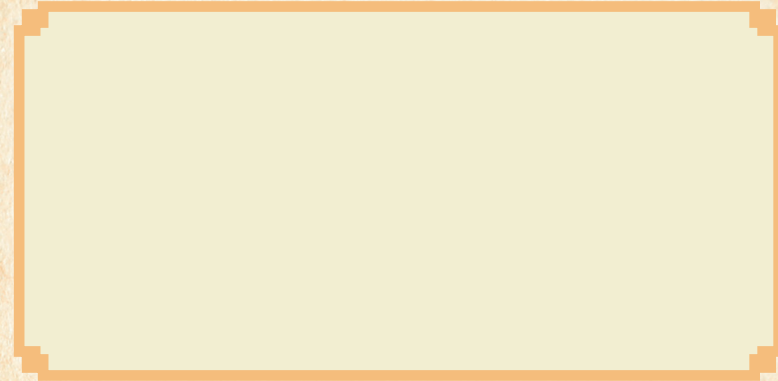




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Stoughton Historical Society Newsletter

Winter / Spring 2023

The Armory

Built by the WPA workers in 1941, this poured concrete and steel structure still stands as one of Stoughton's strongest and fire proof buildings. Initially, the armory provided adequate housing for the area's national guard and also included a rifle range in the basement.



The gymnasium, located on the north side of the building, is around 144 feet in length and 141 feet in width. The basement under the gym houses showers, locker rooms and toilets. For over 80 years, these buildings have served the community and School District with a huge array of functions. A truly used community resource.



In November 2022, two referendum questions were added to the election ballot about the fate of these two buildings. The vote was almost a two to one by residents to demolish the structures and rework the River Bluff campus.

Representatives from the Stoughton Historical Society, Landmark's Commission and RDA Committee requested a meeting with the Stoughton Area School District Administration to discuss ideas for some sort of permanent memorial to be part of the newly redesigned River Bluff campus. Several meetings have taken place with all agreeing on the importance of permanently recording the ever-changing "Central Campus".

We will continue to report on this as plans develop.

Upcoming Events

April 4, 2023: General Meeting at Sons of Norway Lodge-6:30. Guest speaker: Steve Fortney "Hans Christian Heg - Civil War Hero"

April 15- 9:00 a.m. Spring Clean at the museum.

June 14: "Raise the Flag" fundraiser. Call Nancy, if willing to help at 873-1943.

Possible 2023 shows. "Christmas in July" and/or "Fading Farms"

Senior Tour

The Senior Center tour was a fun fall event. Docent's Bonnie Rae, Dean Hanson, Patti Boelsing and Chris Milligan-Ciha gave attendees a tour of our fabulous museum. All enjoyed this day.



Stoughton Historical Society
Stoughton, WI 53589

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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED THIS SEASON.
WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

Stoughton's 175th Celebration

Some say it takes a village to raise a child. Well, it took a large group made up of Stoughton Historical Society, Son's of Norway, Chamber, City of Stoughton, Village Players, Livsreise, W. S. T. O. and more volunteers to participate in the year long planning of Stoughton's 175th birthday celebration.

For this article, we will focus on our Stoughton Historical Society's participation, but want to thank all who participated and/or attended any of the events.

Our S.H.S. 2022 slogan was "We not only save and protect history, we promote and have fun with it" and that we did!



April 5, 2022 celebrated the 175 birthday party at the Sons of Norway Lodge with speaker Todd Hubing.

Pioneer Day

S.H.S. gets ready for the June 25 Pioneer Day. The pioneer house featured Luke Stoughton's family members, historic walking tours and fund raising for the 175th.



Whispers Mystery on Main

"Whispers Mystery on Main" was a light-hearted September 10 event. The mystery setting took place during Stoughton's Centennial of 1947.



Private investigators and visitors gather in front of the Heritage Center to help solve the mystery.



Private investigators from the S.H.S. and Stoughton Village Players practice for the murder of "Shorty Johnson".



The mystery was somewhat historical but mostly fictitious mystery. It was lots of fun!

1858 First Service

Guests are informed about the Universalist religion and 1858 hymns are performed by Stoughton Chamber Singer volunteers.



Visitors learn about how the Universalist church was built and how it became the home of the Stoughton Historical Society Museum.



Recreating the "First Service" volunteers.

Thank you all for helping make 2022 a success.

Fall Vendor Sale

Patti Boelsing represents the Stoughton Historical Society at the Son's of Norway fall vendors sale.



Fall Cleanup

Fall clean up went smoothly. Thanks all who helped.



Linda Gullickson

Meet Linda Gullickson who has served on the SHS board as co-secretary for years. Linda also is our Facebook coordinator who continually updates our account with not only history pictures but upcoming events. Thank you Linda for your commitment to the Stoughton Historical Society.



Check out our web page: www.stoughtonhistoricalsociety.org for items for sale. We have books, t-shirts, notecards and more.