



HARTFORD COMMUNITY GUIDE | 2023/24

[www.hartford.life](http://www.hartford.life)



**INSIDE:** COMMUNITY CONTACTS | BUSINESS PROFILES | BUSINESS DIRECTORY

*A morning in the park for kids from Stepping Stones Preschool & Enrichment Center of Hartford. Cover photo by Bob Fitch.*

# KIMBERLY LANHAM

Partner with Johnson, Janklow, Abdallah Law Firm



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- ✿ TEA (NEAR BALL FIELDS)
- ✿ HARRISBURG (MINNESOTA & WILLOW)
- ✿ HURLEY (HWY 18)
- ✿ SIOUX FALLS (8405 W 12th ST)
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- ✿ BRANDON (EXIT 406, I-90)

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**FROM THE MAYOR**

**'LIVE LIVELY' REPRESENTS  
HARTFORD'S STATE OF MIND**

The City of Hartford recently unveiled our new logo and tagline "Live Lively!" We are working to get the new logo on all city equipment, buildings, water tower, and media. So, what does it mean to "Live Lively!" in Hartford?

As a committee of Hartford residents and business owners met and discussed what they wanted to accomplish with our branding, many exciting topics came up. The agency we worked with offered great feedback and leadership as we moved through the process. When the final decision was made, the committee felt good about moving forward with the new Hartford brand. I feel "Live Lively!" is not only a logo for the city but a state of mind.

When I meet with people either from Hartford or those considering relocating to Hartford, several items typically come up. They include our nice parks, our bike/walking trails, our new dog park, our proximity to our neighbor to the east, and our school system. I feel Hartford has a feeling of welcome and togetherness that people can see. Am I a little biased? Sure I am, but if I didn't feel like Hartford was a city growing and moving forward, I wouldn't say it.

We are moving into spring and summer and I feel this time of the year showcases some of the great events we have in Hartford. Downtown Hartford, Inc. puts on a Farmers Market the first Thursday of the month from June through September. There are food trucks, vendors, live music and of course beverages from our downtown establishments. If you get the chance come and join us for one or all of these events.

In June Hartford holds its annual Jamboree Days. This year's event is held the weekend before Father's Day on June 15-18 at the Hartford City park and throughout the downtown area. There is a parade, live music and vendors in the park with food and wares for your enjoyment. Mark your calendars and join us!



Arden Jones, Hartford, SD Mayor

The Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to the Downtown Hartford Block Party, which is held the third Wednesday of July annually. Enjoy music, food, beverages and Chamber member vendor booths along with inflatable games for the children from 5-9 p.m.

If you're considering a move, check out Hartford! We have homes under construction in several developments plus apartments to meet the needs of people looking to relocate. Our businesses would be happy to have you join their team. I hope you agree, Hartford is definitely a place you and your family can "Live Lively!"

*Arden Jones*  
Mayor, City of Hartford

**HARTFORD COMMUNITY GUIDE**

Hartford Community Guide is published by AGE Media & Promotion in partnership with the Hartford Area Development Foundation, Amy M. Farr, Executive Director.

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**Editor:** Bob Fitch





## COMMUNITY CONTACTS



**HARTFORD CITY HALL**  
125 N. Main Avenue  
Hartford, South Dakota 57033  
605-528-6187

Additional information on municipal leaders, staff, permits, inspections, and more can be found at [www.hartfordsd.us](http://www.hartfordsd.us).

### HARTFORD CITY COUNCIL

Meetings are the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 125 N. Main Ave.

Arden Jones ..... Mayor  
Travis Kuehl ..... City Council Ward 1  
Mark Brenneman ..... City Council Ward 1  
Chris Woslager ..... City Council Ward 2  
Shaun Boen ..... City Council Ward 2  
Cindy Matson ..... City Council Ward 3  
Jake Jass ..... City Council Ward 3

### HARTFORD CITY ADMINISTRATION

City Administrator ..... Teresa Sidel  
Finance Officer ..... Karen Wilber  
Utility Coordinator ..... Rhonda Kuchta  
Administrative Assistant ..... Jenny Stangeland

### HARTFORD PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

Tony Randall, Chairman ..... Troy Jackson  
Mark Anderson ..... Brad Miles  
Tim Graham ..... Stacey Kutil  
Michelle Kilbourn

### HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Matt Evans ..... Callie Tuschen  
Gail Blocker ..... Craig Wagner  
Kandi Lewin ..... Chris Woslager  
Josh Mulder

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

**FOR EMERGENCIES ..... CALL 911**

The City of Hartford contracts with the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office for its police services.

For law enforcement non-emergencies ..... 605-367-7000

### FIRE & RESCUE

**FOR EMERGENCIES ..... CALL 911**

To volunteer or non-emergencies ..... 605-528-3511

### ANIMAL CONTROL

605-338-4441  
[www.sfhumanesociety.com](http://www.sfhumanesociety.com)

### BUILDING PERMITS

Contact City Hall ..... 605-528-6187

### BUILDING PERMIT INSPECTIONS

Paul Clarke ..... 605-366-8962  
Kyle Christensen ..... 605-681-4552

### ELECTRICAL INSPECTION

State Electrical Inspector ..... 605-201-0520

### PLUMBING PERMIT

SD Plumbing Commission ..... 605-773-3429

### UTILITIES

**Electrical**  
Sioux Valley Energy ..... 800-234-1960

### Garbage

Cressman Sanitation ..... 605-759-3456  
Novak Sanitary Services ..... 888-866-2651

### Natural Gas

MidAmerican Energy ..... 888-427-5632

### Phone/Cable/Internet

Golden West ..... [www.goldenwest.com](http://www.goldenwest.com)  
Midco ..... [www.midco.com](http://www.midco.com)

### Water/Sewer

City of Hartford ..... 605-528-6187

### UTILITY LOCATES

South Dakota One Call ..... 811

### WIRING PERMITS FOR HOMEOWNERS

SD Electrical Commission ..... 800-233-7765

### YARD WASTE DISPOSAL SITE – HARTFORD RESIDENTS ONLY

Located on Railroad Street south of the high school. Site is for disposal of yard clippings, leaves and tree branches only. No garbage.

Offered the first Saturday in April through the Saturday after Thanksgiving, weather permitting.

Hours are Saturdays 9 am-4 pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays 4 pm-8 pm until Sept 15th when the site will close at dusk.

### SIouxLAND LIBRARIES, HARTFORD BRANCH

119 N Main Ave, Unit A  
605-367-6380  
[www.siouxlandlib.org](http://www.siouxlandlib.org)

### Hours

Tuesday ..... 9 am – 1 pm  
Wednesday ..... 2 pm – 5 pm  
Thursday ..... 3 pm – 7 pm  
Friday ..... 1 pm – 5 pm  
Saturday ..... 10 am – 1 pm

### HARTFORD AREA TRANSIT

605-906-1483  
[www.hartfordsd.us/hartfordtransit](http://www.hartfordsd.us/hartfordtransit)



## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

### HARTFORD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

605.528.3338  
[www.hartfordsdchamber.org](http://www.hartfordsdchamber.org)  
[info@hartfordsdchamber.org](mailto:info@hartfordsdchamber.org)

The Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce is located in City Hall. The Chamber is made up of more than 140 members of all sizes focusing on growing the business community and promoting a healthy business climate through leadership, networking, and education.

President ..... Ashlie Matthews,  
..... Black Hills Fed. Credit Union  
VP ..... Scott Schrader, Hartford Ace Hardware  
Executive Director ..... Amy M. Farr

### HARTFORD AREA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

605.528.3338  
[info@hartfordsdchamber.org](mailto:info@hartfordsdchamber.org)

The mission of the Hartford Area Development Foundation is to expand economic Quality of Life through Economic Development.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President ..... Justin Eich,  
..... Vista Crossings & Stomping Grounds  
VP ..... Eric Bartmann, Pro Framing, Inc.  
Executive Director ..... Amy M. Farr

### DOWNTOWN HARTFORD, INC.

[downtownhartfordinc@gmail.com](mailto:downtownhartfordinc@gmail.com)

The mission of Downtown Hartford, Inc. is to revitalize the community's core through economic development, events, beautification, and historical preservation. DHI brings Hartford together downtown to "Eat local. Buy local. Grow local."

President ..... Callie Tuschen,  
..... Buffalo Ridge Brewing  
Vice President ..... Michelle Schilling



Photo by Vince Danh, 4Front Productions

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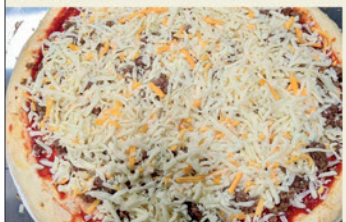


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## † HARTFORD CHURCHES

### CENTRAL VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Address: .....800 Cressman Trail  
Phone number: .....605-528-6444  
Website: .....cvccsd.org

### CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

Address: .....701 N. Main Ave.  
Phone Number: .....605-528-3424  
Website: .....www.clhartford.com

### COWBOY WAY CHURCH

Address: .....46089 263rd St.  
Phone number: .....605-526-3646  
Website: .....facebook.com/pages/Cowboy-Way-Church/97645607529?ref=ts

### LIGHT TO THE WORLD CHURCH

Address: .....1021 S Diamond Circle

### ST. GEORGE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Address: .....408 S. Western Ave  
Phone number: .....605-528-3902  
Website: .....www.stgeorgehartford.com

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

Address: .....46448 263rd St.  
Phone Number: .....605-526-3571  
Website: .....www.hartfordtlc.com

### RIVER OF LIFE MINISTRIES

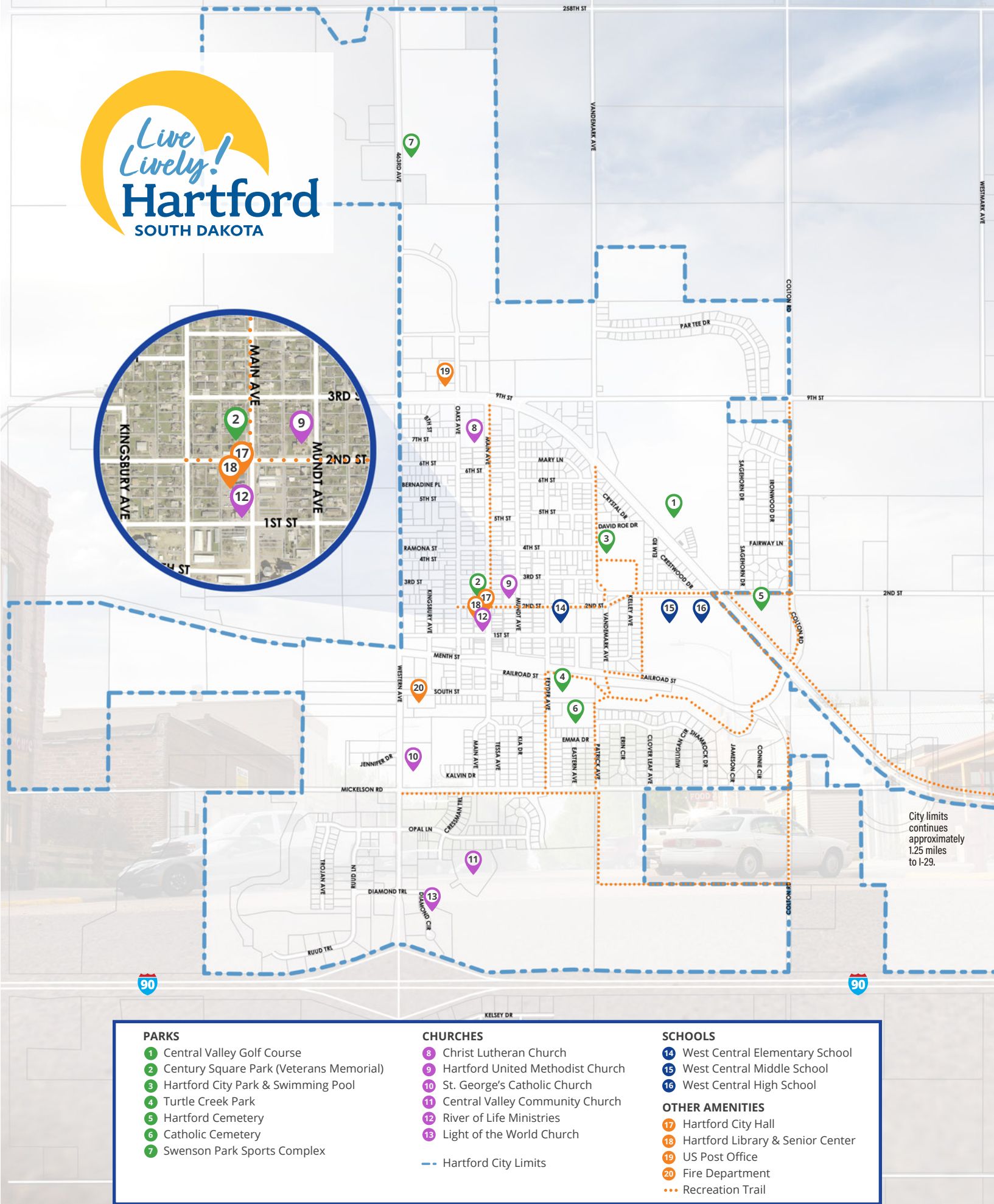
Address: .....101 N. Main  
Phone Number: .....605-376-1508  
Website: .....www.rofm.net

### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Address: .....102 E 2nd St.  
Phone Number: .....605-528-3830  
Website: .....www.humcsd.org

### ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

Address: .....26313 462nd Ave.  
Phone number: .....605-526-3846



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## DAYCARES & PRESCHOOLS

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605-528-3027

### JANELLE HANDBERG

46713 Buckeye St., Sioux Falls (SE of Hartford)  
605-332-9933

### HAPPY HEARTS

419 Oaks Ave., Hartford  
605-528-3615

### IMAGINATION STATION

207 S. Main Ave., Hartford  
605-528-5437

### JULI KETCHAM

507 S. Eastern Ave., Hartford  
605-528-7219

### CATHY KROEGER

26163 461st Ave., Hartford  
605-528-6711

### MELISSA MALLINGER

105 N. Kelly Ave., Hartford  
605-595-2959

### JENNIFER MCKINNEY

104 W. Opal Lane, Hartford  
605-270-9532

### STARK'S DAYCARE

7901 W. Maple St., Sioux Falls  
605-377-7515

### STEPPING STONES PRESCHOOL & ENRICHMENT CENTER

412 E. SD Highway 38 (also in Montrose)  
605-528-3358

### TRINITY CHURCH DAYCARE

46448 263rd St  
605-526-4021

### LISA WARKENTHIEN

509 Cloverleaf Ave., Hartford  
605-528-7365

### WEST CENTRAL KARE

Hartford Elementary School  
605-528-3215

*\*The City of Hartford and AGE Media do not endorse daycares or preschools. It is the responsibility of parents to verify the status and qualities of a daycare.*

## HARTFORD FOOD PANTRIES

Central Valley Church – Open Tuesday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to noon for donations or pickup. If you need service at other times or if you have any questions, please call or text 605-553-3076.

St. George Catholic Church – Open during office hours Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or by appointment. You can call and leave a message with Rechelle at 605-528-3902. Please specify what items you need and they will be bagged and waiting for pick up in the entry.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# LOOK WHAT'S NEW IN HARTFORD

- The Hartford Development Foundation, in collaboration with the city of Hartford, purchased the Gage House, a former hotel, to help keep downtown vibrant. The move ensures both the Senior Citizens Center and the Hartford branch of Siouxsland Libraries will be preserved in their downtown locations. The library was able to expand, adding additional computers and space for more children's activities.
- While a shortage of housing is a pressing concern for many area towns, Hartford is thriving with new townhomes and apartments in the Maple Pass development, plus new homes are available in the Turtle Creek development and from builders/developers Costello Properties, Jarding, Cressman and Sieverding.
- Ground is expected to be broken soon on the new Get 'n Go store.
- Two new commercial buildings are going in near Ace Hardware, one being a mixed-use building and the other for retail.
- Ground is expected to be broken this year on Hartford's new wastewater treatment plant, which is expected to be finished by 2025. Water availability and wastewater treatment capacity are essential components to strong economic development.
- To better serve local residents and businesses, Hartford city offices changed hours to be open earlier and close later four days a week. City hall service hours are 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday; and Friday 8 a.m.-noon.

# NEW DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ON THE WAY IN HARTFORD

Don and Stacy Sieverding are part of a group of builders, developers and friends who recently finalized the purchase of nine vacant lots on South Main Avenue in Hartford. Don and Stacy responded to questions by laying out the goals for the downtown initiative.

### WHAT PROJECT ARE YOU PURSUING IN DOWNTOWN HARTFORD?

Homestead Hills was created by individuals who have an interest in real estate and entrepreneurship. Homestead Hills hopes to help Downtown Hartford by bringing businesses back downtown.

### WHAT PROPERTIES ARE INVOLVED?

The group purchased nine vacant lots on South Main Avenue.

### WHO IS INVOLVED?

Homestead Hills is a partnership between friends and neighbors.

### WHAT'S YOUR CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE?

Phase 1 is scheduled to start in late 2023.

### WHAT DO YOU EXPECT THE IMPACT TO BE?

The plan is to revitalize Downtown Hartford and we're starting with a mixed-use building for possibly a café, retail/office space, restaurant, bank, event space, etc. We're going to let the need/want dictate the use. Lofts on the upper levels of the downtown buildings are also planned.

### WHAT WAS THE MOTIVATION BEHIND THE PROJECT?

The people in our group all West Central graduates and care about our community. We have a vision for Hartford and as the quote goes "If You Build It, They Will Come."

### WHAT QUALITY OF LIFE BENEFITS WILL THIS PROJECT DELIVER TO THE COMMUNITY?

We'd like to see Hartford be more than just a bedroom community so we're building places for people to live, work and play in Downtown Hartford.

### WHAT ELSE DO LOCAL RESIDENTS NEED TO KNOW?

We are in the planning stages so if you'd like to bring your business to Hartford, let's talk. We want to hear all your thoughts and ideas. People wanting more information on the development should contact Don Sieverding at 605-351-3672.



David and Victoria Obenauer

# RESTORING A SIOUX QUARTZITE GEM

David and Victoria Obenauer acquired the Mundt Building on the corner of 1st and Main in downtown Hartford in 2010. Built in 1902, the Mundt Building is on the National Registry of Historic Places and housed the Savings Bank of Hartford along with other functions before coming under the ownership of the Obenaus.

Over the past 13 years, David and the family have painstakingly restored the approximate 12,000 square feet of livable space along with a courtyard north of the building. The Mundt Building has never looked so good!

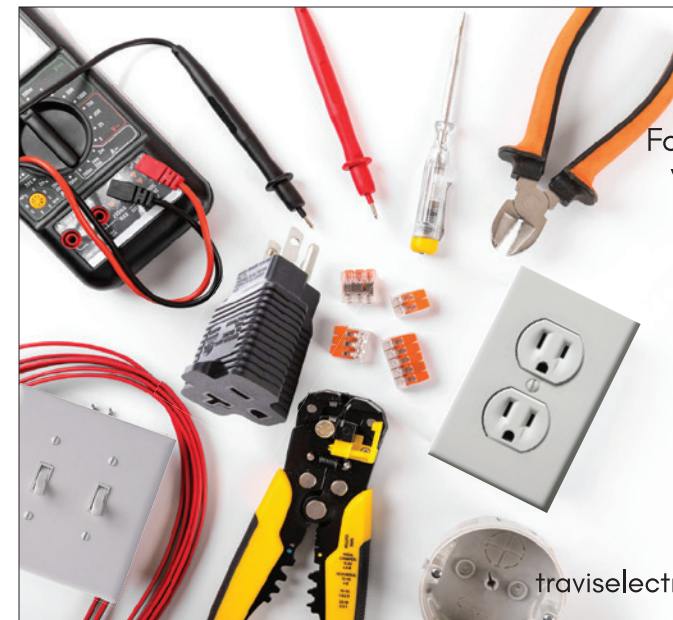
David has a diverse skill set, including experience in construction. His craftsmanship skills are demonstrated in everything from the woodworking to tuck-pointing and Victoria's eye for design shows through in every detail within the property.

There can be two individual living quarters in the building with the upstairs apartment and basement being the most impressive. There are 6+ bedrooms and 5 bathrooms in the building. The main floor is zoned commercial and suitable for retail.

The Obenaus are putting the Mundt Building for sale and they are sure there is a buyer looking for a unique living experience in the town of Hartford. There is plenty of flexibility for what a potential buyer might want to do with the property to meet their personal goals.



The interior and exterior of the Mundt Building. Photos by Vince Danh, 4Front Productions.



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Left, the interior of Joshua's Café in the Mundt Building; the courtyard on the north side; and one of the bedrooms. Photos by Vince Danh, 4Front Productions.



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# A FORCE FOR GOOD IN THE HARTFORD COMMUNITY



Pat McAdaragh Midco CEO

Midco made a commitment to Hartford: Provide quality internet and TV services while being an active participant in the community. Midco is making good on that commitment by investing more than \$3 million to bring a new option for internet and TV services to more than 1,800 homes and businesses in the area. The aim is to provide ultra-fast, ultra-smooth speeds of up to 5 Gbps with low latency, along with a focus on world-class customer satisfaction, as recognized by J.D. Power.

Midco's goal is to ensure that customers, regardless of their location, have access to quality internet and TV services. Midco Chief Operating Officer Ben Dold said, "We've enjoyed getting to know Hartford better. From our groundbreaking at Buffalo Ridge Brewing to participating in the Hartford Block Party and providing a Midco Foundation grant to the Hartford Senior Center, we're proud to be part of such a vibrant community."

The investment in Hartford is part of Midco's larger Fiber Forward® initiative, which includes a \$500 million investment to enhance its fiber network and bring 10 Gig (10G) speeds to the region. The expansion and

upgrade aims to improve network reliability and pave the way for symmetrical broadband internet speeds.

Midco's fiber-based network already serves 490,000 homes and businesses in 400 communities across South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Kansas.

Along with having its own fiber network, Midco is the leader in exceptional customer experience. In a 2022 J.D. Power study, Midco ranked highest in Customer Satisfaction for Residential Internet Service in the North Central region, which includes South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin.<sup>1</sup> The study, based on responses from nearly 23,000 customers, evaluates overall customer satisfaction across several factors including:

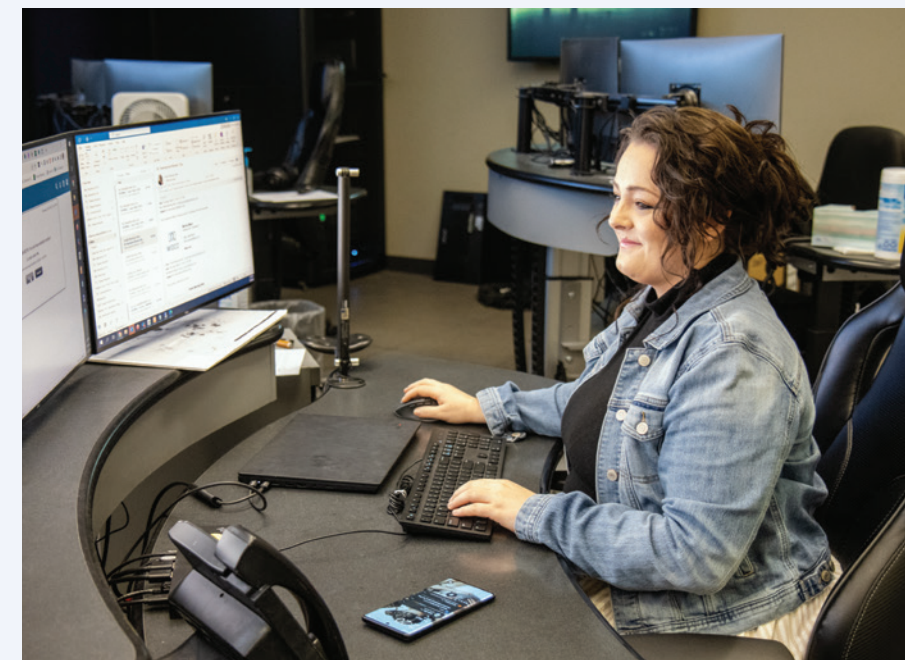
- Performance and reliability
- Cost of service
- Communication and promotions
- Billing and payment and customer service.

The J.D. Power study was based on market leading data science, delivering the most accurate, unbiased values in the industry.

Midco is dedicated to being a force for good in the communities it serves. The company has proudly sponsored West Central High School and the Hartford American Legion Golf Tournament. Team members live and work in the Hartford community and take an active part in area events, including the Hartford Area Trunk-or-Treat, West Central Basketball Game and Raffle, Hartford Jamboree Days and Parade, Hartford Block Party and Hartford Chamber Golf Tournament. Midco partners with the Hartford Chamber of Commerce to connect to the businesses they stand alongside of in serving the Hartford community.

Dold said, "Midco is investing in bringing a future-proof network to Hartford – one that meets the evolving needs of customers and strengthens economic development, education and quality of life."

<sup>1</sup> For J.D. Power 2021 and 2022 award information, visit [JDPower.com/Awards](https://www.jdpower.com/Awards). This informational space was purchased by Midco, who is solely responsible for its contents.





Erin, Lincoln, Evan and Brian Alderson. Photo by Beth G Photography.

## TIME AND FAMILY ARE THEIR MOST VALUABLE ASSETS

By Bob Fitch

As one month turns to another and one year turns to the next, Brian Alderson has realized the value of time as an asset.

“When you’re young, you’ve got so much more energy and ambition; and the one thing you had to sell was your time. So you spent every waking minute working because you didn’t have money,” he said. “As you gain equity, all of a sudden, you’re not selling your time cheap anymore. Time becomes your most valuable possession.”

Brian farms with his wife, Erin, and their two sons, Evan and Lincoln, south of Hartford. He grows corn and soybeans, but stays zeroed in on his custom cattle feeding operation. “I know I can feed cattle as efficient or more efficient than just about anybody. So good. Let’s do that. Let’s focus on that.”

### TIME WITH EVAN AND LINCOLN

By having his crop work custom done, he’s able to spend more time with Erin and their two boys. Even without

the field work, time with the boys often only happened when it was cold, snowy and windy. Brian enjoys coaching baseball, so he installed batting cages in the shed to help provide bonding time with the boys.

In addition, they recently installed SportCourt for a basketball half-court. “The goal is to make the shed the place where their friends all hang out together. Some of the other dads have asked how they can help. I just tell them, ‘Keep bringing your kids in.’”

Their oldest son Evan is 8, is in third grade and loves all sports. His grandmother, Joyce Alderson, added, “Evan is a good student, loves to read and play board games. He’s competitive, whether it’s sports or board games. He picks things up quick.”

Lincoln likes the cattle: “When he’s doing chores, he’s really living his best life,” said Brian. Lincoln recovered old gates tucked in the trees to create his own cattle pen. “He herds his basketballs and footballs into the pen.”

### ‘IT DOESN’T FEEL LIKE WORK MOST OF THE TIME’

After graduating in 2006 from college and a stellar five-year football playing career at the University of South Dakota, Brian wasn’t sure what was next. He didn’t plan to return to the farm. His best friend was working in the booming Wyoming oil fields, so he went that direction. When his dad, Larry Alderson, had a heart attack, Brian returned home to help for a while, but then returned to the “bachelored-up life” in Wyoming.

When his dad had a second heart attack, Brian told him: “I keep leaving, but you keep keeling over. I better stay here.” Joyce said, “Larry was pretty happy when Brian decided to come back to farm.” He represents the family’s fourth generation on the farm which was homesteaded in 1876.

Erin grew up in Watertown and attended Minnesota State - Moorhead for business administration. After college, she worked in sales and customer service in Sioux Falls, including a seven-year stint as sales assistant at Hi Roller Conveyors. But now she works on the farm and is able to be home when the boys get off the bus. “We’d been working for quite a while towards the goal of me staying home,” she said. “I’ve always enjoyed helping on the farm, managing the books, and helping to make everything run more efficiently.”

He and Erin moved to the farm in 2012, while Larry and Joyce moved into Hartford. But Joyce missed the country.



Brian with his parents and siblings in 2019: Laura, Joyce, Brian, Larry, Beth and Amy. Brian was inducted into the Coyote Sports Hall of Fame that year. He was a three-year starter, a two-time All-American and a two-time finalist for the Gene Upshaw Award granted to the nation’s top lineman. The 2005 squad led the nation in both points scored and yards gained.

“I was a nurse and was involved with people all day long. I need my space and my home was my refuge.” She was in nursing for 45 years, most of it at Sioux Valley and the VA.

After Larry passed away in July 2020, Brian and Erin discovered so many random things they didn’t realize Dad had taken care of. Brian joked, “After Dad passed, the tractors started to all run out of fuel. I thought, ‘What the heck is happening? They never ran out of fuel before.’”

Erin has helped fill in some of those gaps since she gave up city work to be home. “Both Brian and I don’t relax very well, so we’re always busy doing something and starting new projects. We work together really well, so it doesn’t feel like work most of the time.”

*This article was originally published in The Farming Families magazine.*

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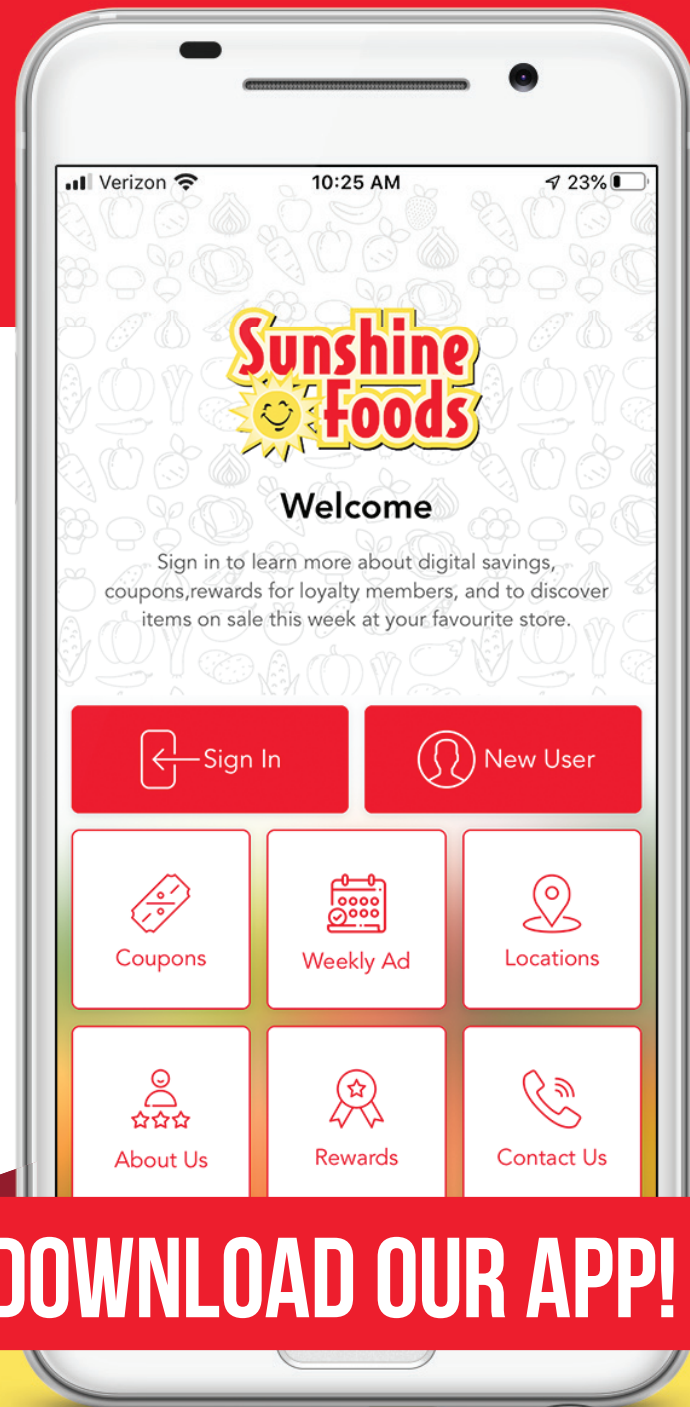
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# ENGINEERING CREDENTIALS AND INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE PROMISE SUCCESS FOR NEW TRUSS PLANT IN HARTFORD



Robbie Veurink and Paul Groeneweg of Black Tie Components.

Robbie Veurink, Eric Veurink and Paul Groeneweg grew up together in Corsica, SD. Their small town values were a great match with Hartford when they decided to build a new wood truss and wall panel factory for their company, Blacktie Components.

In their younger days, Robbie, Eric and Paul all worked on construction crews around Corsica. Now, 20+ years later, after attaining degrees in engineering and additional real-life experience in the construction industry, the three friends started Black Tie components. They identified a need in the marketplace and are bringing their skills and experience to bear. With Robbie's background as a structural engineer, Eric's knowledge as a civil engineer, and Paul's skills as a contractor, they form a group that provides them the knowledge to achieve their goal.

Blacktie Components is a wood truss and wall panel plant under construction now in the industrial park on the north side of Hartford. Their core business will be the manufacturing of trusses, wall panels and full building packages. They're confident their facility will be the most advanced plant in the region with a streamlined production line and an advanced use of automation.

A great strength is the factory will be led by engineers and be the only plant with a structural engineer on staff. Typical truss plants use unlicensed designers who use software to design their trusses. At Blacktie, the engineer-led approach will enable the company to streamline design, make changes on the go, and make sure that complex projects are properly completed. Blacktie has patented certain structural framing ideas that will provide some of the easiest-to-erect buildings available on the market.

Blacktie will also have a research and design component. This will enable full scale testing of new designs and give the company a competitive advantage in the marketplace. When the company opens for operations this summer, it will employ 20 people and will expand to 30 within a year as production increases.

This is an exciting time for the company founders and the Hartford community. "Hartford stepped up to the plate years ago to put the property together where we are located," said co-owner Robbie Veurink. "This just didn't happen overnight. The Hartford Area Development Foundation spent years of planning to make a desirable property like this available and it goes to show you that good things take time. Because we grew up in a small community, Hartford felt like a good fit to us. Amy Farr, executive director at the Hartford Area Development Foundation, has been a big help to us along the way."

Blacktie Components' short-term goal is to provide a superior product with great customer service. Future expansion plans for the building will allow the company to become the largest production facility in the area. For now, Blacktie leaders are focused on their customers. "We are excited to start production in the beginning of July and are looking forward to serving our customers," said Robbie.

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Left to right: Alyssa Giedd, Keely Mehling, James Buss, Cindy Buss, Lisa Tetzlaff

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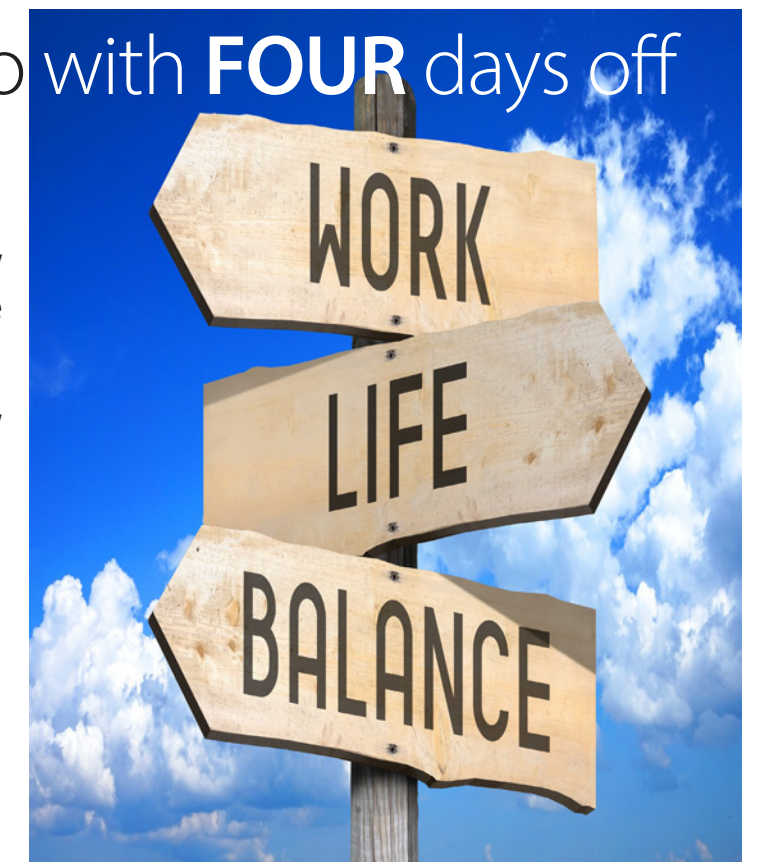
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## WORKFORCE PROFILE



Austin Parry. Photo courtesy Golden West Telecommunications.

# FIELD TECH FINDS CAREER FIT CLOSER TO HOME

Austin Parry hasn't strayed far from his hometown of Canistota and the family farm where he grew up.

After high school he studied Wi-Fi and broadband technologies down the interstate at Mitchell Technical College. As a student he completed an internship at Golden West. For almost two years now he's been keeping customers in and around the Hartford area connected through his work as a field service technician. "I was pretty sold on working at Golden West after the internship. I'm able to do my job while also being able to help on the farm in my spare time," Austin shares.

### CONNECTIONS, COMMUNITY, CUSTOMERS

Austin takes pride in all the work he does for Golden West. He enjoys learning more about his customers and establishing relationships.

"I like making sure all my installs are nice and neat, and that the customer's happy with how I did it, and the service they're getting is what they need." He appreciates his coworkers and working for Golden West. He also enjoys working in the Hartford area because of the community, the people, and "the good vibes."

Austin also admires the more experienced Golden West service technicians and how knowledgeable they are about their work. They build great friendships and relationships with customers and contractors, which is one of his goals.

### STEP BY STEP

Austin's typical day includes reporting to the Hartford office, then checking what needs to get done first. This is usually completing a few installs. While he works long days as a field service technician and follows a similar daily routine, every day isn't necessarily the same. Every house isn't the same for the installs he completes, and he enjoys the variety.

According to Austin, a perfect day on the job is one where no troubles arise. But when a stressful situation or challenge arises, he takes a step back, or a "breather." He looks at what he needs to handle and tackles it step by step from there. This perspective is how Austin and his coworkers are currently concentrating on a larger network project in Hartford. "We are working to provide one system for all customers, and customers will get faster and more reliable services," Austin says.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Moving forward, Austin sees himself continuing to work as a field service technician for Golden West, helping his family out on the farm, and enjoying summer weekends in the Black Hills.

His advice to someone who aspires to be a field technician someday is to "soak up all the knowledge you can from the other field service technicians – it makes everything easier."

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Vanilla Bean Kings Owner Taylor Ernster and Director of Operations Nathan Hickey.

## BUSINESS VICTORY FOR HARTFORD'S VICEROY OF VERSATILE VANILLA

By Garrett Gross

Taylor Ernster, owner of Vanilla Bean Kings, has grown his business from a concept back in 2015, to a small location on Hartford's Main Street to a larger warehouse just off of Exit 387. With growth has come accolades like being named to the Inc 5000 in both 2021 and 2022.

Taylor, who is originally from Tea, has called Hartford home for his business since starting his operation nine years ago. He went to South Dakota State University and earned a degree in economics with a business specialization and a minor in marketing. He started working for Weisser Distributing in their logistics department, another local Inc 5000 success story. There he gained valuable experience overall and he helped create their private label line in automotive.

"I realized developing a brand is a challenge that I enjoy and wanted to do myself, too. I began purchasing vanilla beans to make homemade vanilla extract as gifts – and it turned into a small



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Beans processed in Hartford are sourced from the SAVA region of Madagascar, the World's Capital of Vanilla. In addition to purchasing raw materials from SAVA, the Hartford company also provides funds to both purchase school supply kits and re-build schools.

business," Taylor said. "I saw that there was a big demand for quality vanilla, at fair prices, especially in the online space."

He started the business by importing small shipments of vanilla beans for both personal use and resale. Taylor quickly recognized there was a large demand for quality vanilla beans to be used in a multitude of products. The bean is so versatile as an ingredient it can be used in its whole form, used in conjunction with alcohol to create vanilla extract, ground up into a powder, added to sugar to create vanilla sugar, or blended to create vanilla bean paste.

Versatile uses create a diverse market. The company's primary customers are home bakers, who are located all over the country. Vanilla Bean Kings has effectively connected with that base including a Facebook group of 87,000, showing the depth of interest in the product. The online group includes novice bakers all the way to craft breweries or gourmet bakers at high end restaurants where tips and recipes are shared for all things vanilla-related.

"We have developed a brand that people love," said Taylor. "It is a great feeling when you see your products being used halfway across the country in some small bakery or brewery. With the help of our amazing community, we have been able to raise tens of thousands of dollars to help those in the SAVA region of Madagascar, where our vanilla beans are sourced from. We have provided thousands of children with school supply kits as well as helped to rebuild schools." The "SAVA" name of the region is composed of the initial letters of its four principal towns: Sambava, Antalaha, Iharana (Vohimaro), and Andapa. Each of these towns claims itself the World Capital of Vanilla, a spice of which the region is the largest producer of in the world

Hartford has been a great location for the Vanilla Bean Kings over the years. "Growing up in a small town, I can appreciate the community working together to grow on a personal level. I see tremendous potential for Hartford," he said. "Much like Tea and Harrisburg have experienced explosive growth being so close to Sioux Falls, I believe Hartford will have the same experience in the near future. The community and its leaders are doing an excellent job of laying the foundation needed to handle that sort of growth and development."



Vanilla beans imported from Madagascar are processed and packaged in Hartford and then shipped across the country to breweries, restaurants and bakers (ranging from novice to professional).

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Math.....20.6  
Reading.....21.8  
Science.....21.9  
Composite.....21.3

### 2022-2023 ENROLLMENT

Junior Kindergarten.....25	Grade 9.....106
Kindergarten.....108	Grade 10.....104
Grade 1.....115	Grade 11.....101
Grade 2.....113	Grade 12.....93
Grade 3.....99	<b>TOTAL HIGH SCHOOL..... 404</b>
Grade 4.....107	Brighter Transition Youth
Grade 5.....99	Treatment Center.....16
<b>TOTAL ELEMENTARY..... 666</b>	Fall Academy.....24
Grade 6.....93	<b>TOTAL..... 1,415</b>
Grade 7.....104	
Grade 8.....101	
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# PARKS & RECREATION



Photos by Vince Danh, 4Front Productions

The City of Hartford has more than 80 acres of park space for the public to enjoy. All city parks are open from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm year-round. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall by calling 605-528-6187.

Weekdays during the month of July, the City has a Summer Rec Program for children K-6th grade. With the recent hiring of a recreation director, the City hopes to expand its recreation offerings in the near future to provide opportunities for children and adults alike to do activities they love in their own community.

## LYONS PARK (CITY PARK)

202 N. Vandemark Ave., Hartford, SD

Lyons Park is the City's flagship park and the location for Jamboree Days festivities as well as the Kids Summer Recreation program. Established in the early 1900s—thanks to the Lyons family—the park has continued to serve Hartford to present day. Hartford

residents commonly reserve the park's five shelters and amphitheater to host events such as family reunions, graduation parties, and other special events. Park shelters and amphitheaters can be reserved by calling City Hall. Reservations require a \$10 nonrefundable fee. Other park amenities include playground equipment, three ball diamonds, horseshoe pits, tennis courts, a basketball court, and a sand volleyball court. Horseshoes can be rented at City Hall for free (\$35 refundable cash/check deposit). Public restrooms are available and the sidewalk circles the park for recreational walking.

## HARTFORD SWIMMING POOL

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Lyons Park is also home to the City Pool. The City Pool typically opens the last day of school and closes mid to late August. Season passes are available at City Hall or the pool and pass fees are \$43.00 per individual. Admission is \$4 per person. The pool also offers swimming lessons in June and July. Visit [Hartfordsd.us](http://Hartfordsd.us) or contact City Hall at 605-528-6187 about registration information.

## TURTLE CREEK PARK

303 E. Railroad St.,  
Hartford, SD

Turtle Creek Park is the City's newest and largest park spanning 34 acres. Turtle Creek Park offers plenty of open space for activities. The park is connected to the bike recreation trails by the apple orchard along Hartford's southern border. The park features playground equipment, a 9-hole disc golf course, and a junior ball field. Discs can be rented at City Hall for free (\$25 refundable cash/check deposit). Another park shelter is available here to be reserved, and public restrooms are conveniently available on-site.

ranging from U5-U12. Soccer space is planned to increase in the future and a concession stand/bathroom addition is planned for that section of the complex as well.

## CENTURY PARK

201 N. Main Ave., Hartford, SD

Century Park is Hartford's smallest park at half an acre, located downtown, it provides a quaint space of tranquility. Century Park is home to the Veterans Memorial and Hartford Time Capsule. A plaque describing Hartford's history is also located at the park as well as the flag disposal box managed by the Hartford American Legion. Benches and gazebos line the park which serves as the host to the annual Christmas tree lighting during Hartford's Hometown Christmas celebration. Stop by to learn more about Hartford's history and pay respect to Hartford's heroes.

## BIKE & RECREATION TRAILS

Hartford has more than three combined miles of paved path systems for the recreation needs of residents. The path starts in Turtle Creek Park and splits off down Highway 38 and Colton Road. Hartford continues to extend the path system and add improvements yearly. In 2019, the Bike & Recreation Committee added three trail maps at heads of the trail. Hartford also has a nature trail that begins at the eastern end of Turtle Creek Park and extends down to its southern border along the apple orchard. View the map on page 8 for more information.

## SWENSON SPORTS COMPLEX

1610 N. Western Ave., Hartford, SD

Swenson Sports Complex currently has two multi-use diamonds with 300-foot fences. Two more diamonds and concession stand/bathroom are planned for the future. The SSC is also home to six soccer fields that host teams



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- **West Central School District**  
PO Box 730  
(605) 528-3217

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

- **State Senator Brent (B.R.) Hoffman (District 9)**  
2608 N Career Ave, Sioux Falls 57107  
(605) 215-7014

## ELECTRICIAN

- **A1 Electric, Plumbing, Heat & Air**  
306 W 2nd St  
(605) 528-4357
- **Travis Electric, Inc.**  
PO Box 298  
(605) 212-7647

## ENTERTAINMENT

- **Bounce Around Inflatables**  
46930 Cody Trail, Tea 57064  
(605) 310-9529
- **Fireworkz Store**  
6605 W 52nd, Sioux Falls 57106
- **I-90 Speedway**  
46068 SD Hwy 38  
(605) 691-3503

## FINANCIAL & INVESTMENT SERVICES

- **Black Hills Federal Credit Union**  
921 W 10th St, Sioux Falls 57104  
(605) 937-4600
- **Edward Jones - Abby O'Hara**  
304 SD Hwy 38 #130  
(605) 221-3350

## FITNESS

- **GreatLIFE Central Valley**  
700 E Highway 38  
(605) 528-3660
- **Lemke's Fitness & Training Co.**  
700 N Vandemark Ave  
(605) 528-6000

## FLORISTS

- **Doc Nik's Flowers & Gifts**  
26748 463rd Ave  
(605) 941-7961
- **Sunshine Foods**  
118 W Hwy 38  
(605) 528-7194

## FOOD & BEVERAGE / CATERING

- **Big J's Roadhouse**  
211 Siofferahn Rd, Humboldt 57035  
(605) 363-6000
- **Buffalo Ridge Brewing**  
102 N Main Ave  
(605) 528-2739
- **Coffee Cup Fuel Stop**  
1001 S Western Ave  
(605) 528-4622

- **Creekside Meats**  
217 W South Street  
(605) 528-3151

- **Curbside Delights**  
2601 N Career Ave, Sioux Falls 57107  
(605) 310-0958

- **Hartford Steak Co. Tavern**  
709 N Mundt Ave  
(605) 528-6185

- **JBS Concessions**  
PO Box 39  
(605) 376-1266

- **Main Street Humboldt Bar**  
108 S Main St, Humboldt 57035  
(605) 363-3122

- **South Bar**  
107 S Main Ave  
(605) 528-3415

- **Stomping Grounds**  
700 N Vandemark Ave  
(605) 250-4870

- **Sunshine Foods**  
118 W Hwy 38  
(605) 528-7194

- **The Smoked Culture**  
3400 W 49th St, Sioux Falls 57106

## FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

- **Miller Funeral Home & On-Site Crematory**  
507 S Main Ave, Sioux Falls 57104  
(605) 336-2640

## GIFTS & SPECIALTY ITEMS

- **JBS Concessions**  
PO Box 39  
(605) 376-1266
- **Knotty Gnome Variety and Salvage**  
208 E Hwy 38  
(605) 528-3393

- **Stomping Grounds**  
700 N Vandemark Ave  
(605) 250-4870

## GOVERNMENT

- **City of Hartford**  
125 N. Main Ave., Hartford 57033  
(605) 528-6187
- **South Dakota Retailers Association**  
(605) 224-5050

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

- **Adobe**  
9450 SW Gemini Dr PMB 95720,  
Beaverton OR 97008  
(408) 753-5826

- **MJ Designs**  
Sioux Falls 57106  
(605) 381-6744

## GROCERY STORES

- **Sunshine Foods**  
118 W Hwy 38  
(605) 528-7194

## HARDWARE

- **Ace Hardware Hartford**  
701 S Western Ave  
(605) 528-3300
- **Hartford Building Center**  
1001 N Oaks Ave  
(605) 528-3495

ALL ADDRESSES ARE HARTFORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

**HOLISTIC HEALTH**

- **Hartford Spinal Care**  
304 W Hwy 38 #122  
(605) 528-6240

**HOME & GARDEN**

- **Knotty Gnome Variety and Salvage**  
208 E Hwy 38  
(605) 528-3393
- **MisterFixIt Appliance Repair**  
PO Box 724  
(605) 366-8645
- **Sunshine Foods**  
118 W Hwy 38  
(605) 528-7194

**HOSPITALS & CLINICS**

- **Hartford Spinal Care**  
304 W Hwy 38 #122  
(605) 528-6240
- **Jones Family Eyecare, LLC**  
304 W SD Hwy #114  
(605) 528-7000
- **Sanford Health Hartford**  
905 N Oaks  
(605) 312-5600

**HOTELS/MOTELS**

- **AmericInn by Wyndham Hartford**  
1031 Diamond Circle  
(605) 528-5000

**HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS**

- **Knapp's Landing**  
(605) 351-3672

**INSURANCE**

- **Aflac-Devin Alfson**  
602 Ironwood Dr  
(605) 999-5600
- **Fischer, Rounds & Associates**  
2300 W 49th St, Sioux Falls 57105  
(605) 336-4444

- **Puthoff Insurance**  
101 E 2nd St  
(605) 528-6816

- **Workplace Marketing Insurance Advisors**  
3220 West 57th #110 Sioux Falls 57108  
(605) 274-6653

**LANDSCAPING**

- **Hartford Building Center**  
1001 N Oaks Ave  
(605) 528-3495

- **Shamrock Property Management LLC**  
500 Shamrock Dr

**LAWN CARE**

- **Shamrock Property Management LLC**  
500 Shamrock Dr  
(605) 799-7727

**LIQUOR STORE**

- **Brown Jug**  
201 E Hwy 38  
(605) 528-3746

- **Sunshine Foods**  
118 W Hwy 38  
(605) 528-7194

**LOGISTICS/TRANSPORTATION**

- **BeKa Holdings, LLC**  
511 N Main Ave  
(605) 528-2352

**MANUFACTURING & PRODUCTION**

- **Beaverbuilt, Inc.**  
204 E Hwy 38  
(605) 528-7400

- **Blacktie Components LLC**  
1820 N Western Ave  
(605) 481-1649

- **Cemcast Pipe & Precast**  
26088 466th Ave  
(605) 528-3530

- **Central States Manufacturing**  
2010 N Western Av  
(605) 528-8800

**MARKETING**

- **AGE Media**  
Sioux Falls  
(515) 231-9367

- **Complete Media, Inc.**  
927 E 8th St Sioux Falls 57103  
(605) 360-2259

**MEDICAL, DENTAL & NURSING CARE**

- **Kore Cares, LLC**  
3101 W 41st St, Sioux Falls 57105  
(605) 275-2344

- **Prairie Rehabilitation - Hartford**  
100 W Hwy 38 Ste H  
(605) 528-1900

- **Salem Community Drug**  
300 N Main St, Salem 57058  
(605) 425-2827

- **Sanford Health Hartford**  
905 N Oaks  
(605) 312-5600

**MORTGAGE BANKING**

- **Dawn VanNieuwenhuyzen, Plains Commerce Bank**  
3905 W 49th St, Sioux Falls 57106  
(605) 376-3732

- **Open Mortgage LLC-Jake Droge #2975**  
45776 263rd St, Humboldt 57035  
(605) 941-7029

**NEWSPAPER**

- **New Century Press/Minnehaha Messenger**  
100 W Hwy 38  
(605) 321-9153

**PERSONAL SERVICES**

- **Kore Cares, LLC**  
3101 W 41st St, Sioux Falls 57105  
(605) 275-2344

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(605) 528-1900

**PETS**

● **Borderlands Horse Sanctuary**  
26160 457th Ave, Humboldt 57035  
(605) 261-6828

● **Hartford Veterinary Clinic**  
903 N Oaks  
(605) 528-3344

● **R Place Kennel**  
46096 SD Hwy 38  
(605) 528-7387

**PLUMBING**

● **A1 Electric, Plumbing, Heat & Air**  
306 W 2nd St  
(605) 528-4357

**PRINTING & TYPESETTING SERVICES**

● **Minuteman Press**  
125 S Main Ave, Sioux Falls 57104  
(605) 271-7515

**PROPERTY LEASING & MANAGEMENT**

● **Costello Investments**  
7409 S Bitterroot Pl, Sioux Falls 57108  
(605) 336-9131

● **L&S Partnership, LLC**  
110 W Hwy 38  
(612) 408-4671

● **Northside Mobile Home Park**  
100 E 9th, Lot H  
(605) 528-6644

**REAL ESTATE SERVICES**

● **Dave & Co. - Hegg Realtors**  
6225 S Minnesota Ave, Sioux Falls 57108  
(605) 751-9021

● **Hartford Professional Centre**  
701 N Sagehorn Dr

● **Hegg Realtors / Michelle Thompson**  
129 N Main Ave  
(605) 310-9415

**REHAB THERAPY**

● **Prairie Rehabilitation - Hartford**  
100 W Hwy 38 Ste H  
(605) 528-1900

**RESTAURANTS**

● **The Dugout Sports Bar & Grill**  
120 N Main Ave  
(605) 528-3224

● **Big J's Roadhouse**  
211 Stofferahn Rd, Humboldt 57035  
(605) 363-6000

● **Dairy Queen**  
704 S Western Ave

● **Get N Go**  
101 E 9th St  
(605) 528-6534

● **Hartford Steak Co. Tavern**  
709 N Mundt  
(605) 528-6185

● **Main Street Humboldt Bar**  
108 S Main St, Humboldt 57035  
(605) 363-3122

● **Pizza Ranch**  
120 W Hwy 38  
(605) 528-3663

● **Stomping Grounds**  
700 N Vandemark Ave  
(605) 528-7300

● **The GOAT Bar & Grill, LLC**  
116 W Hwy 38  
(605) 528-6040

**SNOW REMOVAL**

● **Shamrock Property Management LLC**  
500 Shamrock Dr  
(605) 799-7727

**SPORTING GOODS**

● **Grocott Ink & Thread**  
800 S Western Ave Ste D  
(605) 528-7364

**TAX PREPARATION**

● **Buss CPA**  
800 S Western Ave Ste B  
(605) 528-1670

● **Fast Tax Income Tax Service**  
46304 Kelsey Dr  
(605) 528-1040

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

● **Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative**  
116 N Main Ave  
(605) 528-3211

● **Midco**  
3901 N Louise Ave, Sioux Falls 57107  
(800) 888-1300

**UTILITIES**

● **Cressman Sanitation, Inc**  
101 W Mickelson Rd  
(605) 759-3456

● **Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative**  
116 N Main Ave  
(605) 528-3211

● **MidAmerican Energy**  
223 S Iowa St, Sioux City 51101  
(888) 427-5632

● **Novak Sanitary Service**  
5000 W 8th St, Sioux Falls 57107  
(605) 338-7126

● **Sioux Valley Energy**  
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(800) 234-1960

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