

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# SMALL COMMUNITY FORUMS COMING UP IN CRIVITZ, INDEPENDENCE, NEKOOSA, AND PARDEEVILLE

*Sessions provide participants opportunity to network, share best practices  
and identify strategies for small community success.*

Register at [www.wiruralpartners.org/community-forums](http://www.wiruralpartners.org/community-forums)

Over half of Wisconsin's cities and villages are communities of fewer than 2,500 residents. Despite their large number, these small communities represent a wide variety of geographic and economic areas within the state. Because of their small size, these municipalities have unique issues and needs that are often very different from those of larger communities.

Now in their ninth year, a series of **Small Community Forums** will be held in four locations in August and September, to allow residents in these communities to come together, address common issues, network, share best practices, and identify strategies to address shared concerns. Representatives from many state and regional resource partners will be on hand to connect with attendees and provide guidance on specific concerns introduced during the sessions.

These convenings are about sharing ideas, learning and networking concerning the health and future of rural Wisconsin. People interested in small town and rural Wisconsin are invited to attend, including those involved in quality of life issues, business, government, education, the nonprofit sector, civic and community development. Civic leaders, elected officials, volunteers, business leaders, educators, and local and regional economic development associations are encouraged to participate. Case study presentations and resource discussions will focus on infrastructure, partnership, innovation, inclusion in housing, creative economy, childcare, and workforce development, among other issues.

## **Forum dates and locations** *(subject to change)*

- **Thursday, August 8 – Crivitz** | Crivitz Village Hall, 800 Henriette Avenue
- **Wednesday, August 21- Independence** | Independence Opera House, 23688 Adams Street
- **Wednesday, August 28 – Pardeeville** | Pardeeville Village Hall, 114 Lake Street
- **Wednesday, September 11 – Nekoosa** | Nekoosa Community Center, 416 Crestview Lane

Each Forum starts with coffee and rolls at 7:30 am, followed by the program from 8 am – 12 noon, and ending with lunch for all, 12 noon – 1 pm. Registration at each site opens at 7 am. The registration fee is \$20 and includes coffee, lunch and materials. Register at [www.wiruralpartners.org/community-forums](http://www.wiruralpartners.org/community-forums).

Matt Trotter, a past Forum participant and small business owner in Princeton, had this to say about the forums: “As a small business owner, finding ways to help our community thrive and grow is important from a personal and professional standpoint. Being able to network and gather creative ideas and best practices from others in similar situations is a really valuable experience. I came away from the forums refreshed and reenergized.”

**The 2019 Small Community Forums are made possible through a coalition of statewide agencies and organizations involved in rural community development:** [Arts Wisconsin](#), [Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation](#), [Wisconsin Downtown Action Council](#), [Wisconsin Rural Partners](#), [UW-Extension Center for Community and Economic Development](#), [League of Wisconsin Municipalities](#), and [USDA Rural Development-Wisconsin](#).

For more information, go to [www.wiruralpartners.org/community-forums](http://www.wiruralpartners.org/community-forums) or contact Anne Katz at [akatz@artswisconsin.org](mailto:akatz@artswisconsin.org).

