

MISSION STATEMENT:

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



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2025
6:00 p.m.
Backus Community Center



Lois Lundin, Executive Director
Hoa Sobczynski, Business Manager
Lenard Bobst, Cook
Michelle Boelk, Event Coordinator
Brenda Bounds , Event Staff
Chase Carrigan, Kitchen Staff
Alyssa Crawford, Office Assistant
Jerami Crawford, Cook
Doug George, Custodian
Joe Kenny, Janitor
Joe Martinez, Building Manager
Darcy Sullivan, KCC-TV Program Coordinator

900 5th Street
International Falls MN 56649
Phone (218) 285-7225
www.backusab.org

Annual Meeting Agenda

February 13, 2025

6:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and Call to order
2. Introduction of Board Members and CBAB Members
3. Approve minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting
4. Nomination and election of new Board Directors
5. Treasurer Report
6. Executive Director Report
7. Operations Report
8. Arts and Programming Report
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Adjourn



Annual Meeting Minutes

Citizens For Backus/AB, Inc. Annual Meeting Minutes - February 08, 2024

Present – Directors: Patti Ballan, Julie Bartkowski, Steve Costley, Donna Frederickson (via Zoom) Tracy Lunser, Jim Lyman, Sue Nordquist, Gail Rognerud, Tom Smith, and Mike Williams

Staff: Michelle Boelk, Alyssa Crawford, Lois Lundin, Hoa Sobczynski, and Darcy Sullivan

Member at Large: Keith Boelk, Howard & Gretchen Davis, Pat Ettestad, Gene & Pat Kjellgren, Terry Schulz, and Doreen Swenson.

1. Meeting was called to Order by President Tracy Lunser at 6:00 PM
2. Tracy introduced Lois Lundin, Executive Director, who introduced staff. Board members and Backus members introduced themselves.
3. Motion by Julie Bartkowski to approve Minutes from 2023 Annual meeting, second by Steve Costley. Motion carried
4. Nominations and election of Board members Donna Frederickson, Jim Lyman, and Mike Williams. No nominations from the floor. Motion to approve as presented by Gail Rognerud, second by Pat Ettestad, motion carried.
5. Review of Directors report, Treasurer report, Operations Committee, Arts & Programming, Backus programs, membership, contributions & donations, seat sponsorships.
 - **Executive Director** reviewed:
 - ◇ Current tenants in building, Falls Police Department, Veteran's Lounge, Oberholtzer Foundation, and Northland Counseling moving to their new facility.
 - ◇ Boiler project grant funding received, new boiler equipment, parking lot improvements, Veteran's display case installed, basement clean-out and improvements.
 - ◇ Rainy Lake Community Orchestra & Chimes, music instruction classes, basketball & wrestling programs are all doing well.
 - ◇ Sale of AB building completed in August 2023 and electrical, fire protections, and natural gas services separated from Backus. The AB Partnership and Backus relationship has been a sound working relationship.
 - **Treasurer Report** – Tom Smith reviewed financial reports, grants received, membership improvement, and City and County contributions, which are all very much appreciated
 - **Operations Committee** – Patti Ballan reviewed highlights and photos and presented.
 - **Arts & Programming** – Gail Rognerud reviewed future theater and concert productions coming to Backus.
 - **Backus Programs** – Lois Lundin reviewed current Backus programs as presented in report: KCC-TV, Backus Music, Borealis Bards, Backus Food Programs, Bridge club, co-ed volleyball, and pickleball.
 - **Membership** – Backus membership list reviewed as presented, showing members, sponsors, donations, non-cash donations. Budgeted at \$30,000 actual was \$39,000+

Balance Sheet

Comparative statements of Income and Expense for the Years Ended
December 31, 2023 and 2024

ASSETS

Current Assets	2023	2024
Cash	\$ 338,897	\$ 205,963
Account Receivable	16,392	2,564
Other Current Assets	38,067	79,378
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 393,356</u>	<u>287,906</u>
Property and Equipment (at Cost)		
Building and Improvement	839,671	839,671
Furniture & Equipment	850,850	865,153
Accumulated Depreciation	(615,487)	(676,736)
Total Property and Equipment (at Depreciation Cost)	<u>\$ 1,075,034</u>	<u>\$ 1,028,087</u>
<hr/>		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,468,390	1,315,993

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 38,222	6,649
Grants/Restricted Funds	43,865	46,653
Other Current Liabilities	7,971	4,459
Long Term Liabilities	319,070	284,776
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 409,128</u>	<u>342,537</u>

Equity

Retained Earnings	\$ 551,262	1,059,262
Net Income	508,001	(85,807)
Total Equity	<u>\$ 1,059,262</u>	<u>973,456</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 1,468,390	1,315,993
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Income Statement

Post Closing Statements of Financial Condition at December 31, 2023 and 2024

	2023	2024
Income		
Program Income	\$ 93,403	\$ 115,144
Membership / Donations	41,256	104,899
City Support	32,000	25,600
County Support	35,000	35,000
Rental Income	179,058	192,062
Food Program Income	161,780	117,432
Grants	66,250	56,250
Other Income	48,980	22,184
In-Kind Income	15,948	31,286
Total Income	\$ 673,675	\$ 699,857
Expense		
Real Estate Tax	\$ 4,678	\$ 2,218
Interest Expense on Loans	15,882	14,401
Insurance	21,013	26,658
Repair & Maintenance	33,297	58,287
Salaries/Wages/Benefits	170,090	201,815
Utilities	69,941	51,036
Program Expense	104,337	129,395
Food Program Expense	173,949	117,733
Other Expense	37,257	27,872
Depreciation Expense	48,898	61,249
Total Expenses	\$ 679,343	\$ 690,664
Operating Net/(Loss)	\$ (5,668)	\$ 9,193
Non-Operating Income/Expense		
Boilers Project	\$ 514,613	\$ 6,262
Building Improvement	(944)	(101,261)
Non-Operating Income/Expense	\$ 513,669	\$ (94,999)
NET INCOME	\$ 508,001	\$ (85,807)

Funding Received

In 2024 Citizens for Backus/AB, Inc. has Received:

Government Support:

\$25,600	City of International Falls for Arts & Culture
\$12,000	City of International Falls for Koochiching County Community Television (KCC-TV)
\$14,200	City of International Falls - CEDA - for KCC-TV Equipment
\$30,000	Koochiching County for General Operating and Food Programs
\$ 5,000	Koochiching County for KCC-TV
\$ 1,000	City of Ranier for KCC-TV

Grants

\$ 50,000	Otto Bremer Trust - General Operating
\$ 24,100	Minnesota State Arts Board - Learning Arts
\$ 6,000	United Way of Northeastern MN - Community Café
\$ 5,000	Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund - RLCO String Camp
\$ 2,500	Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund - Arts Programs
\$ 5,000	Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund - Is There A Doctor in the House? Production

Tim Fairchild, Treasurer

Hoa Sobczynski, Business Manager

Endowment Fund

Since 1937, the historic Backus building has been a community gathering place, first as a school and since 2002 as a Community Center playing a vital role in the lives of many who live in and visit the area.

The Backus Endowment Fund is an effort underway to ensure the same holds true for generations to come.

Citizens committed to the sustainability of Backus and its Community Center programs have gifted funds to establish an endowment fund. The fund is established to provide effective and responsible stewardship and to ensure expansion of community work. The fund can accept gifts and bequests in wills, charitable trusts, gift annuities, and the transfer of property. We accept pledges for annual gifts. Donors can dedicate gifts of any size in memory or honor of a family member or friend.

With our sincere appreciation to our contributors, we are pleased to report that the balance history of the endowment fund to date is as follows:

Endowment Fund from Oct. 15, 2019 to Dec. 31, 2025							
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Donation	\$33,333.33	\$40,372.93	\$38,953.71	\$38,577.47	\$748.44	\$514.84	\$152,500.72
Interest on Investment	\$0.00		\$1,544.95	\$1,610.62	\$5,836.34	\$14,945.92	\$23,937.83
	Endowment Fund CD						\$ 176,439

A story of gratitude

The leadership team at Backus truly believes that a community center is a cornerstone of any neighborhood, offering immense value in various ways. **Backus Community Center** is a vital asset to our home town, providing a safe and welcoming space for people of all ages to gather, learn, and grow. Located in the very heart of International Falls, **Backus** fosters a sense of belonging and unity, offering programs and services that cater to the diverse needs of our community. From educational workshops and recreational activities to support services and cultural events, your **Backus Community Center** enriches lives and strengthens the social fabric of our area. Its presence not only enhances the quality of life for our area residents but also promotes a spirit of collaboration and mutual support.

In November of 2024, members received a heartfelt letter from the Backus leadership asking for financial support. Our letter was genuine and simple. Our message was sincere.

The financial support that resulted from that letter has been incredible! Receiving such a positive response is a strong indicator that the work that we do and the services that we provide matter and that Backus is making a meaningful impact in our community. It's truly inspiring when the hard work and dedication that is put into all things Backus receives such enthusiastic support.

Member support is absolutely vital for the success and sustainability of Backus Community Center. Member support is the backbone of a thriving community center. Member support makes an incredible difference in our ability to serve the community.

We extend our deepest gratitude for the unwavering support that our friends have extended to Backus Community Center. We can't do all that we do without you. Your support means the world to us!



Thank You!

Executive Director's Report

2024 was the second year of two that will be recorded in Backus' history as a time when great dreams were realized. On September 26, 2024, the leadership teams from Backus and from the Alexander Baker Apartments stood together with our community to celebrate the Grand Opening of the AB Apartment building. The vision of the people who founded the Citizens for Backus/AB in 2002 was finally reality.

The mission statement written for Backus Community Center so many years ago still remains unchanged.

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

Our commitment to fulfilling this mission and serving people is stronger than ever. We take our contributions to this community very seriously, and we are proud of the work that we do. There is a lot of good happening at Backus Community Center. Here are some of the key activities that shaped the year:

- **Backus is offering a wider range of programs and activities to cater to diverse interests and age groups.** Backus believes that by offering a diverse range of programs and activities, our community center will be a vibrant and inclusive place that more than meets the needs and interests of the people. Backus pays close attention to the evolving needs of our community. We welcome opportunities to partner with social service and public service agencies to promote learning and awareness and to help people live better lives. Backus is often the venue of choice for organizations to host meetings and events.
- **We work diligently to offer arts events that people enjoy and look forward to attending.** Backus is continually seeking opportunities to bring fun activities and engaging arts programming to our northern Minnesota community. Backus provides a welcoming environment where creativity can flourish. We strive to offer resources and opportunities for artists of all ages and skill levels to develop their talents and express themselves. It's incredibly rewarding to see participants and audiences actively engaging and connecting with the program content! Our goal is to create enriching experiences that inspire creativity, foster connections, create memories, and bring joy to everyone involved.
- **Backus has completed facility upgrades to provide a more comfortable and functional environment for everyone.** We have installed new flooring and new lighting around the building. We have replaced all exit signs and emergency lighting fixtures. Our conference room tables have been revitalized. We have new and improved electrical service in the auditorium and around the building. We have a new outdoor transformer and new service lines leading into the building. Our fire alarm system was updated and enhanced for improved security. The John Faith Little Theater was completely refurbished and opened for visitors this past spring. Preserving and protecting our building is critical to ensure its viability for generations to come.

2024 brought some fresh beginnings for Backus Community Center. Embracing growth and finding new ways to serve the community can lead to meaningful and lasting impacts. We will continue to listen to the needs and interests of our community members. We want to continue to increase accessibility and participation. We'll continue to look for gaps in our current offerings and will explore new services that could benefit the community. By collaborating with others, we can strengthen the levels of service that are available to people of our region.

We fully expect Backus to build on the momentum from 2024 and continue to grow and serve our community in impactful ways. We are very grateful to our supporters for the many ways they contribute to our success!

Submitted by Lois Lundin, Executive Director

2024: Serving our community

- A wedding and reception
- One Act rehearsal and performance
- Falls Education Foundation pancake breakfast
- Freeze Yer Gizzard Blizzard Race registration, start and finish line, awards ceremony.
- Arrowhead 135 registration, meeting, and spaghetti dinner
- Junior High girls and boys basketball practices and games
- Line Dancing class
- Calligraphy class
- Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution site
- Contractor Class
- Minnesota Connections Academy
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation banquet
- Minnesota Deer Hunters banquet
- Bronco Hall of Fame
- Chamber of Commerce Citizens Gala
- Tru Star Annual Meeting
- Lifeline Screening
- Minnesota Energy Resources Meeting
- Darcie's Dance Recital
- Minnesota North College Hall of Fame
- Volleyball and Pickleball
- Home School Gym
- Paint your Partner class
- Trick-or-treating for Backus kids

- City and County Meetings
- Land Port of Entry Meetings
- Police Department Training
- Candidate Forum
- US Customs Graduation
- PALS Gatherings
- AARP Digital Workshops
- United Way Community Steps
- Northspan Lenders Forum
- Flag Day
- Bridge Club
- Rec Hockey Orientation
- Birthday Parties, Bridal Showers, Celebrations
- Gideons Banquet and Meeting
- Bible Study
- KOOTASCA Board Meetings
- KOOTASCA Annual Meeting and A/B Grand Opening Ceremony
- Riverwood Bank meeting
- Minnesota Loggers



Operations Report

Committee Members: Patti Ballan, Julie Bartkowski, Tim Fairchild, Jim Lyman, Mike Williams

Per our by-laws, Backus Operations Committee's responsibilities will include but are not limited to: executing contracts and agreements, rental and lease agreements, tenant policies, development of Backus properties and facilities, long-range property and financial planning and overseeing staffing and personnel policies. Operations Committee may form subcommittees as needed.

Transformer-Transformer relocation completed. AB complex and Backus each have independent transformers installed.

KCC-TV-Updated equipment was installed to provide improved technical support. City of Intl Falls had ED funds available to help with costs of equipment. Koochiching County and a Marshall Knutson grant also contributed to funding.

Exit & Emergency Lighting-All exit and emergency lighting (63) have been replaced with LED lighting. State Fire Marshall has inspected & recommended.

John Faith Little Theater-New lighting, electrical, stage updates were completed and theater is being used for Backus & community events. Plaque honoring John Faith will be installed near entrance of Little Theater.

Strategic Plan-Committee will review and prioritize in March 2025. Assistance from a nonprofit advisor is anticipated.

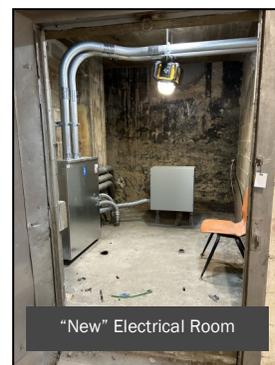
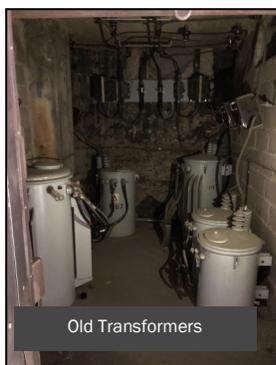
New Tenant-Kootasca has started renting #103,104,204,304 (office space upstairs). Backus is providing breakfast, lunch & snack daily to Kootasca children. Kootasca also has use of the gym and AB playground area.

Rainy River Rugrats Daycare- Rainy River Rugrat Daycare will be vacating their Backus location and relocating to St Thomas School as of March 01, 2025.

City Police Department-Lease expires March 31, 2025. Backus has extended offer to City for extending lease for time needed until City makes a final decision as to where the police department will be permanently housed. No update at this time.

Endowment Fund- Contributions continue to be added to fund. Funds are invested in CD at Border Bank, which offered best investment rate. Donations are always welcomed!

Submitted By: Patti Ballan



Capital and Building Improvements

Sustaining and preserving the life of Backus Community Center ensures that its cultural and historic significance can be enjoyed by future generations. By continually making necessary improvements, we are not only maintaining the physical structure but we're also enhancing its value and relevance to the community.

The following projects were completed in 2024:

- Backus's old, indoor electric transformer system was carefully removed and replaced with a new, up-to-date outdoor transformer. The new system was sized to serve the electrical needs at Backus today, and it has capacity for growing needs in the future. Upgrades like this not only enhance the functionality and safety of the Backus building but also demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement and care for the community.
- The Backus heating system was made complete with the installation of a new compressor. The compressor is key to operating control valves and other pneumatic components that regulate the steam flow and pressure in our heating system.
- The Backus emergency lighting and exit lights have all been replaced. Ensuring that all fixtures are up to code is crucial for the safety of everyone who uses our building.
- The Backus fire alarm and monitoring system was updated. New features and modern technology updates are essential for ensuring the safety of everyone using the Backus. Modern systems provide more reliable detection and faster response times in case of emergencies. Our system is strong and in compliance with regulations.
- Updates continue in the John Faith Little Theater, making this a very welcoming space for artists and audiences alike! This smaller theater is perfectly suited for smaller productions. It has a cozy, social atmosphere that is very conducive for a more personal experience for both the artists and the audience. There is new lighting and electrical service, new stage lighting, and fresh paint all around.
- Backus recently purchased a sound system for the grand auditorium. The purchase of this sound system secures our ability to operate the sound and lights necessary on stage for all types of events. From banquets to concerts to theater performances, our sound and light directors have access to a high quality system that is credible and compliments the stage needs.
- Guests who remember having shop class in Backus will appreciate that there were some projects completed in those spaces. (1) The cabinetry in the room that was once the drafting room on the first floor was refinished, and new flooring was installed. (2) When our crew removed old carpet from the former shop teacher's offices, the "end cut" craftsmanship was revealed. This unique feature has been refinished and preserved to demonstrate deep respect for history and appreciation for original design for future generations.



Updated John Faith Little Theater



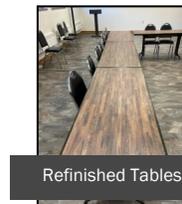
Uncovered "End Cut" Flooring



Repurposed Shelving



Refinished Tables



E.W. Backus Portrait

Arts and Programming Report

Backus strives to offer very diverse, easy to access arts opportunities to citizens across our region. We truly believe that the arts play a crucial role in our remote community's health and well-being. Our making arts opportunities available to people contributes to a healthier, more vibrant community. Our goal is to provide programming for people of all ages and walks of life to experience at whatever level they choose.

The Backus Music Program opens up a world of discovery to people who want to be involved in music. Backus Music provides music lessons for 52 students and 5 small groups. Students of all ages to learn to play most all instruments, including piano and keyboard instruments, strings, brass, woodwinds, and percussion. Voice lessons are also available for people who want to build their singing skills. Backus is home to the Rainy Lake Community Orchestra, the Junior Orchestra, the Rainy Lake Chimes handbell choir, the Community Band, a Community Choir, and the Tuesday Musicale Scholarship Program.

The Backus Theater Program is highly favored by our community both by the people who participate in productions and by the audiences who come to watch the shows! There are four primary theater groups, each catering to their own styles and activities. The Borealis Bards focus on full length story telling productions. The Junior Bards also bring stories to life and they teach young aspiring actors and actresses the "behind the scenes" skills that are involved with productions. The Rainy Lake Play House and the Backus Community Theater bring opportunities for people of all ages to participate in Reader's Theater, One Act Plays, Musicals, and Musical Reviews.

KCC-TV provides a service for citizens to stay informed of all local government operations and community happenings. People are able to see first-hand what is happening at local government, civic, and ISD 361 School Board meetings. There are regular segments that showcase local talent, current and past local sporting events, and sports commentary segments. If people cannot attend arts events in the community, KCC-TV broadcasts are available for people to watch. KCC-TV presents information in a timely manner and helps people stay up to date on happenings and changes that impact life in our area.

Backus Arts and Programming brings **Performing Arts** to the Backus stages. We have transitioned from primarily hosting artists who are largely unfamiliar to local people, to hosting concerts and theatrical performances featuring local talent. This is well received! Attendance at concerts and events has seen downward shift across many communities since the pandemic. This has been challenging. Backus offers performances that are more likely to encourage people to venture out. We strive to offer a diverse range of events in an atmosphere that is welcoming and inviting where people feel enriched and entertained.

Backus Arts also brings opportunity for area youth to participate in **Summer Arts Programming**. The coming year will once again host a "camp" for kids to experience Swing Choir, Dance, and Theater. Past programming included a wide range of crafting classes, puppetry, and introduction to music classes.

Backus Arts also offers classes in fiber and textile arts to area youth. **Learning to Crochet** has proven to be a hit with young students. It's a wonderful way to nurture creativity and teach valuable skills.

Community recreation is big at Backus! People come to play pickle ball, volleyball, basketball, participate in wrestling, and to enjoy recreation time. We're proud to have area homeschool students come to use the gym, too! The Backus halls and stairways are popular places for people to walk and get their steps in. The Backus Puzzle Library is located in our first floor west hallway, and is a popular attraction for many people in our community.

Program Highlights

Looking ahead:

Backus looks to build and strengthen the music, theater, arts and recreation programs that are happening today. Our programs encourage learning through the application of the arts and through participation in community events. Participation at any level promotes health and wellness for participants of all ages. Our goal is to keep the opportunities for activities alive and to make the offerings relevant to what the people of our community want. We will continue to diversify our programs. We will work with passionate instructors who can inspire and guide students and participants in their artistic journeys. We will continue to provide regular opportunities for students and community citizens to showcase their skills at recitals, plays, concerts, performances and art displays. We encourage our community to tell us what they would like to see, learn, and do at Backus!

BACKUS Community Center
2023-2024 PERFORMING ARTS SERIES PRESENTS

RING OF KERRY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH, 7:00 P.M.
Backus Community Center Auditorium
\$15.00 ADULTS \$5.00 CHILD (ages 6-12) 9 years and under—FREE
Doors open at 6:00 P.M.
Register at backus.org

Backus Community Center, Rainy Lake Pharmacy (City Drug), or at the door

St. Patrick's Season Celebration

THIRD YEAR SPONSORS: **PCA**, **Northland**, **Backus Community Center**, **Backus Book**, **Backus**

BONFIRE HEART
JOHN FAITH LITTLE THEATRE

AUGUST 29 7:00PM
PAY AT THE DOOR - \$15 ADULTS - \$5 CHILDREN

KIDS CROCHET CLUB
Ages 6-18
Every Thursday 3:30-5:00PM
\$5.00 per class
Limited spots available
Starting October 3
John Faith Little Theater

Visit events@backus.org or call 218-285-7225 to sign up!

Learn Basic Crochet skills and create your own masterpiece!
Just in time for the holidays!

CALLIGRAPHY CLASS
An introduction to the art of Calligraphy
1 1/2 hour class where you will learn the basic techniques and skills
Pen, ink, worksheets and blank paper included and is yours to keep
Monday, January 8th, 7:00 - 8:30 A.M.
Instructor - Annette Rossman
Check her out on Facebook's page: <https://www.facebook.com/AnnetteRossman>

Call Backus to reserve a spot - 218-285-7225
Money is due one week prior to class to hold your space

Marshall N. Knudson Family Community Fund

Performing Arts Workshop

Contemporary Jack Hip Hop Dance
Sewing Choir
One Act Comedy

Guest Choreographer: Alexandra Gilbertson
Ages 3 to 18 are welcome!
Five hours of dance, three of theater, type of acting class

Workshops will run two weeks: Monday thru Friday, June 17 through June 29, full days, 9-4.

Backus Community Center, International Falls
7:00pm.

IT'S FREE!!
Call us to register at 218-285-7225 or email at events@backusab.org

Rainy Lake Community Orchestra Presents:
Holiday Concert
Monday, December 2
Backus Stage 7:00PM
BACKUS Community Center

MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD

Rainy Lake Community Band
Rehearsals begin on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. in Room 303 at Backus Community Center.
Anyone with any level of playing experience is welcome to join us.
Contact us by calling Backus Community Center at 218-285-7225 or email michelle@backusab.org

BACKUS Community Center
800 5th Street | International Falls, MN 56649 | 218-285-7225 | www.backusab.org

GOODYE Winter Tour

The Last Woodsmen
Backus Little Theater!

7 pm March 23rd

After a Winter's Storm The Last Woodsmen will be putting their instruments out of the woodshed to perform at the newly renovated Backus Little Theater. Formerly known as the Dungeon our space is now transformed back into a smaller, cozier venue for all types of entertainment.

Saturday, March 23rd at 7pm. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Adults—\$15 Students age 6-18—\$5 Children 5 and under—FREE

BACKUS Community Center
218-285-7225 | 800 5th Street | Int'l Falls, MN | www.backusab.org | Facebook: Backus AB

Catfish Keith—an Acoustic Blues Artist
Backus Auditorium—Saturday April 27th at 7 p.m.

Tickets are:
Adults—\$15
Ages 6-18—\$5
5 and under—FREE

NOMINATED for two 2024 Blues Music Awards for:
- BEST ACOUSTIC BLUES ALBUM
and
- BEST ACOUSTIC BLUES ARTIST!

FLAG DAY PRESENTATION
JUNE 14, 2024, 4:00PM
ALEX LONCE 2023 FLAG DAY CEREMONY

BACKUS SUMMER ARTS PERFORMANCE
JUNE 18, 2024, 4:00PM
BACKUS COMMUNITY CENTER

IT'S FREE!!
Call us to register at 218-285-7225 or email at events@backusab.org

FREE CONCERT
MONDAY JULY 1 2:00PM
IRVIN N. ANDERSON AMPHITHEATER / OYAGEUR'S NATIONAL PARK HEADQUARTERS

CHRIS KROEZE & BAND
CONCERT STARTS AT 7:30PM

- FOOD TRUCKS OPEN AT 2:00
- BEER GARDEN OPENS AT 2:00
- CORN HOLE TOURNEY
- CARSHOW
- VOLLEYBALL
- PICNICS WELCOME ~ NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL
- BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR
- PLEASE LEAVE YOUR DOGS AND ALL PETS AT HOME

BACKUS Community Center | **riverfest** | www.backusab.org

Adult Ballroom Dance Class
IT'S FREE!!
Friday, December 6th
Backus Auditorium
7:00-9:00 PM
Reservations will be available to purchase

Holiday Movie Night
Friday, December 6th
Backus Auditorium
7:00-9:00 PM
Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Join us for the big screen!

ARROWHEAD REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
Community Game Night
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 11 6:00-9:00PM
FREE
Backus Community Center

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?
The Musical
May 23-24 7:00 pm
Doors open 1 hour before curtain

Tickets Available at Backus Little Theater, Backus Office or at the door

Brought to you by: **BACKUS Community Center**, Marshall N. Knudson Family Community Fund

The Icebox Radio Theater Presents...
TALES TO TREMBLE BY
An Evening of spooky audio drama and comedy featuring **Old Time Radio & a World Premiere!**
Costumes Encouraged!

Thursday Oct 24th 7pm
Tickets \$15
218-285-7225

Now at the John Faith Little Theater at Backus

WRITTEN BY: MICHAEL DRUCE.
The House of Thrills & Chills
DIRECTED BY: MARY MCBRIDE
JOHN FAITH LITTLE THEATRE
OCTOBER 26
4:00PM & 7:00PM
\$10.00 A TICKET
\$ 5 UNDER FREE
TICKETS ON SALE AT THE BACKUS OFFICE OR AT THE DOOR
PROUDLY BY SPECIAL AGREEMENT WITH POWER BLANK ENTERTAINMENT THEATRE CO

SUMMER SINGING OPPORTUNITIES
Children's Choir
Community Choir
Voice Lessons

Rainy Lake Community Orchestra Presents...
Cabin Fever
Rainy Lake Youth Orchestra
Rainy Lake Chimes
Rainy Lake Community Band
Rainy Lake Community Orchestra

Whist Classes
Backus Community Center

Holiday Concert
Community Band
Community Choir

BACKUS Community Center
LINE DANCING INSTRUCTION
Backus Community Center

The Icebox Radio Theater Presents...
MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET
Live Radio Theater
Ring in the Holiday Season with a live radio show! Musical Comedy! And a modern holiday classic all live and on stage.
Broadcast Live!

Saturday, Nov 30th - 7pm
John Faith Little Theater at Backus
\$15 (kids 10 & under \$5)
Tickets: (218) 285-7225 or iceboxradio.org/Live

TUESDAY MUSICAL
HOLIDAY SHOWCASE
DECEMBER 1, 2024
BACKUS COMMUNITY CENTER STAGE
2:00PM
FREE WILL OFFERING

Showcase will raise money to send talented students to music camp

THE BOREALIS JUNIOR BARDS PRESENT
BILLIONAIRES OUT OF THE AIR
by CELIA SJOBLIN
&
THE SUBMARINE TOUR
by JUNE HART
DECEMBER 14TH & 15TH
BROADWAY THEATRE IN THE PARK
KIDS & ADULTS - FREE! TICKETS AVAILABLE AT BACKUS COMMUNITY CENTER, RAINY LAKE PHARMACY OR AT THE DOOR.
BACKUS IS FULLY HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE. CONTACT 218-285-7225 FOR SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATIONS.

DECEMBER 15
Winter Solstice CONCERT
5:00PM
FREE WILL OFFERING
BACKUS COMMUNITY CENTER STAGE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 218-285-7225
BACKUS Community Center

Annual Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Backus Community Center



900 5th Street
International Falls, Minnesota 56649
Phone: (218) 285-7225
www.backusab.org | Facebook: BackusAB

For your safety, Backus is handicapped
accessible and equipped with
AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator)
located on the first and third floors.

MISSION STATEMENT:

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