

The End of an Era

n January 28th Fridley lost one of its favorite sons with the passing of Bill Nee.

Husband

Father

Politician

THE RESERVE

Entrepreneur

We will all miss Bill very much; our vounger cititold of his tions that

Whether in service to his country or to his community, Bill, with Kay & their family.

where Bill's leadership in government

during the past 40 years helped shape our city into a thriving community which is home to world class businesses along side of family friendly neighborhoods.

Bill is irreplaceable; we hope only that our prayers and remembrances will give Kay and her family some strength and comfort as they grieve Bill's passing.

The Dawn of a **New Century**

Iridlev enters a new century and the role of The Fridley Historical grows more valuable as we prepare for life in a new millenium.

Today, fewer Fridley citizens remember the early days of our community. FHS has a unique opportunity to serve a vital role in civic life.

Through exhibits, such as 1965 Fridley Tornado, FHS seeks to preserve the experiences of the past and to pass them on to our younger citizens as they create Fridley's future.

We should consider honoring Bill Nee's memory by rededicating ourselves to community service. We should honor all the women & men during the past half century who gave of their time and vision to make our community a better place to live and work.

The Fridley Historical Society is an excellent place to make a brighter future by understanding the past.

February Meeting Monday, February 14th 6 pm Pot Luck Dinner see page 3

zens should be many contribushaped the city they call home.

left his mark on his century. Nowhere can this be better seen than here in Fridley,

Citizen Neighbor lizardan

1925 - 2000



FUNDRAISING PERILS

Casino Trips Dry Up



The

casino trips, which have been run so brilliantly by Gloria and Chuck Hayes, are in serious jeopardy! These trips which have been the backbone of FHS fundraising now face stiff competition from a group running similar trips out of the Fridley Senior Center.

These gambling junkets have been the #1 source of income for our museum; their demise would threaten the entire health of the Fridley Historical Society.

In similar ominous news, *La Gondola*, the restaurant which has regularly catered FHS's annual Lasagna Dinner, has informed Gloria Hayes that they are closing their business, and as the result, will no longer be able to cater this event.

Further, the Fridley Community Center, the scheduled site of this year's April 29th dinner, has informed Gloria that changes in policies will necessitate our paying for the services of a janitor. The over-time rate of this item will cost FHS an additional \$175.

These additional expenses risk pushing this event into the red. The Board discussed several alternate caterers who might be able to supply the meal at a similar cost. However, it is highly unlikely that a new caterer will include serving the meal in their competitive bid.

Finally, FHS will again be in charge of the Community Garage Sale, which this year will be part of the City's 49er Day celebrations. The sale will again be held at Columbia Arena which will also host a Flea Market, Carnival, Street Dance, Bingo Parlour as well as several food merchants, including a Beer Garden.

FHS could use volunteers to staff this important fund-raiser; please let a Board member know if you are interested in helping out.

Museum Renovations

As most of our members are aware, the State Legislature appropriated \$50,000 during its 1999 session to enable the Fridley Historical Society to make improvements to our museum.

Although any capital improvement made to our facility following the passage of this appropriation could be paid for from these funds, the Board has earmaked much of this money to complete improvements to all exterior windows and doors, including the wrapping of all exterior trim with aluminum to eliminate the

need for future painting.

#1

We can no longer take

fund-raising for granted,

Membership Dues alone

will not enable FHS to

FHS requires the assistance

of its members to make

events like the Lasagna

Dinner profitable . . even possible at all! Please

contact an event coordina-

We need members' ideas

to broaden our fund-raising

programs. Please let the

Board know of either an

idea you have or of an idea

tor to sign up to help.

achieve its mission.

Mel Manley has worked very hard obtaining bids for this project; the leading bid for this project is from the same company that reroofed the Museum, *Home Owner Inprovements*; their bid is approximately \$36,000.

Once this large project is complete, the Board will review whether it will seek reimbursement for recently completed projects which would qualify under the appropriation.

Members are encouraged to drop a thankyou note to our local legislators who worked so hard to obtain these funds for us:

Letters may be addressed to each legislator either at their e-mail address or by contacting them at their respective office at the address below:

> State Office Building Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Senator Don Betzold
[Office #306]
sen.don.betzold@senate.leg.state.mn.us

The Honorable Representative Alice Johnson
[Office #349]
rep.alice.johnson@house.leg.state.mn.us

The Honorable Representative Satveer Chaudhary
[Office #311]
rep.satveer.chaudhary@house.leg.state.mn.us

Fridley Historical Society

School House News

The February Membership meeting will be held on

Valentine's Day

Monday, February 14th at 6 pm. This month's meeting will be a Pot Luck; Bonnie & Phil Novack will be showing slides from their trip to Europe.

Fix up something *good*, grab your *sweetie*, and head on down to the

Museum romantic European experience!



Thanks to Pete Bonesteel for donating carpeting for the Reference Room. This new facility is finally taking shape!

Jeanne Peters presented the Board with the newly created forms to be used when accepting donated items. A lively discussion was conducted regarding how to implement these new procedures.

In particular, there was debate on whether items currently on loan to the Museum can remain in the collections without becoming the permanent property of The Fridley Historical Society.

Although no permanent decision has been made regarding these borrowed items, members are still strongly urged to contact Jeanne about any items currently on loan to the Museum which a member

does not intend to become the permanent property of FHS.

It has been a bit of a sad winter around the Museum this year.

The Fridley Historical Society wishes to extend its deepest sympathies The

Last Word

and

condolences to Corine Kirkham whose brother passed away last month.

The Fridley Historical Society also regrets to report to you of the passing of a very special member, Frank Frischmon. Frank was a charter member of our Society. Our thoughts and prayers are with Frank's family and friends during this very difficult time; we will all dearly miss him.



Anoka County Historical Society's

Presidents' Day Luncheon

Noon February 21st

American Legion Post #102 400 West Main Street Anoka

Tickets are \$8.50 per person

Reservations 612.421.0600

Upcoming Events

Minnesota History Center
www.mnhs.org/events/calendar/mhc.html



February 19th

Day of Remembrance: Unsung Heroes, Champions of Human Rights

February 26th

Organizing Your Genealogical Materials

February 26

Discover Your Family History Workshop

February 27th

Jubileo: Celebrating Latino Music and Culture in Minnesota

February 28th

Researching from a Distance: Tracing
Your Ancestors From Coast to Coast

March 2nd Edward Linenthal Lecture:

Remembering the Bomb in Oklahoma City

March 5th

History HiJinx: Minnesota Bridges

Call the Minnesota History Center to confirm dates & times. 651,296.6126

Upcoming Casino Trips

February 16th -SOLD OUT-

March 15th -Seats Available_

For Tickets Call Gloria

571-3727



EDITOR: John Fitzpatrick

Fridley Historical Society 611 Mississippi Street N.E. Fridley, MN 55432





LASAGNA DINNER ON SCHEDULE



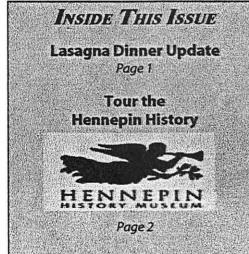
As reported last month, the Fridley Historical Society's annual Lasagna Din-NER fund-raiser was in jeopardy as the result of La Gondola's decision to discontinue catering our event. Previous estimates indicated that using an alternate caterer would add substantial expense to this event seriously cutting into potential profits.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A MONTH MAKES!

Thanks to the fast actions of our members, the *Lasagna Dinner* is now on track to possibly be even more successful then in the past. The Board heard several proposals for new food partners in this event; most promoted a switch to spaghetti in order to retain the dinner's profitability. In the end, the Board unanimously agreed to select *Bob's Produce Ranch*. We all should thank Jerry Reitter for arranging the details.

Bob Schroer offered to cater a lasagna meal along with salad and bread without servers for a very reasonable price. The meal is rounded out with *McDonald's* orange drink and *Kemps* ice cream. This means that **FHS** needs the cooperation of its members to make this event a complete success by offering to help set-up, serve dinner, & clean up.

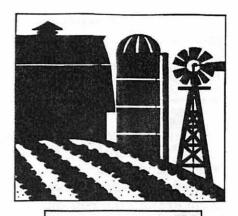
The *Lasagna Dinner* is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th. Doors will open at 4:30 with live Dixie land jazz courtesy of the *Fridley City Band*. Dinner is served at 5:00 pm with the *Raffle* to follow. The whole event is scheduled to wrap up by 7:30 pm, tickets are \$6.75 and are available at the Fridley Senior Center.



School House News Page 3 Enclosed with this month's newsletter are 36 raffle tickets; **FHS** is asking its members' assistance selling these.

Enclosed with the tickets is a list of the truly useful prizes to be raffled this year. Our dinner and raffle is our single most important fundraising event, so every ticket sold really makes a difference in how much **FHS** work can accomplish the remainder of the year.

THOSE ABLE TO HELP WITH THIS EVENT SHOULD CALL GLORIA AT 571-3727.



MARCH / 2000

Historical Sites

New feature which will appear regularly in future newsletters will be

reviews of varying historical sites from around the region. We encourage our members to sample the wide array of historical resources locally available, both to support organizations similar to Fridley Historical Society as well as an opportunity to sample differing approaches to preservation and to uncover ideas which could be of potential value at our society.

Further, this is an open invitation to our members to submit their own suggestions for future subjects and even the opportunity to present a review of a site they may have found particularly significant.

This month we will be introducing our members to the collection of the Hennepin History Museum.

The Hennepin County Historical Society's museum is located in Minneapolis at 2303 3rd Avenue South

HHM is located in the former Christian Mansion which was originally donated to the MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART by CAROLYN MCKNIGHT CHRISTIAN the daughter-in-law of the mansion's builder George Henry Christian. The Society purchased the mansion for their museum in 1957.

Mr. Christian, formerly of Alabama, was a successful manager & inventor with Washburn-Crosby Flour. In 1916 he commissioned Hewitt & Brown to build a new home to be built in Minneapolis's prestigious Washburn-Fair Oaks neighborhood. Hewitt & Brown was the firm responsible for such significant local designs as Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church and the former Gateway Park located at

Nicollet Avenue and the river, on the previous site of City Hall.

They created for Christian a grand yet simple twobedroom English Renaissance Revival home. Unfortunately, the senior Christian died suddenly in 1918 prior to his home's completion.

The home was then completed by his son GEORGE

CHASE CHRISTIAN who, sadly, also died in 1919 before the home was ready for occupancy. His wife would see the project completed and live there until 1957

The museum itself is a tremendous artifact in its own right. Exhibits are installed throughout all three levels of the mansion; unfortunately the facility is not handicap accessible at this time. Visitors have access to most of the mansion as they tour the museum's exhibits.

The exhibits are a delightful and charming collection of objects that

Hennepin History Museum
2303 3rd Ave. S.
Tuesdays 10 am-2 pm
Wednesday-Saturday 1 pm-5 pm
Admission \$1.00
WWW. HHMUSEUM. ORG

Currently on Exhibit

Hennepin History
Museum

HISTORY 101
An introduction to
Hennepin County's Past

Woodlands & Prairies
Objects of the Dakota &
Ojibway People.

THE BICYCLE BOOM
Classic bicycles from the
1930's and earlier.

CLOCKS TO CROCKS
An exhibit of Hennepin
County's decorative past.

The third installment of quilts from the permanent collection.

CITY KIDS GALLERY
A touch-and-play history
lesson.

SMALL WORLD
A look at furnishings created for children,
1860-1950

HISTORIC HENNEPIN AVENUE: the black & white period A photo-noire of Minneapolis during the past 100 years spans Minnesota history from life before statehood through Today.

Of special interest is a exhibit of vintage bicycles from 1930. Viewing these aluminum demons bring back memories of greasy hands and rolled-up cuffs. In Minnesota, nothing feels more like spring than waking your favorite two-wheeler from its hibernation, filling its tires

and racing off to join your friends; these beauties will remind you of those great days!

I especially enjoyed the black & white pictorial of Hennepin Avenue. Many of the pictures stirred childhood memories of trips to a downtown which seemed so *big* and *alive*. I highly recommend that you take in this exhibit before its leaves in August.

School House News

Bunty Shaw has volunteered to serve as Secretary replacing Corine Kirkham who resigned. The Board wishes to thank Bunty for stepping in at such short notice.

Oops!

My apologies go out to a great friend of our Society

Senator Steve Novak

who was instrumental in obtaining state funds for FHS to renovate its facilities. Please take a moment to drop Senator Novak a Thank-You.

Honorable Steven Novak

322 Capitol
75 Constitution Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1606

sen.steve.novak@senate.leg.state.mn.us

In response to members concerns, the Board reviewed its assessions procedures. Although donations will continue to be accepted on a drop-off basis, all donations will now be reviewed by a Collections Committee.

It will be the responsibility of this committee to review all submissions prior to formal acceptance.

Further, all items submitted on

loan to FHS must receive the approval of the Board. Items will be accepted on loan for a limited period afterwhich they would need to be retrieved or risk becoming the property of FHS.

Fridley Historical Society

CHAR FITZPATRICK appointed Jeanne Peter, Doris Bergman, and Bonnie & Phil Novack to serve as the Collections Committee.

Finally, those members that have items on loan to FHS must contact the *Collections Committee* immediately regarding the terms of their submissions. Those items not reviewed and accepted on loan will become the permanent property of the Museum.

Upcoming Events

Minnesota History Center



March 12th

Film: The Survivors: North American Finns in Stalin's Russia

> March 18th & 19th Norwegian Birch Bark Baskets and Boxes

March 19th
History HiJinx: Hair Art
Mary Reeder - Hair Braider

March 27th
State Census
Review of our 5 state area

March 27th
Getting the Most Mileage Out of
Genealogical ResearchTrips

Or Visit

www.mnhs.org /events/calendar/mhc.html The March Casino Trip is sold out as the result February's cancellation. No trip is planned for April due to the Lasagna Dinner.

Future Casino Trip

May 17th - Turtle Lake

June 21st - Turtle Lake

Buses leave from the parking lot across from the Senior Center a block east of 7th Street on 61st Ave.. Tickets are available by calling GLORIA HAYES at 571-3727.

The Board voted to select the bid from Homeowners Improvements/
to replace the Museum windows/
and doors along with wrapping/
all trim. A big Thanks! to

MEL MANLEY for all the
hard work he put in
getting and reviewing
all bids.



UPCOMING EVENTS



MARCH 13TH AT 7 PM

Tammy L. Coleman will be our guest at FHS's March Membership Meeting.
Tammy is Mrs. Anoka County
International 2000. She will speaking on her Heritage-of-Life Project.

Doris Bergman will be appraising members items at May's Membership Meeting.

Fridley Historical Socity 611 Mississippi Street N.E. Fridley, MN 55432

EDITOR: John Fitzpatrick





March Meeting

Monday, March 13th at 7 pm

Monday, March 13th at 7 pm

Mrs. Anoka

Guest: Tammy L. Coleman 2000

IN THE OLD SUMMERTIME

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FHS certainly hopes all its members and their families are enjoying our beautiful yet brief Minnesota summer, but the end is in sight and both autumn and the school year are rapidly approaching.

Still, don't give up this wonderful warm weather without a fight, and what better way to celebrate what's left of our lazy days than by taking the entire family to enjoy our nation's pastime, *Baseball!*

The Fridley Historical Society will be holding that summertime favorite, August Fest, at the Museum on Monday, August 14th. This year's August Fest will include a performance by the Fridley City Band.

So bring the family and neighbors and experience baseball the way it was meant to be watched, under blue skies and setting suns. Our *Boys of Summer* take the field at 7 pm with **Rick Arpi** and his **Quick Step Crew** taking on the local boys coached by **Jeremy Lach.** The game will take place on the *Hayes Diamond* immediately behind the Museum.

BUT DON'T WAIT UNTIL 7 PM TO ARRIVE! WHY?

Because! Because those talented folks in the **Fridley City Band** will be performing as part of pre-game festivities which begin at **6:30 pm**.

WAIT! THAT'S NOT ALL ... YOU ALSO GET:

Post Game Snacks!!!! After the game, win or lose, join us inside the Museum for homemade cookies and punch. You certainly will not want to miss FHS's exhibit commemorating the 35th Anniversary of the 1965 Fridley Tornado. The entire evening will be great fun that you will be sure to want to catch.

THE MUSIC
Fridley City Band
6:30 pm

THE GAME
Rick Arpi's Quick Steppers
vs.
Jeremy Lach's Fridley Tornadoes
7 pm

COOKIES & PUNCH AFTER THE GAME



AUGUST / 2000

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School House News

Time to catch up on

Springtime events...

asagna Dinner was a huge success! This year's Event was not only the most fun that we have ever had, but profitable too.

Here are the numbers:

2000

Dinner Tickets 162 193 Dinner Profit \$169.25 \$520.85

Raffle Items 54 66 Prize Value \$1108.41 +\$2,000 Tickets Sold \$1,111.75 \$1,904

Baseball Raffle \$106 \$138

Total Raffle \$1,117.75 \$2042

Donations \$340 \$51.75

Total Event Profit \$1,338.75 \$2,902.85

Thanks to this year's donors: Miller Funeral Home - \$100 Shamrock Tours - \$50 Bonnie & Phil Novack - \$140 Sig & Marty Reckdahl - \$20 Christenson - \$20 Anonymous - \$20

How can we thank Gloria & Chuck Hayes for all that they did to make this year's Lasagna Dinner such a roaring success and lucrative? I don't know, but please try. Thanks Chuck & Gloria.

ommunity Garage Sale FHS's Garage Sale was also a rousing success. This year's Community Garage Sale was held for two days as part of the Fridley 49'er Days festivities at Columbia Arena.

Upcoming Events Minnesota History Center



Aug 12 & 13, 2000 Family Dramas: Theater in the Attic

> Aug 20, 2000 Mississippi River Music: Charlie Maguire and Ballet Minnesota

Sep 3, 2000 History HiJinx: Butter Carton Couture

Sep 10, 2000 History HiJinx: Minnesota School Days

Sep 11, 2000 Brown Bag Lunch: Cheri Register

> Sep 17, 2000 History HiJinx: Sow What!

Sep 19, 2000 2000 Stans Lecture: Justice Rosalie Wahl

Call the Minnesota History Center to confirm dates & times.

651,296,6126

Or Visit

www.mnhs.org/ events/calendar/mhc.html

Fridley Historical Society

The sale included over 50 vendors and FHS made \$490 over the two days.

Thanks to Char & John Fitzpatrick for planning and managing this year's sale. Thanks also to Chuck Hayes, Jerry Manley, & Annie White for helping with getting folks checked in.

We learned a lot from this year's event, which should translate into an even bigger and better sale next year.

The shopping crowds were impressive, so let your friends & family know now that theyshould plan to sell their no longer needed items at next year's sale!

Loliday Boutique

At August's Board Meeting Annie White presented her idea for FHS to hold a holiday craft sale at the Museum this November.

The craft sale would be held in the lower level of the Museum and FHS would lease space both for dedicated crafters to set up booths as well as leasing table space for amateur crafters to display some wares.

Crafters would not need to be present to display items, this means FHS would need volunteers to mind the sale and collect cash.

Proposed dates of the sale are the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 18-19, and Thanksgiving week-end, November 24-26.

So if you know someone who might be interested in participating in the sale or

ou would like to volunteer, prease can nnie White at 612.874.8603.

Future Casino Trip

September 20th - Turtle Lake

October 18th - Turtle Lake

November 15th - Turtle Lake

Buses leave from the parking lot across from the Senior Center a block east of 7th Street on 61st Ave.. Tickets are available

FHS's August Fest Monday, August 14th

Everything You Love

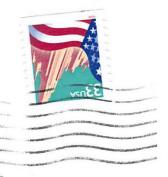
" Fridley City Band at 6:30 pm

Quick Step Baseball at 7 pm

a Cookies & Punch after the Game

Bring the family!







RDITOR: John Fitzpatrick

Fridley Historical Socity 611 Mississippi Street N.E. Fridley, MN 55432

FHS ANNUAL MEETING

adllin.

THE FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP ON MONDAY OCTOBER 9 AT THE MUSEUM.

The Meeting will be preceded by our traditional **Pot Luck Dinner**. It took an act of the Minnesota State Legislature to permit us to invite you to join in on what is always a great time.

So bring a dish, treat, or snack and come and enjoy a fun evening. Even if your refrigerator is empty, please come anyway.

DINNER BEGINS AT 6 PM.

THE GUEST OF HONOR OF THE EVENING WILL BE ELIZABETH FRISCHMON.

ELIZABETH IS A FIXTURE IN OUR COMMUNITY. ELIZABETH HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN NUMEROUS COUNTY AND CITY ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING BLAINE & SPRING LAKE PARK SCHOOLS, ANOKA CAMERA CLUB AS WELL BEING ACTIVE IN HER CHURCH.

ELIZABETH WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ESTABLISHING **UNITY HOSPITAL** WHICH IS CELEBRATING ITS **35TH ANNIVERSARY** IN 2000.

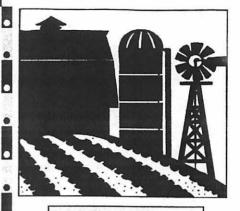
Finally, Elizabeth is an accomplished painter and on Monday Night she will present **FHS** with a gift of one of her paintings. Please join us for what will be very special evening.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

On Monday evening the Members will be voting to fill three open seats on the Board.

In September, the *Nominating Committee* submitted three names to be placed on the ballot; these three nominees are:

- Jerry Johnson
- ☐ Mel Manley
- ☐ Bonnie Novack



OCTOBER / 2000

School House News

BACK TO SCHOOL

Leaves are falling, the kids are back in school, and that means it is back to business.

One person who hasn't taken the summer off is Mel Manley: he has been very busy sprucing up the Museum.

The windows are in and the new door looks great. The most dramatic change is the new steps.

All of this is the result of Mel's very hard work getting bids and supervising work. Getting work done during this booming economy is a real accomplishment. Thanks Mel!

Make plans to attend the Annual Meeting on October 9 and see for yourself all the great improvements.

Participate In History... Votel Tuesday November 7th

The Board conducted a brief **Brain Storming Session to attempt** to identify how best to use the remaining funds from our legislative grant. Ideas included:

- 1. Floor Improvements
- 2. New Shades in the class rooms

If you have an idea of your own, let us know!

Fridley Historical Society

One new feature to keep your eyes out for is a new flag pole. The Board approved the purchase of a new flag pole to be installed next spring. Installation of the pole is being postponed until spring in order to protect the flowers in the planter surrounding the pole.

Mel Manley (does this man ever sleep?) will be in charge of looking into selecting the style and height of the new pole.

Upcoming Events

Minnesota History Center



October 8th, 2000 History Hilinx: Vikings, Then & Now

October 18th, 2000 Listory Hiting For the Birds

October Sthermo ingerala Your Symphory Sylv Companie

2380016162517162000. Locating and Using

November 4th, 2000 Minnesola

in the Civil War

Call the Minnesota History Center to confirm dates & times.

6512966126

www.mints.org/ events/calendar/nihe himb

Char Fitzpatrick is looking into getting the Fridley American Legion to support this effort. Chuck Hayes volunteers to hoist Old Glory on all national holidays between Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Thanks Everybody!

oliday Boutique

Plans continue to hold a holiday craft boutique at the Museum this November. The craft sale will be held in the lower level of the Museum and FHS will lease space both for dedicated crafters to set up booths as well as leasing table space for amateur crafters to display some

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Future Casino Trip

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November 15th - Turtle Lake

Buses leave from the parking lot across from the Senior Center a block east of 7th Street on 61st Ave.. Tickets are available by calling GLORIA HAYES at 571-2737 or visit our web site for more details.

FHS Annual Meeting Monday, October 9th

- ☐ Pot Luck begins at 6 pm
- ☐ Guest of Honor Elizabeth Frischmon
- ☐ Election of Directors



EDITOR: John Fitzpatrick

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