

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Marathon City Announces Private / Public Partnership**

MARATHON CITY, WI. September 14, 2020 – The Village of Marathon City announced today it has established a private / public partnership with St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church of Marathon City for the development of a pair of new community facilities in Marathon City.

The first facility is a child care center approximately 8,000 square feet in size and would provide before school, work day and after school child care services. The child care facility is projected to employ 20 full time staff focused on early childhood development with capacity of 75 children.

"Through the Long Range ministry planning of St. Matthew's, the Child Care Center was a vision for growth of the greater Marathon community, and where better to start than with our youngest community members. Collaborating with the Village and shared visions this proposed project will be a step in supporting the needs for future development of our community," said Jerry Natzke representing St Matthew's Child Care. "This location is ideal for our family's needs and surrounding our center with a beautiful new park gives us a green space for the children to enjoy."

The second facility includes the relocation and expansion of Veteran's Park. The new park will feature two regulation high school softball fields and two 12U baseball fields. Veteran's park will be home for Marathon High School Softball and the youth summer baseball and softball programs sponsored by American Legion Post 469.

In addition, the relocated Veteran's Park will be the new home of the Annual Marathon Fun Days featuring a pair of new modern pavilions, expanded parking options and greater flexibility for event planners. The pavilions will be available to the public for graduation parties, family gatherings and other community events.

"The joint planning efforts we have had are intended to improve services and opportunity within our community," said David Belanger, Village President. "The child care facility and Veteran's Park relocation are part of the broader plan for growth and sustainability of the Village. We look forward to the next phase in these efforts."

"Private / Public partnerships are very important in completing these types of significant projects in our community," said Andy Kurtz, Village Administrator. "We appreciate the opportunity to work with our community members to bring these opportunities from concept to reality and look forward to developing other partnerships and projects."

Negotiations for land bordering the Village have been completed. Acquisition of the property and annexation of the property into the Village of Marathon by St. Matthew's is anticipated to be completed by December 31, 2020. The proposed timeline for the projects include a construction start in the spring of 2021 with completion in the fall of 2021.

Located at the intersection of State Highway 29 and State Highway 107 and minutes west of the I-39 corridor, Marathon City sits above the banks of the Big Rib River on Marathon Hill. Marathon City combines the best of rural living with the convenience of urban access. Our picturesque community is home to 1573 residents, excellent schools, corporations that lead their industry segments and over 50 small businesses ranging from ginseng production to manufacturing and fabrication to local dining and entertainment to professional services in medical, dental, vision, automotive, insurance, personal finance and banking. Marathon City is an employment center for the region and is recognized regionally, nationally and globally for products created here. We invite you to visit and see why we say "The View's Great Up Here!"

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church was established in 1887 and is nestled at the corner of 1st and Hemlock. St. Matthew's is a member of the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod. Little Lions Child Care will be owned and operated by St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church as a nonprofit LLC. Little Lions welcomes all children from six-weeks old to 12 years of age. The vision of Little Lions Child Care is "Imprinting God's Word in Our Hearts."

