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Broadcasts!

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2011

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Summer Food Service Program!

OVER 5,000 MEALS SERVED!

This past summer, the Backus Summer Food Service Program served over 5,000 meals to kids and parents who participated in the summer meal program. The count of 5,272 lunches surpassed the previous summer's total of 3,500. The average daily meal count in 2010 was 49 with last summer's count averaging 86 per day. Over 100 meals were served on a number of days! Kids, ages 1-18 can always eat free and their meals are reimbursed by the MN Dept. of Education. Although parent meals are not reimbursed through the program,

they are encouraged to eat with their children and those that can afford to, are asked to make a \$3 donation. The Falls Hunger Coalition supports the program by contributing the cost of adult meals not covered by the donations. The Coalition also supplied kids with a healthy "snack pack" to take home. The program is funded through the USDA and the MN Department of Education. Backus is required to adhere to the same standards as the regular school lunch program in regard to nutrition and portion requirements. Additional support comes from the Otto Bremer Foundation, Boise, the Vikings Children's Fund and Hardees's Restaurant.



Backus Kids Club

Backus Kids Club has had some exciting events take place over the last few months. The first being that we are now officially licensed by the state of Minnesota Human Resources Department. Among other things, this allows us to accept families into our program who may receive financial assistance from the county.

The other new addition has been having Jackie Krueger teach Tae Kwon Do to BKC kids, as well as other children from the community who wish to learn more about this martial art. The kids who choose to join have enjoyed learning various kicks, punches, as well as ways to show respect and become more focused. Both of these new ventures will provide BKC with more avenues to reach families across Borderland.

We have averaged about 6 children per day, with our maximum being 12-14 on Mondays for Tae Kwon Do, and 12 on our last no-school day. Recently, the children have enjoyed carving pumpkins, making milk jug bird feeders, and

creating a beautiful "Thankful" wreath together. They continue to go to the public library on Tuesdays to enjoy crafts and check out books. Diane Adams has also been kind enough to allow our children to attend gaming time at the library once a month.

Finally, we have a nice, new rug from Ballan Furniture for the children to play on, as well as new storage and Lego people, which the kids play with daily! I look forward to hopefully getting more quality toys for the children as well as a couple of computers we can put some educational games on for the kids to enjoy. I anticipate good things coming our way for the new year, and I hope for the same to you and your families.

A Wonderful Holiday Season to all!

Julie Talmage
 BKC Coordinator



From the Director's Desk...



Learning to make egg rolls!

EGG ROLLS are for sale . . .
Pre-cooked
Ready to serve

\$18 / dozen

**BACKUS
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

**900 FIFTH
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INT'L FALLS
MN 56649**

**218-285-7225
FAX 285-7118**

WWW.BACKUSAB.ORG

October – December -1941: Seventy Years Ago

By the fall of 1941 the seventh grade class that had been the first to move into the new Backus J.H. School in the spring of 1937 was now in their senior year at Falls High. Looking back through the yellowed copies of the Daily Journal reveals war headlines dominating every edition of the newspaper. The war in Europe was the focus of Americans in the fall of 1941. Nazi armies were approaching Moscow and Leningrad with daily headlines detailing death tolls and miles covered by the invaders. The Neutrality Act, Lend Lease, Nazi executions of civilians, arming of merchant ships, Nazi submarines, and draft calls were subjects common to the front pages.

The national sports scene focused on the Minnesota Gopher football team led by halfback and team captain, Bruce Smith, who would be awarded the Heisman Trophy later that year. The team was riding an unbeaten winning streak that had begun in 1939 and would be named "National Champions" for the second straight year by the Associated Press. Local Falls newsboys traveled by train to watch the Gophers defeat Wisconsin on November 22.

Locally, the Falls football team was doing well and still known as "The Purple." Just prior to the basketball season Walt Scheela won the contest to name the Falls athletic teams with his entry of "Broncos." The Sports Stadium had been completed that fall and boasted seating for 1,400 and a "loudspeaker to make prep games better." The "cagers" were coached by Fred Williams, who as a member of the Naval Reserve was likely to be called to service if need be.

As October began that year, much attention was focused on the "Eighth Annual Daily Journal Homemaker's Institute"

which featured a three-day cooking school taught by Olga V. Hanscomb – "conducted again at Backus School Auditorium with 3 evening sessions beginning at 8pm. Admission of 10 cents with receipts to the PTA." Photos show the Auditorium packed with over 950 women in attendance. A special "matinee" session was scheduled on Thursday at 2pm to accommodate the "farm and rural" women who wished to attend. As anticipation of the event mounted, an October 4th article stated, "Women cast longing eyes at cooking school prizes." The top prize was an electric GE Damp-Dryer washer. On October 8 a headline proclaimed, "Journal cooking school opens tonight – value of prizes will exceed \$400." The stage was filled with a "dream home" set that featured furniture provided by local merchants with rooms separated by Insulite walls. "Backus stage transformed into a veritable "dreamhouse" with furniture, equipment and arrangements of the kind expected to incite the admiration and envy of every homemaker." The center of attraction" was Mrs. Hanscomb's GE "model kitchen" dominating the front of the stage. On the final night a capacity crowd of more than 1,000 packed the Auditorium to witness the prize drawings. Mrs. Andrew Jespersen won the GE washer (her farm home on Rainy Lake had just recently been electrified). Another photo featured Mrs. Gerald Vold of Holler, who won a year's electric service from Rainy River Improvement Company. My great-grandmother, Clara Merrill was pictured as the winner of a 49 pound sack of Pillsbury's Best Flour.

Today, \$400 in prizes may not seem like much, but to a community not yet recovered from the Great Depression, these items were of tremendous worth. A comparison of 1941 prices reveals the following: Corrin's ad listed an "Easy" washer for \$79.95 (with important \$100 washer features), Diamond Taxi – 25



cents – any place in town, Gambles – 12 gauge shells for \$1.07/box, 1942 Philco console radio \$109, National Tea, MN Market and Red Owl grocery stores: Herring 3 lbs. – 29 cents, hams – 29 cents, butter 38 cents, roast beef 24 cents and chicken 21 cents. Gambles featured many toys for less than a dollar. Dresses at Stevenson's: \$4-\$9, sweaters 97 cents, a Coke cost 5 cents and teachers paychecks got a boost of \$10/month for a yearly salary of \$1,260 - \$1,530 (principals earned \$2,300/year).

Another event that October was a huge Columbus Day Celebration with "thousands of American-Italians expected to attend." Headquarters would be the Community Building. 17 bands were expected with a parade to take place at 2pm followed by a public banquet that evening at Backus Auditorium. Local officials were: Angelo Gust, Pasquale Pulicchio, Onesimo Toninato, Eugenio Mio and Marguerite Pulicchio. The Journal speculated that 6,000-10,000 people were expected for the celebration. The October 11 edition splashed four photos atop the front page of the massive parade. A photo taken in the Backus Gym showed the head table and listed local speakers as Mayor C.C. Craig and County Attorney J.J. Hadler.

As October gave way to November women were urged to sign up for a "Nurse's Aide Corp", Defense Training classes opened in the industrial arts shops of Backus, and on October 31 the U.S. destroyer, Reuben James was sunk off the coast of Iceland by a Nazi submarine.

November events at Backus included a Boy Scout Northern Border District Jamboree, the Junior Class play "Footloose" directed by Miss Emily McCracken. Rev. R.O. Evans addressed students during an Armistice Day program. Nationally, a coal strike was on and the headlines began to highlight the Japanese more frequently: "Jap Official Confers with Hull," "U.S. Won't Compromise with Japan," "Japan Masses Troops in Indo-China," "Roosevelt Studies Japanese Reply as Tokyo Envoys Stall for Time," and on December 7 – "JAPS ATTACK!" followed by "U.S. AT WAR" and "IT'S REAL WAR" – Japs Extend Assault to Philippines." On December 8 Congress declared war and the President's war message was carried through the school's entire sound system. There was complete quiet at the close. "The National Anthem played and every person, student, teacher, clerk, janitor and principal rose in a fine example of patriotism". As Japanese attacks continued on the Philippines, Guam, Midway and Wake Island, Army Reserve

guards were placed at the Falls airport, planes were grounded, amateur radio transmissions were forbidden, a new 92' flag pole was installed at the Courthouse, MANDO workers who enlisted would keep seniority, Immigration officers at the International Bridge were ordered to keep watch for Japanese nationals who might try to cross the border: "up to noon, none had been reported." Patriotic ads for the Red Cross and War Bonds began to appear, young men enlisted and the County's only "Jap" was detained.

In spite of the headline, "Grim Christmas Week Faces American Nation at War", a free kids party and movie with Santa was held at the Border Theater, a city-wide Christmas lighting contest was held, a Christmas scene in the Municipal Bandshell was illuminated and the shopping days until Christmas were counted down. The Daily Journal was full of Christmas greeting ads from local businesses and ads for gifts and shopping ideas appeared daily.

By December 31 Wake Island's defenders were overwhelmed by the Japanese invaders, Manila would be bombed and the last headline of the year would read, "Manila Stronghold Likely to Fall Today". The World, the Nation and International Falls were at war. The youngsters who comprised the first class to occupy Backus would soon be thrust onto the stage of history and later become known as "The Greatest Generation."

As this current Holiday Season approaches and then recedes into memory, we might reflect on what those people experienced seventy years ago. Just as the Backus Junior High figured prominently in their lives and the life of our community, it continues to do so today. Perhaps one way to honor their contributions and sacrifice is in the preservation, renovation and re-use of the two historic buildings. Generations of our families have benefitted from the learning, performing, entertainment, culture, fellowship and sense of community that takes place in these buildings. Please join us in this effort by attending an event, becoming a member, donating or just stopping in for a tour and visit. We welcome your participation.



Ward Merrill
Executive Director

2011 Backus Community Center Memberships (as of December 13, 2011)

Barb Albert	Audrey Dahl	Edith Holmstrom
Allan & Beth Anderson	Jessie Dahl	Robert & Jean Houska
Ellsworth & Mary Lou Anderson	Gary & Carolyn Davison	Oral J. & Barbara Howland
Gary & Terri Anderson	Marguerite Davison	Kenneth & Evelyn Hultman
Paul & Gail Anderson	Aldo & Shirley DeMarchi	Int'l Dental Arts, Inc.
Robert & Carol Anderson	Donald & Marjorie DeRaad	Duane & Nola Jacobson
Ruth Anderson	Don & Rhoda Dickson	Mike & Cynthia Jaks
Sarah Antanies	Jim & JoAnn Dornhecker	Charlene Jensen
Janet Arai	Steve & Christy Earley	Dennis & Pam Jenson
Gary & Sharon Arnold	Ethel Einarson	Arnold & Arlys Johnson
Kay & Dale Arnold	Francis & Joyce Einarson	Byrne & Carole Johnson
Lloyd & Mae Arveson	Charlene Erickson	Duayne & Nancy Johnson
Dave & Jill Austin	David & Bonnie Erickson	Paul & Margaret Johnson
Ralph & Kathryn Awe	Donna R. Erickson	Violet Johnson
Millie Ballan	Gordon & Pat Ettestad	Dennis & May Ann Kalar
Donna Mae Barg	Joan Evanoff	Leo & Phyllis Karsnia
Joan Barkovic	Bill & Kitty Ewald	Wayne & Mary Ann Kasich
Ed & Joan Baron	John & Lynda Faith	Gene & Patricia Kjellgren
Tom & Jane Barthell	Katherine Fluke	Virgil & Rose Kluge
James & Lou Bartkowski	Dennis & Sharon Frank	Jon & Florence Knutson
Jay & Julie Bartkowski	Donna Frederickson	Shirley K. Kocinski
John & Mary Bartlett	Donald & Joan Frick	Lil (Lillian) Koranda
Larry & Elaine Beach	August & Susan Ganzenmuller	Norma Krats
Lynn & Carol Belanger	Roger Geddes	Marvin & Barbara Kruskopf
Bill & Cheryl Berg	Gordon & Jennifer Gelo	Marit Lee Kucera
Marilyn Berlin	Leah & Wally Gilbert	Phyllis Kuluvar
Leslie & Joanne Bjorkquist	Jackie & Tom Glowack	Albert & E. Jean Larson
Marvel & William Blais	Pauline Grandaw	Marilyn Larson
Holdings, LLC Boise Paper	Mary Graves-Budak	Ron & Jessie Laurion
Ervin, Muriel Boyum	Bunny Green	Rick & Robbie Leersen
Allan & Susie Braaten	Rebecca Larsen Griffin	Barb & Arvid Leinum
Patti Ballan & Darell Bradley	Lee & Carol Grim	Charles & Bev Leistico
Jerome & Lois Brekke	Kirk Skallman & Georgia	Juanita Leolich
Michael & Tricia Brennard	Growette	Jim & Sherrie Lessard
Corrine Brindos	Patricia Hamalainen	Jane LeVene
Marcia Bringedahl	Signe Hardwig	Larry & Ruth Lewis
Martha Buchholz	Tom & Clara Hardy	Jim & Margie Iraci Lucachick
James & Laurie Bujold	Myron Hawrylak	Raoul & Loraine Lufbery
Alan & Miriam Burchell	Tim & Joan Heinle	James & Diana Lutz
Don C. & Dorothy J. Carey	Charles & Kristen Helleloid	Julie Ann Manley-Hartje
Clifford & Sharon Carlson	Peter & Greta Hemstad	Larry & Alyce Mannausau
Lorraine Carlson	Agnes Henrickson	Glen & Melissa Marcotte
Mabel Carlson	Tom & Victoria Hepperlen	Arden McKnight
Carole Cassibo	Ronald & Marlan Herivel	William H. McPherson
Floyd & Jackie Christianson	Manny Herzig	Al & Myrna Meadows
Carol & Wallace Clement	Gerald & E. Jean Hilfer	David Melville & NelMarie Melville
Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Inc.	Randal & Robin Hilfer	Ward & Linda Merrill
Myrtle Constantine	Bob & Mary Hilke	Howard & Virginia Milette
Leanne & Bob Crompton	Randy Hodel & Donna Hodel	Maurice & Clarice Miller
George M. Crow, MD	Thomas & Phyllis Holm	Leila Naucler

2011 Backus Community Center Memberships Continued (as of December 13, 2011)

John & Yvonne Nevanen	Gary & Pam Saunders	Richard & Dee Dee Thompson
Paul & Denise Nevanen	George Schlieff	Ted Thompson
Sue & Stuart Nordquist	Tim Schmelz	Joyce Toninato
Judith Nelson & Soren Olesen	Roman & Janet Schultheis	Kathlyn Tornes
Clarence & Darlene Olsen	Joseph & Janet Schulz	Larry & Doris Trask
Jenell Feller & David Olson	Harold & Julie Schumacher	Brad & Terri Trickle
Stephen & Victoria Olson	Diane Semmler	David & Barbara Trompeter
Dave Parmeter	Alton & Linda Shannon	Paul & Marcia Turenne
Margarett Patnode	Mike Busch & Karen Shickell	Clarice Turry
Onida Paulbeck	Orin & Bette Simon	Thomas Turry
Carol & Wade Pavleck	Charles Skrief	Lorne & Marlys Tveit
Richard & Ruth Pavleck	Jennie Skrien	Stephen (Ray) Usiak
Marvin & Mary Lou Pearson	William & Helen Smerika	Grace Verrill
Ron & Wanda Pelland	B.E. June Smith	Elizabeth Villalta
Marilyn Pelowski	Neill A. Smith	Dennis & Carol Vohler
Ralph Peterson	Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski	Donna Walls
Gene & Judy Pierce	Stan & Mary Sobczynski	Elizabeth & Michael Ward
Doris Pullar	Frank & Renee Soboleski	Malcolm Watson
Renee Radford	Helen (Holly) C. Sparby	Jim & Kathy West
Joyce Rasmussen	Cheryl A. Stemm	Helen Weum
Bernice Reynolds	Ivan & Marcia Stewart	Tom & Randi Wherley
Rita Savard Rindfleisch	Laura Stoiber & Darlene Stoiber	John & Karen Wilson
Jim & Gail Rognerud	Adele Stone	Thomas & Dixie Worth
Gordon L. Routier	Floyd & Geraldine Streiff	Samantha Crossley & James Yount
Darrell & Kathy Ruelle	Lillie Strong	Brian & Cindy Youso
Charlotte Saari	Florence Strukel	Jack & Betty Zeipen
Darlyss Samuelson	Dick & Karen Sundberg	Genevieve Ziembra
Edie Sandstrom	Bonita Swenson	

Non-Cash Donations from:

- A&L Restaurant Supply, Bemidji - 96 Food service trays
- Ballan Furniture - Six 90" white round tablecloths
- Marcia Bringedahl - Food Processor, Subscriptions, and Gift basket for silent auction
- Janine Burtness - Holiday arrangement for silent auction
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company - Beverages for Soup Supper and Icebox Days
- Friend's Garbage Services - Pick up garbage
- Chuck Lepper - Ice Cream Machine
- Glen & Melissa Marcotte - Toys for BKC and Open Gym
- Ward & Linda Merrill - Gift basket for silent auction
- Nate Moseman - Labor to fix Backus office computers and activate wi-fi system
- Naturally Unique - Rain gauge & Bud vase for silent auction
- Mark & Pam Rooney - Bowl for Chili Challenge Prize
- The Sports Shop - Plaque for Chili Challenge Prize
- International Falls Library Board - Projection screen and projector for Auditorium



Performers at Logging
Camp Christmas Dinner



Historic Backus/AB – Continuing to Grow!

The Backus Community Center continues to thrive and grow under the direction of its talented and dedicated Board of Directors. As we near the end of a very successful year, it seems appropriate to comment on some highlights of the past twelve months which included a variety of programs, renovation projects, youth activities, grant writing and community services.

A major highlight of the past summer was the dramatic increase in the use of the free “Summer Food Service Program”, providing free meals for children ages 1-18, which served 3,500 meals in 2010. This past summer 5,272 meals were provided to kids and families – an increase of 66%! The summer food program was supported by the MN Department of Education, the Otto Bremer Foundation, Boise Paper and the Vikings Children’s Fund. Although we were glad to see the increase in participation, these numbers may indicate an even greater need for food services in our community. Statistics indicate that almost 20% of Koochiching County’s children live in poverty and the number of people living in poverty in the United States is the highest it’s been since 1962.

Other Backus youth programs included continuation of the Summer Arts Program, development of a new After School Art Program (beginning in December), and licensure by the MN Department of Human Services of the Backus Kids Club Program which provides after-school care for children in grades K-6. Backus will also open the gym on select Saturday afternoons for a new Open Gym program. Another major success was the collaboration between the 4-H Program and Backus on an after-school program grant through the Otto Bremer Foundation which will bring \$109,857 in programming dollars to Koochiching County.

Several significant improvements were made to the

building including the addition of a 16’ x 24’ projection screen and projector which was donated by the Falls Library Board. The Basketball Booster Club donated a commercial floor sander which will be used for annual refinishing of the Gym floor. Volunteers from United Health Care re-painted the old wood shop room on the first floor. With the addition of new carpet and window treatments – the room now serves as a great venue for meetings, luncheons and social events. A fundraising effort has helped add eleven new round dining room tables and 88 chairs providing much improved seating for dinner events. Boiler repairs were completed on the original 1912 boilers, with assistance from Boise and Stebbins Engineering. A quality portable sound system is being purchased with funding from the Marshall N. Knudson Family Community Fund.

With funding through the MN State Arts Board Backus has been able to bring musicians to our community and school classrooms including guitarist Tim Sparks in October and the acappella group, Tonic Solfa this coming February. A rock concert is being planned with the assistance of “Chopper” McBride and the City of International Falls, which will present “Arch Allies” on stage also in February.

Economic development is a major piece of the Backus agenda. In an effort to assist local producers, we completed our fifth summer of Community Markets with an increased number of vendors and the addition of Wednesday evenings to the traditional Saturday market.

Backus has expanded its staff from three part time employees in 2007 to two full-time staff (Director and Business Manager) and seventeen part-time staff (Event Coordinator, Custodian, Cook, 8 licensed

Teachers and 6 Teacher Aides).

With over \$1.6 million in building improvements already completed, planning still continues for the “AB Project” with apartments being number one on the list. Use of the first floor by the school district and Headstart was explored some months ago and although that did not materialize, a number of tasks were accomplished. Among the project tasks already completed are: a housing market survey, hazardous materials study/report, architectural/engineering study of the AB Building, tentative plans and cost estimates, evaluation of the heating/boiler system and a development process outline. Meetings continued in November with the Backus Board, Building Committee and a project consultant with the goal of beginning the renovation of the AB Building within the next 24 months.

The Board will also engage in developing a new strategic plan as well as a business model for the operation of the AB Building. In an effort to become more effective, the Board recently adopted a reorganization plan which will divide responsibilities into an “Arts and Programming Committee” and an “Operations Committee.” Several grants are pending with the Blandin Foundation and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council which assist with funding these efforts.

As the winter season approaches the building is bursting with activity. Basketball season brings both girls’ and boys’ teams into the gym every day after school. The 4-H program, Darcie’s Dance Studio and Backus Kids Club fill the building with more kids of all ages. Perhaps no other building in the community houses such a variety of services and activities including: adult education, music, art, dance, radio theater, child care, counseling, driver license testing, sports, yoga, massage therapy, exercise, recreation, teen dances, culture, entertainment and dining.

None of this would be possible without the tremendous support provided by members, citizens, patrons, local businesses, foundations and local government.

Alumni and citizen support is always encouraged through membership, donations and auditorium seat sponsorships. Please call the Backus office at 218-285-7225 or check our website at www.backusab.org for more information on events and programs.

Ward Merrill, Executive Director



See how beautiful our dining room can look!



**G
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s**

From: Arrowhead Regional Arts Council
To: Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation

From: Otto Bremer Foundation
To: Backus Youth Programs: Afterschool Art, All-School Music Festival, Basketball Supervisor, Backus Kids Club, Borderland Musical Showcase, Open Gym, Prairie Fire Theatre, Summer Food Service Program, Summer Art Classes
To: U of M Extension (4-H), International Falls, Indus, Littlefork-Big Falls, Northome

From: Midcontinent Communications
To: Citizens for Backus A/B for dining room tables and chairs

From: Second Harvest Heartland
To: Citizens for Backus A/B for Summer Food Service Program

From: The Marshall N. Knudson Family Community Fund
To: Citizens for Backus A/B for Conference Room’s sound system

From: Bosie Paper Holding
To: Citizens for Backus A/B for Open Gym equipment and CPR training for staff

New Faces at Backus!

This past year, Citizens for Backus has welcomed several new faces. We are pleased to highlight our Event Coordinator, Lisa Hauke, and our Volunteer Event Supervisor, Mary Ann Lien.....

Lisa Hauke: Event Coordinator

Lisa Hauke – begins work this month as our new Event Coordinator. Lisa brings years of experience as a volunteer and substitute teacher and has been self-employed in designing and drafting. She is a proud Boilermaker graduate of Purdue University in Interior Design and was raised in the Lake Michigan sand dunes of Valparaiso, Indiana. She and her family are new Minnesotans, having recently relocated to the area after 10 years in Gladstone in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Lisa’s husband Mark is the Production Manager of Riverside at Boise Paper. The couple has two sons, Nathan, age 13, an 8th grade hockey player, and, Alex, age 16, a Junior at Falls HS and a varsity basketball player, as well as one furry “kid”, an Australian Shepherd named Reeses.



What would be your perfect day?

Spending time with my family, preferably on the lake or sitting around the campfire.

As a new resident, what do you like most about International Falls?

Mmm . . . We do like to explore new areas and I’d have to say that Rainy Lake is the jewel of the area along with Voyageurs National Park. The people have been wonderful in welcoming us to the community and for that we are grateful. And, of course, learning about and enjoying all that Backus has to offer is a real asset to International Falls.

Where do you see Backus in 5 years?

I am still learning about all that Backus has to offer and all of the ideas and visions that people have for the center, but I hope to see Backus grow and continue to be a focal point of this community.

Mary Ann Lien – has joined the Backus staff as our Volunteer Event Supervisor. She will assist in supervising and organizing volunteers for Soup Suppers, evening events, concerts, and other events at the center. Mary Ann keeps busy with her 4 children and 10 grandchildren! And if that doesn’t keep her hopping, Mary Ann also volunteers at Good Samaritan Center and Rainy Lake Medical Hospital, as well as working part-time at River’s Edge Villa.

What do you like best about volunteering at Backus?

I like working in an historical building and meeting different people. I’m always busy with so many events and concerts.



Volunteer’s Corner with Lisa!

I have only been here for a few days, so I am just beginning to realize all that Backus has to offer to the community of International Falls. In coming to these realizations, I am astounded at the sheer number of people who are willing to volunteer their time and talent to benefit the community. I can see that countless

hours of volunteering are what shapes Backus into a vibrant community center able to follow its mission of celebrating the arts, culture, recreation, and lifelong learning. I have met a few wonderful volunteers already, but I look forward to meeting everyone very soon. Just don’t quiz me on names just yet!

**BACKUS
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

900 FIFTH
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MN 56649

218-285-7225
FAX 285-7118



Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

In November 2008, Minnesotans passed the clean water, land, and legacy amendment to the Minnesota Constitution. As a result, over twenty-five years, three-eighths of one percent of the state's sales tax will be dedicated as follows:

- 33% to a clean water fund
- 33 % to an outdoor heritage fund
- 14.25% to a parks and trails fund, and
- 19.75% to an arts and cultural heritage fund

Proceeds from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund "may be spent only on arts, arts education and arts access and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage."



Backus Community Center has benefitted from the "Legacy Amendment" funds in several ways. Two MN State Arts Board Tour grants are responsible for bringing guitarist Tim Sparks to community schools and the Backus stage last October and Tonic Sol-fa, an acappella group which will perform on-stage February 28 and conduct a two-day school residency at both ISD 361 and St. Thomas Catholic School. In addition, Legacy funds of approximately \$6,300 were used to complete the security camera system in Backus during 2010. Due to its listing on the National Register of Historic Places, Backus is able to access funding through both the MN State Arts Board and the MN Historical Society.

It's Not Too Late!

Please think of Citizens for Backus/AB for any "end of the year" charitable contributions you may be considering. Your donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Citizens for Backus/AB is an IRS 501-c-3 non-profit corporation and your donations help support programming, planning, grant-writing, maintenance and preservation of both the Backus and Alexander Baker Buildings.

You are also invited to become a Backus Member. Membership levels begin at just \$60. Call the Backus office at 218-285-7225 for more information. Membership forms may be downloaded at

www.backusab.org.

Soup Supper & Dinners Sponsors:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| City Drug | Northern Lumber Yard |
| City of International Falls | Randy Pozniak, CPA |
| Coca-Cola Bottling Company | Rob's Janitorial Service |
| Curves of International Falls | Streiff's Floral & Gifts |
| Duty Free Americas | VFW Post 2948 |
| First Baptist Church | VFW Post 2948 Auxiliary |
| Friends Against Abuse | Waschke Family GM Center |
| Green-Larsen Mortuary | |
| Kantor Electric | |
| Minnesota Monument | |

Sponsor a seat in honor or memory of your loved one by calling the office 218-285-7225



Seat Sponsorships:

- * Backus Community Center < In memory of Janet Wagner >
- * Backus Community Center < In honor of Chopper & Nancy McBride >
- * Mildred Ballan < In memory of G. Ballan >
- * Patti Ballan
- * Judith Baratta < In memory of Vic & Opal Mannila >
- * Joan Barkovic < In memory of Robert Barkovic >
- * Joan Barkovic < In honor of Jim Barkovic >
- * Janice Berg < In memory of Ray Berg >
- * Alan & Miriam Burchell
- * Marguerite Davison < In memory of Donald Davison >
- * Steve & Christy Earley < In memory of Bernard Earley >
- * Steve & Christy Earley < In honor of Vera Earley >
- * Joan Evanoff < In memory of Sam M. Evanoff >
- * Donna Frederickson < In memory of Alma & Rev. Leo H. Buechler >

- * Donna Frederickson < In memory of Franklyn T. & Margaret G. Frederickson >
- * Pauline Grandaw < In memory of Peter Grandaw >
- * Mary Graves < In memory of Michael Kent Budak >
- * Georgia Growette < In memory of Evelyn Growette >
- * Degree of Honor #251
- * Violet Johnson
- * Helen Loudon < In memory of Effie Hanover >
- * Duane & Marilyn Mitchell < In memory of Kevin Mitchell >
- * Rodney Otterness
- * Rainy River Recovery (former Rational Alternatives)
- * Charlotte Saari < In memory of Martha Hess >
- * Shermoen Law Office
- * Ruth Sumner < In memory of Gerald Sumner >
- * Frank & Doreen Swendsen < In memory of Joe Swendsen >
- * Peggy Thomas < In memory of Lee Thomas >
- * Pam Wenberg < In memory of Marvel Dode Woods & Edmund Woods >
- * Roger & Mary Weum < In memory of James R.Liebe >

Memorial Contributions *(as of December 14, 2011)*

As of December 14, 2011 Backus Community Center has received contributions in memory of:

- ***Dennis Anderson*** from Dennis & Carol Vohler
- ***Chuck Armstrong*** from Ralph & Susan Johnson
- ***Marion Bertram*** from Ken & Kathy Perala and Elvira Earley
- ***Elwyn Boe*** from Jessie Dahl
- ***Marge Brunette*** from Dale & Kay Arnold, and Joseph & Janet Schulz
- ***Leo & Alma Buechler*** from Robert & Leanne Crompton, Donna Frederickson, and Helen Louden
- ***Evelyn Crompton*** from Barbara McDowell and Jessie Dahl
- ***Joe Doris*** from Marlys Stenberg
- ***Mrs. Dworski*** from Wayne & Mary Ann Kasich
- ***Robert Earley*** from Elvira Earley
- ***Elaine Graf*** from Ralph & Susan Johnson
- ***Bea Harala*** from Joseph & Janet Schulz
- ***Dale Himes*** from Joseph & Janet Schulz
- ***Lori Hendrickson*** from Don & Dorothy Carey and Gordon & Pat Ettestad
- ***Betty Herzig*** from Donna Frederickson, Barbara McDowell, Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski, and John & Karen Wilson
- ***Tammy Holler*** from Marilyn Larson
- ***Joan G. Jaakkola*** from Mona Hunter and Wayne & Mary Ann Kasich
- ***Valio Johnson*** from Ralph & Susan Johnson
- ***Ron Laurion*** from Thomas & Jane Barthell, Patti Ballan & Darell Bradley, Marcia Bringedahl, Jessie Dahl, Gordon & Patricia Ettestad, John & Lynda Faith, Donna Frederickson, Robert & Jean Houska, Marilyn Larson, Helen Louden, Barbara McDowell, Ward & Linda Merrill, Margaret Patnode, and Tuesday Musicale
- ***Tom Manka*** from Lois Manka
- ***Lois Milette*** from Sage Hardwig
- ***Johanne Moe*** from Dale & Kay Arnold, Craig & Mary Moe
- ***Jack Murray*** from Jessie Dahl
- ***Louise Nelson*** from Barbara McDowell
- ***Muoi Van Nguyen*** from Sue & Stuart Nordquist
- ***Ervin "Kerby" Olestad*** from Joseph & Janet Schulz and Jim & Carol Wherley
- ***Jackie Olson*** from Dennis & Carol Vohler
- ***Phil Olson*** from Joseph & Janet Schulz, John & Karen Wilson
- ***Ruth Plummer*** from Delores Arason, Shirley Boeckers, Bonnie Roberts, John & Karen Wilson
- ***Verner Reuter*** from Millie Ballan, Janice Berg, Lowell & Dorothy Blais, Lilly Ann Bradford, Patti Ballan & Darrel Bradley, Fred & Donna Day, Randal & Robin Hilfer, Mona & Craig Hunter, Arlys Johnson, Byrne & Carole Johnson, Phyllis Karsnia, Wayne & Mary Ann Kasich, Mark & Janis Koerbitz, , Helen & John Patterson, William & Helen Smerika, and Luella Walhaug
- ***Ron Rising*** from Ralph & Susan Johnson, Marilyn Larson, and Jim & Carol Wherley
- ***Len Shannon*** from Jessie Dahl
- ***Scott Skifstrom*** from Donna Frederickson, Laurie Skifstrom, and John & Karen Wilson
- ***Campbell Smith*** from B.E. June Smith
- ***Lilly Smuda*** from Joseph & Janet Schulz
- ***Darlene Stoiber*** from Dale & Kay Arnold
- ***Norma Stone*** from Dee Bigler, John & Lynda Faith, Donna Frederickson, Ralph & Susan Johnson, and Joseph & Janet Schulz

Memorial Contributions continued . . . (as of December 14, 2011)

As of December 14, 2011 Backus Community Center has received contributions in memory of:

- **Jack Strain** from Marilyn Larson
- **Gerald Sumner** from Carol & Lynn Belanger
- **Swede Sundberg** from Millie Ballan, Patti Ballan, Jessie Dahl, E.W. Jameson, David & Janice Johnson, William Matthews, Marilyn Mitchell, Helen K. Olson, Duncan Rostie, Gordon L. Routier D.C., Richard & Karen Sundberg, and Jack & Betty Zeipen
- **Joe Swendsen** from Dale & Kay Arnold, John & Lynda Faith, Ron & Wanda Pelland, Bruce & Shirley Schmidt, and Frank & Doreen Swendsen
- **Gary L. Tornes** from Andy & Mary Anderson, Janis Heaney, and Frank Pavek Sr.
- **Helen Trask** from Ralph & Susan Johnson, Wayne & Mary Ann Kasich
- **Florence Veranth** from Marilyn Larson
- **Bernie Walls** from Joseph & Janet Schulz
- **Janet Wagner** from Darcie Schulz, Joseph & Janet Schulz, and Jim & Carol Wherley
- **Kay Wegner** from Joseph & Janet Schulz
- **Margaret Wietecha** from Elaine Story

Thank You for Contributions:

- *In Honor of Karen Shickell & Mike Busch's Wedding:* Jenell Feller and Donna Frederickson
- *In Honor of Shirley Kocinski's 90th birthday:* Carol & Lynn Belanger, Elizabeth Ericson, Patricia Hamalainen
- *In Honor of Donna Mostad & Family:* John & Karen Wilson
- *In Honor of Frank Schanus & Family:* John & Karen Wilson
- *In Honor of Harry Johnson & Family:* John & Karen Wilson
- *In Honor of Lois & George Lambut & Family:* John & Karen Wilson
- *In Honor of Ralph & Susie Johnson & Family:* John & Karen Wilson
- *In Honor of Bruce & Teresa Ness's 40th Anniversary:* John & Karen Wilson
- *In Honor of Teresa Ness's 60th Birthday:* John & Karen Wilson
- *In Honor of Bruce Ness Retirement:* John & Karen Wilson
- *In Honor of Clarice Turry's 80th Birthday:* Bunny Green
- *In Honor of John & Rose Rasmussen's 50th Anniversary:* John & Karen Wilson
- *General Operating Fund :* Marcia Bringedahl, City of International Falls, First Lutheran Church Women, Koochiching County, Donald & Connie Jensen, Bob & Michelle Misner, Diane Semmler, and Schwab Charitable Fund
- *Snow Plowing:* Jim & Lou Bartkowski and Anonymous
- *Arts Program:* Borderland Arts Alliance
- *Purchasing Dining Room Tables & Chairs:* Ameriprise– matching fund from James Hamalainen's contribution
- *Purchasing Floor Sander:* Bronco Basketball Boosters
- *Reconnection of Water Heater:* International Falls Economic Development Authority , International Falls Chamber of Commerce, Jim Klobuchar, and Rotary Club of International Falls
- *Summer Food Service Program:* The Boyle Law Firm





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Label 1

Historic Backus/ AB, a community center in the heart of International Falls, where past, present and future come together to celebrate the arts, culture, recreation and lifelong learning.



UpComing Events/Programs

JANUARY

Soup Supper - Thursday, January 5 4:30-7:00pm

Ice Box Days Chili Challenge

Saturday, January 21 1-3 pm

Film Festival sponsored by Falls Public Library

Thursday-Friday, January 26-27 @ 7:30 pm

Spaghetti Dinner

Sponsored by Arrowhead 135 Ultra Marathon

Sunday, January 29 @ 5:00 pm

FEBRUARY

Soup Supper - Thursday, February 2 4:30-7:00pm

All-School Music Festival

Wednesday, February 8 Concert @ 1:30 pm

Backus/AB Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 9 @ 6:30 pm (Dining Room)

A Chocolate Affair

Saturday, February 11 11:30 am—1:30 pm

“Arch Allies” Rock Concert

Saturday, February 25 @ 7:00 pm

“Tonic Sol-fa” Concert

Tuesday, February 28 @ 7:30 pm

MARCH

Soup Supper - Thursday, March 1 4:30-7:00pm

St. Thomas Silent Auction - Saturday, March 3 6-10 pm

Top the Tater Dinner - Saturday, March 10 4:30—7 pm

Border Concert “Kenya Safari Acrobats”

Saturday, March 10 @ 7:30 pm

Ethnic Food Festival

Thursday, March 15 5-7 pm

Borderland Musical Showcase

Friday, March 17 @ 7:00 pm

Top the Tater Dinner - Monday, March 19 4:30—7 pm

Border Concert “Fry Street Quartet”

Monday, March 19 @ 7:30 pm



ARCH ALLIES
Saturday, February 25, 2012
BACKUS AUDITORIUM

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00pm
Social Hour 7:00—8:00pm
Show 8:00-10:00pm

Admission: \$10.00

