TOWN OF CALEDONIA

WAUPACA COUNTY, WISCONSIN SPRING 2026

Upcoming Dates

- April 7: Spring Election
- April 21: Annual Meeting 6pm
- April 18: Electronic Recycling
- May 4: Open Book 2-4pm
- May 12: Board of Review 4-6pm
- May 20: Summer Kick-off hosted by FOR Kids
- June 21: MDR Lions Chicken BBQ



2026 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Progress you can see, plans you can trust

Our community continues to move forward with initiatives that strengthen infrastructure, expand recreational opportunities, and support responsible growth. Here are some highlights:

Gruetzmacher Park Progress Continues! 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 September 2026. Thank you to the Park Committee for the hard work to bring this vision to life. More details and pictures on page 4.

High Speed Broadband Internet access for all residents has been a priority for the Town Board for more than a decade. We're pleased to share great news for Caledonia in the recent BEAD Grant announcements! More details on page 3!

Responsible Development Planning is a key focus in 2026**.** As one of the fastest growing residential townships in Waupaca County, thoughtful planning helps increase the tax based needed to maintain services while preserving the rural character that makes Caledonia special. The Planning Commission is leading this effort. More details on page 7.

Kanaman Bridge replacement planning is underway. The Town is coordinating with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Waupaca County to complete studies, flood analysis, and design work needed to pursue LSSIP grant funding for the replacement of this aging structure. ***Reminder:*** The Kanaman bridge remains one lane only. The center portion of the bridge is safe for travel and the edges are closed with safety barrels. We appreciate your patience as we work toward a fiscally responsible replacement. More details on page 5.

Dale Fire Department EMS Truck Purchase is in progress. With approximately 75% of calls now EMS-related, the Dale Fire and Rescue Department is pursuing the purchase of a dedicated EMS response vehicle. This will allow medical calls to be handled more efficiently without deploying a fire response. The Town's share of the cost is 30% for an estimated $40,000.

Together, these efforts reflect the continued commitment of the Town of Caledonia to invest wisely, plan thoughtfully, and build a strong future for our community.

www.TOWNOFCALEDONIA.com

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

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Town Board Meetings
3rd Monday
of every month
Caledonia Community Center
E9181 State Road 96
Readfield, WI 54969

APRIL 7, 2026 ELECTION INFORMATION

The spring election will be held on Tuesday, April 7 at the Caledonia Community Center located at E9181 State Road 96, Readfield. Polls will be open from 7 am - 8 pm. Photo ID is required to vote.

Register online, request an absentee ballot, find your polling place, and see a sample ballot at:

myvote.wi.gov

Any qualified voter who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day is eligible to vote an absentee ballot. Request an absentee ballot or see a sample ballot at **myvote.wi.gov** or vote in-person absentee by contacting Clerk Snyder at caledoniatownclerk@gmail.com or (920) 667-4773. Requests for mailed ballots must be received by 5pm March 27.

In-person absentee voting hours will be held:

Tuesday, March 24 10am-Noon

Thursday, March 26 3-5pm

By appointment Monday - Friday

Proof of identification must be provided before a ballot may be issued.

Waupaca County Senior Nutrition Program

The Waupaca County Senior Nutrition Program provides nutritious meals and nutrition services for adults age 60 and older. Meals are available through Congregate Dining sites in Waupaca and New London, Home-Delivered Meals for those who are homebound, or the Bistro Sixty voucher program at participating restaurants in Waupaca, Weyauwega, Fremont, and soon Manawa.

Eligible older adults can also participate in the Senior Farmers Market Program, which provides vouchers for fresh fruits and vegetables at local farmers markets and farm stands each summer.

These programs work together to support the health, independence, and well being of older adults across Waupaca County while keeping them connected to their community.

To learn more or request services, call 715-942-1900 or visit https://bit.ly/WaupacaNutrition

Encouraging News from Rawhide

The Town of Caledonia, Waupaca County Sheriff's Department, Waupaca County, and of course Rawhide and its staff have regularly met to review data, discuss options, and make plans to reduce the number of police calls to Rawhide and the resulting costs. Thank you to the Rawhide team who have worked hard to implement new systems, procedures, and monitoring equipment. The efforts are leading to positive results: the number of police calls are down and Rawhide has agreed to cover police service costs, ensuring that costs aren't passed on to taxpayers. It's always rewarding when collaboration leads to meaningful improvements.

Caledonia Broadband Expansion Coming to 100% of Residents!

Exciting news! Brightspeed and Bertram were both awarded broadband grants for Caledonia in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. This will bring high-speed fiber to 100% of our residents and introduce competition to the Spectrum area of town!

For more than a decade, the Town Board has worked diligently to study broadband options, build partnerships, and advocate for reliable service for our residents, businesses, farms, and students. This award recognizes that long-term commitment and positions our town to move forward with infrastructure improvements that will support economic growth, remote work, telehealth, and educational opportunities.

The State Broadband Office is finalizing grant agreements with Brightspeed and Bertram, with signatures expected in April. Brightspeed will be the primary provider expanding broadband coverage in Caledonia and is developing its rollout plan for all BEAD-funded projects. The Town expects to be notified of where we are in the rollout timing this April.

The selected providers have up to four years to complete their projects. We are hopeful Caledonia will be included early in the schedule. When combined with Spectrum's earlier grant award, these projects are expected to bring high-speed fiber optic internet service to all of Caledonia!



EMERGENCY ACCESS REMINDER
Can emergency vehicles get to your home?

The Dale Fire and Rescue Department and the Town of Caledonia are working together to raise awareness of a very important safety concern: clear emergency access to buildings.

Fire & EMS trucks and ambulances must be able to quickly and safely reach homes and outbuildings when responding to fires and other emergencies. When driveways are too narrow or obstructed, it prevents trucks from accessing the scene which delays response efforts and impacts the ability to protect lives and property.

Property owners are responsible for ensuring that emergency vehicles can safely reach structures on their property. Review the following recommended guidelines to ensure our emergency response teams can access your property:

- Driveways should be cleared to a minimum of 12 feet wide and 12 feet high, free of trees, branches, rocks, and other obstructions
- Curves and corners should be gradual enough to allow long fire trucks to navigate safely
- Adequate space near buildings should be available for multiple trucks to park, operate, and safely turn around

Please check your driveways and make the necessary changes to ensure access. Our goal is to ensure we can provide assistance reliably and rapidly to ensure we can save lives and minimize property damage.

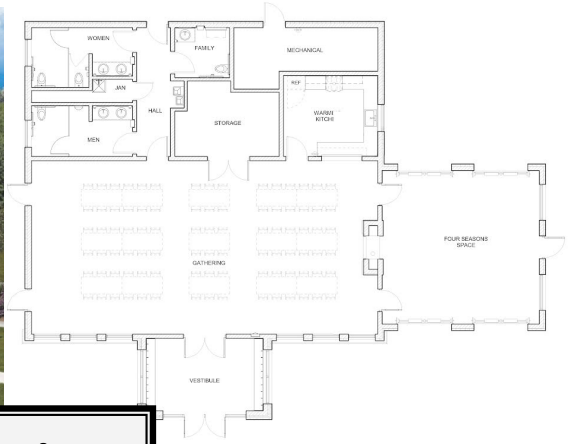
If we can't get to you, we can't help you!

If you would like assistance determining whether your driveway access is sufficient, contact:
Chief Chad Degal (920) 213-5324

The Dale Fire and Rescue Department plans to inspect all properties within their coverage area during 2026. The purpose of these inspections is to provide property owners with recommendations for improving emergency access to their buildings.

GRUETZMACHER PARK





Final Pavilion Design

Gruetzmacher Park's grand opening is on track for September 2026!

The main entry on Bean City Rd and pavilion/playground/courts area of the park will remain closed until construction is complete.

Pedestrian trails will be accessible from the Meartz Rd entrance where there is room for approximately five vehicles to park. Please respect that the trails are closed where they access the area of the park with active construction.

Rentals will be available starting January 2027.

When the park opens in September it will feature:

- A new, spacious pavilion with restrooms, kitchen, seating for 100, and a 4-seasons addition with a fireplace and garage doors that can be open or closed depending on the weather.
- A playground for all ages with fun, unique pieces for everyone to enjoy! Poured in place surfacing provides access to playground pieces.
- Pickleball courts for everyone to enjoy!
- 2.5+ miles of pedestrian trails that wind through a forest, prairie, and around a pond.
- A bicycle pump track and skills course to provide a safe off-road place to improve bike skills
- A sledding hill for winter enjoyment and running training

The Town Board extends its sincere gratitude to everyone involved in bringing this project to life!





Final Playground Design

2025/2026 Road Construction Projects

Each year the Town Board plans for at least one major road improvement project. In 2025, the selected project was focused on Weiland and Ernst Roads. The project involved rebuilding the Ernst and Weiland Road intersection to resolve major safety concerns on traffic flow. Additionally, the stretch of Weiland Road from the Ernst Rd intersection to the Robe Road intersection was reclaimed and repaved. This section of road was in need of repaving and a number of failing culverts and recurring bumps were repaired. In future years, the remaining sections of Weiland Road back to Rawhide will be repaved in two phases, which is required because budgets will not cover the whole job in a single year. The second phase may be delayed until 2027 because of a priority issue discussed in the next paragraph.



Ernst Rd & Weiland Rd intersection

In 2025, the State of Wisconsin conducted an inspection of every bridge in the State under 20 feet in length. These bridges had not been inspected in the past, and many were found defective. The Town of Caledonia has seven bridges of this size and three were rated as in poor condition. One was designated as an immediate replacement. That bridge crosses Potter's Creek at Kanaman Road, and we have been informed we need to take action to replace it as soon as possible. The Town Board is planning to make this replacement our 2026 project, resulting in the delay of phase two of Weiland Road. We will be applying for State aid to cover the costs, up to 90% from the State, but the cost will likely be many hundreds of thousands of dollars. We will be applying for aid by May 1 and should hear back in June if we were selected for assistance. We will proceed as quickly as possible to complete the project after hearing from the State.

Law Enforcement Update

The Town relies on the Waupaca County Sheriff's Department for enforcement of local ordinances, including compression braking restrictions and speed limit and weight limit enforcement on town roads. When concerns were raised about excessive compression brake noise near the 96/45 roundabout, the Town Board worked with the Sheriff's Department to increase enforcement efforts.



In response, the Sheriff's Department conducted targeted patrols watching for violations of the Town's compression braking ordinance. During those efforts, deputies made multiple traffic stops issuing four warnings and one ticket. This enforcement has led to a noticeable reduction in compression brake use and a corresponding reduction in noise levels.

This is a good example of the Town Board being aware of community concerns and taking proactive steps to address them. Enforcement not only improves quality of life for nearby residents, but also reinforces compliance with braking, speed, and weight limits that protect public safety and preserve our roads.

We recognize that periodic enforcement will be necessary to maintain these improvements. The Town Board remains engaged with the Sheriff's Department to ensure ongoing attention to these issues. Our goal is to keep our roads safe, protect our infrastructure, and uphold our ordinances.

Chicken BBQ

Sunday, June 21

Readfield Park

Hosted by MDR Lions Club

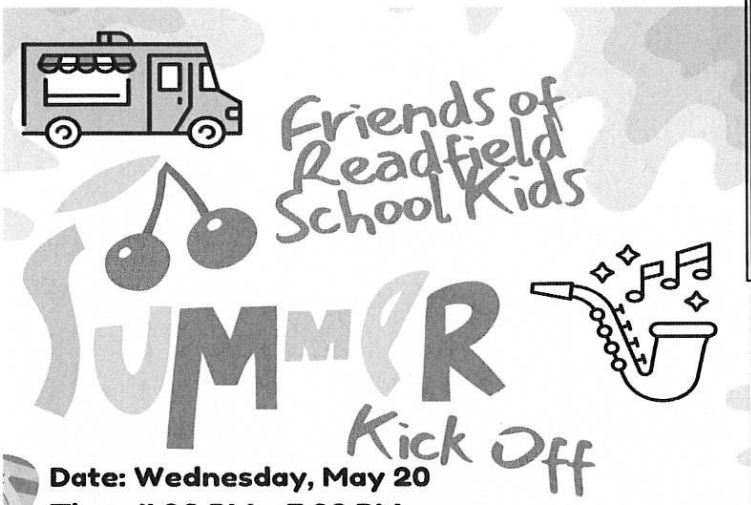
Land Use & Building Permits

A Land Use Permit is required before obtaining a Building Permit. Contact Waupaca County Zoning Office at (715) 258-6255

Before doing any home improvement project, contact building inspector Lee Robbert at (920) 850-2686 or (920) 836-3681. Email at mlrobbert@centurytel.net

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.



Date: Wednesday, May 20
Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Location: Caledonia Town Hall

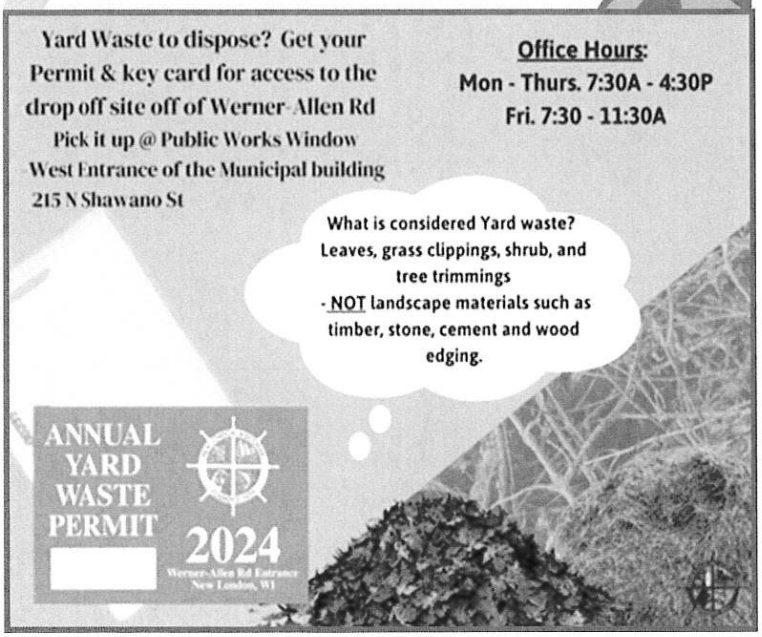
- **Delicious selections from local food trucks!**
- **Performance by the High School Jazz Band!**
- **Open to the public – everyone is welcome!**

Garbage & Recycling

Recycling pickup is **bi-weekly on Thursdays**

Garbage pickup is **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.



FREE ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

READFIELD PARK

APRIL 18, 2026

The Caledonia Community Center and Readfield Park Shelter are great places to host family reunions, graduation parties, and other events!

The Community Center will comfortably fit 70 and features a full kitchen.

Readfield Park's shelter has electricity, serving tables, and picnic tables.

Rent them together or separately depending on your party needs!

Rental Process:

1. Use the event calendar on the town website to determine the availability of your date.
2. Review the rental rules and cost of facilities to determine what option you'd like for your event.
3. Print, fill out, and return the Rental Agreement along with required fees to the Town of Caledonia.
4. Your reservation is confirmed once the town website is updated with your rental information.





Fees for 2026 Rentals:

Community Center Only - $100 & $50 security deposit

Park Shelter Only - $75 & $50 security deposit

Community Center AND Park Shelter:

$150 & $50 security deposit

Planning Commission Leadership Change & 2026 Goals

Bill Fitzpatrick retired from the Chairperson position after serving on the Planning Commission for eight years. Bill demonstrated leadership working on the most recent Comprehensive Plan, excelled at suggesting solutions to problems from diverse facts, and consistently provided valuable expertise and insightful guidance during deliberations on critical land use planning matters, ensuring thoughtful consideration of future development. The Board would like to thank Bill for his valuable service to the Town and its residents.

Effective February 2026, Cary Zaug was appointed to the Chairperson's position, after serving as Vice Chairperson previously. Shari Fudge was appointed to the Vice Chairperson position, and Helen Adams remains the Recording Secretary. The Board would like to thank everyone who has served on the very important Commission and recognize Cary, Shari, and Helen for providing leadership in 2026.

The Planning Commission will be focusing on responsible development in 2026. As one of the fastest growing residential townships in Waupaca County, it's important that we thoughtfully plan where future growth is located while preserving the rural character that makes Caledonia special. New subdivisions and homes increase the tax base to offset rising costs and ensure we can continue to provide services without raising taxes for existing residents.

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

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

Local
Postal Customer

2026 TOWN BOARD PRIORITIES

Each year, the Town Board thoughtfully selects a limited number of important priorities to ensure meaningful progress on the issues that matter most to our community. Rather than stretching resources too thin, the Board remains focused on delivering results where they will have the greatest long-term benefit. For 2026, the Board has decided to focus on the following key priorities:

- Complete the expansion of broadband fiber optic internet service to every resident, ensuring reliable, high-speed connectivity throughout the Town
- Complete the initial construction of Gruetzmacher Park while planning Phase 2 improvements in the park
- Create a long-term maintenance plan for Town facilities to protect public assets and plan responsibly for the future
- Create a plan for residential growth, including future subdivisions, to guide thoughtful, well-managed development to ensure the Town's character is preserved while expanding the tax base

Broadband expansion and Gruetzmacher Park continue from 2025, reflecting the Board's commitment to seeing major initiatives through to completion. In 2025, the Town successfully completed the ANR Pipeline replacement project and selected an assessor. While the Town will continue addressing many additional needs throughout the year, the Board is committed to making progress on these four priorities in 2026.

2026 ELECTION DATES

April 7, 2026 - Spring Election
August 11, 2026 - Fall Primary
November 3, 2026 - General Election

Register online, see a sample ballot, request an absentee ballot, find your polling place at:

myvote.wi.gov