

Fall 2025

GRANDVIEWS

Nick Engelbert's Grandview Newsletter

7351 WI-39, Hollandale WI 53544

Paul Bunyan Restoration

Next to the statues of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves was once a towering 10ft tall statue of Paul Bunyan. His plaque read "Paul Bunyan enjoying himself in Wisconsin Fairyland". He was a favorite of many visitors-but Paul was so tall that high winds toppled him to the ground. Nick Englebert took it as an opportunity for some creative regeneration and fun and had his grandchildren smash the fallen giant to pieces. Since then, remnants of Paul Bunyan are part of an interpretive exhibit inside the house that include his axe, his belt buckle and a Great Seal of Wisconsin. Over the years the Grandview Board has worked together to restore the Swiss Patriot, Uncle Sam, and Snow White tableaux. Now, with the help of trained conservators, it's time for our folk hero to make his big comeback!



Paul Bunyan's feet as they look today



Nick with Paul Bunyan



Thanks for another great season!



Kiosk Mosaic Project

This kiosk, a much needed functional asset to the Grandview grounds, will serve a greater purpose. Our kiosk will offer shelter and provide a place for brochures and will be embellished with mosaic tiles telling the Engelbert story. Clay tiles made by area students will be placed into designs that are created by nationally recognized mosaic artist Josh Winer. Like the “Mud the Shed” project, this effort will draw in students and community members to create mosaics through collaboration with Josh to construct six panels to be placed into the kiosk in April 2026.



We are honored to see another generation of young people get excited to learn more about the immigrants who settled the land around Hollandale, especially our beloved Engelbert Family. This project is made possible thanks to support from Kohler Foundation, Wisconsin Arts Board, Blanchardville Hollandale Area Fund, and United Fund of Iowa County.

Wood Fired Kiln Shed

The wood kiln just got a large addition to the roof. The roof extension protects the bricks used on the wood kiln. The new roof also adds a significant amount of sheltered space around the existing wood kiln. The wood kiln is already a popular draw to Grandview with group firings being led by artist and retired teacher Kathy King. The roofs new addition adds over 1000sq ft of sheltered useable space to Grandview! This shelter will not only give Grandview more room to store and dry the wood used to fire the kiln, but also there is an opportunity to have classes within this new covered area. With the roof addition, Grandview now has the facilities to expand on our alternative kiln firing classes. The new roof also changes the layout of the yard, which opens up more space that can be utilized. The construction work was carried out by the craftsmen Domonic Pugliell's LLC called Woodman Building company. Grandview also hired Cody James with James Welding to finish welding the metal supports around the woodfire kilns chimney.





Grandview After School

I wish I kept track of how often a parent has told me how much their child enjoys the classes at after school art. Credit goes to a strong team of artists, teachers, volunteers and administration looking out for our youth in the Pecatonica Elementary School.

Students learn about artists and how their art relates to each of us, including connecting creativity to our local artist and creator of Grandview, Nick Engelbert. After school classes are offered in the fall and spring and are free of charge. Thanks United Fund of Iowa County and Ruth DeYoung Kohler.



Summer Academy



This year 280 people attended our 18 classes offered. Classes ranged from Shibori tie dye, stained glass, mosaics, ceramic gargoyles, happy little clay houses to plein air painting, and a first this year a day of sewing! The days were filled with laughter and creativity at a site that seems to inspire both.

We can't wait until next summer when we get to do it all over again!





Clay Camps

Youth

This year, once again, 4th-8th grade students filled classes for the week long clay camp. Tiffany Anderson and daughter Aries, supplied hours of fun projects and great cool off with water games in the Grandview yard. Evy Thuli introduced Aztec Sun Faces with a personal touch for hanging on the wall and Ash Kyrie brought new creative ideas to making 9" tall gargoyles for the yard. Sally Schaller had fun coming back as Pec students art teacher to teach how to make Happy Clay Houses. On the last day the kiln fired art was painted with bright acrylic colors then wrapped up and sent home. Everyone went home with a smile and arms full of impressive work.



Adult

Kathy King was hard at work all season between Adult Clay Camp and Ladies Clay Camp. Both fired the wood kiln to success! The Adult Clay Camp took place over two weekends - the first to learn different skills of creating with clay, the second to experience a wood kiln firing. At Ladies Camp, a familiar group of potters come together to commune with clay. Each bring their own skills and perspective to share. Ruth Vander Horck demonstrated the process of mixing pottery plaster into molds.

Katie Rose used that technique to make a plaster slab to reclaim (recycle) clay. Cindy Reitzi shared how glass can really enhance the look and feel of the finished piece. All clay campers left with a haul of finished pieces, and learned along the way!



Pizzapalooza!

A fantastic summer season at Grandview was capped off in September with a festive pizza party. Friends and neighbors of Grandview were welcomed to enjoy a sunny evening exploring the grounds and eating pizza cooked in our wood fired pizza oven. The delicious pies were created and baked to perfection by Ash Kyrie and Sue Brunett, and visitors were able to dine at our two new picnic tables. Conversations recounted the achievements of this year and expressed excitement for what's to come in 2026. Thanks to all who attended! The Grandview board was honored to continue the legacy of hospitality that was so important to Nick and Katherine.



Shed Plaque

The storage shed outside the historic grounds was built by a Wisconsin Conservation Corps crew and local tradespeople with Kohler Foundation funding. As we've restored Nick's missing artwork in the yard, we've replaced the descriptive plaques and this poor shed was feeling neglected. It wanted a plaque too. So we've fixed that and the new plaque commemorates Katie Binning, Grandview volunteer who passed away at an untimely young age. We miss her.



*Shed construction crew, 2004.
Photo by Rick Rolfsmeyer.*



Special thanks to:

Blanchardville Hollandale Area Fund
Blue Ribbon 4H youth for beautiful flowers
United Fund of Iowa County
Kohler Foundation
Ruth Arts
BHAF
WAB



**Welcome New
Board Members:
*Wren & Mindy***



Cheers till next year!

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