

## Lake Mills





While the town was platted by Charles D. Smith in 1869, the history of Lake Mills traces back actually to the 1850's, when Joshua Thomas settled here with his family.

They were followed by more early settlers, the majority of which were of Scandinavian descent, who originally named the town Slaunchville. However, after building a grist mill in 1864 to replace the water

mills that dried up or were frozen every year, the town's name was changed to honor the new mill, which made a fortune for the town and its members, and sat on the banks of what was then Rice Lake.

The mill attracted business from all over the area and influenced great growth. Throughout the 1860's and 70's, businesses such as grocery stores, banks, hotels, restaurants and blacksmiths popped up all over Lake Mills. Richard Sears, the founder of the Sears department store and catalog

company, also came to the town to be a depot agent from 1880 to 1886 before moving to Redwood Falls, where the company picked up his trail to success. Pulitzer Prize winning author Wallace Stenger spent his early life in Lake Mills



and Jesse Parker, a legend in Iowa education, was born and raised here.

Located 10 miles

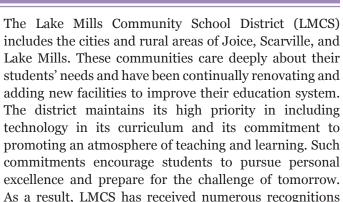
west of Interstate 35, 20 miles south of Interstate 90, and 32 miles north of the Avenue of the Saints, and with U.S. Highway 69 flowing directly through town from the west to the north, Lake Mills is within travel-distance of roads that can take you in any direction. The Mason City Airport is only a 30-minute drive from Lake Mills and provides commercial air travel services, while Lake Mills Airport has a grass landing strip to allow for local air travel. The town is also centrally located two hours south of Minneapolis, MN and two hours north of Des Moines, IA. Therefore, the community of Lake Mills is a prime location for business development, with available buildings and sites to suit a variety of business needs. Please contact Winn-Worth Betco at 641-592-0800, or the Lake Mills Chamber Development Corporation at 641-592-5253 if you are interested in discussing a potential business relocation or a new location.



While Lake Mills 🛭 naintained a variety of businesses in its earlier days, the residents depended on Cool Spring Canning Company

for employment during the first half of the 20th century. When the plant closed in 1957, an

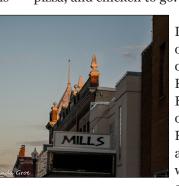
aggressive group of Lake Mill residents began a highly successful drive to find another way to create jobs for people in the community. Since then, Lake Mills has become an epicenter of manufacturing and industry in this region with multiple manufacturing facilities and a diverse roster of companies employing many people throughout Northern Iowa and Southern Minnesota. With a strong work ethic, an excellent location, a state-of-the-art school system, great recreational opportunities, community organizations and churches, Lake Mills came to be an ideal place for businesses and



at the state and national level over the years. It has been selected as one of the 64 schools nationwide to be named a 'service-learning leader.' Students in this area can continue their education at two and four-year degree programs located within driving distance of 30-45 minutes or less from Lake Mills.

Lake Mills has plenty to offer for entertainment. Whether you're out for an evening with friends or looking for a fun place to shop, Lake Mills has something for you. When it comes to dining opportunities, the town has a diverse selection. From the unique atmosphere and menu of Teluwut Restaurant, to the comfortable and relaxing

sit-down experience with Main Street Pizza and Ay Jalisco's Mexican dishes, there is something to suit everyone's tastes. For quicker options, swing by Subway, Casey's General Store, or Don's Motor Mart to find subs, pizza, and chicken to go.



LAKE MILLS

EST. 1869

If shopping is your mission, check out retail spots like Marketplace on Mill Street, Three Oaks Green House or Salon 304 Spa and Boutique for unique clothing options, gifts and other fun items. Pamper yourself with a facial at K&P Esthetics or wind down with a yoga or other fitness class at Uptown Fitness. Cap off your night with a drink with friends at North Branch Bar, Gene's Place

or 5 Alarm Brewing Co. who



Rice Lake for fishing or water skiing. Otherwise, there is a bike trail that takes visitors through town and past the beautiful "Promise of America" sculpture, which signifies the Norwegian heritage of the community and its founders. Lake Mills is home to Winnebago County's Freedom Rock located in Arlington Veteran's Park which serves as a tribute to the service members of the community. Rice Lake Country Club also offers a

beautiful landscape for golfers of all levels. Oakwood Park also has a disc-golf course with nine baskets.

If the weather forces you indoors, catch a movie at 'The Mills' Theater. Larger events such as family or class reunions can be held in facilities like the Truman Helgeson Civic Center, Diamond Jo Casino Event Center, Oakwood Park, Main Street Pizza Party Room, Ole's Office, John R. Saxerud Conference Room at the theater, 1901 Victorian House and Gardens, area churches, or the Beenken Scouting Center.

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21134 440th St, PO Box 217

592-9272 JERRY'S BODY SHOP 13492 225th Av • 592-8800 LAKE MILLS AUTO SALVAGE 1601 Apple Av • 592-2400

21134 440th St • 592-9272 LAKE MILLS MOTOR SPORTS 45563 Hwy 69 • 592-2145 www.lakemillsmotorsports.com

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MIDWEST METAL STAMPING 43066 225th Av • 592-1120 NORSEMEN OUTDOORS INC 24592A Hwy 105 • 592-6160

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www.lakemillsia.org

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Mon - Fr. 8 am - 4:30 pm

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PRESCHOOL & DAYCARE

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Reference

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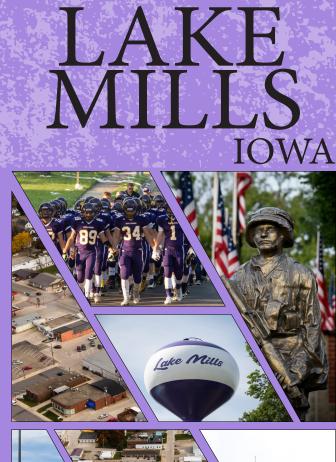
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