

(9/18/24 District Administrator's Corner Article)

Once a year, the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) allows districts to nominate and submit the names of local businesses that have been exceptionally supportive to our staff and students over the past year. Businesses help Wisconsin school districts in many ways, including: donating to scholarship programs, providing mentorship opportunities to students, delivering presentations to classes or schools, donating supplies, volunteering in schools, etc. The River Valley School District is very fortunate to have incredible consistent support. This year's recipients (listed below) will receive awards during the Homecoming football game on September 27, 2024.

**Spring Green Area Chamber of Commerce:** The Spring Green Area Chamber of Commerce is a collection of business leaders in the area that work together to serve, create, improve, and sustain the business climate and regional economy resulting in a great place to visit, live, work and play. Within our school year, the SGACC offers two "drives" throughout the community to collect donations for our students. At the end of the summer, a "School Supply Drive" is coordinated to collect school supplies so we can provide students with a confidential source for needed supplies. Later in the year, a "Hygiene Drive" is organized to collect personal care items (deodorant, toothpaste, soap, etc.) so school counselors can provide students with a confidential source for these needed items. The SGACC is generous and giving and supports our district.

**Arena Food Pantry:** The Arena Food Pantry and their volunteers positively affect our students on a weekly basis. These folks feed children in need through a "Weekend Backpack" program that is fully organized by this group of volunteers. A district office staff member picks up food that is organized by the Arena Food Pantry team, delivers it to each school site, and then the food is privately placed into backpacks or lockers for students in need. The Arena Food Pantry ultimately provides a bridge of food for some students from Friday to Monday when they return to school. This local business lives the mantra of generosity.

**Arcadia Books:** Arcadia Books is the "go-to spot" in our district when looking for a good book. A thoughtfully chosen selection is available for all ages of students and interests, including the newest releases and favorite classics from local or regional authors. The bookstore includes great selections in all genres of literature, history, mystery/sci-fi, cookbooks, poetry, and children's books. Arcadia Books is also a favorite of educators and often offers great pricing for teachers seeking classroom materials and literature. This local business is centrally located and has an outdoor space often shared by students and parents and community members. The owners of this business are school advocates and kind partners in offering students and staff great resources.

**The Gard Theater:** The Gard Theater is a small community theater run by a Community Theater Association as a non-profit organization in Spring Green. The Gard Theater is a home for low cost mainstream and independent films for families in our school district. In addition to this, the theater offers live performances and is the home of River Valley Players (Spring Green's community theater organization). The theater also sponsors free films throughout the year for families and offers their stage to our middle school Shakespeare Club for performances. This theater is a great resource and as a district without a performing arts space, we utilize this space when needed.

**Trader's Bar and Grill:** Trader's Bar and Grill clearly believes in community partnerships. Trader's is a local establishment in our district that is a popular gathering space for meals and

seasonal fun. Once a year on Christmas Day, this business opens their doors and their hearts to be generous by feeding kids and families that have nowhere else to go. Any donations which they receive during this event are forwarded to a local food pantry. This business exemplifies kindness and a community spirit each year.

We cannot do it alone. We appreciate each and every business that supports our River Valley School District families. The next time you visit one of these five businesses, know that they know how to pay it forward.

Mr. Loren G. Glasbrenner  
District Administrator