



Fitchburg Historical Society
 5530 Lacy Road
 Fitchburg, WI 53711
 608-729-1783
woodedarchives@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 2024

It's been a few months – an entire season (fall) and part of winter – since our last newsletter. Somehow, the shorter days seem to make the months go by more quickly and sometimes the gap between newsletters gets larger than intended. Despite the irregular publication of the newsletter, our website, fitchburghistory.org, is updated frequently throughout the year with new or revised content. If you're not already on the list to receive notice of new website content, just email us at woodedarchives@gmail.com and request to be added. Events and news items are also shared on our Facebook page.

Speaking of our website, earlier this year we were given the opportunity to provide an overview of the website to the City Council. Allan Tereba, President, and Eileen Kellor, Secretary, provided a guided tour to the website. The presentation is a great way to become familiar with the website and the wealth of information it contains. Check it out here https://youtu.be/rwz_gJvjM_4?feature=shared



APRIL ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM TO EXPLORE FITCHBURG'S RICH ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

**Sunday, April 14, 1:30 pm, Fitchburg Public Library
 5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg WI**

Come learn about the rich archaeological record that provides insight into people living here from at least the end of the last ice age. We are excited to announce Elizabeth Leith, Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, and Luther J. Leith, museum Archaeology Program, Wisconsin Historical Society as the presenters for our spring program. This presentation will discuss the deep history of the greater Fitchburg area from the earliest evidence of occupation to the period of European and American immigration into the area. They will discuss the archaeological evidence related to the different lifeways practiced, as well as some of the key technological innovations which allowed the transition from a mobile to a sedentary lifestyle.

A brief business meeting will precede the program.

SOCIETY HONORED WITH 2023 MAYOR'S AWARD



At the November 28, City Council meeting, Mayor Julia Arata-Fratta honored and recognized Peg Guse (staff member), Ed Kinney (community member), Oak Bank (business/organization) and the Fitchburg Historical Society (nonprofit organization). Mayor Arata-Fratta is recognizing these recipients for their community leadership, inspiring service to the community, setting an example for others and their commitment to and significant impact on Fitchburg. The FACTv video of the Mayoral Awards ceremony is available at <https://youtu.be/YwuSPO5dp6k?feature=shared>

We are honored to be the first recipient in the new nonprofit classification. We want to thank all the members of the FHS and the FHS Board of Directors, as well as members of the community who support our efforts.

Featured at right at the City Council meeting are Fitchburg Historical Society Board members and City Council members.



THE JOURNEY TO ESTABLISH FITCHBURG'S PUBLIC LIBRARY



Fitchburg's library may seem to be a mainstay of the city, providing a wide array of books, publications, activities, meeting and study space, and other resources to residents. But the path to establish the library was not a simple or easy one. Four recent "Talking Fitchburg" interviews by Board Vice-President Catherine Schneider will get you up to speed on the challenges to approving, building, and operating the Library that is now firmly established. The interviews are available from this page of our website [Video Presentations | Fitchburg Historical Society \(fitchburghistory.org\)](https://fitchburghistory.org)

- November 30, 2023: Planning the Fitchburg Library, Barbara Matthews
- December 20, 2023: Managing the Fitchburg Library, Wendy Rawson
- February 2, 2024: Planning for the Fitchburg Library, Marykay Zimbrick
- February 21, 2024: Financing the Fitchburg Library, Phil Sveum

FALL PROGRAM FEATURED THE SWAN CREEK SEWING CIRCLE

About 30 people attended our fall program on October 15, 2023, about the Swan Creek Sewing Circle. This 108 year old woman's group was founded with the purpose of "neighborliness." It provided a way to connect a group of rural women at a time when travel and communication options were limited. In addition to the speaker, several members of the Sewing Circle attended and shared insights about their experience in the group. Historical items from the Circle's 108 year history, including the original minutes from the initial meeting on December 1, 1915, were shared. The Circle provided cake and a long-time tradition, individual nut cups. The program can be viewed on our YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/2Qorc6RW1Dw?feature=shared>

SUPPORT OUR WORK: BECOME A MEMBER!

Join Today

Our work may be carried out by volunteers, but we do have expenses, including website and speakers. We don't have a nifty t-shirt or tote bag to offer, but we hope that won't deter you from joining. Individual membership is \$10/year, family \$12/year, and business/profession, \$50. Fill out the membership form on our website at <https://tinyurl.com/4rf8vkh9> or send your name, address, email address, membership level and check payable to Fitchburg Historical Society, to Roger Tesch, 3417 Brighton Place, Fitchburg, WI 53713-2842. We'd be happy to renew your membership or begin a new one at our spring program on April 14 (see article above for program details).