

## Our Mission:

To enrich the experience of living in our community by telling the compelling stories and preserving the historic buildings and culture of the Washburn area.

# SPRING/SUMMER 2025

## President's Letter

Mary Gruhl, President

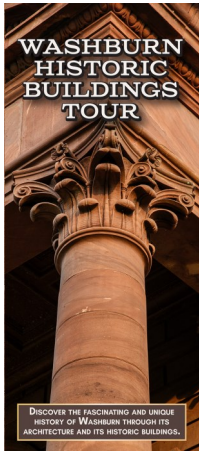
Welcome to this edition of the Washburn Heritage Association newsletter!

At the heart of everything we do is you—our members, neighbors, and visitors. You are the storytellers, the history makers, and the caretakers of the legacy that makes Washburn such a special place. Whether you grew up here, live here now, or come to visit, you are a part of the rich heritage that we celebrate.

Since 2009, the WHA has been dedicated to preserving and sharing the stories that have shaped our community—stories of people, places, and events that have left their mark on our neighborhoods. In this issue, we include a special insert highlighting the 60 Tony Woiak History Festivals, all centered on our local history and now accessible on YouTube. You'll also find a list of the historic panels that will be on display on July 25 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm on the third floor of the Washburn Cultural Center. A book -*The Spirit of Washburn*-containing most of the panels will be on sale at the WCC as well as at local businesses.

Thank you for being part of the story. Today's event becomes tomorrow's heritage.

We're so glad you're here.



**2025 Washburn Homecoming**  
**Thursday-Sunday**  
**July 24, 25, 26 and 27**

Welcome back Alumni and families

Get updates on what is happening with WHA. Visit our Facebook page: [facebook.com/WashburnHeritage](https://facebook.com/WashburnHeritage) or visit our website: [www.washburnheritage.org](http://www.washburnheritage.org)



## 2025 MAY PRESERVATION MONTH CELEBRATING JACKIE'S FIELD & 3<sup>RD</sup> ST. HISTORIC DISTRICT

### ALL MAY

**Walking or driving tour** of Washburn's historic buildings. Brochures listing the nine historic buildings/sites available at Washburn Chamber of Commerce

### FRI., MAY 23

1 PM

**Presentation of Certificate of Recognition for Preserving Heritage:** Susan Lince and John Hopkins, Artists Squared Studios and Gallery, Artisans on the Byway, Bumble Bee Garden

## WASHBURN HERITAGE DAY! MAY 24, SATURDAY 10AM TO 3PM

Celebrate and Learn about Third Street Historic District and Jackie's Field: A Family Event

**Location:** Jackie's Field East 300 North 3rd Avenue East



**11am & 1pm: Walking Tour of DuPont Historic Homes** lead by Lucille Sells, Architect and history buff

**11am: Pickleball Clinic** for adults and youth at pickleball courts on Third Street (paddles and balls provided)

**Noon: Candy Cannon**

**Noon-2pm: Music**

**2pm: Presentation: Who was Jack Peterson?**

Presented by Family members of Jack

**All day:** Food truck, Free popcorn and s'mores. Vintage games - Stickball, jacks, marbles, pick-up sticks, croquet.

Tables will be available. Consider bringing a chair.

**For more information: [www.washburnheritage.org](http://www.washburnheritage.org)**

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*Join us in May as we tell the story of Jackie's Field and the Third Street Historic District*



## Meet Lucille Strawn Sells

Hello! My name is Lucille Strawn Sells. I grew up in Washburn and now live in Fox Point, WI, a suburb north of Milwaukee. I come back north as often as I can and spend most of my summers back in Washburn with my husband, David, and our two children. After graduating

from Washburn High School in 2003, I received a BA in History from UW–Madison followed by a Master's in Architecture with a concentration in Historic Preservation from UW–Milwaukee. I worked in commercial architecture for many years and then discovered my passion lies in residential design. I started my own architecture practice three years ago, called North Drawn Design, inspired by my northern roots. I am grateful to be a member of the Washburn Heritage Association and its mission to keep Washburn's heritage alive.



*WHA members gathered to hear Mayor Mary Motiff read a proclamation to kick off May is Preservation Month activities. From left: Mary Cook, Mary Motiff, Mary Gruhl, Ella Cross and Sharon Stewart.*



## Bayview History Committee

**Many activities planned for this summer at the Houghton Depot**

This summer the Houghton Depot, located in Bayview Town Park, will host five public open houses on Saturdays from 10 am to noon. Dates for public open houses are June 28, July 12, July 19, August 2, and August 30. BHC volunteers will be available to answer questions and operate the model train. The Bayview History Committee will also be offering three 2-hour programs for adults about Bayview history at the Houghton Depot. The programs are offered on three Thursdays, from 1 - 3 pm. Each program has a \$5 entry fee and is limited to 15 people per program.

### Dates and program information follows:

**June 26: Rock.** Discover the geological history of Lake Superior and its impact on the development of the Town of Bayview. Learn about brownstone rock: how it was harvested and used in building construction.

**July 17: People.** Meet the people who lived in Bayview, both before and after the railroad arrived. Learn why the Town of Houghton was established.

**August 17: Rails.** Understand the impact of the railroad on Bayview's development and how it transformed the area. Learn about the railroad workers and the essential roles they played.

Register for these programs at:  
[bayviewhistcom@hotmail.com](mailto:bayviewhistcom@hotmail.com)

Visit us at the Depot, 81120 Bayview Park Rd.  
Join us at our open houses and for these fun, informational and hands-on programs!



# 14TH ANNUAL TONY WOIAK SUMMER History Festival

*Students  
Free*

HARBOR TABLE — WASHBURN

**ALL EVENTS TUESDAYS 7:30 PM**

**\$5**

**TUES JULY 1**

**"TOM BLAKE: WASHBURN'S FAMOUS SURFER" - BOB MACKRETH**



Hard as it might be to imagine, one of the most important surfers in history came from our little town far from the ocean. Tom Blake, raised here in Washburn, would become not only one of surfing's greatest champions, but also the sport's most important pioneer and innovator. Join Bob Mackreth and find out why one historian called Tom "the founder of California surf culture," and another declared, "Blake altered everything... he single-handedly changed surfing in a massive, huge way."

**TUES JULY 8**

**"GEOLOGY OF THE APOSTLE ISLANDS" - PROFESSOR TOM FITZ, PHD**



The Apostle Islands are referred to as the Crown Jewels of Wisconsin because of their spectacular scenery and geology. This stunning landscape has been created by the action of glaciers, rivers, and most dramatically by the erosive forces of Lake Superior. This slideshow presentation will explore the factors that have influenced the spectacular coastal landforms such as sea caves and arches that have made the Islands famous.

**TUES JULY 22 "WASHBURN'S AIRSTRIP AND THE PILOTS WHO FLEW" - KATHY PETERSON HOLT**



Find out about Washburn's once busy airstrip and the pilots who flew. Learn about WWII Capt. and instructor, Tommy Peterson, and the "Flying Baker", Earl Johnson, and the heroic flights he made, saving lives in the Chequamegon Bay area. Presenter is Kathy Peterson Holt, daughter of Tom & Kathleen Peterson.

**TUES AUG 5**

**"BAYFIELD COURTHOUSES": JUDGE JOHN ANDERSON**



The Courthouses of Bayfield/La Pointe County 1845 to the present-from the Island to Washburn!

**SPONSORED BY THE WASHBURN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION AND THE WASHBURN AREA MUSEUM**



WASHBURN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

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We appreciate your ongoing support of all our activities. We couldn't do it without you. If you don't see your name on the list below, please consider joining us. Thank you.

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Richard Montague  
and the Millmont Foundation

## WHA year-round events keep you connected to our Heritage

- ✓ Tony Woiak History Festivals
- ✓ May Preservation Month
- ✓ Brownstone Days - Trolley Tours
- ✓ Certificate of Recognition for Preserving Heritage
- ✓ Houghton Depot School and Adult Programs
- ✓ The Wikdal Park Kiosk Panels
- ✓ Video taping of history lectures
- ✓ Website and Facebook
- ✓ Historic Walking Tour pamphlet
- ✓ Washburn's Historic Lakewalk pamphlet
- ✓ Two newsletters a year