

Natural-resource development most stable

This the second installation of an article series contributed by Ladysmith City Alderman Alan Christianson, Sr.

Development based on local natural resources is the most likely to succeed here because it is tied to the land. This is obviously true with agriculture, tourism and timber production which grew around the lakes, farmland and woodland in our area over one century ago. These industries remain a stable backbone for our area because they are directly dependent on the land itself.

While the number of people employed in agriculture is down, owing largely to mechanization, the amount of land it uses is likely at an all-time high. Because most ag land is used directly or indirectly for food production the market is stable. The “fairgrounds” in counties like ours are testaments to agriculture’s importance. While dairying has declined, cash cropping has grown. What might the future hold? Maybe there will be some shift to higher value specialty crops like asparagus.

Tourism in our lake, river and stream areas has also evolved from fishing based to include recreational boating along with prized home and cabin sites where owners and users place a high value on the scenery. There doesn’t seem to be a decline in this trend as campgrounds keep starting up and expanding bringing in temporary residents who help support local businesses.

Timber production was our first major industry, leaving us with cleared land to be

turned into farmland and, often times, our community names. While there are solid markets for our better quality and most desirable species of timber, like red oak and hard maple, we have grown roughly twice the amount of wood that we have used for quite some time. Lower quality wood has found some markets such as P.J. Murphy Forest Products and Indeck, but more are needed. That may be about to change with announcement of plans to develop a multi-million dollar enterprise in the Hayward area that will convert low quality wood and what has been waste into aviation fuel. Our area is close enough that it will be a source of supply. That will mean additional jobs in logging and trucking. It may make timber sales more profitable.

It is important that our local governments stay involved with local development in order to guide change in these, our primary economic drivers.

It might not be so evident that mining can have long lasting benefits with the Flambeau Mine having a short 4.25 year production life. As was pointed out in the first article in this series many of the County and City economic development projects carried out in the past quarter century were financed from mining funds. The projects were designed to recycle those monies in order to carry the benefits forward. That doesn’t have to be a “once and done” either. It is known that ore deposits of the Flambeau Mine’s type tend to occur in clusters. There is a small deposit

called “Schoolhouse” only about one mile south of the Flambeau Mine. There is another only about three miles north of it that may be the largest by volume in the State. It was named the Eisenbrey Deposit after the geologist who initially confirmed its existence. While it is known to likely be as large as the much better-known Crandon deposit, perhaps even larger, it contains much lower quality ore. So, while it is not deemed economically viable to mine now, that could change with advances in mining technology, which are likely to come with time.

Mining firms, which were active in Wisconsin until a statewide moratorium was adopted in 1997, were optimistic that several more deposits would be found after exploration would be resumed. Activity is happening now with Greenlight Metals completing Phase 1 drilling of its Bend Deposit located near Perkinstown in next door Taylor County. This is only about 10 miles from the SE corner of Rusk County so will have a positive impact on our area. Greenlight also has other Wisconsin deposits and would develop a concentrating facility to potentially serve all of them along with those yet to be discovered. As such it could operate for a very long time. This facility will be a major economic force in the locality in which it locates. Rusk County is the only one of Wisconsin’s 72 counties to have hosted a metallic mineral mine in the past 40 years so is in a position to pursue this prize. Let the work begin.



FAB LAB — The router in the Career & Tech-Ed department is a key piece of equipment in the Fab Lab at Ladysmith Middle & High School

Pella celebrates Manufacturing Month with Ladysmith Fab Lab donation

By Luke Klink

Following Pella Corporation’s acquisition of Weather Shield in July and during Manufacturing Month this October, the companies are celebrating by giving back to the communities where their team members show up every day to manufacture high quality products for their customers.

The acquisition brought together two leaders in the window and door industry with complementary capabilities and a shared commitment to innovation, craftsmanship, exceptional customer experience and community investment. Since Weather Shield joined the Pella family of brands, both companies are positioned for accelerated growth, offering expanded capabilities and even more value to customers in the future.

Through Pella Corporation’s acquisition of Weather Shield, the company is reinforcing its same commitment to the communities of Medford, Ladysmith and Park Falls as it does in every community nationwide where Pella team members live and work.

As part of Pella’s celebration of Weather Shield joining the Pella family of brands, the Pella Rolscreen Foundation announced it will award three \$10,000 grants to three nonprofits — one in each of the three Wisconsin communities in which Weather Shield operates. The grants will support the following efforts:

STEM Education at The “Fab Lab” — The School District of Ladysmith will be able to purchase new equipment to support the ongoing success of the district’s Fabrication Laboratory, or “Fab Lab.” Fab Labs provide hands-on experience in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics

(STEM).

Equine Assisted Services for Veterans Operation Horses Heal, located north of Medford in Westboro — It plans to expand equine-related support to veterans through the purchase of a mobile outreach unit. The nonprofit supports veterans, active service members and their families through equine-related activities that reduce stress and isolation.

Food Pantry Support The Lord’s Cupboard in Park Falls — It will use its grant to purchase food to support community members in Price County and southern Ashland County who are facing food insecurity.

Ladysmith Middle & High School Tech-ed teacher and Career and Technical Education Coordinator Kyle Jeffress expressed the district’s sincere appreciation to the Pella Rolscreen Foundation and Weather Shield for their \$10,000 donation in support of the Fab Lab.

“We deeply value this community partnership and their commitment to investing in education and workforce development right here in Ladysmith,” Jeffress said.

District officials plan to use this donation to strengthen the Fab Lab’s capabilities and to serve as potential matching funds for a Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Fab Lab grant or a Wisconsin Fast Forward grant.

“Either route we pursue, our goal is to multiply the impact of this gift and further expand opportunities for our students to engage in hands-on, real-world learning through advanced manufacturing and fabrication technologies,” Jeffress said.

Jeffress called the donation part of “a

shared vision for the future of our students and community.”

“This contribution helps us continue building a space where students can develop critical skills, creativity, and innovation. These are qualities that will serve them well in future careers and strengthen our local economy right here in Rusk County,” Jeffress said.

“The culture of caring throughout Weather Shield and Pella Corporation is what makes us not only a great place to work but also a strong community champion,” said Bob Foote, president of Weather Shield. “As Weather Shield continues building our relationship with Pella, we look forward to future opportunities to invest in our team members, our commitment to innovation and our support of our communities.”

Pella has been creating a brighter future for its customers, communities, and team members since 1925. Founded in 1955, Weather Shield is based in Medford.

“Reaching our 100th anniversary is a testament to the power of American manufacturing and the dedicated teams who make our success possible,” said Roger Marin, VP Manufacturing & Logistics at Pella Corporation. “Every decision we make is for the benefit of our customers, who have been integral to our longevity. Beyond making great products, Pella is all about fostering a culture where collaboration drives innovation at every level — within our teams, across our family of brands, with our industry partners, and especially with the communities we call home.”

Manufacturing Month, observed annually in October, highlights the importance of the manufacturing industry to the economy.



PLASMA — The plasma cutter in action sends up a brilliant display of sparks as it cuts metal. Pella Corporation’s acquisition of Weather Shield in July and during Manufacturing Month this October,

Rusk County real estate transactions

These Are The Rusk County Real Estate Transactions Recorded With The Wisconsin Department Of Revenue From Sept. 1-15, 2025. Wisconsin Property Sales Information Is Available On The Wisconsin Department Of Revenue Website.

Town of Atlanta

W11401 Bendor Rd. Robert Sappington, Boardman, Ore., to Harriett Green-Sappington, Boardman, Ore. \$172,500. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

W11401 Bendor Rd. Harriett P. Green-Sappington, Boardman, Ore., to Jeremy D. & Shawna L. Miller, Bruce, \$345,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

W12298 Bernard Road. Steven C. And Mary A. Tiegs, Bruce, to Mathew A. Tiegs, Rice Lake, \$127,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Gift.

Town of Big Bend

W13263 South Hutchinson Road. Cynthia L. Janer A/K/A Cynthia Lee Janer, Ocala, Fla., to Connie J Goin, Bruce, \$197,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

Town of Cedar Rapids

W3926 County Road B, Glen Flora Wi 54526. Martin J. Hendricks, Cadott/Alan Goulet, Cadott/David H. Schmidt, Cleveland, Ga., to Aaron P. Brunette, Bloomer, \$52,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

Town of Dewey

Lake Shore Dr. David J. Boss, Ladysmith, to Travis Krizan, Ladysmith/Cory Krizan, Ladysmith. \$156,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

W5942 Happy Acres Rd. The Bartig Brothers Property Trust, Houlton, to The Bartig Survivors Trust F/K/A The Donald H. Bartig And Elizabeth Bartig Joint Revocable Living Trust, Ladysmith. \$0. Quit Claim Deed/Gift.

U.S. Highway 8, Ladysmith, Wi 54848. Jerry D. Leonhard, Buckeye, Ariz./Dona M. Leonhard Revocable Living Trust Dated March 9, 2023, And Any Amendments Thereto, St. Paul, Minn., to Ronald E Sanford, Brooklyn Center, Minn. \$129,333. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

U.S. Highway 8, Ladysmith, Wi 54848. Ronald E. Sanford, Brooklyn Center, Minn., to Ronald E. & Theoline Sanford. \$36,900. Quit Claim Deed/Putting Wife In Title With Husband.

Town of Flambeau

W8955 Cty Rd A, Ladysmith, Wi 54848. Dale & Deborah Brandstatter, Tomah, to Michelle E Johnson, Ladysmith. \$240,000. Land Contract/Org Sale.

Baker Ave. Katherine A Beyersdorf, Greenfield, to Theresa Krznarich, Franklin. \$5,000. Other/Termination of Decedent.

Baker Ave. Theresa Krznarich, Franklin, to The Richard G. Moore And Tammy J. Moore Revocable Trust Dated January 15, 2018, Ladysmith. \$5,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

Sunfish Lake Road. ADT Holdings Llc, Eau Claire, to Kevin E. Dicus, Spring Valley. \$115,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

Townline Road. Wayne A. And Vicki L. Ewer, Ladysmith, to Jared W. Squires, Conrath. \$7,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

W7690 E. Cutoff Rd, Ladysmith, Wi 54848. Darrell Price, Rice Lake, to Mike And Leah Greene, Cadott. \$99,500. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

Town of Grant

W9649 Strom Rd, Paul C. Copas, Ladysmith/Roberta J. Copas, Ladysmith, to The Paul G. Copas And Roberta J. Copas Family Trust Dated May 16, 2025, Ladysmith. \$147,300. Other/Correction Deed.

Town of Grow

W6087 Main Valley Rd. Brenda S. McMahon, Tony, to Scott A Lybert, Tony. \$19,425. Other/This Is A Gift, But It Is A Correction Instrument Correcting Document 8053302.

Town of Hawkins

40 Acres East of County Rd M. Donald J. Eserhut, Fond Du Lac, to Donald J. And Rhoda L. Eserhut Revocable Trust Dated September 3, 2025, Fond Du Lac. \$48,900. Quit Claim Deed/to A Trust.

N5797 Morgan Road. Leslie W. Kozub, Hawkins, to Leslie W. Kozub, Hawkins/Cheona J. Kozub, Hawkins. \$58,700. Quit Claim Deed/Transfer to Joint Tenants With Rights of Survivorship.

Town of Hubbard

County Road J. Eugene And Patricia Irish, Ladysmith, to Shelly Colbenson, Bruce/Kim Irish, Lindenhurst, Ill/Stacy Hoel, Chippewa Falls/Stacey Rockensock, Otonville, Minn/Toni Skogstad, Glen Flora/Amy Gifford, Exeland. \$255,700. Warranty/Condo Deed/Gift.

Godfrey Rd. David L., Hamilton II, Ladysmith, to Jonathan W. A/K/A John W. Hamilton, Racine. \$47,450. Other/Termination of Decedent.

Godfrey Rd. Tiffani Behr, Racine/Kaya Hamilton, Wausau, to Jonathan W. A/K/A John W. Hamilton. \$47,450. Quit Claim Deed/Relinquish Any Interest As Heirs.

Town of Lawrence

N3499 County Road B. William D. Kettering, Middleton, to Kettering Family Trust Dated September 4, 2025, Middleton. \$152,400. Warranty/Condo Deed/Transfer to Revocable Trust.

Town of Marshall

N1824 Market Road. Sharon Dicus, Sheldon, to Amy Thorson, Sheldon/Wendy Manglos, Sheldon. \$102,800. Other/Gift.

N850 County Road D. The Nossor Living Trust Dated 5-01-2009, Sheldon, to Tonya Ray Prokop, Sheldon. \$25,000. Other/Gift.

Town of Richland

W2550 Nessa Rd. Timothy J. Kem, Glen Flora/Lori L. Kem, Glen Flora, to Thomas J. Brouillard, Glen Flora. \$800. Quit Claim Deed/Org Sale.

Town of Rusk

W15133 Bear Lake Road, Chetek, Wi 54728. Anne H. Ferrell, Minneapolis, Minn. Pine Lake Irrevocable GST Trust Under Agreement Dated July 2, 2024, Minneapolis, Minn. \$1,150,000. Quit Claim Deed/Gift.

Town of Strickland

N3703 County Rd W. Jessie F. Prince, Bloomer/Shell L. Prince, Bloomer, to Robert S. Bush, Weyerhaeuser/Kristel L. Bush, Weyerhaeuser. \$45,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

W15992 Balsam Avenue, Weyerhaeuser, Wi 54895. Paul V. And Lindsey Mumm, Chetek, to Dale Reinhard And Kathleen Metty-Reinhard, Sherwood, Calif. \$550,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

Town of Stubbs

N4575 Nachtwey Rd. Margaret A. Olesiak, Weyerhaeuser/John W. Svoma, Bruce/Jean M. Weissner, Bruce/Janet L. Storing, Bloomer, to Colleen C. Svoma, Bruce. \$240,000. Quit Claim Deed/Gift.

Jones Rd, Bruce, Wi 54819. Scott A. Harris, Bruce/Shawn P. Harris, Bruce/Robert Flood, Grayslake, Ill/Larry M. & Marilyn A. Harris, Bruce/Frank G. Maierhofer And Deborah A. Maierhofer Revocable Trust Dated April 22, 2025, Sobieski, to Daniel J. & Cheryl R. Petrus, Bruce. \$450,000. Other/Correction

Town of True

Lelm Drive, Glen Flora, Wi 54526.

Kevin Engholm, Brainerd, Minn., to Mark & Lisa Stamper, Glen Flora. \$170,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

N6025 County Road B. Gerald W. Andrews Revocable Trust Dated April 5, 2018, Eau Claire, to Sonia D. Harvey, Glen Flora/Nathan D. Rymarkiewicz, Glen Flora. \$185,000. Other/Org Sale.

N5719 Thatcher Rd Glen Flora, Wi 54526. Colin A. Stamper, Glen Flora, to Kevin C. Grothousen, Ramsey, Minn. \$169,900. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

Town of Washington

N680 Cty Rd E, Bruce, Wi 54819. Nicholas J. & Sarah J. Cudd, Roberts, to Kevin Smith, Bruce. \$85,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

N1897 E River Run Road, Ladysmith, Wi 54848. Jessica Larkin, Columbia Heights, Minn., to Jessica G. Larkin Trust Dated August 6, 2025, Columbia Heights, Minn. \$200,000. Quit Claim Deed/to Trust.

W11874 Oakwood Drive Bruce Wi 54819. Steven P. Rosenwinkel, Herbster, to Julie A. Rosenwinkel, Herbster/Sherry B. Rosenwinkel, Sycamore, Ill. \$40,000. Other/Termination of Decedent’s Interest.

W11874 Oakwood Drive Bruce Wi 54819. Julie A. Rosenwinkel, Herbster, to Iris I. Rosenwinkel, Herbster. \$75,000. Quit Claim Deed/Gift.

N1301 Pulaski Lake Road. Amfmin Giske, Bruce, to Giske And Sterling Revocable Trust, Dated September 11, 2025, Bruce. \$256,700. Quit Claim Deed/to Trust.

Town of Willard

W8404 County Road D Conrath, Wi 54731. Scott A. Schleicher, Conrath, To. Tara L. Schleicher, Conrath. \$223,200. Other/Term Decedents Intrest

W8379 County Road D. The Estate of Patrick H. Villalpando, Evers, to Rhonda M. Wallace, Holcombe. \$175,100. Other/Estimate to Heir

Village of Sheldon

N635 2nd Avenue, Sheldon, Wi 54766. David & Sarah Wiacek, Sheldon, to Tori J. Avery, Sheldon. \$120,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale

Village of Tony

None.

Village of Weyerhaeuser

7th Street. Robert J. Grzegorek, Elk Mound, to Nathan Cooper, Cameron. \$15,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

City of Ladysmith

105 Miner Ave W, Ladysmith, Wi 54848. Troy Loomis, Winter, to BCP Suites LLC, New Auburn. \$225,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

Vacant. Phillips Avenue Development LLC, Ladysmith, to City of Ladysmith, Ladysmith. \$20,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Gift.

College Avenue W. County of Rusk, Ladysmith, to Flambeau River Outfitters, LLC, Conrath. \$200,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

319 1st St S, Ladysmith, Wi 54848. Matthew M. & Dina M. Shinabery, Bessemer, Mich., to Timothy P.Callow, Ladysmith. \$155,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

River Ave E, Ladysmith, Wi 54848. Walter S. Poradish, Ill & Nancy L. Poradish, Bruce, to John T. & Kari L. Egan, Ladysmith. \$307,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.

1305 River Avenue E, Ladysmith, Wi 54848. Nicholas James & Amy Marie Besasie, Plover, to Joseph A Bulliner II & Angel D. Bulliner, Ladysmith. \$293,000. Warranty/Condo Deed/Org Sale.



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