



FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

January 2007

The Record

Volume 20, Issue 1
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The Grocers of Fridley History Conversation #7



We resume our History Conversations on Monday, January 8, at 7 pm discussing the history of grocery stores over the past 100 years. There will be representatives of some of these early grocers who will tell their stories. And, as always, we invite those of you who shopped at these stores to tell your stories as well.

We were a farm community for 50 years, and many residents purchased their groceries direct from farmers, or grew their own. We did have a trading post in the 1850s on the Mississippi River operated by John Banfill.

The first grocery stores at the beginning of the 20th Century were very small, such as Plum's, Hartman's, Grosslien's, Gertzen's, and others. These were located on East River Road. On Old Central was Sandy Hook. In the early 1950s, we had our first "supermarket," Theisen's Market. It began business at Christenson's shopping center at Mississippi and University Avenue. This was followed by Bob's Produce, Red Owl and later the very first Cub Food Store ever built.

In the 1960s we began to see the convenience stores appear. In the same decade very large supermarkets appeared such as the Holiday Store on University and 694 (now Cub Foods), Sam's Club and the new Super Target that just opened this fall. Most recently, a number of Asian food grocers have come to town offering exciting new taste experiences. Today there are at least 10 grocery stores/convenience marts in Fridley, not counting the many gas stations that now offer a limited selection of food and beverage staples.

Help us create a history of all of the grocery stores that did business in Fridley over the years by joining us on January 9 and sharing any knowledge you have of grocers you remember, what food selections they offered, and stories of shopping in them. Also, please invite any former owners of these stores to come to the meeting.

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 8

History Conversation #7

"The Grocers of Fridley"

7 - 8:15 pm

Fridley History Center

\$5 admission; Free to Members

Saturday, January 13 & 27

History Center Open House

11 am to 3 pm

Monday, February 12

History Conversation #8

"What Fridley Was Like When I

Moved/Was Born Here"

7-8:30 pm

Fridley History Center

Fridley Historical Society Board of Directors

Board & Committees

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

Officers

Interim President: Robert Christenson
Vice President: Mel Manley
Secretary: Pat Jaakkola
Treasurer: Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel
Dorothy Gargaro
Jerry Manley
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

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080
Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 10 am

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Robert Christenson — 763-442-8630

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley — 763-493-2949
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm
No meeting in January

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

December 7, 2006

Summary of Minutes

Meeting convened by Pres. Robert Christenson at 6:00 p.m. Others in attendance were Board Members Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Jerry Manley, Mel Manley, Alicia Manley, Lillian Meyer and Mary Sue Meyers. Also attending Director-Elect Dorothy Gargaro. The November 2, 2006 Board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Alicia Manley reported total income for the month was \$3,390.50 with expenses of \$1,955.61. She will have the final 2006 budget results by the end of December.

President's Report: Christenson reported that the Anoka County Genealogical Society will be meeting at the Fridley History Center on March 5 at 7 pm.

Action Items: A motion was approved to accept the resignation of Jill Johnson and thank her for her excellent service to the Board. A motion was approved to accept the 2007 Plan for the Society. A motion was approved to affirm an emergency expenditure of \$700 to purchase a new water heater.

Committee Reports

Fundraising: Christenson reported he would handle fundraising until a new chair for the committee has been recruited. His emphasis in

2007 is to raise funds for a part-time administrator, a website and the publishing of a new history book on Fridley.

Hall of Fame: Mel Manley reported that the Hall of Fame Dinner was a great success, and our net cost for the event this year was \$800.

Archives Committee: Pete Bonesteel reported on the progress achieved this year in preserving valuable artifacts, consolidating storage, adding shelving, rotating displays, organizing files, and binding newspapers.

City & Family History Committee: Lillian Meyers made her final report as Chair of the City & Family History Committee. The committee will meet on Dec. 27 at 10 am to discuss the plans for the history book on Fridley to be published in 2007.

Newsletter and Public Relations: Christenson reported that the latest issue of the newsletter was a joint effort by Grace Norton, Gwen Nawrocki, Andy Oman and himself.

Christenson commended Lillian Meyer, Chair of the City and Family History Committee and Alicia Manley, Treasurer, who are leaving the Board at the end of December, for their excellent work and strong leadership as committee chair and officer in advancing the mission of the Society.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Two Scout Troops Visit History Center

On Saturday, December 7, Columbia Heights Cub Scout Pack 66 and Fridley Tiger Cub Scouts visited the History Center.



Columbia Heights Pack 66: From left to right: Back row: Den leader Bill Lepsch, Amara Morris, Ronnie Nova, Gavin Lepsch, Anthony Guzdiewicz, Bailey Rice, Robert Sherva. Front row: Grace Lepsch (a Brownie Girl Scout), Ansu Morris, Elijah Smith, Alex Walczak, Ben Sherva)



Fridley Tiger Cub Scouts

History Day Project

Ali Sandberg and Allie Gacek, 8th grade students at the Academy of Bioscience in Columbia Heights, visited the History Center on Monday, December 18, 2006 to do research on their History Day project, the 1965 tornadoes that hit Fridley on May 6, 1965.



New Treasurer

Judy Anderson is the new Treasurer of the Society. Judy (Scherer) Anderson is a board member as of October and treasurer as of January 2007. She was a resident of Fridley for 40 years and graduated from Fridley High in 1960. Her parents had a turkey farm on Mississippi Street in the late 30's early 40's, then her father started his own construction business, building many of the homes in Fridley. Judy has two children who also attended Fridley schools.

Judy is currently retired and works part-time with NCIM doing store demos. After graduating from high school she attended beauty school and had a shop in her home while her children were small. She opened a shop, "Style Five" in Fridley Terrace Trailer Park in 1970 and moved it to 49th and Central a few years later. In the 80's she sold the business and went into finance with various companies.

Judy has three sisters (who are/were historical members), Bernadine Matushak who still lives in Fridley, Norma Lindquist (d) and Carol (husband Gordon) Christenson who lives in Coon Rapids. She has one brother, Roy, who resides in Big Fork. He retired from the City of Fridley after working there for many years.

Judy enjoys playing cards, reading, sewing and knitting. She is also very involved with her children and grandchildren. Her daughter, Heather Graf and husband Dave have three children, Ryan, Brittney and Kyle and two grandchildren (yes, this makes me a GREAT GRANDMA). They reside in Hutchinson, MN. Her son Tom (who also married a "Fridleyite", Brenda Hvinden) has three children, Nikki who's in her 2nd year at UMD, Tanner and Alexis. They live in Andover.

Judy currently lives in Coon Rapids and serves as treasurer on her townhome association board



Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair & Christmas Concert.

We had over 250 visitors to the Annual Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair on December 7. And we were thrilled to have the very polished and talented Fridley Chamber Singers from the Fridley Senior High School entertain the membership on Monday evening December 9.

Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair



Aanchal Sahni



Alissa Marquardt



Ana McCracken

Clara Whiteside-
Taylor

Harrison Blum



Hunter Gunderson



Iviana Cuzco



Jordan Hjelmberg



Justin Hallberg

Luke and Jake
Johnson

Saffia Hussein



Samantha Dean



Seth Williams



Tori Hatten



Wilbur Zennah



The Hospitality Team

L to R: Lillian Meyer, Suzanne Miskowic, Marilyn Manley,
Esther Campbell, Dorothy Gargaro and Mary Sue Meyers.



The Fridley Senior High
Chamber Singers



Director Blair Berger and
The Chamber Singers



The Chamber Singers toasting the Society

The Christmas Concert


FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

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

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Volume 20, Issue 1

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*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



There are 2 persistent questions we address every year at the Board's Annual Planning Meeting. One is "How can we best serve our members?" The answer over the past few years has been "Stay in touch and deliver lots of programs." So we now publish our newsletter monthly and produce an event for every month of the year.

The other persistent question is "How can we persuade members to attend the events in which significant effort is put forth by volunteers to produce?" The answer to this one is perplexing. We have 250 members and we are lucky if we get 10% to the average meeting. At our Annual Christmas Concert last month, we only had 4% (10 members) attend. There were as many entertainers as members in attendance.

Now we do have a few meetings when attendance is over 100, but with the exception of the Lasagna Dinner and AugustFest, large meetings are 85% visitors and 15% members.

So please tell us what changes we can make to improve attendance at History Center events. All events are published in the newsletter at least 2 months before they occur and again a week before. Send your suggestions to me either by e-mail at rec1111@comcast.net or leave a message on the Society phone line: 763-571-0120. And HAPPY NEW YEAR! to all.



The Record

First Impressions of Fridley **History Conversation #8**

Upcoming Events



Monday, February 12
History Conversation #8

"First Impressions of Fridley"

Fridley History Center
6 pm Potluck Dinner
7 pm Program

Saturday February 10 & 24
History Center Open House
11 am to 3 pm

Monday March 12
History Conversation #9
"Fridley's Doctors"

7 – 8:30 pm
Fridley History Center

Saturday April 28
17th Annual Lasagna Dinner
Raffle and Live Auction
Broadway Bar & Pizza
5 – 7 pm



Our 8th History Conversation on Monday, February 12, will collect the impressions people had of Fridley when they first moved here. Whether you have been a resident of Fridley or employed in Fridley, whether for one year or 90 years, we are anxious to hear your story of how Fridley

appeared to you as far back as you can first remember. The potluck dinner begins at 6 pm — bringing a dish is optional.

The mission of the Fridley Historical Society is to disseminate knowledge of Fridley's history. Our History Conversations are focused on the first part of that mission: the collection of knowledge. The purpose of this History Conversation is to collect personal snapshots of first impressions of Fridley over many decades. Bring photos if you can.

The more people who will share their early experiences in Fridley, the more complete will be our history of the past. These impressions will be invaluable not only for this generation but for many generations to come.

Some things to think about in sharing your memories are: 1) Why did you or your family move to Fridley? 2) What impressed you most about Fridley? 3) What do you recall about your neighborhood? 4) What were the businesses you shopped at? 5) What types of transportation were prevalent? 6) What city services were available? 7) What community events do you remember? 8) What major events happened in Fridley the first years you were here?

We especially want to know about housing. We recently received a request from the City of Fridley to share what we know about Fridley's housing development to help them update their Comprehensive Plan. The City has invited our members to a meeting on Thursday, February 8, at 1:00 pm at the Fridley Community Center to share memories of the growth of Fridley neighborhoods.

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

Interim President	Robert Christenson
Vice President	Mel Manley
Secretary	Pat Jaakkola
Treasurer	Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel
Dorothy Gargaro
Jerry Manley
Mary Sue Meyers

Committees & Chairpersons

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

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Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson — 763-442-8630

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

**Board of Directors
Meeting****January 4, 2007
Summary of Minutes**

Meeting convened by Interim Pres. Robert Christenson at 6:00 p.m. Others in attendance were Board Members Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Pat Jaakkola, Jerry Manley, Mel Manley, Dorothy Gargaro and Mary Sue Meyers. Also attending, Past Treasurer Alicia Manley. The December 7, 2006 Board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Alicia Manley reported total income in 2006 was \$15,033, total expenses \$14,675, showing excess revenue for the year of \$358.

President's Report: Christenson discussed conflicts of interest as it regards Board members, how they can be avoided, and how they should be dealt with when they arise.

Action Items: Christenson made the committee chair appointments for 2007: Archives - Pete Bonesteel; City History - Dorothy Gargaro; Finance - Judy Anderson; Hall of Fame - Mel Manley; Maintenance - Jerry Manley; Programs & Events - Mary Sue Meyers; Fundraising, Membership, Newsletter and Public Relations - Robert Christenson Interim Chair. Motion approved to set Board meeting dates as the first Thursday of every month at 6 pm at the History Center. Motion passed to ap-

prove the 2007 budget. Motion approved to purchase a dehumidifier for a storage room in the basement. **Discussion Item:** Plans were discussed for the 17th Annual Lasagna Dinner, Raffle and Auction to be held at Broadway Bar & Pizza on April 28.

Committee Reports

Fundraising: Christenson reported he would handle fundraising until a new chair for the committee has been recruited to the Board. His emphasis in 2007 is to raise funds for a part-time administrator, a website and the publishing of a new history book on Fridley.

Hall of Fame: Mel Manley reported that 1 or 2 individuals will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this year. An affiliated Hall of Fame is being contemplated for Fridley businesses.

Archives: Pete Bonesteel is seeking a 4-drawer filing cabinet. Mark Bonesteel is continuing to scan and digitize photos and slides.

Programs & Events: Mary Sue Meyers reported the excellent turnout for the Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair.

City History: Dorothy Gargaro said they are awaiting funding to publish the book on Fridley history.

Maintenance: Jerry Manley reported picture frame molding is being installed in a classroom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Welcome, New Members



Individual Members:

Clare Bryan	Suzanne Edinger	Ellie Hanscom
William DeCoursey	Mary Ann Haines	Lucy Mickman

Family Members:

Dick & Lee Carlson	Andrew Pappas	Jerry & Cindy Robb
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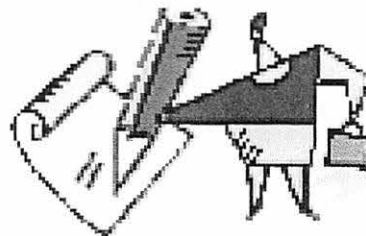
Business Members:

Lapinski Family Dentistry (Blue Windmill Member)
 Broadway Bar and Pizza (Bronze Windmill Member)
 Metro North Chamber of Commerce (Bronze Windmill Member)

Membership Renewals

Membership Renewals are proceeding well. If you have not renewed, please do so today. Dues are only \$10 for Senior, \$12 Individual and \$18 for Family (two seniors or adults.) Mail your membership renewal check to Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi St. NE, Fridley, MN 55432. We invite you to add to your dues amount a tax deductible donation to help us reach our budget goals for 2007.

Ron Allard	Eric & Pat Jaakkola	Tony & Jeanne Petrangelo
Judy Anderson	Eleanor Jensen	Duane & Anita Prairie
Marion Anderson	Sonja Granlund Johnson	Agnes Shaw
Ray & Virginia Anderson	Corine Kirkham	Kathy Smith
George & Candace Bacon	Gary & Lynn Longerbone	Carl & Adele Swanson
Bill Beery	Albert & Susan Madison	Richard & Ann Teskey
Dr. Don & Susan Blakeslee	Gerald & Margaret Maeckelbergh	Frank & Mary Van Dan
Mark Bonesteel	Joseph & Irene Maertens	Patricia Vant
Peter & Mary Bonesteel	Don & Audrey Mahr	Catherine T. Voss
Esther Campbell	Jerry & Marilyn Manley	Lenny & Ann Witucki
Gordon & Carol Christenson	Mel & Alicia Manley	Terri Wolfe
Robert Christenson	Bernadine Matushak	Warren & Karen Woods
Geneva Duffy	Dr. Maurice W. Meyer	Dick Zalusky
Dunn Bros. Coffee	John & Lillian Meyer	
John & Alice Ganter	Minco Products	
Dorothy Gargaro	Wayne Mortenson	
Earl Hatten	Roger & Gwen Nawrocki	
Carol & Mavis Hauge	Wally & Jean Ness	
Betty Hendrickson	Lowell & Grace Norton	
Virgil & Shirley Herrick	Ruth Ollila	
Pearl J. Hicks	Andrea Oman & Pat Billig	
Carol Hoiby	Jeri Oman	
Richard Jefferson / Alice Johnson	Linda Pearson	



Fridley History Conversation #7: "Fridley Grocers"

There was an excellent turnout for this History Conversation on January 8 with over 30 people in attendance. Members in the audience recalled the names of many grocery stores in addition to those described below. These included CUB Foods, which began in Fridley as Consumers United for Buying; Grosslien's — photo in 2007 Fridley Events Calendar; Stav's Superette; Ron's Superette; Jim's Dairy; Gertzen's; Tom Grieg's store on Fairmont; Park's Convenience Store; Vye's; Shorty's (Schuur); SuperValu; National Tea; Penney's Market; Piggly Wiggly; Sandy Hook, owned by Stroud; and Red Owl.



Art and Norma (Theisen) Swanson, owners of Fridley's first supermarket, "Theisen's Food Market." Norma related how Art Christenson approached her Dad, Johnny Theisen Sr. to open a full service food market in his shopping center in 1952. Art Swanson, her fiancé, was the first manager. Art told of the time people caught in his store during the 1965 tornado were given shelter in his walk-in cooler. The business grew over 18 years and they planned to build a bigger store across the street but could not get a zoning permit. The City turned them down and instead gave the permit to Red Owl.

Bob Schroer, owner of Bob's Produce Ranch. Bob started his business after working for Buddy Shapiro of the Stillman Food Chain who had an open air market on East River Road and Mississippi Street in 1958. They were open May to September. Bob purchased the business in 1959 and added Christmas tree sales. His brother Jerry joined him in 1963 and they added a garden center and plants. They moved to Osborne and University in 1969 and have been expanding ever since.

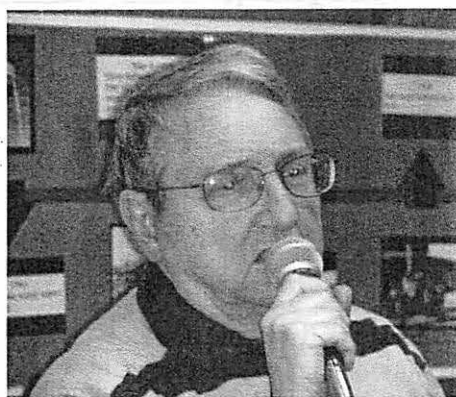


Esther Campbell, with her husband Bill, owned Campbell Grocery Store (with gas pumps) next to the Locke House (now the Banfill Art Center) on East River Road. They purchased the store from Chuck and Ethyl With who had purchased the store from the Plum's who operated the premises as a grocery store in the 1940s. They had to close in 1953 because they could not sell the business. The store building was owned by Mr. Benz who wanted to tear the building down because it was very old.



Mary (Sullivan) Rozmark's family owned Sullivan's Grocery Store on the Southwest corner of 50th and Central from 1955 - 1961. Before that it was a grocery store and bar owned by Norm and Abbie Kinnan. There was a baseball diamond behind the store. The building is still in existence and houses a Mexican restaurant. Prior to that restaurant it was the Tycoon's Bar and Grille.

Warren Woods grandparents, Edward and Anna Hartman moved to Fridley in 1907 and purchased a farm house on what is now Hartman's Circle and East River Road. Hartman's grocery occupied a building on the north side of Rice Creek. It is not known who built it, but it started out selling ice cream and confections. Carl Hartman, Fridley's first Mayor and Edward and Anna's son, operated the store. The store was also a post office in the 1920s. The Hartmans sold the store in 1945 to the Harloffs, then it was sold to the Ames, then to the Sheldons, and then to the Skoglunds who may have been the last owners.



Bill DeCoursey lived in Fridley from 1934 to 1948. His dad, Fred DeCoursey, had a produce stand for many years on the Fridley side at 37th and Marshall. He farmed 10 acres along East River Road near the rail road tracks and 37th. He said that further up East River Road was the Evanoff farm that also had a produce stand and there were many other produce stands along East River Road heading to Anoka. He also remembers a grocery store on 42nd or 44th between East River Road and University, Pehlins(sp?) market.

Mark Bonesteel worked at Holiday Village in its early years. Holiday Village was conceived by Al and Art Erickson who also launched a chain of Holiday Gas Stations. Holiday Village started in Bloomington selling produce, discount goods and Holiday-branded merchandise. They opened in Fridley in 1966 at University and 694 and added more groceries. Their concept was far ahead of its time. Everything that Target and Walmart are doing now Holiday was doing in the 1960s. But it remained a private company and did not expand like its competitors. It was sold in 1998 and now is CUB Foods.



FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street
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763-571-0120 phone
Robert Christenson, Editor
Grace Norton, Assistant Editor

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*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank Andy Oman who has been our very creative Art Director for The Record for over 4 years. Grace Norton is the now the assistant editor, who also creates layout, art and graphics. She is very talented as you can tell by the beautiful layout of the newsletter. I also want to thank Lillian Meyer (a Past-President) who retired from the Board as Chair of the City History Committee, and Alicia Manley who has been our Treasurer. They both made major contributions to the Society.

We have some great photos and stories in this issue of people who spoke at our last History Conversation on Fridley's early grocers. February's History Conversation is one for which we really need a large turnout because we want to collect the stories of people's first impressions when they or their family originally moved to Fridley. See the story on Page 1.

As a museum we continue searching for old photos, newspapers, other written materials, old maps, and artifacts of any kind. So if you have something that represents Fridley's history, we offer you a number of options to help build our collection.

For example: 1) You can donate an item to us and take a tax deduction. 2) You can lend it to us for a period of time. 3) If it is written material or photographs, we can scan them and make a copy for our files and displays and return them. 4) We offer you the opportunity to be videotaped telling the story behind what you donated or lent to the History Center. So if you have something to loan or donate or let us copy, call the Chair of Archives Committee, Pete Bonesteel, at 763-572-1009. We would be most appreciative.

The Record



Fridley's Doctors History Conversation #9



How many of our members remember Dr "J." Dr. Jedrzejewski was our first family doctor in Fridley. But he was no ordinary family Doc. He became famous by undertaking a highly unusual intervention, never before performed in the U.S., to save a patient's life. You will hear the full story at our next History Conversation on Monday, March 12 at 7 pm.

The Fridley Clinic came later, which then became Fridley Medical Center. Its founding physicians were Drs. Lenz, Lester and Strait. I am sure many of you have interesting stories to tell about how these doctors affected the health of you and your loved ones.



After Unity Hospital was opened in 1966, many more doctors came to Fridley. By this time there were a number of specialists practicing Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics, Gynecology, ENT, and a host of other specialties. In the 1970s, a medical office building was constructed adjacent to Unity and connected by a skyway between the office building and the hospital. This attracted even more physicians.

Much of the health care Fridleyites received before the medical office building was built, and even after, was provided by a group of physicians in Columbia Heights who had formed Columbia Park Medical Center. Today they have clinics in five southern Anoka County communities, including the Fridley Plaza Clinic.

We also have had a number of chiropractors, which by Minnesota law can now be called physicians. Who was the first chiropractor you saw in Fridley and what was your experience?

Who was the first physician you visited in Fridley? Where was he/she located and when did you receive your first treatment? Do you have a primary care doctor or specialist you see in Fridley today? Are there interesting stories you would like to share about these experiences? Please join us on March 12 to share your stories about your experiences with physicians in Fridley so that we may enrich our historical archives.

Upcoming Events



Monday March 12

7— 8:30 pm

History Conversation #9

"Fridley's Doctors"

Fridley History Center

Saturdays March 10 & 24

History Center Open House

11 am to 3 pm

Saturday April 28

17th Annual Lasagna Dinner

Raffle and Live Auction

Broadway Bar & Pizza

5— 7 p m

Monday, May 14

7— 8:30 pm

History Conversation #10

"Fridley Elementary Schools"

Fridley History Center

Fridley Historical Society**Board & Committees**

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Officers

President	Robert Christenson
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Board of Directors Meeting

February 1, 2007

Summary of Minutes

Meeting convened by Interim Pres. Robert Christenson at 6:03 p.m. Others in attendance were Board Members Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Pat Jaakkola, Jerry Manley, and Dorothy Gargaro. The December 4, 2007 Board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Anderson reported January revenue was \$495 and total expenses \$936.

Action Items:

1. Motions made, seconded and approved to appoint Robert Christenson as President until the Annual Meeting in October, at which time a new nominee for President will be elected. Christenson is now serving his 5th year as president.
2. Motion made seconded and approved to make the Fridley History Center available for meetings of outside groups for \$50 per hour. New business members will have a one-time free use of the facility.
3. Resolution approved to submit annual report to the Minnesota Attorney General.
4. It was agreed that all Board members would participate in contacting members who have not renewed their membership. There are currently 100 members who have not yet renewed.
5. All Board members volunteered to solicit raffle prizes from local

businesses for the Lasagna Dinner on April 28. Last year we collected 117 prizes.

Discussion Items: Lasagna Dinner issues related to tickets, gambling license, auction items and sales of ads were discussed. The Fridley City Council approved the gambling license and waived the fee. Volunteers are sought for planning Fridley's participation in the Sesquicentennial.

Committee Reports:

City History Committee: Gargaro reported that the Committee meeting time has changed to 4 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Christenson reported he solicited a printing bid from Bookmasters that is now the lowest of 6 bids.

Maintenance Committee: Jerry Manley reported that picture frames have been hung in the upper level west room and a dehumidifier installed in the basement storage room.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.



In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Marty Lueders on the death of his wife Carole. Carole and Marty have been very faithful members of the Fridley Historical Society for many years and Carole's happy countenance will be dearly missed.

Congratulations



We congratulate Mel and Alicia Manley on the birth of their first child, Grant David. Alicia was Treasurer of the Society last year, and Mel is Vice President and Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee. Grant was 8 pounds, 6 ounces, 21 inches.

Welcome, New Members



Lucy Mickman

Wendy and Bill Plum

More Membership Renewals as of February 21

Robert Aldrich
James Baker
Robert & Jane Barnette
John Banholzer
Earle & Adeline Christenson

Willis Erickson
Dr. Donald & Jo Ann Johnson
Dorothy Linse
Carole Miller
Sig & Marti Reckdahl

Gordon & Angela Sangster
Art & Norma Swanson
Glenn Theorin
Cindy Torfin

Donations

Many renewing members have made generous donations to the Society in addition to their dues to help fund operations. The Board is deeply grateful for this show of support.

\$75 - \$100

Bill Beery
Albert & Susan Madison
Joseph & Irene Maertens
John & Lillian Meyer

\$50 - \$74

Sonja Granlund Johnson
Dr. Donald & Jo Ann Johnson
Roger & Gwen Nawrocki
Ruth Ollila
Tony & Jean Petrangelo
Gordon & Angela Sangster

\$25 - \$49

Robert Christenson
Gary & Lynn Longebone

Mel & Alicia Manley
Carole Miller
Art & Norma Swanson

Up to \$24

Ray & Virginia Anderson
George & Candace Bacon
Mark Bonesteel
Peter & Mary Bonesteel
Clare Bryan
Gordon & Carol Christenson
William DeCoursey
Suzanne Edinger
Dorothy Gargaro
Betty Hendrickson
Virgil & Shirley Herrick
Pearl Hicks

Richard Jefferson & Alice Johnson
Eleanor Jensen
Corine Kirkham
Gerald & Margaret Maeckelbergh
Don & Audrey Mahr
Jerry & Marilyn Manley
Bernadine Matushak
Dr. Maurice W. Meyer
Lucy Mickman
Wally & Jean Ness
Lowell & Grace Norton
Andrea Oman & Pat Billig
Linda Pearson
Jerry & Cindy Robb
Agnes Shaw
Lenny & Ann Witucki
Terri Wolfe

Fridley History Conversation #8

"First Impressions of Fridley"

We had another great turnout for this History Conversation. We collected first impressions of Fridley from the 1910s, 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, 1990s, and 21st Century.



Jim Lawrence. He moved with his family to Fridley in 1963 and lived in an apartment. Then shortly thereafter he built a home on Tempo Terrace in Melody Manor and has lived there ever since. He was most amazed with how friendly the people were, and impressed with the fire and police departments and the schoolteachers.

Grace (Clark) Norton. Her family moved to Fridley in 1941 where they found land prices very reasonable. She remembers the expanse of sky and the great sunsets, the crocuses that grew in the spring in the adjacent cow pasture. As a child she played with neighbors Roy Dean and Carol Scherer in the sand dunes by Moore Lake, and recalls the prairie fires caused by the nearby pig farm.



Gwen (Clark) Nawrocki. Gwen is Grace's twin sister, and remembers the swimming hole on Rice Creek by Channel Road which was close to where Earl Bakken built Medtronic because he swam there as a child. Their family lived on Able Street in a converted chicken coop they had moved to the property after the contractor who was to build their home stole all of their money. Neighbors helped them a lot after they lost their funds. Her and Grace's dad was Fridley's first constable.

Lillian Meyer. Lillian and husband Jack moved to Fridley in 1964 from Richfield where they had just had a close call with a tornado. And the year after they came to Fridley they experienced the big tornadoes of 1965. All three of their children went to Fridley schools.



Hazel (Breit) Linton. In 1937, her mom's youngest brother asked her family to move into his house in Fridley on East River Road because he needed a cook. She recalls the Minneapolis Anoka Cuyuna railroad that went through their front yard so they could ride the streetcar to Anoka or Minneapolis. She remembers swimming in the Mississippi River by the Minneapolis Water Works. Hazel was in the first class (7th grade) that attended school in Columbia Heights.

Jeff Hed. His Dad started a business with a man from Fridley in 1968. Jeff began working at Minco in 1990 and moved to Onondago Street in 1994. Before purchasing the house, he checked with the Fridley police about crime in that area and was told nothing bad ever happens in Flannery Park. The next year there was triple murder two blocks away. He married his wife Jacqueline last year and they remain in Fridley.



Commissioner Jim Kordiak. Jim was born in Fridley in 1951. His family lived here for a year and a half, then moved to Columbia Heights, and Jim later returned to Fridley in 1975, 5 years later moved back to Columbia Heights and now lives in Fridley again. He has memories of camping in Fridley, fishing in Moore Lake, and watching the 1965 tornadoes from Columbia Heights.

Bernadine (Scherer) Matushak. Her parents came to Fridley in 1931 and lived on Old Central Ave., and later moved to Mississippi Street. Bernadine got a job in Minneapolis and had to take the bus from Sandy Hook. It was a scary walk home at night because of all the trees and no houses on Mississippi Street. They raised turkeys and she had a lamb for 4-H for many years. After marriage in 1948 she moved to New Brighton and back to Fridley in 1979 and has stayed here because she loves Fridley so much.



Barbara Hughes. She moved to Fridley on Rice Creek Terrace in 1959 and has lived there ever since. She remembers many sandburs and few trees. The whole neighborhood worked for Honeywell because it was so easy to commute from there. Everybody was the same age, had 3 kids and the mothers stayed home. Then they discovered car-pooling so there was a car for the mothers to use. It was great living in Fridley during that period because you could help shape the community. She served on the Library Board.

Beth Werking. Beth is the Librarian at Mississippi Branch Library. She commutes daily from Rockford. She said we have had 40 years of library service in Fridley. The Library is built on the Rudy Riedel farm and a tree next to the library still has a steel hook embedded from the farm clothesline.



Don Meyers. Don was a teacher in Fridley (1958), principal of Fridley Junior High and State Champions Fridley Wrestling Coach. He married Mary Sue and they moved to 63 1/2 Way next to the Johnson truck farm where they lived for 42 years. He mostly remembers the tumbleweeds. His Dad worked at Northern Pump, even before it came to Fridley. His Dad was a member of the St. Anthony shotgun trap team who competed at St. Anthony Gun Club which was at about 60th and University Ave.

Pete Bonesteel. Pete and wife Mary moved to Fridley in 1964. Mary worked at a beauty shop on 42nd and Central. When Pete discovered that he had only 6 months remaining on his GI Bill, he decided to find a home close to where Mary worked, so they moved to Fridley.



Warren Woods. His dad came to Fridley in 1929 and built his home on East River Road. Warren was born in 1937. His wife, Karen (Milbert) came to Fridley in 1957. Growing up, he remembers Fridley being like three communities: East River Road, University Avenue, and Central. He has many memories of District 23 School, fishing for bullheads in Rice Creek, and Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Lowell Norton. His Dad bought 10 acres in Fridley in 1916 and built ten buildings that they called "chicken coops." Lowell was born in 1917 and has lived here ever since. They lived in School District 6 in Fridley. Mostly he remembers there were very few people in Fridley. He remembers the first paved streets in Fridley being done by horses and a paving crew of farmers. He also recalls eating sand berries as big as your thumb and surviving the big tornado of 1929.



Robert Christenson. Christenson was born in Fridley in 1936 when the population was around 500. His father was born in Fridley in 1902. He recalls the sand streets, the sandburs, sand dunes and Sandy Hook. Back then there was a sparsity of houses, mostly pastures, cornfields, and woods. He has many memories of the annual community picnics on University near Mississippi Street and fun times at the swimming hole at Rice Creek behind this school.

611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432
763-571-0120 phone
Robert Christenson, Editor
Grace Norton, Assistant Editor

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*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Our 8th History Conversation held February 12 focused on people's first impressions when they moved to Fridley. Over 30 people attended, and 15 shared their remembrances (see an edited version of their remarks on pages 4 & 5). We have it videotaped for our archives.

The Anoka County Historical Society is expanding their **Annual Home & Garden Tour** to be countywide this Sesquicentennial year. The date is Sunday, July 15. If you own a unique home or have an especially attractive garden you would like to have included in the tour, contact Vicki Wendell at 763-421-0600. Tickets for tour goers last year were \$12.

The City of Fridley is updating the **2020 Comprehensive Plan**. They are inviting current and former residents of Fridley to a meeting at 1 pm on March 8 at the Fridley Community Center to share their remembrances of how housing developed in Fridley over the years.

Our Annual Lasagna Dinner, Raffle and Live Auction will be held Saturday April 28. This year it will be at Broadway Bar & Pizza in Fridley, and both Lasagna and Spaghetti will be served. We are currently seeking items for the live auction. Last year we had art by local artists, Vikings tickets, a vacation special, brunch at JAX Café, Orchestra Hall tickets, and jewelry. If you have an item you would care to donate to the live auction, please call me at 763-442-8630 or e-mail me at rec1111@comcast.net.



The Record

17th Annual Lasagna Dinner, Raffle and Auction

Upcoming Events



Saturday April 14 History Center Open House

11 am to 3 pm
Special Presentation 1 pm
Curtis Dahlin speaking on
Indian Uprising in Minnesota

Saturday April 28
**17th Annual Lasagna Dinner
Raffle and Live Auction**
Broadway Bar & Pizza
8298 University Ave. Fridley
5 - 7 pm - Doors open 4:30 pm

Monday, May 14
6 - 8:30 pm
History Conversation #10
"Fridley Elementary Schools"
Fridley History Center

Monday, June 11
6 - 8:30 pm
History Conversation #11
"Springbrook Nature Center"
This History Conversation will be
held at the Nature Center.



Some major enhancements have been made for our Annual Lasagna Dinner this year on Saturday, April 28. We had to find a new location for our dinner this year because the cost of renting the Fridley Community Center has increased dramatically. After considering a number of alternative venues, we chose Broadway Bar & Pizza just south of Wal-Mart on University Avenue.

Broadway Pizza has some excellent advantages for us. One, by parking in the rear, you can enter the private room where the dinner is held without facing the obstacle of stairs. Second, they have the tastiest lasagna you have eaten. Third, you can have both lasagna and spaghetti, plus an Italian salad, real garlic bread, ice cream and beverages. And finally, you can purchase a glass of wine, beer or other cocktail before dinner at the bar in the private dining room.

The only drawback is that we are limited to approximately 130 seats—and that fills the room. This means that there will be no entertainment. It also means order your tickets early—first come first served. You can reserve a table for 10 by calling 763-571-0120 and leaving a message.

Doors open at 4:30 pm. Dinner starts promptly at 5 and the raffle and auction begin at 5:45. We have over 100 raffle prizes again this year, and many live auction prizes valued from \$30 to \$1,100. Dinner tickets are only \$9.50 and raffle tickets are \$1. To save on postage, we mailed the members their raffle and dinner tickets in advance. You need only pay for the ones you order on the form in the envelope. Call 763-571-0120 to order extra raffle or dinner tickets.



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	Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel
Dorothy Gargaro
Jerry Manley
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 History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080
Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 4:00 pm

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Robert Christenson, Interim — 763-442-8630

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley — 651-286-6558
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

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

Membership

Robert Christenson (Interim) — 763-442-8630

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson — 763-442-8630

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

March 6, 2007
Summary of Minutes

Meeting convened by Pres. Robert Christenson at 6:02 p.m. Others in attendance were Board Members Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Pat Jaakkola, Jerry Manley, and Dorothy Gargaro. The February 1, 2007 Board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Anderson reported February revenue was \$718 and total expenses \$1,737.

President's Report: Christenson reviewed the major projects on his current list, including among others recruiting an Audit and a Nominating Committee, preparing grant proposals, training administration volunteers, organizing the Fridley Sesquicentennial project, securing corporate donors and sponsors, updating membership renewal list and sending out membership cards. He also reported on the new contract with Town Planner Calendar for selling ads this year for the 2008 edition.

Action Items:

1. Motion made, seconded and approved to renew our membership in the TC North Chamber of Commerce.
2. Motion made, seconded and approved to pay Access Lifts for servicing the elevator.

Discussion Item: Lasagna Dinner raffle and auction prizes were discussed; many prizes have been collected.

The remodeling of the front office will occur this month.

Committee Reports:

Program & Events: Plans are underway for our participation in the 49ers Day Parade.

Maintenance Committee: Jerry Manley reported on repairing the flag and smoke alarm. The Cub Scouts sent a letter with a \$20 donation after visiting the History Center.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.



In Memoriam

Fern Moe: Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Fern Moe on her death. Fern served on the first Board of Directors of the Fridley Historical Society when it was formed in 1985. She played an active role for a number of years helping the Society build its membership and transform the old school into a museum.

Elizabeth Frischmon: Belatedly, we extend our sincere condolences to the family of Elizabeth Frischmon who passed away in January. We have posted on the wall in the lower level of the History Center newspaper articles recognizing her service to Unity Hospital as the organizer of the Hospital Volunteers and her role as a strong supporter of the building of the hospital.

Family History Photos Needed

Lillian Meyer is asking for photos from families who submitted their history but did not include a photo. Photos will make our new history book much more attractive,

Welcome, New Members



Karen Sheldon

Beth Werking

More Membership Renewals as of March 25, 2007

Gloria Egan
Nathan Scott Gillespie
Chester Hayes
Barbara Hughes
Margaret & Bill Hunt

Lapinski Family Dentistry
Jim Lawrence
Alf Robert & Dorothy Lee
Scott & Cindy Lund
Melinda Manley

Suzanne Miskowic
Tom & Gloria Myhra
Margaret Rotter
Pat Whittlef

Donations

Many renewing members have made generous donations to the Society in addition to their dues to help fund operations. The Board is deeply grateful for this show of support.

\$75—\$100

Karen Sheldon
Melinda Manley

\$25—\$49

Tom Myhra

Up to \$24

Nathan Scott Gillispie
Barbara Hughes
Marty Lueder
Fridley Cub Scout Troop
Suzanne Miskowic

Memorials

In memory of Carole Lueders: Martin Lueders, \$75; Robert Christenson, \$25

Fridley History Conversation #9: Fridley's Doctors

What a pleasure to have Dr. Jay Jedrzejewski's daughter, Barbara Jay, at our History Conversation as well as Bob Comer who was a Fridley Police Photographer, Jeannine Schlottman from the Fridley Medical Center (now Multicare Associates) and Dr. Gary Good. Once again we had a large turnout. The City of Fridley will be televising these History Conversations in the near future on the City's cable channel 17.



Barbara Jay: Barbara Jay spoke of her father, Dr. Jay Jedrzejewski, Fridley's first doctor who moved here in 1958. Fridley had one dentist, Dr. Trezona, and was looking for a doctor. Dr. Jay came from Poland. He had been in the Nazi resistance movement, for which he was arrested and sent to Auschwitz. He was also a concert pianist. Dr. Jay attended the University of Minnesota Medical School for four years prior to moving to Fridley. His practice in Fridley was his first role as a physician in the U.S. Barbara said that her relatives in Poland told her Dr. Jay absolutely loved Fridley and so enjoyed helping people here, after seeing so much death in Auschwitz. Sadly, he was killed in a plane crash on a visit to Poland in 1962.

Bob Comer: Bob was the official photographer for the Fridley Police Department and photographed Dr. Jay as he undertook an amazing operation on a man who had been electrocuted while digging a well two blocks from Dr. Jay's office. Police called Dr. Jay to the scene and he pronounced the man dead. But with nothing to lose, he asked Sgt. Fritz for his jack knife and proceeded to open the man's chest and with his hand, massaged his heart for 120 minutes and all the way to the hospital. The man lived another six days before expiring. Bob brought the photos to the meeting and left a set for the Historical Society archives.



Dr. Gary Good: Dr. Good spoke about his father, Dr. H. D. Good, who started his medical office in the 1920s near Lowry and Central and then moved to the second floor above the Heights Theatre. He built his home at 3825 Central Ave. N.E. in 1932 and moved his practice to his one car garage. The other two doctors in Columbia Heights were Dr. Blumenthal and Dr. Herbert. Eventually the home and office were expanded until it was finished in 1950. He averaged over 100 patients a day, 7 days a week in his busiest month during World War II. Many doctors became his partners over the years, and Columbia Park Medical Clinic started there. It remained a medical office until 1999 when it was sold to Bobby Williams and is a vacant building today looking for a new use.



Jeannine Schlottman: Jeannine is Executive Vice President of Multicare Associates that operates Fridley Medical Center and sister clinics in Blaine and Roseville. She joined Fridley Medical Center in 1971 as the clinic administrator. In 1962 Doctors Bernie Lenz and Herbert "Skip" Strait took over the practice of Dr. Jay. Dr. Ted Lester joined the practice in 1963, and in 1966 Dr. Jerry O'Brien and Dr. Nick Koropchak joined. They were at 203 Mississippi St. and did not fit into the space. There was only one bathroom for the patients and the staff. The Medical Center moved to a place across the street from Unity Hospital and both the hospital and clinic opened in 1966. The clinic was destroyed by fire in 1973 and rebuilt. The clinic expanded in 1977 and again in 1983 to the size it is today.

Remembering Dr. Jay: Jo Johnson (center) and Jan Anderson (right) discussing remembrances of Dr. Jay with his daughter, Barbara Jay.



History Center Visitors

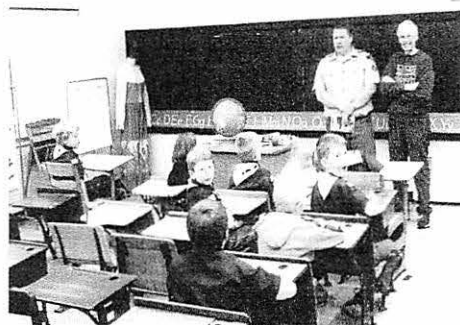
We are having more and more organizations holding meetings and tours of the History Center. In the past month, we hosted a meeting of the Anoka County Genealogical Society, Fridley Cub Scout "Bear Den" Pack 20, and Girl Scout Troop 2660 from Hayes School. If you know a local organization that would like to hold a meeting at the History Center or have a private tour, make your reservation at 763-571-0120.



Anoka County Genealogical Society



Girl Scout Troop 2660



Fridley Cub Scout "Bear Den"
Pack 20

FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432
763-571-0120 phone
Robert Christenson, Editor
Grace Norton, Assistant Editor

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*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Please remember to send in your ticket order and check early for the Lasagna Dinner, Raffle and Live Auction to be held on Saturday, April 28 from 5 – 7 pm at Broadway Bar & Pizza. We have seating for only about 130 people and we have had as many as 175 attend in past years. There are no ticket sales at the door, **so if you want to attend, you must send in your ticket form early.**

Some members wonder why we send the tickets before they have paid for them. We do that to save postage. Two dinner tickets and twenty raffle tickets are sent to each member using bulk mail. If we had to wait for payment and mail the tickets first class once they were paid for, it would cost us three times the postage. This would not be a fiscally responsible way to run a nonprofit Historical Society.

So what do you do with tickets you do not wish to purchase? 1) Throw them away☹. We record tickets by payment only, so only pay for the tickets you wish to use. 2) Give them as gifts. And/or 3) Sell them to other family members, neighbors, co-workers and friends. There is no need to return them.

Do order tickets early. Do come and visit with old friends and make new ones. Do buy raffle tickets—we make very little money on the sale of dinner tickets, and this is a fundraiser—so raffle tickets and bidding on auction items is what we count on to operate our museum. And do have a good time at the dinner!



The Record

“School Days, School Days Good Old Fashioned Rule Days”

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 12
History Center Open House
11 AM—3 PM

Monday, May 14
7—8:30 PM
Fridley History Center
History Conversation #10
“Fridley Elementary Schools”
\$5 Admission; Free to Members

Saturday, May 26
History Center Open House
11 a.m.—3 p.m.

Monday, June 11
6—8:30 PM
Springbrook Nature Center
History Conversation #11
“Springbrook Nature Center”

Monday, July 9
7—8:30 PM
Fridley History Center
History Conversation #12
“Fridley Murders”

For our 10th Fridley History Conversation, we will be featuring Fridley Elementary Schools. The date is Monday, May 14, at 7 pm. This is a very interesting topic considering the crazy genealogy of Fridley schools. We will also present a slide show of the 1965 flood and tornadoes recently donated by Janet and Janice Robidoux.



Our first schoolhouse was on the southwest corner of 5th Street and Mississippi Street, across from the Mississippi Branch Library. It had 8 grades. A 6th grade education satisfied all requirements for compulsory school attendance back in 1885. In the early 20th century, an 8th grade education was required. The final exam to graduate from 8th grade would challenge many 12th graders today.

When our first school burned down in 1929, District 23 School was built to replace it at 611 Mississippi Street in 1931. Today it houses the Fridley History Center. It had 2 schoolrooms and 8 grades until 1942 when it reduced to 4 grades. The next school was Hayes Elementary built next to the District 23 School in 1950. Hayes used District 23 School for overflow Kindergarten and first grade classes for a number of years. Hayes was destroyed by a tornado in May 1965 and rebuilt the same year.

In the late 1940s, there was even an elementary school that occupied an office building at the Twin Cities Arsenal. In the early 1950s, Kindergarten classes were held at Geneva Duffy's home in Fridley. Then there was rash of elementary schools built in Independent School District 14 in the late 1950s and early 1960s to meet the education needs of a rapidly growing Fridley population: Hayes, Gardena, Parkview, Rice Creek, Riverwood, and R. L. Stevenson. Other elementary schools in Fridley are Woodcrest in District 16 and North Park in District 13.

Please join this Fridley History Conversation if you ever attended any of the Fridley elementary schools, or were a teacher, principal, custodian, administrative staff, school board member, or had any other connection with our elementary schools. As always, we will video record the History Conversation and it will be available for viewing on Fridley's cable channel at a later date.

17th Annual Lasagna Dinner

The Society's 17 Annual Lasagna Dinner was a rousing success. We filled the banquet room at Broadway Pizza with well over 100 people (120 dinner tickets were sold but not everyone attended). We also sold over 2,000 raffle tickets. The dinner included a salad bar, 2 styles of lasagna, spaghetti, garlic toast, and ice cream sandwiches, with orange drink donated by McDonalds. Everyone raved about the quality of the food. We had 119 raffle prizes and 13 auction items. A few very valuable auction items went for unbelievably low bids. But the Society is very grateful for all of the funds raised at this event.



Elsie Hanscom, Ron Allard, Elroy Hendrickson, Betty Hendrickson



Bernadine Matushak, Carol Christenson, Sonja Johnson, Gene Ness, Wally Ness, Gordie Christenson



Broadway Pizza Server with Lasagna for the hungry crowd!



Jerry Blem, Melinda Manley, Audrey Johnson, Mark F. Johnson



Shelby Kurr; Pat Jaakkola, Secretary; Robert Christenson, President; Judy Anderson, Treasurer; Mel Manley, Vice President



Lasagna Dinner Photos, continued



Shelby Kurr & Hunter Christenson, prize runners



Pete Bonesteel & Dorothy Gargaro (Board Members)



Auction items



This antique trunk sold at auction for a mere \$75!



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:	Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel	Dorothy Gargaro
Jerry Manley	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 a.m.

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro - 763-792-1080

Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Finance

Judy Anderson - 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Robert Christenson - 763-442-8630

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley - 763-493-2949

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.

Maintenance

Jerry Manley - 763-571-6963

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

Membership

Robert Christenson - 763-442-8630

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

April 12, 2007

Meeting convened by Pres. Robert Christenson at 6:05 p.m. at Broadway Bar & Pizza. Others in attendance were Board Members Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Mel Manley, Pat Jaakkola, Mary Sue Meyers, and Dorothy Gargaro. The March 6, 2007 Board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Anderson reported March revenue was \$939.25 and total expenses \$1,529.75.

President's Report: Christenson reported that the Historical Society had received a gift of a DVD with over 120 photos of the 1965 flood and tornadoes from Janet & Janice Robidoux. He also stated that Girl Scout Troop 2660 had visited the History Center on March 22 and held their meeting there. Curt Dahlin is going to do a presentation at the History Center Open House at 1 pm on Saturday April 14. Christenson reported that the Fridley Cable Channel 17 is now televising our History Conversations; he presented them with videotapes of the past 5 History Conversations. Finally, he stated he found an individual (Johannes Marliem) who could create a website for us for under \$300.

Discussion Item: There was discussion related to our accounts at Wells Fargo Bank. Wells Fargo is not paying the highest interest we can receive on our savings, and they no longer support our Lasagna Dinner and Raffle with prizes. The Board considered moving our accounts to U.S. Federal Credit Union in Fridley. We will first see if Wells Fargo will make a sizable contribution to our fundraising this year for the Hall of Fame Dinner, history book or part-time administrator.

The Board discussed the final plans for the Lasagna Dinner on April 28, and visited the lower level of Broadway Bar and Pizza to determine the room layout and registration location.

Committee Reports:

Program & Events: Lasagna Dinner (see above)

Maintenance Committee: Jerry Manley reported that he installed mini blinds in the upper level front office. He also stated that the basement dehumidifier runs almost constantly and the drain container needs to be emptied every day. So any Board member who comes to the History Center should empty the drain container before he or she leaves.

Hall of Fame: Mel Manley reported everything is moving forward for the Hall of Fame request for nominations for the 4th Annual Hall of Fame event. He will announce the availability of nomination forms at the Lasagna Dinner this month.

Archives: Pete Bonesteel reported that he and his son Mark reorganized all of the furniture and equipment in the upstairs front office and secured an additional 4-drawer legal size file cabinet. Pete, Lillian Meyer & Suzanne Miskowic organized the file drawers. The front office is now fully functional for the first time in many years.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

The Fridley Hall of Fame

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, 2007.

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. Nomination forms are also available at the Fridley History Center located at 611 Mississippi Street on the 2nd or 4th Saturday of each month between 11:00 and 3:00.

The Fridley Historical Society will honor the new inductees at the Fourth Annual Fridley Hall of Fame dinner that will be held at noon on November 10th, 2007 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 2006 Fridley Hall of Fame inductees were: John Haines, Barbara Hughes, Ernest Madsen, Marcia Schaaf, and Wyman Smith.

They joined members of the Fridley Hall of Fame inducted in 2004 and 2005:

Herb Bacon	William Beery	Satveer Chaudhary
Arthur Christenson	John Gargaro	John K. Hansen
Carl Hartman	W. Harold Hayes	Charlie Johanson
Stan Kowalski	William Nee	Harvey Peterson
Gordon Sangster	Donald Savelkoul	Robert Schroer

Fridley Lions Donation

Last fall, one of the water heaters at the History Center stopped functioning. The cost to repair it was only a few hundred dollars less than a new water heater, and it was already over 10 years old. So we installed a new electric water heater for \$775.

Fortunately for us, the Fridley Lions agreed to reimburse us for the entire cost and sent us the check last week. The Fridley Lions have been a great supporter of the Fridley Historical Society. They donated an outdoor-lighted sign to the Society a few years ago, and we are deeply grateful for their latest contribution.



Fridley Cable Channel Televising History Conversations



We were recently contacted by Brian Strand, Video Coordinator with the City of Fridley, about providing tapes of our History Conversations for the Fridley Cable Channel 17. We readily agreed and provided a number of unedited tapes that are now being shown on Channels 15 and 17. We will continue to do this in the future, and also hope to improve the quality once we are able to find a volunteer with video editing skills that can assist us.



The Record

"A Walk in the Park"

Upcoming Events

Saturdays: June 9 & 23
History Center Open House
11 am to 3 pm

Monday, June 11
6 - 8:30 pm at the
Springbrook Nature Center
History Conversation #11
"The Evolution of
Springbrook Nature Center"
Potluck Dinner
(bringing a dish optional)

Monday, July 9
7 - 8:30 pm at the
Fridley History Center
History Conversation #12
"Fridley Murders"

Wednesday, August 1
"AugustFest"
6 - 9 pm
Old Tyme Baseball with the
Quicksteps
Live Music
Fridley Royalty
Clowns and Magicians
Fridley Fire Truck



We have many beautiful parks in Fridley: Manomin Park, Locke Park, Riverfront Park, Islands of Peace, Rice Creek Trail System, Fridley Commons, small neighborhood parks, and then there is the magnificent Springbrook Nature Center.

At our History Conversation #11, on Monday, June 11 at 6 pm, we will share our memories of the evolution of Springbrook Nature Center and the interesting experiences we have had there. This will be a potluck dinner (bringing a dish is optional) starting at 6 pm, with the meeting commencing at 6:45. Please feel free to come earlier and explore the park and the Nature Center building.

Originally, the land was intended to be used for a community clubhouse and golf course. A small group met for a year creating plans, interviewing golf course architects, printing social and golf membership brochures, and planning for a big launch the summer of 1965.

But on May 6, 1965, the very date the community clubhouse and golf membership program were to be promoted to the local citizenry, three tornadoes hit Fridley. This convinced the founders of the project that maybe a message had been sent regarding their plans and that perhaps they should rethink this project.

Some years later, another tornado struck Springbrook Nature Center. You will hear the rest of these stories on June 11 told by those who were personally involved in the creation of the Nature Center and played key roles in developing the Center and meeting major challenges over the years. We want to hear your stories about Springbrook as well for inclusion in our video history file and televising on the Fridley Cable Channel.



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	Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel
Dorothy Gargaro
Jerry Manley
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 History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080
Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 4:00 pm

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Robert Christenson — 763-442-8630

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley — 651-286-6558
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

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

Membership

Vacant

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson — 763-442-8630

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors**Meeting****May 3, 2007****Summary of Minutes**

Meeting convened by Pres. Robert Christenson at 6:02 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Pat Jaakkola, Jerry Manley, and Mary Sue Meyers. The April 12, 2007 board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Anderson reported April income was \$6,214.50 and total expenses were \$1,736.83. The Lasagna Dinner raised \$4,721.50.

President's Report: Christenson reported that the City Council turned down our request for \$950 to do a photo project involving Fridley school children that would represent Fridley's participation in the Anoka County Sesquicentennial. The Council originally requested the Society create a Sesquicentennial event for Fridley but \$950 was more than they wanted to invest. Christenson met with Tom Newhouse from Town Planner Calendar who agreed to publish 2 to 3 photos from Fridley students in the Anoka County 2008 Town Planner Calendar should we choose to go forward with the project. A motion was made to go forward with "Fridley Snapshots – 2007" by Gargaro, seconded by Meyers and passed by a voice vote.

He also reported he was requested to write an article for a special Ses-

quicentennial Edition of ABC Newspapers on "What it Means for Fridley to be Part of Anoka County."

Discussion Item: The Board held a debriefing on the recent Lasagna Dinner/Raffle/Live Auction. We received many highly favorable comments from those who attended. They especially liked the venue (Broadway Bar & Pizza), including the quality and variety of the food, convenient parking and access to the building, and the excellent raffle and auction prizes. The Board was strongly inclined to book the Broadway Bar & Pizza for 2008 but will consider other proposals.

Committee Reports

Archives: Dorothy Gargaro said she had an original school desk from this school that she would like to donate.

Maintenance: - Jerry Manley asked that the de-humidifier be emptied whenever someone comes into the museum. The air conditioning will be switched over. Mickman Company has activated the outdoor sprinklers. Fire extinguishers will be checked in August.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.



Fridley History Conversation #10

"Fridley Elementary Schools"

Our tenth History Conversation recalled experiences many have had at Fridley Elementary Schools. Who would believe that we have had 13 elementary schools in Fridley? Elementary schools still open include ISD 14 Hayes and R L Stevenson: private schools, Woodcrest Baptist Academy and Al-Amal: ISD 16 Woodcrest Elementary; and ISD 13 North Park. Schools that have closed are the two District 23 schools (one now our current Fridley History Center); the District 6 school on Osborne Road; and ISD 14 schools Parkview, Rice Creek, Riverwood and Gardena.



Lowell Norton "District 6 school, which served the north part of Fridley and Spring Lake Park, was completed in 1922. Lowell's dad had built a big house, and they had classes upstairs in his home for a few months until construction of the school was finished. "I was only five years old so could not attend school in my own home. But I went to the new school the next year and they had about 30 kids in one room with Kindergarten through 8th grade and one teacher. There was no electricity until 1931. For a couple years, I went to school an hour early to start the big stove that heated the schoolroom. They got a new teacher about every two years. When I graduated from 8th grade I was the second smartest kid in my class, of which there were but two students. In 9th grade, I went to Columbia Heights High School."

Warren Woods "I attended school in this building (the Fridley History Center which originally was District 23 School) from 1943 to 1947, first through fourth grades. Mrs. Koch taught first and second grade in the west room, and I had Mrs. Schmidt for third grade and Mrs. Dezurik for fourth grade in the east room. When Mrs. Koch wanted silence in the room, she had each student place their hands palm down on the desk making a Christmas tree with their thumbs and index fingers. For recess, they had swings outside, we chased tadpoles in the stream in front of the school along Mississippi Street, played pump pump pull away which was not encouraged, cowboys and Indians. Everybody wanted to be an Indian because they got to tie up the cowboy. My class went to Bremer in 5th grade, the Arsenal in 6th grade, and Minneapolis Marshall in 7th and 8th."



Agnes Shaw "My children went to Riverwood School on East River Road. When they had fundraiser carnivals at the school, I dressed up as a clown. We had lived in Africa, and my husband was part Indian. I did social studies for a number of years and would bring African things to class. We had the first PTA meeting at Riverwood School. We had a band called Kitchen Kuties that performed there as well."



Gwen Nawrocki “My name was Gwen Clark before I married. My sister Grace and I are twins and attended this District 23 School from 1943 to 1947. In first grade we insisted that Roy Dean Scherer sit between us in school or we would not go to class. There were times we stayed home and cried. Warren Woods thought Miss Koch was nice, but I remember Miss Koch walking down the aisle and slapping every one of us kids on the head so we hit our noses on the desk. If everything went well, she let us go outside and drink from the pump. Our parents told us to be careful of the toilets because even though they were indoor toilets, they were over a very deep hole. We were told, “Don’t drop your clothes down the hole!” In second grade, Grace and I were sent to Columbia Heights to Oakwood because there was not enough room here. We were held back because in this country school we were taught to write in script and the required that you had to print at Oakwood. Then we returned to District 23 for third grade.”

Grace (Clark) Norton “In 1947, Gwen and I went to Bremer School and I learned a very important lesson out on the school yard — don’t believe everything you read in the paper. On the first day at Bremer when we got off the bus a reporter and photographer were there. They wanted half of the students to get back on the bus and half to sit by the side of the bus with the teacher. The kids on the bus were to wave their hands out the window and the teacher was to hold a book and face the children. The next day in the newspaper it said that our room was not ready so they were holding class on the bus which was a total lie.”



Robert Christenson: “I also attended District 23 School in this building from 1942 – 1946, the Columbia Heights schools Oakwood for 5th grade and Columbia for 6th grade. I went to the Twin Cities Arsenal for 7th grade and remember the food poisoning and the gruesome ride home on the bus. Eighth grade was attended at Minneapolis Marshall. When I went to this school, there were four grades, but the year before I started, there were eight grades, two rooms, and two teachers. In the second grade, one of the mothers, Mrs. Swan, started a hot lunch program at this District 23 School. Mrs. Gallagher was my teacher in third grade, and Mrs. Schmidt was my fourth grade teacher. She had family in Germany, and one day the kids were condemning the Germans and she broke down and cried at her desk.

Fridley Snapshots 2007



The Fridley Historical Society is launching a new program to collect photographs of Fridley that give a comprehensive view of our community as it looks today. We hope this will have great value for future generations of Fridley residents, researchers, and historians. The photos will be taken by Fridley School children between May 25 and June 17.

The photos will grouped into 8 themes:

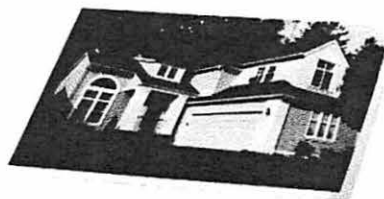
- 1) Fridley at Work (employees, entrepreneurs, health care, volunteers, leaders, day care, etc)
- 2) Fridley at Play (recreation, sports, special events, picnics, leisure activities, carnivals etc.)
- 3) Fridley Buildings (homes, apartments, condominiums, senior housing, industrial, retail, government, houses of worship, park structures, museums, medical facilities, schools, etc.)
- 4) Fridley Family Life (daily home activities, birth & death, reunions, garage sales, child rearing, weddings, birthday parties, etc.)
- 5) Fridley at Service (worship events, community outreach, person-to-person care giving, non-profit organization projects, etc.)
- 6) Fridley Scenery (lakes, rivers, creeks, parks, landscaped yards, trails, seasons)
- 7) Fridley Learning (school life, life-long learning, vocational training, on-line)
- 8) Fridley Creating (art, music, drama, crafts, landscaping, design, products, floral)

The submitted photos will also be included in a photo competition with cash prizes. The judges will be photographers and artists associated with the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts. Only one photo may be submitted in each category.

Tom & Anne Newhouse, publishers of the Town Planner Calendar, will select 2 or 3 photos to be included in the Fridley 2008 calendar that will be mailed to 10,000 Fridley households and 80,000 additional Anoka County homes. The calendar will also include a photograph of the student whose photo appears on any of the 12 monthly pages.

Winning photos will be on display at the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts in conjunction with the Sesqui-centennial photo exhibition July 14 – August 4, 2007. Photos will also be exhibited on the Fridley Historical Society Website (www.fridleyhistory.org) and at the Fridley History Center. Other venues considered but not yet confirmed include Fridley Schools, Fridley Community Center, Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner, and the Mississippi Branch Library.

Students interested in participating in this project can request an Information Form and Photo Submission Forms by e-mail to Robert@fridleyhistory.org or calling the History Center 763-571-0120. There is no entry fee for this competition.



FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street
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Robert Christenson, Editor
Grace Norton, Assistant Editor

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*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



I am happy to announce that the Fridley Historical Society finally has a website. A young man from Indonesia, Johannes Marliem, created the website for us at a very low cost. Please take a look at it and let me know how it can be improved. It is still in the construction phase. Go to "www.fridleyhistory.org."

We hope to have videos on the website of Fridley History Conversations, a video tour of the Fridley History Center, photos of events, and a host of additional historical information. One idea I have been thinking about for some time is to have individuals who have knowledge of various artifacts in the History Center demonstrate how these historical implements were used, tell the story behind them, and record this on video that we could offer for viewing on the website.

We will also have past issues of "The Record," our official newspaper, going back for a number of years. We have many copies of Fridley newspapers from the 1950s and forward that could also be digitized (once someone donates a large scanner to us) that could also be available on the website. In addition, we have hundreds of photos of Fridley, maps, and other archival material that could also be on the site.

We also now have an e-mail address for the Fridley Historical Society. You can now contact us at info@fridleyhistory.org. My e-mail address is Robert@fridleyhistory.org.

Let me know if you have suggestions on how this website could best serve our members and our community.

The Record

"Murder He Spoke" A History of Fridley Murders



Fridley prides itself as being one of the safest Twin Cities suburbs to live in, and crime statistics will bear this out—except for one category--murders. Fridley has had 20 murders since 1900. The quandary is, why? How can so many murders happen in a quiet residential suburb like "Friendly Fridley?"

Mark Bonesteel, a police officer with the Spring Lake Park Police Department who grew up in Fridley, has been researching this intriguing statistic for a number of years. Officer Bonesteel will deliver a history of all of these murders, along with visual aids (G-rated) at our next History Conversation on Monday, July 9, at 7 pm.

Society Receives Values First Award

The Fridley Historical Society was awarded the Values First Community Award at the Fridley City Council Meeting on June 9. Council Member Bob Barnette (also a member of the Values

First Board) presented the award to Robert Christenson, President who accepted the award on behalf of the Society along with Board members Mel Manley – VP, Jerry Manley, and Dorothy Gargaro. The Historical Society was recognized for its demonstrated support of the core values of Responsibility, Nonviolence, Self-Control, Citizenship, Integrity, Respect and Caring. (See President's Column for more details).



Bob Barnette and
Robert Christenson



Upcoming Events



Saturdays: July 14 & 28
History Center Open House
11 am to 3 pm

Monday, July 9
7 - 8:30 pm at the
Fridley History Center
History Conversation #12
"A History
of Fridley Murders"
Mark Bonesteel, Police Officer
Spring Lake Park Police Dept.

Wednesday, August 1
"AugustFest"
6 - 9 pm
**Old Tyme Baseball with the
Quicksteps**
Live Music
Fridley Royalty
Clowns and Magicians
Fridley Fire Truck

Monday, September 10
7 - 8:30 pm
Fridley History Center
History Conversation #13
"Fridley Youth"

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	Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel
Dorothy Gargaro
Jerry Manley
Mary Sue Meyers

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Vacant

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson — 763-442-8630

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

June 7, 2007

Summary of Minutes

Meeting convened by Pres. Robert Christenson at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Judy Anderson, Dorothy Gargaro, Pat Jaakkola, Jerry Manley and Mel Manley. The May 3, 2007 board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Anderson noted our income for May was \$118.50 and expenses were \$925.62 for a loss of \$807.12. We have \$14,400 in cash reserves. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by M. Manley, seconded by J. Manley and passed by voice vote.

President's Report: Christenson said the Society received a letter from "Values First" awarding the Fridley Historical Society the "Community Recognition Award." There will be a ceremony on June 25, 7:30 pm, at City Hall. Christenson invited members to attend.

Christenson said the website for the Fridley Historical Society is in development and is 85% complete. The web address is www.fridleyhistory.org

Action Item: Christenson appointed the Board to function as a Nominating Committee of the Whole to secure three additional board members, a President and Secretary. He also appointed Mel Manley, Vice President, to chair the Committee.

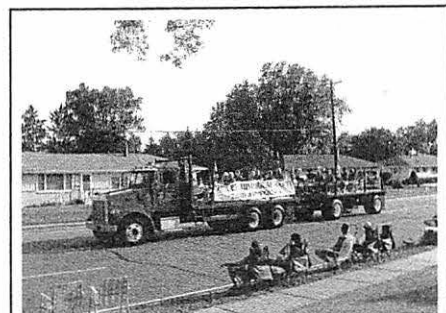
Committee Reports

Archives: Dorothy Gargaro said the Committee has a large workload and will need help in scanning photos, editing and typing family histories.

Program & Events: Mary Sue Meyers called during the Board meeting to report that she had a request from the Fridley Women of Today to use our facility for their meeting and inquired about the fee. Christenson stated that the current rental fee is \$50 per hour with special prices for member organizations.

Maintenance: Jerry Manley reported the committee had a workday outside trimming, landscaping and weeding.

Board Comments: Dorothy Gargaro recommended we have speakers or special events for our museum open houses. Christenson responded this was the original intent of "Super Saturdays" and it might be worthwhile reactivating Super Saturdays once again. Gargaro will do some research on this.



Fridley Historical Society float in 49er's Day Parade

Fridley History Conversation #11

“A Walk in the Park – Springbrook Nature Center”

We had a wonderful time at Springbrook Nature Center on June 11. It was beautiful evening, perfect for taking a nature walk in this beautiful and enchanting environment, musically serenaded by many species of birds.



Malcolm Mitchell, Chair, Springbrook Nature Center Foundation

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation, founded in 1974, has spent many years protecting and enhancing this valuable property. Springbrook Nature Center is owned by the City of Fridley and the entire staff is on the City payroll. The land of Springbrook was purchased by the City of Fridley using city and state land and conservation dollars in 1971 and 1972.

Originally, there were plans to make the land a golf course, but in 1974 there was referendum and by a 2 – 1 vote, Fridley voted to make this a nature center. This was the kick-off event for the Foundation. In 1975, the Foundation offered the City the opportunity to lease the land to the Foundation for \$1 a year for 5 years. The Foundation would operate Springbrook.

In 1981, the Foundation applied to the City for funds to build the Nature Center building that is now on the property, with the City receiving part of the funding from the Metropolitan Council. With the building in place, the Foundation decided not to renew the lease as their job was done, but the Foundation would continue to support the Nature Center.

From 1981 to 1999 many programs were added and visitors grew to the point that Springbrook was being “loved to death.” There were concerns about overuse. The Foundation Board in 1999 decided to take the seven-acre entrance area and redesign it to accommodate major growth. Then in 2003, the City Manager presented a 2004 budget to the City Council that would eliminate all funding for the staff and operations of the Nature Center and just operate it as park.

The Foundation began a grassroots campaign and convinced the City Council to put this issue on the ballot. The Foundation offered to raise \$60,000 to help fund operations in 2004 plus another \$60,000 generated from operations. It took a super majority to pass the item on the ballot, and they were successful in gaining 52% of the vote—passing by a margin of 139 votes.

After the election, the Foundation took another look at the seven-acre project and named it the SPRING project (Sanctuary Protection and Renewal Into the Next Generation). In 2006, at the suggestion of State Rep. Satveer Chaudhary, they put forth a proposal to the State for a \$5 million project of which the State would provide half. But it did not pass. They tried again this year, and this time the bill passed but Governor Pawlenty vetoed it. They will try again in 2008.



Siah St. Claire, Director

Siah has been Director of Springbrook for 30 years, beginning in 1978. He provided a magnificent slide presentation of Springbrook’s development and growth over the years. The total park area is 127 acres.

Springbrook is the largest natural area park immediately north of Minneapolis with a great diversity of native wildlife because it has native woodlands, native prairie grasses, and native wetlands. This unique park attracts many visitors even beyond Minnesota, having become a very popular destination. Students come from over 30 communities and visitors from all 50 states and internationally as well. Last year they had 16,000 hours of volunteer work helping operate the Nature Center.

(Continued on next page.)

There are 8 different entrances making it very accessible. An aerial photo from 1938 shows no roads, but many haystacks. The land was never plowed, but used for dairy cattle. It was a great place for riding horses and duck hunting. By 1947, wetlands appeared, and there was less pastureland and more trees. There were no streets until 85th Avenue was built in the late 1970's.

The groundbreaking for the Nature Center building took place in April 1980. The architects designed a building that was partly underground and received an award for its design. The grand opening was in October 1981. The park was hit by a tornado in 1986. The tornado sat in the park for 16 minutes doing immense damage with hardly a tree left standing. Fortunately, the building was spared. Springbrook received the McKnight Foundation "Champion of Open Space" Award in 2005.

For the future, they will be focusing on how to maintain the delicate ecosystems of the park. Springbrook is unique compared to other natural areas because it has so many different ecosystems. Others usually have just one, but Springbrook has wetlands, oak forests, aspen forests, marsh wetland, open water wetlands, and a lot of different habitat all mixed in with one another.

They are also planning to accommodate a growing increase in visitors. The Metropolitan Council projects a 25% increase in households in this area over the next 20 years. So the plan is to take seven acres of the property near the main entrance where people can experience what they have come for without having them travel through the entire park. It will include a larger green parking lot. They want to expand the interpretive center building to accommodate large school groups, weddings, and business retreats. They are also considering indoor and outdoor amphitheaters.

The major goal is to use this environment to create community and nurture the human spirit..

Betty Ann Addison has been active with Springbrook from its inception. She spoke of the early concept of a nature center supported by a group of citizens including Barbara Hughes, the League of Women Voters and others. First it was going to be along Rice Creek, and Jan Seeger who lived on Ironton Street suggested a better idea, the place where Springbrook is today.



Jack Meyer spoke of others who were involved with him in getting Springbrook going in 1974. They included Leanne Sporie, Charles and Jan Seeger, Mayor Bill Nee, Wyman Smith and Don Savelkoul (attorneys), and Dr. Breckenridge (naturalist).

Lillian Meyer was a committee member with the League of Women Voters who went to every single house in the City of Fridley with brochures encouraging them to vote for the Nature Center in the City referendum.



Bob Barnette: Robert Christenson shared an e-mail from Council Member Bob Barnette, who could not attend because of a City Council meeting. Barnette wrote: "I was a part of the ten member committee in 1971 that looked at whether then called North Park should be a golf course or nature center. As you may recall, I was a major advocate for it being a municipal golf course. Much effort was spent on both sides of the issue. When it finally went to a referendum the citizens decided on a nature center. I still feel that had it been a golf course it would have benefited the City greatly. Braemar in Edina was built about the same time and they were able to pay off their 20 year revenue bonds in 8 1/2 years and it has been a money maker for Edina ever since. But I agree that a nature center is the second best use of the land."

Robert Christenson told about being on a committee in 1964 with Wyman Smith and others that planned to build a golf course before the land was even being considered for a nature center. The plan included a clubhouse community center for all of the citizens of Fridley, not just golfers, offering social memberships. Membership letters were to be mailed out on May 7, 1965, but the tornadoes struck on May 6 and we took that as a message.



Board Member Profile: Dorothy Gargaro



Dorothy Gargaro is new to the Fridley Historical Society, and is Chair of the Family and City History Committee.

Dorothy and her husband, John moved to Fridley (on Fridley Street) in 1970 after the birth of their second son, Jeff. Mike was just about two, and Ann was born on Christmas Eve in 1972. All three attended Rice Creek Elementary School, and that is where Dorothy started her volunteer work. She not only helped out in the classroom, but also was a Girl Scout Leader and Cub Scout Den Mother. At her church, St. Williams, she taught Sunday School for years. As her children advanced to Fridley Junior High/Middle School, and eventually FHS she was on numerous committees, finishing off those school years by chairing (along with John) each one of their children's Senior All Night Parties.

She continued her volunteer work in education by being a tutor for the Minnesota Literacy Council helping adult students learn English and also helping a stroke victim regain her skills.

Dorothy worked part time for 15 ½ years as an inventory manager for an optical shop. She was also a nanny for two years for some very special twin babies (Mikhail and Kiehlor Mack). Since her husband's death in 1994, she has been employed by the Fridley Schools, first working as a Special Ed. Para at the High School, and for the past seven years as a Health Assistant at Stevenson Elementary.

She has a patriotic spirit and has planned such events as the Fridley Street Bicentennial Event, Fridley's 50th Anniversary Freedom Fiesta and an annual event at Stevenson Elementary called Patriotic Pride Day, a 9/11 Remembrance, honoring our civil and military servicemen and women.

Dorothy recently received the Values First Award for an individual in the community most exemplifying the seven core values, and was also honored by Mayor Scott Lund proclaiming it Dorothy Gargaro Day for her volunteer activities and for being a role model for her family and the community.

Free time she does have is spent with her family and friends or watching the Minnesota Twins. Last year she went to spring training in Fort Meyers for the first time since John passed away. (Taking their family to Twins Spring Training had been a tradition for 15 years.)

Besides that, Dorothy is a fourth year BSF Student, and truly loves reading her Bible. She feels she has been very well blessed in her life, and is ever so thankful. "The Lord has been so faithful to me, and has given me the best of everything – a very beautiful world to live in, a wonderful family and great friends and many opportunities to share and serve others."

She looks at serving on the Fridley Historical Society Board as a great opportunity to help preserve its history and all of its lovely artifacts; she thinks it is important to do so.

FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

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763-571-0120 phone
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Robert Christenson, Editor
Grace Norton, Assistant Editor

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Your Board of Directors is extremely proud that the Fridley Historical Society was selected to receive the 2007 Values First award for exemplifying its core values of **Responsibility** (*Accountability*), **Nonviolence** (*Peaceful Conflict Resolution*), **Self-Control** (*Self-Discipline*), **Citizenship** (*Patriotism*), **Integrity** (*Honesty & Sincerity*), **Respect** (*Regard and Consideration*), and **Caring** (*Compassion and Kindness*). We also celebrate Board Member Dorothy Gargaro who is a recipient of the individual Values First award.

Individuals and organizations are nominated by others for the Values First award. Values First, like the Fridley Historical Society, is a nonprofit organization that receives no tax dollars and must raise all of its own funds to fulfill its mission. Its goals for Southern Anoka County are to 1) Nurture collaborative efforts by building relationships and networks to support healthy families and communities; 2) Support families in developing positive relationships and networks; and 3) Support efforts to enable children to reach their individual developmental potential.

Values First represents Fridley, Columbia Heights and Hilltop. It was begun in 1994 when local leaders, citizens and school district representatives from these three communities formed a consortium to initiate activities and create partnerships to bring about positive social change.

If you would like to become involved with the Values First initiative, call 763-502-5105 or e-mail Values-first@fridley.k12.mn.us. There is more information available on its web page at www.fridley.k12.mn.us.

The Record

12th Annual August Fest

We will celebrate AugustFest this year on **Wednesday August 1st**, outdoors at the Fridley History Center. This is a free event—our gift to the community. All you need to bring is a lawn chair to sit on and the expectation of having a great time with neighbors and friends. You can park your car at Hayes School.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday August 1 12th Annual AugustFest

6 PM to Dusk

Old Tyme Baseball with the
Quicksteps
Jim Shannon on Electronic
Keyboard
Magic Act
Fridley Royalty
Mango the Clown
Fridley Fire Truck
Brats, Chicago Dogs, Pop, Ice
Cream

Saturdays: August 11 - 25
History Center Open House
11 am to 3 pm

Monday, September 10
7 - 8:30 pm
Fridley History Center
History Conversation #13
"Fridley Youth"

In the Showmobile

6:00 PM: Jim Shannon: Professional Entertainer on the
Electronic Keyboard
6:35 PM: Mango the Clown Magic Act
6:45 PM: Fridley Royalty: Queen Sally Bohlinger, Princesses
Megan Gabel and Melissa Hardy introduced by Mayor
Scott Lund

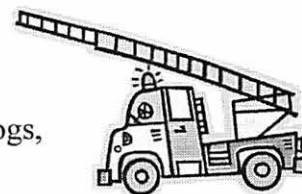
On the Baseball Diamond

7:00 PM Quicksteps (in 19th Century Uniforms)
versus Fridley Locals (police, fire, and recruited citizens)
playing according to 1865 rules of "base ball" as it was known back then.



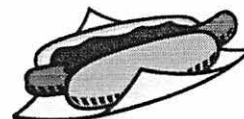
In the Parking Lot: 6 PM to Dusk

- Mango the Clown and assistants enchanting your children with magic, face painting, balloon animals, juggling and clown antics.
- Fridley Fire Department will demonstrate their new "Quint" truck with 105 foot pre-piped aerial ladder.
- Outdoor BBQ with Brats, Hot Dogs, Chicago Dogs, Soda Pop, Ice Cream at reasonable prices.



In the Fridley History Center

- Post-Ball Game: Free Lemonade and Cookies.



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	Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel
Dorothy Gargaro
Jerry Manley
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

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080
Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 4:00 pm

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Hall of Fame

Mel Manley — 651-286-6558
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

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

Membership

Vacant

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson — 763-442-8630

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

July 5, 2007

Summary of Minutes

Summary of Minutes

Meeting convened by Pres. Robert Christenson at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Pat Jaakkola, Mel Manley and Mary Sue Meyers. The June 8, 2007 board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Anderson reported June income was \$115.00 and expenses were \$564.52. She also reported that she and Warren Woods completed the 2006 financial audit noting no irregularities. Income for 2006 was \$15,183.33 and Expenses \$15,183.43 with a net gain of \$389.57. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report passed by voice vote.

President's Report: Christenson reported on the Values First award ceremony at the Fridley Council Meeting and extending an invitation to Values First to seek opportunities for our organizations to work together in the future. He also reported on a book being written on the 1965 tornadoes and a request from the author for the Society's assistance in providing historical data.

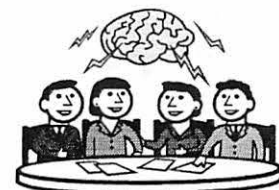
Discussion Item: The Board made final plans for AugustFest which

occurs on a Wednesday this year, August 1.

Action Item: A motion was made and approved to delay implementing an Internet connection for the Society's website and securing a merchant account to be able to accept credit cards on line until we had significant products to sell.

Committee Reports

- **Archives Committee** - Pete Bonesteel reported they are purchasing a computer desk and chair for the front office. The existing desk does not work well with the computer.
- **Fundraising Committee** - Christenson reported he received a "Grants in Aid application" from the Minnesota Legislature. They are setting aside \$200,000 in funds to be made available to historical societies and one category is for publications. He will try to obtain \$7,500 to cover half of the cost to have our book on Fridley's history be published.
- **Hall of Fame Committee** - Mel Manley reported that have received 5 nominations for the Hall of Fame. The deadline is July 31.
- **Maintenance Committee** - Jerry Manley submitted a written report that all fire extinguishers have been recharged and the lighted sign has been cleaned.
- **Announcements** - Christenson stated that the Anoka County Historical Society is holding their annual Heritage Home & Garden Tour on July 15 and the Fridley History Center is one of the stops on the tour. We will need to have Board members present as docents from 11 AM to 5 PM.



The History of Fridley Murders

Our speaker for History Conversation was Police Officer Mark Bonesteel of the Spring Lake Park Police Department. Mark was born in Fridley in 1966 and lived here 24 years. Before joining the Spring Lake Park police, he was a Community Service Officer in the Fridley Police Department, a police officer in Amboy and Vernon Center, and an Anoka County Sheriff Deputy.



Since 1989, Officer Bonesteel has been researching the 20 murders that have occurred in Fridley over the past 90 years. In 1996, he made a similar presentation to the membership of the Society. Since then, there have been 5 more murders in Fridley. Below is a summary of the first of 20 murders Officer Bonesteel narrated.

The first murder occurred April 24, 1917 when Minneapolis Police Officer George Connery was assisting other officers in Minneapolis with a traffic stop for speeding. The two individuals, Frank McCool and Joseph Redendaugh, could not post bail, so Officer Connery got in their vehicle to direct them to the Courthouse. Unbeknownst to Officer Connery, both of these people had been hired by Mr. Dunne to come to Minneapolis to kill Alice Dunne, his wife. He paid \$4,000 for the hit.

After Officer Connery got in the car with them, they drove off and at some point Officer Connery was shot in the leg. His wife called the police department later that night when he did not return home. The police undertook a massive manhunt to search for him. They even took children out of schools to help in the search. In the meantime, Alice Dunne was murdered in St. Paul.

They found a fingerprint on an item at the murder scene that led them to Joseph Redendaugh. He had fled Minnesota immediately after the murder. On August 25, the suspect vehicle in which Officer Connery was shot was found in St. Paul. It had been stolen in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. When they found the car, they noted that carpeting, the floor rug, had been taken out of the back seat.

Officer Connery's body was found on May 5 along Rice Creek (in the newspaper articles it stated, "Rice Creek in the area known as Fridley.") The carpeting from the car was found alongside his body. They found marks on his body showing he had been dragged through the woods to Rice Creek.

The crank from the car was missing, and when they found it on May 5, it had blood on it. It appeared to the investigators at that time that Officer Connery had been beaten with the crank over his head repeatedly. At some point, they had pulled his cap down over his head. They left him for dead.

But when they found his body on May 5 they also found a notebook in his pocket. In the notebook was a detailed description of the two suspects, and a farewell note to his wife and five kids. So, at some point he must have awakened to do this before he succumbed to his wounds.

Frank McCool was arrested in Fort Platte, Nebraska on May 8 and on him they found Officer Connery's pocketknife and gun. Their ballistics showed the same gun that had killed Alice Dunne also killed Officer Connery. He named Redendaugh as the other suspect who was arrested May 11 in San Francisco along with his wife for harboring a fugitive. To spare his wife, Redendaugh pled guilty and was sentenced to 45 years in prison. He was released from Stillwater on May 9, 1962. McCool pled not guilty, was sentenced to 30 years in prison

History Book of 1965 Tornadoes



Al Taylor, a teacher, is writing a history book of the three tornadoes that struck Fridley May 6, 1965. The Fridley Historical Society is assisting Mr. Taylor with his research on this project. If you have a story about the night of the tornadoes or the days following you would like to share with Mr. Taylor for possible inclusion in his book, please come to the History Center between 11 am and 3 pm on Saturday, July 28.

Join Our Band of Volunteers!

Members of the Fridley Historical Society contributed over 4,500 hours of volunteer time in 2006 to keep the Fridley Historical Society as a leading nonprofit organization serving Fridley. We receive no tax dollars to operate the only community historical museum in Anoka County, and therefore have no funds for staffing. So we have to depend on volunteers.

In 2006 our irreplaceable volunteers helped produce 13 special events for the community including six History Conversations, were guides at the History Center during open houses, worked at creating a new history of Fridley book, helped maintain the museum building and grounds, organized the third annual Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner and secured nominations, published 11 issues of this newsletter, undertook three major fundraising projects including a very successful Lasagna Dinner/Raffle/Live Auction, invested hundreds of hours in administrative work, scanned and digitized for preservation hundreds of photographs, added new exhibits to the History Center, made possible through ad sales the publishing of the 2007 Fridley Town Planner Calendar mailed free to 10,000 households, recruited new members including many business members, maintained financial records/audits/reports, and enabled us to end the year with a small surplus.

More volunteers are needed if we are to maintain our current momentum. Here are some opportunities for which you can volunteer as little or as much time as you have available:

1. Prepare and mail membership cards and thank you letters
2. Conduct administrative tasks such as filing, correspondence, return phone calls
3. Be a docent (guide) when the museum is open for visitors (2nd & 4th Saturdays)
4. Serve on the Board (it meets the first Thursday of the month at 6 pm)
5. Fill an upcoming vacancy such as President or Secretary of the Board
6. Do graphic arts for brochures, flyers, website
7. Be our Webmaster for www.fridleyhistory.org

You are needed to help keep Fridley's most active organization on the track of fulfilling its mission: the collection, preservation and dissemination of Fridley's history in a way that has value for every Fridley citizen. Just call 763-571-0120 and leave a voice mail with your name and phone number and the area in which you would like to serve. We hope you will join our enthusiastic band of volunteers.

where he died. Mr. Dunne was convicted of planning the murder of his wife and died in prison in 1958.

Question from audience: "Out of 20 murders, only 4 are unsolved. Is that normal?" Officer Bonesteel replied, "Now-a-days it is much harder to get away with murder because of the technology involved, but because of all the crime shows on TV everyone expects DNA tests, etc. But it is only used on big cases, and you have to be pretty good to get away with murder today."

He stated that there may have been a 21st murder in Fridley back in 1907, and he is still researching that one. There was a murder in the 1914 of Mary Fridley Price but that happened in Minneapolis.



Bob Comer: Mr. Comer was official police photographer for Fridley from the late 1950s into the 1960s.

He spoke of being called late one night in 1967 by Chief McCarthy to a murder scene. This woman, Delores, was living with her mother after being separated from her husband. Her husband was laying in wait at her mother's house with a 12-gauge shotgun. Delores returned home with a male friend in a Pontiac convertible. Her husband walked up to the door of the convertible and fired the shotgun through the door panel at the male friend. Delores ran out the other door to a neighbor across the street. She got to the steps and he killed her there and then walked back, re-loaded, and fired more shots at the driver of the car.

Ray Baker of the Anoka County Sheriff's Department got a search warrant and they went to the suspect's house—he lived with his mother and had a gun rack with rifles and shotguns. When they arrived, they saw the suspect's tie lying over the gun rack with the shotgun on top of the tie. Chief McCarthy said, "If we can just find someone who saw him wearing that tie the night of the murder, we got him." And they did. They had a perfect case of first-degree murder but the prosecutor for some strange reason let him plead guilty to second-degree murder and he only served a short sentence.



Ron Allard: Officer Allard is a former Fridley Police Officer.

Regarding the murder case described by Mr. Comer above, Officer Allard stated that before becoming a police officer, he worked for the Great Northern Railroad as did the father, Pete, of the deceased woman, Delores. Pete lived across the street from where this all happened. Officer Allard said "I had the distinction of going across the street telling dad what happened to his daughter. I have known Pete for years and years and he is deceased now too." In response to an audience question, Allard says he occasionally works on cold cases he formerly worked on, like the Barbara Boyles case, but the chief suspect has died in that case, he believes in an auto accident in California. He was also the cop on duty the night of the murder at Red's Club, but does not remember seeing any evidence of four shots as reported in the newspaper.



The History of Fridley Murders Conversation was well attended. Pictured here is some of the audience.

FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

611 Mississippi Street
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763-571-0120 phone
www.fridleyhistory.org
Robert Christenson, Editor
Grace Norton, Assistant Editor

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*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



How does an all-volunteer organization that receives no money from taxes (as do County historical societies) properly maintain a 77 year-old schoolhouse converted into a museum, including building repairs, mechanical systems, etc.? How does it handle all of the ground maintenance?

How are we able to present to the public a major program every month including seven History Conversations, AugustFest, Hall of Fame Dinner, Kindergarten Art Fair, Christmas Concert to mention a few? How does this 22 year-old Society find the wherewithal to be able to publish the first history book of Fridley in over 50 years? How is it able to manage all of its record keeping, filing, communications, and digitizing process without paid staff?

We do all of this and more. How? First, we have volunteers who contributed over 4,500 hours of time in 2006. Second, the Board has become highly creative and experimental over the past five years launching brave new initiatives such as the Fridley Hall of Fame, Fridley History Conversations, Super Saturdays, and more. And we have a faithful membership who attends our events and supports us through their generous donations, with financial support from local businesses and other nonprofits such as the Fridley Lions Club.

So that is how we do it—with your help. And we are so grateful! A big “THANK YOU” to all of you who help the Fridley Historical Society function as one of Fridley’s most valuable treasures.



The Record

Fridley History Conversation **FRIDLEY YOUTH**

Upcoming Events



Saturdays, September 8 & 22
History Center Open House
11 am to 3 pm

Monday, September 10
Fridley History Center
7 to 8:30 pm
History Conversation #13
"Fridley Youth"
with
Mikhail & Kiehlor Mack
& Pam Meyer

Monday, October 8
7 – 8:30 pm
Fridley Community Center
Annual Meeting
Entertainment by the
"Kitchen Kut Ups"

Saturday, November 10
12 noon
Knights of Columbus Hall
4th Annual
Hall of Fame Dinner



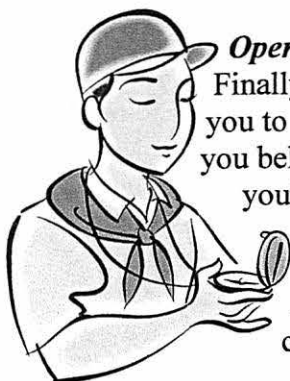
Our September 10th History Conversation will focus on the youth of Fridley. We have two presentations for this meeting, and time for members to share stories of Fridley youth.

Mikhail and Kiehlor Mack's First Prize Winning Science Project

Our first presenters will be Mikhail and Kiehlor Mack, twin sons of Society members Stan Mack, II and Margaret Liebfried. Mikhail and Kiehlor are freshman at Fridley High School. Mikhail and Kiehlor created a science exhibit for a national History Day competition under the theme "Triumph & Tragedy." There were 700,000 (yes, seven hundred thousand!!) entrants and their exhibit received the first place Gold Medal. Their topic was the Reserve Mining pollution of Lake Superior and local fresh water supplies.

Pam Meyer, Former Fridley Teacher

We will also feature on this program Pam Meyer, a former Fridley schoolteacher. She taught 3rd Grade at Robert L. Stevenson Elementary School. On her retirement, she was provided a Book of Appreciation written by former students. She will share some of these stories of who they are now as adults and the benefits of their education under her tutelage.



Open Mic: Share Your Memories

Finally, we will open the microphone for you to share remembrances of organizations you belonged to in Fridley that served youth (4-H, Fridley Teen Center, Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts, Campfire Girls & Girl Scouts, American Field Service, car clubs, etc.).



Fridley Historical Society**Board & Committees**

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Secretary	Pat Jaakkola
Treasurer	Judy Anderson

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Dorothy Gargaro
Jerry Manley
Mary Sue Meyers

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Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 pm

Membership

Vacant

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson — 763-442-8630

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

August 2, 2007
Summary of Minutes

Meeting convened by Pres. Robert Christenson at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Judy Anderson, Jerry Manley, Mel Manley, and Dorothy Gargaro. Visitors included Al Taylor who is writing a book on the 1965 tornadoes and Vickie Rockwell, Women of Today. The July 5, 2007 board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Anderson reported July income was \$229.50 and expenses were \$632.69.

Action Items: Motion made, seconded and approved to apply for a \$2,500 grant from the Minnesota Historical Society for video equipment to be used for History Conversations, interviews of Fridley leaders, and family video histories. The State of Minnesota allocated \$200,000 in grant money to help local historical societies. The Minnesota Historical Society will administer the grants.

Discussion Item: The Board reviewed our experience with this year's AugustFest. Over 100 attended, with great music, magic show, and ball game. Everyone had a wonderful time in spite of the ball game being stopped a little after 8 pm when lightning strikes were seen moving in our direction shortly followed by a heavy downpour and one air conditioner breaking down.

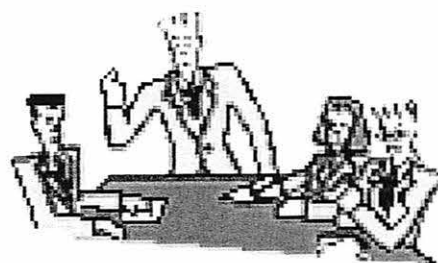
Action Item: A motion was made and approved to delay implementing an Internet connection for the Society's website and securing a merchant account to be able to accept credit cards on line until we had significant products to sell.

Committee Reports

Hall of Fame Committee: - Mel Manley reported that he had received about nine nominations for the 4th Annual Hall of Fame. Christenson suggested expanding the Hall of Fame to include community service hall of fame for Fridley nonprofits. A business hall of fame is in progress.

Maintenance: - Jerry Manley reported the upstairs air conditioner quit working the day of AugustFest. Dave's Heating and Air conditioning did a temporary fix on the compressor, and offered us a new compressor that would cost \$2,000 (retail is \$4,000). Installation is \$700.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.



Welcome, New Members



Troy & Kathy Christenson
Char Fitzpatrick
Elizabeth Hitomi

Gary & Bev Larson
Leon Madsen
Vicki Rockwell

Allen Taylor
Heights Theatre

In-Kind Donations Requested

The Historical Society's budget is very tight this year because we have had to purchase a new central air conditioning unit for the upper level of the History Center. We invite businesses and individuals to make an in-kind donation of any of the following items that you may not longer have need of or recently upgraded or replaced:

1. Color laser copier
2. Professional video camera, microphone & tripod
3. Computer desk with hutch
4. Desk chair (adjustable) with arms
5. Metal folding chairs
6. Microwave oven
7. 40 cup or larger coffee urn



Calendar of Events 2008



We are in the process of setting the times and dates of our events and meetings for 2008. In 2007, we held 13 events for Society members, to which we also invited Fridley citizens and guests.

We plan to do seven more History Conversations in 2008 that we will videotape for the Fridley cable channel and for our own archives.

We have two requests: We are discussing changing the meeting night for History Conversations from the second Monday to another time of the month. The second Monday is the day the City Council meets and prevents them and their staff from attending. We could hold the meeting on the 3rd Wednesday or the 2nd Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. If you

have a suggestion, call our voice mail and leave us your suggestions: 763-571-0120.

We are also exploring topics for History Conversations next year. If you have a topic you would like to suggest, again, please call our voice mail and let us know the topic of interest to you.



12th Annual AugustFest 2007

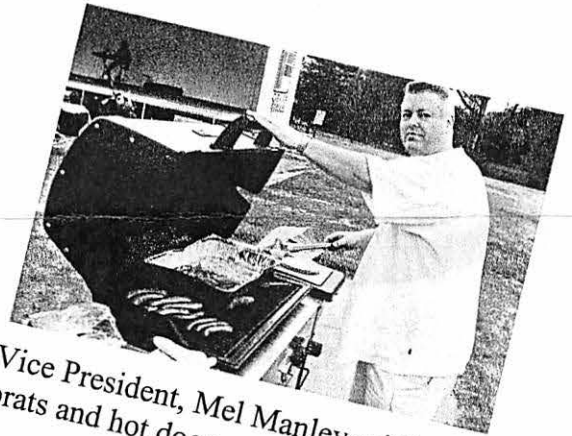
Our AugustFest celebration drew over 100 people who braved the hot weather with forecasted showers. About the time we began at 6 pm, the temperature dropped and it became quite comfortable. The showers held off until a little after 8 pm and then we had a major downpour. But everyone went indoors for cookies and lemonade. . And unfortunately, we heard the news about 6:45 pm of the 35W bridge collapse, which also put a damper on the festivities.

The ball game was also called early because of significant lightning strikes in the area. The Quicksteps had the lead over the Fridley Men when the game was called. The Fridley Men ball team, that included firemen and police, was assembled by Todd Christenson just a few days before the game.

Jim Shannon at the electronic keyboard provided wonderful entertainment. He was followed by Mango the Clown who did a magic act. We also heard from Fridley Royalty: Queen Sally Bohlinger, Princesses Megan Gabel and Melissa Hardy. Overall, no one was disappointed they had attended.



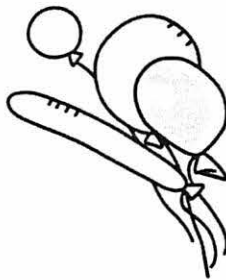
Fridley Royalty (left to right) Princess Megan Gabel, Queen Sally Bohlinger, Princess Melissa Hardy



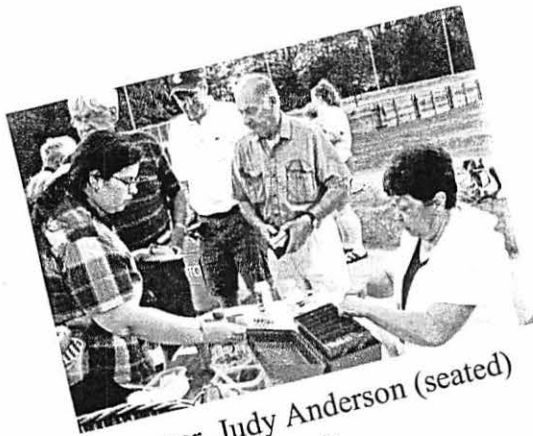
Vice President, Mel Manley grilling brats and hot dogs.



Mango the Clown



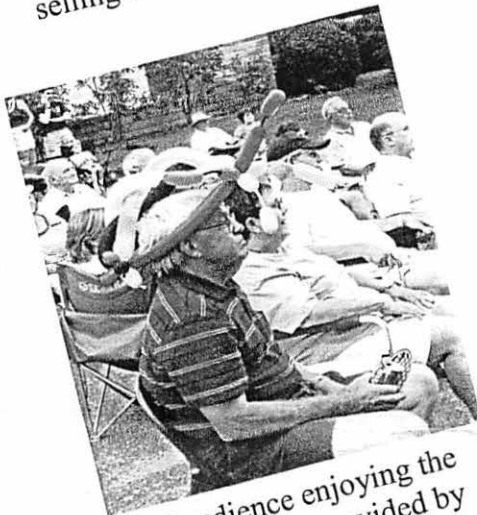
Entertainer, Jim Shannon at the keyboard.



Treasurer, Judy Anderson (seated) selling refreshments.



Mango the Clown under attack by Chris Cobar, Jack Anderson and Alex Alambuhl.



Part of audience enjoying the show. Headwear provided by Mango.



Mango the Clown performing magic with Princess Melissa Hardy.



The Quicksteps ball team



The "Fridley Men" ball team

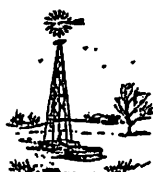


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*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



"What effect has being a resident or employee in Fridley had on your life? This is one of the topics under consideration for the seven History Conversations planned for 2008. I invite you to suggest topics for the other six Conversations by calling our voice mail at 763-571-0120.

Topics covered to date include: Fridley Night Clubs, Fridley Valentines from the Past, Fridley Houses of Worship, Fridley Tornadoes, Fridley Farms, District 23 School (Hayes Annex) 75th Birthday, Fridley Grocers, First Impressions of Fridley, Fridley Doctors, Fridley Elementary Schools, Springbrook Nature Center, and Fridley Murders. We are far from having exhausted all the topics of which we wish to capture video stories of those who lived in times past and who are connected to Fridley today.

So what effect has living in Fridley had on my life? Fridley was my birthplace over 70 years ago, and my father's birthplace. I could not think of a better community to grow up in. We had an annual community picnic. There were also great places for a child to explore from a beautiful creek with a swimming hole to sand dunes where we rode horses.

Not having TV or video games, I learned creativity. As children we created our own games for which we made the necessary "toys" (wood rubber band guns, lead molded characters, bows and arrows, etc.). I learned the value of bonding with ones neighbors who could be there for you in tough times. And I learned the value of a clean, natural environment. I am so grateful for growing up in Fridley.



The Record

Kitchen Kut Ups to Entertain At Annual Meeting



Upcoming Events



Monday, October 8

6-8:15 pm

Fridley Community Center

Potluck Dinner

Annual Meeting

**Entertainment by the
"Kitchen Kut Ups"**

Saturdays, October 13 & 27

11 am-3pm

History Center Open House

Saturday, November 10

12 noon

Knights of Columbus Hall

4th Annual

Hall of Fame Dinner

Saturday, December 8

12-3 pm

At History Center

**Kindergarten Holiday
Art Show**

Monday, December 10

7-8:30 pm

Annual Christmas Concert

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, October 8, at 6 pm at the Fridley Community Center, 61st and 7th Street, in the Fireside Room. This will be our biggest potluck dinner of the year—a groaning table featuring the culinary artistry of our members.

What kind of music would you expect from a conglomeration of musical instruments including kazoo-enhanced eggbeaters, pizza cutters, potato mashers, and lemon squeezers augmented by piano and accordion plus a wrench-a-phone, washboard, and a flour barrel drum? Remember Spike Jones? This is even better because it is the imaginative music of the Kitchen Kut Ups that makes you want to sing along, laugh, stomp your feet to the beat and lift your spirits to the heavens.

This unique group of 25 local volunteer entertainers who delight audiences with music from the 1920s to the 1970s has performed over 1,200 concerts and is still going strong. Every song includes a musical skit, a dance, audience participation and enthusiastic humor. The Kitchen Kut-Ups last performed for the Fridley Historical Society at our Annual Meeting in 2003 and everyone wanted them back as soon as possible.

The business part of the meeting will include a progress report on 2007, board nominations, a financial report, and an opportunity for Society members to ask questions, share their ideas and suggestions, and offer any comments on the operations of their Historical Society.

Bringing a favorite dish to the potluck dinner is optional; bringing a big appetite is not. This is a free event for members and non-members alike.

Page 2

Fridley Historical Society**Board & Committees**

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Secretary	Pat Jaakkola
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Jerry Manley
Mary Sue Meyers
Vicki Rockwell

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Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 pm

Membership

Vicki Wendell

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson — 763-442-8630

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting**September 6, 2007****Summary of Minutes**

Meeting convened by Pres. Robert Christenson at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Pat Jaakkola, Jerry Manley, Mary Sue Meyers and Vicki Rockwell. The August 2, 2007 board minutes were approved as amended (Mary Sue Meyers attended the Aug. 2 Board meeting).

Treasurer's Report: August income was \$130.99 and expenses were \$3,632.65 with major expense of \$2,700 for purchase and installation of new air conditioner.

President's Report: Christenson reported that our grant request for \$2,500 to the Minnesota Historical Society was turned down. He stated that the Minnesota Society seems biased toward giving money to larger historical societies with paid staff and that are funded by tax dollars.

Action Items: Jerry Manley reported the new air conditioner has been installed. Motion approved to induct into the Fridley Hall of Fame the three nominees evaluated, voted on and recommended to the Board by the Hall of Fame Committee. Motion approved to appoint Vicki Rockwell to the Board, and Christenson appointed Rockwell as Chair of the Membership Committee. Motion approved for the purchase

of a new upper level air conditioner for \$2,700 including installation which replaces the air conditioner that went out of operation on August 1. Motion approved to accept the nominations of Jerry Manley and Mary Sue Meyers for another term on the Board.

Discussion Item: Christenson reported we need to give the Town Planner Calendar the times and dates of Society events for 2008. He is working on topics for History Conversations. The Board recommended changing the dates for membership meetings and History Conversations to the 3rd Monday of the month.

Committee Reports

Program & Events: Mary Sue Meyers reported that costs for renting space at the Fridley Community Center have increased, but we will be able to hold our Annual Meeting there on October 8.

City History Committee: Dorothy Gargaro reported that the budget for the new history of Fridley book was approved.

Maintenance Committee: Jerry Manley reported the committee undertook needed landscaping on the History Center grounds. He is also ordering a new American flag for our flagpole.

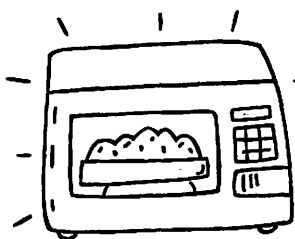
Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM

Vicki Rockwell Joins Board of Directors

Vicki Rockwell, a resident of Fridley for the past four years, was appointed to the Board of Directors and named Chair of the Membership Committee. Rockwell is employed at Next Day Gourmet, a division of U.S. Food Service where she negotiates with vendors and promotes her product category in catalogs and flyers.

She is past President of the Fridley Women of Today and currently serves as District Director. She is also a member of the Fridley '49ers Days Festival Committee. Vicki's daughter, Lindsey, is a sophomore at Fridley High School. She also has a 5-year-old dog, a Yorkie/Rat Terrier, "Peanut." She says she is looking forward to serving on the Board with such a wonderful group of people.

Jan & Jim Golden Donate Microwave Oven

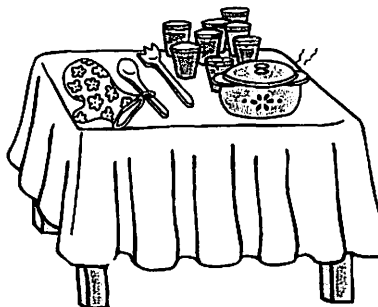


In last month's issue, we listed items we can use at the History Center if someone had an extra they would be willing to donate. I am happy to report that Society members Jan and Jim Golden (Jan is a former Treasurer) donated a microwave oven for our kitchen. Many thanks to the Golden.

Annual Meeting Agenda

The agenda for the Annual Meeting to be held on Monday, October 8 at 6 pm at the Fridley Community Center, 61st and 7th Street N.E. is as follows:

6:00 pm Potluck Dinner
 6:45 pm Entertainment by the Kitchen Kut Ups
 7:45 pm Business Meeting
 Role Call & Introductions
 Minutes of 2006 Annual Meeting
 Committee Reports
 Financial Report— Judy Anderson, Treasurer
 Hall of Fame Report— Mel Manley, Chair
 City History Report— Dorothy Gargaro, Chair
 Maintenance Report— Jerry Manley, Chair
 Archives Report— Pete Bonesteel, Chair
 Fundraising Report— Robert Christenson, Interim Chair
 Membership Report— Vicki Rockwell, Chair
 Program & Events Report— Mary Sue Meyers
 Board & Officer Nominations— Mel Manley, VP
 State of the Society— Robert Christenson, President
 Audience Questions and Suggestions
 Adjourn



Fridley History Conversation #13

Fridley Youth



Mikhail and Kiehlor Mack

Over 50 people attended our History Conversation on Fridley Youth. Mikhail and Kiehlor Mack, sophomores at Fridley High School who are twin brothers, presented the History Day display that won each of them four gold medals at the History Day competition that focused this year on Triumph and Tragedy. They presented their exhibit on the pollution created by Reserve Mining, which was on display at our History Center, and a video of an early TV broadcast featuring Grant Merritt, the PCA commissioner at the time of the Reserve Mining controversy.

They won the competition at Fridley High School, the regional competition in South Central Minnesota competing against 250 students of which eight qualified to go to State. At State they competed against 100 students and won the first place gold medals. First and second prizewinners were eligible to go to national.

The national competition was at the University of Maryland in June of this year. It appeared on the History Channel website. Neither of them expected to win any prizes, although they had some hope. First announced was the Rachel Carson Centennial Award for the most excellent exhibit in environmental history sponsored by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Kiehlor and Mikhail, to their great amazement, won that award and received their medals and \$1,000, which they intend to use for scholarship funds.

Then the winners of the Senior Group Exhibit were announced. First announced was the third place winner, then the second place and finally the gold medal for the national first place award. When the announcer said, "Fridley!" they were blown away, for it meant that their exhibit earned each of them a first place gold medal for the best exhibit in the nation. Over 700,000 students competed in this national History Day event.

Their exhibit was purchased by the Minnesota History Center (for \$1) and will have a permanent place in their collection. The video of their presentation at the History Center is available for viewing at Fridley History Center open houses the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.



Mikhail and Kiehlor's prize winning exhibit.



Left to right: Kiehlor Mack, Grant Merritt, and Mikhail Mack.



Left to right: Ann Essling, Dorothy Linse and Grant Merritt.



Our second speaker, Pam Meyer, a recently retired Fridley schoolteacher, called attention to the time line on the east wall of the History Center, which was created by her students in 1999. They also raised and donated \$104 for a new roof for the History Center.

At left is Pam Meyer with photo of newspaper featuring her students in 1999.

Pam read a very moving letter she received from a former student whose family moved to Fridley from Vietnam. The student spoke very little English when she arrived in the U.S. The letter thanked Pam for being her teacher and then told how she went to college, graduated a year early with a Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry, is doing cancer research at the University of Minnesota, and will be working on a Ph.D. to be a college professor.

Every year Pam asked her students to create a "Someday" book that told about things her students intended to do or achieve in their life. She brought Katie Stevenson, one of her former third grade students at Stevenson Elementary School, to share her "Someday" book. Katie read her book, dedicated to Pam Meyer, "the best teacher in the world," accompanied on each page with a hand drawn picture. She won a blue ribbon at the Anoka County Fair for her "Someday" book.



At right is Katie Stevenson reading from her "Someday" book dedicated to, "the best teacher in the world."



At her retirement, Pam was presented with a bound volume of photos and letters from former students who expressed how they had fulfilled their dreams as they outlined them in their "Someday" books. Pam read to the audience what each of these students had written, and it was amazing what they had accomplished. There were about 25 letters.

At right Pam reads from the "Someday" book presented to her by former students.

Pam's presentation is also on a DVD at the History Center.



Some of the audience at the Fridley History Conversation on Youth in September.



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Robert Christenson, Editor
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*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

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President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Last month I asked for your suggestions for topics for our 2008 History Conversations. Here are seven topics currently being considered. If you have other suggestions, either leave them on our voicemail (763-571-0120) or bring your ideas to the Annual Meeting on October 8.

- Fridley in the Depression Years: the 1930s
- Unity Hospital
- Fridley Fires (& History of Fire Department)
- Fridley High School
- Fridley Lions Club
- Fridley's Historical Homes (& History of Housing Development)
- Fridley's Industrial Progress

Do not forget to put the Annual Meeting on your agenda. We will be enormously entertained by the Kitchen Kut Ups with exciting music and theatrics coupled with our always super-delicious potluck dinner. This is sure to be an unforgettable evening.

There are great photos inside of our last History Conversation, so turn to pages 4 and 5 for the interesting stories and pictures of Fridley Youth.



The Record

Three Notable Citizens Being Inducted Into The Fridley Hall of Fame 12 Noon, Saturday, November 10, 2007

Please join us in honoring this year's inductees by coming to the 4th Annual Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Tickets are only \$15. For tickets call Mel Manley at 651-286-6558.



This year's grand event will feature live entertainment by Jim Shannon, who performed to great acclaim at AugustFest. Our luncheon menu will include roast turkey and baked ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, chef's vegetables, pumpkin pie, and beverages.

Being inducted into the Hall of Fame this year are:

Gretchen Hanson: Gretchen is the founder of Tamarisk, an in-the-home hospice program located in Fridley. She is also the Hospice Volunteer Coordinator for Health One Hospice and Home Care.

Lillian Meyer: Lillian has held many offices with the League of Women Voters and the Fridley Historical Society including being its President. She co-chaired a group that established the Anoka County Brotherhood Council. She is a Board member of the Family Life Mental Health Center and is active in the Nursing Alumni Association.

Tom Myhra: Tom was President of Fridley Education Association, Curriculum Director for Fridley schools, and a Director of the Community Education Center. He was also one of the founders of FRIDFANS, President of Concerned Citizens of Fridley, and a charter member and former President of the Fridley Historical Society.

Judges of the many Hall of Fame nominations submitted were a combination of Society members and community members including Pete Bonesteel, Jerry Manley, Mel Manley, Mary Sue Meyers, Dianne McKiusick, Connie Samuelson and Bill Burns.

Upcoming Events



Saturday, November 10
12 noon

Knights of Columbus Hall
4th Annual

Hall of Fame Dinner
Jim Shannon Entertains
\$15 – No ticket sales at the door.

Saturday: November 24
History Center Open House
11 am to 3 pm

Saturday, December 8
12 – 3 pm
At History Center
**Kindergarten Holiday
Art Show**

Monday, December 10
7 - 8:30 pm
Annual Christmas Concert

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 pm.

Officers

Past President	Robert Christenson
Vice President	Mel Manley
Secretary	Pat Jaakkola
Treasurer	Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel
Dorothy Gargaro
Jerry Manley
Mary Sue Meyers
Vicki Rockwell

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

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080
Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 4:00 pm

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Robert Christenson — 763-442-8630

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley — 651-286-6558
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 4:30 pm

Maintenance

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

Membership

Vicki Rockwell—763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson — 763-442-8630

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

**Board of Directors
Meeting**

**October 4, 2007
Summary of Minutes**

Meeting convened by Pres. Robert Christenson at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Pat Jaakkola, Dorothy Gargaro, Jerry Manley, Pete Bonesteel, Mary Sue Meyers, Judy Anderson & Vicki Rockwell. Not in attendance was Mel Manley. The September 6, 2007 board minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: August income was \$20.48 and expenses were \$491.68.

President's Report: Christenson affirmed that this was his last meeting as President, a decision made last year. He served 5 years as President and this past year served as Chairs of Fundraising, Newsletter & PR, and Membership committees. His health care consulting business is consuming an ever-increasing amount of his time, and he is unable to hold all of these positions in the Society and still serve his clients. He will fulfill his Board term that runs until December 31, 2008 and will continue to do fundraising and write the newsletter. He thanked the Board members for all of their strong support while he was President.

Action Items: Move, seconded and approved to hold the Society's annual planning meeting in conjunction with the Board meeting on December 6.

Discussion Item: Christenson reported we need to give the Town

Planner Calendar the times and dates of Society events for 2008. He is working on topics for History Conversations. The Board recommended changing the dates for membership meetings and History Conversations to the 3rd Monday of the month.

Committee Reports

Hall of Fame: Chair Mel Manley reported ticket sales at this year's reduced price of \$15 are selling well.

Program & Events: Chair Mary Sue Meyers stated that the Fireside Room at the Community Center is now available for our annual meeting on October 8 and the Kitchen Kut Ups will perform.

City History: Chair Dorothy Gargaro stated that the committee may consider a separate soft cover book of only family histories, being that funds are not yet available for the comprehensive hard cover Fridley history book. The book project has been underway for 6 years.

Archive: Chair Pete Bonesteel stated he and his son Mark are digitizing and categorizing photos.

Maintenance Committee: Chair Jerry Manley reported the lawn sprinkler system and heating systems have been readied for winter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.





Welcome, New Members



Through a communication error, we were remiss in not including Craig Hohensee and Eileen Arnold Hohensee, 11756 Arnold Palmer Drive - Blaine 55449, in the listing of new members in the October newsletter. They joined at AugustFest 2007.

Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Robert Christenson at 6:50 pm.

Christenson welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting. He asked a show of hands of those who were active members for the purposes of voting. He introduced the Board of Directors.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on October 9, 2006 were read. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Vicki Rockwell and seconded by Bill Linton. Motion approved.

Treasurer's report was given by Judy Anderson, Treasurer. She reported that our expenses exceed our income by \$4,250 at this time of the year, but we had to spend \$2,700 for a new air conditioner and we receive the bulk of our membership dues revenue in December, so she expects we will be in the black again this year. In 2006, we ended the year with a net income of \$358. Adeline Christenson moved to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Vicki Rockwell and approved by the membership.

Meeting was suspended for performance of the Kitchen Kut Ups.

Christenson reconvened the meeting at 8:05 pm. Mel Manley presented the Nominating Committee Report. He stated that there are three openings on the Board for 2008. He moved to nominate Vicki Rockwell for a 3-year term. Vicki was appointed by the Board in September to fill a current vacancy. The nomination was seconded by Agnes Shaw and approved. He then nominated Jerry Manley to serve an additional 3-year term, seconded by Mary Sue Meyers and approved. Mel next nominated Mary Sue Meyers to serve an additional 3-year term, seconded by Rosemary Biedron, and approved.

Mary Sue Meyers, Chair of the Program & Events Committee reported on all of the 13 programs and events that have been held in the past year, as well as upcoming events the remainder of the year (Hall of Fame Dinner, Kindergarten Art Fair, and Christmas Concert).

Dorothy Gargaro, Chair, City History Committee reported on the work undertaken over the past six years in producing a history of Fridley. The manuscript is 95% completed and only funding remains to publish the book.

Pete Bonesteel, Chair, Archives Committee, reported on the digitizing of photos undertaken by him and his son, Mark Bonesteel. This is a multi-year project.

Robert Christenson, Chair of Fundraising Committee and Newsletter and PR Committee reported on the efforts underway to raise funds from calendar ads and finding a corporate underwriter for the Fridley History Book and corporate sponsors for the Hall of Fame dinner.

(Continued on next page.)

He then delivered his annual State of Society address highlighting the year's many milestones reached and the research he is undertaking that compares very favorably the Fridley Historical Society with other local historical societies in the metro area.

Questions and suggestions were solicited from the audience. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Annual Meeting Photos

We had a great time at our Annual Meeting last month. The Kitchen Kut Ups provided beautiful music, much laughter and generated great applause for their magnificent performance. The potluck dinner was a feast enjoyed by everyone, including the Kitchen Kut Ups, and we had an abundance of sumptuous food to sample. The photos on these pages tell the story best.



The Manleys et al: Left to right; Suzanne Miskowic, Alicia Manley, Grant Manley, Mel Manley, Margaret Jewison, Rosemary Biedron, Marilyn Manley



The Scherer Sisters: Left to right; Carol (Scherer) Christenson, Judy (Scherer) Anderson, Bernadine (Scherer) Matushak



The Lintons and Friend: Left to right; Hazel Linton, Marty Lueders, Bill Linton



Clark Sisters and Spouses: Left to right; Grace (Clark) Norton, Gwen (Clark) Nawrocki, Roger Nawrocki Lowell Norton,



The Christensons: Left to right;
Ray Anderson, Virginia
(Christenson) Anderson, Sandi
Christenson, David Christenson



The potluck feast

The Kitchen Kut Ups Entertain



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*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



This is my final column as President of the Fridley Historical Society. The five years I have held this post have been some of the most rewarding in my life. During this tenure I have witnessed the Society triple its membership, develop eight active committees, produce 13 community events annually, build a website, create the Fridley Hall of Fame with the 4th dinner coming up on November 10, launch Fridley History Conversations, complete the manuscript for a history book of Fridley (awaiting funding to publish), receive the Values First Community Award, and saw member volunteer service hours increased to over 4,500 annually.

All of the recognition for these accomplishments was earned and is fully deserved by our dedicated and hard working Board of Directors, numerous committee members, and other member volunteers. It has been my greatest pleasure to have the opportunity to work with such caring and hard working members.

Because of the talented Board you have elected over the years, I have no concerns about leaving my role as president. I will continue to write the newsletter, continue to do fundraising and continue my board service.

Thank you for the heartwarming support you have given me over the past five years. Through your membership dollars, generous donations, attendance at Society events and hours of volunteer service, you have produced one of the premier historical societies in the State of Minnesota. I leave knowing that it has been a truly great privilege to play a small role in this great undertaking.



The Record

Get Into the Season at the Fridley History Center! 2 Great Holiday Events

Upcoming Events



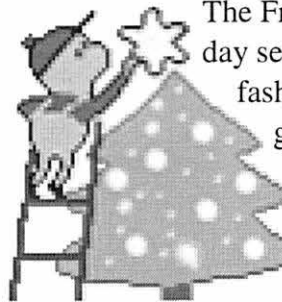
Saturday, December 8
Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair
12 Noon – 3 PM
Hot cider and Christmas cookies
Free Event

Monday: December 17
Annual Christmas Concert by
“The Kids From Fridley”
7 – 8 PM
Wassail, Christmas Cookies &
Coffee
Free to Members; Visitors, \$5

Saturday, December 22
11 AM to 3 PM
History Center Open House
Free to Members; Visitors, \$3

Monday, January 21
7 - 8:30 PM
Fridley History Conversation
#14
**“Fridley During the Depres-
sion Years: the 1930s”**
Fridley History Center
Free to Members; Visitors, \$5

Kindergarten Annual Holiday Art Fair



The Fridley History Center is being decorated for the holiday season with old-fashioned Christmas trees and newly fashioned holiday artwork created by Fridley Kindergarten students. What better way to fill yourself with the Christmas spirit than by enjoying some free Christmas cookies and hot cider at the Fridley History Center while viewing the Kindergarten art exhibit.

Meet some of the Kindergarten artists in person between 12 Noon and 3 PM on Saturday, December 8. They will be stopping by with their parents to pick up their artwork and have their photographs taken. And this event is free, a gift to the community by the Fridley Historical Society.

Annual Christmas Concert

For your second injection of holiday spirit, come to our Annual Christmas Concert on Monday evening, December 17 at 7 pm. You will be entertained with beautiful music of the season sung by the Middle School's “Kids from Fridley” led by their Director, Blair Berger.



Once again, Mary Sue Meyers, our Chair of Programs and Events, will have her wonderful Wassail to enjoy along with many homemade Christmas cookies and coffee. This event is free to members, and \$5 for visitors.



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

Past President	Robert Christenson
Vice President	Mel Manley
Secretary	Pat Jaakkola
Treasurer	Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel
Dorothy Gargaro
Jerry Manley
Mary Sue Meyers
Vicki Rockwell

Committees & Chairpersons

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

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Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

**Board of Directors
Meeting**

**November 1, 2007
Summary of Minutes**

.Meeting convened by Vice President Mel Manley at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Pat Jaakkola, Dorothy Gargaro, Jerry Manley, Pete Bonesteel, Judy Anderson & Vicki Rockwell and Robert Christenson.

Treasurer's Report: September expenses were \$530.26.

Discussion Item: Christenson reported he was contacted by Quality Career Services (QCS) who offered to supply us with administrative personnel provided by senior citizens paid for by QCS. There would be no cost to the Society. The problem was that the workers needed to have full-time supervision. The Board agreed that being we have no paid or volunteer staff to do supervision, we have to turn down the offer.

Committee Reports:

Hall of Fame: Chair Mel Manley reported that with 10 days to go before the Hall of Fame Dinner, we have sold 130 dinner tickets. It was agreed by the Board that the sponsor price for a table should be \$250.

City History: Chair Dorothy Gargaro stated that Christenson has received two more printing bids for the history book, but both were higher than the current low bidder. The only section of the book re-

maining to be written is on business and industry.

Membership: Chair Vicki Rockwell reported that membership renewals will be sent out later this month. She is also seeking additional members for her committee. Christenson agreed to provide Rockwell with the renewal flyer and letter to be mailed to members.

Fundraising: Christenson reported that the ads have been sold for the 2008 Fridley Town Planner Calendar, and the Society's meetings and events for 2008 will be listed on respective dates in the calendar.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM

Donations

The Society received a \$50 donation from Homemakers Anonymous, a study group in the Innsbruck area of Fridley. We also received office supplies donated by Time to Travel at 203 Mississippi Street.

**Welcome, New
Members**

We warmly welcome these new members: 1) Agnes Wolf, 2) Randy Olchefske owner of Maaco Collision Repair & Auto Painting, and 3) Eleanor F. Anderson, Certified Public Accountant.

Membership Committee Happenings



Letters will soon be going out giving you the wonderful opportunity to renew your membership in the Society for 2008. We truly appreciate each and every one of you and hope that you make the decision to renew. Do you know someone that would enjoy being a member? Why not share the opportunity with them. Or maybe consider giving a membership as a gift. Cost is only \$10 Senior, \$12.50 Individual, or \$18.50 family (2 Adults or 2 Seniors, same household).

The Membership Committee is looking for more members. If you would like to be a part of the committee, please contact Vicki Rockwell at vr331@comcast.net or 763-571-3669.

Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner

The fourth annual Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner was held on Saturday November 10 at the Fridley Knights of Columbus Hall. A large crowd of approximately 170 people were on hand to honor this year's three inductees into the Fridley Hall of Fame.

The inductees have spent much of their lives making Fridley a better place. These individuals who have meant so much to Fridley too often receive little recognition for their service to the community. The Hall of Fame hopefully helps rectify this situation.

The Fridley Hall of Fame Class of 2007 in alphabetical order is:

Gretchen Hanson was inducted for her efforts in launching Tamarisk, an in-the-home hospice program in Fridley, as well as for her work as an active volunteer in Fridley including Unity Hospital volunteer, Election Judge, FYSA, PTA, High School advisory committees, Cub Scout & Brownie leader, League of Women Voters and Meals on Wheels.

Lillian Meyer was honored for 50 years of service and many offices held with the League of Women Voters and as a founding board member and former President of Fridley Historical Society. She was co-founder of the Anoka County Brotherhood Council and played an active role in the start-up of Springbrook Nature Center.

Tom Myhra was honored for his former role as President of the Fridley Education Association. He was also honored as the founder of FRIDFANS, for his service on the Fridley Planning Commission, Human Relations Committee, Cable TV Blue Ribbon Committee and current role as President of the Concerned Citizens of Fridley.

The emcee for the afternoon was Mayor Scott Lund. Inductees were presented with an engraved acrylic award to keep and their Hall of Fame plaque is on display at the Fridley History Center.

Jim Shannon provided the musical entertainment for the afternoon on his electric keyboard playing popular songs from WWI, WWII and other wars in honor of Veteran's Day.

Many thanks to the Fridley Hall of Fame Committee: Pete Bonesteel, Robert Christenson, Jerry Manley, Mel Manley, and Sue Meyers. A special thank you to Bill Burns, Connie Samuelson, and Dianne McKusick for their assistance in judging this year's nominees.

Pictures on next page.



Inductees: Left to right, Gretchen Hanson, Tom Myhra and Lillian Meyer



Left to Right; Cindy Kolb Robb, Marti Reckdahl, Dick Kemper, Kate Kemper, Donna Bahls, Betty Enkhaus, Elaine J. Butorae



Left to Right; Margaret Leibfried, Stan Mack, Brian Toews, Joanne Toews, Mary Bonesteel, Pete Bonesteel.



Left to Right; Angela Sangster, Gordon Sangster, Char Fitzpatrick, Agnes Shaw, Chuck Hayes, Jim Lawrence.



Left to Right; Suzanne Miskowic, Helen Sampson, JoAnn Johnson, Joyce Colotte, Dom Colotte, Scott Vides, Brigitte Vides



Registration Table: Left to right; Marilyn Manley, Vicki Rockwell, Melinda Manley, Erin Manley

Jim Shannon provided the entertainment on his electric keyboard



Emcee, Mayor Scott Lund





The Dinner Crowd: Over 170 people came to honor the inductees.



Left to right; Mary Kemp, Jim Ehlert, Ron Allard, Elsie Hanscom, Norma Swanson, Art Swanson



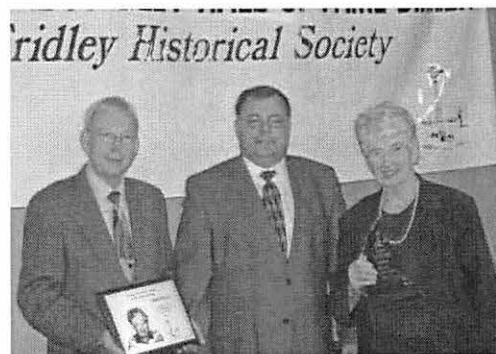
Left to right; Ryan Bloom, Lauren Myhra, Pam Reynolds, Al Stahlberg, Tom Myhra, Gloria Myhra, Beverly Urness, Morgan Myhra



Left to right; Levon Syriog, Connor Dahl, Olivia Dahl, Kathy Dahl, Connie Samuelson, Gretchen Hanson, Jim Hanson.



Left to right; Robert Vidas, Donna Vidas, Barbara Jackson, Ed Meyer, Lillian Meyer, John Meyer



Lillian Meyer receiving award from Robert Christenson (left) and Mayor Scott Lund

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Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Until we are able to attract someone to serve as President of the Society, preferably a current or former Fridley resident or an individual currently or formerly employed in Fridley who has interest in Fridley's history, I have agreed to function as caretaker of this column.

My other duties as Past-President for 2008 include serving on the Board, keeping the outdoor sign message current, producing and videotaping History Conversations, photographing events, writing the newsletter, serving as docent, conducting the annual planning meeting, and raising funds to keep us financially viable.

So much fun and so little time. So our new president only needs to conduct Board meetings, function as our spokesperson, appoint committee chairs, sign official documents, complete some annual reports, and lead the Board and membership. It is the Board and member volunteers who do the real heavy lifting.

Another position open for 2008 is Secretary. The Secretary takes minutes at Board meetings and with assistance from the Chair of Membership, maintains the membership roster. The Board meets monthly on the first Thursday of every month.

If either of these positions is attractive to you, call Mel Manley, Vice President, who chairs the Nominating Committee (763-434-5896).