



**CITY OF MERRILL**  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**AGENDA • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025**

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<b>Regular Meeting</b>	<b>City Hall Council Chambers</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
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To attend remotely call 818-798-1357 PIN 544 514 520 #

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting**
  1. September 18, 2024 minutes
- III. General Agenda Items for Consideration**
  1. Historic Street Name Applications for 2025
- IV. Date and Time of Next Meeting - Wednesday, May 21 at 6:00 pm**
- V. Public Comment**
- VI. Adjournment**

The Merrill City Hall is accessible to the physically disadvantaged. If special accommodations are needed, please contact the Merrill City Hall at (715) 536-5594.

**CITY OF MERRILL  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:30 PM**

**I. Call to Order** Chair M. Caylor called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m. It started late due to a scheduling conflict with a committee member.

Present: Alderperson M. Caylor, McCrank, Alderperson A. Caylor

Excused: Bea Lebel, Steve Sabatke

Others present: City Clerk Anderson-Malm, Merrill Community Media

**II. Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting**

1. **August 21 meeting minutes** - Alderperson A. Caylor motioned to approve. McCrank seconded and the motion passed.

**III. General Agenda Items for Consideration**

1. **Update on the status and placement of the Normal Park sign.**

- Elizabeth McCrank provided a print of the Normal Park sign and informed the committee of its status. Upon approval, the sign for the American Legion will be completed. A future agenda item will be a sign in front of the former City Hall building.

2. **Historic Street Names - update and next steps** - Chair M. Caylor updated the committee with the following information regarding the historical street signs. The sign for Bob Klug will be on the corner of Second and Cleveland Streets at 9:00 am on Saturday, September 28th. The sign for Bob Gruling will be on the corner of Sixth and Hope Streets on September 23rd or September 27th. The sign for Ralph "Fata" Voigt does not have a date scheduled for installation. The sign for Chuck Sommers occurred on Monday, September 16th. The committee will take applications for future signs starting in March 2025.

**IV. Date and Time of Next Meeting - Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30**

**pm** Discussion occurred between committee members regarding a change of date for future meetings. There was a conflict with several committee members regarding a Wednesday meeting. There will be continued discussion about a day change for the meetings. The next meeting will be the Call of the Chair.

**V. Public Comment** There was no public comment.

**VI. Adjournment** Elizabeth McCrank motioned to adjourn. Alderperson A. Caylor seconded and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Minutes submitted by City Clerk Anderson-Malm

*Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next scheduled meeting.*



Experience more to life!

**Honorary Street Name Application**

Who do you wish to have a street named in honor of: Charles L. (Loafer) Graap Jr.

What did that person(s) do through their work, their life or in their life or in their death that reflected on the city of Merrill:

Loafer was a Boy Scout Leader, Fireman for the City of Merrill, he also was known as one of Merrill's Historian's, Loafer was drafted into the army and fought in the Korean War. He served from 1952-1954, Charles was a noncommissioned officer as a Cpl. and Squad leader in the fierce battle known as Pork Chop Hill where many soldiers died. Loafer was the only casualty from Merrill that was injured, and it affected him his entire life.

What year did the person(s) pass away: November 5, 2006.

Any other comments:

If Loafer were to be nominated. The family would like consideration be given for the sign to be located at the intersection of Foster St. and Hwy 64 North East side near his residence

**Contact info for the nominator:**

Name: Sandra Sherfinski.

Address: W5278 Newport Lane Merrill, WI 54452.

Email: h2owiz@charter.net.

Phone Number: 717-536-8543.

A fee of \$25.00 is required at application. This fee is collected to help offset the cost of the sign and to prevent serial nominations.

**All applications must be submitted by March 31<sup>st</sup>.** Names will be considered at the April meeting of the Historic Preservation Committee and announced in May along with timetables for unveiling.

**Nominees must be deceased for a minimum of five years to be considered, this rule maybe waived if the nominee died while in service to the City of Merrill or the United States.**



**Honorary Street Name Application**

Who do you wish to have a street named in honor of: Dolores Kelly

What did that person(s) do through their work, their life or in their death that reflected on the City of Merrill:

Please see supporting documents

What year did the person(s) pass away: 2008

Any other comments:

She was Named Woman of the Year by the Merrill Business and Professional Woman's Club 1975

**Contact info for the nominator:**

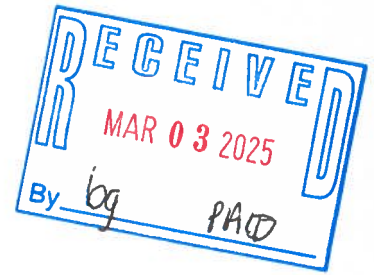
Name: Jan Perry  
Address: 2800 Thielman St. Unit 5A Merrill, WI 54452  
Email: mjmbperry4@msn.com  
Phone Number: 715-432-4051

**\*A fee of \$25.00 is required at application. This fee is collected to help offset the cost of the sign and to prevent serial nominations.**

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**Dolores Kelly was an advocate for the aging population in the Merrill Community. She became a member of the Committee on Aging in 1970. She then became the coordinator of the Senior Citizens Drop-In Center where she planned many bus trips, educational activities, arts and crafts and social engagements. She helped countless seniors, referring them to available services in the area. She was instrumental in helping start the Dial-a-Bus and the Meals on Wheels program. Meals delivered to shut-ins allowed them to stay in their own homes instead of going to nursing homes. Dolores made a significant impact in helping the aging apply for and receive funds through the Homestead Relief program under Wisconsin Law. She wrote numerous grants and did countless hours of research to help the aging population. This shed light on the many problems the aging were facing; including transportation, nutritional deficits, obtaining legal services and housing shortages. Dolores was loved by many during the years she worked for the city of Merrill and was thought of as a champion for the aging population.**



**Honorary Street Name Application**

Who do you wish to have a street named in honor of: Leslie "Ches" Kienitz

What did that person(s) do through their work, their life or in their death that reflected on the City of Merrill:

Merrill City Band Drum Major 1937-1941, & 1946-1985, M Sgt. US Army

WWII, Appointed to Police Dept. Jan 1, 1950, Promoted to Capt. Jan 1, 1966 retiring on Feb 5, 1976. Worked at Council Grounds after retiring from P.D.

What year did the person(s) pass away: Oct. 31, 1986

Any other comments:

Ches was a person I looked up to growing up. He had the highest morals and

values, a greater caretaker of the land. Loved his acres of land in New Wood

was a dedicated servant to the City of Merrill, and its citizens. Maintained large garden, was a bee keeper. Took care of elderly neighbors, looked out for others. A great

Contact info for the nominator: teacher at life.

Name: Steve Hass

Address: 702 E Sixth St

Email: ~~Steve Hass~~ Steve.hass1969@gmail.com

Phone Number: 715-218-3364

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**Honorary Street Name Application**

Who do you wish to have a street named in honor of: Sgt. Carl E. Schenzel

**What did that person(s) do through their work, their life or in their death that reflected on the City of Merrill:**

Carl and his crew were on a combat mission during World War II in the Philippines. On January 9, 1945 his plane disappeared into clouds over Sibuyan Island. There was a flash of light shortly afterwards and the plane was never seen or heard from again. The plane crashed on the northern part of Mindoro Island.

**What year did the person(s) pass away:** 1945

**Any other comments:**

In 1963 a U.S. Army search team, acting on a tip from Filipinos in the area, visited the crash site. Five incomplete bones were found. It was learned in February 2008 that the bones were cremated in 1965 by the Army since they could not be identified. No further efforts have been made since to search for any additional remains. All are memorialized at Manila American Cemetery.

**Contact info for the nominator:**

Name: Linda Plautz, Niece  
Address: W4962 Hillside Dr., Merrill  
Email: blplautz@hotmail.com  
Phone Number: 715-536-8717

pd 2/11/25

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Missing In Action (MIA) Prisoners Of War (POW) Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)  
 Chronology Locations Aircraft Ships Submit Info How You Can Help Donate

## B-25J-10-NC "Lazy Daisy Mae" Serial Number 43-36012

USAAF  
 5th AF  
 345th BG  
 501st BS

**Pilot** Captain James W. Underwood, O-421358 (MIA / KIA) Hermosa, CA  
**Co-Pilot** 2Lt William H. Clark, O-718868 (MIA / KIA) Hammond, IN  
**Nav-Bomb** Maj William J. McBride, O-662285 345th BG, HQ (MIA / KIA) Minneapolis, MN  
**Engineer** Sgt Carl E. Schenzel, 36244506 (MIA / KIA) Merrill, WI  
**Radio** TSgt Robert S. Knowlden, 13070626 (MIA / KIA) Washington, DC  
**Gunner** SSGT George H. Ray, 13025173 (MIA / KIA) Shavertown, PA  
**Crashed** January 9, 1945  
**MACR** 11792



B-25

MIA  
6 Missing

### Aircraft History

Built by North American Aviation (NAA) at Air Force Plant NC at Fairfax Field near Kansas City, KS. Constructors Number 108-35302. Delivered to the U.S. Army Air Force (USAAF) as B-25J-10-NC Mitchell serial number 43-36012. Ferried overseas via Hickam Field then across the Pacific to the South West Pacific Area (SWPA).

### Wartime History

On October 5, 1944 assigned to the 5th Air Force (5th AF), 345th Bombardment Group (345th BG), 501st Bombardment Squadron (501st BS). Nicknamed "Lazy Daisy Mae". Assigned to crew chief Greenquist.

On October 28, 1944 this was the first Mitchell to land at Tacloban Airfield on Leyte.

On November 3, 1944 took off from Tacloban Airfield on a mission against Alicante on Negros.

On January 7, 1945 took off from Tacloban Airfield piloted Jones on a mission against Clark Field on Luzon.

### Mission History

On January 9, 1945 took off from Tacloban Airfield on Leyte piloted by Captain James W. Underwood on a mission to support the U.S. landing at Lingayen Gulf on Luzon. Roughly another hour later, another pilot reported that the plane disappeared from formation at 7,000' into clouds over Sibuyan Island (with a 6,500' peak); there was a sudden flash of light shortly afterwards, and the plane was never seen or heard from again.

### Wreckage

In fact, this B-25 had crashed northwest of Sibuyan on the northern part of Mindoro Island.

During May 1963, a U.S. Army search and recovery team, acting on a tip from Filipinos in the area visited the crash site.

Also found were "five incomplete bones." It was subsequently learned, in February 2008, that the bones had been cremated in 1965 by the Army since they could not be positively identified. No further efforts have been made since 1963 to search for any additional remains at the crash site.

A February 1965 memo in the file notes that the tail boom of the plane was found (with ID number and the Red Raider insignia of the 501st Bombardment Squadron), along with Capt Underwood's ID tag and flight school ring engraved with his name inside. (Nothing was reportedly found from any of the other five crew members.)

Not until August 2002, when the family Capt James Underwood, obtained his Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF), did they learn of the discovery in 1963 or recovery of remains. This was never reported to the Underwood family.

### Memorials

The entire crew was declared dead the day of the mission. All are memorialized at Manila American Cemetery on the tablets of the missing.

Underwood earned the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters and Purple Heart, posthumously.

Clark earned the Air Medal and Purple Heart, posthumously.

McBride earned the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart

Schenzel earned the Purple Heart, posthumously.

Knowlden earned the Air Medal and Purple Heart, posthumously.

Ray earned the Air Medal and Purple Heart, posthumously.



**Honorary Street Name Application**

Who do you wish to have a street named in honor of: William C. Johnston

What did that person(s) do through their work, their life or in their death that reflected on the City of Merrill:

See Attached.

What year did the person(s) pass away: 2012

**Any other comments:**

"I don't want to go anywhere where I can't still see the [courthouse] clock tower."

Given Bill Johnston's community involvement, philanthropy, and

desire to never receive recognition, I believe this honor is well deserved.

**Contact info for the nominator:**

Name: Brady Loos

Address: 2702 E 10th Street

Email: brady.loos2@gmail.com

Phone Number: 715-218-7734

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**Honorary Street Application: William Johnston**

**Dated: March 16, 2025**

*This statement supplements the attached "Honorary Street Name Application" submitted by Brady Loos.*

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**What did that person(s) do through their work, their life or in their death that reflected on the City of Merrill:**

My grandfather, William "Bill" Johnston, was raised in Merrill and graduated from Merrill High School. He played football, basketball, and baseball throughout his time there. Throughout high school sports he received multiple accolades. After high school, he received a degree in business from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After establishing his career around Central Wisconsin, Bill moved his family back to Merrill where he became the President and CEO of Park City Credit Union, a position he held for nearly 25 years.

Throughout his time leading Park City Credit Union, not only did the institution grow and thrive, but it became a staple within our community. Bill Johnston used his position to ensure that not only Park City, but also himself, consistently gave back to the community. This support came through donations, both personally and through Park City, to local charities, organizations, and many school activities.

I recall one specific example of his charitable spirit that exemplifies what type of man and member of the community he was – after learning that the High School Girls' Basketball Team did not have funding for vital equipment such as uniforms and other necessities, he personally gave enough money to the coach to provide the team with new uniforms, equipment for practice, and so forth. His only condition was that he did not want any recognition for his donation. He then kept in contact with those community members, regularly checking in on them to see if they needed anything else.

Throughout his life, and the many times he would support community members like this, he never sought any praise, maintaining that the reason he was doing these things was because it would benefit someone else and that's what was important. Because of this, even our family is not aware of every way in which he helped support our community. We only learned of the aforementioned support of the basketball program from a member of the community sharing this with us upon his death.

The type of man that Bill Johnston was made him well known throughout the community. He was involved in local government through the Police and Fire Board and always worked in the interest of the community. He truly loved Merrill and recognized the need for members of the community to support one another. For his selfless acts of service to the community, I decided to apply for this honor in his name. I believe that Bill Johnston remains an example of the best of us in this community. Given that he never desired recognition for his selflessness and continued support throughout his life, I believe this honor is not only deserved, but it would be a way for the community to finally recognize all the wonderful things he did behind the scenes to support our wonderful community.

As a grandson, I hold his memory close and strive to be the kind of man that he was. His love for Merrill was passed down to me. After law school, I moved back to Merrill where I plan to make a life as he did.

Thank you to the Committee for their consideration, and thank you for this program that honors remarkable members of our community. I look forward to your decision.

Respectfully Signed,





**Office of the Mayor  
Steve J. Hass, Mayor**

1004 East First Street • Merrill, Wisconsin • 54452  
Phone: 715.536.5595  
E-mail: steve.hass@ci.merrill.wi.us

**Historic Street Name Application**

Who do you wish to have a street named in honor of: Paul Kienitz

What did that person(s) do through their work, their life or in their death that reflected on the City of Merrill:

(See Attached)

What year did the person(s) pass away: N/A

Any other comments:

**Contact info for the nominator:**

Name: Brandon Wilde  
Address: 500 S. Center Ave. Merrill, WI  
Email: brandonw@riversideathletic.com  
Phone Number: 715-218-7749

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pd  
2/5/25

# Riverside Athletic Club

500 South Center Avenue  
Merrill, WI 54452  
www.riversideathletic.com

Phone: 715-536-2481  
Fax: 715-536-2482  
E-mail: memberservicesrac@gmail.com



SPORTS • FITNESS • FRIENDS

I am writing to formally nominate Paul Kienitz for this historic designation. Paul has established a lasting legacy that continues to shape and enrich the lives of countless individuals in our area.

As the founder of Riverside Athletic Club, Paul has created a business that appeals to a diverse demographic within our community. His vision has fostered an atmosphere that many residents credit with improving their lives, whether through physical health, social connections, or overall well-being. A local bank has even expressed to me the profound impact that Riverside Athletic Club has had on the community, underscoring its importance as more than just a business but as a cornerstone of our town's social and recreational life.

Paul's commitment to community enrichment extends far beyond his business. He has provided a space for seniors to socialize and exercise, helping to improve their quality of life and encourage active lifestyles. Additionally, his generosity and dedication to giving back are evident in his support of numerous organizations, including the United Way, Rotary Club, and local food pantries, among others.

His influence also extends into cultural and environmental advocacy. As a drum major with the Merrill City Band, Paul has contributed to the musical heritage of our community. Furthermore, he has played a vital role in conservation efforts, serving as a past president of the Wisconsin Woodland Owner's Association, where he fostered partnerships, distributed scholarships, and enhanced education on sustainable forest management throughout the state.

Paul Kienitz's contributions are deeply interwoven into the fabric of our community, making him a deserving figure to be honored through the historic designation of a street within the community. His dedication to improving the lives of others, fostering community engagement, and preserving our natural resources has left an indelible mark that should be recognized and celebrated.

Thank you for your time and dedication to preserving the history and legacy of our community. I would be happy to provide further details or supporting materials upon request.

Sincerely,  
Brandon Wilde