

Museum News



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To: Itasca County Historical Society

Our dad, Oliver Juntanen, passed away on August 24, 2025.

Among his many interests, he had a passion for passing on the history of the area, especially of the Suomi Community. It was very important to him that history be correct. Because of his appreciation for the Itasca County Historical Society and your striving for excellence, we, his family, have chosen to donate \$500.00 in his memory. We hope this will be useful for your organization.

Sincerely, The Family of Oliver Juntunen



3rd Autumn Purse Bingo Report: We were able to put \$15,000 in our account from the event.

We really want to thank the decorators that helped us put on such a wonderful event! Paul Bunyan has stepped forward to be our Louis Vuitton Sponsor at \$2,500!



GRAFA awarded Lilah Crowe the Lead Blocker Trophy in September. Ginny Frahm, Sue Kujala, and Leila Fairchild walked with Lilah Crowe across the field to be honored by Greg Spahm Social Studies teacher. This award is

given out to people in our community who have volunteered and shown leadership. It was very unexpected and as Paul Haddix said, "I was in the audience and saw you walking out in the field was not surprised to hear all you do for the community" Continue Page 5....

Museum Gift



2025 brought about some changes with in the gift shop. Lori organized the inventory and worked with Leila Fairchild to set-up the new path through the shop. The newest product is the Repuls Defensive Spray! We were the first to get it in the shop and with that we are the experiment of the design of the hanger shelf.



After the Pines is on sale starting the new year. It was \$29.95, now special at \$25.00.



Dan Rabbitt again is suppling us with his wild rice. It is called river rice and everyone has loved the consistency of the rice.



One of a kind sweatshirts!

Remember to tell your friends our Museum is FREE!

We just ask people to sign in on the guest book; it helps in gaining support when we go before the County Board and when applying for grants.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Annual Giving for the Resort Exhibit and General Operations

THANK YOU!

Margaret Cone
David & Laurie Marshall
Jeff & Kim Bishop
Robert & Ginny Wickman
Sue Kujala
Richard Lacher
Linda Thueson
Barbara James
Jim Uzelac
Jim & Sylvia Olson
Frank E. King
Bill Rutherford
Joan Isaacs
Terry & Margaret (Muggs)
Matteson
David Broberg
Dennis & Jean Koewler
Richard & Sharon King
Cole Hardware
Lois Nelson
Elsie Yuhala
Bruce & Diane Mangseth
Donnabelle Landey
Duane & Anna Eells
Whitney Hartley
James & Patti Marshall
Bill & Gail Heig
Bowen's Lodge
Dale & Misty Christy

Lucille Lauer
Stafford King
Beverly Johnson
Jan Hill
Kirk Gilbertson &
Zuzanna Hadarova
Georgette Renslow
Lee & MaryJo Jess
Martin Coyer
Jolynn & Jody Crowe
Carol Spooner
Dale & Kari Juntunen
Kathryn Mattson
Gary Springer
Hal & Winnie Rime
Jerome & Sue Pulkrabek
Randy Heikkila
Tom & Sandy Chapin
JoAnn Bakken
Phillis Magelky
Ruth Martin
Duane & Sandra Crowe
Ruth Dickie
Paul Hanson
Carter & Doris Pettersen
Karen Lucachick
Patricia Mester
Linda Skallman
Helen Zeumer

As you do your tax and estate planning, please keep us in mind. ICHS is a 501(c)(3) and as such can accept charitable donations. An RMD from your retirement account can be made directly to us.

Members:

2025 has been a very interesting year! The goal was set to open the new Resort Exhibit by February. It was an lofty goal that couldn't possible be reached. Peggy Hagen stepped forward to paint the wall with a map from the 1930's. She included the board members houses on the map! The new kiosk is working out great. The newest board member Grant Riechart put together the information and it made it easier to search for the Resorts and historic places of Itasca County. Now it's a process to put all resorts up for people to see and read about. The grand opening for the resort exhibit will be held in May of 2026.

March was township annual meetings, I had the opportunity to attend the Harris and Arbo Township meetings. It is good to be able to speak and share what is happening here and for the next year.

April was not a good month for my health. I'm still going through some procedures, you know once you hit 65 it seems like things just fall apart! Not really, but it has been a challenge. It takes a long time to get over a cold....

Purse Bingo was so good this year! It was great to have a professional design and put up the curtains and display areas. Everyone commented on how beautiful everything was. The purse winners of course were excited. We now know that we need more tickets available to sell for the baskets!

Our annual meeting was well attended this year. We held it at the Woodland Bank meeting room. The Grand Rapids North Star Women again did the soup and bread for the meal. Thanks to all who helped prepare and serve the meal.

Our research assistant Lori Huber was not able to continue working her hours at ICHS in October. She will continue to volunteer when able. Family is important and that is her number one priority. Heather Porterfield was hired as the new research assistant in November. She is an excellent researcher and has already made an impression on everyone here! We are all looking forward to 2026 the year of the Semiquincentennial 250th celebration!

Lilah

Volunteer Hours 2025

January: 377.25

February: 375.5

March: 305

April: 359

May: 425.5

June: 408

July: 420.5

August: 378.25

September: 361.5

2025 COUNTIES : Itasca County

2025 CITIES: Grand Rapids

LaPrairie Bigfork Calumet Zemple Effie Marble Warba

2025 SUPPORTING TOWNSHIPS: Lone Pine Wirt Carpenter

Wabana Kinghurst Arbo Bowstring Feeley Blackberry Sago Harris

Splithand Bearville Wawina



New Escape Room

Welcome to the Holiday Extravaganza! You’ve stepped into a magical celebration where time and holidays have tangled together. Decorations are everywhere, lights flash and festive music can echo through the room. But

there’s a twist: the holiday magic has gone haywire, and you must restore balance by solving a puzzle in each seasonal section. Call and reserve your hour.....

“A generation which ignores history has no past – and no future.” -

Continued from front page...

Lead Blocker Award

The lead blocker is the unsung hero of any football team. They are the individuals who block for others, open holes, remove obstacles and selflessly pave the way for others to have success.

The Grand Rapids Area Football Association and Grand Rapids Football is proud to recognize community members who demonstrate the values of lead blockers that we work to instill in our youth-commitment, unity, love, compassion, perseverance and grit. This award is the highest honor bestowed from our program.

The Lead Blocker Award recognizes community members who are often the unsung heroes of our community. Those that give selflessly, creating opportunities for others to have success without seeking any credit. This award is given to community members who have, through altruistic actions, supported our local youth, working to make Grand Rapids and the Grand Rapids community a special place to live. These individuals have given of themselves to pave the way for the future success of our community; supporting, creating and sustaining opportunities that would otherwise be closed.

Four Lead Blocker Awards will be given out annually-one at each home football game.

You can help us save on postage by getting your newsletter emailed to you. Please send your email address to ichs@paulbunyan.net

2026

ICHS Board of Directors

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Vice President Leona Litchke
Treasurer Sue Kujala
Secretary Ginny Frahm
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 Leona Litchke Barb Adams
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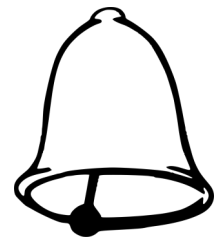
Volunteers
 Jean Koewler Anna Eells
 Duane Eells Scott Carter
 Steve Grosberg

Itasca County Historical Society
 201 North Pokegama Avenue
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744
www.itscahistorical.org



Itasca County Historical Society Presents

“Holiday Extravaganza” Escape Room



**Can you follow the clues and solve the
mystery before your hour is up?**

Itasca County Historical Society
 201 North Pokegama Avenue
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744
 218-326-64312
www.grescaperooms.com



Call 218-326-6431 to reserve your hour.
 Adults = \$22.00, 17 and under \$12.00
 Open daily 9 to 5 and Saturday 10-4.