



# The Record

611 Mississippi Street

Fridley, MN 55432

phone (763) 571-0120

Website <http://fridleyhistoricalsociety.org/>

Handicapped access on north side of building.

## GRAND OPENING!

*You are invited to the grand opening of our new public safety exhibit  
Saturday December 1st from 11am to 3pm.*

*This permanent exhibit showcases the history of the police and fire departments of the city of Fridley. It is a tribute to all of the men and women who have served the city as police and firefighters and continue to make our community a safe place to live.*

*You will be able to view equipment, photos, and uniforms. Some of the items on display are geiger counters, an antique glass fire extinguisher, radar units, municipal court records, badges, and the infamous Harger Drunkometer.*

*While viewing the display you will meet officers and firefighters during the coinciding "Coffee with the Cops" event.*

## Fridley Historical Society

### Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 4:30 p.m.

### Officers

President Dorothy Gargaro  
Vice President Mary Ann Hoffman  
Secretary Lori Greiner  
Treasurer Judy Anderson

### Other Board Members

Mary Sue Meyers  
Allen Taylor  
Mark Bonesteel

### Committees & Chairpersons

Members interested in attending a committee meeting, please call the Chair to confirm time and date.

### Archives and Exhibits

Mark Bonesteel — 763-331-1885

### City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080

### Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

### Fundraising

Open —

### Maintenance Committee

Allen Taylor — 763-422-3878  
Rick and Teresa Hitt 763-571-6310

### Membership

Mary Ann Hoffman—763-780-5911

### Newsletter Editor

Lori Greiner — 612-749-3917

### Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

## Upcoming Events

*All events are at the Fridley History Center unless otherwise indicated.*

### Open House

Saturday November 10th 11:00 am—3:00 pm

Saturday November 24th 11:00 am—3:00 pm

### Grand Opening

Public Safety Exhibit/Coffee with the Cops/Christmas Exhibit

Saturday December 1st 11:00—3:00 pm

### Board Meeting

Thursday December 6th 4:30 pm

Open House/Christmas Exhibit/Kindergarten Art Fair

Saturday December 8th 11:00 am—3:00 pm

### Open House/Christmas Exhibit

Saturday December 15th 11:00 am—3:00 pm

### Open House

Saturday December 22nd 11:00 am—3:00 pm

### Board Meeting

Thursday January 3rd 4:30 pm

### Open House

Saturday January 12th 11:00 am—3:00 pm



The Fridley Historical Society welcomes volunteers. If you would like to volunteer at the history center or at our events, please call us to leave a message with your contact information or stop by during our next open house. We would love to have you join us!

## Year in Review!

Below are pictures of some of our events over the past year. We wish to thank all of the volunteers and participants of these events! Thank you for helping to celebrate Fridley's history (and making new memories)!



Kindergarten Art Fair



Christmas Exhibit



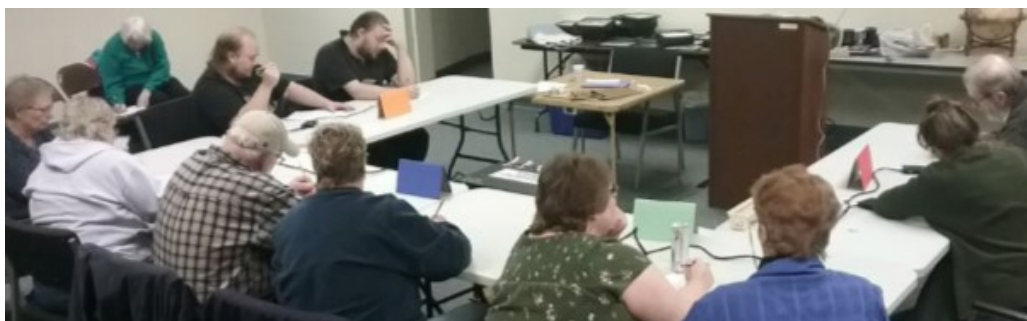
Lasagna Dinner and Auction



Valentine Pot Luck and Bingo



Fridley Home and Garden Tour



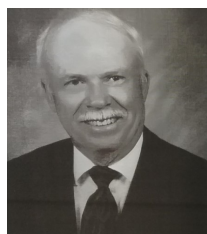
Competitors during one of our trivia contests.

## Membership Update

Thank you to Mary Erickson for renewing her FHS dues!

## 2018 Fifteenth Annual Fridley Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon

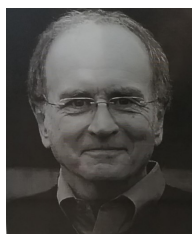
On Saturday November 3rd, the Fridley Historical Society held the 15th annual Fridley Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon. The event began with welcome remarks by Dorothy Gargaro, the President of the Fridley Historical Society. After the luncheon was served, Fridley Mayor Scott Lund gave remarks regarding the history of our great community and the importance of the contributions each of the inductees made towards the growth and success of the city of Fridley. Mayor Lund introduced each of the inductees and he and the Chair of the Event, Mary Sue Meyers, presented the awards. Each of the inductees spoke about how much they enjoy being a part of and contributing to this vibrant community. To conclude the event John Fitzpatrick gave the closing remarks which recapped how important it is to continue our mission to preserve our history and share it with the community.



Leon Madsen



Pete and Mary Bonesteel



Jack Kirk



The Inductees



Dorothy Gargaro



Mayor Lund



Jack Kirk addressing the attendees.



Lunch is served!

## Pete and Mary Bonesteel—2018 Fridley Hall of Fame Inductees



Pete and Mary have been long-time members of the Fridley Historical Society. Pete became a board member in 1998 and both have volunteered countless hours towards the preservation of local history, fundraising, and the set up of historic displays at libraries and other venues. Mary and Pete have actively collected donations for the Lasagna Dinner each year, as well as for other events. Pete was instrumental during the 50th Anniversary of Fridley Celebration, helping to design and market the 50th Anniversary Calendar. Pete and his son Mark also have remodeled the original City Government Room in the Fridley History Center Museum.

Pete was born in Oklahoma City in 1929 and as a young man his family moved frequently because of his dad's occupation. Pete attended eighteen different schools before graduating from high school. Pete joined the army, served in the Korean War, and became a Staff Sergeant in the 82nd Airborne Division. He made thirty two parachute jumps. After leaving the service Pete worked in radio as "Pete Steel", an announcer for KABR in Aberdeen, SD and KMRS in Morris MN. KLIZ radio in Brainerd MN was his next stop where he was their Sports Director. Pete also worked for Drackett, Brown, and Bigelow, Northern Mobile Home Supply, and University Hobbies in various positions. He loves to collect railroad history memorabilia. One day a fellow brought him a box of 2,000 historic postcards, mostly related to railroads, and today he has a collection of 35,000 postcards going far beyond railroads.

Mary was born in St. Joseph MN in 1938. She graduated from St. Boniface High School in Cold Spring MN. She attended beauty/cosmetology school in St. Cloud and opened her own salon in Columbia Heights. In the late 1960's she moved the shop to her home in Fridley. Mary married Pete in 1960 and lived in Columbia Heights prior to moving to Fridley in 1964.

Mary and Pete have three children: Mark, Lori, and Paul, and seven grandchildren. Mary has continued to seek donations and prizes for the Lasagna Dinner fundraiser even though Pete is no longer a Fridley Historical Society board member. They continue to help with set up and registration at numerous special events.



## Jack Kirk—2018 Fridley Hall of Fame Inductee



Jack was born in Staples, MN, graduated from the local high school in 1971, and attended the University of Minnesota from which he was awarded a B.A. degree in 1975. In 1982 he received his MBA from St. Thomas University. He began his work life in recreation with the city of Coon Rapids in 1976 as Youth Center Director. The city of Fridley hired Jack as the City Recreation Program Director in 1977, launching a distinguished 40-year career, culminating as the Director of Parks and Recreation. His work for the city resulted in many industry awards, local, state, and national, including: U.S. Slow Pitch Association Hall of Fame, Minneapolis Aquatennial, St. Paul Winter Carnival, Minnesota Parks and Recreation (MRPA) "Outstanding Leadership" and the "Distinguished Service Award", the highest professional award given by the Minnesota Parks and Recreation Association.

In addition, his record of community service is broad and lengthy. He volunteered with the cities of Fridley, Blaine, and Spring Lake Park Athletic Associations, has been a member of Knights of Columbus for 40 years, a Block Captain for 20 years, and served on numerous education and church committees. His work for the city of Fridley has resulted in million of dollars in capital improvement to our parks system, the development of Fridley Community Center programs for seniors and teens, a revitalization and expansion of the Springbrook Nature Center, and 40 years as the city's liaison to the Community Celebration Planning Committee.

Jack's efforts have resulted in the city of Fridley receiving Awards of Excellence from the MRPA numerous times.

Jack and his wife Deb have two children, Kristin and John, and four grandchildren.

Jack's comment about his work tells much: "Seeing the countless smiling faces, hearing the joyful cries of children playing, and watching families enjoying time together reminds me of why I entered this line of work."

## Leon Madsen—2018 Fridley Hall of Fame Inductee



Lee (Leon) Madsen's commitment to Fridley has spanned more than 60 years, both as a volunteer and as a City employee. His family moved to Fridley in 1955 when his father was selected as the city's first City Manager. Lee joined the Lion's Club in 1959 and was the Chairman of Christmas tree sales, and representative of the Lion's sponsored Boy Scout Troop. In 1966 he was hired by the city as an Appraiser, and retired as Chief Assessor in 1996. He belonged to State and National associations of assessors, and was an award-winning writer for both IAAO and State publications. Lee was a charter member of the Fridley Methodist Church and a member of the Board of Trustees. He served as the Chairman of the Fridley Chamber of Commerce, President of the Fridley Chapter of AFS (Foreign Exchange), Executive-Secretary of the Fridley Silver Jubilee in 1974, chief coordinator of what

became the Fridley 49er Days, later becoming the Charter President of that new group. He helped organize the Fridley 49ers Scholarship Pageant, was co-chair of the parade for 15 years, and worked with the 49er Outlaws. He served with a group that fought to preserve the old Hayes School and later became the first President of the Fridley Historical Society house in that building.

Lee was born in 1935 in Minneapolis and graduated from Anoka High School in 1954. Lee married Marilyn Bush in 1957. They are proud parents of three children: Steve, Pam, and Lisa, and have three grandchildren. Marilyn passed away in 2017 after a long illness.

**Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting****Monday October 8th, 2018**

**Present:** Mary Sue Meyers, Mary Ann Hoffman, Judy Anderson, Dorothy Gargaro, Lori Greiner, Mark Boonesteel, Al Taylor and visitors.

The evening began with a pot luck dinner. The meeting was called to order by Dorothy Gargaro and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Dorothy welcomed the board and members to the meeting.

**Annual Reports:**

**Financial Report:** Judy Anderson distributed the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss YTD Comparison as of September 30th, 2018 and also the Statement of Accounts from Firefly which holds a balance of \$18,000. She stated that we should finish the year better than last year financially. We have had no major expenses this year.

**Secretary Report:** Lori thanked everyone for contributing articles for the newsletter and helping to distribute it for mailing. If anyone would like to submit articles for the newsletter please call the history center or email her at [lorifridley2@outlook.com](mailto:lorifridley2@outlook.com).

**Membership Report:** Marianne reported that we currently have 151 members. Last year we had 152 members. There are three business and one non-profit memberships. Nine new members joined this year. Regarding the Fridley Home and Garden Tour which was held on July 22nd, ten homeowners participated in the even and 152 tickets were sold. The net profit from the even was \$2500 which was split between the Fridley Historical Society and the Anoka County Historical Society. We will be holding the event again in 2019 in a different neighborhood.

**Archives and Exhibits:** Mark discussed the issue of the light ballasts for the center and the fact that new ones will no longer be available in two years. We will need to stock a supply so that they are available as needed. A new lock has been installed on the front door. He is almost finished with the public safety room and items will be behind glass for protection. The City of Fridley videotaped a news article which features Mark items in the new display which will be posted on Facebook and on the city website. The grand opening of the public safety room will be on December 1st and will include coffee with the cops and the Christmas display in the basement. In January he will start the redesign of the east room. It will include the permanent tornado exhibit, military items, and pictures of soldiers from Fridley that were killed in the line of duty.

**Maintenance:** Al began his report thanking the volunteers who helped this year with maintenance at the center. This summer Brandon Electric did electrical work at the center and did an excellent job. Brandon Electric is a Fridley business and we will use their services again in the future. As for future expenses, the furnace and air conditioner are getting old and may need major maintenance or replacement in the next few years. Other work which should be done next year are replacement of the shrubs around the center. Also we may obtain a new projector, computer, printer, and scanner.

**Programs and Events:** Mary Sue recapped all of the events that we held this year. In January we dismantled our 2017 Christmas display. In February we held a pot luck and bingo event. On April 28th at the Annual Lasagna Dinner and Auction, which is our biggest fundraiser of the year, we made a profit of \$2360. The Fridley Home and Garden Tour in July was a big success and was held on a beautiful day. We held the 14th annual Hall of Fame Induction ceremony in November at which 5 people were inducted and it was attended by 125 people. This year three people will be inducted and it will be held on November 3rd. We are getting ready for the 2018 Christmas display and the theme will be patriotic. On December 8th we will hold the kindergarten art fair with a visit from Santa. Also, Marianne stated that we held three trivia contests this year which usually have 12-14 contestants. Our next trivia contest will be held in January.

**City and Family History:** Dorothy reported that she has arranged many displays at the Fridley Public Library including the 50th anniversary of the L. Stevenson School. These displays help us to share the history of Fridley with the community. Members of the Fridley Historical Society participated in the Sound Garden Event dressed as historical members of Fridley.

**Special Note:** The Fridley Historical Society extended a happy birthday to Bill Berry who celebrated his 103rd birthday. Bill is a very involved and appreciated member of our society.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Greiner

**Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting****Thursday November 1st, 2018**

**Present:** Mary Sue Meyers, Mary Ann Hoffman, Judy Anderson, Dorothy Gargaro, Lori Greiner, Mark Bonesteel, Al Taylor

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Treasurer Report:** Judy submitted the balance sheet and the Profit and Loss Comparison as of October 31st 2018. Al made a motion to approve which was seconded by Mary Sue, and approved by all.

**Secretary Report:** Lori submitted the August, September, and Annual Meeting minutes for approval. Al made a motion to approve, seconded by Mary Sue, and approved by all.

### Committee Reports:

**Membership:** Mary Ann stated that there were no dues or donations received since the annual meeting. We do have one new member.

**Programs and Events:** Mary Sue Meyers stated that the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony which will be held on Saturday November 3rd. Board members will report at 10:30 for set up.

**Archives and Exhibits:** Mark reported that one display case needs to be completed in the public safety exhibit. He was interviewed about the new exhibit by an employee of the city of Fridley and the video is available for viewing on the city website and on youtube.

**Maintenance:** Al obtained one estimate for painting the entrance hallway. He will send out requests for more estimates. We need to have it repainted so that we can hang additional Hall of Fame plaques. The sprinklers have been blown out. All of the sprinkler heads work but will need maintenance in the spring. Thank you to Don and Craig for working on the sprinklers! After discussion, we will table the issue of the water meter switch being worked on until the spring and possibly get estimates at that time.. If the work is done it will save us money each year but the savings may be negated by the cost. Al suggested, and it was approved, to put Christmas lights on the outside of the history center. We will use the donated light sets which will be put on a timer. Mark talked about the security alarm issues. The solution appears to be to enter the pass code slowly to make it work properly.

### Other Business

**Christmas Trees and Cookies:** Dorothy spoke about the trees being decorated in patriotic themes, including boy scouts, for this year's Christmas Exhibit. The board members need to bring cookies for the December 1st grand opening of the Police and Firefighters exhibit and the December 8th Kindergarten Art Fair.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Greiner



## FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street  
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phone (763) 571-0120

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*Celebrating Fridley's past  
and securing its future*

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