

NORWALK ARTS CENTER

Big Changes On Norwalk Main Street

The main street of Norwalk, Ohio, looks a little different these days. The iconic Schine's Norwalk Theater is getting a facelift! The neon "NORWALK" signs that have been perched atop the marquee since 1941 were removed in late April. The temporary removal is part of the restoration of the former movie house to become the future home of Norwalk Arts Center (NAC).

"We are blessed to have many community members and business partners assisting in the process. The center

will be for the community when it is finished," said NAC Co-founder, Vanessa Cook. The organization, founded in 2018, aims to provide quality arts programming and entertainment in Huron County. Currently they are providing several arts programs in the community through outreach programs in satellite locations.

"The city, county and state have shown great support for this endeavor. We are truly humbled," continued Cook. Partial funding for the project was made possible by the State of Ohio Cultural Facilities Grant. Phase One of the project included complete tear off and replacement of the main roof, ceiling removal, and environmental hazard remediation.

The final part of Phase One is repairing and restoring the original marquee. As an anchor for the east end of Main Street, the illuminated marquee will welcome visitors to the small rural community in north central Ohio. The signs will get refaced and

upgraded with energy efficient LED lighting that replicates the neon and incandescent bulbs. After that the "NORWALK" signs will be returned to their original location.



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Youth Arts Education Programs are Enriched by Guest Artists

NAC's Arts Education Committee is always diligently working to develop programming for all ages and abilities. Now, guest artists are enriching those experiences for our participants.

Arts Explorers allows children in grades 1 through 4 to sample the four facets of the arts—visual art, music, dance, and theatre—around a fun and engaging theme. At the “Rock n’ Role” session in March, Mary Pressley shared her love of rock painting with participants. And singer/songwriter Scott Brutsche explained the history of rock music, allowing the students to try different instruments as they learned the different sounds from each era.



At the upcoming “Puppet Palooza” session on May 21, Amy Ellis will share many aspects of puppetry from creation to production.

The ART Club (Arts Resources for Teens) is a program for teens in grades 9 through 12. At an early spring Saturday meeting, club members learned the art of henna from Eve London. Participants learned about the history of henna and were able to create beautiful henna art on themselves and each other.



Arts Education Chairperson Tiina Ruffing invites anyone interested in sharing their love for the arts with children to contact her at NACArtsExplorers@gmail.com.

NACTors 2022 season continues with *Last Dance of Dr. Disco*.

It's whodunnit time again! Please join the disco dancing at Studio 57, where Dr. Disco has hatched a nefarious plot to take over the world by putting subliminal messages into disco music. His nurse, Ilsa Hump, is in on the scheme, but his whiny daughter Margie and the disco king, Tony Menudo, are clueless. It will take a British secret agent to foil the evil plot. It's James Bond meets Saturday Night Fever with a little Austin Powers thrown in! A 1970's costume contest will be held for those in attendance, and prizes will be awarded. The murder mystery will include dinner, raffle baskets, wine pull and a cash bar will be available. For ticket sale info, go to Norwalkartscenter.org. Individual tickets as well as tables will be available, early discount tickets available until July 11th. Don't miss this epic night of disco and fun. The show will be Aug 12-13, 2022 at Milestone Event Center.



OPEN AUDITIONS: We are looking for local talent! Do you have acting experience? Do you want to time travel to the 1970's? Can you dig it? Open auditions to be cast in our upcoming murder mystery dinner theater. Actors 18 and older will be held on May 27- 28, 6 pm @ 22 East Main Street, Norwalk. Please prepare a monologue that shows your personality and acting style. We will also do cold script readings from the show. Reserve your audition time at NorwalkArtsCenter.org

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Community Partnerships Help Everyone

Norwalk Arts Center has been blessed with a new group of volunteers. For the past six months, the staff & clients of CLI (Community, Life & Innovation) have been assisting Norwalk Arts Center with the folding, labeling and sorting of the NAC quarterly newsletter. They also distribute flyers of current events being held by NAC to local business in the downtown area. "It's a great partnership and affords both organizations the opportunity to continue their missions" said Dina Lukasko, NAC Board President.



CLI's primary mission is to increase the earnings, status and overall quality of life for people with developmental disabilities. CLI feels strongly that the non-profit can't attain its first mission point without also working to increase the earnings and status for the people who provide direct staffing support to people with disabilities. Mandated by the state of Ohio, CLI must help individuals with DD connect to their community in meaningful ways, so supporting people as they volunteer or otherwise participate in community functions is a core part of this mandate.

John Schwartz, CLI's CEO, said, "CLI's staff & clients are really excited to work with the Norwalk Arts Center. We believe that individual artistic expression has potential to help people to express themselves-- and to help others better understand. One of CLI's core mission is to work to improve our local communities and we also believe that a community that supports the arts is a healthier, happier community than one that does not."

"What happened to the Auction?"

Is the second most popular question we have received after "What's going on with the marquee?". We have a tremendous lineup of donated baskets from our community, and we want to make sure we have a large audience to bid on these one-of-a-kind items. When we originally planned the auction day, we were envisioning groups of community members coming together and having a wonderful afternoon virtually. We received feedback that after these past two years, you are itching for in-person events. So, we decided to postpone our auction a few months and host it at the *Last Dance of Dr Disco* murder

mystery in August! You can still buy tickets virtually if you cannot attend on August 12 or 13. Basket winners will be drawn at the Saturday show, and our live auction items will be auctioned off on both nights. Check out our baskets available for winning, and one-of-a-kind theater items for auction at NorwalkArtsCenter.org. We look forward to seeing you all in August!



SPOTLIGHT: Jeffery Cook has been involved in the arts since his youth. His family participated in family singing competitions with Grange. He was part of the school musicals and show choir. He was the scene shop foreman at Baldwin Wallace College for two years and worked with Berea Summer Theatre as a set builder.

He has been onstage and behind the scenes for various productions in the community. Some of his favorites include *Les Miserables*, *Shrek*, and *Guys and Dolls*. He currently is a cantor at St. Paul and enjoys singing with the choir and the "5" band. His love of the arts has led him to his VP position on the NAC board. Jeff is excited to be a part of the wonderful journey of saving and reviving the Norwalk Theatre for the future home of NAC.



Save the Dates:

Arts Explorers (Gr 1-4) May 21, Oct 1, Dec 3, 2022.

Each session is from 10-2pm

A.R.T. Club Meetings (Gr 9-12) Saturday June 18, 2022
from 10 am-2 pm

Artist's Evolution Speaker Series: Third Weds. of each month.

RibFest at Miller's May 28, 2022 11-5 pm

NAC Teen Theatre: 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee June 10-12, 2022

Theater Summer Camp (Gr 2-6) June 13-17, 2022
(Gr 7-12) June 20-24, 2022 Limited spots so register now!

NACtors: Open Auditions (5/27-28) Last Dance of Dr. Disco Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre open to actors 18+ Show Aug 13 & 14, 2022

Matilda Jr (Gr 2-8) Weekly classes begin Aug 29 for 11 weeks with performances Nov 18-20, 2022

Our generous benefactors:



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our restoration committee is looking for interior pictures of the Norwalk Theater from days gone by from any decade! If you have any pictures, please share them with us!

Email: NorwalkArtsCenter@gmail.com

Or drop them in the mail. Photos mailed will be returned by request only.

Visit our webpage for more information about all our programs and to register! NorwalkArtsCenter.org

Norwalk Arts Center

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It is the mission of Norwalk Arts Center to
celebrate and increase
advocacy for the arts in North Central Ohio by
providing education, experiences and
environments for artistic growth.

Creating Art. Building Community.