



# PRINCETON WI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## FALL 2024

# NEWSLETTER



Left: PHS President Mike Goulet grills burgers during our Flea Market food booth fundraiser.

Right: Mary Hatfield, Carla Konen, and Susan Gorr paint trim for Owen Purvis to install in the Folklore Museum.

The last three months have been a busy and exciting time for us. In addition to all of the work needed in the new museum, we've been writing grants, holding fundraisers, hosting local speakers, and doing community outreach. We couldn't do it without your help! Thank you to our members, supporters, and volunteers!

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# THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING

It's history in the making! Every few years, Princeton seems to undergo a startling metamorphosis. Businesses are bought, sold, remodeled, and rebranded. As Bob Dylan once sang, "the wheel's still in spin," and this fall seems to be a particularly restless time in our fair city. If you'll forgive us this foray into gossip, we'll elaborate:

Matt Trotter (whose family once owned the Handicraft mukluk factory) has started a new non-profit arts group, and flew in a Seattle artist to paint a giant mural on the side of Twister (602 W. Water St.). It will feature Whooping cranes and scenes from Princeton history. Trotter and his partner(s) also recently purchased 501 W. Water St. (River Bank Dry Goods) and 511 W. Water St. (Pastimes), which are closing up. They already own Horseradish Kitchen. What will Mr. Trotter do with this mini empire? If his stylish Parlor Hotel is anything to go by, it will be dazzling.

The Handicraft factory building is up for sale, and so are 433 W. Water (once Joanne's Salon) and its next door neighbor, the vast Fox River Mercantile (previously the old hardware store, the theater, and Turner Hall). We also hear rumblings that the owners of the Princeton Garage (home of many groovy antiques) and Water St. Market (next to the library) are interested in retiring. Pat Bentley has already done so, and while we hate to have lost him, the new Central Wisconsin Pharmacy on highway 23/73 does look very sleek inside.

Meanwhile, residents here keep peering hopefully into the darkened windows of the former Pizza Factory and Blue Moon restaurants, hoping that this spring will bring new cuisine on the scene. We've already seen some progress in that direction from the new Field Blend Wines at 514 W. Water St, Griggys's Bar (which used to be Jim's), and Farm to Table, a deli/restaurant said to be opening soon at 200 S. Fulton Street (where Slug's Little Market and Jillian's Restaurant once served up treats).

Sakes alive! This old town is bucking like a bronco. Hold on!



The old Warnke building got a facelift too.



The new Central WI Pharmacy bought & remodeled the old Zuehl's building.

## GRANT GETTER GOULET GRINDS ON

Chris Goulet continues to work tirelessly at writing grant applications to support our efforts. As soon as the ink was dry on her submission to the Packer's Foundation (which we have very high hopes for), she applied for a Wisconsin Archeological Society grant to fund the construction of special display for our Native American stone tool collection. If successful, we'll get \$2,000 towards this project.

Chris has also applied for an Oberreich Foundation grant for \$5,000 to pay for two cabinets for our Service to Country exhibit. This area honors Princeton area residents who have served in our armed forces, and will contain artifacts like uniforms which need to be protected from dust, damaging UV light, and curious hands.

Last but certainly not least, Chris has been working closely with Signarama in Appleton to design signage for our museum and a new portable banner. If we are accepted into their matching program, we will only have to pay half the cost of these items.

Each of these grants takes many hours to write, and require bureaucratic hoop-jumping that would drive most people up a wall. Despite this, Chris keeps on going! Wish her luck as she works hard for PHS.



# PHASE II MUSEUM PROGRESS

We had a Work Day on Monday Sept. 23rd, with great results. The vast majority of the construction and painting has been completed. We are now working on creating the actual exhibits in each space. Our design team has been meeting regularly to decide which objects in our collection will go in each space, how to present facts, names, and timelines, and what we need to purchase in order to tell the story of Princeton.

Chris Frasier, Jim Frasier, Vickie Wielgosh, Chris Goulet, JoDee Megeath, Susan Gorr, Mary Lind, and Jerry Disterhaft are on the design team.



## WANTED:

- Sturdy shelving to hold artifacts, books, and supplies.
- Old yearbooks, school memorabilia, photos, letter jackets, sports equipment, etc from Princeton schools.
- **Info on your Century Farms (working farms that have been in the same family for 100 years or more).**
- Vintage and antique communications equipment, preferably from the Princeton area. Examples: switch board, **early crank-type wall-mounted phones**, a telegraph, early cell phones, etc.
- Vintage hunting and fishing photos and equipment used by Princeton area residents.
- Furs, traps, and Native American artifacts, such as dugout canoe (antique or replica).
- Artifacts, photos, or records from Princeton area churches.

## 2nd Graders Touch History

On Friday, Oct. 11th, all of Princeton's second graders (about 30 kids) descended upon the city to discover some of its many marvels. Their first stop was the Princeton Library, where they got a tour, some treats, and many book recommendations.

Due to time limits and ongoing construction, we were not able to give them a proper tour at our museum. However, PHS Museum Director Jim Frasier brought several artifacts to the library for students to see and touch, including a rifle used in the Civil War by Robert Action, a Victorian era stereoscope (3D card viewer), and lots of photos. One boy even got to try on his great-great grandfather's WWI helmet.

Impressing kids with how cool history can be is crucial in helping them learn to love, study, and preserve local history for years to come. Each child got to go home with a poster of historic Princeton photographs or a 1901 map of our city. On the back of these were PHS events and contact info aimed at enticing parents as well as kids to join our cause.



# Donations Gratefully Received

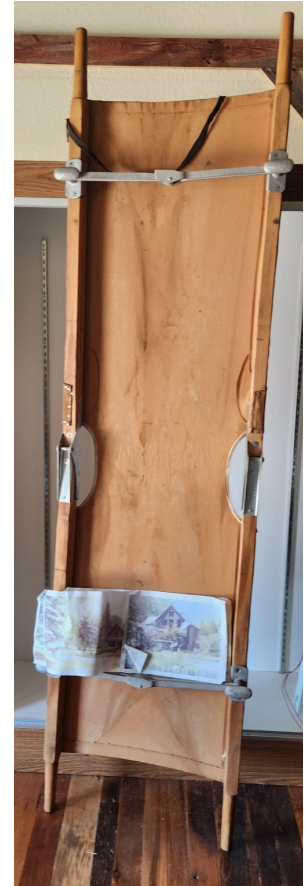
We are so appreciative of all those who contribute to our cause! Did we miss you here? Tell us!



Allen and Linda Schultz gave us several items from their farm, including a book of family history and photos, this 1859 tobacco grinder (above) and a mini display of hand-forged nails (right). The Folklore Museum will have a special exhibit celebrating “Century” farms, which are working farms that have remained in the same family for 100 years or more.



This collapsible stretcher (right) was donated by Julie Held. It came from 205 W. Water St, and Julie believes it belonged to Dr. Mueller.



Remember, Thrivent members with Choice Dollars can donate to the Princeton Historical Society!

## HallowWINE at the Museum



We love participating in the Princeton Chamber of Commerce’s events, especially the annual Halloween wine walk. Although these are not fundraisers for us, we love seeing new faces in the museum, and we hope to spark a love of local history in everyone who comes in our doors. On Saturday, October 12th, Chris Frasier, Vickie Wielgosh, and Susan Gorr served wine to over 60 guests, along with some home-made meatballs and other treats.

Talk about wining and dining our guests!

Of course, we also took the opportunity to give abbreviated museum tours, sell some raffle tickets and hand out some of our event flyers and newsletters. Construction won’t stop us from showing folks a great time!

# MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

Thank you to all who attended our last three meetings! We had a blast. Due to ongoing construction in the Folklore Museum, we have been meeting at the library. We recorded each of our guest speakers on video for your enjoyment. The videos will be posted on our YouTube channel (@princetonwihistoricalsocie5771) and our website, [princetonwihistoricalsociety.org](http://princetonwihistoricalsociety.org).

On July 15th, Mike Jacobi gave an excellent talk about his many contributions to Princeton's culture and economy, including his many contributions to the Chamber of Commerce and the Fox River Patriot newspaper he ran with Denis Kitchen.

Mr. Jacobi has been in charge of Princeton's famous flea market since 1975, and has many stories to tell about its highs and lows. One of his most memorable stories was about a sweeping police "bust" of T-shirt sellers who were selling designs they did not have the copyright for.

Dave Resop shared his wit and wisdom with us on August 19th. Dave has done just about everything in Princeton—run track, coached basketball for the Catholic school, cut hair at Tiff's Barbershop, served as the One Fund president (which supported many charities), acted in Princeton's Community Theater, showed off some fancy moves in pool leagues, and battled with the DNR to keep his groovy pontoon pad.

Nobody has kept us laughing while helping so many people like Dave has.

On September 16th, John Bednarek talked about life on the farm, including his early work with horses (before his family owned a tractor). He only spoke his family's native language, Polish, until age 4 or 5. He recalled growing up during WWII, many early Princeton landmarks, and his first job sorting onions. In addition to our live audience, he was broadcasting live to many appreciative family members via smartphone.



Join us at our monthly meetings to hear from more fascinating local speakers!  
We meet at the public library (424 W. Water St) at 6pm on the third Monday of each month, May - October.

## PHS CASH RAFFLE FUNDRAISER!



630-632 W. Water St.  
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[princetonwihistoricalsociety.org](http://princetonwihistoricalsociety.org)

**1st Prize \$5,000**  
**2nd Prize \$2,500 3rd Prize \$500**  
**Three Prizes of \$100 Five Prizes of \$50**

**ONLY 400 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD**

**TICKETS \$50**—Buy at the Princeton Library, at  
Stone House Museum on Saturdays 11-3  
or from a PHS board member any time!  
Call 920-295-9008

**Help us SELL!**  
**If you sell 10 tickets,**  
**you get one free!**

**Drawing held**  
**Sat. Nov. 30**



at the Christmas  
in Princeton  
craft fair at Princeton's  
school. *You need not  
be present to win.*

# FUNDRAISERS

Below:

P.H.S. was the beneficiary of the August 2024 Round-up at Detjen's Piggly Wiggly in Princeton. Alan Detjen presented Historical Society President Mike Goulet with a check for **\$1,993.70!** Thank you to Al and his generous customers!



Above:

P.H.S. did a flea market food booth fundraiser this year, raising **\$ 1246 !** Thank you to all those who worked, donated baked goods or meat, and ate lunch with us!



Above/Right: Chris Goulet sold desserts, 50/50 raffle tickets, and cash raffle tickets at the flea market as well.



Captain Mike Lehner of the yacht "Escapade" donated his Green Lake tour tips all summer long, gifting us an incredible **\$8,701 so far!**

His generosity is truly inspiring.

To top this off, Mashuda Contractors is matching his donation up to **\$10,000!**

Sondalle Law, COC, and Tank Technology Inc each ALSO matched his donation up to **\$1,500!**

We are blown away by this incredible level of commitment to Princeton's history.



On September 28th, BeerBellys bar hosted a Meat Raffle for our benefit.

Between the meat, raffle baskets, raffle tickets, and a cash donation from Dick Hebbe and Carol Siddall, we raised \$2091.76! Thank you to Beerbelly's for having us, and thank you to all who donated items for raffle baskets. Those generous folks include River Bank Dry Goods, Field Blend Wines, Christianos, Barb Bednarek, and several of our board members. Thank you as well to all our supporters who donated items for the raffle or attended the event. You're awesome!

# Upcoming Events

## Last Membership Meeting for 2024 Mon. Oct. 21st, at 6pm

Due to ongoing construction at the museum, we will again meet at the Princeton Public Library (424 W. Water St.).

**Our local guest speaker will be Tom Kuenn.** As usual, his remarks will be recorded for posterity and posted to our website and YouTube channel.

## Trick or Treat on Water Street Fri. Oct. 25th, 3:30-5pm

We've got fun games and great treats for all the little ghosts and goblins on the street outside of our museum buildings. Try the witch hat ring toss, monster face game, and more. Stop by and play! Donations of candy, stickers, and small toys would be very welcome in the days before this event.



## Christmas in Princeton



### Visit Santa at the Museum: Fri. Nov. 29th, 4-6pm

Kids and their families are invited to visit with Santa at the Folklore Museum during the first night of Christmas in Princeton! Kids can tell Santa what they want for Christmas, while adults check out our awesome holiday display, and of course our local history exhibits. At 6pm, the parade will go right by the museum on Water Street, so stay to see the lights and music!

### Mrs. Claus's Kitchen: Sat. Nov. 30th, 10am-3pm (or until sold out)

We will be cooking up great food during the Holiday Bounty Craft Fair again this year during our city's famous "Christmas in Princeton" events. Come to the Princeton Public School on Saturday, Nov. 30th for sloppy joes, pulled pork sandwiches, homemade desserts, and more! **We REALLY need volunteers to help at this event!** Please call us ASAP if you can help, either during set up on Friday night, or any time during Saturday: **920-295-9008**

### Cash Raffle Drawing Sat. Nov. 30th

Don't miss out on your chance to win BIG! Buy your tickets before today's drawing.

**1st Prize \$5,000, 2nd Prize \$2,500, 3rd Prize \$500, Three Prizes of \$100, Five Prizes of \$50**  
Tickets are \$50— only 400 will be sold!

# Become / Remain a Historical Society Member!

- \$2 Annual Student Membership (high school and lower grades)
- \$10 Annual Individual Membership
- \$15 Annual Family Membership (parents + children under age 18)
- \$100 Lifetime Individual Membership
- \$250 Lifetime Family Membership
- \$500 Charter Membership
- \$1,000 Donor Membership
- \$5,000 Patron Membership
- \$10,000 Founder Membership

**DON'T FORGET  
TO PAY YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
DUES**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cut out this form and send in your membership today! Make checks payable to the Princeton, WI Historical Society, and send them to PO Box 71, Princeton, WI 54968. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you!**

## Contact Us!

**princetonhistsociety@gmail.com**

630 West Water Street

PO Box 71

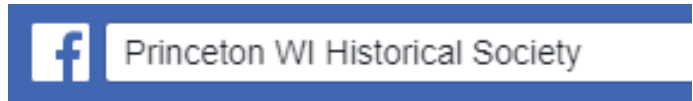
Princeton, Wisconsin 54968

**or call 920-295-9008**

Visit our website

**princetonwihistoricalsociety.org**

Don't Forget to "Like" Us on Facebook!



## VISIT OUR GIFT SHOP



Coasters, pens, USB chargers, cheese boards, T-shirts, tumblers, beer and wine glasses, and MORE!

If we're closed, call 920-295-9008 and we'll let you in!

**8X10" prints of historic Princeton photos are only \$5.00**

## Volunteers Wanted

### **WE NEED YOU!**

Please call 920-295-9008 for info on volunteering to staff our museums, help with raffles and food booth fundraisers, construction, and more!