



We'd love to hear from you!

Here's how you can reach us:

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MARCH 2021

Almost a year has passed since the COVID-19 pandemic reached us and caused massive changes to all aspects of our lives. When the Board met at the Fitchburg Library on February 1, 2020, we had no idea that it would be the last time we would meet in person for more than a year. We've continued to meet via Zoom, and in conjunction with Fitchburg's FACTv staff, our annual meeting and program also will be web-based. And even though we can't access our office or archives at the Fitchburg Library, we continue to share content through our website and Facebook page. We welcome your feedback and suggestions on other ways that we may be able to connect with our members and others interested in Fitchburg.

SUPPORT LOCAL HISTORY: JOIN THE FITCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Fitchburg Historical Society relies primarily on membership dues to finance its activities, including the website and programs. For a nominal amount, \$10 individual, \$12 family, or \$50 business, you can support our efforts to document and preserve Fitchburg's rich history. Our membership year runs from April 1 – March 31. As a member, you have the right to vote in Board elections, participate in Society business decisions such as by law revisions. Download the membership form from our website at <https://fitchburghistory.org/registration-form/>, or send your payment, along with your name, address, telephone number, email address, and membership level to this address:

FITCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY, c/o Roger Tesch, 3417 Brighton Pl, Fitchburg WI 53713-2842

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM APRIL 25, 2021

The Society's annual meeting and board election will be held Sunday, April 25, at 1:30 via Zoom. We are excited that Melanie Herzog, professor of art history at Edgewood College, will be joining us. She will speak on the topic "Ida Wyman, acclaimed photographer of everyday life," with a question-and-answer session following. Ms. Wyman lived much of her life in New York, and became a Fitchburg resident in her later years. She is best known for her photographs of New York street life, and her work in Life magazine.

The program and meeting are free and open to the public. Registration will open on April 1. The registration form will be posted on the Fitchburg Historical Society's website, www.fitchburghistory.org, on the city's website, and through FACTv. Registrants will receive a link to Zoom event after registration is complete. The business meeting and board member election will be held after the program. We encourage you to share this information with others who have an interest in Ms. Wyman's work or photography. When the Fitchburg library reopens to the public, check out the display case on the second floor that highlights her work.



WEBSITE DEEP DIVE: VIDEO PRESENTATIONS

The Society's website is home to a wealth of information about Fitchburg's past and present. The website is maintained solely by volunteers. In this newsletter, we're highlighting the "Video Presentations" page, www.fitchburghistory.org/video-presentations/. This page contains links to dozens of videos of talks presented at Historical Society meetings, and interviews conducted by FACTv. The talks include topics that are primarily related to Fitchburg, such as "Irish Settlers in Old Fitchburg," as well as others of broader interest, such as "Ethnic Rural Architecture in Wisconsin."

The FACTv videos, coordinated by Board member Catherine Schneider, are short interviews (15 minutes or so) on an issue or item specifically related to Fitchburg. They air on FACTv, Fitchburg's community television station, and are made available to the Society to post on its YouTube channel. Recent interviews have focused on COVID and how it has affected Fitchburg, including Pete Gunderson, owner of Gunderson Funeral Homes, and Aaron Richardson, Mayor of Fitchburg. Examples of other topics are the history of schools in Fitchburg, Fitchburg agribusiness, and how Fitchburg became a city.



You can access the videos from our YouTube channel, www.tinyurl.com/fhsyoutube, or use the links to individual interviews and presentations on our Video Presentations webpage, www.fitchburghistory.org/video-presentations/.

Take time to check out some of these videos and let us know what you think, by sending an email to woodedarchives@gmail.com, or drop us a note at 5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg WI 53711.

BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

An election to fill four three-year Board member seats will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting. Board meetings are generally held the first Saturday morning of every other month, February through December, at the Fitchburg Library or Zoom. Board members whose terms are expiring are: Rich Eggleston, Eileen Kellor, Catherine Schneider, and Allan Tereba. If you are interested in becoming a Board member, send an email by April 18 to woodedarchives@gmail.com to be placed on the ballot.

EXPLORING FITCHBURG: BIKE AND MULTI-USE PATHS

Many residents of Fitchburg and the area take advantage of the bike and multi-use paths that run through the city. Whether they bike, jog, or walk on the paths, they may wonder how the paths came about, and the stories behind them. An article that provides some of this information for the regional trails and paths, and many of the important local paths, is available on the Society's website, www.fitchburghistory.org/bike-trails-and-paths. Many thanks to Board member Tom Hovel, for preparing this information.

