

# Midwest Bank 2024 Potato Days Grand Marshall

By Ley Bouchard  
Staff Writer

Midwest Bank of Barnesville was named as Grand Marshall for this year's Potato Days, announced Missie Goheen, Director of Potato Days. "They are a hard working group that has been dedicated to volunteering and sponsoring Potato Days for years, the community as a whole for that matter," said Goheen. "They are just an amazing group of people! The president of the bank is Dionne Merkens and she is just so wonderful."



Dionne Merkens, President of Midwest Bank said all 11 team members and their families will be in the parade. It will be a Midwest Bank red, white and blue float that will start the Potato Days Parade at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 24.

Midwest Bank is known in the region for their values. "Our values make Midwest Bank different from other banks and other community banks. We hire team members that emulate our values and then we serve our customers using these values each and every day," said Dionne Merkens, President of Midwest Bank. "We give back to the community not only in donations but in time. Our team members are leaders in the community with the Barnesville Branch serving on the following organizations: Barnesville Area

Community Fund, Barnesville Economic Development Authority, Main Street, Potato Days and the Barnesville Area Food Pantry.

"We have team members committed to the community and making it a better place to live. For example, Aubree Martinez and Emily Holmes created the Blue Eagle Market. The BEM is a monthly farmers market at Blue Eagle Park."

Merkens has been in the banking business for 25 years. She has been the Barnesville Branch President since 2012. She provides ag and commercial loans.

Midwest Bank began in 1917 in Waubun, MN. The branch in Barnesville started in 1998 and there are other branches in Callaway, Dalton, Detroit Lakes and Parkers Prairie, a Detroit

Lake location in Walmart, and the original, still in Waubun.

To make room for the Barnesville branch, four old buildings, none in use, were leveled. Gone were the Bijou Theatre, an adjacent cafe, a vacant barber shop and TV repair location. On the south end of the block a three story bank building that went bankrupt in the Great Depression was leveled. Already gone when Midwest Bank moved to town was a large one-story building that once housed Traaten Ford in the early 20th century and ?? silos in the 1970s.

Midwest Bank is committed to the following core values:

- Community: It is our responsibility to strengthen the communities we call home.

- Integrity. Our relationships rest on a foundation of integrity and honesty.

- Quality is the rule, not the exception.

- Genuine care toward our customers and employees will differentiate us and is critical to our success.

- Teamwork is an attitude where more is achieved by working together than as individuals.

- Balance is necessary for the overall well-being of our employees and the organization.

Midwest Bank employees will start the Potato Days Parade at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 24.

## SPUD JOKE

What do you call a yam with a broom?

Answer:  
A sweep potato.

## Past Grand Marshalls

- 1993 Robert Johanson
- 1994 Frank Thompson
- 1995 Eddie Bernhardson
- 1996 Duane Preston
- 1997 Forrest Thompson
- 1998 Laurance Kava
- 1999 Susy Thompson
- 2000 Chuck Gunnerson
- 2001 Earl & Leslie Hoppe
- 2002 Brian & Joanne Halverson
- 2003 Wes, Etta & K.W. Christensen
- 2004 The Schenck Family
- 2005 The Carr Family
- 2006 Rick & Mary Lou Thompson
- 2007 Richard & Raymond Peppel & Phyllis'
- 2008 Jack And Glorine Schulstad
- 2009 Dean & Mae/Ryan & Michelle Tonsfeldt
- 2010 Wells Fargo
- 2011 Dar Hines
- 2012 Gene and Karen Prim
- 2013 David and Doris Hanson
- 2014 Midwest Bank
- 2015 City of Barnesville - Public Works Dept.
- 2016 All Past Potato Days Board Members
- 2017 R.D. Offutt Company
- 2018 Herbranson and Halvorson Families
- 2019 Valley Ag Partners
- 2021 Mark Klein
- 2022 Susy Thompson
- 2023 Tammy Grommesh

## LOCAL DECISIONS MADE LOCALLY...by locals.



Dionne Merkens

Sue Moats

Emily Holmes

Aubree Martinez



MIDWEST BANK

Banking your way.

Barnesville

218-354-2704



www.midwestbank.net

