

Volume 19, Issue 1 Copyright 2006

The First *Fridley History Conversation*Fridley's Oldtime Nightclubs & Bars

This year we launch a new format for membership meetings. They will now be called *Fridley History Conversations* and will focus on historical events, commerce, organizations, government and other institutions from times long past. We will feature a panel of speakers who will give a short presentation, and then the meeting will be open to questions and stories audience members wish to share.

This first *Fridley History Conversation* will be held on Monday, January 9, at 7 pm. The meeting will feature the old nightclubs and bars going back to early 1900s. How many of you remember Kings Court (formerly States Inn), or the Oak Grove Country Club (story page 3)? How many of you still dine at Sandee's, formerly Sandy Hook? In the 1960s there was Red's, Canterbury Inne & Pub, George's in Fridley, and the Shorewood Inn.





We will have previous owners or family members of previous owners of these establishments on our panel who have very interesting tales to tell about their businesses. Did you know that the Oak Grove Country Club was once a thriving business that entertained many

unsavory characters from the underworld? Or that the Canterbury Pub was a hangout for Hells Angels one summer?

Come and share your remembrances of these bars and clubs that have been a part of Fridley's fabric for more than a century. It should be a very interesting evening. And remember to pay your membership dues. The meeting is free to members, but to balance our budget we now must charge \$5 for non-members attending Fridley History Conversations and other events.



Upcoming Events

Monday, January 9
Fridley History
Conversations #1
"Fridley's Oldtime
Nightclubs & Bars"
7:00 - 8:15 p.m.
Fridley History Center
611 Mississippi St. N.E.
Free to Members
\$5 for Non-Members

Monday, February 13
Fridley History
Conversations #2
"Valentine's Day
Remembrances"
6:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner



FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6 pm

Officers

President: Robert Christenson
Vice President: Mel Manley
Secretary: Pat Jaakkola
Treasurer: Alicia Manley

Board Members

James Baker Lillian Meyer
Pete Bonesteel Mary Sue Meyers
Jerry Manley Lou Michaels

Committees & Chairpersons

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

Archives

Pete Bonesteel - 763-572-1009 Meetings: Tuesdays 9 am

City & Family History

Lillian Meyer - 763-571-5328 Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 10 am

Finance

Alicia Manley – 763-493-2949 Meetings: As Needed

Fundraising

Lou Michaels – 651-213-6888 Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

Jerry Manley – 763-571-6963 Meetings: 1st Monday, 7 pm

Membership

James Baker – 763-574-7296 Meetings: To be determined in Jan.

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson – 763-574-7267 Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 5:30 pm

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers - 763-717-7987

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Fridley Historical Society has no paid staff, so we rely solely on member volunteers to keep the Society functioning and the History Center in good repair.

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, call the History Center at 763-571-0120 and leave your name, phone number and the activity in which you wish to be of assistance.

Current volunteer opportunities include:

- 1. Assist with auditing the financial records in January
- 2. Serve on a Society Committee
- 3. Serve on the Board of Directors
- 4. Edit family histories for publishing
- Collect history for new History of Fridley book
- 6. Write an article for the newsletter
- 7. Assist with assembling the newsletter for mailing
- 8. Help in designing new website
- 9. Write grant proposals
- 10. Serve as a docent (museum guide)
- 11. Assist with a new member recruitment campaign
- 12. Help with cable TV project
- 13. Help with I.S.D. 14 joint project

If there are other areas you wish to be involved, let us know that as well.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING December 8, 2005

Nov. 3, 2005 Board minutes approved.

Treasurer's report deferred until books can be reconciled with previous Treasurer. A. Manley authorized to purchase Quick Books Pro software with Fridley Historical Society as registered owner.

Board discussed Annual Planning Meeting in November and approved final version. A Fundraising Planning Meeting is scheduled for December 7.

Resolution honoring Bonnie McDonald, former Exec. Director of the Anoka County Historical Society, for the services and support she provided our Society during her term was approved.

Christenson presented the 2006 Budget. Each line item was discussed and final Budget was approved.

Christenson reported on his discussions with Brian Strand, Cable Administrator of the City of Fridley, about opportunities for having Historical Society events filmed and shown on the cable channel. We will need to purchase a video camera and editing equipment.

Mel Manley reported that 210 tickets were sold to the Hall of Fame Dinner. There were 184 total attendees compared to 125 last year. Our loss was only \$335.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

DAN MORIARITY'S OAK GROVE COUNTRY CLUB

Information supplied by Wally Ness and Don Granlund

The Oak Grove Country Club was located on five acres of land south of Mississippi Street where Highway 65 now crosses. Its address, were the Club in existence today, would be approximately 1120 Mississippi Street. It was built about 1925 and was closed during the depression.

This was a very large country club that came with 5 acres of land. We have a photo of it in the History Center but it is in too poor a condition to reproduce in the newsletter. Don Granlund donated to the Fridley Historical Society the sign that hung above the door to the Club, and a copy of one of the original dinner menus (would you believe that a Filet Mignon was \$1.50?). The front of the menu reads: "DINE AND DANCE at Dan Moriarity's OAK GROVE COUNTRY CLUB Phone your reservations Dinsmore 5788."

There was no electricity to the area on Mississippi Street where the Dance Hall was located. So the original owners built it with its own power plant, well, sewer system and telephone to make it completely selfsupporting.

In the late 1920s, the club was a thriving business entertaining many unsavory characters from the underworld. When prohibition came, the Oak Grove became a speakeasy selling bootleg liquor. Each entrance had a tunnel beneath it so that in case of a raid by police, they eluded capture by scampering through the tunnels. The tunnels ran from entrance to entrance and down to the boiler room where it was assumed no one would look.

Ray Granlund and Ole Ness bought the Oak Grove Country Club in 1935 for \$1,500. This was the amount of back taxes that were owed, as this was in the era of the depression. Ray and Ole tore down the buildings and sold a lot of the materials and fittings. The land was split and both built their houses and garages out of material from the dance hall. Later their houses were



Don Granlund with sign above main door

moved when the Highway was routed across Moore Lake and through their property.

BOARD ANNOUNCES 2006 PLAN

Your Board of Directors held its Annual Planning Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 17. It celebrated the many successes of 2005 including:

- 1) A record number of Lasagna Dinner raffle prizes (118)
- 2) A record number of attendees for a membership meeting (over 100 at our July meeting);
- 3) A record crowd at AugustFest (150);
- 4) A record attendance at the Hall of Fame Dinner (185);
- 5) A record attendance at our Kindergarten Holiday Art Show (250+) and
- 6) Outstanding media coverage on 3 TV stations, the Star Tribune and the Fridley Sun-Focus.

For 2006, the main goals are to:

- 1. Increase membership by 50 individuals, 25 businesses, & 10 Nonprofit Organizations;
- 2. Establish local Cable TV coverage of special events;
- 3. Conduct 3 major fundraising events that will generate \$12,400;
- Create a Fridley Historical Society website;
- 5. Undertake a joint project with Independent School District 14;
- 6. Produce for the community at least 13 programs and events including:
 - 16th Annual Lasagna Dinner
 - · 1st Annual Sports History Celebration featuring the St. Paul Saints
 - · 11th Annual AugustFest
 - · 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Dinner
 - · Kindergarten Holiday Art Show
 - Annual Christmas Concert
 - 7 "Fridley History Conversations" membership meetings; and
- 7. Publish a book of Fridley's history

The following is the Society budget for 2006 to accomplish these goals:

Revenue	
Memberships	3,300
Fundraisers	12,400
Donations	2,500
Advertising	3,900
Other	750
Total	\$22,850
Expenses	
Fundraisers & Events	6,200
Insurance	1,500
Maintenance	1,470
Supplies	1,500
Printing & Postage	3,350
Utilities	4,350
Other	2,500
Total	\$20,870
Capital Expenditures	
Website Development	5,000
Digital Equipment	5,000
Total	\$10,000*

*To Be Funded by Grants





KINDERGARTEN HOLIDAY ART SHOW

The annual Kindergarten Holiday Art Show was held on Saturday, December 10, from 12 to 3 pm. We had our largest crowd of visitors ever: over 250 people came to view the children's works of art. Marilyn Manley, our former Treasurer, organized the event and contacted the kindergartens of all schools in Fridley. Two schools--Hayes Elementary and Stevenson Elementary--elected to participate.

In advance of the event, Marilyn and husband Jerry Manley prepared the History Center for the holiday season. Ornaments and old-fashioned Christmas decorations were placed on natural Christmas trees (one upstairs and one down) donated by Don and Mary Sue Meyer. All of the children's art was displayed on the walls throughout the History Center.

When the children came to see their artwork, their photographs were taken proudly holding their masterpieces in front of the Christmas tree. They will receive their photos when they return to school in January.







Saralynn Ness

Photos by Lou Michaels

Everyone was served hot cider and Christmas cookies donated by Board members.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We were privileged once again on Monday evening, December 12, to hear a magnificent Christmas concert delivered by the "Kids From Fridley" vocal group. Board Member Mary Sue Meyers, Chair of Programs and Events Committee organized the event.

Directed by Blair Berger, the 20 girls and 8 boys delivered an enthusiastic performance. This was their first formal concert since the new group was formed at the beginning of the school year. All of the children came from Fridley Middle School.

After the concert, everyone partook of Christmas cookies donated by Board members and wassail prepared by Mary Sue Meyers.





"Kids from Fridley" vocal group



FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

55432#4467 CO27

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson

THE FEBRUARY AND THE



2005 ended with a resounding chorus of gratitude by our Board of Directors. We set so many attendance records this past year (see the 2006 Plan on page 4 listing our successes) that our heads were swimming with what new heights we could reach in 2006. Some of our biggest success were the Kindergarten Holiday Art Show in December that drew over 250 people and the sale of 210 tickets to the Hall of Fame Dinner in November.

The Board has built strong momentum this year and is making every effort to carry that forward into 2006. It took some adversity to bring us together, such as losing 4 Board members during the year who chaired key committees. The entire Board joined together as a "committee of the whole" to pick up the slack.

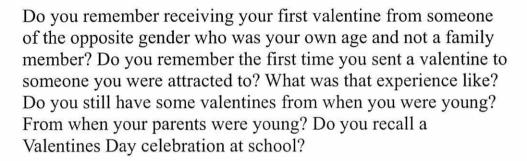
I have said it before and will say it again: this is one of the hardest working, most dedicated and committed board of directors I have ever served with. All of the credit for our many successes belongs to them. They have unified themselves into a cohesive team of "can-do" directors whose allegiance to the mission of this Historical Society and belief that there is no adversity they cannot overcome has been of immeasurable value.

We still have one opening on the Board, and are reserving it for a member who will bring that same degree of commitment and passion to the role of being a Director. If this opportunity seems exciting for you, call our Vice President and Chair of the Nominating Committee, Mel Manley: 763-493-2949.

The Record

Volume 19, Issue 2 Copyright 2006





Please join us at our second Fridley History Conversation on Monday, February 13 when we will celebrate Valentines Day Eve with a potluck dinner at 6 pm, and a program at 7 pm at the History Center. There will be many valentines on display from the last century, some from our archival collection at the History Center and some from the private collections of Board Members Mary Sue Meyers and Pete Bonesteel.

All who attend will be invited to bring valentines from their childhood or other old family valentines for our "show and tell" part of the program.

Did you know that St. Valentines Day on February 14 was established in 498 A.D by Pope Gelasius? To learn more about this holiday, see the article on page 3.



Both
Valentines
from the
Fridley
Historical
Society
Archives







Monday, February 13
Fridley History
Conversation #2
"Be My Valentine"
6:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner
6:45 p.m. Membership
Meeting
7:00 p.m. Program
Fridley History Center
611 Mississippi Street N.E.
Free to Members
\$5 for Non-Members

Monday, March 13
Fridley History
Conservation #3
"Roots: Fridley's
Churches"
6:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner
611 Mississippi Street N.E.
Free to Members
\$5 for Non-Members

Saturday, April 29
16th Annual Lasagna
Dinner, Raffle, and Auction
5 - 7 p.m.
Fridley Community Center
7th Street & 61st Avenue



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Robert Christenson

Vice President: Mel Manley Secretary:

Pat Jaakkola

Treasurer:

Alicia Manley

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Mary Sue Meyers Lou Michaels

Jerry Manley

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING January 5, 2006

Meeting convened by Pres. Christenson at 6:02 p.m. In attendance were Robert Christenson, Pat Jaakkola, Mel Manley, Jerry Manley, Alicia Manley, James Baker, Lillian Meyer and Pete Bonesteel. Dec. 1, 2005 Board minutes were approved.

Christenson led a discussion on techniques the Board can use to improve communications.

The Board and Membership meeting schedules for 2006 were approved. The Board will meet the first Thursday of every month at 6 pm, and Membership meetings will be at 7 pm on January 9, February 13, March 13, May 8, June 12, July 10, and September 11, with the Annual Meeting on October 9.

Christenson appointed the Committee Chairs for 2006: Archives - Pete Bonesteel; City & Family History Lillian Meyer; Finance & Audit - Alicia Manley; Fridley Hall of Fame - Mel Manley; Fundraising - Lou Michaels; Membership - James Baker; History Center Maintenance - Jerry Manley; Newsletter & PR – Robert Christenson; Program & Events – Mary Sue Meyers.

The League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Report was discussed. We received a \$379 rebate for 2005.

The Minnesota Historical Society will hold a seminar on Suburban History at the Landscape Arboretum on January 28. Lillian Meyer stated that she and members of the City & Family History Committee would attend to gain more information on creating our new Fridley history book.

Pete Bonesteel reported that a request was received from Bob's Produce Ranch to borrow copies of photos of Fridley businesses to be displayed in their store. Request approved. Pete also recommended that when we secure a new business member, their name be placed for a short time on our outdoor-lighted sign.

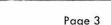
Lillian Meyer reported that they have a new member on the City & Family History Committee, Barbara Hughes. They have now received 92 family histories and expect they will have 100 soon. Work is proceeding on the new book.

James Baker reported that all membership renewals went out in December, as well as new member invitations to over 50 businesses and 21 nonprofit organizations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm. Picture below donated by Donald Granlund.



Oak Grove Country Club



A BRIEF HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY Source: The History Channel

The history of Valentine's Day -- and its patron saint -- is shrouded in mystery. In third-century Rome, Pagans honored Juno, the queen of the Roman gods and goddesses, on February 14. Juno also was considered to be the goddess of women and marriage. Who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men - his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.



According to another legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl -- who may have been his jailor's daughter -- who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today.

Another legend holds that Valentine was killed for trying to help Christians escape torturous Roman prisons.

Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day around 498 A.D. The Roman 'lottery' system for romantic pairing was deemed un-Christian and outlawed. Later, during the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of February -- Valentine's Day -- should be a day for romance.

Americans began to exchange hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. A Mount Holyoke College student named Esther A. Howland made the first mass-produced valentines in the U.S. around 1835. Her father, who owned a stationery store, imported valentines from England, but she wanted something more personal. She imported fancy paper and lace and employed assistants to help her in her enterprise. Howland's "Worchester" valentines were a success as sales amounted to about \$100,000 annually.

Approximately 85 percent of all valentines are purchased by women. In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia.

Editor's Note: All Valentines on this page are from Pete Bonesteel's Private Collection, which will be on display at the History Conversation meeting on February 13.





NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

* New Member

Individual, Senior & Family Members

Judy Anderson Robert Aldrich Bill Bacon

David & Susan Baker*

James Baker John Banholzer

Bob & Jane Barnette

Bill Beery

Don Betzold

Rosemary Biedron

Don & Susan Blakeslee

Mark Bonesteel

Peter & Mary Bonesteel

Esther Campbell

Earle & Adeline Christenson

Robert Christenson

Virginia Christenson

Dean & Carmen Coleman

Gloria Egan

Stephen & Mary Eggert

Jim Ehlert

Willis Erickson

John & Alice Ganter

Dorothy Gargaro*

Jim & Jan Golden

Jim & Gretchen Hanson

Carrol & Mavis Hauge

Earl Hatten

Chuck Hayes

Betty Hendrickson

Pearl Hicks

Barbara Hughes

William & Margaret Hunt

Eric & Pat Jaakkola

Margaret Jewison

Don & Jo Ann Johnson

Jerry & Debbie Johnson

Lary Johnson

Richard Jefferson & Alice

Johnson

Sonja Granlund Johnson

Jim Kordiak

James Lawrence

Dorothy Linse

William & Hazel Linton

Carole & Marty Lueders Scott & Cindy Lund

Gerald & Margaret Maeckelbergh

Irene & Joseph Maertens

Audrey Mahr

Jerry & Marilyn Manley

Mel & Alicia Manley

Bernadine Matushak

John & Lillian Meyer

Lou Michaels

Tom & Gloria Myhra

Wally & Gene Ness

Ruth Ollila

Andy Oman

Linda Pearson

Jim Peterson

Earnest & Jeanne Petrangelo

Duane & Anita Prairie

Sig & Marti Reckdahl

Ann Tesky

Glenn Theorin

Brian & Joanne Toews

Cindy Torfin

Francis & Mary Van Dan



Donors

Don & JoAnn Johnson - \$100

Jeffrey Gargaro - \$50

William Beery - \$40

John & Alice Ganter - \$32

Irene & Joseph Maertens - \$32

Mel & Alicia Manley - \$32

John & Lillian Meyer - \$30

Robert Christenson - \$25

Barbara Hughes - \$25

William & Hazel Linton - \$20

Ruth Ollila - \$20

Mark Bonesteel - \$13

Stephen & Mary Eggert- \$12

Audrey Mahr - \$10

Betty Hendrickson - \$10

Dorothy Linse - \$10

Under \$10

James Baker

Peter & Mary Bonesteel

Pearl Hicks

William & Margaret Hunt

Richard Jefferson &

Alice Johnson

Lary Johnson

Carole & Marty Lueders

Jerry & Marilyn Manley

Gerald & Margaret

Maeckelbergh

Tom & Gloria Myhra

A. L. Oman

Ernest & Jean Petrangelo

Glenn Theorin



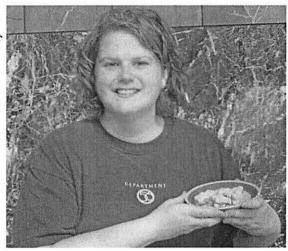
Business Members

Kuether Distributing Co. Miller Funeral Home* Unity Hospital*

Board Member Profile - Alicia Manley

One would say I married into a rich history in the city of Fridley when I married Mel Manley in September of last year. Mel's family history in the city of Fridley goes way back to the 1850's, and beginning this year, I was honored to become a board member and Treasurer for the Historical Society.

I grew up in Maple Grove, MN and attended Osseo Senior High School. I graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and am currently pursuing my MBA at the University of St. Thomas. I am Payroll Supervisor at General Mills in Golden Valley and I have worked for Pillsbury/General Mills for 8 years. I have volunteered with Meals on Wheels for 6 years and I am also a member of Toastmasters.



Alicia Manley with her favorite cookies: Crème Wafers

I love to travel all over the world, scuba dive, exploring new places and I regularly scrapbook my adventures with a group of family and friends. I'm an avid reader - currently reading the most recent Harry Potter book and my many cooking and scrapbooking magazines.

Mel and I reside in Brooklyn Park but we are currently planning to build a home together in Northern Anoka County this year. We enjoy going to movies, traveling together and hope to start our family soon.

JANUARY FRIDLEY HISTORY CONVERSATION

See photo, page 2

Our inaugural History Conversation drew a good crowd on January 9 to hear about and discuss old nightclubs in Fridley. Don Granlund told the interesting story about the Oak Grove Country Club which his family and the Ness family purchased in 1935. Robert Christenson gave the history of the Canterbury Inne and Pub which he established in 1966 and operated until he sold it four years later. Members of the audience shared their personal stories of other Fridley nightlife establishments (Frontier Club, George's in Fridley, Kings Court, Sandees, Fridley Café [later Howies], Shorewood Inn, Sylvan Tavern), and many others they had frequented in years past.



FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street N.E. Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

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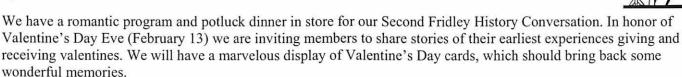


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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Some interesting statistics on the sexes:

- The proportion of women 20 to 24 years old who had <u>never</u> married more than doubled between 1970 and 2003 from 36 percent to 75 percent. Changes were also dramatic for men the corresponding rate for men in this age group increased from 55 percent to 86 percent.
- ♥ 54% and 57% are the percentages of American women and men, respectively, who are 15 and over and currently married.
- There are 118 single men (i.e., never married, widowed or divorced) who are in their 20s for every 100 single women of the same ages.
- There are 33 single men (i.e., never married, widowed or divorced) age 65 and over for every 100 single women of the same ages.
- ♥ 25.3 and 27.1 are the estimated U.S. median ages at first marriage for women and men, respectively, in 2003.

Volume 19, Issue 3 Copyright 2006



The Record

Fridley History Conversation "Roots: Fridley's Places of Worship"

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 29
16th Annual Lasagna Dinner,
Raffle, and Auction
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Fridley Community Center
7th Street & 61st Avenue

Monday, May 8
Fridley History Conversation #4
"Tornado Alley"
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Fridley History Center



Fridley's oldest congregation, Redeemer Lutheran Church

What role does religion play in establishing our roots? How many places of worship are in Fridley? What was the first church built and when? Which congregation has been continuously holding services for over 90 years in Fridley? How many different religions or denominations have churches in Fridley?

All this and more you will learn when you attend our 3rd Fridley History Conversation on Monday, March 13. And, because in certain religious denominations potluck dinners

are traditional, we will also have a potluck at 6 pm. Like always, bringing a dish is optional. Best of all, we may have clergy on hand to bless our food.

At the time this newsletter went to press, 7 religious organizations had agreed to be part of the panel that will give presentations beginning at 7 pm. Each representative will tell the story about how their place of worhsip came into existence in Fridley, and share some of the interesting happenings in their history.

The panel representatives have also been invited to bring old photos and artifacts for a display table we will set up in the meeting room. Come and enjoy; you will be blessed if you do.



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first

Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.

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President:

Robert Christenson

Vice President:

Mel Manley Pat Jaakkola

Secretary: Treasurer:

Alicia Manley

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Lillian Meyer

Mary Sue Meyers

Lou Michaels

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Meetings: As Needed

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Lou Michaels - 651-213-6888

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 4:30 pm

Hall of Fame

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Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

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Meetings: To be determined.

Newsletter & Public Relations

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Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 5:30 pm

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers - 763-717-7987

Meetings: To be determined

Board of Directors Meeting

February 17, 2006

Meeting convened by Pres. Christenson at 6:02 p.m. In attendance were Robert Christenson, Pat Jaakkola, Mel Manley, Jerry Manley, Alicia Manley, James Baker, Lillian Meyer, and Pete Bonesteel. January 5, 2005, Board minutes were approved.

Alicia Manley, Treasurer, reported that she is still inserting information into QuickBooks Pro and will have a full financial report next meeting. Income through January 18 was \$1,478.

Robert Christenson, President, reported five more members had sent in their "Helping Hand" volunteer forms: Bernadine Matushak, Carol Christenson, Judy Anderson, Esther Campbell, and Marti Reckdahl.

16th Annual Lasagna Dinner - Christenson distributed and reviewed the list of tasks that need to be done for the April 29 Lasagna Dinner, Raffle and Auction, when they need to be completed, and who is responsible for each task.

"Remember the Saints" Event –A motion to establish "Remember the Saints" at the Heights Theater on Wednesday July 19 as our summer fundraiser for 2006 was made by J. Manley and seconded by Baker. Motion approved.

Hall of Fame Committee – Mel Manley, Chair, reported that they have chosen November 11 at 12:00 noon for the 2006 Hall of Fame dinner. They will begin to solicit nominations at the Lasagna Dinner.

City & Family History Committee – Lillian Meyer, Chair, reported that the three members of the committee went to the Minnesota Arboretum for an event focusing on suburban communities, sponsored by the Minnesota History Center.

Membership Committee – Baker has produced and printed the 2006 Membership Cards and will distribute some at the Fridley History Conversation February 13 and mail the remainder. Board members will call those who have not as yet renewed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Board Member Profile: Mary Sue Meyers



Board Member Mary Sue Meyers

Mary Sue (Feit) Meyers was born prematurely on a snowy December day in Duluth, Minnesota in 1938. She came into the world two and one-half months early at three pounds. Brother Robert was eight at the time of her birth, and was already a gifted violinist. Her dad was the Soo Line agent/telegrapher. Her mother was a former country schoolteacher in Wisconsin before her marriage. The family stayed in Duluth until 1944 when they moved to Minneapolis.

Her dad worked at the Soo Line downtown offices in Minneapolis and purchased a home in Columbia Heights where they lived for the next eleven years. Sue remembers her dad working long hours during the war, often seven days a week. Other remembrances include ration stamps for sugar, gasoline, and shortages of meat, shoes, and other things. It was a real treat to take a car ride on Sundays after church. Like everyone else in the neighborhood they had a Victory garden and mother canned all of their food.

Sue attended Immaculate Conception Grade School and Columbia Heights High School through tenth grade, and then they moved to Moose Lake, Minnesota, where she graduated from high school. Her father became the Station Agent for the Soo Line Depot. To this day she is active in planning her classes reunions and counts many of her classmates as friends.

Sue attended University of Minnesota majoring in history. While there she met and married Donald Meyers. They settled in Fridley where Donald was teaching and coaching wrestling at the newly opened High School, and eventually became principal of the Fridley Junior High. Two daughters were born of the marriage, Dawn and Chris.

For 10 years Sue was the Assignment Secretary for a new wrestling officials organization and in that role assigned officials to over 500 wrestling meets for area high schools and colleges each year. Also during the 1960's and 70's the Minnesota High School Wrestling State Tournament was growing, and Sue assisted her husband in coordinating all of the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association's activities related to the tournament. It was a family operation with girls helping to sell T-shirts, commemorative mugs and over a 1000 "Wrestler Recognition Brunch" tickets each year. Because of her decades of work on behalf of amateur wrestling, Sue became the first woman inducted into Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Dave Bartelma Hall of Fame.

She had many gardens when living in Fridley, growing herbs for cooking and crafts. This led her to be involved in the Minneapolis Herb Faire held at Anita Beck's Reindeer House store each year.

Sue has worked at Schaaf Floral in Fridley for many years. She is involved with the Fridley 49ers' civic celebration, has spent many years on the Board of the Historical Society chairing a number of committees, and remains active in the Miss Fridley Pageant which she coordinated for 4 years. Her daughter Chris became Miss Fridley in 1983.

After 42 years of living in Fridley Sue and Don moved into their new Blaine, MN home that Sue designed. She continues to be involved in Fridley activities, and working at Schaaf's with no plans of retiring soon.



Village of Fridley Founding Fathers

Fridley became a Village in 1949 when the population of the unincorporated Township was approximately 3.500. Other attempts to incorporate Fridley had been made in the past with no success. And it wasn't until June 1957 that Fridley actually became a City. The following is a list of Trustees, Council Members, Clerk, and Village Manager during the 8 1/2 years Fridley was a Village:

<u>1949</u>		1953 - May	
Mayor	Carl Hartman	Mayor	Carl Hartman
Clerk	Ward Norling	Clerk	Ward Norling
Trustee	Richard Gottwaldt	Trustee	Herbert Bacon Sr.
Trustee	Herbert Bacon Sr.	Trustee	Albert Paulson
Trustee	Jacob Steiger	Trustee	Howard Stiles
<u>1950</u>		<u>1954</u>	
Mayor	Carl Hartman	Mayor	Robert Hughes
Clerk	Ward Norling	Clerk	Ward Norling
Trustee	Richard Gottwaldt	Trustee	Herbert Bacon Sr.
Trustee	Herbert Bacon Sr.	Trustee	Albert Paulson
Trustee	Jacob Steiger	Trustee	Glenn Johanson
1074			
<u>1951</u>		<u>1955</u>	***
Mayor	Carl Hartman	Mayor	Robert Hughes
Clerk	Ward Norling	Councilmember	Albert Paulson
Trustee	Richard Gottwaldt	Councilmember	Glenn Johanson
Trustee	Herbert Bacon Sr.	Councilmember	Thomas Greig
Trustee	Jacob Steiger	Councilmember	Fred Vye
1052		Village Manager	Ernest Madsen
<u>1952</u>		<u>1956</u>	
Mayor	Carl Hartman	Mayor	Thomas Greig
Clerk	Ward Norling	Councilmember	Glenn Johanson
Trustee	Richard Gottwaldt	Councilmember	Fred Vye
Trustee	Herbert Bacon Sr.	Councilmember	Byron Frederick
Trustee	Jacob Steiger	Councilmember	Mario Marcucci
1953 - January		1957 - January	
Mayor	Carl Hartman	Mayor	Thomas Greig
Clerk	Ward Norling	Councilmember	Glenn Johanson
Trustee	Richard Gottwaldt	Councilmember	Fred Vye
	Herbert Bacon Sr.	at the state of th	30 Pt. 31.00 Pt. 1
Trustee		Councilmember	Byron Frederick
Trustee	Albert Paulson	Councilmember	Mario Marcucci
		Village Manager	Ernest Madsen

A HEART-FILLED HISTORY CONVERSATION #2



Board member Lillian Meyer's family heirloom Valentine collection

We had a wonderful turnout for our Valentine's Day Eve History Conversation with over a hundred old-fashioned valentines to look at. There were five sets of antique valentines on display. Each of the members who brought their collection of rare valentines gave a short talk on how they started collecting valentines and also identified some of the more valuable valentines in their collection.

The valentine displays were brought to the meeting by Member John Banholzer and Board members Mary Sue Meyers, Lillian Meyer, and Pete Bonesteel. There were also valentines on display from the Historical Society's permanent collection.



Mary Sue Meyers' Valentine collection

John Banholzer generously donated 5 valentines from his valuable collection to the Society after the meeting. He brought so many valentines we did not have space to display all of them, so they were placed in stacks on the table.



Partial display of John Banholzer's Valentine collection



I. to r. John Banholzer, Phyllis Banholzer, and Ruth Ollila admiring John's collection

In Memoriam

We are sad to announce the loss of a number of very valuable and appreciated members who passed away in 2005. To the best of our knowledge, these include:

Edna Ask – was very active as an artist who painted pictures in our collection at the History Center and started the Women's Auxiliary at Unity Hospital.

Doris Bergman – Served on the Archives Committee and attended many membership meetings.

Gilbert Engdahl - an accountant who provided services to many Fridley businesses.

Chris Gerrety - A faithful long-time member of the Society.

Norma Johnson – very committed member attended all of our membership meetings

Norma (Scherer) Lindquist – attended many of the Historical Society events and volunteered as a docent.

If we have missed any names, please call 763-571-0120 and leave us the information, and if you become aware of the deaths of any members this year, please call with that news as well.



FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson

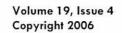


What are the key ingredients that go into creating and maintaining a vibrant and healthy township, village, or city? Some would mention essential infrastructure (streets, water, sewer, power, etc.), public safety services (police, fire), schools, neighborhoods, parks, stores, arts and entertainment, cultural and service organizations, town hall, and places of worship. In even the smallest towns that may lack many of things we have mentioned, you will almost always find a church, synagogue, mosque, temple, or meetinghouse where people go for spiritual refreshment.

At my count, there are at least 18 places of worship in Fridley. There may be even more as some communities of worshippers just gather in a resident's home and are not listed in any directory. On March 13, for our 3rd Fridley History Conversation, we will have representatives of some of the older churches in Fridley, and at least one of the newer places of worship, discuss how they came into existence, and interesting happenings in their worship community today. This is another potluck dinner meeting beginning at 6 pm.

This issue of "The Record" also has a directory of the leaders of Fridley's first formal government in the days when we were just a young Village, trying to come together as a self-governed community with a mayor, council, city clerk, and police and fire departments. For you old-timers, how many of these people do you recall?

We also feature in this issue photos of the exquisite displays of old-fashioned valentines at our 2nd History Conversation. We had over 20 members in attendance and, as always, a scrumptious potluck dinner. Hope to see you Monday the 13th for our 3rd Fridley History Conversation.





16th Annual Lasagna Dinner, Raffle & Auction

Lots of excitement is building for this year's annual Lasagna Dinner, as we are expecting over 100 raffle prizes and some fantastic auction items. The date is **Saturday**, **April 29**. The time is **4:30 pm** when the doors open, and dinner begins promptly at 5 pm with the raffle at 5:45 pm. The place is the **Fridley Community Center** at 61st and 7th. And the featured attraction is **YOU**.



You bring the energy to this event, as you renew old friendships and form new ones, share stories, laugh and reminisce, and hope to win one of the many raffle prizes. Our auction items this year will include Vikings and Twins tickets, and a fabulous weekend

at a resort up North worth over a \$1,000, plus other fabulous prizes.

We have not increased ticket prices this year, leaving the dinner tickets at \$9 and the raffle tickets at \$1. You should have received 15 of raffle tickets in the envelope with this newsletter. To be eligible for the drawing, mail in the stubs with your name and phone number and check in the envelope provided. Also, don't forget to mail in the registration form and check for the dinner in the same envelope. Marino's Catering is again providing the delicious Italian food





Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 29
16th Annual Lasagna Dinner,
Raffle, and Auction
4:40 p.m. Doors Open
5:00 p.m. Dinner
5:45 p.m. Raffle & Auction
Fridley Community Center
7th Street & 61st Avenue

Monday, May 8
Fridley History Conversation #4
"Tornado Alley"
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Fridley History Center

Monday, June 12 Fridley History Conversation #5 "Fridley's Farms" 7:09 - 8:30 p.m. Fridley History Center

Wednesday, July 19
Fridley History Conversation #6
"Remember the Saints"
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Heights Theatre



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6 pm

Officers

President:

Robert Christenson

Vice President:

Mel Manley

Secretary:

Pat Jaakkola

Treasurer:

Alicia Manley

Board Members

James Baker

Lillian Meyer

Pete Bonesteel

Mary Sue Meyers

Jerry Manley

Lou Michaels

Committees & Chairpersons

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

Archives

Pete Bonesteel - 763-572-1009 Meetings: Tuesdays 9 am

City & Family History

Lillian Meyer - 763-571-5328 Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 10 am

Finance

Alicia Manley – 763-493-2949 Meetings: As Needed

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley – 763-493-2949 Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

Jerry Manley – 763-571-6963 Meetings: 1st Monday, 7 pm

Membership

James Baker – 763-574-7296 Meetings: To be determined.

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson – 763-574-7267 Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 5:30 pm

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers – 763-717-7987 Meetings: To be determined.



Board of Directors Meeting

March 2, 2006

Meeting convened by Pres. Christenson at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were Robert Christenson, Pat Jaakkola, Jerry Manley, James Baker, Lillian Meyer, Mary Sue Meyers and Pete Bonesteel. February 2, 2006, Board minutes were approved.

Volunteers: Christenson reported that 10 members had sent in their "Helping Hand" volunteer forms that were not mentioned at the last newsletter: Jennifer Berger, Wally Ness, John Meyer, Bill & Hazel Linton, John & Alice Ganter, Gordon Christenson, Erin Manley and Adeline Christenson.

President's Report: Christenson noted that our insurance premium had increased and he will investigate why. He noted we had been having excellent turnouts for our History Center museum open houses on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays. He also remarked that we are short 2 board members and will need to fill these slots soon and develop a succession plan as his term as President ends this year. He suggested we recruit members to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Discussion Item: Christenson recommended the Board consider joining the Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce to develop more personal contact with area businesses that are both potential members and potential sponsors of upcoming events. The dues are \$235. It was moved and seconded to join this organization.

Archives Committee: Pete Bonesteel, Chair, said thanks go to his son Mark for identifying all the photos we recently received related to the Fridley Police Department.

Program & Events Committee – Mary Sue Meyers, Chair, reported that the Community Center has been reserved for the Lasagna Dinner. Board members volunteered to perform various duties the night of the event. History Conversations - Christenson said the program on March 13 would feature Fridley's places of worship

City & Family History Committee – Chairman Lillian Meyer noted that more family histories are forthcoming. Christenson agreed to write a grant proposal for publishing the book. There was discussion about including businesses in the history book.

Maintenance Committee – Jerry Manley discussed carpet cleaning and missing chairs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.



Board Member Profile: Lillian Meyer



Lillian (Vidas) Meyer was born in Minneapolis and attended public schools from 1st to 12th grade in south Minneapolis. After graduation she attended Hamline University and Asbury Hospital where she studied to become a nurse. During her training she joined the Cadet Corps, an organization that the government formed to train nurses during World War II. The government gave a stipend of #35 per month to help defray the cost of nursing for the students. There was a great shortage of nurses as so many graduate nurses were in the armed services.

After receiving her registered nurse degree Lillian married John Meyer. She continued working in Asbury Hospital in the operating room for a couple of years and then worked for a vascular specialist. She did this until starting her family of three boys, Ed, Don and Ken. For 13 years their home was in Richfield.

Lillian Meyer

During these years Lil was a "Den Mother" for the Cub Scouts (five years) and was active in her church. She also discovered the Richfield League of Women Voters and joined and has been active in the League ever since. This was also the first organization in which she became active after moving to Fridley in

1964. She served in several positions on the Fridley League of Women Voters' Board including that of president during these years. She also served on the board of the Council of Metropolitan Area League of Women Voters for many years. During this activity she learned in detail about the concerns of most communities over the entire metro area.

Moving to Fridley was an adjustment for the whole family. Lillian joined Redeemer Lutheran Church where she and the boys became active participants. Later she joined St. Philips Lutheran Church where she is still a member.

John and Lillian are both charter members of the Fridley Historical Society. Lil was elected to the board as secretary in 1986. She has been a board member most the time since then. For two years she was president of the society. She also served as the newsletter editor for about 15 years. Lillian has been involved with the many activities the society has undertaken.

Lil has been active in her nursing alumnae association and has been the editor/publisher of a newsletter that is sent to 1000+ members twice a year throughout the country.



visited Lillian and Jack

In high school, Lillian decided to drop history because she and a friend wanted to get done with school early. Well, Lillian has been trying to get caught up with history ever since. She and John belong to the MN Historical Society, to the New Brighton, Hennepin County, Anoka County and Ramsey County Historical Societies.



City of Fridley Founding Fathers

Last issue, we published the names of the Mayors, Council Members and Managers for the $8\,1/2$ years that Fridley was a Village (1949 – 1957). This issue will include the first 9 1/2 years Fridley was a City.

-			
<u> 1957 - June</u>		1962	
Mayor	Thomas Greig	Mayor	Thomas Greig
Councilmember at Large	Glenn Johanson	Councilmember at Large	Glenn Johanson
Councilmember Ward 1	Mario Marcucci	Councilmember Ward 1	William Nee
Councilmember Ward 2	Raymond Sheridan	Councilmember Ward 2	Raymond Sheridan
Councilmember Ward 3	Fred Vye	Councilmember Ward 3	Bernard Wolke
City Manager	Clarance Maddy	City Manager	Earl Wagner
		City Attorney	Andrew Kohlan
<u>1958</u>		<u>1963</u>	
Mayor	Frank LaGrange	Mayor	William Nee
Councilmember at Large	Glenn Johanson	Councilmember at Large	Glenn Johanson
Councilmember Ward 1	Vi Nagel	Councilmember Ward 1	Peter Brook
Councilmember Ward 2	Raymond Sheridan	Councilmember Ward 2	Raymond Sheridan
Councilmember Ward 3	Bernard Wolke	Councilmember Ward 3	Bernard Wolke
City Manager	Clarance Maddy	City Manager	Earl Wagner
	1	City Attorney	W. Wyman Smith
<u>1959</u>		<u>1964</u>	
Mayor	Frank LaGrange	Mayor	William Nee
Councilmember at Large	Glenn Johanson	Councilmember at Large	Glenn Johanson
Councilmember Ward 1	Vi Nagel	Councilmember Ward 1	Jack Kirkham
Councilmember Ward 2	Raymond Sheridan	Councilmember Ward 2	Raymond Sheridan
Councilmember Ward 3	Bernard Wolke	Councilmember Ward 3	John Wright
City Manager	(11-16-59) Earl Wagner	City Manager	Earl Wagner
		City Attorney	W. Wyman Smith
<u>1960</u>		<u>1965</u>	
Mayor	Frank LaGrange	Mayor	William Nee
Councilmember at Large	Glenn Johanson	Councilmember at Large	Glenn Thompson
Councilmember Ward 1	Vi Nagel	Councilmember Ward 1	Jack Kirkham
Councilmember Ward 2	Raymond Sheridan	Councilmember Ward 2	Raymond Sheridan
Councilmember Ward 3	Bernard Wolke	Councilmember Ward 3	John Wright
City Manager	Earl Wagner	City Manager	Earl Wagner
		City Attorney	W. Wyman Smith
<u>1961</u>		<u>1966</u>	
Mayor	Thomas Greig	Mayor	Jack Kirkham
Councilmember at Large	Glenn Johanson	Councilmember at Large	David Harris
Councilmember Ward 1	William Nee	Councilmember Ward 1	Leonard Samuelson
Councilmember Ward 2	Raymond Sheridan	Councilmember Ward 2	Raymond Sheridan
Councilmember Ward 3	Bernard Wolke	Councilmember Ward 3	John Wright
City Manager	Earl Wagner	City Manager	Earl Wagner
		City Attorney	Virgil Herrick

HISTORY CONVERSATION #3, Fridley's Houses of Worship

Our 3rd History Conversation almost didn't happen. We had 7 inches of snow the day of the event, and by 4:30 pm the parking lot still wasn't plowed and our potluck dinner was scheduled to start at 6. But the Fridley Public Works Department came to the rescue and had the lot cleaned by 5 pm.

36 people braved the weather to come to the event, including 7 of our 8 speakers. Each speaker shared a wonderful story about their church or mosque's beginnings, interesting

landmarks over the years, and the exciting futures they see for their congregations. Our speakers included: Norma Rust - Grace Lutheran; Sumbal Mahmud - Islamic Center of Minnesota (featured in the Star Tribune March 29); Connie Metcalf - Michael Servetus Unitarian Society; Rev. Sean Kelly - Re-



Pastor Clarke Poorman, Woodcrest Baptist

deemer Lutheran; Ron Seekamp - St. Philips Lutheran; Eunice O'Neill - Church of St. William; and Pastor Clarke Poorman - Woodcrest Baptist.

Each of the speakers brought photo albums and other memorabilia of their places of worship to share with the audience. Another scrumptious potluck dinner got us warmed up from the cold and snow, and everyone stayed until 8:30 pm.

\$12 of your membership fee pays for the printing and postage of this newsletter. Please consider making an additional tax-deductible donation to cover the cost of maintaining the Fridley History Center.



Eunice O'Neill, Church of St. William

Membership Application

Join the Fridley Historical Society and receive benefits ranging from \$78 for an Individual Membership, \$144 for Family Membership, and even more for those that become Nonprofit or Business Members.

- \$10 Senior
- \$12 Individual
- \$18 Family (2 adults, same household)

Thank you

- \$25 Nonprofit
- \$50 Business

City, State, Zip_

Tax	Deductible Donation
\$	

Fridley Historical Society
Mail this form and your check to:
Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi St. N.E.
Fridley, MN 55432

Make checks payable to:

Name	E-mail address:
Address	Telephone



FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Last month I discussed the key ingredients that go into creating a vibrant and healthy city. This month I want to address the essential ingredients for a vibrant and healthy historical society. It is a very timely topic because more than a few of the historical societies in Minnesota are on the brink of closing. The Fridley Historical Society is not one of them.

What have we learned over the 20 years of our existence that has enabled us to maintain a vital and active historical society? First, it helps to have a beautiful old school as a museum in which to showcase artifacts and memorabilia of our past 157 years and which serves as the home of the Fridley Hall of Fame we created in 2004.

We have learned we need a very loyal membership to continually strive to grow. It takes a very dedicated Board that collectively puts in hundreds of hours of work every month. And then there are our many member volunteers who are so generous with their time doing all the things the Board could never undertake alone. The Society must constantly be raising funds, for without them, it will die.

We have learned that every month we need to sponsor events that serve City residents and Society members. Annually we produce 7 History Conversations, Lasagna Dinner & Raffle, AugustFest, Hall of Fame Dinner, Kindergarten Holiday Art Show and Christmas Concert. And we learned we must reach out to schools, local organizations and businesses. We just became a member of the Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce and are inviting other organizations to hold meetings at our History Center.

Final ingredients are we work, we plan, we celebrate, we have fun, and we are grateful for all of the support we receive.

Volume 19, Issue 5 Copyright 2006



The Record

FRIDLEY HISTORY CONVERSATION #4:

Tornado Alley: Personal Stories



Monday, May 8
Fridley History Conversation #4
"Tornado Alley"
4:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Fridley History Center

Saturdays, May 13 & 27 Museum Open House 11:00 am - 3:00 p.m. Fridley History Center

Monday, June 12 Fridley History Conversation #5 "Fridley's Farms" 7:09 - 8:30 p.m. Fridley History Center

Wednesday, July 13
Fridley History Conversation #6
"Remember the Saints"
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Heights Theatre

May 6, 1965, is a date that shall live forever in the memories of those who experienced the devastating tornadoes that whipped through Fridley that warm and muggy spring evening. On May 8, 2006, 41 years and 2 days after that terrifying event, we will provide an opportunity for those who experienced that



"dark and stormy night" to tell their personal stories. The event will be audio and video recorded for the Fridley History Center records. We will have our Tornado display and a table of old newspapers and photos of the tornado damage for you to view.

A short membership meeting will commence at 6:00 pm followed by a video of the 1965 tornado destruction. Last year we had as our July speaker Todd Krause of the U. S. Weather Bureau, who discussed the meteorological history of that event and the controversy surrounding the actual number of tornadoes recorded by the Weather Bureau. This year our speakers will be those who attend this History Conversation and are willing to share personal experiences of that terrifying night in 1965.

If you wish to tell your story, bring photos with you if you can and we will ask you to limit your remarks to 5 minutes so everyone attending who wishes to speak will have an opportunity. We had over 100 people attend the meeting last year.



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

Officers

President:

Robert Christenson

Vice President:

Mel Manley

Secretary:

Pat Jaakkola

Treasurer:

Alicia Manley

Board Members

James Baker

Lillian Meyer

Pete Bonesteel

Mary Sue Meyers

Jerry Manley

Lou Michaels

Committees & Chairpersons

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

Archives

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City & Family History

Lillian Meyer - 763-571-5328 Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 10 am

Finance

Alicia Manley - 763-493-2949 Meetings: As Needed

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley - 763-493-2949 Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

Jerry Manley – 763-571-6963 Meetings: 1st Monday, 7 pm

Membership

James Baker – 763-574-7296 Meetings: To be determined.

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson – 763-574-7267 Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 5:30 pm

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers – 763-717-7987 Meetings: To be determined.



Board of Directors Meeting

April 6, 2006

Meeting convened by Pres. Christenson at 6:10 p.m. In attendance were Robert Christenson, Pat Jaakkola, Jerry Manley, James Baker, Lillian Meyer, Mary Sue Meyers, Pete Bonesteel, Mel Manley, and Alicia Manley. The March 2, 2006, Board minutes were approved.

President's Report: Christenson reported on meetings he attended this past month on fundraising and grant seeking, and will develop a strategy to strengthen our fundraising efforts. He met with the leaders of the Columbia Heights Chamber of Commerce and offered them the opportunity to take advantage of our "Remember the Saints" fundraising event at the Heights Theatre in July to raise funds for their Society. He discussed the Anoka County Sesquicentennial and noted that he will be serving on the Community Task Force planning the event for May 2007.

Action Items: The Board approved allowing the Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce to hold their Membership Luncheon Meeting on May 18 at the Fridley History Center. Also approved was purchasing an ad in the brochure for the American Legion's 10th District Convention to be held in Fridley, and approved was the contract for \$500 to use the Heights Theatre for our "Remember the Saints" fundraiser in July. New business membership rates were also approved: \$50 Blue Windmill Member; \$100 Bronze Windmill Member; \$250 Silver Windmill Member and \$500 Gold Windmill Member.

Discussion Item: The Board spent the majority of the meeting attending to the final preparations for the 16th Annual Lasagna Dinner, Raffle and Auction.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

ANOKA COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL

Anoka County received its official designation as a County of the State of Minnesota on May 23, 1857. All 21 cities and townships in Anoka County beginning in May 2007 will celebrate the County's 150th anniversary.

If you would like to be involved in planning celebratory events to be held in Fridley in 2007 to honor this important anniversary, we would very much welcome your participation. Please call the Fridley History Center: 763-571-0120 and leave your name and phone number and the best time to reach you, or you can call the Historical Society's president, Robert Christenson: 763-574-7267.



The Fridley Hall of Fame

by Mel Manley

The Fridley Historical Society is seeking nominations to the Fridley Hall of Fame. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to recognize those who, through dedication, work, and accomplishment, have contributed most significantly to the growth and success of the city of Fridley.

Nominations will be accepted from anyone who sends in a completed Nomination Form by July 31, 2006. *Nomination Forms must be fully completed in order to be considered.*

To obtain a Nomination Form, call the Fridley History Center at (763) 571-0120 and leave your name and address. A Nomination Form will be mailed to you.

According to the guidelines for the Hall of Fame established by the Board of Directors of the Fridley Historical Society, no Board member or Hall of Fame Committee member is permitted to nominate someone to the Hall of Fame to eliminate any perceptions of favoritism or bias. All nominations must be forthcoming from current or past members of the City who personally knew the nominee and was aware of the nominee's accomplishments.

Some have asked why certain Fridleyites whom they believe are well-deserving of being inducted into the Hall of Fame have not been inducted. The answer is that either no one has yet nominated them or they were nominated and did not receive enough votes from the Scoring Committee which is made up of Board members, Society members, and community members. And as noted above, neither members of the Hall of Fame Committee, Scoring Committee, or Board members are authorized to nominate potential inductees.

Yet we know there are a number of individuals who have played instrumental roles in shaping Fridley's history, so we do encourage their nomination and re-nomination if they were nominated in a previous year. We limit the number of nominees inducted so that we can continue to add incrementally to the Hall of Fame over the years to come and thus cannot induct everyone nominated each year.

The Fridley Historical Society will honor the new inductees at the Third Annual Fridley Hall of Fame dinner which will be held at noon on November 11th, 2006, at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Highway 65 in Fridley. Each inductee will be presented with an award, and their plaque will become a part of the Hall of Fame at the Fridley History Center.

The 2005 Fridley Hall of Fame inductees were:

John Gargaro
John K. Hansen
Charlie Johanson
Gordon Sangster
Robert Schroer



They joined the inaugural 2004 Fridley Hall of Fame inductees:

Herb Bacon William Beery
Satveer Chaudhary Arthur Christenson
Carl Hartman W. Harold Hayes
Stan Kowalski William Ness
Harvey Peterson Donald Savelkoul



Board Member Profile: Mel Manley



Mel Manley was born and raised in Fridley.

He attended Parkview Elementary, Fridley Junior High, and graduated from Fridley Senior High in 1978. He is one of 6 Manley children who attended Fridley schools from the 1960's through the 1980's. His niece Erin is currently attending Fridley Middle School. Go Tigers!

After graduating from Fridley Senior High, he attended Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis where he studied computer programming.

Mel, cruising the waters in Venice, Italy

After graduating from the Minnesota School of Business, Mel worked for Fridley's Lamaur Corporation as a computer operator. In 1982 he left Lamaur to attend the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City in order to become an Air Traffic Control Specialist. After one year at the Minneapolis Air Route Traffic Control Center, located in Farmington, Mel decided he wanted to get back into the computer field.

He attended Control Data Institute for one year and was then hired by Twin City Bottle as a computer programmer in 1985. He worked out of their Minneapolis office until a few years ago when the company was purchased by Taylor Corporation and merged with Adgraphics, after which he moved to their office in Hugo.

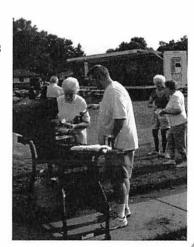
Mel currently lives in Brooklyn Park with his wife Alicia who is the Treasurer for the Fridley Historical Society. He and Alicia were married last fall and are planning on building a new home in the Ham Lake area later this year.

Mel's family has a long history in Fridley. His ancestors, the Sullivans, were one of the first families to settle in the Fridley area back in the mid 1850's.

Mel has served on the board of the Fridley Historical Society for about 15 years. He has been serving as the Vice-President for the last few years and he is the chairperson of the Nominating committee. Mel has been the chairperson of the Fridley Hall of Fame since its founding. He is also a member of the Anoka County Historical Society.

He enjoys traveling, especially during the winter to escape Minnesota's cold climate for a week or two. His favorite place to enjoy the warm weather is Orlando, Florida. He also likes to visit Las Vegas once a year.

Mel is a Minnesota Vikings fanatic. He hasn't missed a game, attending or on TV/radio. since he was nine years old in 1969. He is also a fan of many of the other local sports teams. He enjoys golfing although he has been too busy to golf much the last few years. Mel also enjoys spending weekends at the family's lake place on the Minong Flowage in Minong, Wisconsin.



Mel grilling at last year's AugustFest



The U. S. Weather Bureau's Account of the May 6, 1965 Tornadoes

From the U. S. Weather Bureau Website that also includes photos: www.crh.noaa.gov/mpx/HistoricalEvents/1965May06/index.php

The worst tornadoes in Twin Cities history occurred forty-one years ago, with five tornadoes sweeping across the western and northern portions of the 7-county region, and a sixth tornado just outside the metropolitan area. Four tornadoes were rated F4, one was an F3, and the other produced F2 damage. Thirteen people were killed and 683 injured.

Many more would have been killed had it not been for the warnings of the U.S. Weather Bureau, local officials, and the outstanding communications by local radio and television stations. Many credit the announcers of WCCO-AM with saving countless lives. It was also the first time in Twin Cities history that civil defense sirens were used for severe weather.

Tornado #5 touched down at 7:06 p.m. CST in the southwesternmost corner of Fridley (Anoka County), moved across the Northern Ordnance plant, and dissipated just northeast of Laddie Lake in Blaine (Anoka County). It was on the ground for 7 miles, reached F4 intensity, killed three people and injured 175.

Tornado #6 touched down at 8:14 p.m. CST in Golden Valley, moved across north Minneapolis (Hennepin County) and into Fridley (Anoka County), then Mounds View (Ramsey County), and finally dissipated just west of Centerville (Anoka County). This was rated an F4, killed six people and injured 158, and was on the ground for 18 miles.

Membership Application

Join the Fridley Historical Society and receive benefits ranging from \$78 for an Individual Membership, \$144 for Family Membership, and even more for those that become Nonprofit or Business Members.

	\$10 Senior		\$12 Individual	
	\$18 Family (2 adults, same househol	d)	\$25 Nonprofit	
	\$50 Business		Tax Deductible Donation \$	 -
Name		E-ma	il address:	
		Telep	phone	
City, State,	Zip			

Make checks payable to:

Fridley Historical Society

Mail this form and your check to:
Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi St. N.E.
Fridley, MN 55432

\$12 of your membership fee pays for the printing and postage of this newsletter. Please consider making an additional tax-deductible donation to cover the cost of maintaining the Fridley History Center. Thank you



MINNEAPOLIS MN 554 01 MAY 2006 PM 1 T



611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

EE422+4447



Prosident's Corner

by Rover. Christenson

Why is history so important?



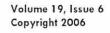
Forty years and one have passed since the May 6, 1965, tornadoes ripped through Fridley. You are invited to a History Conversation on Monday, May 8, at 6 pm at the Fridley History Center to remember that event and to learn from it.

Meteorologists are the first to admit we still do not have a foolproof way of accurately forecasting the weather. But the more they study the history of severe weather, the more data they accumulate, the stronger the foundation they build for more accurate forecasting.

History is important <u>because</u> it is impossible to understand the functioning of our world without a sense of history. History provides context for everything that takes place here on Earth and all things in which we become involved. Without the context, there is no story. Without a story, there is no understanding.

What would our lives be like without history? Can you plant a cut flower and expect it to grow? Flowers need roots if they are to bud and blossom. The Human race is no different.

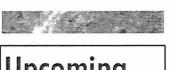
I am grateful that my old District 23 School built in 1931 still stands today, the place I attended grades 1 – 4 and now serves as the Fridley History Center. It survived the 1965 tornadoes with only minor damage when homes all around it, including the much newer Hayes School next door, were semi- or totally demolished. Why did it weather the storm? I believe it was because it had deeper roots.



The Record

FRIDLEY HISTORY CONVERSATION #5:

The Farms of Fridley



Upcoming Events

Monday, June 12
Fridley History Conversation #5
"The Farms of Fridley"
6 p.m. Potluck Dinner
Fridley History Center
\$5 to attend, but free to members
and free to non-members who bring
a dish to the potluck dinner

June 14 - 18 Fridley 49er Days Thursday, June 15, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Fridley City Band performs on Society's float in Parade

Saturday, June 17, 9:45 p.m. Fireworks at Fridley Commons

Saturdays, June 10 & 24 Museum Open House 11:00 am - 3:00 p.m. Fridley History Center Old Time Movies

Wednesday, July 19
Fridley History Conversation #6
"Remember the Saints"
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Heights Theatre

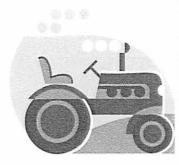
Monday, August 7 AugustFest 6 - 9 p.m. Fridley History Center In its first 100 years, Fridley was primarily a farming community. And we will celebrate this major era. of our City's history at our upcoming History Conversation on Monday, June 12, with a potluck dinner beginning at



6 p.m. Bringing a dish is optional, and if you do, perhaps you can prepare something that is from an old farm cookbook. We will discuss whom the early pioneer farmers were, some major incidents that occurred on farms, and we will learn what is located on land today that was originally a farm.

For example, the Sullivan's farm in the early 1860s was on the south side of Sullivan Lake (then Manomin Township, now Columbia Heights), and stretched into Fridley. The original house still stands at 5220 Madison St. N.E. Also in the 1860s, there was the Thomas Casey 200 acre farm on the north end of East River Road. The Michael Lux's first farm was on Mississippi Street, and later he bought 75 acres on the south end of East River Road. On Central Avenue, the Thomas Mulcare family had a large farm, also begun in the 1860s.

If you lived on a farm in Fridley, or had relatives or friends who did,



please come and share your memories of what it was like to grow-up on a farm in Fridley. Bring any old photos you have, newspaper stories, old letters, and any farm household goods that were used in early farmhouses. As always, we will be videotaping this History Conversation for our museum archives.



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees: The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

Officers

President:

Robert Christenson

Vice President:

Mel Manley

Secretary:

Pat Jaakkola

Treasurer:

Alicia Manley

Board Members

James Baker

Lillian Meyer

Pete Bonesteel Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Lou Michaels

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

Archivos

Pete Bonesteel - 763-572-1009 Meetings: Tuesdays 9 a.m.

Committees & Chairpersons

City & Family History

Lillian Meyer - 763-571-5328 Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 10 a.m.,

Finance

Alicia Manley – 763-493-2949 Meetings: As needed

Fundraising

Lou Michaels - 651-213-6888 Meetings: As needed

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley – 763-493-2949 Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.

Maintenance

Jerry Manley - 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday, 7 p.m., every other month

Membership

James Baker – 763-574-7296 Meetings: As needed.

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson – 763-574-7267 Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 5:30 pm

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers – 763-717-7987 Meetings: As needed



Board of Directors Meeting

May 4, 2006

Meeting convened by Pres. Christenson at 6:10 p.m. In attendance were Robert Christenson, Pat Jaakkola, Jerry Manley, Lillian Meyer, Pete Bonesteel, Mel Manley, and Alicia Manley. The April 6, 2006, Board minutes were approved. Treasurer reported income was \$918 over expenses for the year.

President's Report: Christenson also announced that he will be serving on the Sesquicentennial 150th Task Force which is overseeing implementation of the Anoka County 150th anniversary in 2007. He is also serving on the Sesquicentennial Community Task Force that is focusing on local community events.

Action Items: The Board approved Christenson's recommendation that the Society undertake a new fundraising activity for 2006 that involves selling ads for the 2007 Fridley Town Planner calendar. We would receive a commission on every ad we sell. The Newhouses will mail the calendar at no cost to the Society to every household in Fridley (about 11,000).

A lifetime membership request was received from Edith Thompson, who is 102 years old. The Board approved an Honorary Lifetime Membership for Edith.

Discussion Items: The Board debriefed the April 29th Lasagna Dinner, Raffle and Live Auction. We had about a 20% drop in sales of dinner tickets, but raffle ticket sales and the live auction resulted in generating approximately \$800 more revenue that in 2005. Also discussed were the May 18 Luncheon Meeting of the Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce to be held at the History Center, and the plans for the "Remember the Saints" event scheduled at the Heights Theatre for July 19.

Committee Reports

<u>Hall of Fame:</u> Mel Manley, Chair, reported they have received their first nomination for the Hall of Fame for 2006.

<u>Archives Committee</u> – Peter Bonesteel, Chair, reported they are working on getting newspapers in binders. They are in need of 6-10 covers for the binders.

<u>City & Family History Committee</u> – Lillian Meyer, Chair, said they would have someone come from another printing company to give them prices, etc. Barbara Hughes has been proofing family histories.

<u>Maintenance Committee</u> – Jerry Manley, Chair, reported said they will be doing Spring clean-up outside in May.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Board Member Profile: Pat Jaakkola



Pat (Christenson) Jaakkola has been Secretary of the Fridley Historical Society for the past 4 years. She was born in Fridley as the only daughter of Art (d) and Pearl (d) Christenson. Her dad was also born in Fridley and built his home on Mississippi Street on the foundation of the school he attended as a child. Pat lived in Fridley for 41 years. She and her husband Eric now live in Brooklyn Park.

Pat has 4 brothers: Robert, Roger (d), Layne (d) and John. Most of Pat's summer weekends since her birth have been spent at her Mom's and Dad's cabins on Barbour Lake near Garrison, Minnesota, about 3 miles west of Mille Lacs. Close relatives own all cabins on the lake, with her parent's original cabin now owned by her son Chris.

Pat Jaakkola

She attended Fridley Schools, graduating from Fridley High School in 1960. Her 3 sons also graduated from Fridley High School: Layne who is Regional Manager for Fender Guitar; Greg who is Vice President at Mari-

gold Foods; and Chris who is Sales Consultant for Harco/Wheaton Van Lines Moving Company.

After graduating from Fridley Senior High, Pat worked for the City of Fridley and then attended St. Cloud State University.

She has also worked as a secretary at Fridley Bus Service; Administrative Assistant at Medtronic; Admitting Clerk for Unity Hospital; Executive Assistant to the President and Meeting Planner for the Council of Hospital Corporations; and is currently Executive Assistant at Clark Consulting – Health Care Group in Minneapolis. She assists husband Eric in teaching ballroom and wedding dancing at Medina Ballroom. Eric had been a featured dancer on the Lawrence Welk Show.

Pat met Eric at the Bel Rae Ballroom in Moundsview in May 1989. They were married on the Caribe Cruise Ship in the Port of St. Thomas in the U. S. Virgin Islands January 9, 1991. Pat and Eric have organized 5 dance tours on cruise ships

As is obvious by now, Pat loves to travel. Her and Eric have made several trips to Sweden and Finland (Eric's birthplace) and will be returning there again for two weeks this September. They also were on a cruise to Alaska last year and a cruise to the Caribbean earlier this year. They make semi-annual trips to visit her niece's family in Nashville, and travel throughout the Midwest regularly attending polka festivals.

In addition to dancing and traveling, her other favorite pastimes are spending time with her grandchildren and knitting. She also volunteers in the library at Edinbrook Church in Brooklyn Park and serves on the Executive Committee of the Linden Hills Dance Club.



16th Annual Lasagna Dinner Huge Success

The Fridley Historical Society's Lasagna Dinner fundraiser gross revenue before expenses was \$4,300, which was in increase of 20% over 2005. And this occurred even though dinner ticket sales were down 20%. The raffle and the live auction exceeded their goals and more than made up for the reduced dinner ticket sales. And we sold 5 new business memberships (Dunn Bros. Coffee, Ricky's Embers Café, Two Stooges, Rite-Way Mobile Home Repair, & Eye Care Center), which included ads in the dinner program and placemats.



John Meyer, MC

John Meyer served as Emcee and children of attendees drew the raffle tickets. We had 117 raffle prizes with a value from \$7 to \$150 donated by local businesses. Major raffle prize donors included \$100 cash from Miller Funeral Home, four \$120 certificates from Total Health, 2 Vikings Tickets worth \$142 from Pat & Eric Jaakkola and a \$150 lamp from Luther Auctions.

We also had 11 auction items donated including Minnesota Orchestra tickets from John and Lillian Meyer, Eye Care Center donating a certificate for \$200, Vikings tickets donated by Mel and Alicia Manley worth \$222 plus Twins tickets worth \$88, 3 water-color landscapes and jewelry donated by Fridley Artist Marija Netz worth \$225, a 6-



Artwork donated by Marija Netz

months Curves membership for \$234, and a Mille Lacs Golf Resort & Marina weekend donated by Todd Christenson worth \$1,060 with a generous winning bid by Alice Nelson. Herb and Betty Bacon made the highest bids on 3 of the auction items for which we are most grateful.



Page 5



Alice Larson, \$700 bid



Mel Manley, Lillian Meyer, and Jerry Johnson



Last minute raffle ticket buyers



Over 100 attendees

New* & Renewing Individual/Family Members

George & Candace Bacon

Melinda Manley

George Ripley III

Joann Zenz*

E. Geneva Duffy*

Bruce Nelson*

Mary Rozmark

Jeffrey & Jacqueline Hed*

Corrine Prindle

Edith Thompson (Honorary Lifetime)

New Business Members

Dunn Bros. Coffee

Eye Care Center

Ricky's Embers Café

RiteWay Mobile Home Repair Two Stooges

Donations

Melinda Manley - \$50

Bill Beery in Memory of Don Harstad - \$25

Fridley Lions - \$200

Tom Myhra in Memory of Sharp - \$25



FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Hats off to your Board of Directors for producing a fantastically successful 16th Annual Lasagna Dinner & Raffle. We raised over \$4,300, which is \$800 more than last year. Board Members invested many hours in organizing and producing this event. All participated in soliciting raffle prizes and selling raffle tickets. **Pete Bonesteel, Jerry Manley**, and **Pat Jaakkola** solicited many of the raffle prizes.

Jerry Manley handled the printing of tickets. James Baker designed programs and placemats and sold raffle tickets at the dinner. Pete Bonesteel sold most of the ads. Andy Oman created the posters; Mel Manley, Alicia Manley, Jerry Johnson, Lillian Meyer and Pete Bonesteel served the dinners; Mel Manley handled dinner ticket sales and Pat Jaakkola and Bernadine Matushak handled dinner ticket distribution at the door; and Mary Sue Meyers made all of the logistical preparations for the event including donating the flower arrangements for the tables. Jim Lawrence sold many raffle tickets to Fridley staff and teachers of I.S.D 14.

In addition, Board members Mel and Alicia Manley, Pat Jaakkola, Mary Sue Meyers, Pete Bonesteel, Lillian Meyer and Jerry Manley each personally donated raffle and/or auction items.

Thanks, Board Members, and Member volunteers **Andy Oman, Bernadine Matushak**, **Jim Lawrence** and former Board member **Jerry Johnson** for a job well done!

Volume 20, Issue 6 Copyright 2006



11th ANNUAL AUGUSTFEST

Get ready for a bigger and better AugustFest Celebration on Monday, August 7! Mel Manley, VP, will be barbecuing Chicago dogs, hot dogs, brats, with pop, water, and ice cream to sell at affordable prices, so skip supper and eat at AugustFest.

We will kick-off the celebration at 6 pm with the Fridley Dixieland Band performing in the Showmobile in the History Center parking lot (be sure to bring your lawn chair for seating comfort).

Mayor Scott Lund will present the newly crowned Fridley Royalty, and Mango the Clown/Magician will be on hand to entertain the young and old.

The Fridley Fire Department will have one of its large fire engines on hand for kids to explore and real firemen to talk with. A new attraction this year will be an authentic covered wagon that will be part of the wagon train that will travel through Anoka County next year in celebration of the County's Sesquicentennial (150th birthday).

Our historical attraction once again is the hotly competitive ball game at 7 pm played according to the rules of baseball in the 1860's. The competing teams will be the Quicksteps in their 1865 uniforms and the Fridley Fire, Police, City Council, and employees of other City Departments. Free admission again this year and free parking at Hayes School, so bring the whole family for a fun-filled experience.



Upcoming **Events**

Monday, August 7 AugustFest 6 - 9 p.m. Free admission Fridley History Center **BRING A LAWN CHAIR** Lots of good things to eat!

Saturday, August 12 & 26 **History Center Open House** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Old Time Movies**

Monday, September 11 History Conversation #6 **Fridley History Center** 7 - 8:30 p.m 75th Birthday Celebration of School District #23

> Monday, October 9 **Annual Meeting** Potluck Dinner 6 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m.





Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

Officers

President:

Robert Christenson

Vice President:

Mel Manley

Secretary: Treasurer: Pat Jaakkola Alicia Manley

Board Members

Pete Bonesteel

Lillian Meyer

Jill Johnson

Mary Sue Meyers

Jerry Manley

Committees & Chairpersons

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

Archives

Pete Bonesteel - 763-572-1009

Meetings: Tuesdays, 9 am

City & Family History Lillian Meyer - 763-571-5328

Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 10 am

Finance

Alicia Manley - 763-493-2949

Fundraising

Eric Dings - 763-571-7375

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley - 763-493-2949

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

Jerry Manley - 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday, every other month, 7 pm

Membership

Jill Johnson - 763-360-6585

Meetings: To be determined.

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson - 763-574-7267

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers - 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

June 1, 2006

Meeting convened by Pres. Christenson at 6:02 p.m. In attendance were Robert Christenson, Pat Jaakkola, Jerry Manley, Lillian Meyer, Pete Bonesteel, Mel Manley, Mary Sue Meyers, and Alicia Manley. The May 4, 2006, Board minutes were approved.

President's Report: Christenson noted that the 150th Task force for the Anoka County Sesquicentennial would be meeting at the History Center on June 7. Christenson said we received a \$200 donation from the Fridley Lions. He reported that Edith Thompson, Charter & Honorary Lifetime Member, died on May 24 at age 102.

Discussion Items: Christenson reported that Scherer Lumber Company will again provide a truck, trailer, and driver for our 49ers Day Parade float carrying the Fridley City Band. Meyer said that Marcia Johnson's dad offered us the use of an antique car for the parade as well.

Committee Reports

Hall of Fame: M. Manley reported Bill Beery and Tony Petrangelo, non-board members, would help with scoring nominations this year.

<u>City & Family History Committee</u> – Meyer reported that at the last meeting they had plans for Dawn Gulbrinson (sp), a graphic designer and a printer, to attend to discuss printing the new book.

Nominating Committee - Christenson noted that we have a prospective board member (Jill Johnson). The Nominating Committee will be interviewing.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

July 6, 2006

Meeting convened by Vice President Mel Manly at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were Pat Jaakkola, Jerry Manley, Lillian Meyer, Pete Bonesteel, Mel Manley, Mary Sue Meyers, and Alicia Manley. The June 1, 2006, Board minutes were approved.

The resignation of James Baker was accepted. James is preparing for college and working full-time, and no longer has the time to fulfill his responsibilities as Membership Chair and Board Member. M. Manley nominated Jill Johnson to replace James Baker as Board Member and Chair of the Membership Committee. Her nomination was unanimously approved.

Meyer led a lengthy discussion regarding the publishing of the book on the history of Fridley and Fridley families. The City & Family History Committee is still looking for an affordable publisher.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.





Monday, August 7, 6 PM

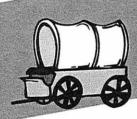


Come to the Fridley History Center at 611 Mississippi Street Park free at Hayes School For the most comfortable seat, bring your lawn chairs!

Highlights

- Old Tyme Ball Game with the Quicksteps in 1870s costumes vs. Fridley Fire, Police, City Council, and City employees
- Fridley Dixieland Band
- Miss Fridley Crista Niznik, Princess Carrie Kern, Princess Tanya Diaz
- Fridley Fire Truck
- Clown Mango performing juggling, face painting, magic, & animal balloons
- Chicago dogs w/peppers & onions, brats, hot dogs, soda pop, & ice cream
- Free lemonade & cookies in the History Center after the ball game

Authentic Covered Wagon



FREE ADMISSION!

Sponsored by the Fridley Historical Society





SPONSORED BY THE FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



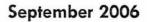
We regretfully lost two Board members who recently resigned. James Baker, who just graduated from Fridley High School, resigned in June. James joined the Board when he was a Junior and has been one of the hardest working Board members we have had. He did an outstanding job as Chair of the Membership Committee, increasing the number of nonprofit and business members from 7 to 18. James agreed to remain on the Membership Committee and continue to help with events.

Jill Johnson was elected as James replacement at our July Board Meeting. Jill is on the Board of Directors of the Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce and operates her own business, J J Dolphin Enterprises, that markets Therapeutic Essential Oils, Aromatherapy and cosmetics. More about Jill in our next newsletter.

Lou Michaels, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, resigned in July. Unfortunately, Lou had major surgery earlier this year and is still recuperating. Lou is a professional photographer and has agreed to continue to take photographs at Society events.

Eric Dings is our potential replacement for Lou as Board Member and Fundraising Chair. His nomination will be considered at our August Board meeting. Eric Dings is a Fridley resident who has a strong background in advertising, historic preservation, municipal funding, grant writing and personal marketing.

FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER



Volume 20, Issue 8 Copyright 2006

The Record

75th Birthday of District 23 School

On Monday, September 11, at 7 pm, we will celebrate 75th anniversary of District 23 School (Hayes Annex). Please tell former classmates or teachers whom you know to come and join the party. Refreshments will be served. We will be video recording stories of those who remember the school as part of our ongoing series of History Conversations.



The Minnesota State Legislature created School District 23 in 1873. A one-room schoolhouse was built on the northeast corner of what is now Fifth St. and Mississippi St. Fridley children attended this school from 1st through 8th grade, which until about 1928 was considered a complete education.

This original school burned down in 1929 and Art Christenson built his home on its foundation in 1936. In the late 1950s he sold his home and it became an office building that housed Brunkow Music, Sue's Professional Services, a dance school and other businesses. In the 1990s it was demolished to provide space for the Target office building parking lot.

The burned down school was replaced in 1931 with a new school at 611 Mississippi Street. It had 2 classrooms and a basement. It offered first through eighth grades until 1942, when it contracted to only 4 grades. In the 1950s it became the Hayes Annex and still later housed some District 14 administrative offices. It became the Fridley History Center in 1988.

Admission for this event is free to members and only \$5 for visitors.







Upcoming Events

Monday, September 11
Fridley History Conversation #6
75th Birthday Celebration of
District 23 School
(Hayes Annex)
Free Admission to Members
Visitors: \$5
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Fridley History Center
Refreshments will be served

Saturday, September 9 & 23 History Center Open House 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Old Tyme Movies

Monday, October 9
Fridley Historical Society
Annual Meeting
6—8:30 p.m.
Fridley German Band
Potluck Dinner

Saturday, November 11
Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner
12 Noon to 2 p.m.
The Steele Drumettes
Fridley Knights of Columbus Hall



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

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Robert Christenson

Vice President:

Mel Manley

Secretary:

Pat Jaakkola

Treasurer:

Alicia Manley

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Eric Dings - 763-571-7375

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley – 763-493-2949 Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

Jerry Manley - 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday, every other month, 7 pm

Membership

Jill Johnson - 763-360-6585

Meetings: To be determined.

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson - 763-574-7267

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers - 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

Summary of Minutes

August 3, 2006

Meeting convened by Pres. Christenson at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were Board Members Robert Christenson, Pat Jaakkola, Jerry Manley, Mel Manley, Mary Sue Meyers, Jill Johnson and Alicia Manley, and prospective Board Member Eric Dings. The July 6, 2006 Board minutes were approved.

President's Report: Christenson discussed opportunities to help Fridley businesses develop their own history.

Action Items:

- Accepted Lou Michaels resignation from Board and as Chair of Fundraising Committee.
- Elected Eric Dings to Board of Directors and appointed him Chair of Fundraising.
- 3. Mel Manley, Nominating Chair, nominated Jill Johnson as Director Nominee for 2007 – 2009 for consideration by the Membership at the Annual Meeting. There will be a vacancy in the President and Treasurer positions, and Alicia Manley and Lillian Meyer's terms are expiring in 2006 and they are not seeking re-election. Nominees are being sought for these positions.
- 4. A number of amendments to the Bylaws were discussed for membership approval at the Annual Meeting.

Discussion Items: The Board discussed a museum-library partnership offering free admittance to certain events. Also considered were suggestions for the City of Fridley's role in the Anoka County Sesquicentennial in 2007.

Committee Reports

<u>Fundraising:</u> Progress report made by Christenson in securing ads for the 2007 Community Events Calendar. \$10,000 of ads must be sold for the calendar to be published. Meyers reported that an anonymous member wanted to donate a computer, printer and scanner to the History Center. Christenson will follow-up.

<u>City & Family History Committee</u> – Suzanne Miskowic reported for Meyer that they are rewriting family histories and working on a funding plan to publish the Fridley history book. They would like to have a first printing of 500 books.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.



A Short History Fridley School District 23

by Tom Myhra

The Fridley schools had their beginning around 135 years ago with a rural school system. In the very early years, schooling occurred in a variety of settings including vacant homes.

In 1873, Common School District 23 was organized and a one-room school was built along Mississippi Street west of where the Mississippi Library now stands. The schoolhouse met primary education needs for 35 years by providing 1st to 8th grade classes.

Disaster struck the school district in 1929 when the school caught fire and burned to the ground. This ended after a half-century the one room rural school system of education, and opened the way for a new expanded model of education. For a few years, Fridley students were "farmed" out to schools in Columbia Heights and Minneapolis. The local officials decided to erect an educational edifice that would be bigger and better, and make it possible to accommodate an improved learning atmosphere for youngsters.

Located then in a cow pasture along Mississippi Street at 611 (presently the home of the Fridley History Center), the new school of 8 grades was a wood framed, stucco structure of a story and a half design. It included a gymnasium in the basement, two 25 by 35 foot classrooms, each with its own cloakroom. One classroom even contained the library, which was a 9 by 12 foot alcove lined with book shelves, a table and chairs, and a door which closed it off from the end of the room.

But the greatest advancement was the indoor chemical tank toilets. The old school featured the more typical outdoor privies. In 1943, Mrs. Swan, the mother of one of the students, started a hot lunch program for all of the students, with herself as the only cook.

In 1942, it reduced its grades to 1st through 4th. Students in grades 5th through 8th went to schools in Columbia Heights, Minneapolis and the office building of the Twin Cities Arsenal which was converted into a school for Fridley students after World War II. From 1929 to 1958, most Fridley students went to Columbia Heights High School.

For many years District 23 School was indeed Fridley's community center. The Village and school officials met there, court cases were tried there, community events were held there, the first Boy Scout troop formed in 1948 gathered there, and local youngsters went there on Saturdays for movies, cartoons and entertainment.

Students stopped coming to District 23 School in 1950 when the new Hayes Elementary School was built next door. District 23 School became known as Hayes Annex, but its usefulness did not end. It got further use by the District when classroom shortage in the early Sixties caused its re-opening as a kindergarten building. It was pressed into service again after the 1965 tornadoes leveled Hayes Elementary School next door. And a decade later it housed the District 14 administrative staffs for Curriculum Development and Special Education. At one time is also housed the Anoka County Day Care School.

It was vacant for a number of years in the early 1980s with plans to demolish it. But it was rescued when the Fridley Historical Society was formed in 1985, and in 1988 the Society converted it into the Fridley History Center.



11th Annual AugustFest Huge Success

Our AugustFest celebration on August 7 drew over 150 people to the many activities. With great music from the Dixieland contingent of the Fridley City Band, the presentation of the brand new million dollar fire truck acquired by the City 3 days before, plus Mango the Clown and his associates, a great ball game between Fridley Police and Parks & Recreation versus the Quicksteps, Jon Olson the Wagon Master with his authentic covered wagon, lots of refreshments, and warm summer weather all contributed to a great success. Thanks to everyone who attended!



Fridley Dixieland Band



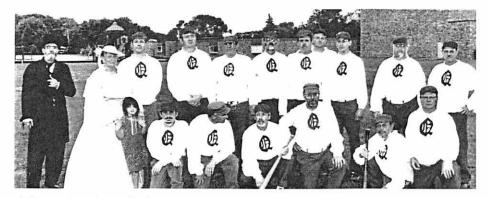
Fridley Firefighters presenting their new fire engine



Wagon Master Jon Olson



(L to R) Princess Tanya Diaz, Miss Fridley Crista Niznik, and Princess Carrie Kem.



The winning Quicksteps team



Mayor Lund swinging for the fences



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Fridley Historical Society will be Monday, October 9, at 6 PM at the Fridley Community Center. The Fridley German Band will provide the entertainment. As is the past, this will be a potluck dinner.

Mel Manley, Chair of the Nominating Committee, will be nominating the following individuals to be Directors and Officers. All have been evaluated and approved by the Board of Directors.

- Judy Anderson: New Director (2007 2009) and Treasurer (2007 2008)
- Pat Jaakkola: Secretary (2007 2008)
- Jill Johnson: Director (2007 2009)
- Dorothy Gargaro: Director (2007 2009)

Members are invited to nominate other members or themselves to be officers or directors by calling Mel Manley, Chair, Nominating Committee; 763-493-2949.

The Nominating Committee is still seeking someone to take the role of President. Robert Christenson's second term as President expires the end of 2006.

The Board of Directors has approved the following changes to the Bylaws which need to be ratified by the Membership at the Annual Meeting:

Article III, Paragraph 2 — Add to end of paragraph: "Business memberships run from the month of joining to the end of the 12th month."

Article III, Paragraph 5. b. — Add under 2. Business membership - \$50: "With Board approval, special promotions may be offered that enable adjustments in business membership dues including creating special classes of business memberships with higher dues."

Article IV, Paragraph 3 — Add language, which changes last sentence to read: "All officers must be residents, former residents, or employed or formerly employed in Fridley."

Article VIII, Paragraph 1 - Add to list of Committees: "City History Committee."

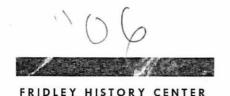
Donations

We have received some wonderful donations this year from our members. Some were donations in remembrance of someone who passed away. Others were additional contributions when members joined or renewed their memberships. We also received \$400 unsolicited from the Fridley Lions.

Recently a member who heard Pres. Christenson speak at a Fridley Rotary Club meeting about the needs of the Society generously donated a brand new state-of-the-art computer, 19" monitor, color printer and scanner, Microsoft Office Professional Edition 2003, Windows XP Media Center, Photoshop Elements 4, and battery back-up with surge protector. This was a very sizable donation.

The Society has been without a computer for a number of years, so all of our administrative work has had to be done on the computers of a number of different Board members and Society committee members. Now everything can be centralized on one computer at the Fridley History Center.

This addition of essential technology will enable us to begin to catalogue all of the artifacts, photos, and printed materials in our inventory; publish our newsletter in-house; maintain a database of our membership, prospective members and other business activities; build a website to cost-effectively reach out to members and the community; undertake all accounting functions and maintain our financial records and budgets; handle all administrative functions; undertake creation of graphics and photo editing for brochures and the newsletter; and a host of other capabilities that will make the Society much more efficient and more able to meet members' needs. This was a very sizable donation for which we are most grateful.



611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



I am really looking forward to our 6th History Conversation coming up on September 11. It holds some special meaning for me.

First, it wraps up our History Conversations for 2006. I have to admit I was feeling a bit desperate towards the end of 2005 when some of our membership meetings drew relatively small audiences. So we launched this idea of having history conversations without keynote speakers, but letting those who attend tell their stories about a selected area of Fridley's history. We video recorded most of these conversations for our archives. And attendance has increased dramatically.

Secondly, the topic for this History Conversation is celebrating the 75th birthday of District 23 School, a.k.a. Hayes Annex. For my first four years of schooling, I walked a short three blocks every day to and from this two-room schoolhouse. In my first month of school, on some days I made this trip more than once. You see I was not overly enthusiastic about being away from home. So on more than one occasion I left school unannounced and went home, only to have Mrs. Koch, the teacher, retrieve me in her car.

It will be great meeting some of my old classmates and sharing past experiences, but first they have to know about this event. So I am encouraging all who receive this newsletter who know students or staff that attended District 23 School (Hayes Annex) to come to the reunion, share their stories and renew old friendships. The "school" will be most grateful to have them come back.



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Fridley German Band to Perform at Annual Meeting

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Upcoming Events

Monday, October 9
Fridley Historical Society
Annual Meeting
6 - p.m. 8:30 p.m.
Fridley German Band
Potluck Dinner @ 6 p.m.

Saturday, October 14 & 28 History Center Open House 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Old Tyme Movies

Saturday, November 11
Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner
12 Noon to 2 p.m.
The Steele Drumettes
Fridley Knights of Columbus Hall
Tickets: \$17,50

Saturday, December 9 Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair Fridley History Center 12 Noon to 3 p.m. We have invited, again, the Fridley German "Oompah" Band to entertain at our Annual Meeting on October 9 at the Fridley Community Center. We will offer our largest potluck dinner of the year beginning at 6 pm., so bring your salads, main courses, or desserts at 5:45 pm. The Band will entertain during dinner from 6 to 7 pm, at which time the meeting commence.



We have important business to transact at the Annual Meeting. We have four bylaws changes to consider that were explained in the September newsletter. These changes relate to the term and membership fee for Business Membership, qualifications for officers, and adding a standing committee: "City History Committee."

There are board members to be elected at the Annual Meeting. We have a complement of 11 Directors, but some terms are expiring, and two current Directors have chosen not to be nominated for an additional term, and a third Director will be elected to fill an existing vacancy. Currently nominated are Judy Anderson, Jill Johnson, and Dorothy Gargaro.

We will also be electing officers for 2007 – 2008. The Nominating Committee is submitting the following names as officers: Judy Anderson, Treasurer, and Pat Jaakkola, Secretary. The Committee is still seeking a nominee for President as Robert Christenson will be completing his second term 2-year term as President.

If a member of the Society would like to offer a nomination for the Board or for an Officer position as President, Secretary, or Treasurer, or if a member is willing to volunteer for any of these positions, please contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Mel Manley: 763-493-2949.

Admission for this event is free, being it is a potluck dinner. This is an open meeting, so feel free to bring a guest.



Page 2

Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

Officers

President:

Robert Christenson

Vice President:

Mel Manley

Secretary:

Pat Jaakkola

Treasurer:

Alicia Manley

Board Members

Judy Anderson

Pete Bonesteel

Eric Dings

Jill Johnson

Jerry Manley

Lillian Meyer

Mary Sue Meyers

Committees & Chairpersons

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

Archives

Pete Bonesteel - 763-572-1009

Meetings: Tuesdays, 9 am

City & Family History

Lillian Meyer - 763-571-5328

Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 10 am

Finance

Alicia Manley - 763-493-2949

Fundraising

Eric Dings - 763-571-7375

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley - 763-493-2949

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

Jerry Manley - 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday, every other month

Membership

Jill Johnson - 763-360-6585

Meetings: To be determined.

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson - 763-442-8630

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers - 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

Summary of Minutes

September 7, 2006

Meeting convened by Pres. Robert Christenson at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were Board Members Pete Bonesteel, Eric Dings, Jill Johnson, Alicia Manley, Mel Manley, and Mary Sue Meyers. Judy Anderson, prospective Board member, also attended The August 3, 2006. Board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Alicia Manley reported total income for the month was \$863.43 including a dividend of \$394 from the MN League of Cities. AugustFest profits were \$90. The remainder of income resulted from new memberships and donations. Expenses for the month were \$633.63.

President's Report: Christenson reported on the donation of a new computer, printer, scanner and software from an anonymous donor who heard him speak at the Fridley-Columbia Heights Rotary meeting. He distributed the roles for chairs of the following committees: City & Family History, Fundraising, Membership, and Newsletter and PR, and the role of the President.

Action Items: Nominations: Mel Manley, Nominating Chair, nominated Judy Anderson to serve as a Director filling a current vacancy on the Board and be submitted as a Nominee to the Membership at the Annual Meeting to serve as Treasurer for 2007 – 2008. Motion approved. Manley moved that Dorothy Gargaro be recommended to the Membership at the Annual Meeting to serve as Director from 2007 to 2009. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

<u>Fundraising</u>: Eric Dings reported the committee is working on developing a presentation for businesses to secure sponsors for the Hall of Fame Dinner. Robert Christenson reported he has been successful in selling over \$10,000 in ads for the 2007 Fridley Commemorative Events Calendar thus ensuring that the calendar will be published. The Society receives a commission on the ads sold.

Hall of Fame: Mel Manley reported that there were 15 nominations received for 12 candidates to the Hall of Fame. The Committee recommended and Mel Manley moved that the 5 nominees receiving the most votes be inducted into the 2006 Hall of Fame: John Haines, Barbara Hughes, Ernest Madsen, Marcia Schaaf, and Wyman Smith. Motion approved. Sue Meyers reported that the Steel Drummettes will be performing at the Dinner.

<u>Finance & Audit</u>: Alicia Manley reported that the Audit Committee composed of Gordon Christenson, Melinda Manley. A. Manley reviewed the 2006 financial records. Judy Anderson also attended the audit. The Board approved the audit.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.



2006 Fridley Hall of Fame Induction Dinner!

Mel Manley, Chair, Hall of Fame Committee

The Fridley Historical Society will be holding the Third Annual Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner at 12 Noon on Saturday, November 11th, 2006. The dinner will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Highway 65 in Fridley.

The renowned Steel Drummettes band will be providing the entertainment. The Drummettes are an all-female band that performs old favorities on steel drums creating a unique form of music. Their performances receive enthusiastic responses from every audience that has the opportunity to hear their music.

The Fridley Hall of Fame was established to recognize those who, through dedication, work and accomplishment have contributed most significantly to the growth and success of the city of Fridley.

Nominations to the Hall of Fame were solicited from the community over the past six months, and a large number were received, making the selection process very challenging.

The inductees being honored at this year's dinner are:

John Haines (deceased)

First CEO of Unity Hospital who held the position for over 20 years; Charter Member of Fridley Rotary, Fridley Chamber of Commerce, and served on the original commission for Fridley Cable TV.

Barbara Hughes

Anoka County Library Board, Fridley Cable TV Advisory Commission, Chair of the Parks and Recreation
Commission, President League of Women Voters, Springbrook Nature Center Foundation
Board.

Ernest Madsen (deceased)

First City Manager of the City of Fridley, Charter member of the Chamber of Commerce, Fridley Lions Club, Madsen Park named after him.

Marcia Schaaf

Owner and founder of Schaaf Floral, first woman Director of the Fridley Chamber of Commerce, first woman President of the Fridley Rotary, Fridley Lioness, Mrs. Jaycees, long-time supporter of local schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and many other local organizations.

Wyman Smith (deceased)

Represented Fridley in 1949 before the Minnesota State Supreme Court to achieve village status for Fridley, served as counsel for the Village, City Council, and Fridley School District #14 for many years, Charter member of the Fridley Rotary.

Mayor Scott Lund will be the emcee. Each inductee will be presented with an award and their plaque will become a part of the Fridley Hall of Fame at the Fridley History Center.

Please show your support for Fridley and the Fridley Historical Society by attending the Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner.

To attend, send your payment of \$17.50 per ticket to the Fridley History Center, 611 Mississippi Street, Fridley, MN 55432. Your tickets will be mailed to you. Tickets must be paid in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door.

If you have any questions or wish to reserve a table of 8, call Jerry Manley at 763-571-6963.



September Fridley History Conversation Celebrated 75th Birthday of Fridley District 23 School

The Record

We had a wonderful turnout for the 75th Birthday celebration for District 23 School! Many of those who attended shared their interesting memories. Some were students in the 1930s and 1940s when the school was District 23 School. Others told their stories of attending the Hayes Annex, which the school became after Hayes School was built in 1950. All stories were video recorded for the History Center archives.



Photos by Robert Christenson



Fridley Middle School Visits History Center

Classes from Fridley Middle School visited the History Center on Sep. 19 as part of the Middle School Make-Over event. The students participated in a scavenger hunt which helped them understand the history behind many of the artifacts in the museum.









New Members: The Historical Society welcomes the following new members:

Individual & Family Members

Katie Simon Dastych

Chester Hayes

Myrna C. Johnson

Roger & Gwen Nawrocki

Lowell & Grace Norton

Carmel M. Sheridan

Gloria Vye

Terri Wolfe

Business Members

Eric Dings

Jill Johnson. JJ Johnson Enterprise & Aromatherapy

Gerry Mrsola, All Temp Distribution

Richard Harris, Dick Harris Company





FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Our Annual Meeting is always a great meeting to attend. First, we get to celebrate all of our accomplishments for 2006, and believe me, there is a lot to celebrate this year. We continue to expand our capabilities and extend our reach further into the community.

We also have a sumptuous spread of home-prepared gastronomical treats at our potluck supper. I fast during the day knowing what a feast I can dive into come 6 pm.

Then there is the excellent entertainment. Back again by strong demand is the Fridley German Band who entertained us last year.

And we get to select our new Board Members and Officer for 2007. We have a wonderful slate of nominees who are willing to dedicate some of their free time to help maintain the best (and the only) community-based museum in Anoka County, and to create great programs for our membership and the community at large.

Finally, it is the perfect time to visit with old friends who make it a point to always attend this important meeting. And I look forward to seeing you there; it will make my day.



The Record

Volume 19, Issue 10 Copyright 2006

3rd Annual Hall of Fame Dinner Saturday, November 11, at 12 Noon



Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 11
Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner
12 Noon to 2 p.m.
Fridley Knights of
Columbus Hall
Steel Drummettes
Tickets: \$17.50

Saturday, November 25 History Center Open House 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Old Tyme Movies

Saturday, December 9 Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair Fridley History Center 12 Noon to 3 p.m.

Monday, December 11
Annual Christmas Concert
"Kids from Fridley" performing
Fridley History Center
7—8 p.m.

Last year we completely sold out the Hall of Fame Dinner with over 200 tickets sold. This year we expect to do the same, so get your tickets now, as <u>no tickets will be sold at the door</u>. Once again this important event will be held at the beautiful Knights of Columbus Events Center.

There will be superb entertainment for your enjoyment prior to dinner. We have been very fortunate to be able to book the Steel Drummettes, an all-female steel percussion band that plays many old favorites including "Amazing Grace." So try to come early; the doors open at 11:30 am.

This year we will be inducting 5 Fridleyites who have made great contributions to our quality of life in Fridley:

John Haines, First Unity Hospital Administrator-20 Year Tenure; Cable TV Commission

Barbara Hughes, Library Board, Cable TV Commission, Parks & Rec, Pres. LWV, Springbok

Ernest Madsen, First Fridley City Manager; Chamber of Commerce & Rotary Charter Member

Marcia Schaaf, 1st Women Director Chamber of Commerce & 1st Woman Pres. Fridley Rotary

Wyman Smith, Former City Attorney; Helped Fridley Achieve Village Status

Tickets are \$17.50 for a great dinner featuring both Chicken Marsala & Baked Ham. Call Jerry Manley (763-571-6963) to order tickets and reserve a table for 8 people.



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

Officers

President:

Robert Christenson

Vice President:

Mel Manley

Secretary:

Pat Jaakkola

Treasurer:

Alicia Manley

Board Members

Judy Anderson

Jerry Manley

Pete Bonesteel

Lillian Meyer

Eric Dings

Mary Sue Meyers

Jill Johnson

Committees & Chairpersons

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

Archives

Pete Bonesteel - 763-572-1009

Meetings: Tuesdays, 9 am

City & Family History

Lillian Meyer - 763-571-5328

Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 10 am

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Alicia Manley - 763-493-2949

Fundraising

Eric Dings - 763-571-7375

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley - 763-493-2949

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

Jerry Manley - 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday, every other m

Membership

Jill Johnson - 763-360-6585

Meetings: To be determined.

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson - 763-574-7267

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers - 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

Summary of Minutes

October 5, 2006

Meeting convened by Pres. Robert Christenson at 6:00 p.m. Others in attendance were Board Members Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Eric Dings, Jill Johnson, Alicia Manley, Jerry Manley, and Mel Manley. The September 7, 2006, Board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Alicia Manley reported total income for the month was \$214.00. Expenses for the month were \$372.60.

President's Report: Christenson reported on the programs scheduled for 2007:

- January 8: Fridley Grocers Fridley History Conversation
- February 12: Fridley Murders Fridley History Conversation
- March 12: Fridley Doctors Fridley History Conversation
- April 28: Lasagna Dinner, Raffle & Auction
- May 14: Fridley Elem. Schools Fridley History Conversation
- · June 11: Springbrook Nature Center Fridley History Conversation
- August 1: August Fest
- September 10: Fridley Youth Organizations Fridley History Conversation
- October 8: Annual Meeting
- November 10: 4th Annual Hall of Fame Dinner
- December 8: Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair
- · December 10: Annual Christmas Concert

Action Items: The Board decided that Broadway Bar & Pizza would be the location for the 2007 Annual Lasagna Dinner, Raffle & Auction.

Committee Reports

<u>Archives Committee</u>: Pete Bonesteel reported that John & Char Fitzpatrick donated a 6-foot high, 6 drawer lighted hutch to the History Center.

<u>Hall of Fame</u>: Mel Manley reported that 75 tickets have been sold for the Hall of Fame Dinner on November 11.

<u>Maintenance</u>: Jerry Manley reported that the underground sprinkler system has been set for winter and the Access Lifts elevator has had its annual inspection.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.



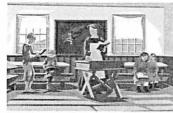
Fridley History Center

With Adequate Funding in 2007, this is how Your Membership and Donations will Help the **Fridley Historical** Society Plan for the Future!

- Build and Operate a Website to Make the Archives and Programs of the History Center Available to Everyone, Especially > Senior Shut-Ins & Former Citizens
- Secure Part-Time Staffing to Keep History Center Open More Than 8 Hours a Month



- Produce Video Histories of Fridley Families, Businesses and Organizations and Stream Histories on the Website
- Create Interactive Programs Teaching Fridley School Children, Families, Businesses and Organizations on How to Best Preserve Their History and the Value of Doing It.



2007 is almost here and membership renewals are due on January 1. Please renew your membership before the December 11th Christmas Concert and your name may be one of two to win \$25.00 in early renewal! (Just in time for the Holidays)! Your membership has contributed to another successful year at the Fridley Historical

Society. With your renewals and donations, together we can make 2007 even better!



Make a commitment to something that makes your community better:

Consider the Fridley Historical Society's Contributions to Fridley's Quality of Life

- Collects & Preserves Fridley's History: the Histories of Families, Businesses, Nonprofit Organizations, Government and Schools
- Disseminates Historical Information about Fridley for the Benefit of Past and Current Citizens of Fridley, Researchers, and Schools
- Operates the Only Community-Based Museum in Anoka County, Holds 24 History Center Open Houses Annually, and Offers Many Private Tours
- In Charge of Fridley's Participation in the Anoka County Sesquicentennial
- Secured Fridley Events Calendar for 2007 Mailed Free to Every Fridley Household
- Presents 13 Community Programs Every Year
- 7 History Conversations Capturing Witnessed Accounts of Fridley's History, and Videotaped for Future Generations
- Lasagna Dinner, Raffle & Auction at Fridley Community Center
- AugustFest with Fridley City Band, Old-Time 1870s Baseball, Fire Engines, Clowns & Magicians, City Royalty
- Fridley 49ers Day Parade Participant
- Secures Nominees and Evaluates Potential Inductees into Fridley's Hall of Fame and Organizes the Annual Dinner
- Produces the Annual Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair
- Sponsors the Society's Annual Christmas Concert Featuring "Kids from Fridley" Vocal Group from Fridley Middle School

Count me in as a supporter of the Fridley Historical Society!

Please consider an additional tax deductible donation to help us fund the exciting plans listed on the previous page. \$10.00 Senior \$12.50 Individual \$18.50 Family (2 adults, same household)

Fridley, MN 55432

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Dues \$	Additional Tax-Deductible Donation	
Name	Email	
Address	City, State, Zip	
Telephone:	Make checks payable to:	
	The Fridley Historical Society	
	611 Mississippi St N.E.	



2006 Annual Meeting

The 2006 Annual Meeting of the Fridley Historical Society was a great success. The City of Fridley German Band performed wonderful music. And our elegant potluck dinner had everyone overstuffed before the business meeting commenced. We approved bylaw changes, elected Judy Anderson, Jill Johnson, and Dorothy Gargaro to the Board, and elected Pat Jaakkola again as Secretary and Judy Anderson as Treasurer. Annual Committee reports were rendered, and President Christenson reviewed the many successes of 2006.









FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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President's Corner

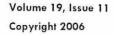
continued to be good stewards of our resources.

by Robert Christenson

2006 has been an incredibly successful year for the Society. We launched our Fridley History Conversations that have increased attendance at membership meetings; we set fundraising records for the Lasagna Dinner; inducted 5 exemplary individuals into the Hall of Fame; drew huge crowds for AugustFest, Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair, Hall of Fame Dinner, and the Christmas Concert; received great publicity in the **Star Tribune** and **Fridley Focus**; had a new computer/printer/scanner given us by an anonymous donor; and have

This success was the result of many hours of volunteer work by Board Members, Committee Members, Society Member Volunteers, and the loyalty of our entire Membership. Our deepest thanks is extended to each and every one of you.

We lost one of our cherished members in September, Betty Lou Bacon. Betty was a member and strong supporter of the Fridley Historical Society, a founding member of Fridley Neighbors, a charter member of Fridley United Methodist Church, an accomplished artist, and the loving wife of our former Treasurer and Board Member, and Charter Hall of Fame Member, Herb Bacon. She will be dearly missed.





The Record

TWO ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENTS



Events

Saturday, December 9
Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair
Fridley History Center
12 Noon to 3 p.m.
Apple Cider & Christmas Cookies
Free Event

Monday, December 11
7 p.m.
Annual Christmas Concert
"Kids from Fridley" vocal ensemble
Fridley History Center
Wassail & Christmas Cookies
\$5 Admission: Free to Members

Saturday, December 23 History Center Open House Invite your Christmas holiday guests to visit the museum 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Monday, January 8
History Conversation
"The Grocers of Fridley"
7 - 8:30 p.m.
Fridley History Center
\$5 Admission; Free to Members

Get into the holiday spirit early in December by attending one or both of these exciting events.

First, on Saturday December 9, from 12 to 3 pm, come to the History Center and view the beautiful art work of Fridley Kindergartners and meet the artists. Their teachers have assigned them various holiday themes from which they create their "masterpieces." Each student will have their photo taken in front of one of our old-fashioned Christmas trees.



While you attend this Annual Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair, enjoy hot apple cider and Christmas cookies. And there is no charge for admission or refreshments.



On Monday evening December 11 at 7 pm, we again present our Annual Christmas Concert featuring the Fridley Middle School "Kids From Fridley" vocal ensemble. This music group, always including new voices, has been a long-time headliner at the Christmas Concert. And Mary Sue Meyer's famous Wassail accompanied with Christmas cookies furnished by Board Members will excite your taste

buds for coming family holiday events.

This Christmas Concert is free for members and \$5 admission for guests.







Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

The Board of Directors meets at the History Center on the first Thursday of every month at 6 pm

Officers

President:

Robert Christenson

Vice President

Mel Manley

Secretary:

Pat Jaakkola

Treasurer:

Alicia Manley

Board Members

Judy Anderson Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Pete Bonesteel Lillian Meyer

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Committees & Chairpersons

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

Archives

Pete Bonesteel - 763-572-1009 Meetings: Tuesdays 9 am

City & Family History

Lillian Meyer - 763-571-5328 Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 10 am

Finance

Alicia Manley - 763-493-2949

Fundraising

Robert Christenson - 763-442-8630

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley – 763-493-2949 Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

Jerry Manley – 763-571-6963 Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 pm

Membership

Robert Christenson - 763-442-8630

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson – 763-442-8630

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers - 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

November 2, 2006 Summary of Minutes

Meeting convened by Pres. Robert Christenson at 6:00 p.m. Others in attendance were Board Members Christenson, Pat Jaakkola, Judy Anderson, Jerry Manley, Alicia Manley, Lillian Meyer and Mary Sue Meyers. Also attending Director-Elect Dorothy Gregaro. The October 5, 2006 Board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Alicia Manley reported total income for the month was \$365.00 with expenses of \$404.63.

President's Report: Christenson said we received an offer from Centerpoint Energy to enroll in "No Surprise Billing." After discussion, it was agreed we would not sign up for this program. He also reported that the 2007 Commemorative Events Calendar is ready to go to press. We will have two ads that feature the Society, one of which will be a coupon ad for a free pass to a Society event.

Action Items: Resignation - Christenson read the resignation from the Board that he received from Eric Dings. A motion was approved to accept the resignation of Eric Dings. A motion was approved to join the Metro North Chamber of Commerce at a cost of \$195. Metro North would join the

Society at the \$100 level.

Discussion Item: The Board discussed plans for the Annual Planning Meeting scheduled for December 15. Christenson distributed report forms for each committee.

Committee Reports

Hall of Fame: Mel Manley reported that 154 tickets have been sold for the Hall of Fame Dinner on November 11 and the banner is completed.

<u>Programs & Events</u>: Mary Sue Meyers reported that all preparations have been made for the Hall of Fame Dinner. Specific assignments were made for the Dinner.

Newsletter and Public Relations: Christenson reported on the assistance provided by Grace Norton and Gwen Nawrocki in producing the November newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.







Fridley History Center

\$25 for Renewing Early

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP before the December 11th Christmas Concert and your name may be one of two to win \$25.00 in early renewal! (Just in time for the Holidays)! Two names will be drawn at the Concert for prizes.

The Fridley Historical Society has grown to become a highly successful community resource serving all citizens, businesses and organizations of Fridley. We operate the only community-based historical museum in Anoka County and sponsor 13 events every year. As a member of this Society, you have made this all possible. We are counting on your support again this year.

Your support will help us achieve many new initiatives we are pursuing in 2007:

*We will develop a website to extend our reach beyond our museum walls.
*We will recruit a part-time administrator to enable the History Center to be open most days (it is currently only open 2 Saturdays a month). The administrator will also handle correspondence, telephone calls, database and record keeping.
*We will publish a history book of Fridley. We currently have over 100 family histories.
*We will digitize all of our perishable printed materials to preserve them for future generations.
*We will produce video histories of families, businesses and organizations.

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Continue to be a supporter of the Fridley Historical Society! And please consider an additional donation to help us achieve the above 2007 initiatives.

\$10.00 Senior \$12.50 Individual \$18.50 Family (2 adults, same household) \$25.00 Nonprofit Organization \$50/\$100/\$250 Business

Dues: \$	Tax deductible Donation \$	
Name	E-mail	
Address	City, State, Zip	
Telephone		

Make checks payable to the Fridley Historical Society. 611 Mississippi St NE, Fridley, MN 55432



3rd Annual Hall of Fame Dinner Big Success

Five notable Fridley citizens were inducted into the Fridley Hall of Fame at a well-attended dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Saturday, November 11. The new Hall of Famers included John Haines, Barbara Hughes, Ernest Madsen, Marcia Schaaf, and Wyman Smith. Mayor Scott Lund was Emcee. Entertainment was provided by the Steel Drummeretts. Capitol Beverage (Budweiser), a Table Sponsor, donated their 8 tickets to financially-challenged individuals. There are now 20 members that make up the Fridley Hall of Fame. All of their plaques and biographies are on display at the Fridley History Center.



Fridley Hall of Fame Award 2006 winners, left to right:

- Nelsen Smith (for Wyman Smith, deceased)
- Barbara Hughes
- Mary Ann Haines (for John Haines, deceased)
- Karen Jacobson (for Ernest Madsen, deceased)
- Marcia Schaaf

Far right, Edward Basom, John Haines' grandson, accepting his award;

Fridley Mayor Scott Lund, Robert Christenson, Edward Basom, Mel Manley









Far left, from left to right, Fridley Mayor Scott Lund, Robert Christenson, Mel Manley Barbara Hughes Far right: Barbara

Hughes





From left to right, Mayor Lund, Robert Christenson, Karen Jacobson, Mel Manley

Barbara Hughes and friends





Mary Ann Haines and friends of John Haines



Hall of Fame attendees

The Steel Drumeretts of St. Paul



The Mel Manley family collecting tickets at the door



FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-0120 phone Robert Christenson, Editor Andy Oman, Art Director

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



The Board of Directors held its Annual Planning Meeting on November 15. In counting our 2006 successes, we listed the donation of a new computer and printer, successful major events including the Lasagna Dinner, AugustFest and 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Dinner, our new History Conversation series, membership increasing to 250 and more visitors to museum open houses.

Our major challenges for 2007 include a major increase in fundraising, filling 3 vacancies on the Board, developing a new President to succeed me (I will continue as Acting President), recruiting more members to volunteer for various activities, and securing a part-time administrator.

Because we have a very dedicated membership that continues to grow, a strong track record of producing events that draw good attendance, and because we are good stewards of our resources, our outlook for 2007 is very optimistic. Much will depend on our fundraising success and volunteer support.

Our 10-year old water heater recently became inoperable and it will cost \$700+ to replace. So please consider an additional donation when you renew your dues to help us cover this cost. You have been most willing to help in the past, and we are so appreciative of your generosity. Have a very happy holiday season!