

What We Did During That Darn Pandemic!

By Aron Lorber, 2020-21 Bob Ungrodt Intern

Since reopening full-time this March, the Washburn Cultural Center has seen a steady flow of visitors in our antique shop and

Vinyl Vault or browsing the art exhibitions hanging in our galleries. After a rocky 2020, we're grateful to be able to be open daily and anticipate a busy summer season. With lots of "down time" last year, we were able to make some much needed behind-the-scenes improvements to the Cultural Center.

The most dramatic and visible changes are in our antiques and gift shop. Last summer, we began to entirely revamp our shop by sorting through our inventory and selecting our consigner's finest items for display. We have also rearranged the shop's design, organizing items by theme or type, widening our aisles, and making sure that every item gets the

space and attention it deserves. Less obviously, we repainted the shop, perhaps for the first time since the Cultural Center opened in 1993! With a new layout, decluttered displays, and a fresh coat of paint, our shop is an inviting space for every breed of antique hunter. Many returning visitors have commented on the ease of finding the item they're looking for and the fun of stumbling

upon an object their household had as a child.

The Vinyl Vault is quickly establishing itself as the go-to place for record collectors from (or passing through) the area. Carefully curated and organized by genre, our selection of records continues to grow and is tailored to the tastes of area collectors. We have also expanded our collection of CDs and now feature a new display of electric and acoustic guitars. Searching for that elusive vinyl collectible? You may just find it here and if not, we'll try to find it for you.



The Vinyl Vault — a go-to-place for record collectors.

Continued on page 7





A new layout, decluttered displays, and a fresh coat of paint makes shopping at the Wasbhurn Cultural Center's antique shop even more inviting.

2

Washburn Cultural Center (WCC)	Washburn Area Historical Society (WAHS)	Washburn Heritage Association (WHA)
WCC	Preserving our past!	Heritage WASHBURN MERITAGE 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: To protect, preserve, interpret, and increase awareness of the architectural and cultural history of the City of Washburn and its surrounding 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: Historic Washburn Trolley Tours-Brownstone Days Tony Woiak History Festivals; available on YouTube Wikdal Park Kiosk Houghton Depot Restoration Main Street Façade Improvement Awards and Grants Washburn Walking Tour Booklets; historic city maps Bayview Township History Recording Project Historic Preservation Month Celebration Historic Buildings and Sites Oversight
BOARD MEMBERS: Dick Olson, Pres.; David Bratley, Carla Bremner, Darlene Charboneau, Susan Mackreth, Joanne Meierhofer, Dan Satran, Jedd Ungrodt, Jana Van Evera, Peter Van Evera	BOARD MEMBERS: David Bratley, Pres., Jan Bergman, Betty Ferris, Susan Mackreth, Pat Summerfield, Bruce Sytsma, Lorraine Young; At large: Ruth Amraen and June Steel	BOARD MEMBERS: Mary Gruhl, Pres.; Lynn Adams, Carla Bremner, 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	CONTACT INFORMATION: Washburn Area Historical Society P.O. Box 272	CONTACT INFORMATION: Washburn Heritage Association P.O. Box 814

Washburn, WI 54891

WashburnMuseum@gmail.com

P.O. Box 725, Washburn, WI 54891

washburnculturalcenter@gmail.com

www.washburnculturalcenter.com

(715) 373-5591

Washburn, WI 54891

(715) 373-5212

www.washburnheritage.org

Washburn Beautification Foundation (WBF)	Historic Civic Center Foundation (HCCF)—The Club	Washburn Public Library (WPL)
Established 1907	Established 2013	Established 1905
MISSION: Our mission is the beautification of the city of Washburn.	MISSION:To provide a community and recreation center for area residents of all ages.	MISSION:To serve as an essential hub of information and support for the citizens of Washburn, anticipating and adapting to meet their current and future needs.
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 HCCF Board of Directors is currently working on planning, communications and fundraising efforts with the goal of providing a community gathering space, recreational programming and a space for classes/workshops.	DESCRIPTION: Funded by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the Washburn Public Library was built for \$18,000 and opened in April of 1905. Built of locally quarried brownstone, the library was led by librarian May Greenwood from 1898 (when it was located at city hall) until 1964 when she retired at the age of 94!
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 board is coordinating efforts to meet state requirements in order to get the building open to the public. This work includes the addition of an ADA compliant restroom, HVAC for the first floor, repairs to the gym floor, roof repairs, and some additional interior construction. We participated in the community-wide rummage sale in June of 2019 and a Halloween party is scheduled for 2020. Also, the Little Explorers Club was based out of the Civic Center (AKA "the Club") this past summer.	ACTIVITIES: The Washburn Public Library accomplishes its mission by providing: • Over 20,000 books and thousands of DVDs and music CDs • Hundreds of periodicals and local and regional newspapers • Six public computers with 24-hour wi-fi • Space for public programs, meetings, and gatherings • Public programs, like classic movie night and the annual Easter egg hunt
BOARD MEMBERS: Kitty Wilson, Cherie Grant, Sara McCreery, Linda Leis and Nancy Werner.	BOARD MEMBERS: Coke Lindsey, Pres.; Arianna Austin, V.P.; Beta Bodin, Treasurer; Beret Casey, Secretary; Linda Albahrani-Warren, Dawn Bellile, Theresa Fish, Warren Gall, Kelsey Lindsey, Bob Sanger, Becca Wroblewski, Ed Wroblewski	BOARD MEMBERS: Les Aldritt, Thomas Cogger, Mary O'Brien Cotherman, Tara Janish, Diane Posner, Margo Smith, and Laura Tulowitsky
CONTACT INFORMATION: Washburn Beautification Foundation P.O. Box 334 Washburn, WI 54891 Facebook: Washburn Beautification Foundation	CONTACT INFORMATION: Historic Civic Center Foundation 3 West Bayfield Street, P.O. Box 144 Washburn, WI 548891 washburnclub@gmail.com Facebook: Washburn Club— The Old DuPont Club	CONTACT INFORMATION: Darrell Pendergrass, Director 307 Washington Avenue Washburn, WI 54891 715-373-6172 dpendergrass@washburn.wislib.org https://www.washburnlibrary.org/

4 Brownstone



The Houghton Depot is the last remaining train depot in the Washburn area.

By Carla Bremner

We welcome the return of this Brownstone publication. Despite challenges, the pandemic year was busy and productive. We installed a public information kiosk in Wikdal Park, uploaded past history festival presentations to YouTube, formed a committee to safeguard historic buildings and sites, collaborated on a new walking trail brochure, worked on the Houghton Depot restoration and continued with other projects.

Mary Gruhl took the helm as president of WHA in January 2021, and we already appreciate her expertise and leadership. She is actively involved in the Houghton Depot restoration and provides this information about this project: "Something exciting is happening at the Bayview Town Park in the Town of Bayview. The Park is located halfway between Washburn and Bayfield at Bayview Park Road. If you lived here a hundred years ago you would have seen the scoot train hauling people, brownstone, lumber and produce between Bayfield, Ashland and beyond. You may have stopped at the Houghton Depot which was recently abandoned and ready



The Houghton Depot restoration project is proceeding in Bayview Town Park.



Over 100 people participated in Preservation Month activities in May at The Club.

to collapse. Stop by and see how far its restoration has proceeded and learn about the last remaining train depot in the area. Be a part of history."

We are happy that Tony Woiak History Festival is back after a Covid-year hiatus. The intriguing line-up of presentations for the summer begins on July 13 with Jan Lee and Tom Mitchell talking about "Up Home on Engoe Road" (see the full schedule in the calendar on page 8). We are excited that the July 24 presentation will be at The Club.

An information kiosk, celebrating our community's life and heritage, was dedicated in Wikdal Park last fall to display our history and current events in this central location. Committee co-chair, Patra Holter, said it is designed to reflect the bungalow style of architecture reflective of many Washburn homes. Sharon Stewart, Lynn Adams, Patra Holter, Ginny Pedersen, and

Susan Mackreth are at work developing interchangeable display panels. Panels are completed on Memorial Park, logging and sawmills, brownstone buildings and quarries, homecoming, the museum, the library, WHA, the Club, and the Historic District. More panels will be developed, and one window is reserved for Chamber announcements and events.

May is designated as National Historic Preservation Month. Building and Sites committee decided to take advantage of this opportunity. Karen Novachek summarized WHA activities during the month: "A series of events were held at The Club each Saturday. WHA worked with the The Club board, and events included tours of the refurbished building, Mayor Mary Motiff reading a proclamation designating May as Preservation Month, games and cards for Seniors, basketball for middle school and high school age youth, younger children working on plant identification sticks, and even music and dancing in the street. It is estimated over 100 individuals participated during the month. A resulting ongoing activity is a tour of historic buildings throughout Washburn. A brochure listing nine sites is available at the Washburn Chamber office describing each site with a map is to encourage walking/driving tours.



WHA dedicated an information kiosk in Wikdal Park to display Washburn history and current events.

July 2021 5

DID YOU KNOW?

The cost of renovating The Club has come in under budget.



The Club is open for activities as renovation is restoring it to its original beauty.

By Dawn Bellile

For some of you, the building pictured here brings back fond memories from your childhood or high school years. Memories of dances and first dates, Halloween parties and Santa dropping from the ceiling, bowling in the basement, and your friends' band playing upstairs.

The Old DuPont Club has a long rich history in our community. For the past ten years, the building has sat mostly vacant, but behind the scenes there has been a small dedicated group working to bring us to this exciting new chapter. Through donations and thousands of volunteer hours, The Club is now being restored to its original beauty under the leadership of a non-profit foundation. We have officially rebranded as "The Club" and are bringing "The Club" back to life! The Historic Civic

Center Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

The Club" will be a place for our youth to meet and play, our seniors to convene, and our community to recreate, learn, and socialize together. We are striving to re-establish "The Club" as the heart of the Washburn community.

To get to the point of "opening," however, we had to endure blood, sweat, and maybe some tears. This was all done to be able to open the doors. We completed all of the State-mandated requirements to obtain our occupancy permit for the first floor!

We could not have done this without your help! What was projected to cost nearly \$100,000 was completed at a total cost of \$65,000. This is an amazing accomplishment and could not have been done without our community and long-distance friends and relatives!

Our community stepped up and donated their time and money to make this happen. Through our Community and Class Challenges, we raised over \$40,000. Raising this much money, during a pandemic, is a true testament that our community wants the Club to reopen and once again serve as a community/recreation center.

Our plans this summer are to hold an Open Wednesday so youngsters can come to The Club to play from 3:00-5:00 and older youth from 5:00-7:00.

On other days during the summer and hopefully in the future, smaller groups will be able meet to play card and board games. Dates are yet to be determined. This would coincide with the Wednesday Farmer's Market. In the Fall, walking in the gym will start up again.





You can rent The Club for your own special event! Need the whole building for a wedding? The Fireplace Room for a small gathering or meeting space? The renovated gym for a game? We've got you covered! Email us at WashburnClub@gmail.com for more info!

6 Brownstone



The **Washburn Museum**'s Woiak Lecture Series resumes this summer.

By Susan Mackreth, Curator, WAHS

Would you have given this doll to your child? Would a child want it? Apparently somebody long ago in Washburn answered the first question "Yes", but we don't know how the child responded. This scary clown is one of the many toys the Washburn Museum has on display. Like many of the items in the museum, it illustrates how things have changed over the decades. If you haven't been to the museum in a while, and, after this past year, that includes most everybody, you may want to stop by to see how people used to live in Washburn. The museum is open from noon to four on Fridays and Saturdays.

As is true of so many organizations, 2020 was a tough year for the Washburn Area Historical Society. Not to put too fine a point on it, we are running out of funds! Last year our fundraising events, the Tony

Woiak Lecture series and the Christmas Boutique, had to be cancelled. Although staffed by unpaid volunteers, the museum still has expenses. By far the biggest expense is the cost of our exhibit and storage space in the beautiful 1890 brownstone building. We consider ourselves are lucky to be able to tell Washburn's stories in such a historic building, but we do have to pay \$500 a month to the Washburn Cultural Center.

If you are interested in preserving Washburn history and can afford to help us in this task, please begin, or renew, your membership in the Washburn Area Historical Society. The Woiak lecture series will resume in July. Attending this paid series is another way to support the organization. Finally, donations are welcome! We are a 501 (C) (3) organization.

And do stop by to see the scary clown.



The Washburn Museum has many toys on display, including this "scary clown."



Who lived in this house on 4th St. W.? A handsome young man named James Manning grew up here along with his brothers and sisters. There was a time when James was well-known throughout the country. Visit the historical museum to find out why.

The Washburn
Cultural Center
would like to
acknowledge its
members and
donors for their
generous support
in 2020.

In 2020, gifts were received in memory of these individuals:

Richard J. Gierzak, in memory of Phyllis M. Gierzak

Nancy Hanson, in memory of Donald E. Hanson

Gary Holman, in memory of Karlyn Holman

Mark and Nancy Macintyre, in memory of Isabel Moe

Jan Ross, in memory of Phil Ross

Janet M. Smucker, in memory of Shirley Haugen Peter Sytsma, in memory of Helen Sytsma Sara Ungrodt, in memory of Skip Ungrodt and Bob Ungrodt

Many thanks to these major supporters:

Dick and Barb Barry Ron and Kay Maassen Washburn Iron Works

Thanks to these generous supporters:

Terri Bahe Sally Bair Bill's Collision Center Peter and Carla Bremner Donalee and Dale Brevak Linda and Edward Calhan Darlene and Rick Charboneau Ann and Donn Christensen Dottie Coleman Dona Copperud Steve and Mary Cotherman Karen Crowell George and Carol Eder Kris and Matt Edmunds Mark and Shari Eggleson Rita Foltz Phil Freeman and Wendy Stein Neal and LeeAnn Frey Warren and Beth Gall Richard Harnois Bill Hegstrom

Virginia A. Hirsch Sarah Holmes Patra Holter Patra Holter Kristine Jensch Dora Kling Scott Kluver Laurie Kopp Denny and Judy Kurschner Catherine Lange Dan Larson Chris Lindsey Wei Lan Lorber Sharon and Stan Miller Lorraine and Phil Norrgard Dick and Sandy Olson Thomas and Lu Ann Opperman Gary and Kay Roffers

Ron's Repair & Towing Dan Satran Rick and Theresa Seppa Gayle Smerer Carolyn Sneed Monroe and Carol Sprague Sharon and John Stewart Todd and Peg Swanson Adeline Swiston Jedd Ungrodt Jana and Peter Van Evera Ken and Jane Weiler Lisa and Mike Weispfennig John and Nancy Werner Kitty Catalano Wilson Terri Wyman

July 2021 7

What We Did During That Darn Pandemic! *Continued from page 1*

We also spent time preparing our third-floor space for reopening. After 25-plus years of use, the kitchen space was ready for a serious spring cleaning. We sorted through the collection of mismatched silverware that had amassed in the drawers and reorganized our cupboards and buffets. It was amazing how many expired Splenda packets and dairy creamers the Center kitchen collected over the years! After almost three decades worth of events, meetings, and art classes, it was time to paint some walls; and we did. Our third floor remains a flexible space that accommodates groups large and small for a variety of purposes. Community members have utilized our third-floor space every week since it reopened in March, holding workshops, board meetings, arts and craft get-togethers and book clubs.

Our lower level has also seen drastic improvements. Our permanent collection is now kept in newly built vertical storage racks for easy access that maximizes our limited storage space. We also built a new workshop space and counter, allowing us to frame works on-site. We sorted through and assessed 30 years' worth of documents and files from previous boards of directors before setting up a new filing system. The resulting new archives

WCC to each group indicated.

contains incorporation papers and correspondences, early drafts of floor plans, copies of grant proposals, board meeting minutes and vision statements, event programs, press clippings, and other ephemera. Together, the documents and photos in this archive preserve the institutional history of the Washburn Cultural Center from its inception to the present day.

While our galleries remain physically unchanged, a major change from 2020 is that our exhibition calendar is full for the year. After last year's hiatus, we were excited to display artworks from students from the School District of Washburn this year and welcome CBAC back to the galleries for their annual spring show, titled Cultivating Resilience. June's unique dual exhibitions, A Is For Apostle Islands and Island Intersections, featured art and poetry celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. At the time of this writing we're happy to host the annual Superior Artists Group exhibit. Look for a show by Rabbett Strickland and Rita Vanderventer in August, a solo show from Gina Winther's Black Bear Studios and our popular Whimsy show in September, the CBAC Gathering in October, and the group show Backwoods Artists in November. And finally, the Annual Holiday Boutique returns on December 11! Don't be a stranger! We're looking forward to seeing you soon. ■

Join today! Your membership or generous donation helps the following groups in their efforts 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 Cultural** Washburn Heritage **Historic Civic Center** Washburn Area **Washburn Beautification** Washburn Public Library **Historical Society Association Foundation** Foundation (The Club) Center I would like to make a ☐ I would like to make a ☐ \$25...... Business/ ☐ \$500..... Benefactor \$15 Member ☐ \$5,000.. Lifetime contribution to help fund Professional contribution to help the preservation of the ☐ \$100..... Business ☐ I would like to make a ☐ \$500..... Benefactor fund the next phase of Washburn Public Library □ \$20...... Family contribution to help fund □ \$50 Patron ☐ \$75 Business restoration of the Civic in the amount of: the beautification of ☐ \$15...... Individual ☐ \$30 Family □ \$40 Family Center in the amount of: Washburn in the amount □ \$20 Individual □ \$25...... Individual Additional Contribution ☐ \$20 Senior/Student \$ ☐ In Memory ☐ In Honor Tally the amounts you've ☐ WCC....\$ Name chosen for each group. ☐ WAHS.\$ Organization Mail your check made □ WHA ... \$ payable to: Mailing Address ☐ WBF....\$ Washburn Cultural Center ☐ HCCF..\$ P.O. Box 725 City State □ WPL....\$ Washburn WI 54891 Phone Funds will be distributed by TOTAL.....\$

Email



WASHBURN LEGACY CONSORTIUM

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

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

Like us on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/WashburnCulturalCenter/

Follow us on Instagram 🖸

https://www.instagram.com/ washburnculturalcenter1283/

Calendar

Washburn Cultural Center

July 3-31—Superior Artists Group: Royanne Goossen, Dora Kling, Jason Terry, Karen Maki, and Jonathan Walburg

August—Rabbett Strickland and Rita Vanderventer: Recent paintings

September 4-26—Black Bear Studios: Carvings and paintings by Gina Winther

Whimsy: Multimedia works by area artists

October 1-30—The Gathering: CBAC annual fall show

November—Backwoods Artists: Watercolor paintings from area artists

December 11—Annual Holiday Boutique

An up-to-date schedule of upcoming exhibits and our monthly hours are available at https://www.washburnculturalcenter.com/upcoming-events

Washburn Heritage Association & Washburn Area Historical Society

Tenth Annual Tony Woiak History Festival—Summer, 2021 (co-sponsor WAHS)

At Harbor View Event Center.

Tuesday, July 13—"Up Home on Engoe Road": Jan Lee, Tom Mitchell. 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 24—"Hubert Peavey": Joe Maassen, John Anderson. At The Club at 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 3—"Around the Islands with Chick": Bob Mackreth. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 10—"Chequamegon Bay Ice Fishing": John Esposito. 7:30 p.m.

Historic Washburn Trolley Tours—Embark at Washington & Bayfield St. intersection Saturday, July 24—11:00 a.m., Noon, and 1:00 p.m.