WCC Director's Corner

By Steve Cotherman

Welcome to the Washburn Cultural Center and the brand new, reimagined and reinvigorated "Brownstone," the new voice of Washburn's Legacy Consortium. In each issue, which we plan to publish at least twice per year, you'll find interesting and informative stories about all of the latest historical, arts, cultural, and preservation efforts going on in our little town on the big lake.

As your new Cultural Center director, my number one goal is to make the Center a community gathering place for Washburnites of all ages and interests, from both near and far. One way to begin accomplishing that goal is to work closely with the Legacy Consortium to create lots of interesting public programs both within and outside the walls of our venerable old bank building.

In her story below, Irene Blakely describes in detail the mission and goals of the new Legacy Consortium and the partnership between the various organizations dedicated to promoting and celebrating the culture of Washburn and the Bay area.

I'm excited about the Consortium and very pleased to be your new Cultural Center director. Come on down to see the latest art exhibit, browse our shop or explore Washburn history in the museum. This is your community cultural center, so don't be a stranger! See you real soon.

Six Washburn Organizations Announce Historic Collaboration

By Irene Blakely

The Washburn Legacy Consortium is comprised of five local organizations that formed for specific purposes, with the history and cultural heritage of Washburn at the heart of their missions. They are the Washburn Area Historical Society (WAHS), The Washburn Historic Preservation Commission (WHPC), the Washburn Cultural Center (WCC), the Washburn Heritage Association (WHA), and the Historic Civic Center Foundation (HCCF).

As these groups have matured, it has become obvious that a consortium could bring them together to facilitate communication, collaboration, and cooperation, to help each group meet their needs and to work toward achieving common goals.

The consortium has identified three goals: to build communications among our organizations and with the public, to address challenges to our organizations' sustainability and vigor, and to relate our past to our identity as a community.

Goal #1 recognizes that communication is key to our ability to collaborate. Our first joint effort is to expand our public communications through this newsletter. It will feature the activities of each member organization and the collaborative projects that make the best use of each group's talents. Ultimately, we will be able to share information with Washburn folks in a more clear, timely, and interesting way.

Goal #2 recognizes that consortium member organizations face many challenges. WAHS, WCC, WHA and HCCF depend upon fundraising and will work together to maximize donations to support our work. The citizen boards that advise and govern these groups rely on dedicated volunteers. We intend to increase the diversity and numbers of folks of all ages who participate in our projects. State and city policies affect the well being of consortium organizations. We intend to create relationships with local and state government that will contribute to robust and thriving Legacy organizations.

Goal #3 recognizes that a vibrant community embraces its past as an integral part of its present identity.

For Washburn, that means activities that make connections come alive to residents and visitors alike. Collectively, our groups hold events, like the Tony Woiak History Festival, the Historic Home Tour and the annual Memorial Park celebration. We participate in Brownstone Days and Homecoming. We maintain a museum and operate the cultural center. We are striving to reopen the Civic Center. As a result of this consortium, we will more effectively direct our efforts connecting everyone to Washburn's past, present and future.

Washburn Cultural Center Washburn Area Historical Society (WCC) (WAHS)

Washburn Heritage Association (WHA)



Celebrating 35 years! 1981-2016

Heritage WASHRIEN 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.; Bob Ungrodt, Cynthia Hart, Dan Satran, Peter Van Evera, Jana Van Evera, Jane Halvorson **BOARD MEMBERS:** David Bratley, Pres., Jan Bergman, Joan Bratley, Betty Ferris, 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, Ginny Pedersen, Sharon Stewart. Advisory Board Members: Gary Holman, Jane Weiler, Ken Weiler

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Washburn Heritage Association P.O. Box 814 Washburn, WI 54891 www.washburnheritage.org (715) 373-5212

Washburn Historic Preservation Commission (WHPC)	Historic Civic Center Foundation (HCCF)	Chequamegon Bay Arts Council (CBAC)
Washburn On Chequamegon Hay	Established 2013	CHEQUAMICON BAY ANTS COUNCIL
MISSION: To safeguard the city's heritage by preserving sites and structures; improve property values; protect Washburn's attractions; and support business by educating the public about the need of a historic preservation program.	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: The Historical Preservation Commission (HPC) was established in 2003 under a new state ordinance. It is currently a 5-member commission. During our years of service, we have created several local designations, including the Washburn Family Dentistry building, and The Washburn Cultural Center. We repaired and moved the Kitchen Building in Memorial Park. And in 2015, we accomplished our state and nationally designated Historic District comprised of homes along 3rd Street East.	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: Currently, the HPC is finalizing the process of creating wayfinding signage for historic sites throughout the City. We are creating our page on the City's new website. We are initiating efforts to collaborate with school staff to encourage student participation in some of our activities. We also always interested in helping local residents and businesses with preservation efforts and local designations where appropriate.	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.
BOARD MEMBERS: Kristy Jensch (715) 373-5491 JoAnne Katzmarek (715) 292-7776 John Baregi (715) 373-5198 Dora Kling (715) 373-2636	BOARD MEMBERS: David Eades, Jim Nowakowski, Mary Nowakowski, Robert Olson, Michelle Shriderz	BOARD MEMBERS: Joanne Meierhofer, Pres.; Kathleen Broadwell, Lissa Flemming, Lee Ann Frey, Diana Granger, Grace Hogan, Chris Lindsey, Sarah Lund, Sharon Stewart
CONTACT INFORMATION: Washburn Historic Preservation Commission 119 Washington Ave., Washburn, WI 54891 http://www.cityofwashburn.org/ committees.html (715) 373-6161	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 Joanne Meierhofer, Pres., (715) 685-2350

4 Brownstone



The **Washburn Cultural Center** has a permanent collection of art.

By Steve Cotherman

Ever since the Washburn Cultural Center opened in the early 1990s, we have been collecting art by Washburn and regional artists. It made sense to our founders to add works of art to the mix of objects, artifacts, and archival materials owned and preserved by the Washburn Area Historical Society, which is housed in the Center.

Because the arts are such an important part of what makes the Chequamegon Bay area a great place to live, the Center continues to build an art collection that



Connie Cogger, "Hawkweed," pastel on paper, no date. Gift of the artist.

reflects the cultural traditions and natural resources of the region. Used from time to time for special exhibits in both our first and third floor galleries, the collection is intended to help us define our community's identity from an artistic point of view. Like the objects preserved and interpreted by the historical society, the Center's art collection can also tell stories about our community, about the folks who live here and the people, places and things they value.

Among the area artists represented in our collection are Mary Ross, Diana Randolph, Dora Kling, Karlyn Holman, Amy Kalmon, April Lehman, Connie Cogger, and Mary Rice. There are many, many more that are not represented, and one of our goals is to broaden the scope of our collection so that it better represents the region and more accurately reflects our rich artistic heritage.

Because the Center does not have a budget for purchasing works of art, we have relied on the generosity of artists



Karlyn Holman, "Water Lilies," watercolor on paper, no date. Gift of the artist.



Bob Crump, "Brownstone Quarry," Acrylic on canvas, 1983.

and friends to build our collection. If you would like to donate one of your works to the Center or help us set up an acquisition fund, please let us know. Our next permanent collection exhibit will open in January so stay tuned for forthcoming information on that show.



Washburn's 1971 Homecoming featured cans of Fresh Air!



By Betty Ferris

For 35 years, the all-volunteer Washburn Area Historical Society has been providing a place for local people to donate all sorts of items of historic significance for preservation and sharing with the general public. Consequently, the WAHS has a sizable, varied collection of historical treasures housed in our archives.

The Washburn Area Historical Society's centerpiece collection is the complete photo and manuscript estate of the late photojournalist Chick Sheridan.

The centerpiece of the collection is the complete photo and manuscript estate of the late, great Charles M. Chick Sheridan (1905-1991), a prolific, nationally known photojournalist who was born and raised in Washburn and lived out his days here. Our goal is to more fully inventory and catalog this invaluable collection in

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The **Washburn Heritage Association** came into being just seven years ago with the singular goal of saving the DuPont Club/Civic Center from demolition.

By Carla Bremner

Thankfully, the goal was met when Jim and Mary Nowakowski purchased the building. Rather than dissolving, the preservation-minded board immediately began generating ideas for projects, and here are some of them.

Have you taken a ride on the trolley during Brownstone Days past Washburn's brownstone buildings and waterfront? Strolled down some of the older avenues and toured historic homes (This year's Historic Home Tour and Trolley Tour will be July 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Have you attended the Tony Woiak History Festivals and heard speakers on topics ranging from the Washburn City Bands to Interesting Washburn Women to the Castle Guard School Fire? These events are all sponsored or co-sponsored by the Washburn Heritage Association (WHA). For details: washburnheritage.org.

Have you browsed through the Washburn Walking Tour Booklet and seen the historic Washburn map/placemats and no-



Washburn Historic City Tour participants travel on this BART Trolley.

tecards distributed by WHA? Or, perhaps as an artist, you have participated in the history-themed art exhibit co-sponsored by WHA and CBAC?

As a main street business owner, you may have consulted with WHA on façade improvements or been the recipient of a WHA Façade Improvement award.

You might have walked through the East Third Street National Register Historic District which was initiated by Washburn's Historic Preservation Commission and facilitated by the WHA.



Sandy Johnson, WHA Board Member, invites people to join the 2016 Home Tour.

WHA has a lively, active board which continues to look for ways to highlight our unique architectural and cultural heritage. We are delighted to have a board member from the school system and think this connection offers lots of possibilities for both students and the community. WHA looks for and welcomes ideas and participation from the community at large and we are excited about the collaboration opportunities offered by the Legacy Consortium.

Washburn Historical Society *Continued from page 4*

order to insure its protection while still making the contents more widely accessible. We are seeking targeted funds in support of this important work.

The fresh air of new ideas and possibilities now energizing participants in the Brownstone Legacy Consortium brought to mind a recent discovery in the WAHS archives—a can of "Fresh Air," which the Lions Club sold during Washburn's 1971 Homecoming as a fund-raising gag with a serious message which still strongly resonates today: "This air was captured in the pine-scented woods of Washburn...there is not much left in the world so treasure it.

Take home a can for a gasping friend or neighbor, too. Remember the supply is limited and if you live in a smog condition you may require more than one can for yourself."

For the annual WAHS Desert Café and Bake Sale held as part of the Washburn Cultural Center's Holiday Boutique the second weekend in December, Jan Bergman and Joan Bratley lead a community-wide team of volunteers who create fabulous pies, cakes, cheesecakes, cream puffs, fattigmand, sandbakkelse, skorpor, white mice, Christmas cookies, and other delicious holiday favorites. This year we will add a couple of raffle baskets to the tables laden with tasty treats! See you there!



WAHS Board members David Bratley, Joan Bratley and Jan Bergman with a few scrumptious delights from our 2015 Desert Cafe. Come see us at this year's Washburn Holiday Boutique, held at the Cultural Center the second weekend in December.

6 Brownstone



The **Washburn Historic Preservation Commission** facilitated Washburn's Residential Historic District being listed on the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places.

By Kristy Jensch

In 2013 Washburn's Residential Historic District was listed on the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places! Bounded by East Third Street from Central Avenue to 4th Avenue East, the District contains four duplexes and twenty-six single family homes. Some of the homes were built when the DuPont Company expanded its TNT plant in Barksdale. The Factory Superintendent and Assistant Managers lived in the more stately homes on this street,



Members of the American Legion present a plaque to the City during the First Annual Memorial Park Picnic in 2015.

which is also called DuPont Row. The homes were generally built between the 1880's thru the 1930's.

The HPC has also hosted a picnic the last two years in the late summer commemorating the dedication of the first picnic at Memorial Park, organized in 1920 by DuPont employees, using their own money, to honor the veterans of the First World War. At our 2015 commemorative picnic the American Legion veterans were special guests, and they presented a plague for the obelisk in a ceremony at the start of the picnic. Robert Mackreth, local historian, spoke about the historical significance of the picnic. Mark Rossow played music from that era. Local businesses donated picnic baskets which were auctioned off as a fundraiser for the HPC. Residents and campers enjoyed the lovely evening on the lakefront.

In 2016 we hosted another picnic, again with donated picnic baskets and music. At this picnic, the HPC provided free ice-cream, and local families and campers



Bob Mackreth, our local historian, retired from the National Park Service, sharing the story of the development of Memorial Park. The recently restored Kitchen Building is behind him.

enjoyed croquet and other games. We look forward to this becoming an annual event.

Our meetings are held once each month in the Washburn Public Library and are open to the public. We welcome visitors, and we are also inviting applications from citizens who would like to join us. Please contact one of our members or City Hall for more information and an application form.

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Chequamegon Bay Arts Council** helped fund the new mosaic mural in the Ed Griffiths Pedestrian Pass.

By Catherine Lange

The landscape mosaic mural was unveiled recently in Ashland, and project organizer Rose Spieler-Sandberg acknowledged CBAC's funding as one of the grants that made the project possible.

Chequamegon Bay artists and arts organizations apply for and receive project-based Arts Initiative Grants from CBAC every year. Proposed projects may include public exhibitions, performances, publications, touring productions, commissioned art and educational activities. Artistic disciplines may encompass dance, theater, music, folk arts, literary arts, video, film and visual arts.

In fact, applications for the next round of AI grants are due in January 2017.

Information can be found at http://www.cbayarts.org/grants---scholarships.html.

CBAC raises funds at its annual Art on the Bay event. CBAC serves as a regranting organization for the matching funds received through the Wisconsin Arts Board, which is funded by the state of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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The **Historic Civic Center Foundation** is most often asked 'When are you going to open?'

By Mary Nowakowski

The most common question that the Historic Civic Center Foundation encounters is, "When are you going to open?" It's a straightforward question that has an easy answer—"When we have enough money to proceed with additional first floor and exterior renovations." The second question is, "Why can't you just open up now?" The answer to this question is a little more involved.

The building needs a modern heating and cooling system that will be expandable to serve the entire building. Also required is a new handicap-accessible bathroom, new windows, and additional electrical upgrades. The area for the Wisconsin Lake Superior Scenic Byway, which will be immediately inside the new west entrance, needs to be built. The original open staircase in the building was walled up many years ago and needs to be restored.

Necessary work on the exterior of the building includes a driveway, parking lot paving and landscaping. A small patio



The exterior of the Civic Center in 2011.

adjacent to the west entrance requires railings and outdoor seating. Estimates to complete the work that needs to be done in order to open to the public are between \$175,000 and \$250,000.

This is a BIG project! It's important to remember that renovations are estimated to take at least five years after the money is available. We are working on identifying federal, state, and local funding sources.

The exterior work that has already been completed shows what can be done to make a beloved historic building a focal point of the community. Now the interior



The exterior of the building today.

needs that same attention to bring the building up to 21st century standards. It can, and will, be done!

Our first fundraiser, held on September 24th, was attended by 150 people. This exceeded our expectations for a first time event and raised over \$7,000. Thanks to the community for their continued support.

Contributions can be made, using the form on the back page of this newsletter or sending a check to: HCCF, P.O. Box 144, Washburn, WI 54891. Contributions can also be made via PayPal on our website at www.washburn-hccf.com.

Chequamegon Bay Arts Council *Continued from page 6*

CBAC also awards Artistic Development Grants to promote ongoing learning and to encourage area residents to further their artistic abilities for reasons of personal growth and enhanced community artistic excellence. Those grant applications are due in April 2017.

Local high school seniors may apply for a \$1,000 CBAC scholarship in order to enroll in a higher education course of study leading to a career in visual, literary, or performing arts. Scholarship applications are due April 30, 2017.

In addition to its grants and scholarship programs, CBAC holds three annual



exhibits (the members-only show, "The Gathering"; the "Small Works Auction" in collaboration with Northland College; and a spring community show). CBAC publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Artifacts*, which communicates CBAC news and provides overviews of various media with profiles of local artists.

Ashland's Pedestrian Underpass Mosaic Mural project organizer Rose Spieler-Sandberg and numerous volunteers—as well as the tunnel's very own marching band, led by Bud's Brass Band from Minneapolis (and friends)—parade ceremoniously through the Ed Griffiths Pedestrian Pass to the lake. (Photo by Sara Chase for the Ashland Daily Press)

Chequamegon Bay Arts Council is a 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

For more information, visit: www.cbayarts.org. ■



WASHBURN LEGACY CONSORTIUM

Washburn Cultural Center P. O. Box 725 Washburn, WI 54891 PRESORTED STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID WASHBURN, WI PERMIT #5

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

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 Heritage Washburn Area Historic Civic Center Washburn Cultural Center Washburn Historic Chequamegon Bay **Historical Society** Association **Preservaion Commission** Foundation Arts Council □ **\$5,000**..Lifetime □ **\$25**......Business/ □ \$500Benefactor ☐ \$1,000 .. Benefactor ☐ I would like to make ☐ I am interested in applying □ \$500Benefactor to the City of Washburn a contribution to help Professional ☐ **\$100**Business **■ \$75**Business □ **\$250**Patron to become a commission fund the next phase of □ **\$15**......Family □ **\$50**Patron □ **\$40**Family member. Please contact restoration of the Civic □ \$100 Donor ■ **\$10**......Individual □ **\$35**Family ☐ **\$75**Business Center in the amount of: ☐ **\$25**Individual □ \$20Individual ☐ **\$50**Art Enthusiast □ \$20Senior/Student Additional Contribution (Family) ☐ In Memory ☐ In Honor $\ \square$ \$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 more than one group, subtract \$10. ☐ HCCF....\$ □ CBAC....\$__ Mail your check made State City payable to: Washburn Cultural Subtotal\$ Center, P.O. Box 725, Washburn WI Phone Multi-group discount: -\$10.00 54891. Funds will be distributed TOTAL\$_ Email by WCC to each group indicated.