

## Shawano Pathways Sponsor County's 203<sup>rd</sup> Barn Quilt

Shawano County's 203<sup>rd</sup> barn quilt has been sponsored by Shawano Pathways, the area's local bike/pedestrian group. It is the first of three barn quilts the group will be sponsoring as part of its "Bike the Barn Quilts" initiative that will kick off this fall. Appropriately, the quilt pattern has been named Bike the Barn Quilts.

Matty Mathison, spokesperson for the group, said they are very excited about being part of the barn quilt project. "We hope a lot of people will help us celebrate the Shawano County barn quilt project by participating in our Bike the Barn Quilts rally on Saturday, September 28," Mathison said. "The scenic recreational bike ride will consist of routes varying in distances from 5 to 35 miles, with each featuring a different group of quilts. All rides will start at Memorial Park, 909 South Lincoln St. in Shawano." For more information, you can contact Mathison at [matty@frontiernet.net](mailto:matty@frontiernet.net), [ShawanoPathways.org](http://ShawanoPathways.org), or the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce

The Shawano Pathways received a Mielke grant for the bike rally, which included the sponsorship of three barn quilts. Each of the three quilts features a biking theme and have been designed by Nick Bleser. Bleser, who has a degree from NWTC in graphic design, got involved with the biking group when they asked him to design their logo and graphics for a tee shirt for the bike rally. "Nick probably has the largest portfolio of any graphic designer," Mathison said, "since his first projects are eight foot square quilt blocks."

The first of the three barn quilts sponsored by Shawano Pathways has been put on display on the Randy and Kim Gracyalny farm, W334 Highway 29, Pulaski. It is easily visible on the Gracyalny farm about 20 miles east of Shawano.

The barn on which the quilt is mounted was built in 1910. The farm has been in the Gracyalny family for four generations, starting with Randy's great grandparents, Jacob and Catherine Gracyalny, who purchased the farm after coming to the U.S. from Poland in the late 1800s. It was then taken over by Louis and Pelagia, Jacob and Catherine's son and his wife. Louis was born on the farm in 1900.

Edward and Margie, Randy's parents, took over the farm in 1972. From the beginning, the farm was operated as a dairy farm with a herd of Holstein cows. Randy and his wife, Kim, took over the farm in 2012. The dairy herd was sold in 2003, a year after Randy's dad died. Randy and Kim have a son, Dalton, and two daughters, Shi and Kaylynn.

The Gracyalny barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy and Keith Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

To participate in the Shawano County barn quilt project, contact project coordinator Jim Leuenberger at 715-524-5685 or via email at [jamesmleuenberger@yahoo.com](mailto:jamesmleuenberger@yahoo.com). You can also contact Patti Peterson, tourism manager at the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce at [tourism@shawano.com](mailto:tourism@shawano.com) or 715-524-2139. A link on the Shawano Chamber Web site includes photos and information on every barn quilt on display in Shawano County. Just go to [www.shawanocountry.com](http://www.shawanocountry.com) and click on the barn quilt icon.