

Mineral Point, WI



Relocation Information
2016

Welcome Home

Whether you are considering a move to Mineral Point, or have already made the decision to relocate, we are pleased to welcome you to one of the best places to call home.

Mineral Point is a place that is filled with a special kind of charm and a sense of community that has been said to be as strong as the stone much of our downtown is built with. It doesn't take very long to discover why so many people are attracted to this community and why many claim they cannot imagine living anywhere else. Amidst the architecture, art, and agriculture, you will find an excellent place to raise a family or to retire.

Over the years, we have been honored with several awards. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has recognized us as one of a Dozen Distinctive Destinations in the nation. Among others, we have been called "the Most Historic Town" and the "Most Beautiful Town" in Wisconsin. Mostly though, the things that really matter are the people who will be your neighbors.

Mineral Point offers a second-to-none quality of life – excellent schools, honest and hard working people, low cost-of-living, low crime rates, quiet neighborhoods . . . and still a short drive from several metropolitan areas.

Make yourself at home and get involved with your new community. This guide will offer you several resources to get you started, but as questions arise, just give us a call or stop by either of our offices.

Joy Gieseke
Executive Director
Mineral Point Chamber of Commerce
225 High Street
608.987.3201
info@mineralpoint.com

Debi Heisner
City Administrator, Clerk-Treasurer
City of Mineral Point
137 High Street
608.987.2361
d.heisner@cityofmineralpoint.com

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A LITTLE BACKGROUND

HISTORY

Mineral Point is tucked in the rolling hills of Southwest Wisconsin. This area, known “driftless” was left untouched by glaciers, leaving minerals that were easily accessible at the surface. These minerals provided quick rewards to early prospectors and adventurers who swarmed the hills and lived in crude shelters that resembled badger holes. Wisconsin would later adopt The Badger State as its nickname. In the 1830s, news of these rich deposits of lead reached Cornwall, England. Cornish miners and their families started arriving in Mineral Point. These early immigrants possessed advanced mining skills as well as expertise in stone building construction. Their legacy is reflected in a remarkable inventory of mid-19th century architecture.

Mineral Point was an important center of early Wisconsin government. In 1829 Mineral Point became the county seat of the newly formed Iowa County. At the time Mineral Point had a population greater than that of Milwaukee and Chicago combined. Mineral Point has been dubbed the city “where Wisconsin began.” It was here, on July 4, 1836, Henry Dodge was inaugurated the first governor of the newly formed Wisconsin Territory. In the 1830s Mineral Point was a bustling, growing city that attracted many politically significant and influential people. Historians say that for over a decade the lead-mining country controlled Territorial Wisconsin, and the politics of Mineral Point controlled the mining country. Then in 1849, the California Gold Rush resulted in an exodus from the young city. 260 people departed in one day alone, and Mineral Point fell into a state of depression. A new industry, zinc mining, soon developed, and by 1891 the Mineral Point Zinc Co. was the largest zinc oxide works in the United States. In the 1870s agriculture was also becoming an important part of Mineral Point. By the turn of the century the dairy industry was well established. “Mineral Point” beef earned its own brand at the Chicago Stock market due to the quality of meat produced by cattle grazing on the native blue grasses in the surrounding countryside.

1935 marked the beginning of a preservation movement when Bob Neal and Edgar Hellum began restoring stone houses on Shake Rag Street, now known as Pendarvis. Preservation developed on a larger scale in the 1960s and 70s when artists, craftspeople and preservationists began restoring more and more historic buildings.

The city was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971, the first Wisconsin city to receive that designation. The pre-Civil War homes of some of Wisconsin's leading families still stand, and with just a little imagination you can still hear echoes of their lives throughout town. In 2008, we were chosen as the people's choice as the best small town in Wisconsin for a historic getaway, and in 2007 The National Trust for Historic Preservation selected us as one of their Dozen Distinctive Destinations®. We invite you to visit often to enjoy the natural beauty, historic architecture, and friendly people of Mineral Point ... where the passage of time only enhances the authenticity of this picturesque community.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Mineral Point's population has remained relatively stable for years. The following information is the most current data from the Applied Population Lab with UW-Extension. More complete data is available at <http://www.getfacts.wisc.edu/>

	Mineral Point	Iowa County
Total Population	2,653	23,717
Median Age	42.5	41.4
Median Household Income	58,185	55,900
Per capita Income	25,718	26,103
HS Diploma only	26.9	36.6
Some College	25.6	23.7
Bachelors Degree	14.1	14.6
Graduate Degree	9.6	6.9

CLIMATE

Mineral Point, Wisconsin has a humid continental climate with hot summers and no dry season. Over the course of a year, the temperature typically varies from 13°F to 81°F and is rarely below -3°F or above 88°F.

Mineral Point averages 34 inches of rain per year. The US average is 37. Snowfall is 38 inches. The average US city gets 25 inches of snow per year. The number of days with any measurable precipitation is 101.

On average, there are 190 sunny days per year in Mineral Point. The July high is around 82 degrees. The January low is 8.

Detailed data about the average climate can be found at:

<https://weatherspark.com/averages/30948/Mineral-Point-Wisconsin-United-States>

THE BASICS OF SETTLING IN CITY GOVERNMENT

City Hall Hours and Contact Information:

137 High Street, Suite 1

Phone: 608-987-2361; Fax: 608-987-3885

Office Hours-Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Clerk Treasurer-Debi Heisner-d.heisner@cityofmineralpoint.com

Deputy Clerk-Jodi Shemak-deputyclerk@cityofmineralpoint.com

City Council

Mineral Point is governed by Mayor/Council form of government. Two alder persons are elected from each of four wards for two-year terms. The Mayor is elected at large for a two-year term. City Council meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall/Community Room.

Council Members Contact Information

Mayor

Gregg Bennett: 608-987-2697; mpmayor@icloud.com

Committees: Planning Commission; Board of Review

Ward One

Jason Basting: 608-574-6284; wardone01@icloud.com

Committees: Finance; Streets, Water & Sewer; Park Board; Cable TV

Tom Schmit: Council President 608-987-2731 wardone02@icloud.com

Committees: Finance; Police & Licenses; Personnel; Chamber of Commerce Rep.; Community Chest Rep.

Ward Two

Steve Falconer: 608-425-0160; wardtwo01@icloud.com

Committees: Public Health & Property; Water & Sewer; Ordinance & Claims; Historic Preservation; Planning Commission; Tree Committee; ADA; Recycling

Danny Clark: 608-444-6308; wardtwo02@icloud.com

Committees: Finance; Personnel; Planning Commission; Recycling

Ward Three

Marla Mitchell: 608-574-5382; wardthree01@icloud.com

Committees: Police & Licenses; Personnel

Jay Oellerich: 608-553-2324; wardthree02@icloud.com

Committees: Streets; Public Health & Property; Ordinance & Claims; ADA

Ward Four

Linda Hurley: 773-350-6997; wardfour01@icloud.com

Committees: Police & Licenses; Public Health & Property; Ordinance & Claims; Board of Appeals; ETZ-Board of Appeals

Lori Pittz: 608-574-7461; wardfour02@icloud.com

Committees: Streets; Water & Sewer; Library Board; ADA; Cable TV

Monthly Committee Meeting Schedule:

These committees meet when applications have been submitted and publication criteria have been met. If no applications have been submitted or have not met publication criteria, meetings will not be held. Contact the Zoning Administrator (with Zoning Related Questions) or City Hall with questions.

- Board of Appeals-1st & 3rd Thursdays @ 7:00p.m.
- ETZ Board of Appeals-1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 7:00p.m.
- ETZ Plan Commission-1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 7:00p.m.
- Historic Preservation Commission-2nd & 4th Thursdays@6:30p.m.
- Plan Commission-1st & 3rd Thursdays @ 7:00p.m.
- Tree Committee-1st & 3rd Mondays @ 5:30p.m.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Mineral Point is the second largest city in Iowa County. The County Seat is located 7 miles away in Dodgeville. Iowa County government is housed in the State's oldest courthouse. The county is governed by 21 elected supervisors and administered by a County Administrator.

County Board Members serving Mineral Point:

District 16

Jeremy Meek: 608-987-3502, supervisor16@iowacounty.org

District 17

Judy Lindholm: 608-574-0137

District 18

Philip Mrozinski: 608-987-2516, pjmrozinski@gmail.com

VOTING

If you would like to register to vote or check to see if you are registered with the correct address, you can go to www.MyVote.wi.gov or stop at City Hall during normal hours. If you have changed your name, moved within Wisconsin, or moved to Wisconsin since the last time you voted, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER, OR RE-REGISTER, BEFORE you are allowed to vote.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Mineral Point Public Library anchors the downtown and is a wonderful combination of old and new. The 100-year old building underwent a major remodeling in 2011-2012 and now offers three accessible floors containing library materials, public computers, Wi-Fi, downloadable resources, study rooms, a conference room, a Used Book Shop and public restrooms. Of special interest is the Mineral Point Library Archive, a critically acclaimed collection of valuable historical materials. Among its treasures are the papers of TV personality Allen Ludden donated by his wife, the actress Betty White, letters between President Woodrow Wilson and his friend, Mineral Pointer David Jones, Opera House memorabilia and local records of businesses, mining history, residences and cemeteries.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mineral Point is well served with emergency services provided by 5 full time Police Officers, a 32 member Volunteer Fire Department, and an approximately 30 member Volunteer Emergency Rescue Squad.

ALL EMERGENCIES- DIAL 911

Mineral Point Rescue Squad:

907 Ridge Street
Non-Emergency Phone: 608.987.2752.
Steve Simmons, Chief

Mineral Point Fire Department:

214 Doty Street
Non-Emergency Phone 608-987-3020
Bryan Marr, Chief

Mineral Point Police Department:

226 Doty Street
Office Hours: Monday-Friday-8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Non-Emergency: 608-987-2313
Bob Weier, Chief of Police

UTILITIES

WATER & SEWER

The City of Mineral Point provides Water & Sewer Services along with Residential Trash & Recycling pick-up in the city and all are included on your monthly bill. When your move-in date is set, contact City Hall to set up your account. Frequently used forms for the Water & Sewer Utility are available online, under the forms tab, or at City Hall. Several methods of payment are available.

TRASH & RECYCLING

Faherty, Inc. (800-848-4591) picks up trash and recycling in the City. Residential pick-up occurs Friday mornings. Containers should be placed curbside by 7:00 a.m. Each household may place up to 2-35 gallon containers of garbage out for collection each week. If you have extra bags of garbage, Stickers can be purchased at City Hall for \$1.00 for each additional 35 gallon container. Yard waste, cement, construction materials, fencing, major appliances, tires, oils, batteries, and electronics are not included items for weekly pick-up. If you cannot locate the recycling tub at your new premises, contact City Hall to pick up a new tub. Recycling guidelines are available at City Hall.

Brush Pick-Up (leaves, grass clippings, garden waste, brush, wood) occurs the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, April through December. Piles should be left on the curb, not blocking the storm drain. Brush and wood should be not more than 4-5 feet in length or in a size easy enough for one person to pick up.

ELECTRIC & GAS

Alliant Energy provides Electrical & Natural Gas Services. Call 800-862-6222 to arrange for service.

COMMUNICATIONS

PHONE, CELLULAR, INTERNET AND TELEVISION PROVIDERS

Contact the following providers for phone, cellular service and cable television:

Charter Communications: www.charter.com 1-888-438-2427

Frontier North, Inc.: www.frontier.com 1-888-237-0588

Verizon Wireless: www.verizonwireless.com (800) 256-4646

USCellular: www.uscellular.com 1-888-944-9400

MHTC: www.mhtc.net 608-930-9985

NEWSPAPER

The Democrat Tribune has been publishing a weekly newspaper for Mineral Point since 1859. Contact them at 608-987-2141.

POST OFFICE

269 High Street; 608-987-2223

Hours:

Monday – Friday

Lobby: 6:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Window: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday

Lobby: 6:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Window: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

TRANSPORTATION

VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND DRIVERS LICENSE

Many of the requirements for vehicle registration can be done online at

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/online.htm>

DMV Service Center

316 W Spring St. (Springate Mall) Dodgeville

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 7 am – 5 pm

Other Nearby DMV Service Centers:

197 Christensen Drive, Darlington

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 7 am – 5 pm

HWY 151 Industrial Park, 31 Means Drive, Platteville

Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 7 am – 5 pm

AIRPORTS

You have several choices when looking for airline travel. The following airports are some of the typical choices Mineral Point residents make for air travel:

Dane County Regional Airport, Madison (MSN) 60 miles

Dubuque Regional Airport (DBQ) 49 miles

General Mitchell International Airport, Milwaukee (MKE) 140 miles

Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) 160 miles

The Iowa County Airport (MRJ) located 4 miles from Mineral Point on Hwy 39, offers 24/7 service for all aircraft including light Jet aircraft with 24/7 self-serve or full service fuel, both Jet-A and 100LL; 24/7 pilots lounge, restrooms and courtesy car. Point Aviation (608-987-3591) located on the west side of the airport offers all maintenance and pilot training for light aircraft. Phone: 608.987.9931 or 608-553-7571 email: mrjairport@mhtc.net

BUS SERVICE

There are no buses that run to Mineral Point, but there is bus service available in Madison for transportation to several major urban areas, including Milwaukee, Chicago and Minneapolis-St Paul. More information is available online at www.badgerbus.com

CAR/VAN SERVICES

LIFT Southwest Wisconsin Transit is a service of Southwest Community Action Program (SWCAP). LIFT Coordinates transportation services throughout southwest Wisconsin. They will recommend the most cost effective transportation available, and can also provide volunteer drivers to get you where you need to go.

SWCAP, 201 S Iowa Street, Dodgeville

Ph: 608.930.2191 or 877.798.5438 (toll free)

HOUSING

The median gross rent in Mineral Point is \$600/month, slightly below the median of Iowa County at \$679/mo. The median value of housing units in Mineral Point is \$141,300, compared to \$158,200 for the County overall.

Mineral Point Realtors

All American Realty: 608.987.3300

First Weber Group:

Sandy Powell Trollop: 608.574.5137

Mike Wagner: 608.574.5952

Michelle Bastian: 608.732.0571

Keyes Realty: 608.987.2734

Potterton Rule Realty: 608.987.2142

Historic District Regulations

Historic preservation is an important aspect of life in Mineral Point. The National Trust for Historic Preservation placed the entire city on its National Register of Historic Places in 1971. Mineral Point was the first city in Wisconsin to receive this designation. City Government enacted the Historic Preservation Ordinance 151 in 1987. This ordinance designated a portion of the city as the Historic Overlay District, set criteria for local landmark designations, and created the Historic Preservation Commission to review architectural changes, repairs and alterations within the district. Properties within the local overlay district are required to obtain a certificate of appropriateness prior to new construction, exterior alteration, repair or demolition. More information is available at City Hall and copies of "A Guidebook to Historic Preservation" are available to all property owners in the district, and other interested citizens.

Senior Housing

Atrium Post Acute Care Center of Mineral Point meets the needs of our residents who can no longer live independently due to memory loss, physical impairments and safety concerns, Atrium Post Acute Care of Mineral Point provides a flexible and supportive care program that accommodates our resident's physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs. 109 North Iowa Street, 608-987-2381

Housing for loved ones in need of Alzheimer's care is available at **Sienna Crest**, along with support for family members in dealing with changes that occur with the move to assisted living. 210 Copper Street, 608-987-4565

Apartments for seniors and persons with disabilities are available at **Homesite Village**. 230 W Commerce Street. 608-341-7171.

EMPLOYMENT

Job Center

The Iowa County Job Center is located in Dodgeville at 201 South Iowa Street. Staff is available every Wednesday from 8 – 4 and Thursdays from 1 – 4 to assist you in job searches, resume and cover letter writing. A 3-hour seminar to assist you in unemployment needs is available 9-12 every Thursday. Call 608.935.3116 for more information.

HEALTH CARE

Medical

Dean Clinic - Mineral Point, 227 Commerce St. Phone: 608-987-2391
Mineral Point Medical Center, 104 High St. Phone: 608-987-2346

Dental

Mineral Point Family Dentistry, 1279 Business Park Rd. 608-987-3662
Dr. Gibbons, 207 High Street, 608-987-2885

Chiropractic

Drs. Paul and Erin Guler, 122 High Street, 608-987-2012

Hospitals

The nearest hospital is Upland Hills, located nearby in Dodgeville, 7 miles from Mineral Point. 608-930-8000. www.uplandhillshealth.org

Southwest Health Center is located in Platteville, 20 miles from Mineral Point. (608) 348-2331 southwesthealth.org

Mineral Point is less than an hour from Madison, WI and Dubuque, IA where there are a number of other hospitals.

SOCIAL SERVICES

A full list of social services is provided by Iowa County's Department of Social Services, located at the Health and Human Services Building in Dodgeville.

303 W. Chapel St.

Phone: 608 930-9801

Email: icdss@iowacounty.org

Website: iowacounty.org

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

4-H

4-H is the nation's largest youth development and mentoring organization. Membership in 4-H is open to youth in grades 3 through 13. Clubs also accept members in Kindergarten, first and second grades in the Cloverbud programs. Research shows that 4-H participants are more likely to enroll in post-high school education and explore career opportunities; participate in service projects and leadership roles where they develop public speaking, leadership, and decision-making skills; learn the importance of teamwork, communication and critical thinking, and become connected to their communities and learn to care about others.

There are four 4H clubs in Mineral Point. For more information, contact any of the following club leaders or Deb Ivey at UW-Extension - 608-930-9850.

Bloomfield Buddies: Deena Vinger, 608-935-5454

County Line: Edith Goodweiler, 608-987-3002

Jonesdale Jays: Susan James, 608-987-3551

Pleasant View: Muffy Swingen, 608-987-2478

AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion meets the third Thursday of each month at their clubhouse at 1921 9th Street. The Legion's major annual event is the parade, Library Park program and chicken BBQ on Memorial Day. They operate the Beer Garden at the Iowa County Fair every Labor Day weekend. Each Veteran's Day, they participate in school programs and organize a Park Program. For more information, contact Ray Payntor at 608.987.3145.

AMP (Arts Mineral Point)

Arts Mineral Point is about continuing a rich local arts legacy spanning eight decades. It is about helping resident artists realize their goals and complimenting existing arts tourism efforts. Our goal is to encourage more artists to live and thrive here so the arts remain vibrant for generations to come. For more information: www.artsmpp.org

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Mineral Point Chamber of Commerce has a fulltime office devoted to promoting business in Mineral Point. The office is open Monday – Friday 9 – 5 to answer any of your questions and help you get better acquainted with the area.

Ph: 608-987-3201

Email: info@mineralpoint.com

Web: mineralpoint.com

CHURCHES

The congregations of Mineral Point invite you to worship with them.

Congregation of St. Mary's & St. Paul's. 224 Davis Street. 608.987.2026.
Grace Bible Church/Cowboy Country Church. 1200 Betty Lane, 608.987.2777
Faith Lutheran Church. 706 Ridge Street. 608.987.3454
First United Methodist Church. 400 Doty Street. 608.987.2700.
Hope Lutheran Church. 535 Commerce Street. 608.987.3500.
Point Baptist Church. 949 Fountain Street. 608.987.3727
Trinity Episcopal Church. 403 High Street. 608.987.3019.
United Church of Christ. 300 Maiden Street. 608.987.2025

KIWANIS

The Mineral Point Kiwanis Club is a service organization whose primary goal is helping children. The club meets at noon on the 1st, 3rd and any 5th Tuesday of every month at the Pointer Café. Contact Luke Francois (608-987-0741) or Joelle Doye (joellemdoye@gmail.com) for more information.

LIONS

The Mineral Point Lions Club started in 1983 and currently has a membership of 55. Although they donate toward International, National, and State causes, the majority of work is done for the citizens of Mineral Point. Contributions include donating to various Mineral Point Parks, a yearly High School Scholarship, Library contributions, highway clean-up, providing eye glasses for those in need, delivery of eye tissue, and more.

There is a free dinner meeting at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday of the month. All projects are voluntary for members, except for a 4-hour work shift over the Labor Day weekend. For more information, contact Kent Enright at 608-469-2568 or Gary Galle at 608-574-5503. Check out the Facebook Page - Mineral Point Lions.

MINERAL POINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership in the Mineral Point Historical Society is open to everyone. The Historical Society is a non-profit organization charged with the preservation of Orchard Lawn. The story of how the Historical Society came into being goes back to 1939 when the eleven Founders signed the first Articles of Organization and took over the stewardship of the Gundry House. Volunteers serve on committees and give hundreds of hours of time annually to ensure the success of the Society and to carry out its mission of fostering understanding and appreciation of history of the Mineral Point area by past, present and future residents of the community. You are always welcome to stroll the grounds of Orchard Lawn at 234 Madison Street and enjoy the beautiful estate. More information is available at www.mineralpointhistory.org or 608-558-1937.

Girl Scouts build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place by helping them discover their inner strength, passions and talents. Two Mineral Point troupes are available for girls beginning with those of Kindergarten age. Contact April at agander7030@gmail.com or Lisa at lisa.mullen79@gmail.com

The **Mineral Point Boy Scout Troop 337** is for boys ages 12-18 and Grades 5-12th grade. They meet every Tuesday at Hope Lutheran Church at 555 Commerce Street. All meetings begin at 6:30. Contact is Scoutmaster Steve Nelson 608-987-2650 . The boys do a lot of community service projects. They also attend summer camps and help with the Iowa County Fair.

The **Mineral Point Cub Scouts Pack 337** is for boys ages 5-11 and grades Kindergarten to 5th grade. They meet at First United Methodist Church at 400 Doty Street for their monthly meetings. The younger boys attend day camps, the Baraboo Circus Heritage Camping event, and individual den meetings. Contact Cub Master Rob Busser 608.987.4192 for more information.

MINERAL POINT VFW

Post 7629 and its Ladies Auxiliary welcome you to Mineral Point. Visit our Avenue of Flags display in our three cemeteries during Memorial Day and the Fourth of July Celebrations. The Mineral Point VFW and Ladies Auxiliary meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Mineral Point Care Center at 5:30 p.m. Contact Francis or Diane Smith for more information - 608-987-2400.

EDUCATION

Mineral Point Schools are an important part of our community. From early childhood education to high school graduation, we pride ourselves on excellent opportunities for academic, fine arts and athletic achievement.

The Mineral Point Unified School District encompasses the City of Mineral Point, parts of the Iowa County towns of Mineral Point, Linden, Mifflin and Waldwick, and parts of the Lafayette County towns of Kendall, Fayette and Willow Springs.

Our mission is to offer a high quality education that empowers all students with the knowledge and skills to become responsible citizens.

More information on each of the schools that comprise the Mineral Point Unified District can be found online at mineralpointschools.org or by calling:

Mineral Point Elementary School. 611 Cothren Street. 608.987.0710 (PreK-5)

Mineral Point Middle School. 705 Ross Street. 808.987.0720 (Grades 6-8)

Mineral Point High School. 705 Ross Street. 608.987.0730 (Grades 9-12)

POST SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Southwest Technical College

Southwest Tech, located in Fennimore, approximately 30 miles from Mineral Point is a comprehensive technical college offering excellent educational opportunities, a broad array of support services, and a student-friendly atmosphere. Find a complete listing of opportunities at www.swtc.edu

UW- Platteville

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville, located an easy 20-minute drive from Mineral Point is a comprehensive, four-year public institution of higher education and is the fastest growing school in the UW System. Complete information is available online at www.uwplatt.edu

UW- Madison

With 42,000 students, 4,700 courses, 2,000 faculty members, UW-Madison is one of the leading research institutions in the nation...and only an hour from Mineral Point. Find more at www.wisc.edu

LIFELONG LEARNING

Opportunities for lifelong learning are plentiful in and around Mineral Point. There are ample opportunities to take a class or participate in workshops to improve a skill or learn new ones.

Shake Rag Center for Arts

Shake Rag Alley is a nonprofit arts education center located in a beautiful historic setting where the early miners lived in cabins clustered in a valley around Federal Spring. Today Shake Rag Alley hosts a wide variety of arts and crafts workshops, a vibrant children's program and other cultural events. Students come from all over the country to join in the creative fun that takes place at Shake Rag Center for Arts. For more information, contact Shake Rag Alley at 608.987.3292 or www.shakeragalley.com

UW Community Education

A wide selection of continuing education courses is available nearby at the University of Wisconsin- Platteville. For a current listing, check the website at www.uwplatt.edu/continuing.

UW-Extension

UW Cooperative Extension develops practical educational programs based on university knowledge and research. There is a wide range of expertise available at the Iowa County Extension office with connections to the entire Extension system throughout the state on topics related to agriculture, natural resources, community development, nutrition, family living and youth development. More information on programs available through UW-Extension is available online at www.iowa.uwex.edu or by calling 608.930.9850.

WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

SHOPPING

You will find most everything you need to shop for available right in Mineral Point. Our businesses are almost all exclusively family owned and operated. We are fortunate to have stores that fill all the basic needs of life – groceries, pharmacy, hardware, etc. Plus we have plenty of specialty and gift stores that make shopping a pleasure. Mineral Point has been home for many years to a diverse group of artists, so you will find a number of galleries and studios where you can purchase items made right here by people you know.

CULTURE AND ARTS

Although we are small, when it comes to arts and cultural opportunities, Mineral Point is much bigger than its size would suggest. Many visual and performance artists live here and have studios where you can watch them create. Live music has become popular at several locations around town.

The Mineral Point Opera House combines live stage and big screen to provide audiences a variety of choices. You may want to join filmzmp, a film lovers group who meet monthly to enjoy independent and foreign films at the Opera House. The Driftless Film Festival is a 4-5 day event in November that features more independent films and often includes conversations with the filmmakers. The Mineral Point High School students perform their plays and musicals on this stage. A local ballet company dances on the stage and local music teachers hold recitals that are open to the public. www.mineralpointoperahouse.org

Shake Rag Alley offers year-round classes in just about every arts and crafts media for all ages. Several special events held in this historic and picturesque valley are designed for family fun. Except in cases of private functions, the grounds are always open for strolling. www.shakeragalley.com

Historic Sites in town include **Pendarvis State Historic Site**, **Orchard Lawn/The Gundry House**, and **The Mineral Point Depot Museum**. During the summer months, tours are available that will give you a taste of life in early Wisconsin. One of the best ways to get to know your new home is to go on these tours. These sites are often in need of volunteers. If you are a person who loves history, one of the best ways to learn about your new home is to get involved early and volunteering is a great way to do it.

You will find Southwest Wisconsin filled with opportunities to enjoy the arts. The nationally recognized American Players Theater in Spring Green draws an audience from around the country to enjoy theater of the highest quality. Folklore Village just outside Dodgeville is a nationally recognized folk arts and culture center dedicated to enriching lives through time-honored traditions from around the world. Friends gather at these special events, meet new people, eat, dance, sing and play.

RECREATION

Outdoor recreation opportunities are plentiful in and around Mineral Point. We have trails for bicycling, hiking, ATVs and snowmobiles. If you enjoy fishing, skiing, swimming, or just sightseeing, you will find this area a great place to enjoy the outdoors. **The Cheese Country Trail** is a multi-use trail that runs from Mineral Point to Monroe. It is open to ATVs, snowmobiles, and horses as well as bicyclists, and hikers. **The Military Ridge Trail** beginning in Dodgeville runs to Fitchburg, and is easily accessible from Mineral Point via a connector trail that begins at the end of Shake Rag Street.

Mineral Point's City Parks are well maintained and offer great places to pack a picnic, play or just enjoy some peaceful outdoor time.

Soldiers Memorial is located at the corners of Shake Rag, Commerce and Antoine Streets. This is the largest of the city parks, with tennis courts, basketball court, baseball diamond, playground equipment and an Olympic-sized pool. It is also the sight of a fantastic sledding hill in the winter. There are four shelters that can be reserved for special occasions. Call City Hall 608-987-2361 for reservations.

Water Tower Park is located at the intersection of High and Ridge Streets. This is the home to the Mineral Point Market every Saturday morning from May – October. There is also playground equipment, a basketball hoop and a shelter available.

Library Park is downtown next to the Municipal Building on High Street. This is "where Wisconsin began." It is here that, on July 4, 1836 Henry Dodge became the first governor of the Territory of Wisconsin.

Ted Galle Park is at the corner of State and 5th Streets. This is a small quiet park perfect for kids if you're looking for a quiet place to dig in the sand.

Jerusalem Park between Fountain and South Streets is also equipped with playground equipment, a basketball court and picnic tables.

Skidmore-Whitford Park is a small triangle park at the intersection of Commerce and Chestnut.

We are fortunate to live within easy driving distance of several **Wisconsin State Parks**. **Governor Dodge, Yellowstone, Blue Mounds, Tower Hill, Nelson Dewey** and **Wyalusing** are within easy drives of Mineral Point.

Winter does not have to be spent indoors. Cross-country skiing is a popular activity at state parks and trails. Downhill skiing is nearby at Tyrol Basin near Mt Horeb, Sundown Mountain in Dubuque and Chestnut Mountain in Galena, all within an easy drive of Mineral Point.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mineral Point maintains an active calendar of events. You can find lots to do by checking on our online calendar at mineralpoint.com. Sign up for weekly newsletters from the Chamber and City Hall by contacting our offices (608-987-3201 and 608-987-2361.) Like us on Facebook and stop in to our offices and introduce yourself.

MORE TO DO AROUND HERE

We love Mineral Point, in part because of the area we live in – the Southwest Wisconsin Driftless Region, a virtual mosaic of farms, small towns, rolling hills and rock outcroppings. Every small town around us has its own character and reasons to stop. We are located less than an hour from Madison, WI to the east and Dubuque, IA to the west. Taliesin, American Players Theater, The House on the Rock, Cave of the Mounds, and The Mississippi River Museum are among the world- renowned attractions that are just minutes from Mineral Point. Enjoy your explorations around the area.