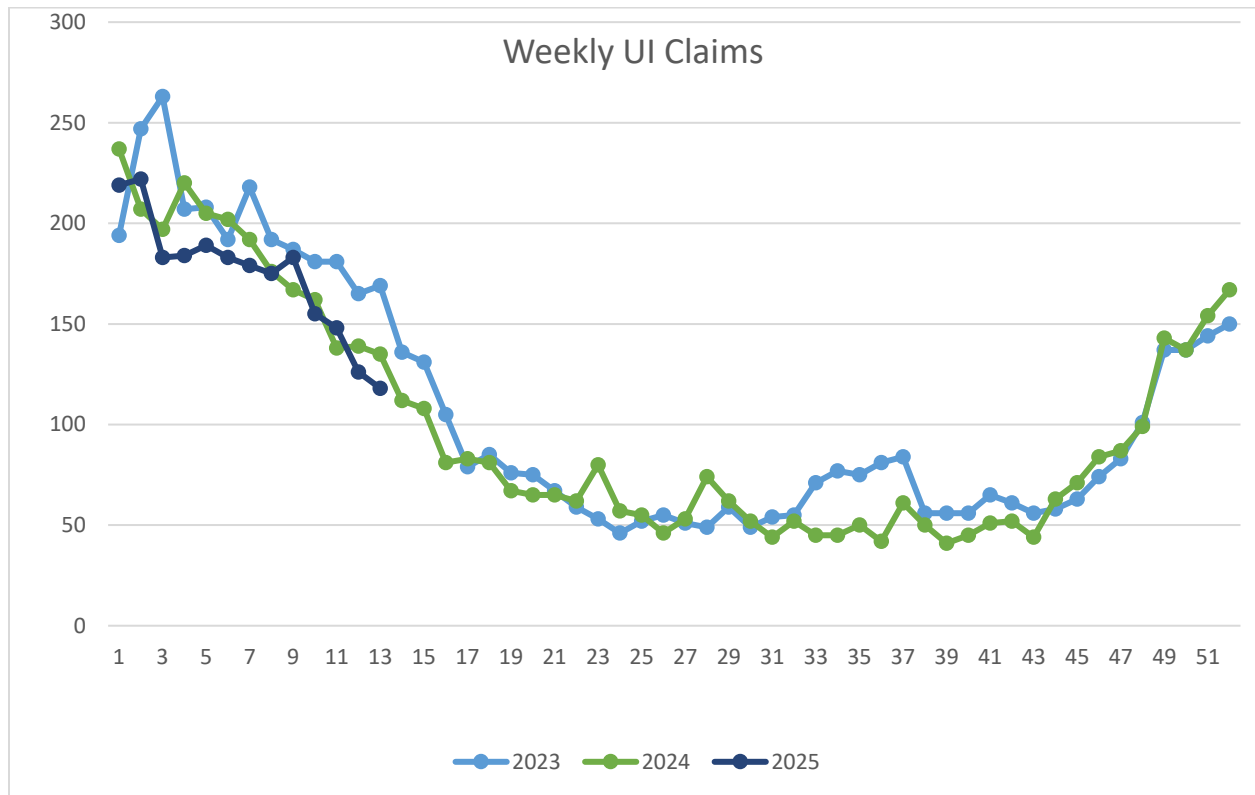


2024 Marquette County Economic Development Annual Report

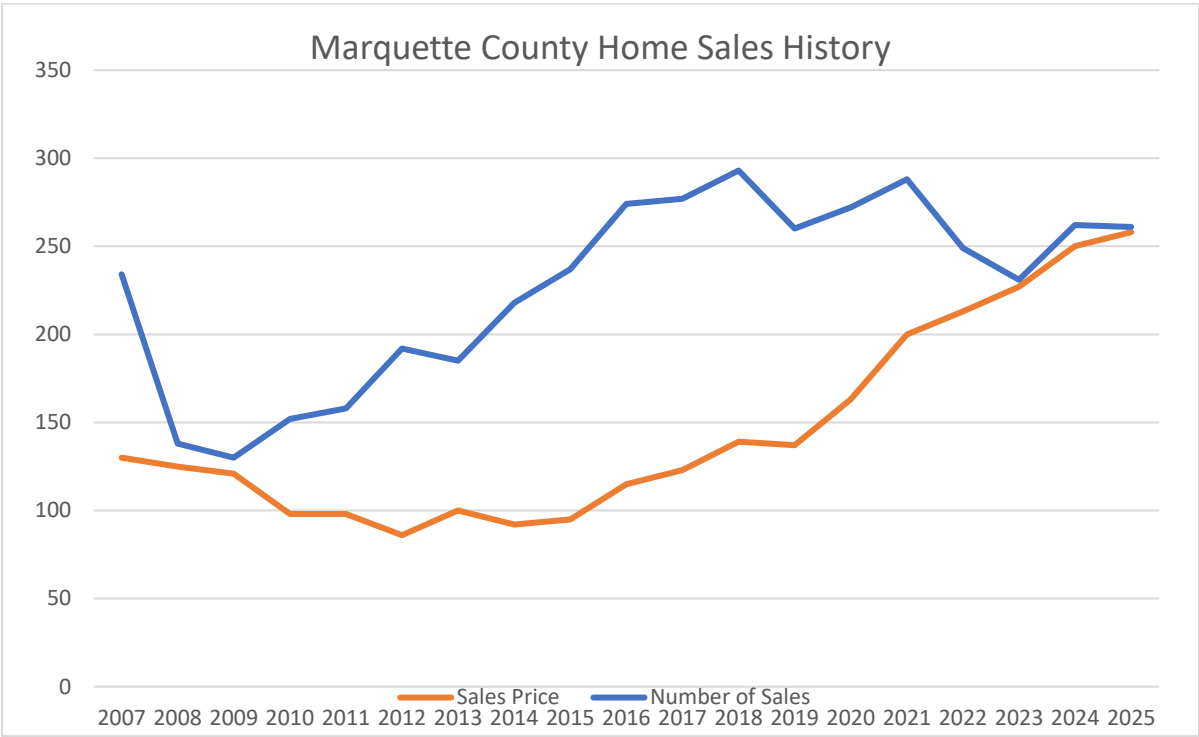


Unemployment



Since 2019, unemployment in Wisconsin has been at record lows. This chart shows that employment continues to remain strong in Marquette County.

Real Estate



Year	Sales	Sale Price
2007	234	130
2008	138	125
2009	130	121
2010	152	98
2011	158	98
2012	192	86
2013	185	100
2014	218	92
2015	237	95
2016	274	115
2017	277	123
2018	293	139
2019	260	137
2020	272	163
2021	288	200
2022	249	213
2023	231	227
2024	261	250

The chart to the left shows the number of sales per year and the average selling price in thousands.

For 2024, the 225 homes sold is an estimate for how many will be sold this year.

Through March of 2025, the average selling price for the year is 258k.

When interest rates dropped in 2020 is when we saw both the volume and price of homes go up.

In the summer of 2022 when interest rates began to rise is when the volume of homes being sold began to fall. However, due to stable employment rates and a lower inventory of homes on the market, prices have continued to go up.

Childcare



Picture from Building Blocks Childcare Facebook

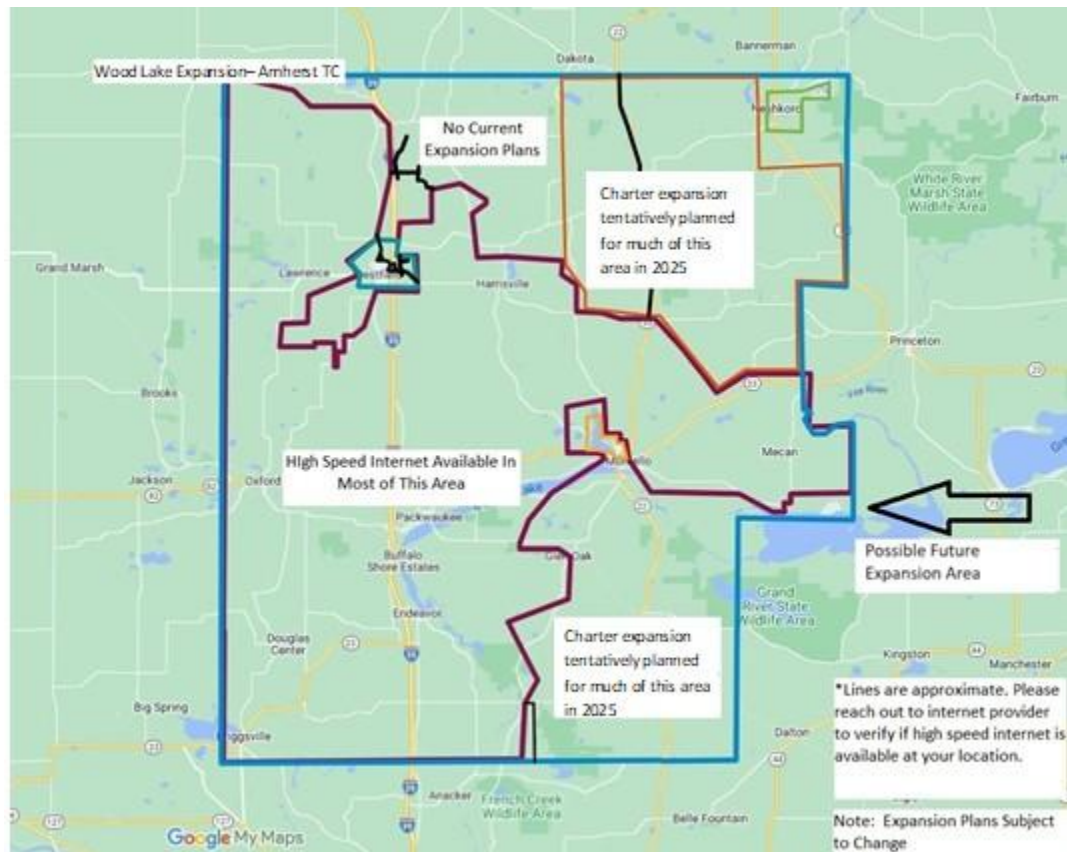
Last year I brought together a team to look at childcare issues in the county. The main challenge was not having enough childcare teachers.

One of the obstacles to obtaining teachers is the cost of the required training. Due to slim margins, the childcare provider cannot cover the cost of the classes. It is also hard for a potential teacher who is often only going to be making \$10/hr. to be able to pay for the classes.

The county dedicated \$2500 of ARPA funds in the spring of 2024 to pay for the classes that are needed for childcare teachers to become certified. This money will be available until the end of 2026, or the funds run out, whichever comes first.

As of April 2025, training has been provided for 5 new childcare teachers, along with ongoing training to remain certified for 15 childcare teachers. There is less than \$300 left in the fund.

Broadband



Over 70% of Marquette County currently has high-speed internet available. Charter has plans to expand in much of the eastern part of the county in 2025. Amherst Tel. Co./Union Tel. will be expanding in the Pleasant Lake and Wood Lake areas in the spring of 2025.

This leaves the Town of Newton area, along with some small geographical pockets scattered throughout the county that currently have no expansion plans. If all of the expansion plans are completed, well over 90 percent of the county will have high speed internet.

The county board endorsed plans by Marquette-Adams and Bertram Communications, who are applying for BEAD funding. As of early April 2025, we are still waiting to see who was awarded, if anyone, in Marquette County. If Bertram is awarded, all areas in the county needing high speed internet access will be served.

Tourism

I continue to promote the county to potential visitors with tourism activities. Last year there were over 27,000 visits to the website, which was a new record. I continue to have a strong focus on tourism, with 2025 being off to a good start with website visitors. We also had a record Facebook reach, of over 500k, more than doubling the year before. Below are a couple of examples of posts.

