

## **Badger History Group Begins Speaker's Series**

With its renovated **Museum of Badger Army Ammunition once again open to the public**, the Badger History Group has inaugurated a speaker's series. First on the list is Joan Kenney, who started her career at the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant in 1989 and retired from the top spot as Commander's Representative in 2015. She will recount her years at Badger at **7:00 PM on October 24 at the Museum** located at the former main gateway to the plant on Highway 12. Once designated BAAP Building 207, the Museum property is now part of the **WDNR's Sauk Prairie Recreation Area**.

Hired as an environmental engineer while the plant was still part of the national defense system, Joan worked to determine the extent of environmental contamination at the plant and to remediate it. After Dave Fordham retired she was named Commander's Representative. According to Defense Department rules, the title of Commander can be held only by a US Army officer. Civilians holding the job were Commander's Reps. Joan was not the first civilian in command for the Army at Badger, but she was the first woman to be in charge.

As Commander's Rep, she oversaw the demolition of the plant infrastructure and the clean-up of the property, took part in discussions regarding its division and transfer to new owners, and administered its final removal from the Army roster. She was not just present but held a key position during one of the most important periods in the history of Sauk Prairie, Sauk County, and Wisconsin.

Joan played a genuinely unique role in the Badger story. Her perspectives on the final quarter-century of the ammunition plant are truly one-of-kind. She will be sharing them **at the Badger Museum on October 24**.