

# BACKUS Community Center

Volume 17, Issue 2

July 2025

## BROADWAY ON THE BORDER IS BACK!

BACKUS  
PERFORMING ARTS  
WEEKS  
PRESENTS:

**BROADWAY**  
*On the border*

**JULY 19**  
**7:00PM**  
**BACKUS AUDITORIUM**

INSTRUCTED BY MISS ALEXANDRIA GILBERTSON AND NANCY MCBRIDE

**\$15.00 - ADULTS**  
**\$5.00 - CHILDREN 6-18**

TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR

 **BACKUS** Community Center 

This summer, the stage is set and the excitement is building! With **Nancy McBride** and **Alexandria Gilbertson** at the helm, Broadway on the Border returns July 19, delivering a spectacular show brimming with heart, talent, and theatrical wonder.

From the sultry rhythms of *Chicago* to the soaring melodies of *Wicked*, with stops in *The Little Mermaid*'s underwater world and *Hamilton*'s revolutionary stage—this summer's Broadway on the Border will have something for everyone. Whether it's your favorite tune or a dazzling new discovery, this is a show you'll never forget.

## SUMMER ARTS DANCE AND THEATER



PROFESSIONAL ARTIST  
**Alexandria  
Gilbertson**  
Choreographer, Instructor,  
Dancer

**Alexandria Gilbertson** is a professional dancer and instructor from Greenville, Michigan. She holds a degree in Dance from Grand Valley State University and has over five years of professional experience performing and teaching across Michigan and beyond. Alex has had the privilege of

collaborating with renowned artists from major cultural hubs, including New York City, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles, enhancing her craft and artistic perspective. Through grade school, Alex trained with Flat River Dance Company from ages 3-18, and was then hired as a professional guest artist, choreographer, and instructor there. Miss Alex has also been heavily involved with other elements of performing arts like symphonic orchestra, stage plays, musical theater, show choir, crew, set design, lighting design and costume design. Alex is excited to be back at Backus for another summer!

### Summer Arts

**July 7–18**

**Performance: July 19**

Check out the classes offered to area youth and adults:

Creative Movement  
Beginner Dance  
Intermediate Dance  
Advanced Dance  
One Act Theater  
Broadway Choreo  
Broadway on the Border  
Ballroom Dance for Adults

## From the Director's Desk

Happy summer!

So much to say; so little space! We can't wait to share the highlights with you! From concerts to community gatherings, summer arts, summer lunch, and building updates, this summer has been bursting with joy! Catch up on all the happenings in this edition of our newsletter. Happy reading! ~Lois Lundin

Take a peek—the fresh paint is gleaming and the floors are shining! Things are looking great!



**Thank you  
Northern  
Lumber**  
for donating  
paint for  
our hallway  
project!

## Robert Two Bulls Art Exhibit Coming to Backus, July 18 and 19

**The Rev. Canon Robert Two Bulls**, Missioner for the Department of Indian Work (DIW), is will be visiting our community in July. Backus is deeply honored to welcome Robert Two Bulls as the inaugural artist in our new Artist Spotlight Series. His work brings profound perspective and beauty to our walls—and we're proud to celebrate his voice and vision with our community.

His greater Two Bulls family leads an Indigenous art renaissance. Twenty-one family members, spanning four generations, have works with 40-plus years of Two Bulls family creations. "Art-we think about it as storytelling." While here, six of his paintings will be displayed at the Backus Community Center Art's Festival on July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. He will be formally present there to meet with the public and answer questions about his visual and life works.

### Robert Two Bulls Art Exhibit

Backus Room 101

Friday, July 18

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Presentation begins at 7:00 pm

Visitors are welcome to view artwork again on Saturday evening, July 19.

Doors open at 6:00 pm



Veterans **Milton** and **Irene** enjoy a puzzle from the wall in the **Veterans Lodge**.

**Summer Lunch for Kids** is a hit! Area children come to Backus Monday through Thursdays to pick up a lunch to go. Thank you to volunteers for coming to pack lunches!

Thank you  
**United Way of  
Northeast MN**  
For partnering with Backus  
to bring this for our kids!



### BACKUS STAFF

**Lois Lundin**,  
Executive Director

**Hoa Sobczynski**,  
Business Manager

**Michelle Boelk**  
Music Director

**Darcy Sullivan**,  
KCC-TV Director

**Alyssa Crawford**,  
Office Assistant





**RIVERFEST 2025** was a tremendous success! Great music. Food trucks. Cornhole. Classic cars. A beer garden. Fireworks from our Canadian neighbors. And PERFECT WEATHER! **The Irvin N. Anderson Amphitheater was the place to be on July 1.** Thank you to the **Minnesota State Arts Board** for grant funding to make the music happen, and to the **City of International Falls** for partnering with Backus!



**Fourth of July fun!**







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[www.backusab.org](http://www.backusab.org)

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**July 2025**



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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Julie Bartkowski *President*  
Patti Ballan, *Secretary*  
Tim Fairchild, *Treasurer*  
Donna Frederickson *Vice President*  
Lauire Knapp  
Jim Lyman  
Joe Nikolanci  
Gail Rognerud  
Mike Williams

*The next board meeting is September  
11 at 5:15PM in room 101/102.*

**Do you want to join the Backus  
Board?!**

#### **BACKUS VALUES YOUR INPUT!**

Do you have comments, questions, suggestions,  
or concerns regarding Backus?

Please contact the Backus Board at  
[backusboard@backusab.org](mailto:backusboard@backusab.org)

Welcome new Backus Board Directors!!

**Laurie Knapp**  
**Joe Nikolanci**

### **COMING SOON TO BACKUS**

- RLCO String Camp - August 2025
- Finger Knitting Blanket Class—Fall 2025
- Kids Interactive Concert - September 20, 2025
- Looney Lutherans Dinner Theatre - November 23, 2025