



BACKUS BROADCASTS

“Historic Backus Community Center, the heart of International Falls, where all generations celebrate arts, culture, recreation, wellness, and life-long learning”

2015 Promises to be a Good Year

Volume 7, Issue 1

Spring 2015

As winter melts into spring, we’re looking forward to our last 2014-2015 Backus Performing Arts show, *Guy Noir: The Ballet*, on Friday, March 20 at 7:00 pm. It’s the brainchild of James Sewell and brought to life with the help of Minnesota radio star Garrison Keillor. Tickets are available at City Drug, Betty’s in Fort Frances or Backus, in advance or at the door.

Back by popular demand is the *Ethnic Food Festival*. There are still openings to serve your favorite ethnic dish or prepare a dessert, call Robin at (218) 285-7225 if you’d like to participate. The Festival, on Friday, March 27, will be open from 5:30 to 7:00 pm with sample tickets available for purchase at \$2.00 each.

Wine, beer and other beverages will also be available for purchase. This fundraising event helps us operate the building and support the variety of programming we offer year-round.



A membership drive is planned for April. **Since you are receiving this newsletter, you are probably already a member, but we’d like to ask that you give the enclosed membership form to a friend, family member or acquaintance you think would enjoy being a part of the Backus team.**

Membership benefits include the satisfaction of being part of the community center that serves

the area, as well as “Members Only” events twice a year. Our next “Members Only” event will be April 23 and includes classical-type music performed live, expanded hors d’oeuvres and complimentary beverages.

Backus prides itself on being what the community needs and asks for.

Our building is open for business Monday through Friday, with scheduled availability on weekends.

We continue to serve the community with our food programs, Community Café, Summer Food Service Program and Community Market, which now includes EBT, Market Bucks, Senior Select and Fruit Bucks.

Backus is so thankful for our members like YOU!

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Backus Receives Grant and Funding

Backus Community Center is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$5,000 Koochiching Community Development Association grant for the purchase of additional dining room chairs for event hosting.

We have been working to replace old, plastic orange chairs with more modern, silver and black chairs that

are also easier to clean.

Backus also received a donation of \$5,000 from the Chelsea Trust to cover costs of door and light projects needed for building upkeep.

Boise Paper stores employees safety funds contributed \$650 toward Community Café in February.

As this newsletter is being written, we received \$5,000 from the Marshall N. Knudson Family Community Fund for new stage lights and Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre this summer.

Thank you!

Summer Open Gym—Volunteers Needed

Backus is again happy to offer free summer open gym to kids of all ages, Monday through Friday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm starting June 8.

While we do have open gym supervisors, we ask that parents accompany children age 5 and under.

As a community center, we take

safety very seriously. We are looking for adults who might be interested in being hall monitors for the summer.

The job would entail sitting in the stairwells, keeping kids out of the areas they should not be,



from 11 am to 1:30 pm. If you would be interested in helping out in this way, please contact Robin at (218) 285-7225.

It’s a great opportunity to catch up with a good book!

Summer Food Service Program

Backus Community Center will offer the free Summer Food Service Program to children, ages 1-18, Monday through Friday starting June 8. Meals are served from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm and menus can be found in the building or online at www.backusab.org.

We encourage adults to eat with their children, adult meals are \$3.75. The Summer Food Service Program cannot subsidize adult meals, however, Falls Hunger Coalition can cover the cost for those with food insecurity.

Meals offered adhere to the Minnesota Department of Education nutritional guidelines.





Think Spring, Think New Playground Equipment

Backus Community Center is more than just a building. We are a dedicated group of board members, staff and volunteers who want to see the community thrive and succeed, one event and project at a time.

With that in mind, we have been raising money to replace playground

equipment at Green Acres park located at 16th Street and 6th Ave E.

The equipment is over 20 years old and in need of replacement. With the help of Stewart's Super One Foods and the Minnesota Vikings, we have over \$5,000 in a fund for new playground equipment.

If you would like to contribute,

watch for containers in the Falls, stop by Backus to drop coins in our jar, or send your donation to Backus Community Center.

Raising money for equipment ... one penny at a time!



2015-2016 Backus Performing Arts Season

Executive Director, Ward Merrill, has been busy working with the Arts and Programming Committee to put together another fun and exciting performing arts season starting this fall.

The Rose Ensemble returns in September with their show Hawaii Revealed: Music from the Soul of the

Hawaiian Saga on Friday, September 26 at 7:00 pm.

Chris Koza and Rogue Valley will share with local schools via their outreach program the week of October 19-23, which includes a residency with Rainy Lake Orchestra.

Their complete show will be at

"BACKUS CONTINUES TO BUILD OUR 2015-2016 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON INTO ONE THAT PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WILL ENJOY."

Backus Auditorium on Friday, October 23 at 7:00 pm.

Backus Kids Club Registration now Open

Backus Kids Club is now accepting registrations for the summer program.

Children entering kindergarten through 6th grade are welcome to apply.

BKC is open June, July, August

from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm, starting June 8th.

We provide daily leadership from licensed teachers, affordable enrichment/childcare, tutoring in all academic areas at all grade levels, enrichment opportunities beyond the

classroom setting, healthy snacks, fun games and crafts, field trips, reading program and many other opportunities for children.

Call Hoa at 285-7225 for more information, or go online for forms, www.backusab.org.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 15** Border Concert: An Evening with Rebecca & Kuba 7:00 pm
- **March 20** James Sewell FREE Mind/Body Workshop 9—10 am —call Backus to register 285-7225
- **March 20** Top the Tater Dinner Sponsored by McDonald's Restaurant 5:00—6:30 pm
- **March 20** James Sewell Ballet presents "Guy Noir: The Ballet" 7:00 pm
- **March 22 & 29** Junior Bards "This is a Test" 2:00 pm in The Dungeon
- **March 27** Ethnic Food Festival 5:30—7:00 pm
- **April 10** Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Banquet 6:00 pm
- **April 13** Top the Tater Dinner Sponsored by Mike Katrin 5:00—6:30 pm
- **April 13** Border Concert: Six Appeal 7:00 pm
- **April 15** Backus Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
- **April 23** Backus Members Only Event
- **May 2-3** Dancin' with Darcie Dance Recitals
- **May 7** Women's Health Night
- **June 8** Summer Food Service & Open Gym start
- **June 8** Backus Kids Club open for the summer!
- **June 10** Community Market Starts
- **June 15-20** Prairie Fire Children's Theater & Backus Summer Arts Week
- **August 8** Backus Rainy Lake Triathlon
- **September 26** The Rose Ensemble
- **October 1** Border Concert: The Four Freshmen
- **October 19-23** Chris Koza & Rogue Valley
- **October 31** Treat Street & Haunted House
- **November 13** Border Concert: Roy & Rosemary

For more details and updates, visit

www.backusab.org

Or stop by the office at 900 5th Street