Upcoming Events

September
4 - Backus Office Closed, Labor Day
11 - Ruby’s Pantry Food Distribution 5 pm
15 - Member’s Only Event 6 pm

October
1 - Backus 15th Anniversary Dinner 5:00 pm
1 - Teddy Roosevelt Performance 7:00 pm
9 - Ruby’s Pantry Food Distribution 5 pm
27 - Borealis Bards Presents Willy Wonka 7 pm
28 - Borealis Bards Presents Willy Wonka 7 pm
29 - Borealis Bards Presents Willy Wonka 2 pm
31 - Treat Street 5-6:15 pm

November
13 - Ruby’s Pantry Food Distribution 5 pm
23 - Backus Closed, Thanksgiving
24 - Backus Office Closed

December
1 - Logging Camp Christmas
9 - Breakfast with Santa
10 - FHS Band & Choir Concert 3 pm
11 - Ruby’s Pantry Food Distribution 5 pm
12 - St. Thomas Christmas Program
15 - Monroe Crossing “Bluegrass Christmas” Opening act: Sloughgrass 7 pm
25 - Backus Closed, Christmas
31 - Backus Closed, New Year’s Eve

Community Café
Every Tuesday & Thursday | 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Community Market
Every Wednesday | 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Pickleball
Every Thursday | 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

For more details and updates, visit www.backusab.org
or stop by the office at 900 5th Street

Mission Statement
“Historic Backus Community Center, the heart of International Falls, where all generations celebrate arts, culture, recreation, wellness and life-long learning.”
### 15 Years of Backus (cont.)

#### TIMELINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event/Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Construction on the AB School began</td>
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<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Backus &amp; AB school buildings were closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Backus and AB school buildings were listed on the National Register of Historic Places</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Community Cafe was opened.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>The entire Backus and AB building roofs were replaced at a cost of $275,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>417 members 14 Tenants Over 47,000 people used the building Ten employees</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Tim Wegner</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Kendra Schmidt</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Diane Maxey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Beth Lowthian</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Donna Frederickson, Derek Foss</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>John Faith</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Carol Bryant</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Julie Bartkowski</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Patti Ballan</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Kay Arnold</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Tandi Ballan</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Carol Revis</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Bushinger John Faith</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Derek Foss</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Tim Wegner</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Gail Rognerud</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Sherrie Lessard</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>10 Employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>10 Employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>10 Employees</td>
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</tbody>
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#### IMPACT TODAY

- Providing Free Meals for the Community
- Home to the Community Theater
- Facility for Youth Athletics
- Numerous Tenants with Valuable Services
- Summer Food Service Program
- Summer Arts Week
- Preserving History
- Providing Live Entertainment
- Promoting Art and Expression
- Hosting Classes to Expand Learning
- Site of Ruby’s Pantry
- Encouraging Healthy Living
- Promoting Community Outreach
- Alternative Learning Center

### Rhubarb Dessert

**Recipe from Mary Ann Lien, Backus Kitchen Supervisor**

**Ingredients**

- 1 Cup Sugar
- 1 Yellow Cake Mix
- 1 Pint Whip Cream
- 4 Cups Rhubarb

**Directions**

1. Mix cake mix according to directions on box. Pour into greased 9x13 pan. Sprinkle 4 cups rhubarb on top. 1 cup sugar and pour 1 pint whip cream over all. Bake about 60 minutes at 350°F

**Community Market**

**Wednesdays**

**June 14 - October 2018 Performing Arts**

**Community Market**

4:00 to 6:30 pm

**Accepts Credit/Debit Cards, SNAP (EBT) cards, FHC Vouchers**

**NOT A MEMBER YET?**

Stop into the office at 900 5th Street or go online to www.backusab.org

Memberships start at just $60. All Memberships are Tax Deductible. Members get 10% discount on room rentals, invitation to the annual meeting/dinner each February. “Member’s Only” events, Quarterly Newsletter, Discounts on Season Tickets with two free “Bring a Friend” tickets upon purchase.

**Community Members Answer the Question “How Backus Community Center is making a difference in our community or in your life?”**

Christa Heibel

**Replenish Yoga & Wellness, Backus Tenant**

“Backus Community Center has been instrumental in my ability to create and build a yoga studio in International Falls. They have created the perfect space for me and been a true partner as the business has grown by supporting us in many ways. The ability to be in Backus with other health and wellness focused groups and organizations has been an extra blessing for Replenish Yoga & Wellness as we are able to partner for people’s better well being all under the Backus roof. But in addition to health and wellness, the creation of Backus Community Center was critical in helping save the arts in our community. So much wellness, culture and arts under one roof! It is a safe and welcoming place for ALL of our community members!”

**The Backus Bite**

**Rhubarb Dessert**

**Recipe from Mary Ann Lien, Backus Kitchen Supervisor**

**Ingredients**

- 1 Cup Sugar
- 1 Yellow Cake Mix
- 4 Cups Rhubarb
- 1 Pint Whip Cream

**Directions**

- Mix cake mix according to directions on box. Pour into greased 9x13 pan. Sprinkle 4 cups rhubarb on top. 1 cup sugar and pour 1 pint whip cream over all. Bake about 60 minutes at 350°F

**You are cordially invited to a “Member’s Only” Event Friday, September 15 at 6:00 pm**

Join us for an evening of art & music in room 101/102. Gene Ritchie Monahan art will be exhibited and Donna Frederickson will be performing on the grand piano. Season tickets will be available for the 2017-2018 Performing Arts Season and complimentary snacks & beverages will be served.

Bring a friend who becomes a new Backus member and get two free “bring a friend” tickets to any Backus show!

Please RSVP to 218-285-7225 or backusoffice@backusab.org
KAT PERKINS

Growing up the daughter of a music teacher, Kat Perkins has been singing, dancing, and performing for just about as long as she can remember. Coming from a town that only recently went from “unincorporated” to 281, with the nearest theater or rock show hundreds of miles away, it took a lot of determination for that little girl to pursue her dreams. Kat Perkins was a semi-finalist on the hit television show The Voice, Season 6, in 2014.

CHILDREN’S THEATRE COMPANY PRESENT “SEEDFOLKS”

April 27, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

The story Sonja Parks so colorfully enacts in “Seedfolks” grows out of gritty urban ground. She tells the tale of healing and restoration with agility, empathy and a whole lot of heart. Paul Fleischman adapted his own children’s book for this one-person play, directed by Peter Brosius and designed by Jorge Cousineau (set and projections), Sonya Berlovitz (costumes) and Paul Whitaker (not-bright-enough lights). Choreographed by Joe Chvala and featuring recorded music composed by Victor Zupanc, “Seedfolks” is a show about origins and about hope. But it also is about an artist who is doing some lovely blooming of her own onstage.

Season Tickets

These performances are made possible by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

New this year: VIP Lounge prior to performances will serve complimentary beverages and snacks for sponsors & Season ticket holders.

Season Tickets available only at Backus Community Center

All 6 Shows: $65 Non-Members | $55 Backus Members
Pick 4 Shows: $44 Non-Members | $38 Backus Members
AND Backus Members receive two complimentary “Bring a Friend” tickets!

Individual Tickets

Adults $12 | Students $6 | Family $25 | Pre-K Free

Available at Backus Community Center, City Drug Store, J & D Foods in Littlefork, Betty’s in Fort Frances, At the Door, Ballan Furniture, Boyer’s Scrub & Lawn Care, City Drug, Donna Frederickson, Shermoen & Jaksa Law, PLLC, Up North Builders, Inc.

Sponsors: Platinum - Packaging Corporation of America, Stewart’s Super One Foods. Gold - Bremer Bank, Wagner Construction. Silver - Ballan Furniture, Boyer’s Scrub & Lawn Care, City Drug, Donna Frederickson, Shermoen & Jaksa Law, PLLC, Up North Builders, Inc.


As of August 25, 2017

Backus Board Brief

15 Year Anniversary of Backus Community Center

On Sunday, October 1, 2017, Citizens for Backus AB are inviting the community to celebrate 15 years of operation. (Yes, 15 years! Can you believe it? And, we’re still here!) Remember when we had soup suppers with soup made by chef, Jay Hokenson, to raise money to keep us afloat for another month? Well, the Backus board is sponsoring another soup supper on Sunday, October 1. We will have soup that is made in our own commercial kitchen by our Backus chef, Rick DeBenedit, with no more hauling of the heavy roasters that Jay had to do! Backus gets to cook and serve in one spot, thanks to 15 years of grants, gifts, memberships, donations, support, hard work, ideas, and progress. I know everyone loved the fresh baked smell of cookies that Agnes Henrickson baked for us, but instead of baked cookies, we will be serving birthday cake, as we really need to celebrate 15 years. We will not be charging for the soup supper, as we used to, but we will be accepting free will donations. As you know, Backus Community Center operates as a non-profit, still functions on a very tight budget, and still has many projects, dreams and aspirations for this fantastic, very active Community Center.

The schedule for Sunday, October 1, 2017, is from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., soup will be served in the dining room. While you are enjoying the soup dinner, John Faith will have a power point presentation showing pictures of events, people and history of Backus Community Center. Also, during the soup supper, presentations will be made to some of the original board members who were dedicated and instrumental in getting Citizens for Backus/AB off the ground.

After the soup supper, at 7:00 p.m., and in the auditorium, Backus will be presenting their first show of the 2017-2018 Performing Arts Season, “Teddy Roosevelt, as Portrayed by Joe Wiegand.” The cost of this show is $12.00, or by a Backus Performing Arts Season ticket. Please, plan on attending this show to learn more about Theodore Roosevelt as U.S. President, husband, father, soldier, hunter, North Dakota Badlands rancher and inspiration for Theodore Roosevelt National Park at Medora, North Dakota. Wiegand has been invited to the White House to perform as Theodore Roosevelt for President George W. Bush and he portrayed Theodore Roosevelt in the History Channel’s “The Men Who Built America.” As a side note, I have seen this show a couple of times in Medora and thoroughly enjoyed it each time! And, since we are celebrating the 15 year history of Backus, I think you will enjoy continuing the celebration with a performance on U.S. history with Joe Wiegand as Theodore Roosevelt.

After the performance, at 8:00 p.m., Backus is sponsoring a Birthday Supper. There will be a special birthday cake, which we are asking everyone to bring a picture that someone has in their personal collection of Backus. We will have a birthday cake, with candles, and each person will be able to place a picture on the cake. We also will be accepting free will donations to help us keep on going another 15 years.

Thank you to the City of International Falls for their continued support of Backus Community Center.
Backus Board Brief Continued

From September 3, 2002, when Janet Larson Schultheis paid ISD 361 $850.00 for the contents of the buildings (money she made at a rummage sale!) and $1.00 for the buildings, and from the original gatherings of local people who wanted to save the buildings and met at the local coffee shop, to October 1, 2017, Citizens for Backus/AB and the Backus Community Center, have come a long way! Backus Community Center and its working board are diligent in being fiscally prudent and yet progressive within the realm of its non-profit status. Backus Community Center and its board are proud and thankful of many accomplishments in the past 15 years, such as a full time director, Ward Merrill, hiring a full time business manager, Hoa Sobczyński, hiring an excellent, professional full and part time staff, 1,312 volunteers with 10,273 hours in 2016, 417 memberships in 2016, International Falls and Koochiching County financial support, grants, donations, rentals, programs, recreation, teams, committees, activities, arts, theater, and many major improvements to the building. Most of all, Backus is appreciative of all the people, people of all ages and walks of life, who walk through our doors and believe in the need, function and life of Backus Community Center.

We invite you to keep the evening of Sunday, October 1, 2017, open, and come to the historic Art Deco styled Backus Community Center, be served a tasty soup supper and cake, view memorable moments in the history of Backus, visit with friends and enjoy a theater performance by Joe Wiegand as “Theodore Roosevelt.”

-Donna Frederickson,
Emeritus Board Member

2017-2018 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

TEDDY ROOSEVELT AS PORTRAYED BY JOE WIEGAND
October 1, 2017 @ 7:00 pm

Joe Wiegand is considered the world’s premiere Theodore Roosevelt reprisor. As an actor and historian, Joe’s portrayals of Theodore Roosevelt in live performances, such as those in Medora, ND, have people wondering if Teddy Roosevelt has come back to life! Theodore Roosevelt was a soldier and statesman, explorer and scientist, historian and author. Our youngest president, he personified a vigorous nation on the cusp of the American Century.

ROALD DAHL’S “WILLY WONKA”
October 27 - 28, 2017 @ 7:00 pm
October 29, 2017 @ 2:00 pm

Join Charlie Bucket and four other Golden Ticket winners as they set off on a delicious adventure through Willy Wonka’s Chocolate Factory with Mr. Wonka himself! With excitement around every turn, Charlie learns the importance of sincerity, kindness and “pure imagination!”

MONROE CROSSING December 15, 2017 @ 7:00 pm

“BLUEGRASS CHRISTMAS”

Monroe Crossing dazzles audiences with an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, and heartfelt originals. This special Christmas performance is a new show with new music that will fill you with holiday cheer.

OPENING ACT: SLOUGHGRASS

DAREN STREBLOW February 2, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

Daren Streblow’s unique style of observational stand-up comedy has been entertaining hundreds-of-thousands of people throughout the United States and around the world since he first stepped on the stage in 1995. Family-Friendly!

Continued on page 6