



Dinner theatre hosts full house

A cast and crew of 16 presented “It’s a Wonderful Life”, adapted by Joe Landry, Saturday, December 17th to a full house of diners situated in a relaxing holiday atmosphere on the stage floor of the Backus Center for the Performing Arts.



Hometown Pride grant to aid work of Community Café

Steve Crosby, lubricants manager of Coop Service, Inc., presents Lois Lundin with a sizeable check in a sizeable amount as a result of the \$25,000 Hometown Pride grant awarded to Backus Community Center.

“We are grateful that ...we have the opportunity to further the impact of Backus Community Café, ultimately getting our community the resources they desperately need,” Crosby said.

The Hometown Pride funds will help to provide about 6,000 additional meals for the community.

Happy New Year! From the Director's Desk

It's January 2023. Let that sink in for a minute. Remember when the world was busy making preparations for Y2K??? Here we are, **23 years later**. Is it just me, or did those years pass by in a blink? Y2K. What was all of the fuss about?

2022 was a very full year for Backus, and 2023 promises to be more of the same.

- Backus will say goodbye to our long-time tenants and friends at Northland Counseling. We will miss having them in the Backus building, but we fully support their need to relocate to a larger space that is better suited to serve the community's needs. We are grateful to Northland Counseling for choosing Backus for these many years.
- We are proud to be working with the Koochiching County Veterans and we look forward to their having a regular presence in the Backus building. Designs for their second floor space paint a picture of a very welcoming environment. The many Backus programs made us a great fit for the Veteran's organization. We look forward to their opening day!
- We are very excited about our partnership with the Ernest A. Oberholtzer Foundation as they set up their mainland working and community space in the Backus second floor east wing. We look forward to seeing what artistic and learning opportunities will result from our collaborations with our Oberholtzer friends!
- Rainy River Rugrats is now providing after-school care to school age children Monday through Friday. This program helps address another great need in our community. We would like to congratulate Rainy River Rugrats for their continued growth. We value and support your commitment to serving borderland families.
- The Rainy Lake Community Orchestra and the Rainy Lake Chimes "Wow!" their audiences with beautiful music. We have new students enrolling in music lessons through the Backus Music program. The Borealis Bards, Junior Bards, and community theater productions are always a hit with audiences. The Backus calendar is filling up with banquets, meetings, and other events as far ahead as January 2024. Backus is the place to be!

Each new year comes with hopes and new beginnings for us all. May your 2023 be bright, delightful, and meaningful. Wishing you love, good health, harmony, and peace always.

~ Lois Lundin

THE BACKUS NEWSLETTER IS GOING DIGITAL!

Plans are underway to start sending monthly newsletters through email in April 2023.

PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO US.

Contact Backus at:

backusoffice@backusab.org, or
218-285-7225, or 900 5th St., Int'l Falls MN 56649

If you want to continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please let us know.

BACKUS STAFF

Lois Lundin,
Executive Director

Hoa Sobczynski,
Business Manager

Alyssa Crawford,
Office Assistant

Darcy Sullivan,
KCC-TV Program Director

Backus Annual Meeting: February 9, 2023

All members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9, in Backus room 101.

Become a Backus Member Today

Your Backus membership makes a difference in many ways.

The average cost to keep the Backus doors open so we can continue to serve our community is roughly \$2000 per day. Included in those costs are:

- General operating costs (utilities, insurance, maintenance, snow removal, salaries, loans, etc.)
- Backus programs (Food programs, Performing Arts, Backus Music, Bards, Orchestra, KCC-TV, etc.)

Please consider a Backus membership.

You'll be investing in our community. Backus donations are tax deductible.



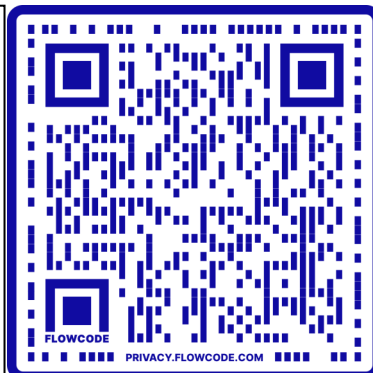
458 meals were served at this year's Elks' Christmas Dinner. Donations went to "Feed Just One" for Community Cafe.

If you would like a quick link to the Backus website, you can scan the **QR code** below.

How do you do that?

Using your smartphone or tablet, open your camera like you're going to take a photo of the blue QR code below. (Don't take a picture though.) A message will appear on your screen that says "Website QR Code. Open "flowcode.com". Touch the message with your fingertip or stylus. This will bring you to the Backus website!

FYI:
A **QR Code** works like a bar code that you see on products. The dots and squares make up a pattern that translates to human-readable data.



Connect with **KCC-TV** to watch local programming. You can catch up on governmental meetings, "The Sports Rap with George and Ringer", school concerts, and Backus events, and more!



How can you watch KCC-TV?

- Go to the KCC-TV page on the Backus website for links and information
- Local cable channel 7
- YouTube: search by KCC-TV
- Facebook: Kcc-TV

It's a great way to stay in touch with happenings no matter where you are!



900 Fifth Street
International Falls MN 56649
(218) 285-7225
www.backusab.org

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“Historic Backus Community Center, the heart of International Falls, where all generations celebrate arts, culture, recreation, wellness, and life-long learning.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The January board meeting is on Jan 12th at 5:15 in Room 101.

Be sure you don't miss any mailings.
Please send us your updated address, or just give us a call with any changes.
(218) 285-7225

Let's stay in touch!

COMING SOON TO BACKUS

Ruby's Pantry is postponed until March.

Watch for Ice Box Days Activities

January 26-29, 2023

Backus Annual Meeting

6 p.m., February 9, 2023

Gary Hooker and Paradigm

7 p.m., February 11, 2023

Cabin Fever Concert

7 p.m., Friday, March 3