

From the Director's Desk

Here comes October! How can that be? Backus has had a very busy (and a very good!) summer. Here are a few highlights:

- Our **Summer Food Service Program** ended on September 3. Attendance hit an all time high this summer; we served 9,988 lunches! It's been wonderful to have area children coming to the door to pick up a hot lunch every day! Taco in a bag is still their most favorite lunch.
- The **Backus building** looks great inside and out. We're in the planning stages for a few projects that we want to see happen. Our custodian, Jerry Vohler, has been busy "de-cluttering" Backus and the AB building as we await the anticipated sale of the AB building. We expect to know the status of KOOTASCA's funding application in December for the purchase of the AB School.
- Our Backus tenants are all welcoming clients, so there is more business activity in the building each day. **The Borealis Bards** are preparing for the fall play, and **Dancin' with Darcie** is the place to be for young dancers everywhere! The **Boy Scouts** and **4-H** both continue to call Backus "home base". **Ruby's Pantry** still distributes food on the second Monday of each month. **The Rainy Lake Community Orchestra** is settling in to their new space upstairs. **Class reunion alumni** have been stopping to take tours of our building; it's fun to have them share stories and laugh as they walk the hallways. It's interesting to see how many people find their old lockers!
- This year's **Performing Arts Series** is definitely a winner! We are so excited to announce this year's shows on pages 6 & 7 of this newsletter. Wait until you see! I hope you'll come join us.
- **New continuous handrails** will be installed the full length of both sidewalks on the east side of Backus very soon. There will three **light posts** installed too; they will help light the way for our guests as they approach the building.



Through all of this, we remain focused on health and safety. You can rest assured that we pay close attention to all recommendations and requirements and manage Backus responsibly.

The people at Backus Community Center take great pride in the work that happens here every day. We have established a sound reputation within our region by working to understand and address the challenges that people face. Our programs and activities are designed to add quality to all aspects of life in Northern Minnesota. Backus works to forge effective partnerships to improve the health of our community and the people who live here. Through effective relationship building, Backus works to help people to grow and learn, and to manage change. Backus is committed to fulfilling our mission by bringing a variety of arts and entertainment productions to the Northland. Our food programs are undoubtedly the places where we have had the greatest touch on our community this year. Backus works hard to offer opportunities for people to be engaged and to experience life. People are active and involved. The Backus environment is care giving and age friendly. People are treated with kindness and respect. This is a place where people are encouraged to build relationships and they effectively do so.

We are committed to maintaining your trust and confidence. We are very grateful for your support. I am very proud of the work that is happening at Backus. I hope you are too!

Lois Lundin

Meet the Staff



Rebecca Wright started working at Backus as our head cook in May 2021. She is excited to have the opportunity to serve the community. Her 2 yorkies are not so happy about this as they are used to her working from home. She also has 4 horses, 2 cats, and the 3 best grand kids to spend her time with.



Cherie Sweney started volunteering at Backus for the Summer Food Program in 2015. She is currently the Head Cook for the Summer Food Program. Cherie is also Head Cook at the school during the school year. She has been married for 23 years and has 2 children. Spending time in the camper and fishing on Rainy Lake are her favorite things to do outside of work.

Community Café continues record-setting pace!

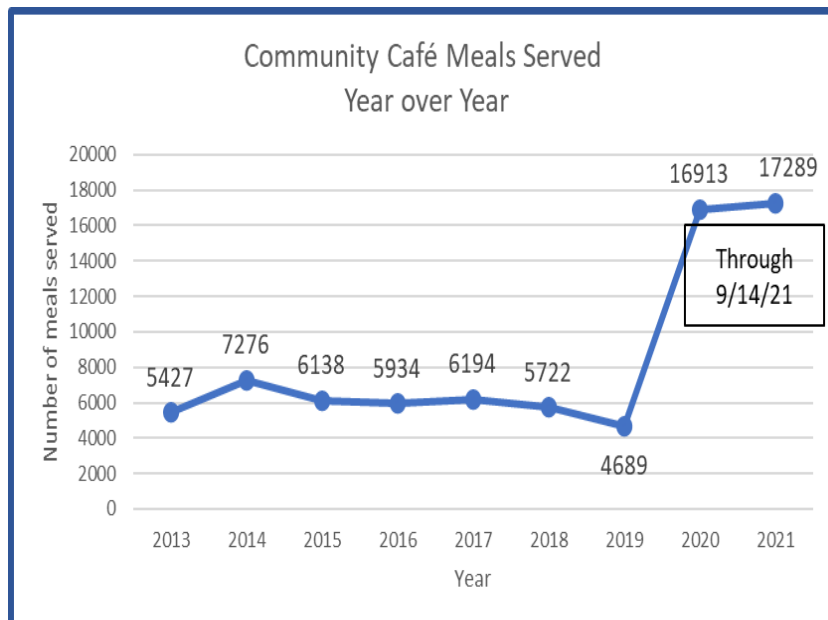
The current average number of meals served on Café nights = 237.

The need for sound, nutritious meals in our community remains very strong. Backus Community Center's **Community Café** team is committed to helping our neighbors to meet a need that has always been there.

Working people. Aging people. Little kids. People who are alone. Caregivers.

Our annual fundraising event is coming soon.

Please watch for information [in your mail](#), on [Facebook](#), and on www.backusab.org



COMING IN NOVEMBER:

Community Café
feed just one

A Backus Community Center Program
 900 5th Street, International Falls, MN 56649
www.backusab.org

Mr. John Faith

June 16, 1943-April 9, 2021

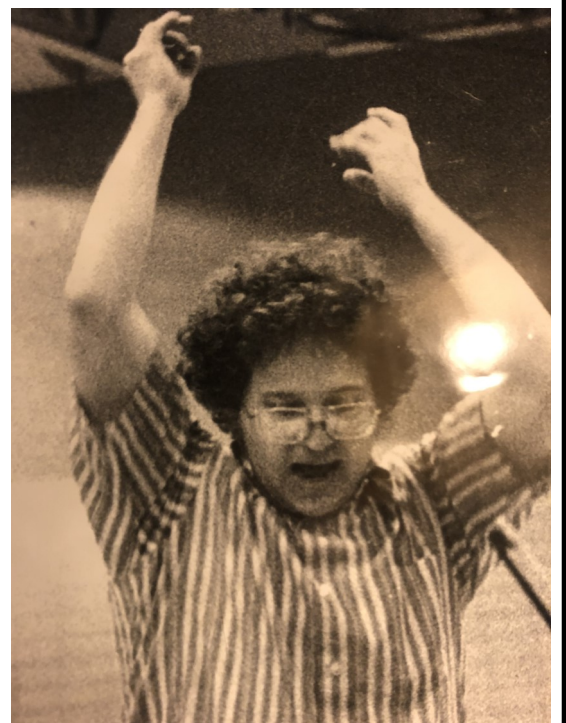


Mr. John Faith's impact on the arts in International Falls began in the fall of 1970 when he accepted a position as K-12 band and orchestra instructor in Independent School District 361. John spent 33 years teaching music lessons, directing the band and orchestra, and developing an exceptional commitment to both students and the community. He performed in hundreds of small-town venues across Minnesota, and formed his own DJ Company known as Mr. Faith's Sound & Light. He was an artist who proudly created spectacular works with lasers and music.

John spent his life in our community developing projects and programs that continue to impact the lives of thousands of people. Almost everyone in the Northland knew "Mr. Faith." They've been his students, performed with him, and he was their friend. People remember the high school dances and discos where he provided the sound and lights, and the spinning mirror ball. He was a proud member of the Rainy Lake Community Orchestra.

John Faith loved his family deeply (especially his grandchildren). He was a man of solid values. Be honest. Work hard. Help people. Always be kind. Stay humble. Be respectful. And it's OK to let people know where you stand on things. (There's probably a t-shirt that states your position perfectly.)

His memorial service was held at Backus on June 16, 2021. John would have been 78 that day. We will all miss him.

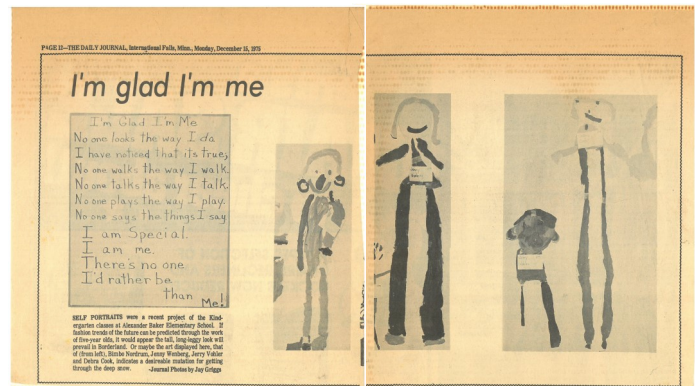


From the Archives

Submitted by Jerry Vohler

These beautiful pictures were drawn in 1975 by Bimbo Nordrum, Jenny Wenberg, Jerry Vohler, and Debra Cook.

Looking back, this assignment was to draw how we would adapt walking through deep snow. I was in Kindergarten, Mrs. Wagner was my teacher. We had the classroom with the fireplace on the first floor of the AB building. We drew these portraits on the floor and they were hung at the end of the hallway for everyone in school to enjoy. I was the oldest in the class, but when I drew myself treading through the snow, I ended up being the smallest of everyone.



It was fun back then. We had a private entrance to the school yard from our classroom. There was a kickball field right out the door and a playground over by the Forestland building. The entire block was fenced in for recess. Today, when I am walking through AB it is eerie to see it empty and quiet. When I was young there were kids everywhere and there was always noise. One day soon, I hope to see it lively again.

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Backus Junior High School, 1940s



Backus Community Center, 2021

Send your photos to KCC-TV!

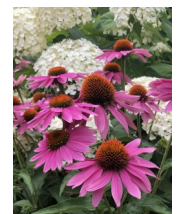
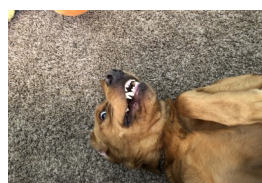
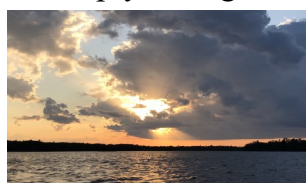
Do you have a photograph that you'd like to share with KCC-TV viewers? We would love to add it to our KCC-TV reel! This is a great way for everyone to enjoy the grand beauty of Northern Minnesota and to appreciate the artistic talents of people in our community!

Please send your photo(s) and the photographer's name (so we can be sure to give credit to the photographer) by email to:

kcctv@backusab.org

Our guidelines: (yes, there are rules...)

- Photos must be appropriate in content for all viewers.
- Photos cannot be of people. You can send photos of flowers, nature, weather conditions and stormy skies, animals, etc.
- Photos must be photos you have taken. Do not submit other people's photos or work.
- Backus /KCC-TV reserves the right to refuse photos that do not comply with guidelines.

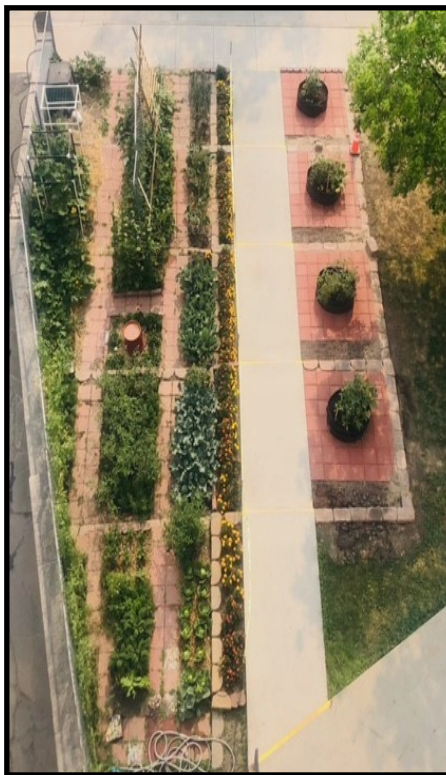




Backus Garden Club



Have you seen the Backus Garden this summer? It is pretty incredible! If you would like to learn more about how you can grow vegetables and flowers, you can come get your hands in the soil with the Backus Garden Club! AND GET THIS: gardening won't end when it gets cold! Backus has a room in the lower level where we will learn about hydroponic gardening. Come join us! Call us at 218-285-7225 or stop by the Backus office.



Bloom where you're planted



2021 Gardeners:

- Rick DeBenedet
- Bob Dunbar
- Tom Sakry
- Bob Marquardt
- Christina Daniel
- Greg Lundin
- Alyssa Crawford
- Pippin Crawford
- Syllas Crawford
- Lois Lundin



Performing Arts Series 2021-2022

LOOK AT THIS LINE-UP!

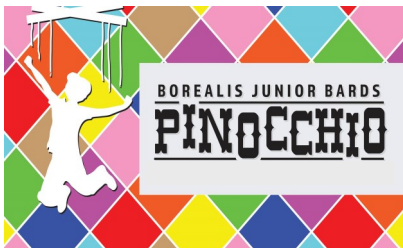
Backus is proud to bring these performers to our auditorium! This year's performers were carefully selected to bring great entertainment to our Northern Minnesota community.

Get your tickets early! You won't want to miss a show!



Friday, October 8, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Singer/Songwriter **Chris Kroeze** connects with audiences across various generations through his genuine country soul and his unique and alluring vocal delivery. Kroeze performs all across the U.S. and Internationally, including tours to support our U.S. Armed Forces. Kroeze captured the hearts of millions of fans on *The Voice* in 2018.



Friday — Sunday, October 22-24, 2021

Once upon a time, Pinocchio and the Junior Borealis Bards were derailed by a pandemic. Now they're back and ready to act! The play is full of boisterous fun, nonstop adventure, creative staging, and zany characters, including Geppetto, Fire Eater, Fox and Cat, and the most wonderful Blue Fairy imaginable!



Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Hailing from the Gateway of the Great Smoky Mountains, **Seth Mulder & Midnight Run** began its journey in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. This group of friends and musicians created a band tied to bluegrass music's rich traditions, offering a fresh approach to that "High Lonesome" sound. Having been referred to as one of the most entertaining new acts on the bluegrass scene today, Seth Mulder & Midnight Run is a band you don't want to miss.

Performing Arts Series 2021-2022, cont'd.



Friday, January 28, 2022

Shirts & Skins is one of the most dynamic touring bands in the upper Midwest. Their musicianship, exceptional training and dynamic show will have you captivated from the very first note. With a diverse song list, Shirts & Skins hits all genres and musical tastes. This is a band that brings passion, excitement, and positive energy to audiences all across the United States.



Friday, February 11, 2022

Mark Poolos started his career with independent films, however that wasn't enough, so he started his stand up comedy career. Mark stands at 6'7" and weighs in at 350; he is technically a giant! **NEW THIS YEAR:** This will be a **Dinner and Comedy Show Event!** All guests will be seated at tables on stage and will be served a delicious dinner followed by a great show! Dinner menu and special ticket pricing to be announced for this event.



Friday, March 25, 2022

The Shane Martin Band is quickly becoming one of the top draws in the Midwest with a unique blend of modern country rock routinely performing over 200 shows annually as a solo artist and with his full band. From sharing the stage with national acts to captivating audiences at festivals or venues, Martin's concerts are a high energy good time!

Ticket Prices:

Guests ages 4 and under: Free
 Guests ages 5 to 18: \$5.00
 Guests 19 and better: \$15.00

Ticket Prices for the Dinner and Comedy Show

Guests ages 19 and better: \$50.00

Ticket includes:

Dinner
 Dessert
 One complimentary beverage
 Comedy Show

COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY AT BACKUS

To keep everyone safe and informed, Backus Community Center is committed to updating our safety protocols based on the latest recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control.

Close adherence to their recommendations is required to ensure the safest possible space for all individuals.

Please watch the Backus website home page or call the Backus office for updates.

www.backusab.org

218-285-7225

Keeping it Reel!

Backus landed a keeper when Jim Lucachick brought his fish mounts, fishing rods/reels, and collection of memorabilia from his trips through Ontario, Northwest Territories, and Victoria Island to our display case. The story boards provided a backdrop to what must have been fascinating trips. Thank you for sharing your adventures with Backus, Jim!

Nice Catch!



Backus Endowment Fund

The Backus Endowment Fund has been established as a means to secure Backus Community Center's role in continuing its mission for years to come in and around International Falls.

These dollars are not used for day to day operations. Once the \$1 million goal is reached, earnings from the funding may be used to fund Committee approved requests for programs that are in the best interest of Backus. Examples would be special projects that are budgeted and approved by the Board, scholarships or grants to members and Backus staff for attending professional leadership or other training pertaining to the Backus mission, or community outreach to nonprofits and agencies and special programs designed for persons in the International Falls and surrounding areas.

Please consider helping Backus to reach its goal. Contributions for the Endowment fund can come from general contributions, gifts and bequests in wills, charitable trusts, gift annuities, assignments of life insurance, or transfer of property (cash, stock, bonds, real estate, etc.).

For more information, please contact the Executive Director, Lois Lundin, at 218-285-7225.

Supporting Backus, made easy:

You shop. Amazon gives.

What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones.

When you shop at smile.Amazon.com, Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the recipient of your choice at **no cost to you!**

AmazonSmile offers the same products, same low prices, and the same services as the Amazon that you know. It doesn't affect your points, your Amazon Prime service, etc.

If you shop on Amazon, consider designating **Citizens for Backus Ab** as the recipient for your Amazon Smile! It's so easy to sign up. Check it out!

If you'd like to donate or make a payment through **PayPal**, you can now reach us by scanning our QR code. How do you do that?

1. Open your PayPal app on your phone.
2. Click on the "Scan/Pay" button.
3. Line up the code as directed on your screen, you'll be guided to make a payment transaction to Backus!

We'll add a QR code to the "Donations" page on www.backusab.org.



Scan. Pay. Go.

Remembering those who we have recently passed away that have made an impact at our community. Backus has received contributions in memory of:

Dick Anderson

Nell Anderson

Kathryn Awe

Elaine Beach

Dorothy Blais

Robert Congrave

Myrtle Constantine Gamwell

Barb Craig

Thomas Jay Cremin

June Etienne

John Faith

Elaine Goulet

Genevieve Titus Hadley

Wally Herman

Dick Hill

Donna Hodel

Helen Holmestad

Bob Houska

Barbara Howland

Violet Johnson

Nancy Pearson Jones

Graham Keeney

Florence Knutson

Reta Misner McGovern

Linda Merrill

Connie (Woods) Prince

Wayne Ronning

Steve Sellman

John Shewchuk

Marie Sohlman

Henry "Harry" L. Sweatt

Dirk Tilander

Wally Tilander

Barb Trompeter

Dave Trompeter

Margaret Tyson

James Wento

Fran Zaren

Betty Zeipen

Backus has the greatest volunteers! Would you like to join us?

Volunteers add great value to the many successful programs at Backus. We are very grateful to the people who give their time and share their life time of experience and skills with us!

Backus Community Center has many volunteer opportunities where you can help:

- Serving at Community Café
- Ushering or selling tickets at performances
- Distributing posters at businesses in town
- Serving at catered events or helping tend the bar
- Helping in the office,
- Clean-up.

Please reach out to us if you are interesting in volunteering at Backus.




Community Café



**DONATE
NOVEMBER 15TH-
DECEMBER 13, 2021.**
CHECKOUT OUR FACEBOOK &
WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS


LAST YEAR YOU HELPED
PROVIDE OVER 15,000
MEALS THROUGH THE FEED
JUST ONE FUNDRAISER!



Celebrating a Life



LINDA ANN MERRILL
Saturday, September 25th 2021 at 1:00 pm
Backus Community Center
1000 Fifth Street
International Falls, MN 56649
Reception/Luncheon to follow
RSVP at lindamerrill.rsvp@gmail.com



KCC-TV Membership Form

Your membership contribution is tax deductible. NOTE: Backus is eligible for **Thrivent Choice Dollars**. If you would like to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Backus, please contact your Rep.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

<p>Individuals</p> <p>_____ Student \$15</p> <p>_____ Crew \$50</p> <p>_____ Cameraman \$100</p>	<p>Businesses</p> <p>_____ News Anchor \$150</p> <p>_____ Director \$250</p> <p>_____ Producer \$500</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">_____ \$ _____</p> <p>Businesses supporting KCC-TV will receive an informational slide that runs on the Carousel Calendar</p>
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Backus Community Center Membership Form

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Membership Categories

_____ Affiliate \$25 to \$59 _____ Sponsor \$150 to \$249 _____ Patron \$500 to \$999

_____ Associate \$60 to \$99 _____ Benefactor \$250 to \$499 _____ Presidential \$1,000 and up

_____ Supporter \$100 to \$149

Backus Community Center Donation Form

Your membership contribution is tax deductible. NOTE: Backus is eligible for **Thrivent Choice Dollars**. If you would like to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Backus, please contact your Rep.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Amount of your gift: \$ _____

This gift is a:

_____ Monthly Donation

_____ One-Time Donation

Does your donation honor someone special?

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

We would be happy to notify the family of or honoree of your gift. Please provide us with their complete name and address.

Please send your check payable to
Backus Community Center
 900 Fifth Street
 International Falls, MN 56649

You can also make your contribution on line. See the options available on our website at www.backusab.org/donations

Please call the Backus office if you have questions or need assistance. 218-285-7225



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

Return Service Requested

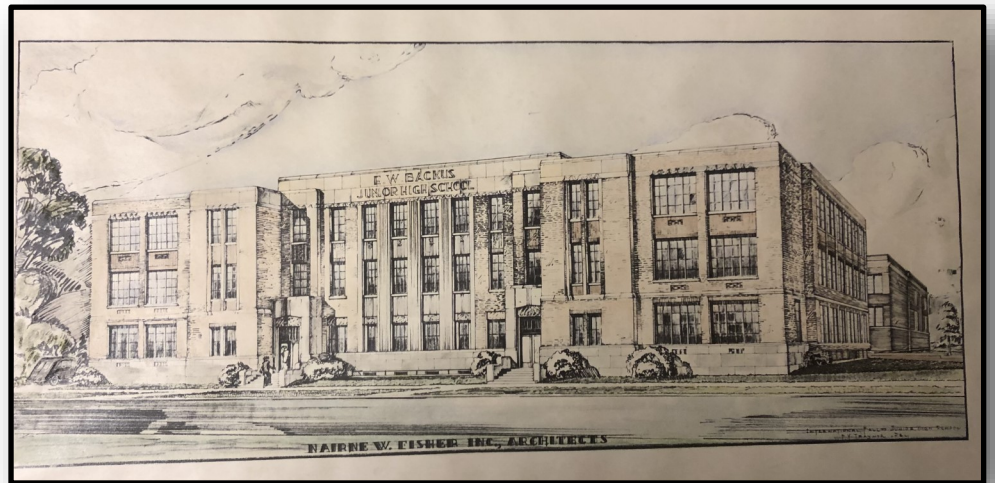
NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
INT'L FALLS, MN
PERMIT NO. 86

Address Label

BACKUS STAFF

Lois Lundin,
Executive Director
Hoa Sobczynski,
Business Manager
Judy Medeiros,
Event Coordinator
Alyssa Crawford,
Office Assistant
Jerry Vohler, Custodian
Joe Kenny, Janitor
Harry Batdorf,
Building Manager
Rebecca Wright, Cook
Wanda Linder, Cook
Lenard Bobst, Cook
Cherie Sweney, Cook
Mary A. Lien,
Kitchen Supervisor
Jill Malone, Event Staff
June Wilson, Event Staff
Darcy Sullivan,
KCC-TV Program Director

“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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Donna Frederickson

Sherrie Lessard
Jim Lyman
Gail Rognerud
Tom Smith
Kay Arnold, Emeritus
Diane Maxey, Emeritus

Be sure you don't miss any of our mailings.

Please send us your updated address, or just give us a call with any changes.
~ Thank you.