

# Many Classes Available Through Community Ed

**By: Chris Ellefson**  
The Winter/Spring Community Education brochure still has a few classes available to take. There will be the 4-Hour Driving Skills for Seniors on March 23 in the evening. The 8-Hour Driving Skills for Seniors will be on March 24 and 25 in the evenings.

We also have work out classes. There is Tabata on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 5:00 to 5:40 a.m. in the high school. There is Refit on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and again on Saturday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. with both days at the elementary cafeteria. Anyone interested in trying Tabata or Refit or both can attend a class first.

There are several class options for adults and students this winter and spring. The brochure runs from January through May. We have some physical activities for participants that include Men's Basketball on Wednesday nights from 7:00-9:00

p.m. through March. Floor Hockey on Sunday nights from 8:00-9:30 p.m. through March and Family Open Gym on Sundays from 12:00-2:00 p.m. through March at the high school. We have Tae Kwon Do on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. for beginners and 4:30-5:30 p.m. for advanced students.

Community Education continues to offer the GED class. Now is the time to get your High School Equivalency Degree (GED). Participants will work with the instructor in areas of reading, writing and math. Participation is confidential and free. GED is held on Wednesdays from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the Barnesville High School Room 150. Students must be at least 17 to participate in the GED classes.

There are Early Childhood Class offerings still available for this spring. We have the class Meet In March that is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31st from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and Springtime Fun on Thursday, April

16 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

The ECCE classes are open to students that are zero to five year olds and not in kindergarten. A parent or other adult brings the child to the ECCE class and stays for the class. There is play time with other students and some parent discussion with other parents.

All Community Educations classes are listed on the school website which is [www.barnesville.k12.mn.us](http://www.barnesville.k12.mn.us). Once you are at the website click on the Community Education tab and then look through the class offerings by category of Early Learners, Youth and Adults. Please call Community Education about any of these programs.

We will be working on next year's offerings during July and August. If there is a class you would like to see in the future don't hesitate to contact our office at 354-2638. If you have a talent that you wish to share, we are always looking for people to teach classes.



Local kids learn the magic of making different shapes of bubbles during a Community Education Class.

# Booster Club Integral To Community And School

**By: Michael Stein**  
The imprint of the Barnesville Booster Club can be seen throughout the community. The club continues to provide funds for a variety of school and community concerns through several fund-raising efforts.

In order to raise money to make those donations, the club has gaming sites at the Pool Hall and the American Legion. They also host two traveling basketball

tournaments each year, grill burgers at the Main Street Show & Shine events and crank up the grill before Trojan football games.

The Booster club also holds annual membership drives. Membership is \$20 per year.

In 2019, the Booster Club sold \$10 raffle tickets and had a 50/50 split for the prizes.

Long-time club president Chad Holland said they will continue to explore other means of raising money, "so we may continue to give back to the community."

Going back to 1991, the Booster Club was the main contributor toward building the Barnesville School's athletic complex.

For more than 30 years, the Barnesville community has continued to benefit from club donations.

In 2019, the Booster Club made donations totaling just over



Among its many donations throughout the year, the Barnesville Booster Club donates funds for the inflatable games at the annual Community Picnic.

\$33,000. Those donations range from camp and championship T-shirts, the Community Picnic, the Backpack program at the school, the elementary carnival and class field trips, the Miss Barnesville pageant, and many more.

Some other recent projects worth noting include the Splash Pad, for which the club donated \$5,000, and dugouts at Blue Eagle diamonds. The club also refurbished the gym floors, built the shed at the athletic complex, and remodeled and expanded the weight rooms at the high school.

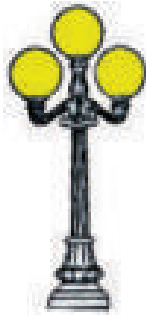
"You don't have to look very hard to find something that the club has contributed to," Holland said. "Since 1988, the club is approaching a million dollars in donations. I'm very proud of what the club has been able to accomplish over the years."

The Booster Club, which meets the third Wednesday of every month

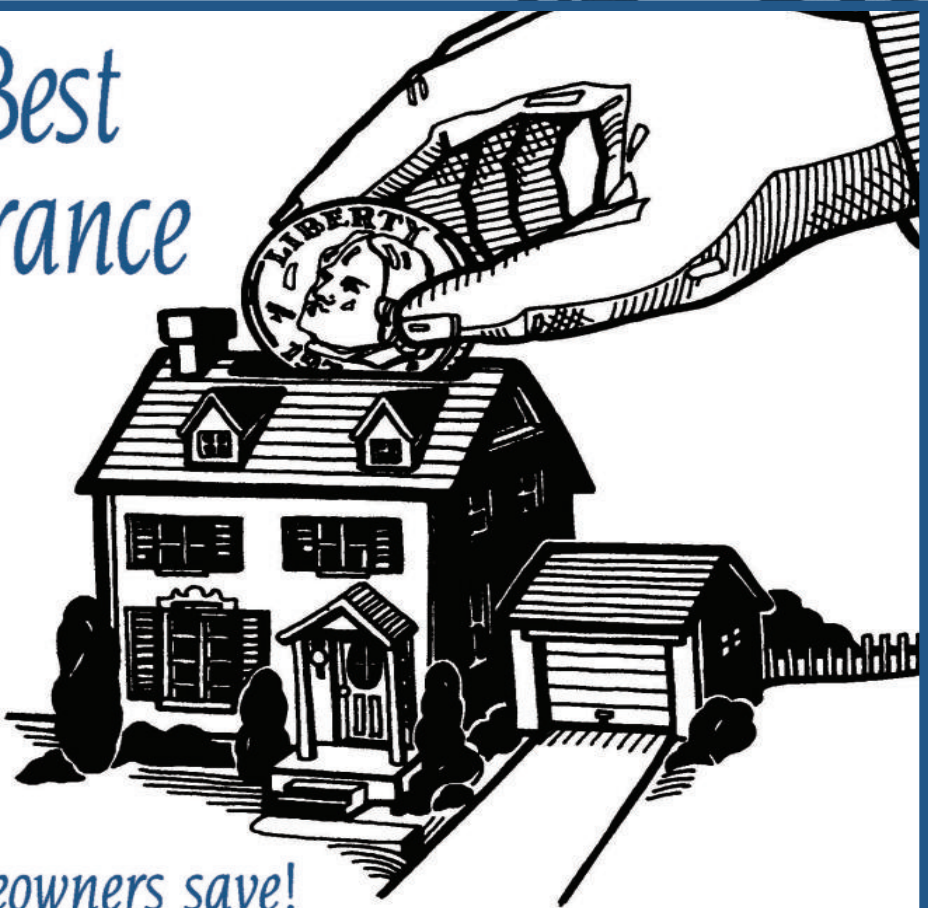
at the American Legion Club at 7 p.m., has about 100 members.

"Anybody is invited to attend the meetings," Holland said. "The club has been in existence a long time, and we do a lot of good things to help different programs."

Along with Holland as president, Steve John currently serves as vice-president; Bryan Strand is treasurer; Meg Strand is secretary and gaming manager.



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West Central Initiative

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Economic Development

We administer both the Barnesville Community and Clay County Loan Funds. Both provide loans for business start-up and expansion. The Live Wide Open marketing campaign continues to encourage people to move to/return to west central MN: [livewideopen.com](http://livewideopen.com)



Community Development

We support the Clay County Early Childhood Initiative and the Early Childhood Dental and Mental Health Networks. We provide regional transportation planning - including helping with Barnesville's Safe Routes to School planning, and grants for leadership development, including Leadership Barnesville.



Philanthropy

We administer the Barnesville Area Community Fund and provide fundraising technical assistance to organizations. We can assist individuals and businesses with their charitable giving planning.



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