





(Left) The grand old 1890 bank building—rescued, restored, and reborn in 1993 as the Washburn Cultural Center. (Above) Alan Filipczak entertains at the reception for "Whimsy" this past May. (Above right) The Grand Order of Practicing Alchemists hosts game playing events at the WCC "Haunted Mansion" each month. (At right) The Chequamegon Bay Arts Council sponsors exhibits of regional art each March and October.



WCC—A True Community Center

By Steve Cotherman

I'm coming up on the end of my second full year as your Director of the Washburn Cultural Center. I've had the rare opportunity to manage a unique facility from the bottom to the top. I've cleaned restrooms, vacuumed floors, painted walls, climbed tall ladders to replace light bulbs, and cleared lots of snow. Working at the Center has become part of my almost daily workout routine.

Because of my background in the arts and museum management, it's been a lot of fun to change exhibits each month, working on CBAC shows and hosting all those wonderful children and their families each April for our Washburn school exhibit. It's been really interesting working the sales desk in our antique shop. Sometimes it seems like I'm working for a tourism bureau with all of the questions I get about things to do, sites to see, and places to get a good meal. With all we have to offer in Washburn, I've never had a problem answering those questions. And talk about meeting interesting people! All kinds of characters frequent antique shops and art galleries and I've enjoyed each and every one of those encounters.

I love the fact that all kinds of people use the Center for all kinds of reasons. When describing the building and our spaces to first-time visitors I tell them that in addition to our shop, art galleries, and historical museum, we host everything from baby showers to funerals. Just in the last year we've had AA meetings,

recovery worship services, regular monthly meetings by the Lions Club and ABC Thrift Shop, CBAC, PFLAG, WHA, WAHS, and WCC boards and information sessions by UCare/EssentiaCare. We've had children's theater workshops and Groundlings play rehearsals, Tai Chi classes and drumming visualization sessions. I have two personal favorites: the end of February take-over of the Center by Karlyn's annual paint-in attendees AND the monthly role playing events sponsored by GOPA — the Grand Order of Practicing Alchemists.

We've got space and dates open for your special event, meeting, workshop, celebration or family get-together. Now booking for 2019! See you soon. ■

WASHBURN LEGACY CONSORTIUM MEMBERS:

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2

Washburn Cultural Center (WCC)	Washburn Area Historical Society (WAHS)	Washburn Heritage Association (WHA)
WCC	Celebrating 37 years! 1981-2018	Heritage WASHBURN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION
MISSION: The Washburn Cultural Center is a community center dedicated to fostering, presenting, and preserving the cultural, artistic, and historical life of Washburn and the surrounding area.	MISSION: WAHS is a non-profit membership organization created on April 23, 1981 to collect, interpret, and preserve Washburn's colorful social history by maintaining public museum exhibits and visual/manuscript/artifact archives.	MISSION: Enrich the experience of living in Washburn by telling the compelling stories of the unique architectural and cultural heritage of the area.
DESCRIPTION: The Cultural Center is a place for cultural enrichment and serves as an educational resource and architectural focal point for the entire Washburn community. Our building is listed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Known as "The Old Bank Building," the magnificent brownstone structure was built in 1890 by A.C. Probert, founder of the Bank of Washburn.	DESCRIPTION: WAHS accessions donated items of historical significance into its extensive collection, preserves them for posterity, and exhibits them in the Washburn Historical Museum, located on the second floor of the "Old Bank Building." Exhibits highlight logging and lumbering, quarrying, shipping, fishing, schools, churches, home life, businesses, agriculture, the DuPont Plant, military service, and seasonal recreation with a spotlight on surfing innovator Tom Blake.	DESCRIPTION: The Washburn Heritage Association strives to preserve our architectural and cultural past through education, entertainment, research, documentation, and planning. WHA recognizes the intrinsic value of the historic buildings and residences in the area, and promotes and celebrates sustainable revitalization of the built and natural environment. Knowing that the stories and memories of area elders and long-time residents contribute to our collective history and sense of place, WHA works to make these stories known.
ACTIVITIES: The WCC Board manages and cares for Washburn's iconic 1890s bank building and is working to build an open and inviting place for all kinds of community programs and events, from hosting baby showers and high school graduation parties to housing the Washburn Historical Museum, from presenting a full slate of monthly art exhibits to creating programs for young and old alike, from operating a retail gallery and antique store to hosting the annual Holiday Boutique. All of these activities and more will continue to be on our radar in the weeks and months to come. Your input is important, so if there are things you think ought to be happening at the Center, please let us know!	ACTIVITIES: Accession donated items; inventory/catalog archival collections; curate collection exhibits for Washburn Historical Museum; open museum as often as possible via volunteer docents; sponsor spring museum tours for area students; provide free computer access to ancestry.com during museum hours Co-host seasonal Tony Woijak History Festivals with WHA Maintain active affiliate ties wth Wisconsin Historical Society and Bayfield County Historical Society Select "Washburn Honored Citizens" and host Homecoming reception Participate in Brownstone Days	ACTIVITIES: Brownstone Days Historic Home Tour and the Trolley Tour through historic Washburn Summer and winter Tony Woiak History Festivals, co-sponsored with WAHS History-themed art shows co-sponsored with CBAC Historic building notecards and historic city maps/placemats production and distribution Washburn Walking Tour booklet distribution Façade Improvement Awards and façade consults with business owners Preservation-themed service projects are being developed with high school students
BOARD MEMBERS: Dick Olson, Pres.; Carla Bremner, David Bratley, Joanne Meierhofer, Dan Satran, Bob Ungrodt, Jedd Ungrodt, Jana Van Evera, Peter Van Evera	BOARD MEMBERS: David Bratley, Pres., Jan Bergman, Joan Bratley, Betty Ferris, Susan Mackreth, Pat Summerfield, Lorraine Young; At large: Ruth Amraen and June Steel	BOARD MEMBERS: Carla Bremner, Pres.; Lynn Adams, Don Ekstrom, Andrew Grimm, Patra Holter, Sandy Johnson, Dora Kling, Jill Lorenz, David Nyhus, Ginny Pedersen, Sharon Stewart. Advisory Board Members: Gary Holman, Jane Weiler, Ken Weiler
CONTACT INFORMATION: Washburn Cultural Center Steve Cotherman, Director P.O. Box 725, Washburn, WI 54891	CONTACT INFORMATION: Washburn Area Historical Society P.O. Box 272 Washburn, WI 54891	CONTACT INFORMATION: Washburn Heritage Association P.O. Box 814 Washburn, WI 54891

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Joanne Meierhofer, Pres., (715) 685-2350

Foundation

Washburn Beautification Foundation (WBF)	Historic Civic Center Foundation (HCCF)	Chequamegon Bay Arts Council (CBAC)
Established 1907	Established 2013	CHEGIANICON MY ATS COUNCIL
MISSION: Our mission is the beautification of the city of Washburn.	MISSION: The Historic Civic Center Foundation (HCCF) purpose is to provide financial support for community-wide programs that benefit the Washburn area and establish a new hub for tourism in the Bayfield peninsula.	MISSION: The Chequamegon Bay Arts Council is a non-profit member organization that supports, develops, and promotes art and artists in northern Wisconsin.
DESCRIPTION: WBF began in 1907 as the Washburn Women's Civic Club. During the intervening 111 years, the club has changed names to better address the growing City of Washburn. Our club's history includes the fight to save Wikdal and Legion Parks from sale, thereby preserving valuable green space for the people of Washburn. We are a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-partisan, non-stock Wisconsin corporation.	DESCRIPTION: The initial project of the HCCF is the renovation of the historic Washburn Civic Center building. The building has been gifted to the HCCF. This major donation has resulted in opening up of new avenues for revitalizing the City of Washburn. These include: • community gathering space • charitable mission to the community • tourism hub • downtown business district economic development support	DESCRIPTION: Established in 1981, CBAC works to assure that residents and visitors have access to art's enriching possibilities.
ACTIVITIES: Seasonal banners on Bayfield Street. Flowers provided for Wikdal and Legion Parks, Library and Washburn Cultural Center. Hire and pay a gardener to plant and maintain the flowers. Financed the major 2016 landscaping of Wikdal Park. Christmas lighting in both parks. Purchased permanent benches for Wikdal and Legion Parks. Sponsor "Yard of the Month" and "Business of the Month" awards during the growing season. Garden Tour during Brownstone Days. Funding comes primarily from Memorial Donations.	ACTIVITIES: The HCCF is focused on continued renovation of the first floor so that the building can be reopened. This includes construction of a handicapaccessible bathroom, parking lot improvements, HVAC system, and interior construction. Having the Washburn Area Chamber of Commerce office and the Wisconsin Lake Superior Scenic Byway Regional Tourist Information Center up and running is the next goal. As part of this project, the Fireplace Room will be open and can be used for community events, presentations, business meetings, and private rentals.	ACTIVITIES: CBAC accomplishes its mission by providing: • grants and scholarships in support of artistic development, creation and presentation; • communications with members and the public through various media; • art exhibitions, workshops and special events, including annual fund raising and membership activities designed to enable us to meet our goals.
OFFICERS: Kitty Wilson, Sharon Hacker, Sara McCreery. <i>Advisory Board Members:</i> Linda Leis, Shirley Midthun, Dona Copperrud	BOARD MEMBERS: Jeff Anderson, Beta Bodin, John Carlson, David Eades, Rose Lawyer, Carol Lindsey, Mary Motiff	BOARD MEMBERS: Joanne Meierhofer, Pres., Kathleen Broadwell, Ann Christensen, LeeAnn Frey, Diana Granger, Pamela Hayes, Dorothy Hoffman, Grace Hogan, Chris Lindsey, Sarah Lund, Sharon Stewart
CONTACT INFORMATION: Washburn Beautification Foundation P.O. Box 334 Washburn, WI 54891 Facebook: Washburn Beautification	CONTACT INFORMATION: Historic Civic Center Foundation 3 West Bayfield Street, P.O. Box 144 Washburn, WI 548891 www.washburn-hccf.com (715) 301-0819	CONTACT INFORMATION: Chequamegon Bay Arts Council P.O. Box 25 Washburn, WI 54891 www.cbayarts.org

(715) 301-0819

4 Brownstone

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Washburn Heritage Association** organized in 2009 to save the Washburn Civic Center from demolition.

By Sharon Stewart

When the Historic Civic Center Foundation assumed that goal, we broadened our outlook to the balance of the built environment in our community. We have a strong focus on Bayfield Street because it is our public space, for residents and tourists alike, where we can demonstrate the value we place on preservation of our buildings and our culture.

One way we support Bayfield Street is to recognize building improvements with a **Façade Improvement Award.** This summer, two businesses were recognized for recent alterations that improve our streetscape.

Harbor House Sweets and Blue Water Realty each feature the Western Fake Front design popular from the turn of the 20th century. Creative imagination and good design earned each of them a Façade





The Law Office on Bayfield Street received a Façade Improvement Award from the Washburn Heritage Association this summer, which resulted in a new look (above right).

Improvement Award. The renovated façcades each communicate a great sense of charm and a pride-of-place that contributes positive energy to Bayfield Street.

Thanks to a number of generous donations, this summer the Washburn Heritage Association also awarded Façade Improvement Grants to four businesses on Bayfield Street. **The Law Office** and **Brownstone**

Pharmacy were the first to get started on their alterations. **ABC Thrift Shop** is underway, and **The Snug** will wait until spring to start construction. We were delighted to partner with these businesses.

Other businesses also invested in building improvements this past summer. And more exciting ideas for our main street are underfoot. Stay tuned.



The Chequamegon Bay Arts Council hosts two annual exhibits at the Washburn Cultural Center. Pictured above, "The Gathering," held in October, which highlights work by local artist members. Anyone over the age of 16 can enter up to three pieces of art in the upcoming Spring 2019 community exhibit, "Art Heals: The Healing Power of the Arts."

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Chequamegon Bay Arts Council** is run by an all-volunteer Board of Directors.

By Joanne Meierhofer

CBAC supports local arts and believes that a vibrant arts community invigorates the community at large. Art exhibitions are one way we accomplish our mission.

Each year, we host two exhibits held at the Washburn Cultural Center. WCC receives a 30% commission on work sold during these exhibits. Our fall show, called "The Gathering," showcases our member artists. The spring show is themed and open to all community members. The

theme of the Spring 2019 exhibit will be "Art Heals." Anyone over the age of 16 may submit up to three pieces of original artwork. For an entry form, visit cbayarts. org. There are entry fees, but the shows are not juried.

We also co-host another exhibit with Northland College at the Dexter Library. The "Small Works Exhibit and Auction" is held in November. There are no fees for CBAC members, with a modest fee for non-members. All proceeds go to the artists.

December 2018 5



The **Washburn Area Historical Society Museum** has special storage needs for its collections.

By Susan Mackreth

Museums have special storage needs, and the Washburn Area Historical Society Museum is no exception. Our collection includes maps of the city throughout the decades, panorama photographs, posters, blueprints of the 1890 Bank of Washburn building that houses the museum and the Washburn Cultural Center, and more.

None of these items fit in a typical file cabinet found in a home or office. To store these items safely, we needed a flat-file map cabinet, but the one that would suit our collection cost \$1,440. Happily, the Wisconsin State Historical Society appreciated our plight and approved a grant of \$500 which, combined with a gift of \$1,000 from the Millmont Foundation, enabled us to obtain a suitable cabinet. Employees

at Olson Building Materials pitched in to haul the 250-pound bundle to our storage area. We are very grateful to all who made this improvement possible.

Don't forget when you come to the **Christmas Boutique** on December 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., to satisfy your hunger with the great food provided by WAHS members. All proceeds benefit the museum.

William "Billy" Burns 1860-1944



In the oldest section of Washburn's Woodland Cemetery, several impressive marble obelisks mark the graves of the town's early residents. One clearly has the name "Burns" carved on all four sides of the base, but

the lichen-covered inscriptions above are hard to decipher. However, visible are the chilling words, "Drowned, Dec. 26 1889, aged 6 yrs." A small child, drowning the day after Christmas, immediately brings to mind the frightful image of a boy's plunging through the ice, while trying the skates he had gotten the day before. This was almost the case.

A chance opening of an unsorted collection in the Washburn Museum basement revealed the story in the family father's obituary from February 1944. Mr. and Mrs. William Burns "had three children, but their son drowned at six years of age when his sled went through the ice of the bay." What about the other children? "Their twin daughters died when only one month old," suggesting a life story even sadder than had been imagined.

Happily, a next chance encounter with this early citizen of Washburn indicated there was more to his life than tragedy. In the early 1930s Billy Burns wrote a few newspaper articles about life in the old days in Washburn. "I will relate to you some of my boyhood days," he tells us:

"I came to Washburn in 1883, but went back to Hayward and moved my family here in 1884." [He would have been 24 in 1884.]

"In '84...came the old Merchandise dock, which I'll not soon forget. A man by the name of Sheldon was the engineer. Well. the crib was laid out in the lake a long ways and my bone of contention told me to walk out and see the engineer take soundings. The timbers were twelve by twelve. I said "how deep is the water here?' He said it was fourteen feet. Just then I lost my pivot and went down feet first. I came up and looked at the engineer...I am six foot tall and said, 'You said 14 feet. Well I went down three times before I struck bottom. And that's 18 feet!' Do you know, that engineer took my soundings for it and now all boat captains and marines still go by it!

"They then built the [grain] elevator with a capacity of one and a half million bushels. Then the coal dock. But I never took soundings of the water for them places. They're all dismantled and gone long ago, but we have the bay front left yet."

Over the years Burns had various jobs, but wrote about one in particular. In 1884, he and a man named Charlie Flynn rented a building on Bayfield Street and started a saloon. But as he tells it, in the beginning it was more than just a saloon.

"...C. H. Flynn and myself rented and started a wet joint and a vaudeville show which was of short duration. The stage was high and of thin flooring. Well, the actor turned a back somersault, while his girl, 'Irish Nell' danced the Luke McLuke, and when he landed the floor broke and he went thru with 'Irish Nell' with him, fracturing his nose and Nell's leg. That busted the show part of it but we continued in the wet goods for many moons afterwards...."

He also wrote about amusements in the old days: "There were poker games galore and everyone seemed to have money and hardly ever was anyone arrested for anything, excepting my friend John Donohue and myself. We were arrested three times for playing poker too late at night while our wives were waiting for us at home. The two policemen that arrested us are gone and the green grass adorns their remains. John and I are playing poker yet."

Billy Burns seems to have been quite the entertaining storyteller. Though a walk in the graveyard confronts us with some of the saddest parts of his life, a trip to the archives allows us to encounter him behind the bar in his saloon regaling his customers with tales of the old days.

6 Brownstone



Skip Ungrodt created an endowment for the care and preservation of the Cultural Center.

By Steve Cotherman

When Skip Ungrodt and the original Washburn Cultural Center board of directors set about the task of saving the historic 1890 Washburn Bank building, they realized early on that fund raising and paying for the rehabilitation of the structure would not be enough to ensure its long-term survival. To be a viable institution well into the future, even with the continued support of generous donors, members, and users, the Cultural Center would need a stable source of income to pay for repairs and maintenance.

Operating a big old historic building like this one does not come cheap. Utilities alone cost over \$6,000 per year, insurance is \$3,800, and the elevator maintenance contract is \$2,855! Skip and the founders knew that at the very least basic maintenance costs would have to be covered every month of every year. So after all the fund raising was completed and the brand new Washburn Cultural Center opened the summer of 1993, they set up an endowment which has grown steadily over the years and is carefully invested to provide constant returns. Monthly income from the endowment covers the costs of

caring for and maintaining the facility, and if all we did was keep the building stable, that would be that.

But the viability of the Cultural Center as a community asset depends upon people using the place and with use comes additional costs. We have to staff the building so that it can be open during regular, year-round hours, and we need custodial help to remove snow, clean restrooms, vacuum floors, and make small repairs and improvements. Art exhibits have to be changed from month to month and the Center's permanent collection of art cared for. Use of the building for programs and events has to be scheduled and coordinated and rents collected. Our shop, which generates sales to support our efforts, requires staffing, and we try to coordinate our hours of operation with the all-volunteer Washburn Area Historical Society, so that when the shop and galleries are open, the museum is open as well.

All of this takes people power and that requires funding. That's where the support of donors and memberships comes in. Without that support, keeping the doors open for art exhibits, programs, events,



The renovation of the Washburn Cultural Center building may have been completed in 1993, but the ongoing support given by community members, along with endowment income, help make the Cultural Center the vital part of our community that it is.

and meetings would be difficult. And then we wouldn't have a Washburn Cultural Center, just a well-maintained and lockedup historic building. So, thank you for all you have done over the years, from being a part of the original effort to save the building and rehabilitate it, to volunteering your time with the Historical Society to create our wonderful museum, to assisting with big ticket maintenance (like our very expensive roof and sidewalk projects), to being members year in and year out, to donating generously in memory or honor of a loved one, to attending art exhibits, to hosting events, workshops and meetings, to bringing out-of-town visitors to see the museum, and to browsing through our antique shop, or doing your Christmas gift buying at our annual Holiday Boutique. Any and everything you do to support the Washburn Cultural Center is appreciated.

The creation of an endowment demonstrated great foresight on the part of Skip and our founders. The support you give combines with endowment income to make the Cultural Center the energetic place that it is.

The Washburn Cultural Center would like to acknowledge its members and donors for their generous support in 2018.

2018 gifts in memory of:

Carole Anderson
Albert Blakely
John & Jennie Celmer
Catherine Ekstrom
John Foltz
Art & Rhoda Fossem
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2018 gift in honor of: Bob Ungrodt

Many thanks to these major supporters:

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Sharon & Bob St. Germain
Marcia L. Swanson
Ungrodt Properties
Sara Ungrodt
Washburn Lions Club

December 2018 7



The **Washburn Beautification Foundation** has completed its seventh consecutive year of garden tours.



The Washburn Beautification Foundation also identifies a "Yard of the Month" during the summer months, noting yards or businesses that are enhancing our neighborhoods. Everyone appreciates the work people do to beautify the City of Washburn.

Mail your check made

payable to: Washburn Cultural Center, P.O. Box 725, Washburn WI

54891. Funds will be distributed

by WCC to each group indicated.

☐ CBAC....\$

Subtotal\$

TOTAL\$

Multi-group discount: -\$10.00

By Kitty Wilson

The self-guided garden tour is held each July on Friday afternoon during Brownstone Days. There have been over 40 gardens featured on our tour. Over the years, the tour has included wildlife gardens, small potted gardens, flower and vegetable gardens, and unique landscaping. No yard is too small or too minimalist to be included.

We also completed our Yards of the Month season. We take a walk or drive around town and discover the yards and businesses that are enhancing our neighborhoods. We have a sign that is displayed on the property for the month.

We purchased new "Welcome to Washburn" banners that were put up this

summer as well as Byways banners for the light poles on Bayfield Street. We bought flowers for the Washburn Cultural Center and the Washburn Public Library. We planted flowers in both Wikdal and Legion parks. We also purchased a new table for Big Top Chautauqua. In addition, a couple of our members repainted the Valhalla Snowmobile Club sign on the highway.

Our mission is the beautification of the city of Washburn, and we couldn't do it without your support. We would like to thank our donors:

American Family
Insurance,
Bruce Terry
American Legion
Bill's Collision Center
Peter and Carla
Bremner
Kristen and Matthew
Edmunds
Richard Gierzak
Patra Holter
Paul and Elaine Kopp

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Isabelle Moe
North Coast
Ron and Roxanne Shuga
Sharon Stewart
Adeline Swiston
Debra and
Stephen Terry
Jean Wallschläger
Washburn Hardware

Join today! Receive discounted membership when you join more than one of the following groups working to preserve Washburn's heritage and history!

For each organization you wish to join or contribute to, please check the box that corresponds to the membership level and amount you choose. Washburn Area Washburn Heritage Washburn Beautification **Historic Civic Center** Chequamegon Bay Washburn Cultural Center **Historical Society** Association Foundation Foundation Arts Council □ **\$5,000** ..Lifetime ☐ \$1,000 .. Benefactor □ **\$25**......Business/ □ \$500Benefactor ☐ \$15Member ☐ I would like to make □ \$500Benefactor □ **\$500**Sponsor Professional a contribution to help ■ **\$100**Business ☐ I would like to make a □ **\$75**Business □ **\$250**Patron fund the next phase of □ **\$15**......Family contribution to help fund □ **\$50**Patron □ **\$40**Family restoration of the Civic □ \$100Donor the beautification of Wash-□ \$10......Individual □ **\$35**Family ☐ **\$75**Business \$25Individual Center in the amount of: burn in the amount of: \$20Individual ☐ **\$50**Art Enthusiast □ \$20Senior/Student Additional Contribution (Family) ☐ In Memory ☐ In Honor □ \$25Art Enthusiast (Individual) ■ \$15Senior/Student/ Starving Artist Tally the amounts you've ☐ WCC\$ Name chosen for each group. ☐ WAHS...\$ Organization ☐ WHA.....\$__ If you've given to three or more groups, subtract \$10. ☐ WBF\$ Mailing Address ☐ HCCF....\$

City

Phone

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WASHBURN LEGACY CONSORTIUM

Washburn Cultural Center P. O. Box 725 Washburn, WI 54891

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Visit WCC's website and...

- Become a WCC member online
- Read about the "Antique of the Week"
- Get news and info about WCC's programs

washburnculturalcenter.com

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Calendar

Washburn Cultural Center

March—CBAC Spring Show, "Art Heals"

April—Washburn School District Student Art Show

May—"Whimsy" Community Art

Chequamegon Bay Arts Council

January 28, 5:30 p.m.—Annual Meeting at the Washburn Cultural Center, 3rd floor

January 29, 10:00 a.m.—Arts Wisconnsin Advocacy Meeting at Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center, Multi-Use Room

March—Spring Show, "Art Heals," at the Washburn Cultural Center

Washburn Heritage Association & Washburn Area Historical Society

Eighth Annual Tony Woiak History Festival—Winter 2019

At Harbor View Event Center, Washburn. All presentations on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 8—History of Brownstone Quarrying. Music: Cisco & Johnny (Mark Ehlers & Greg Highlands)

Tuesday, January 22—One Room Schools in Bayfield County. Music: Zach Olson & Friends

Tuesday, February 5—The Great War Comes to Washburn. Music: Rick Gilman

Tuesday, February 19—Olson Bros. Family Stories. Music: To be announced