the project is expected to move quickly and be completed in about a week.

## Future Town Assessment Plan

In 2024, the Town conducted a full Town property revaluation because Caledonia, as well as nearly all municipalities, experienced major changes to property value from very strong markets. The Town valuation had fallen out of compliance with State guidelines and a revaluation was required. The revaluation was efficiently completed by Pruess Appraisal and, overall, few issues were encountered. The Town had not completed a revaluation since 2009 because the total Town valuation stayed within State guidelines. The Town Board has reviewed our policies and procedures regarding revaluations and has decided to make changes detailed below. Our contract with Pruess Appraisal expires at the end of the year so we have decided on changes to our future assessment contracts.

The Town Board has issued a Request for Proposals for a new contract starting in January 2026. We expect to fill the assessor position by October allowing time for orientation prior to starting the new contract in January. The Board has decided the new contract will specify:

- Five year term
- No interior inspections of property, exteriors and land only
- On site visits will be limited to properties where questions exist
- A full town revaluation will be conducted during each contract

These contract terms will allow the Town to ensure assessed values for all properties are equitable and up to date which results in fair property tax distribution for all property owners. Accurate, fair, and current market assessments ensure that all property owners are paying a fair share of the local tax burden. **The good news is that the Town of Caledonia has the third lowest property tax levy of the twenty two townships in Waupaca County!** This is a result of good fiscal control by the Town Board, and with a good assessment strategy, we can ensure this tax burden is equitably distributed.

The town is committed to selecting a licensed, qualified, responsive assessor or firm while ensuring responsible use of tax dollars for the service provided.

Town of Caledonia  
P.O. Box 190  
Readfield, WI 54969

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S.POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EDDM Retail

Local  
Postal Customer

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

The Town Board is already planning ahead for a productive 2026. Several key priorities will continue to shape our efforts, including Gruetzmacher Park, Election Administration, and day-today operations that keep Caledonia running smoothly.

**One of the top priorities for 2026 is the continued development at Gruetzmacher Park.** The pavilion, playground, pickleball courts, sledding hill, pond, and trails are all expected to be completed by the end of 2026, marking a major milestone in creating a vibrant and welcoming space for residents to enjoy. The volunteer Park Committee, the Town Board, and the Clerks are putting a lot of time and effort into ensuring this project is completed correctly.

As the park progress moves forward, the Park Committee will be implementing maintenance and cleaning plans to ensure all park spaces remain safe, clean, and well-care for.

**2026 will be a busy election year,** with up to four elections. The Town is fully committed to running each election with professionalism, transparency, and integrity.

### **Election dates:**

February 17, 2026	Spring Primary, if needed
April 7, 2026	Spring Election
August 11, 2026	Fall Primary
November 3, 2026	General Election

**If you're interested in working elections, email [caledoniatownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:caledoniatownclerk@gmail.com)**

Of course, much of what keeps Caledonia running strong happens without much fanfare. Road maintenance & snow removal, budgeting, public safety, licensing & permits, planning & zoning, accounting functions, tax collection, records management, website updates, audits, filing reports, coordinating facility usage, election administration, publishing newsletters, and holding meetings are the everyday responsibilities that are overshadowed by the big projects. While these "everyday responsibilities" rarely get attention, they remain a constant focus to ensure the Town runs efficiently and effectively.

As always, thank you for your involvement! Whether volunteering, attending meetings, or simply staying informed your involvement helps shapes the success of our Town.