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## APRIL 2022

This year, Mother Nature has been playing April Fool's Day tricks all month, sending us cold, blustery days and even snow, instead of much awaited warmer temps and spring blossoms. With garden cleanup and yard work delayed, some of us may be looking for new indoor activities. This newsletter offers some suggestions – read on!

## 2022 ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM APRIL 24 AT PROMEGA

We are excited to hold our first in person event in more than two years! This year's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, April 24, at 1:30 p.m., at the Promega BioPharmaceutical Technology Center, 5445 E. Cheryl Parkway, in Fitchburg. Following a brief meeting and board election, Penny Patterson, Vice President of Corporate Affairs, will present "Promega: A Company on the Move During COVID," and Promega's international scope in the fight against COVID. A tour of the building will be offered after the presentation. The meeting and program are open to the public.



Current board members Mike Croft, Tom Hovel, Dianne Reynolds, and Roger Tesch are up for reelection. In addition, Shawn Pfaff and Ann White, who filled vacant board positions, must be confirmed. We encourage you to share this special opportunity to learn more about one of Fitchburg's businesses with a global reach.

## MEMORIES OF A FITCHBURG TRANSPLANT

Last year, Joyce Snell, a former Fitchburg resident, sent us a thoughtful, handwritten memory of how her family came to Fitchburg, ending with "You can now understand why I love keeping in touch with Fitchburg and watching it grow into a city." Here's an excerpt:



*In the winter of 1946 Fitchburg was not a city. It was a quiet farming community south of Madison. That winter my dad, Edgar Guetzke, came home from work and told my mother, Viola, "I bought a farm today." He had sold our home on Syene Road for \$8000 to purchase the Percy Tusler farm on Fish Hatchery Road for \$8000. The Tusler farm was the typical farm of that era. The kitchen was very small but it had running water. There was a summer kitchen near the kitchen. There was a big black pot-bellied stove (with isinglass windows) in the dining room and a space heater in the living room. There were registers in the ceiling of the first floor allowing the first floor heat to rise through the register in the floor of the second floor. There was no bathroom but a nice outhouse behind the house.*

Her transcribed memory will be posted on the Society's website, and includes the answer to the question "what's on that property today?"

Almost all the Board members are Fitchburg transplants or have another connection to Fitchburg that motivated them to become a Board member. Check out their bios and why they are committed to preserving Fitchburg history <https://fitchburghistory.org/about/>

## SHARE YOUR FITCHBURG STORY

As stated on our website, “history is yesterday, today and tomorrow.” Are you a current or former Fitchburg resident? Do you have family ties, such as a grandparent or uncle? Do you work in Fitchburg? If your answer is “yes” to any of those questions, or you have some other connection to Fitchburg, please consider sharing your story. It doesn’t have to be long, and it doesn’t have to be anything “special” – because every story is special in its own way and is part of Fitchburg’s history.



As the excerpt from Joyce Snell’s memories of Fitchburg shows, a simple memory can capture rich historical information. Her description of the family’s house, and especially kitchen, is probably an accurate description of many rural homes in the 1940s. An important part of the Society’s mission is to document and preserve history. Capturing and sharing more current content will help our newer “transplants” become part of the Fitchburg community, as well as its history. Sharing your story helps us achieve those goals. (Photos are welcome as well.) You can email your memory to us at [woodarchives@gmail.com](mailto:woodarchives@gmail.com), or mail it to Fitchburg Historical Society, c/o Fitchburg Public Library, 5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711.

The next time your outdoor plans are thwarted by one of Mother Nature’s April Fool’s tricks, consider spending some time strolling through our website for an idea of the range of information it includes, and that we would welcome from you. A great starting point are the options under the “People” tab, with topics such as “Family Histories,” “Organizations,” and “Obituaries.” Access them from the homepage, <https://fitchburghistory.org/>

## SUPPORT LOCAL HISTORY: BECOME A MEMBER OR VOLUNTEER

The Fitchburg Historical Society relies primarily on membership dues to finance our activities, including the website and programs. You can help support our activities by becoming a member. 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 and 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  
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**By the time our next newsletter arrives, summer should have arrived and stuck around. So we’ll end on a positive note, with an image from Stoneman’s Famous Sweet Corn, a popular Fitchburg stop in midsummer.**

