

Winter 2020 | December



As I sit reflecting on 2020 and how we navigated (and are still) through a global pandemic, the phrase that comes to mind is, “Well that was crazy!” Crazy it was! But, also stressful and wonderful all at the same time!

2020 started with a full schedule of marvelous Traveling Exhibits and local exhibits to bring to our region, speakers, classes, camps, plans to launch the public campaign and a potential of \$3 million in bonding to bring us down the homestretch to a 2020 groundbreaking and a new much needed facility.

March came with mandated closures and guidelines that made it nearly impossible to carry through with our programming. Or did it? We have heard many times that 2020 has been a year to be prepared to “pivot.” I feel like what your museum staff have done is more of a “pirouette.” It would have been very easy to shutter the windows and doors and close. Staff would have been laid off and certainly any plans for a new facility would have been put on hold indefinitely. Instead our Board of Directors allowed us the opportunity to once again, Re-imagine how we serve our region. We developed STEAM kits that held activities complete with all of the needed supplies to create a variety of projects. Help from several local residents and two grants enabled us to distribute hundreds of kits through the Boys & Girls Club, Lakes Crisis Center and schools from around the county at no charge to families experiencing hardship. Summer camps were held. We went virtual with our first camps of the season. It was amazing to see a camp all together virtually building their own computer and then playing video games against each other online. Summer brought hard choices. Open limitedly to the public and cancel summer camps or go by appointment and follow the guidelines to hold camps. We continued our dance and held camps, accommodated public requests for the Research Library or to tour the museum. We partnered with our neighbors and area food trucks to bring our gift shop and classes outside for 6 weeks with the Summit Ave Street Market. Fall presented us with the opportunity to host a very successful Haunted House at the fairgrounds and create new STEAM kits for the colder months.

All of this has not been easy. It speaks volumes to the energy and dedication of our small staff. We are entering what is always the slowest time of the year. Financially, it is daunting. “How can we keep doing the dance?”, crosses my mind often but I remain the eternal optimist and have faith that we will continue to do our best to serve our region, fulfill our mission, and continue to be an active partner in our community meeting the needs of our region. Thank you for supporting us and other non-profits in our region. We have faith we will get through this together.

We are unable to hold our Annual Meeting this year. This newsletter will highlight our programming for the year. Stay safe. Stay healthy. We look forward to gathering with you soon!

Becky Mitchell

THANK YOU for supporting our Special Events this year!



Hello Spring Sign class

Rope Basket class



Barn Quilt Painting class

Mosaic Window class



Hallingdal Rosmaling class

Tie Dye Tshirts & Masks event

Prior to the mandated closures in mid-March, we were able to “go out with a bang” with Music from the 60’s with local musical duo (and museum members) ‘Sweet Afton’ during the “Coming of Age 1968” traveling exhibit.

We then spent March, April, & May creating, packaging, and delivering sixteen different DIY craft kits with a STEAM theme. (STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) In total, we have offered **30 different DIY kits** in 2020!

From May through August, we hosted weekly small group summer camps. We were able to host 16 camps on science, history, technology, art, and math in a safe, healthy environment thanks to guidance from the health department, grants, sanitizer, and staff ingenuity!

In October, we opened the Smithsonian’s “Rightfully Hers: American Women & The Vote”, the National Portrait Gallery’s “Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence”, and the League of Women Voters Minnesota’s “A Century of Civic Engagement”. All three can be viewed on our website under the EXHIBIT tab along with photos of temporary exhibit loans from our local museum members of election-related yard signs, pins, t-shirts, bumper stickers, photographs, and more.



Above: Sweet Afton, Fern Belling & Todd Voss
Left: Emily Buermann & Rev. Coke Smith enjoying the music in fun 60’s style.



Two camp kids safely having fun while learning

VOTES FOR WOMEN

A Portrait of Persistence

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®



Smithsonian



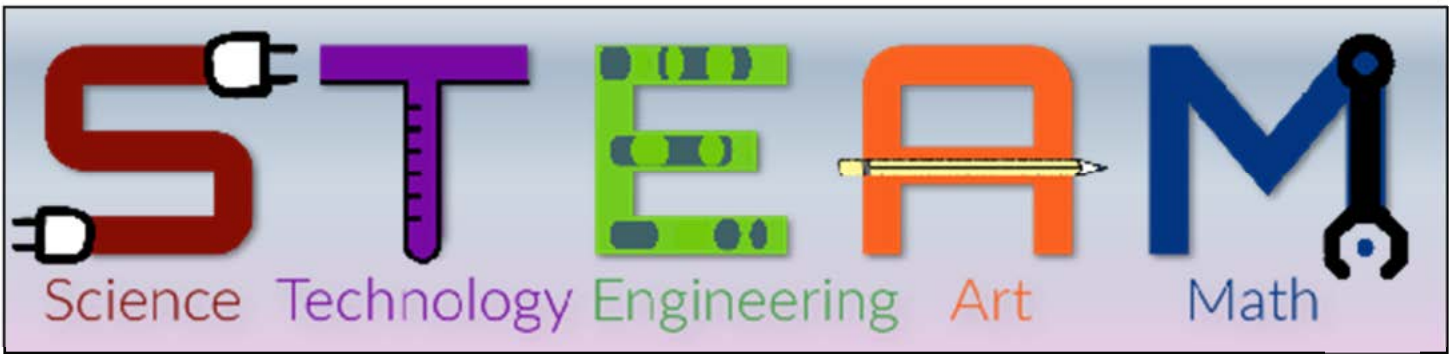
Thank you to the following individuals and businesses that have renewed or joined the Becker County Historical Society and Museum with memberships for 2021.*

Your support helps continue our mission of “preserve, connect & explore through exhibits, education and programming.”

*Received at the time of newsletter publishing.

Beug's Ace Hardware, Pam & Les Anderson, Nereson Automotive Inc.,
Harriet Barrett, Don Beaton, Bruce & Mary Beckman, Fran Bergen, Pam Bergeson,
Natalie Bly, Jill and Randy Brandt, Esther & Jon Bromander, Bruce Carlson, Joan Carr,
Brian Caspers, Judie Cherry, Susan Coleman, Lynette & Bruce Conmy,
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Shirley & David Fihn, Mike & Diane Fillmore, Fred Floan, Jeanne Foltz, Craig Fontaine,
Kathryn Forsyth, Karen Garrity, Rikki Given, Nancy Haggart, Patricia Hall, Mary
Hansen, John & Mary Hanson, Sally Hausken, James Hunnel, Doris Jacobson,
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Schram, Bell Insurance Services LLC, Vicki & Kelly Skaurud, Shirley & Jerry Spry,
April & David Thomas, Gary Thompson, Foltz Trucking, Bette & Mike Wammer,
Catharine Weisenburger, Thomas Weitzel, Sharon Westerholm, Dick & Claire Wilson,
John & Connie Wood, Eleanor Zurn, BW Premier The Lodge on the Lake,
Heart O'Lakes Genealogical Society, MMCDC

Renewing your membership has never been easier! Renew online at our website.

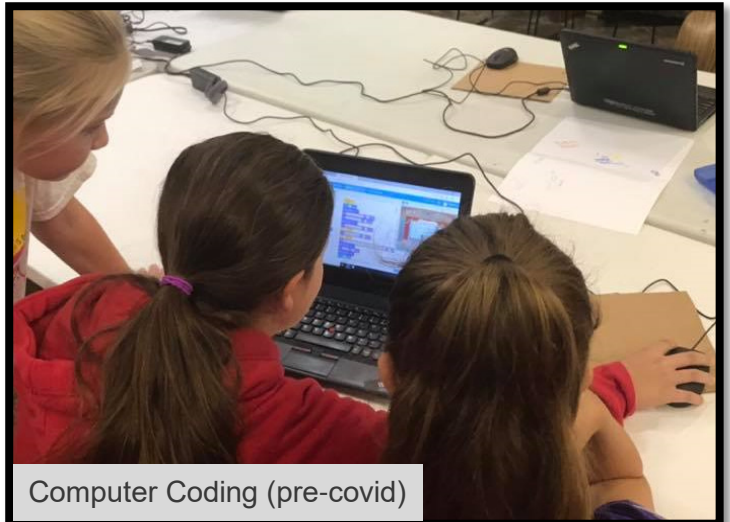


STEAM Club January 2020

After School STEAM club ran from fall 2019 to early spring 2020. We had a lot of great kids designing and building projects such as mazes and Newton's Cradle.

Summer Camps brought learning about different cultures, paint pendulums, zip lines, hot air balloons, bridges, circuits, many art projects and new techniques, and all sorts of opportunities to learn about Science, Technology, Math, Art, and Engineering.

We had two build your own computer camps where students built their own desktop computer and installed an operating system and additional programs. They also learned to code a video game and some on-line game functions using 3 different code methods. We used those same methods to program robots to do our work. Kids also learned to use a CAD program to create 3D objects on the 3D printer.



Computer Coding (pre-covid)



Individual workstation at Lego Challenge Camp

We were able to obtain and install Plexi shields for students to be isolated during class which allowed us to hold smaller classes during the pandemic. We have had to stock up on additional supplies to clean between students and provide each student with their own supplies to eliminate sharing.

Capital Campaign Update:

Thank you for your ongoing support towards a new facility for the Becker County Museum! With your help we are just \$500,000 away from the total goal of \$6.4 million for a Spring 2021 groundbreaking!!

Words cannot express the feelings I have to think that a year from now we could be getting ready to make a huge move. A move that brings many possibilities for our future including:

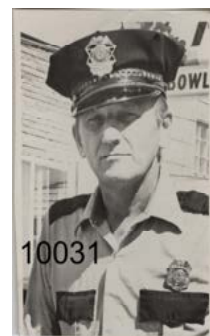
- an accessible facility to all ages and abilities.
- a Research Library that has space to appropriately organize and do research with fireproof storage.
- a Recording Studio ready to capture local history. Imagine our great-grandchildren being able to listen to the year we have had in our own words and with our own voices!
- an Exhibit Hall that has the appropriate lighting and environment to display our artifacts
- a Learning & Science Center complete with a 3D Print Lab and Learning Lab for the messiest of classes.
- classrooms and gathering spaces both inside and out to hold programming and events.
- storage large enough to bring our complete collection to one climate-controlled space.
- more collaborations with the DLCCC and Historic Holmes Theatre.

We invited you to Re-Imagine with us and you responded. Thank you!

Years of hard work by many for several years along with a visioning process and multiple plan revisions have brought us to this point. I often think of the MNHS saying, “when the right plan happens it will just all fall into place.” That is EXACTLY what happened! A thought out plan developed with our stakeholders as well as the State awarding bonding of \$1.85 million, and pledges from our local county and city governments and YOU are turning a dire need into reality.

If you have been waiting to make your donation or pledge, now is the time! Every donation will bring us closer to our goal. Please feel free to contact Becky at becky@beckercountyhistory.org, or call 218-847-2938 or visit us online at www.beckercountyhistory.org to make a donation.

We have many unidentified photos in our collection! Do you recognize any of these folks? We would love to know who they are and how they fit into our history. See these and many more online on our website. Click on the RESEARCH tab and select UNIDENTIFIED PHOTOS.



Read our monthly history column in the Detroit Lakes Tribune
or at DL-Online.com

Memorials

Memorials are now also noted on our website as they arrive.
Click on the **ABOUT US** tab and select **NEWSLETTERS & MEMORIALS**.

In Memory of Corrine Frank

from Fern Brown

In Memory of Ike Fisher

from Fern Brown

In Memory of Buddy Heim

from Fern Brown

In Memory of Ruby Holt

from Fern Brown

In Memory of Roger Fulmer

from Virginia Weston

In Memory of Donald R. Lynch

from Leatrice Wirtz

In Memory of Shirley Rotter

from Richard & Kathleen Michaelson

In Memory of Norman Danielson

from David Eiesland

In Memory of Marian Schattshneider

from Roger & Jan Lee

In Memory of Irene Spry

from Shirley Spry

In Memory of Maxine Smith

from Roger & Jan Lee

In Memory of Wilbur Joy

from Gary & Paula Christensen

from Barb Wirtz & Mike Freeman

from Larry Kohler

from Kenneth Kohler

from Nels & Orlene Thorson

from Lois Joy

from Natalie Bellefeuille

from Leatrice Wirtz

from Jeffery Ohman

from Mark & Robin Henderson

from Larry & Julie Marxen

from Virginia Weston

from Kurtis & Laurie Fong

from the Many Point Lake Association

from James McHose

from Richard & Joyce Duffney

from Robert & Mona-Marie Leslie

from David & Elizabeth Harman

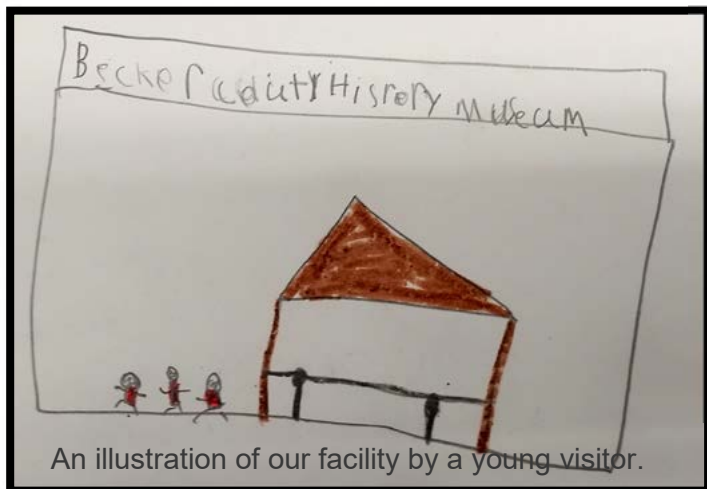
from Theodore Olson & Christine Bellefeuille

Thank you for your patience while we worked from home, reduced staff hours, and switched our software program. If we missed noting your memorial, please let us know by calling the museum at 218-847-2938 or emailing info@beckercountyhistory.org



Do you follow us on facebook?

**News, photos, videos, events,
and more are on our page!**



An illustration of our facility by a young visitor.

Visit the museum online!

**Virtual exhibits & online
learning now available on
our website for everyone!**



It has been quiet in our building this year with limited visitors. I have especially missed our school tours when the museum fills both floors with inquisitive young minds. With our local schools in hybrid and distance learning, we wanted to keep our museum accessible. We created mini-exhibits on our website. Of course, we had to begin with ***“The Legend of Old Three Legs; the fantastic tale of a wolf on the prowl.”*** Photos and newspaper clippings accompany the story of that terrifying timberwolf of the 1920’s. (Though the kids often draw him with a friendly smile and describe him as “cute” and “fuzzy”.) We also added learning resources like a word search, sounds of different wolf howls, a step-by-step drawing tutorial, and fun wolf facts appropriate for young learners to high schoolers. I encourage you to “see” it for yourself online and share it with friends and family! Click on the EXHIBITS tab on our website to select this mini-exhibit.



Contact Us
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& Museum**
Tuesday-Saturday
10am-4pm
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE