

Bates Hall Preservation Society holds fundraiser

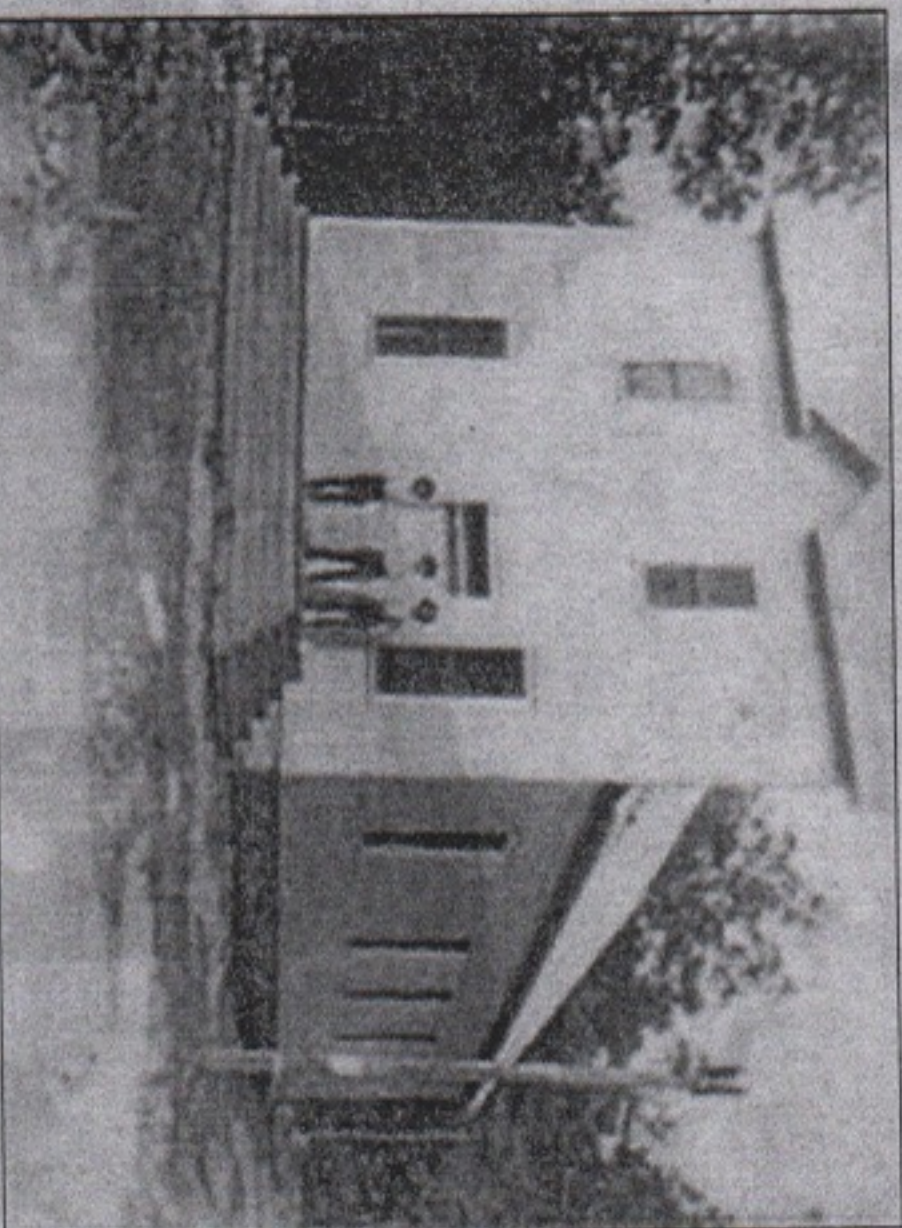
BATES TOWNSHIP — A grassroots group is hoping to preserve and revamp the historic Bates Township Hall.

Formed in late 2020, the Bates Hall Preservation Society was created with the intent to preserve and revitalize the historic 113-year-old building.

“The group hopes to make structural and aesthetic improvements to the physical structure but more importantly, to bring it back to its original function: a meeting and gathering place for the community,” said founding member Yvonne Whitman.

The Township Hall was built in 1907 under the direction of former Bates Township Supervisor Victor Benson. Prior to this, board meetings were held in the homes of board members and elections were held in schools. The township safe, which was extremely heavy, had to be moved each time a new treasurer was elected.

Local workmen Andrew Erickson and Eric Berg were the carpenters on the project and Albert Johnson, a stone mason, built the stone foundation. The rough-cut lumber came from Pete Carlson’s sawmill. Total cost for the building



The Bates Township Hall was built in 1907. (submitted photo)

was \$2,296.

Two barrel wood stoves provided heat, privies were located behind the building and water was carried in. The township safe, which no longer required a man and horse to bring it to the meetings, was moved to its new permanent home.

The first township meeting at the newly built hall was held on March 27, 1908. In 1918, when women were granted the right to vote, many Bates Township women cast their first vote ever at the Bates Hall. Over the years, improve-

ments were made to the hall. In 1922, electricity and water were installed and in 1955 indoor plumbing and restrooms finally arrived in the hall.

Through its life, the hall has been the venue for hundreds of community events ranging from weddings to funerals, graduation and retirement parties, rummage sales, auctions and parties of all types. The Bates community has been a strong supporter of the hall, rallying with fundraising efforts to purchase chairs, dishes and cutlery for the various community events.

While the hall has been the site of many noteworthy events during its 113-year history, it is now, not surprisingly, in need of some repair and updating.

“The BHPS’s mission is to not only preserve and improve the hall but to share the Bates Township heritage with present and future generations,” Whitman said.

She added that the group has secured donations for a new wood floor, interior paint and a redesign of township offices. Additional plans include work on the foundation, a new front porch and an improved outside deck and patio area.

“We really hope to make the hall a more welcoming venue for a variety of community events that we can all enjoy,” BHPS President Margee Brennan said.

“Along with preserving our history we hope to revitalize a sense of what it means to be a community and work together.”

On June 12, the BHPS will hold its inaugural event at the hall, a coffee social from 8-10 a.m. Coffee and baked goods from Seven Emberts will be served and information on the planned renovations and upcoming social events and fund-



Founding members of the Bates Hall Preservation Society, from left, Margee Brennan, Yvonne Whitman Andersen, Betty Stromberg and Lesa Soderlund Behling. (submitted photo)

raisers will be discussed.

A garage sale extravaganza fundraiser will be held July 9-10; donated items are welcome.

For more information or to

have items picked up, contact the BHPS at 906-284-0988.

To learn more about the BHPS, its upcoming events or to become a member, call or visit its Facebook page.

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

LIFESTYLES



BATES HALL PRESERVATION Society treasurer Sue Passamani accepts a donation of \$6,510.88 from Tim Novak from Bigari Ace Hardware.

Bates Hall Preservation Society receives donation from Bigari Ace Hardware

BATES TOWNSHIP — The Bates Hall Preservation Society recently received a major boost for its 1907 Bates Hall project from Bigari Ace Hardware owner Tim Novak.

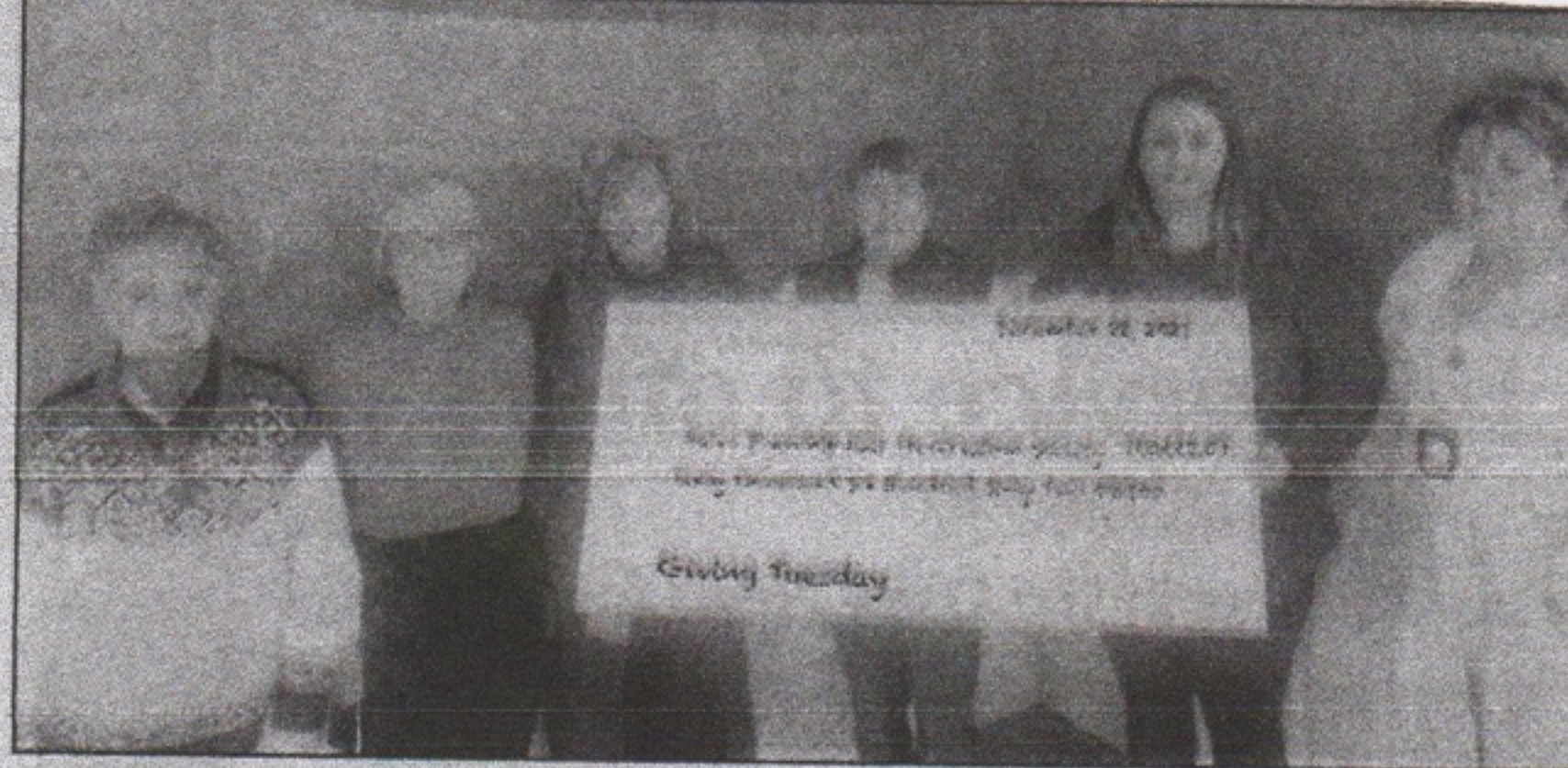
Novak was a supporter of the Co-Vantage Cares Program as he matched the store's "round up" funds for the society of

\$3,255.44, which then netted the group \$6,510.88. The boost was tri-fold when he also became the Bates Hall Campaign Corporate Sponsor with another "round up" set to begin Memorial Day weekend and go through July 4.

This will allow donors to "round up" their change to the even dollar amount.

He also donated a pergola for the hall grounds. In addition, Novak supported the raffle sales by purchasing 30 tickets to distribute to his employees.

The Society is grateful to Novak and his wife, Marian in their ongoing support of preserving such an important historical and memory filled structure.



THE COVANTAGE CARES Giving Tuesday fundraiser donated \$60,662.09 to preserve the 1907 Bates Township Hall. From left are Betty Stromberg, Margee Brennan, Lesa Behling, Sue Passamani, representatives from Bates Township Hall Preservation Society; Kira Dallavalle of CoVantage Credit Union; and Yvonne Andersen from the society .



THE COVANTAGE CARES Giving Tuesday fundraiser donated \$23,658.87 to the Crystal Falls Contemporary Center. From left are Kathy Gussert of CoVantage Credit Union and center board members Maureen Bromley, Britt Brozak, Kathy Carlson, Allyson VanOss, Joyce Ziegler, Alicia Boussum and Robin Price. Not shown is Summer Olson.

CoVantage Cares Foundation gives \$344,616 to organizations

The CoVantage Cares Foundation presented checks totaling \$344,616 to local non-profit groups that serve communities where CoVantage Credit Union has branches.

The funds were made possible thanks to generous donations by CoVantage Credit Union members, staff, and community members who responded to the foundation's 2021 Giving Tuesday campaign in December.

Giving Tuesday, which is immediately after Black Friday, is nationally recognized for charitable giving. Branch staff throughout CoVantage Credit Union's locations were asked to select a non-profit group in

their community to receive funds raised, with the understanding that contributions generated during the two-week fundraising campaign would be matched up to \$175,000 by CoVantage Cares Foundation. As a result, \$344,616 was gifted locally.

Charities selected to receive funding from the sixth annual Giving Tuesday initiative and their sponsoring CoVantage branches include: Crystal Falls Contemporary Center in Crystal Falls; Bates Township Hall Preservation Society in Iron River; Menominee County Water Rescue in Menominee; Community Coalition of Forest County in Cranston, Wis.; United Way of

Langlade County, Antigo, Wis.; Elcho Historical Society in Elcho, Wis.; Community Partners Campus of Wausau, Rib Mountain, Weston and Rothchild, Wis.; Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northwoods in Rhinelander, Wis.; Shawano Area Food Pantry & Resource Center in Shawano, Wis.; Operation Bootstrap in Stevens Point, Wis.; The Giving Tree in Suamico, Wis.; and The Salvation Army of Appleton, Neenah and Menasha in Wisconsin.

For more information about CoVantage Cares Foundation, or to obtain the grant application needed to request a donation, go to www.covantagecu.org/cares.

Enbridge awards \$5,000 grant to Bates Hall Project



Rich Smith (Electrical Technician), represented Enbridge with a grant award in the amount of \$5,000 to the Bates Hall Preservation Society for the Bates Hall Project. Receiving the check from Smith is Avie Powell (Director) along with Sue Passamani (Director), and Margee Brennan (President). (Photo by Bob Berndt)

Bates Hall receives Grant

IRON COUNTY - The Dickinson Area Community Foundation along with affiliate Crystal Falls Area Community Foundation, recently awarded a \$500 Community Impact Grant to the Bates Hall Preservation Society. The grant was made possible through a matching grant from the Pasahow Family Fund. The purpose of the grant is to assist with the renovation and restoration of the Bates Hall building foundation, including a new fully functioning basement.

If you would like information on available grant funding, contact Tamara Juul at 906-774-3131. The mission of the Community Foundation is to enhance and strengthen our communities now and for generations to come.

Pictured are, from left, Sue Passamani (Treasurer), Dan Surface (CFACF Board Chair), Avie Powell (Director) and Margee Brennan (President).



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