

Marcellus "Spitz" Jirschele
Nominated by Pam Jirschele

I am nominating Marcellus "Spitz" Jirschele for 150 of 150 years because of his lifelong dedication and service to the City of Marshfield. He was very involved in city and local government all of his adult life, making many contributions and being a huge influence in different areas of the city of Marshfield's growth.

Jirschele was born in Marshfield in 1912 and was a 1930 graduate of McKinley High School. After high school he worked for his brother, Ray, in the city's last blacksmith shop from 1930 to 1946, when it closed. After the shop's closure he was hired by the city in 1946 and named the city Street Superintendent in 1948. He would serve in that position for nearly three decades, retiring in 1976.

It was during this tenure that he was very influential in a cause near and dear to his heart, the Wildwood Park and Zoo. He was a driving force in the development of the Park and Zoo and was an inaugural member of the Wildwood Park Zoological Society. In 1965, he oversaw the moving of the zoo animals to a new 40 acre range, which the animals and public still enjoy today. He was the first City of Marshfield Zoo Director and was on the Board of Directors for the Zoological Society, serving as its president from 1977 to 1978. He was influential in starting the annual Zoo Fest, which is still held today. In 1993, he was awarded the position of Director Emeritus for his dedicated years of service. He was a member of the Wisconsin Zoo Associates and worked with many zoos across Wisconsin, including the Milwaukee Zoo. This enabled him to learn the newest ideas for zoo management and to obtain many new animals for the zoo. His foresight and dedication helped to make our park and zoo what it is today.

Along with his work with the park and zoo, Jirschele served on the Wood County Board from 1976 until 1978. He served on the Common Council's Parks and Forestry Committee and the University Center Committee for the University of Wisconsin-Marshfield/Wood County and was vice-chair from 1978 until 1980 and as a member of the Wisconsin Valley Library Service from 1986 until 1991. As a member of the cemetery board he had the area around the statue at the entrance of the Gate of Heaven Cemetery renovated and landscaped. He was an honorary life member of the Knights of Columbus.

Spitz was truly dedicated to the city of Marshfield and set an example for his employees, friends, and family of how to serve and appreciate their community. His example of what dedication truly means can be felt across generations. Our family is so proud of all of his contributions to the city of Marshfield.

