

# Sharing Responsibilities



## President's Message

Mary Gruhl, President

Another amazing six months for the Washburn Heritage Association as it looks back on its accomplishments. This newsletter focuses on what has been done and identifies the individual board and community members who continue to share responsibilities for making our events exciting and available to our residents and visitors as they showcase our rich heritage.

In addition to those identified in the articles, we say thanks to Lynn Adams, our tech support person, who produces our biannual newsletter, maintains our website, oversees much of the publicity and serves as our secretary. We also recognize our treasurer, Jill Lorenz for her ongoing expertise in keeping our financial records up to date. And to Steve Cotherman who not only provides our monthly meeting room and storage space but keeps the WHA up to date on the events happening at the Washburn Cultural Center. Finally, we thank our Advisory Board, Gary Holman, Jane Weiler and Don Ekstrom for their expert advice when needed.

But without the continued support of our generous donors, members and volunteers none of the above would be possible and to all of you we extend our sincere THANK YOU.

We look forward to another busy six months as once again we offer our summer History Festivals, Brownstone Trolley Tours, and grand opening of the restored Houghton Depot.

## Tony Woiak History Festival Summer 2022

Ginny Pederson, Andrew Grimm, Carla Bremner, Sandy Johnson, Gary Holman

The Tony Woiak History Festival is back! We were disappointed to have to postpone the events from the January/February 2022 Winter Festival Schedule due to Covid precautions. But the good news is that all four of those presenters are willing and able to reschedule their programs to the summer dates. Thank you, presenters! And thank you, History Fans, for patiently waiting!

This marks the 11th year of the Festivals which the WHA sponsors in partnership with the Washburn Area Historical Society. They have become a popular way to share our heritage with Washburn residents as well as visitors to our town. Bring a friend, come early and stay late! Maybe tell a few stories of your own!

### Tuesdays at 7:30 pm at the Harborview Event Center



**Tuesday, June 28** - Singer/songwriter/historian **WARREN NELSON** and son **ROWAN NELSON-FERRIS** present stories and original songs about the great bygone days of the railroads. Warren Nelson is co-creator of *On The Velvet*, a railroad musical first produced in 1992. His garage is made of roundhouse doors from the Soo Line roundhouse in Ashland, and he has a wooden caboose in his yard!



**Tuesday, July 12** - The hour-long Brownstone Days trolley ride through Washburn is free to all. Join **SHARON STEWART** for a narrated tour to see Washburn's architecture and history. Experience the same trip that Brownstone Days visitors take - virtually. Even locals learn at least one new thing when they take this ride.



**Tuesday, Aug 2** - Join the WHA Kiosk Committee—**PATRA HOLTER, GINNY PEDERSEN, LYNN ADAMS** and **SHARON STEWART**— as they describe the process from conception to finish for the beautiful, interchangeable window display panels for the kiosk. Researched and developed by the committee, the panels support the mission of telling the compelling stories of Washburn's heritage.



**Tuesday, Aug. 9** - In less than 30 days of taking office, President Franklin Roosevelt pushed through Congress the most popular New Deal recovery program of the great depression, the Emergency Recovery Work Act, the authorization for the Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1933, the men of Company 640 marched from the Omaha station on 1st Ave. E. in Washburn 17 miles to the former homestead of Ora and Lizzie Brinks in the barrens to begin their 6 month enlistment in the CCC. **PETE MANN's** program will explore the presence of the CCC in Bayfield County and the establishment of Camp Brinks.

## Trolley Tours

Sharon Stewart

The BART Hometown Trolley is reserved for three, free, narrated tours of Washburn on July 30th during Washburn's Brownstone Days. Boarding will be on Washington Avenue across from City Hall at 11:00 am, noon, and 1:00 pm. This opportunity is made possible with a generous gift from Ron and Kay Maassen of Sedona, AZ.



## WHA Information Kiosk

Patra Holter, Sharon Stewart, Ginny Pederson, Lynn Adams

The WHA kiosk is located near the corner of Bayfield Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue West in Wikdal Park. It is a colorful and helpful source of information for Washburn residents and visitors. The Chamber of Commerce maintains the front window with notices of upcoming events. The other three windows are devoted to Washburn heritage.

The WHA Kiosk Committee continues to develop new display panels with invaluable assistance from Susan Mackreth of the Washburn Historical Museum. To date, we have completed 21 panels on topics ranging from Brownstone to the City Band.

We initiated research to feature Bayfield Street commercial buildings through the years, but finding good pictures is proving harder than we expected. If you have some old photos of Bayfield Street business facades, please contact one of us.

Panels on display during June celebrate the grand opening of the Bayview Park project and include the Houghton Depot, Chequamegon Bay Railroads, and Bayfield Street construction through the years. Take a few minutes to stop and read about these topics. You might learn something new!

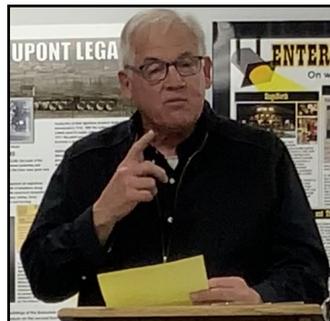


## Buildings and Sites Committee

Karen Novachek, Dora Kling, Aron Lorber, Dave Nyhus, Sandy Johnson

The Buildings and Sites Committee has been busy keeping the heritage of the Washburn Area alive. In February, businesses were invited to submit an application for a facade grant. WHA approved \$10,000 for this grant cycle. A total of 13 exciting proposals were submitted requesting over \$78,000. After review, two grants were selected: Patsy's Bar and Grill and Chequamegon Picture Framing. Watch each of these businesses make improvements to their building facade in the upcoming months.

The second major activity was the May celebration of Historic Preservation Month. In partnership with the Washburn Public Library, a series of activities were held at the library. Included were presentations on the history of the library (Pete Mann), why libraries are important (Darrell Pendergrass), and stories about Mae Greenwood, who served as librarian for over 60 years (Dick Olson). In addition, Friends of the Library, headed by Diane Posner, sponsored a lunch for the community in appreciation for their support of the library and arranged for the Garland City Consort to play a concert at the library. Our final activity was to post numbers to identify the historic buildings featured in our self-guided walking or driving tour map.



Featured speaker Dick Olson

*Certificates of Recognition for Preserving Heritage were presented to restorers Randy and Bryan Bergman of the Pumphouse in behalf of the owners: Dennis and Catherine Kilbane (below) and Richard and Carol Avol owners of Chequamegon Books (left) for their success in preserving their structures and maintaining Washburn's heritage.*



## Bayview History Committee

Mary Gruhl, and Bayview residents Paul Johnson, Linda Jorgensen, Ella Cross, Darlene Charbonneau, Lorraine Norrgard, Susan Raasch, Mike Bunch, Jenny Murphy

### School Programs Begin at Houghton Depot

After three years of work by volunteers and paid contractors, the Houghton Depot is ready for school programs. Washburn, South Shore, and Bayfield 4<sup>th</sup> graders and LaPointe Elementary School each came to the Houghton Depot for a two-hour, hands-on program. The program focuses on the impact the Omaha Train had on the development of Houghton Village where the depot was located and the rest of the Bayfield Peninsula between 1883 and 1978.

Students looked at a 1897 map of Houghton Village drawn as Carl Frostman remembered it. They looked at a 1900 census record to find residents who lived in Houghton Village and became detectives by trying to find those names etched on the walls as graffiti from 1905 to 1934. They also sorted brownstone into various grades and saw how brownstone was cut and removed from quarries.

They learned about the Omaha train, its first arrival to Bayfield and discovered many of the items that were carried to and from the towns along the Peninsula, including the first car that was brought to Bayfield.

They also had an opportunity to learn how communication between depots, train employees, and passengers relied on lanterns, Morse Code and train whistles. Before their visit ended, a train layout was lowered from the ceiling and they blew their train whistles as a 1913 period train went around the track.

Members of the Bayview History Committee wish to extend a thank you to all who have been involved in helping to make the restoration of the Houghton Depot a reality.



## Houghton Depot Grand Opening

**June 11, 2022 - 11 AM**

The Houghton Depot served the Bayview community from about 1902 until 1934. At that time it was moved across the street to become the living room of a private home. In 1984 it was vacated and began to deteriorate. In 2019, the Bayview History Committee took on the project of saving the last remaining depot on the Bayfield Peninsula. The depot was moved to Bayview Town Park, where volunteers and contractors worked over 1500 hours to restore it. Though only a black and white photo of the depot was found, paint found under the corner boards revealed an ocher color, the color we used on the exterior siding.

On June 11, 2022, a grand opening ceremony with a ribbon cutting, food, and music will celebrate the complete restoration and fulfillment of the Washburn Heritage Association's vision to keep the heritage of the Washburn area alive. Once again the sound of the "Scoot" will be heard. The event begins at 11 am with ribbon cutting at 11:30 am. A new kiosk on the north side of the depot will list upcoming events and open houses.

*Visit our Website at*

[www.washburnheritage.org](http://www.washburnheritage.org)



# Heritage

WASHBURN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

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

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Join

us!

*If you are interested in any of our projects and would like to volunteer to help, or have ideas for new projects, please talk to any board member. You can join the Washburn Heritage Association by filling out the form below.*

### Thank You for your Membership/Donation!

\$20     \$30     \$50     \$100     \$500     \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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The Washburn Heritage Association is a non-profit citizen group with no overhead expenses. We appreciate your support. Please send this form with your tax deductible donation to:

**Washburn Heritage Association ~ P.O. Box 814 ~ Washburn, Wisconsin 54891**