

Business

Half a century and still growing

Pumpkin Patch Preschool hosting ribbon cutting event June 3

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Managing editor

As anyone with a green thumb can tell you, nothing grows quite like a pumpkin patch.

It turns out to be true with Pumpkin Patch Preschool, and staff can attest, as they're getting ready to celebrate 50 years in Stoughton next weekend, and host a proper public welcome to their "new" facility that opened during the middle of the COVID pandemic. The event is set for noon, Saturday, June 3 at the preschool, located at 1940 Jackson St. in Stoughton.

Molly Daniels, president of the board at the preschool, told the Hub last week the idea for a half-century celebration came up at a recent board

meeting when members realized it was coming up on that historic milestone. They decided to pair it up with an official grand opening for their facility that opened up in spring of 2020, during the COVID shutdown.

"We felt like we really didn't get to properly celebrate that by having the community come and see the building and have a proper ribbon cutting and a dedication of the school and acknowledgement of all the hard work it took to own the property and build the school," she said. "A lot of acknowledgement to the previous board members who did all that work."

Pumpkin Patch had been working with the Stoughton Area School District for several years to provide care at district schools, but when those closed down during the pandemic, it prompted the daycare to find a permanent home, said board member Sara Simon.

"COVID kind of helped us with that because school

IF YOU GO

What: Pumpkin Patch Preschool 50th anniversary and ribbon cutting

When: Noon, Saturday June 3

Where: Pumpkin Patch Preschool, 1940 Jackson St., Stoughton

Info: Call 608-873-3380

was shut down for those two months, April and May, which allowed us to basically move out of the school at that time, because kids were not coming to school," she said. "But then no one really got to see our school, because when school came back in session in fall, it was, 'You can't come in the school any more, you can't visit their classroom.'"

"We're finally glad we can invite the public in to



Photo submitted

Pumpkin Patch Preschool is hosting a public welcome event on Saturday, June 3, celebrating 50 years in Stoughton. Here, 3K lead teacher Karen Anderson works with students recently.

see what we've built and what we've done as a parent-run cooperative school for the last 50 years, and what it's finally built up to be."

Being able to finally purchase their own property was a "huge feat" for the organization, which is a parent-run, non-profit cooperative, Simon said.

"We're trying to be fair to our customers in what we're charging them and give them the quality education that we believe our kids should have," she said. "And with that, to be able to finally purchase a property, call it our own, have our name on it, it's just amazing that we've been able to do that."

Daniels credited the hard work and dedication of parents and community members over the past 50 years.

"We get community donations and other businesses help us and are willing to donate things for us to help our teachers," she explained. "Without the community, we wouldn't have been able to do this, without caring parents of their children and wanting to care for their education, and the type of school they're going to. Being a small community,

Stoughton's always done a really good job of really caring for their own and nurturing their own."

Volunteer-driven

The preschool's board of directors is 100 percent volunteer parents. Simon said the board manages the oversight of how the school functions, in conjunction with the director.

"We're unique in that we're managed by parents, instead of paid employees," she said. "When Pumpkin Patch started, it was organized by a group of parents, and that's how it became the parent co-op. We rely on parent volunteers to help us to do things, whether that's help coordinate a fundraiser, donate supplies, come in and read to the children, run to get milk for the children, or help with other activities that we hold. It helps us keep the cost down and run the school."

"Parents are still seeking out that small preschool with a parent cooperative mindset where parents can be really involved and have input in how the school runs."

And many people - parents and community members - have answered the

call to help prepare for the preschool's grand opening celebration on June 3.

"It's wonderful when you're just asking around, and it's 'my granddaughter or grandson goes to that school, sure I'll help out,'" Simon said. "You meet people in the community and they're, 'Oh yeah, I went to Pumpkin Patch when I was a kid.' It's really great to see that community depth that we have an impact on, that now 50 years later there are kids that have gone to the school that are 30, 40, 50 years old, and they have a grandchild that goes to that school. That's pretty cool to see."

Daniels said staff and parents are looking forward to the community event, and showing off the new facility.

"We've got lots of fun stuff going on, a bounce house, face painting, a magician, a raffle, a little bit of food to sell," she said. "This is for people to come out and see the school and see how well we're still thriving 50 years later."

For more information, visit mypumpkinpatch.org.

Contact editor Scott De Laruelle @sdelaruelle@wisconsinmediagroup.com

Town of Pleasant Springs

Man arrested for crashing into deputy on County N

A Dane County Sheriff's deputy is recovering from his injuries received when a man crashed his vehicle into the deputy's squad car at the County N roundabout in the Town of Pleasant Springs early Thursday morning.

According to a sheriff's office news release, at 4:48 a.m., Dane County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle crash involving another deputy in the town of Pleasant Springs.

Kenneth B. Perry, 55 of

Polar Grove, Ill., was exiting Interstate 90 and failed to yield to the

deputy in the roundabout at County N, t-boning the deputy's SUV. Perry left the scene of

the crash, but was found by another deputy a short time later.

The 29-year-old deputy, a five-year veteran of the sheriff's office, was transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Perry was booked into the Dane County Jail on

tentative charges, including operating

while intoxicated, hit and run and resisting and obstructing. The Wisconsin State

Patrol is handling the crash investigation.

According to the news release, prior to this crash, Dane County deputies arrested three other intoxicated drivers during their overnight shift.

Contact editor Scott De Laruelle @sdelaruelle@wisconsinmediagroup.com

Stoughton Historical Society Museum open for the season

Hosting Syttende Mai events May 19-21

Looking to learn more about local history?

The Stoughton Historical Society Museum, 324 S. Page St., is now open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday until Labor Day. Call 608-873-1943

for inquiries.

During Syttende Mai weekend, the museum will be open from 1-5 p.m. Friday, May 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 20 and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. Sunday, May 21.

The society also has two other historic properties: The Luke Stoughton House, 315 Division St., is open during special events

and by appointment only. The Stoughton Railroad Depot is located at 532 Main St and is open for self-guided walk-through tours from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Guided tours are by appointment only.

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Stoughton Historical Society

The mission of the Stoughton Historical Society is to bring together those interested in Stoughton's history, and to collect, preserve and display objects and documents that illustrate that history. The Historical Society is a volunteer-run self-supporting not-for-profit organization. The Stoughton Historical Society was organized in 1960 and is a public charity 501 (c)(3)

Calling all Veterans & Military Personnel

Veterans from all eras are needed to ride the veteran's float in Memorial Day parade. Not necessary to have been in a combat zone. Not necessary to be in uniform. This float is in your honor. Please come and participate. No RSVP necessary.

Memorial Day Parade – Monday, May 29th

Beginning at 10:00 am on S. Prairie and West Main St. Shuttle available from the Mandt Center to parade line-up for parade participants beginning 9:15. Veteran's Float parks on the corner of S. Prairie & W. Main.

Memorial Day Program – Monday, May 29th

(Immediately Following the Parade @ 11:00 a.m. at Mandt Center rain or shine)

PROGRAM IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

