

MARSHFIELD NOW!

Community News and TV News for the Week of March 23rd, 2026

www.marshfieldbroadcasting.com - Local Community Information - TV Guide - Vol #2 Issue #12 Free - Take One

Loss of a community member , friend and community producer - Marshfield Broadcasting

Lights, Camera, Polka: The Rhythm of a Life Well Lived

A Tribute to James David Asplin In Marshfield, Wisconsin, where community stories are stitched together through shared laughter, music, and tradition, one man made sure the sound of polka would never fade.



James "Jim" Asplin didn't just love polka — he lived it.

Long after his working days at Marshfield Wilbert Vault Company came to a close, Jim found a new rhythm in life. Retirement wasn't a slowing down for him; it was a spotlight turning on. In 2007, with the same adventurous spirit that once led him skydiving and parasailing, Jim launched something that would become a local treasure: Polka Potpourri.

What began as a simple idea —

capturing the joy of polka dancing — quickly grew into something much bigger. With cameras rolling and music playing, Jim created a space where community members became stars, dance floors became stages, and tradition found a new home on television.

Later, alongside his beloved wife Mary, the show evolved into "Lights, Camera, Polka." The name fit perfectly. Because for Jim, every episode was more than just a recording — it was a celebration. Over the next 19 years, Jim and Mary, along with dedicated friends like Dan Jirovec and Evans Benz, produced and edited more than 1,000 episodes. What started in Marshfield didn't stay there. The show traveled — broadcast across communities and syndicated throughout the United States — carrying with it the unmistakable joy of accordion melodies, spinning dancers, and smiling faces.

But the real magic of Lights, Camera, Polka wasn't just the music. It was Jim.

He greeted people with warmth, encouraged first-time dancers, and made everyone feel like they belonged. Whether you were a lifelong polka enthusiast or someone just stepping onto the dance floor for the first time, Jim made sure you felt part of something special.

His adventurous spirit never left him — it simply found a new expression. Instead of jumping out of airplanes, he lifted spirits. Instead of chasing thrills, he created them for others.

Even as he faced the long and difficult journey with Progressive Supranuclear

Palsy (PSP), Jim's legacy continued to play on — quite literally — in living rooms across the country. Each episode stands as a testament to his dedication, his creativity, and his love for bringing people together.

Today, the music continues. The lights still shine. The cameras still roll.

And somewhere, on a dance floor or a television screen, couples are still spinning to the rhythm Jim helped preserve.

Because of him, polka in Marshfield isn't just remembered — it's alive.

Jim Asplin leaves behind more than a program. He leaves behind a legacy of joy, community, and connection — one song, one step, one show at a time.

And as the music plays on, so does the man who made sure it never stopped.



Live Broadcast

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS WEEK OF March 23 - 27

Tuesday
Common Council - 6pm

Veteran reflects on Air Force intelligence role, life of service and discipline

MARSHFIELD, Wis. — For Harry Nienaber, memories of his time in the U.S. Air Force remain vivid, even decades after his service ended.

Nienaber, now 84, grew up on a farm in northern Minnesota as one of eight children before enlisting in 1961 at age 19. What followed was nearly four years of service that took him far from home and into the world of Cold War intelligence.



Assigned to the Air Force Security Service, Nienaber worked as a radio intercept analyst — a role requiring top-secret clearance. His job involved monitoring and interpreting communications, often originating from Russian satellite stations across Europe and Asia.

“It was basically learning how intelligence works,” he said, describing months of training before deployment.

After completing schooling, Nienaber was stationed on the island of Crete in the Mediterranean, where he spent about a year and a half at a remote air base of roughly 300 airmen. There, operations ran around the clock, with analysts like Nienaber working eight-hour shifts interpreting Morse code transmissions and radio signals.

The work was intense and, at times, secretive.

“We were told to keep our mouth shut,” he said. “You don’t talk about what you

did.”

His time overseas coincided with major global events, including the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and heightened Cold War tensions. During such moments, the base went into lockdown, and intelligence operations intensified.

Despite the seriousness of his role, Nienaber said the experience also brought camaraderie and opportunity. While stationed abroad, he took college courses through the University of Maryland, completing six business classes that later transferred toward his degree.

“I got to go to places I would have never gone to otherwise,” he said.

After leaving the service early to attend college, Nienaber built a career in business and operations, working for companies including Investors Diversified Services, Fingerhut and Figge’s. He later served as a county fair manager and remained active in local government and community organizations.

Looking back, he said the military instilled discipline and self-reliance — qualities he believes are still valuable for young people today.

“You’ve got to learn to discipline yourself,” he said. “Or you’re going to get in trouble.”

Though he no longer keeps in touch with fellow service members — in part due to the secrecy of their work — Nienaber said the experience shaped his life in lasting ways.

“I enjoyed my time in the service,” he said. “It was fun.”

Proposed bill targets cryptocurrency scams; sheriff highlights safety, remembrance and community efforts

By David Murchland - Marshfield Now!

Wood County, Wis. — A bipartisan bill aimed at curbing cryptocurrency-related scams is advancing in the Wisconsin Legislature, as local law enforcement continues to warn residents about increasingly sophisticated fraud schemes.



Wood County Sheriff Shawn Becker said Assembly Bill 968, which has already passed unanimously in the Assembly, would place a \$1,000 daily limit on cryptocurrency kiosk transactions and require refunds for fraudulent activity. The measure is now awaiting action in the state Senate.

Officials say the legislation is intended to protect vulnerable residents, particularly seniors, who are often targeted by scammers. Law enforcement agencies have been dealing with such cases for several years, with many involving funds quickly transferred outside of the United States, making recovery difficult.

Authorities urge anyone who suspects a scam to contact local law enforcement and consult their financial institution before making large withdrawals.

Becker also reflected on the 23rd anniversary of the death of Adams County Deputy Michael Shannon, who was killed in the line of duty on March 7, 2003, while responding to a dispute. The incident, he said, underscores the risks officers face and has influenced training and equipment decisions, including the eventual acquisition of armored vehicles for tactical teams.

In infrastructure developments, officials announced plans to construct

a J-turn intersection at Highway 10 and Highway 186, a site of previous fatal crashes. The project is scheduled to begin in 2030 and is expected to improve traffic safety, though it stops short of more costly alternatives such as overpasses.

Meanwhile, Wood County Rescue Director Mike Wiberg has been named First Responder of the Year by a state lawmaker, recognizing his years of volunteer service and leadership during emergency situations.

Local officials also highlighted ongoing rehabilitation efforts within the county jail through a partnership with Mid-State Technical College. The program allows inmates to earn a GED or participate in culinary training, providing skills intended to support successful reentry into the community.

Community engagement remains a priority, with upcoming events such as a K-9 unit fundraiser helping support law enforcement programs largely funded through public donations.

Authorities continue to stress vigilance, collaboration and community involvement as key components in addressing both crime and public safety challenges.

Local Library to Temporarily Close April 13–15 for System Upgrade

The local library will be closed from April 13 through April 15 as it undergoes a significant technology upgrade in partnership with the South Central Library System consortium. The brief closure will allow staff to transition to a new Integrated Library System (ILS), a core platform that manages circulation, catalog access, and patron accounts.

Library officials say the downtime is necessary to complete the system changeover, conduct testing, and ensure services are functioning properly ahead

of reopening on April 16. However, patrons should expect some limitations in services immediately following the reopening as staff continue to adjust to the new system.

During the closure, no in-person services will be available. Patrons will not be able to check out or return materials inside the building, and access to the online catalog and other digital services will also be temporarily unavailable. To minimize inconvenience, any due dates that fall within the closure period will automatically be extended, and no late fees will be charged for that timeframe.



Staff will use the closure period to verify records, update equipment, and complete training on the new system. According to library representatives, the upgraded ILS is expected to deliver a more user-friendly catalog, enhanced search features, and faster checkout processes once fully operational.

Library leaders expressed appreciation for the community's patience during the transition and said they look forward to welcoming patrons back when regular hours resume on April 16.

For more information or assistance, patrons can contact the Information Desk by calling (715) 387-8494, extension 2, or by reaching out through the library's Facebook or Instagram pages.

Hillside Cemetery Sets April 1 Deadline for Removal of Winter Decorations

MARSHFIELD, Wis. (March 10, 2026) — All winter decorations, containers

and other adornments at Hillside Cemetery must be removed by April 1 as part of the cemetery's annual spring clean-up, according to cemetery officials.

Any items remaining after that date will be discarded by staff beginning April 1.

Officials said summer decorations may be placed at gravesites starting April 11. Decorations must be placed on or in line with headstones — either directly on them or to the side — and must not obstruct cemetery maintenance.

The cemetery also strongly encourages visitors not to leave items of significant monetary or sentimental value on gravesites. Such items should be kept in a safe place outside the public cemetery grounds where they cannot be lost, stolen, damaged or removed.

For a complete list of cemetery rules and fall and spring clean-up dates, visit the Hillside Cemetery webpage at cityofmarshfieldwi.gov and select Departments, Parks & Recreation, then Cemetery Division.

Questions can be directed to the cemetery office at 715-486-2098 or by email at hilltop@cityofmarshfieldwi.gov

Early In-Person Voting Opens March 24 at Marshfield City Hall

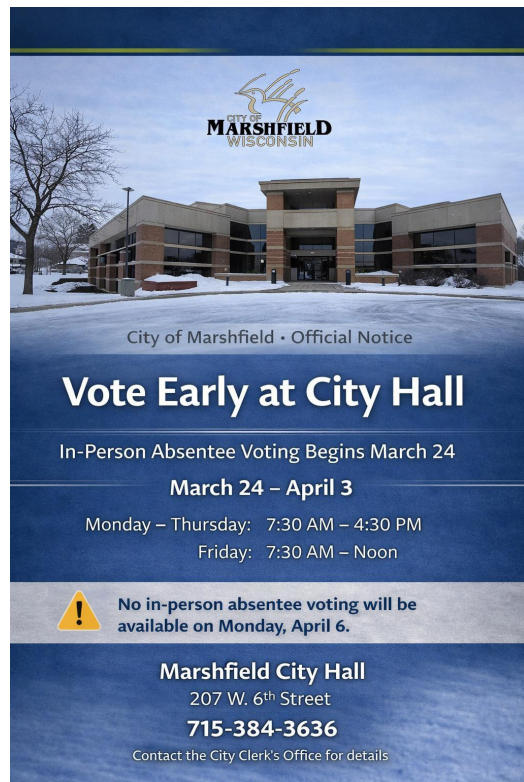
The City of Marshfield reminds residents that in-person absentee voting for the April 7, 2026, Spring Election will be available at Marshfield City Hall beginning Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

In-person absentee voting will be held during the following hours:

- March 24 – April 3, 2026
- Monday – Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Friday: 7:30 a.m. to Noon

Residents wishing to vote absentee in person should report to City Hall during the designated hours.

The Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026.



For questions about voting or absentee ballots, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 715-384-3636.

City of Marshfield Seeking Applicants for Boards, Committees, and Commissions

The City of Marshfield is inviting residents to apply for openings on various City boards, committees, and commissions. These positions provide an opportunity for community members to take an active role in local government and contribute to decisions that shape the future of Marshfield.

Individuals interested in serving are encouraged to submit a letter of interest to the City Clerk outlining their qualifications and reasons for applying. Letters must be received no later than Monday, April 6, 2026.

Appointments will be made following the Spring Election in accordance with City procedures, with recommendations brought forward to the Common Council for confirmation.

Information about each board,

including responsibilities and meeting schedules, is available on the City's website.

Terms for appointments typically range from three to seven years, depending on the board or commission.

Current Openings Include:

The following opportunities are available:

- Airport Committee (1)
- Zoning Board of Appeals (1)
- Board of Review (1)
- Business Improvement District (2) – must be a downtown business owner/manager
- City Plan Commission (2)
- Committee on Aging (3)
- Communications Committee (1)
- Ethics Committee (1)
- Fire and Police Commission (1)
- Historic Preservation Commission (2)
- Library Board (3)
- Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee (2)
- Utility Commission (1)

“Serving on a City board, committee, or commission is an important way for residents to be involved in local government,” said Jessica Schiferl, City Clerk. “We encourage community members with an interest in public service to apply and take part in this process.”

Residents interested in public service are encouraged to apply.

For questions regarding the application process, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 715-486-2022

Thank you to Everyone Who Cleared Snow Around Fire Hydrants after the Storm

The City of Marshfield extends its appreciation to residents who cleared snow around fire hydrants following the

recent storm.

Keeping fire hydrants visible and accessible is critical to emergency response. Clear access allows firefighters to quickly connect to a water source, helping reduce response time when every second matters.

Residents with a fire hydrant near their property are encouraged to maintain a clear path to the hydrant and clear snow within a 3-foot radius around it.

These efforts play an important role in supporting public safety throughout the community.

Marshfield Fire Department says, “Thank you, Marshfield, for your continued cooperation and commitment to keeping our community safe.”

Annual Arbor Day Celebration

The City of Marshfield Parks & Recreation Department will host its 5th Annual Arbor Day Celebration on Thursday, April 16, 2026, from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Braem Park (905 N Cedar Avenue).

During the event, the City Forester will give a short Arbor Day presentation and demonstrate the proper way to plant a tree. Participants will then work together to help plant approximately 140 trees at the park.

Students will break into small groups with a group leader and assist with planting the trees and covering the roots with soil. All tools will be provided.

Participants are encouraged to wear clothes that can get dirty.

The Arbor Day celebration highlights the importance of trees in the community, expands Marshfield's urban forest, and provides a hands-on learning opportunity for students.

| Producers Channel 989 | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Monday 3-23-2026 | Tuesday 3-24-2026 | Wednesday 3-25-2026 | Thursday 3-26-2026 | Friday 3-27-2026 | Saturday 3-28-2026 | Sunday 3-29-2026 | Monday 3-30-2026 |
| 12:30:00 AM | | | | | | | | |
| 1:00:00 AM | | | | | | Chiller Night Theatre | Chiller Night Theatre | |
| 1:30:00 AM | | | | | | | | |
| 2:00:00 AM | Producers Pick | Producers Pick | Producers Pick | Producers Pick | Producers Pick | | | Producers Pick |
| 2:30:00 AM | | | | | | | | |
| 3:00:00 AM | | | | | | Lord Blood Rabs Theatre | Lord Blood Rabs Theatre | |
| 3:30:00 AM | | | | | | | | |
| 4:00:00 AM | Science Series | Science 360 | Science Series | Science 360 | Science Series | | | Science Series |
| 4:30:00 AM | | | | | | | | |
| 5:00:00 AM | | | | | | Science 360 | Science 360 | |
| 5:30:00 AM | | | | | | | | |
| 6:00:00 AM | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka |
| 6:30:00 AM | Get Healthy With Holly | Get Healthy With Holly | Food For Thought | Get Healthy With Holly | Get Healthy With Holly | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Get Healthy With Holly |
| 7:00:00 AM | Yoga For Health | Yoga For Health | Yoga For Health | Yoga For Health | Yoga For Health | Lights, Camera, Polka | 1st Presbyterian | Yoga For Health |
| 7:30:00 AM | Daceys Divas | Daceys Divas | Daceys Divas | Daceys Divas | Daceys Divas | Lights, Camera, Polka | | Daceys Divas |
| 8:00:00 AM | Brethren Voices | Brethren Voices | Brethren Voices | Brethren Voices | Brethren Voices | Lights, Camera, Polka | | Brethren Voices |
| 8:30:00 AM | Two Grannys on the road | Two Grannys on the road | Two Grannys on the road | Science 360 | Two Grannys on the road | Lights, Camera, Polka | Catholic Diocese of Burlington | Two Grannys on the road |
| 9:00:00 AM | Vibrant Living Series | Vibrant Living Series | Vibrant Living Series | Vibrant Living Series | Vibrant Living Series | Lights, Camera, Polka | East Gate | Vibrant Living Series |
| 9:30:00 AM | | | | | | Lights, Camera, Polka | | |
| 10:00:00 AM | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | | Lights, Camera, Polka |
| 10:30:00 AM | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | Lights, Camera, Polka | TV Mass | Lights, Camera, Polka |
| 11:00:00 AM | TV Mass | 1st Presbyterian | East Gate | Christ Lutheran | Faith Lutheran | Lights, Camera, Polka | Christ Lutheran | TV Mass |
| 11:30:00 AM | Faith Lutheran | | | | | Lights, Camera, Polka | | Faith Lutheran |
| 12:00 PM | | | | 1st Presbyterian | | Lights, Camera, Polka | Faith Lutheran | |
| 12:30:00 PM | | Christ Lutheran | Calvary Bible | | Immanuel Lutheran | Lights, Camera, Polka | | |
| 1:00:00 PM | East Gate | | | | | Lights, Camera, Polka | | East Gate |
| 1:30:00 PM | | Immanuel Lutheran | | It's Happening Classics | | Lights, Camera, Polka | Calvary Bible | |
| 2:00:00 PM | | | | | Good Shepherd | Lights, Camera, Polka | | |
| 2:30:00 PM | Small Factory | | Small Factory | | | Lights, Camera, Polka | Immanuel Lutheran | Small Factory |
| 3:00:00 PM | Cosettes Enchanted Journey | Good Shepherd | Cosettes Enchanted Journey | Cosettes Enchanted Journey | Cosettes Enchanted Journey | The Hidden Truth | | Cosettes Enchanted Journey |
| 3:30:00 PM | The Childrens Corner | | The Childrens Corner | The Childrens Corner | The Childrens Corner | | | The Childrens Corner |
| 4:00:00 PM | Peak Moments | Peak Moments | It's Happening Classics | Peak Moments | Peak Moments | Christ In The Passover | Good Shepherd | Peak Moments |
| 4:30:00 PM | Meet The Author | Meet The Author | | Meet The Author | Meet The Author | | | Meer The Author |
| 5:00:00 PM | Sister In Arms | Sister In Arms | Sister in Arms | Sister in Arms | Sister In Arms | | Gay USA | Sister In Arms |
| 5:30:00 PM | It's Happening Classics | World War I And II History | World War I and II History | World War I and II History | Calvary Bible | Central Chamber Chorale 2026 | | It's Happening Classics |
| 6:00:00 PM | | Paltrocast | Paltrocast | Paltrocast | | | Everything LGBTQ | |
| 6:30:00 PM | | Sidewalks Entertainment | Sidewalks Entertainment | Sidewalks Entertainment | Sidewalks Entertainment | | | |
| 7:00:00 PM | NOWi | Ragtime All That Jazz | Christ In The Passover | Open Mic Night March '26 | NOWi | Ragtime All That Jazz | Open Mic Night March '26 | NOWi |
| 7:30:00 PM | Arts Alive | | | | Central Chamber Chorale 2026 | | | Arts Alive |
| 8:00:00 PM | Mo Jazz | Artist Mary Jo Fox | | Ice-Out Peaceful Protest 2026 | | Toni G Psychic Medium | Ice-Out Peaceful Protest 2026 | Mo Jazz |
| 8:30:00 PM | | Ice-Out Peaceful Protest 2026 | Artist Mary Jo Fox | Artist Mary Jo Fox | | | Artist Mary Jo Fox | |
| 9:00:00 PM | Mikes Music Spotlight | Mikes Music Spotlight | Mikes Music Spotlight | Mikes Music Spotlight | Mikes Music Spotlight | Mikes Music Spotlight | Mikes Music Spotlight | Mikes Music Spotlight |
| 9:30:00 PM | | | | | | | | |
| 10:00:00 PM | Rock N Roll Video Show | Bongo Music | Rock N Roll Video Show | Bongo Music | Rock N Roll Video Show | Late Night Movies | Late Night Movies | Open Mic Poetry |
| 10:30:00 PM | Open Mic Poetry | Bongo Music | Open Mic Poetry | Bongo Music | Open Mic Poetry | | | |
| 11:00:00 PM | Frack The Canon | Frack The Canon | Frack The Canon | Frack The Canon | Music Videos | | | Bongo Music |
| 11:30:00 PM | Ben And Kelly | Ben And Kelly | Ben And Kelly | Ben And Kelly | Music Videos | | | Bongo Music |
| 12:00 AM | Classic Night Movies | Classic Night Movies | Classic Night Movies | Classic Night Movies | Classic Night Movies | | | Classic Night Movies |



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF MARSHFIELD**

BREAKFAST WITH A PURPOSE!

A bright orange sun with rays is positioned behind the text. The rays extend outwards, creating a sunburst effect. The text 'Breakfast For BGC' is written in a large, bold, blue font with a white outline, set against the sunburst background.

**Breakfast
For BGC**

Join our community breakfast in support of the Boys & Girls Club of Marshfield and help fuel safe spaces, mentorship, and opportunities for local youth.

**RISE AND SHINE ON
SUNDAY, MAY 17
8:30 AM-11:30 AM**

**RiverEdge Golf Course & Banquet Facility
10191 Mill Creek Drive, Marshfield, WI 54449**