

The Record

Volume 21, Issue 2 Copyright 2008

The Birth of Unity Hospital

HISTORY CONVERSATION #15

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 9 11 AM - 3 PM History Center Open House Free to members; Visitors \$3

Monday, February 18
6 PM Potluck Dinner
7 - 8:30 PM
Fridley History
Conversation #15
"The Birth of Unity
Hospital"
Fridley History Center
Free to Members:
Visitors \$5

Saturday, February 23 11 AM to 3 PM History Center Open House Free to Members; Visitors \$3

Monday, March 17 7 - 8:30 PM Fridley History Conversation #16 "Fridley Firefighters" Fridley History Center



On Monday, February 18, at 7 PM, we will recall the difficult labor pains a group of northern suburban communities endured in bringing about the birth of a hospital in Fridley. There will be a potluck dinner at the History Center at 6 PM, and, as always, bringing a dish is optional.

The impregnation of the idea for a hospital in the northern suburbs began as early as 1954 when the Women's Federated Clubs of Anoka County sought federal funds for a hospital, but no funds were available. In 1957, nine mayors formed an ad-hoc committee to see about securing an emergency facility for the north suburbs, as ambulance service was severely lacking. Jim Kinne, Fire

Chief of Spring Lake Park, was a driving force behind this project and other projects to build a hospital.

In 1959, the Minnesota legislature approved the creation of hospital districts with taxing power. In 1960, the North Suburban Hospital Board (NSHD) was formed with members from Fridley, Columbia Heights, Lexington, Spring Lake Park, Blaine, Moundsview, Circle Pines, Coon Rapids and Jim Kinne as an at-large member.

Everyone wanted a hospital, but there was great disagreement about where it should be built, the size of the hospital, and the cost of financing the land acquisition and construction that would be born by a tax levy. To complicate matters, NSHD had no funding, and at their first meeting, no one was there to swear them in. Only one physician attended the meetings, Dr. Paul Williams.

NSHD tried in 1961 to pass two bond issues to get funding for a hospital but both failed. Then in 1962, Columbia Heights, Circle Pines, and Lexington dropped off NSHD fearing their taxes would increase.

For more of the story of how Unity Hospital came into existence, join us Monday evening on the 18th of February, to hear first-hand from those who played a role in this birthing drama.

(More photos on page 5.)



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.

VP & President Pro Tem:: Mel Manley

Treasurer:

Judy Anderson

Past President:

Robert Christenson

Board Members

Pete Bonesteel

Dorothy Gargaro

Jerry Manley

Mary Sue Meyers

Vicki Wendell

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, 4 p.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

Vicki Rockwell - 763-571-3669

Meetings: To be determined.

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson - 763-789-9069

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers - 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

Summary of Minutes

January 3, 2008

Meeting convened by President Pro Tem Mel Manley at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Robert Christenson, Jerry Manley, and Vicki Rockwell.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's reports for November & December 2007 provided by Judy Anderson, Treasurer. Net loss for November was \$2,084.23 and net gain for December was \$1,583.88.

Action Items:

- 1. Motion approved to permit Fridley Women of Today, a new nonprofit member, to use the History Center for a meeting.
- 2. Motion approved setting board meeting dates for 2008 at 6 PM the first Thursday of every month.
- President Pro Tem Mel Manley appointed committee chairs for 2008. They remain the same as 2007 (see Board & Committees).
- 4. Motion approved for 2008 budget: Total revenue: \$29,075; Total Expenses: \$21,250: Special Fundraising for History Book: \$21,500; Capital Expenditures: \$26,000; Cash Flow: \$5,775.
- 5. Motion approved to permit the Minnesota Historical Society to hold its Comics Camp at the Fridley History Center this fall. Fridley students will be participating in an event to capture the history of Fridley in the 1950s by creating comic strips.

Discussion Items:

- 1. Commenced planning for the April 26 Annual Lasagna/Spaghetti Dinner, Raffle and Live Auction
- Comic Camp sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society

Committee Reports

- 1. Membership: Vicki Rockwell reported dues renewal notices were mailed in December; a new membership brochure is in development; membership cards will be mailed in February.
- Maintenance: Jerry Manley reported furnaces had been serviced this fall.
- 3. Fundraising: Robert Christenson will be working with the Minnesota Historical Society on a planned giving program; he is soliciting underwriters for the history of Fridley book; he is contacting pull-tab licensees in Fridley to seek support for special maintenance projects.
- Finance & Audit: Judy Anderson reported an audit of 2007 financials would take place this month.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM



2008 Membership Renewals

Membership renewals came in fast and furious since late December. Our membership at the end of 2007 stood at 271. As of January 23, we had received 149 renewals.

Business Renewals Broadway Bar & Pizza Billiard Street Café

Dunn Bros. Coffee

Nonprofit Renewals

Anoka County Historical Society

Individual, Senior and Family Renewals
Robert Aldrich

Ron Allard Judy Anderson Marion Anderson

Ray & Virginia Anderson

Bill Bacon

George & Candace Bacon

Bob & Jan Barnette

William Beery

Blair & Jennifer Berger

Donald Betzold

Rosemary Biedron

Don & Susan Blakeslee

Mark Bonesteel

Pete & Mary Bonesteel

Elaine Butorac

Esther Campbell

Lee & Dick Carlson

David & Yvette Christensen

Earle & Adeline Christenson

Robert Christenson

Dean & Carmen Coleman

Robert & Betty Comer

Suzanne Edinger

Lyle & Elsie Elverud

Bill Erickson

Earl Frederickson

John & Alice Ganter

Mary Ann Haines

Ed & Arlene Hamernik

Dave & Jan Harris

Earl Hatten

Carrol & Mavis Hauge

Chuck Hayes Chester Hayes

Betty Hendrickson

Pearl Hicks Harriet Hjort

William & Margaret Hunt

Eric & Pat Jaakkola

Richard Jefferson & Alice Johnson

Margaret B. Jewison

Lary Johnson

Sonja Granlund Johnson

Jim Kordiak

Mary Anne& Joe Lapinski, DDS

Gary & Bev Larson James Lawrence

Alf Robert & Dorothy Lee

Dorothy Linse

Bill & Hazel Linton

Martin Lueders

Scott & Cindy Lund

Al & Sue Madison

Leon Madsen

Gerald & Margaret Maeckelbergh

Don & Audrey Mahr

Jerry & Marilyn Manley

Gerald & Margaret Maeckelbergh

Don & Audrey Mahr

Jerry & Marilyn Manley

Lowell & Grace Norton

Ruth Ollila

Andrea Oman & Pat Billig

Jeri & Annette Oman

Jim Peterson

Tony & Jeanne Petrangelo

Duane Prairie

Marti & Sig Reckdahl

Vicki Rockwell Midge Rotter

Mary Rozmark

Gordon & Angela Sangster

Agnes Shaw Karen Sheldon

Kathy Smith

Art & Norma Swanson

Richard & Ann Teskey

Glenn Theorin

Brian & Joanne Toews

Francis & Mary Van Dan

Donald Vant

Catherine T. Voss

Gloria Vye

Beth Werking

Pat Whittlef

Lenny & Ann Witucki

Agnes Wolfe

Terri Wolfe



Terri

Donations

Once again our members have been very kind in their support of the Fridley Historical Society. Most members made significant financial donations accompanying their dues payment when they renewed their memberships. We are most grateful for our members' big-hearted generosity and for renewing their memberships.

Donations up to \$25	<u> </u>
Marion	Anderson
Ray & Virginia	Anderson
Rosemary	Biedron
Dr. Don & Susan	Blakeslee
Mark	Bonesteel
Peter & Mary	Bonesteel
Elaine	Butorac
David & Yvette	Christensen
Robert & Betty	Comer
Suzanne	Edinger
Lyle & Elsie	Elverud
Bill	Erickson
Earl	Fredrickson
Jim & Jan	Golden
Dave & Jan	Harris
Carrol & Mavis	Hauge
Betty	Hendrickson
Pearl L.	Hicks
William & Margaret	Hunt
Eric & Pat	Jaakkola
Richard	Jefferson & Alice Johnson
Gary & Bev	Larson
Jim	Lawrence
Dorothy	Linse
Martin	Lueders
Scott & Cindy	Lund
Gerald & Margaret	Maeckelbergh
Don & Audrey	Mahr
Jerry & Marilyn	Manley
Bernadine	Matushak
Wally & Gene	Ness
Jeri & Annette	Oman
Andrea	Oman & Pat Billig
Vicki	Rockwell
Agnes	Shaw
Patricia	Vant
Catherine T.	Voss
Beth	Werking
Lenny & Ann	Witucki

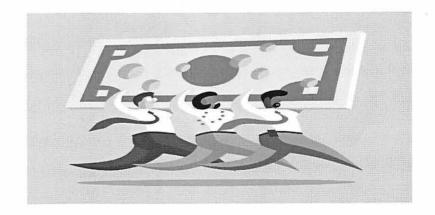
Wolfe

Bill	Beery
Robert	Christenson
John & Alice	Ganter
Ed & Arlene	Hamernik
Earl	Hatten
Sonja Granlund	Johnson
William & Hazel	Linton
Albert & Susan	Madison
Matt & Sandy	Manley
Mel & Alicia	Manley
John & Lillian	Meyer
Don & Mary Sue	Meyers
Don & Carole	Miller
Tom & Gloria	Myhra
Lowell & Grace	Norton
Tony & Jeanne	Petrangelo
Karen	Sheldon
Kathy	Smith
Art & Norma	Swanson
Glen	Theorin
Frank & Mary	Van Dan

Donation \$75 Midge Rotter

<u>Donation \$100</u> Roger & Gwen Nawrocki

Donation \$200 Gordon Sangster



In Memory of Lowell Norton November 28, 1917 - January 21, 2008

Lowell was born in Minneapolis, the seventh of nine children born to Wade and Jennie Norton. His father bought several acres in Fridley, west of Central avenue, next to where Medtronics now stands. Shortly after Lowell was born the family moved to that property. His father built several buildings and eventually a large home. That house was destroyed in the April 1929 tornado that swept across much of Anoka County. A new home was built on the foundation and still stands. As the children grew up Wade and his sons built more homes along the family driveway. They jokingly called the driveway "Norton Ave." It is now officially Norton Ave.



Lowell attended District #6 school on Osborne Rd. for eight years. When he was in the upper elementary grades it was his responsibility to go to school early and start the fire in the woodstove. A task which suited his hard working, responsible, thoughtful personality. Lowell was a genuinely caring, sensitive, outgoing, self-sacrificing and loving man who loved the Lord and it was reflected in his life. He was one of those people who could fix most anything and his handiwork is evident at Salem Baptist Church where he was a member.

He is survived by his wife Grace, children; Becky (Bob) Grant, Roxanne (Mark) Helm, and Eric (Mary) Norton,: two sisters; Helen Myhre and Betty (Bob) Goodrich, eight grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and dear friends.





FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

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

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson

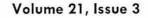


Lowell Norton: It was early evening on Monday, January 21, when I received a heart-wrenching telephone call from Grace Norton, the Assistant Editor of this newsletter, telling me of the tragic death of her husband Lowell in a traffic accident in New Brighton that afternoon. He passed away at 5:15 PM.

I have attended many funerals in my lifetime, but never one for a person who was 90-years old and not a public figure, that filled the church's main level and balcony with over 300 people. That says more about who this man was than anything I can offer here. But I can tell you he meant a lot to the Society. He was a faithful attendee at all Society events, helped Grace prepare this newsletter for mailing each month, and shared great stories of early days in Fridley at History Conversations. Grace has written a beautiful remembrance of Lowell on page 5.

Archives: For the past few years, Officer Mark Bonesteel has been scanning and digitally preserving photos, old newspaper articles and other printed materials. This vitally important work because many of our photos and older documents are rapidly deteriorating. Mark is now on special assignment for the Spring Lake Park Police Department and will not be available to us for some months.

His father, Pete Bonesteel who Chairs our Archives Committee, is seeking volunteers to assist him with cutting up articles for scanning, do filing of printed materials, and for someone who has the experience, to continue the digital scanning process. If you would be willing to help out, please call Pete at 763-572-1009.







Upcoming

Events



Saturday, March 8
11 AM to 3 PM
History Center Open House
Free to Members; Visitors \$3

Monday, March 17 7 to 8:30 PM Fridley History Conversation #16

"Fridley Fires"

Fridley History Center Free to Members: Visitors \$5

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

Saturday, April 26
5 to 7 PM
18th Annual LasagnaSpaghetti Dinner, Raffle
& Live Auction
Broadway Bar & Pizza
Tickets \$10

The Record

HISTORY CONVERSATION #16 "FRIDLEY FIRES"



Following up on our History Conversation in 2007 on "Fridley Murders," we will present on Monday, March 17 at 7 PM, a History Conversation on "Fridley Fires." Our research uncovers major fires going back to the 1800s. But we are short on information on fires between the late 1880s and 1949 when Fridley first became incorporated as a Village.

Some members who are attending this History Conversation will share their stories

of fires they remember during the first half of the 20th Century. We will also have a presentation from the Fridley Fire Department about how our volunteer fire department came into existence and how it operated in the early years. They will also report on major fires over the past 60 years.

In the first history book written on Fridley, there are interesting stories about fires back in the 1900s. We will share these stories at the History Conversation, including one about an epidemic of big fires in the 1880s and another about a five-year old child in a blacksmith's shop.

We especially invite to this History Conversation those of you who either witnessed or have knowledge of fires that occurred in Fridley, regardless of when they happened. And as always, we are videotaping this History Conversation for Fridley Cable Channel 15 as well as for our archives.



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

V.P. and President Pro Tem Mel Manley Treasurer Past President

Judy Anderson Robert Christenson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Vicki Rockwell

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Newsletter & Public Relations

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Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

February 7, 2008 **Summary of Minutes**

Meeting convened by President Pro Tem Mel Manley at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Pete Bonesteel, Robert Christenson, Dorothy Gargaro, Jerry Manley, Mary Sue Meyers and Vicki Rockwell.

Action Items:

- Motion approved to install Herb Bacon as Lifetime Honorary Member for his many years of service to the Fridley Historical Society, including serving as Treasurer.
- Motion approved to accept the 2007 financial audit of the Society undertaken by Judy Anderson, Warren Woods, Robert Christenson, and Eleanor Anderson, CPA. All was in order.

Discussion Items:

- Preparations for exhibiting at the Fridley Early Childhood Family Education fundraiser were discussed.
- Grant funding for the Comics Camp Fridley History project to be held this fall at the History Center has been applied for by the Minnesota Historical Society.
- Desk and chair for office at History Center approved for \$118. We are looking for someone to take the old desk.
- Mel Manley led a discussion regarding the challenges of generating more support from

the community for the History

Committee Reports

- Programs & Events: Mary Sue Meyers discussed the planning for the 18th Annual Lasagna/Spaghetti Dinner, Raffle and Live Auction. Robert Christenson reported on the next History Conversation on Unity Hospital.
- Archives: Pete Bonesteel reported the Elias Christenson family donated a spinning wheel. Unity Hospital provided Christenson access to historical documents that the Society will scan and archive.
- Fundraising: Robert Christenson discussed the system to be used for collecting raffle and live auction items for the upcoming Lasagna Dinner and Board members selected businesses they would contact.



Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

Welcome New Members



New member—Individual, Senior & Family

Rose Nordin

New Member—Nonprofit Fridley Women of Today

New Member—Business

Two Stooges Sports Bar & Grill

Membership Renewals and Donations

Business Renewals

Bob's Produce Fridley VFW 363 Heights Theatre Minco Products

Nonprofit Renewals

Fridley Lions Club

Individual, Senior and Family Renewal

John Banholzer Bud Dauphin & Marcia Schaaf William DeCoursey Geneva Duffy Gloria Egan Steve & Mary Eggert James Ehlert Char Fitzpatrick Dorothy Gargaro Jim & Jan Golden Jeffrey & Jacqueline Hed Eleanor Jensen Don & Jo Ann Johnson Corine Kirkham Margaret Leibfried & Stan Mack Matt & Sandy Manley Mel & Alicia Manley Charles Martin Bernadine Matushak John & Lillian Meyer

Don & Mary Sue Meyers

Don & Carole Miller
Susanne Miskowic
Warren Mortenson
Tom & Gloria Myhra
Roger & Gwen Nawrocki
Wally & Gene Ness
Wendy Plum
Robert Saltness
Katie Simon-Dastych
Carol & Adele Swanson
Allen Taylor
Patricia Vant

Donations up to \$25

John Banholzer
Bud Dauphin & Marcia Schaaf
Geneva Duffy
Char Fitzpatrick
Eleanor Jenson
Don & Jo Ann Johnson
Corine Kirkham
Suzanne Miskowic
Rose Nordin
Carl & Adele Swanson

Donations \$26 - \$50

Steve & Mary Eggert Wendy Plum



History Conversation "The Birth of Unity Hospital"

We again had a wonderful audience for our History Conversation on Unity Hospital. There was table of memorabilia for everyone to view (thanks to Bill Van Cleaf, Unity's Marketing & Communications Specialist), and some handouts from the North Suburban Hospital District. We also had a very bountiful potluck dinner. Seven people shared their stories of Unity's beginnings.



Robert Christenson, Moderator of Fridley History Conversations: Robert began with a chronological history, beginning in the 1950s, of the events that led up to the hospital opening on May 1, 1966. He told the story of his role in helping obtain the bonding needed to build the hospital while he was manager of the Fridley Chamber of Commerce and also served as a board member of the Planning Agency for Hospitals in Metropolitan Minneapolis.

Jean Mason, former Unity employee. "I was the third employee hired as a nurse at Unity. Delores Small was the second (Secretary to John Haines, Administrator). I interviewed the morning of Thursday, March 6 and went to work that afternoon. This was before the hospital construction was completed, and we had our offices at Edison Mobile Homes (where Friendly Chevrolet is located now). My name was Mason so Mr. Haines always called me "gold brick." The offices moved to Unity the day before it opened and everybody was washing beds and eating their lunches on orange crates. We started with 125 employees and immediately had a waiting list of patients. I worked at Unity for about 30 years and then moved to Mercy for another 15 years."



Suzanne Miskowic, long-time Fridley resident: "50 years ago I worked at the City of Fridley and Ernie Madsen, Fridley's first Village Manager, suggested I open a secretarial service. My first client was the Fridley Chamber of Commerce, and Unity contacted me about potential board members. I recommended Robert Christenson and tonight is the first he is learning about it. One day Charlie Johanson, my husband Wally and I talked about a hospital for Fridley. I knew Sister Mary Madonna, who was the administrator of St. Mary's Hospital, and we had two meetings with her. She was researching a hospital for Fridley and surrounding communities. This was in the works when the North Suburban Hospital District was formed and that is why Charlie was not on the original Board.



Virginia Christenson Anderson, former Head Nurse at Unity: "I worked at Glenwood Hills Hospital for four years, and Unity originally was a satellite of Glenwood Hills. When Unity opened, nurses who formerly worked at Glenwood Hills and transferred to Unity kept calling me to join them there, saying 'We need you in post-partum—this is a wonderful place to work.' Finally, when Unity was 6 months old, I got brave and called Don Scarborough the new Personnel Director who said he was looking for a head nurse, a position I did not feel qualified for. He said 'Please come over.' I said I would then he responded, 'Should I send a limo for you?' I said no, I had a short interview and was offered the position and stayed for 19 1/2 years. John Haines, the hospital

administrator, regularly walked through the hospital talking to staff, learning their names, and this set a tone of kindness and comfortableness in the hospital. It was just delightful to work there. Patients felt they were part of the family and we just took them in."



Page 5



Tom Myhra, Fridley resident and former School District 14 employe: We moved to Fridley in 1962 and learned in 1963 there was to be a hospital here. My wife was a nurse and thought about working there when our kids got older. Our girl had something wrong in her throat and the doctor said she would get over it. Then one day she started hemorrhaging and I was out of town, but Ann Teskey, a neighbor who was also a nurse, helped take her to a hospital way downtown. And from that day forward, we became strong supporters of the hospital because we could have lost our little girl because of the time it took to get to a

hospital.

Arvid Krogsveen Johnson, Fridley resident who worked on building the hospital: "Unity Hospital has been in my Norwegian blood. I came to Minnesota from Norway in the 1950s, moved to Fridley in 1959, and have been here ever since. I worked for my uncle, Gunnar Johnson, who was the contractor that built Unity Hospital. Gunnar immigrated here in the late 1930s and he was a very ambitious man. We started construction just days before the tornadoes struck. The tornadoes demolished everything. We had cement columns up, some decking built, and an office trailer. After the tornadoes, everything was totally gone. We picked up all the pieces, cleaned up and started all over again."





Scott Lund, Fridley's Mayor: "From time to time, people ask me about what is so special about Fridley. I tell them that we have a first rate hospital, Unity Hospital. And how many communities have both their own hospital and a world-class corporation like Medtronic Corporation?" Mayor Lund was recently in Hawaii and met with Earl Bakken, founder of Medtronic, and visited his unique hospital on the Big Island, Northwest Hawaii Community Hospital. Mayor Lund annually is asked by Unity leaders to share what the community is saying about Unity. Usually there are no complaints from citizens. But the next time he visits Unity, he will share about some things he learned about healing environments from touring Bakken's hospital.

Rickie Ressler, President, Unity Hospital: "For the past 12 to 13 years, both Unity and Mercy hospitals have been under one administrator. I reported to Allina that both hospitals were of a size where they both deserved and needed their own leadership team to take both of these hospitals into the future. So, we split them apart. After I finished the reorganization, Mr. Pettingill, who is the head of Allina, asked me what I wanted to do now, and I said I would love to be President of Unity Hospital because of the commitment of the people. That included the wonderful nursing staff that drive past other hospitals closer to where they live because they really want to work at Unity. The first thing I did when I came to Unity was to move my office up front to where Mr. Haines had the first administrative office and I can't tell you how many people come by and telling stories lovingly about Mr. Haines."



FRIDLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

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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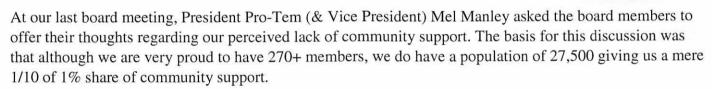
Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



If we were a "normal" historical society, we would <u>not</u> have our own museum of community history (only about 13 of 70 some historical societies in the metro area have a free-standing local history museum). We would <u>not</u> be presenting the citizens of Fridley 13 events every year. We would <u>not</u> be publishing a newsletter every month. We would <u>not</u> be conducting Fridley History Conversations. There would be <u>no</u> Fridley Hall of Fame. But we are not normal! We are one of the leading Historical Societies in Minnesota!

So, for a brief moment, the board had the feeling we were under-appreciated. But—we believe in the law of infinite possibilities. What if every member contacted just 9 people: say 2 neighbors, 2 people you know who live in Fridley or work here, 1 person who used to live in Fridley, 2 friends, and 2 relatives. And if only one-third of these joined, we would triple our membership!!! And we know who would be willing to do this—those who appreciate what the Society contributes to Fridley. We are not asking you to do this now. But—what if we did?



Volume 21, Issue 4





Upcoming Events



Saturday, April 12
11 AM to 3 PM
History Center Open House
Free to Members; Visitors \$3

Saturday, April 26 5 to 7 PM Doors Open at 4:15 PM 18th Annual Lasagna-Spaghetti Dinner, Raffle & Live Auction

Broadway Bar & Pizza 8298 University Avenue Fridley Tickets \$10

Monday, May 19
7 – 8:30 PM
Fridley History Center
Fridley History
Conversation #17
"Fridley High School"

The Record

18TH Annual Lasagna/Spaghetti Dinner Raffle & Live Auction



Our major fundraiser of the year is taking place on Saturday, April 26 from 5 to 7 PM at Broadway Bar & Pizza, 8298 University Avenue N.E., on the University Avenue West frontage road between Sam's Club and Wal-Mart. It will be held on the lower level, so park in the back of the restaurant and enter through the rear entrance.

Doors open at 4:15 PM. So come early, enjoy refreshments, and get acquainted with old friends. This will also alleviate the congestion at the dinner ticket table by the door of people having their dinner tickets validated and others paying for unpaid tickets.

This event was sold-out last year. There are only seats for 125 people, so purchase your dinner tickets early!! Send in the form you receive in the mail with your check for dinner and raffle tickets. Reserved tables are available for groups of 8 to 12.

Our raffle is the best deal in town. Last year we gave away over 115 raffle prizes worth between \$8 and \$150 with a total value of approximately \$5,000. This year we expect to again give away over 100 raffle prizes and some early prize donations include \$25 gift cards for JAX Café, \$100 cash prize, Vikings tickets, \$50 Tastefully Simple basket, \$50 Saving Bond and many restaurant gift certificates.

We do not accept as raffle prizes any "buy one-get one free" certificates or certificates with restrictions other than expiration dates.

The dinner is always exceptional. On the buffet line, you can choose from two kinds of lasagna, spaghetti, salad bar, garlic bread and beverages. There is also a cash bar for wine and other spirits.

So get your tickets early! You will not want to miss this fun event.



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

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

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Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

In Memory of Robert Schroer

Bob Schroer passed away on March 21, 2008. In 1959 he founded Bob's Produce Ranch and grew the business to be one of the most successful grocery, deli and garden stores in Minnesota.

Bob was a very strong supporter of the Fridley Historical Society. He provided not only financial assistance, but also allowed the Society the free use of his Pepsi Wagon for AugustFest, and gave the Society special prices on food purchased for events.

Bob was inducted into the Fridley Hall of Fame in 2005. His bio is in the Hall of Fame book in the entrance to the History Center. He was also a presenter at our Fridley History Conversation #7 on "Fridley Grocers." Over the years he supported many Fridley nonprofit organizations, was very active in community affairs, worked on City beautification, and delivered acts of generosity too numerous to mention.

Board of Directors Meeting

March 6, 2008 **Summary of Minutes**

Meeting convened by Past President Robert Christenson at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance: Jerry Manley, Mary Sue Meyers and Vicki Rockwell.

Action Items:

1. Motion approved to accept financial statements submitted by Judy Anderson, Treasurer. Motion approved to direct Robert Christenson to secure bids on insurance.

Committee Reports:

1. Programs & Events: Mary Sue Meyers updated the planning for the 18th Annual Lasagna/Spaghetti Dinner, Raffle and Live Auction. Discussion followed on details of

the event.

- 2. Membership: Vicki Rockwell reported that 180 senior/individual/family members have renewed, as well as 9 business members and 3 nonprofit members.
- 3. Maintenance: Jerry Manley reported on purchases of supplies.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM

Membership Renewals

Welcome, New Members Roger & Joann Kaye

Senior, Individual & Family **Renewing Members**

Yvonne Eikaas & Paul Lincoln Corinne Prindle Warren & Karen Woods





FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



18th Annual

Lasagna/Spaghetti Dinner Raffle & Live Auction!

Date

Saturday, April 26, 2008

Time

Doors open at 4:15 p.m. Dinner served at 5 p.m.





Broadway Bar & Pizza 8298 University Avenue N.E. Fridley



Raffle

Over 100 items, including

- Cash Prize of \$100

Do not need to be present to win!

- Twins tickets

- Vikings tickets

Live

Many unique items starting at \$50 including

Auction

Jax Sunday Brunch!

Dinner tickets: \$10 each Raffle tickets: \$1 each

For information on how to order dinner and raffle tickets, call 763-571-0120 OR go to www.fridleyhistory.org

Fridley Historical Society
611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432
www.fridleyhistory.org

Permit Number X-33474-08-001 Order early: Limited seating!



History Conversation #16 "Fridley Fires"



We were very fortunate to have as speaker Ralph Messer, City of Fridley Fire Marshall. Ralph delivered a highly informative Power Point presentation and narrative of the beginnings of the Fridley Fire Department, of which he has been a member for many years.

Ralph told of how, in 1949 Fridley's first Mayor, Carl Hartman, formed a committee to establish a fire department for the new Village. The all-volunteer fire department was finally formed in 1951 and its first Chief was Bill Flannery. The seven charter members of the department were Les Chesney, Ed Ellis, Bob Hughes, Al Paulson, Don Sachs, Leo

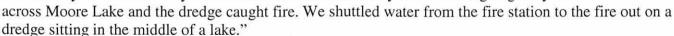
Schroeder, and Peter Viger.

In 1968 and 1969 we tested to see who would become full-time fire fighters and Bob Hughes, former Chief, and Bob Aldrich became the first, followed by Dennis Otten and Howard Simonson in 1970.

The largest fire in Fridley was December 7, 1978 at FMC Northern Ordinance on East River Road with over \$1.4 billion loss (over \$3 billion in today's dollars).

The Fire Department's biggest challenge was dealing with the emergencies and fires caused by the three tornadoes that ravaged Fridley in 1965. The tornadoes also severely damaged City Hall and the Fire Station. Ralph also discussed, during the slide show presentation, the evolution of the fire department including training, emergency responses, community involvement, professional associations and fire apparatus and the three fire stations now in Fridley

Robert Aldrich, former Fridley Firefighter & Fridley's first Fire Marshall "I started with the fire department as a fireman in 1953. There was big house that caught on fire near Robert Hall Clothing just south of 53rd & Central Ave. This was a time when we were not sure of where Fridley's boundaries were. The Ass't Chief didn't think it was in Fridley, and then we got a bill from Columbia Heights for handling the fire. It was actually 16 rods south of the boundary with Columbia Heights and was in Fridley. One of the earliest large fires I encountered was on the corner of Woody Lane and Central (Old Central) where there was a big gas explosion in a house. We also burned down the hog farm in Hayes Addition early on. Another one was when they were building Highway 65





Marilyn Kelly, Firefighter's Wife (Tom Kelly) "In the early years, there was not the communications system we have now. The fire dispatcher would call a group of firefighter's wives who had a chain set up to call other firefighter wives to tell their husbands of the fire, even in the middle of the night. The most common time for a fire was a major holiday just as you were putting the food on the table so our husbands had left-overs. There was also a women's auxiliary reserve that served food and beverages during fires and events.



Tom Kelly, former Fridley Firefighter "I was a member of the Fridley Fire Department for 47 years beginning in 1953. One night it was about 30 below out and there were some houses on 37th & Marshall. The house had an oil burner in the living room that had overflowed. The house had been condemned and the guy that owned the house didn't want to move. The house was up on blocks. When we got there he was trying to get back into the house. We restrained him but he kept saying, 'I gotta! I gotta! I gotta get in because I have a box of important papers in a box under the refrigerator in the back. The firemen set up a box stream and came out and said, 'There was no box, only this glass piece.' He grabbed it, opened it up, and it had 15 one thousand dollar bills in it.





Gwen Nawrocki, Fridley Resident "My parents formerly lived on Able Street. There was pig farm that was replaced by 100 Twin Drive In Theatre close by. There were many fires at the pig farm and the fire would come up right by our house. We didn't have running water and my grandma would be in the kitchen pumping water into a bucket, and my brother would lay on top of the chicken coop throwing water down on the fire"

Warren Woods, Fridley resident "I was born in Fridley in 1937 and when I was 5 the nearest fire departments were Columbia Heights and Anoka. When I was 5 years old lightning hit our radio antenna and continued down the chimney and the house caught on fire in the attic. We had no phone and no running water. Fortunately, the early morning shift for Northern Pump (FMC) was going to work. About 15 cars saw the smoke and pulled over and started a water brigade with buckets and teakettles and whatever else was available, filling them with water from our outdoor pump. They were able to save the house. We still had a lot of water damage, but the house was restored."





<u>Bill DeCoursey</u>, former Fridley resident "I grew up in Fridley. There was a large gasoline tank that caught fire behind Swanson gas station at 37th and Marshal in Minneapolis, on the border with Fridley before Fridley had a fire department. This was about 150 feet from our house. The Minneapolis fire department responded and hosed down the houses on the Minneapolis side of 37th but would not hose down our house in Fridley. We did it

Robert Christenson, Moderator of Fridley History Conversations "When I was 12 years old, there was a fire a block west of our house on the corner of University and Mississippi St. My Dad, Art, and Uncle Alder owned Fridley Motor Service at that location. One evening in 1948, a customer was taking a trouble light to Alder who was working beneath a car. The customer tripped and dropped the light into a tub of gasoline. Unfortunately, it took a long time for fire trucks from adjacent communities to get to the fire and the business burned down. I also recall working in the fire office that was located above my dad's business, Fridley Hardware, before the Village Hall and fire station were constructed. The fire siren was located on the roof of the shopping center and five



cycles of the siren summoned the volunteers to fight the fires. Unfortunately, the siren frequently stuck on a single blast.

FRIDLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 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

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Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson

Recently a true Fridley icon passed away--Bob Schroer. He died at age 73 after a year of cancer. On page 2, we offer some reflections on Bob's life.

I knew Bob for many years. He was one of the most giving people I have ever met. It wasn't just material gifts, though he was very generous sharing in that regard. But what Bob uniquely shared was a very valuable commodity—his time and interest in whoever he met, Whenever I was shopping at his market, or asking for a favor for the Historical Society, he would stop what he was doing and would chat for as long as needed. And he gave much of his time to causes that benefited Fridley.

He also loved becoming reacquainted with old customers who had moved away and happened to be back in Fridley. This reminded me of the first Lasagna Dinner I attended after having been out of Fridley for a number of years. Such gatherings are wonderful for reconnecting with those one may have been out of touch with for some time, as well as for meeting new friends. I hope you will be able to avail yourself of this opportunity by coming to our 18th Annual Lasagna Dinner on April 26. Wonder who you'll meet?



The Record

50th Anniversary of Fridley High School History Conversation #17

Fridley's first high school (now the Fridley ISD 14 Middle School) admitted its first students in September of 1958. The first graduating class was in 1959. We will celebrate this auspicious occasion with a History Conversation at 7 PM on Monday, May 19, 2008, at the Fridley History Center.

We especially invite to this History Conversation members of the first graduating class, teachers, administration, PTA members and all others who we are sure have interesting stories to share about the early days of our first high school. We also invite all who were in any way connected to Fridley High School over the past 50 years to come and share their memories. This event will be video recorded for our archives as well as for Fridley cable channel 15.

The 1959 graduates will be recognized at this year's commencement exercises on Thursday, June 5, and they have also been invited to a reception along with 1958-59 staff and current high school staff to be held at the Fridley American Legion Post #303 following commencement exercises.



FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Mark Bonesteel Receives Award

One of our most diligent volunteers is Mark Bonesteel, who has been digitizing all of the photos and important documents at the History Center for over a year. He was also the speaker at our History Conversation on Fridley Murders. Mark is an Officer of the Spring Lake Park Police Department. Last month he was presented the Meritorious Award by the Minnesota Chiefs of Police for his work as a police officer and for his community volunteerism. Mark lives in Blaine, but grew up in Fridley. His father, Pete, is on our Board of Directors. Our sincere congratulations to Officer Bonesteel, whose service to the Fridley Historical Society is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 10 & 24 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Museum Open House \$3 admission; Children free Old Tyme Movies

Monday, May 19 7 - 8:30 p.m. Fridley History Center Fridley History Conversation #17 "Fridley High School 50th Anniversary"

Monday, June 16 7 - 8:30 p.m. Fridley History Center Fridley History Conversation #18 "Fridley Lions"

Monday, July 21 7 - 8:30 p.m. Fridley History Center Fridley History Conversation #19 "Fridley's Historical Homes"



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

VP & President Pro Tem: Mel Manley
Treasurer: Judy Anderson

Past President:

Robert Christenson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Mary Sue Meyers
Dorothy Gargaro Vicki Wendell

Jerry Manley

Committees & Chairpersons

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

Archives

Pete Bonesteel - 763-572-1009 Meetings: Tuesdays, 9 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 - 763-789-9069

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley - 651-286-6558

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



Maintenance

Jerry Manley - 763-571-6963

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

Membership

Vicki Rockwell - 763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson - 763-789-9069

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers - 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

Summary of Minutes

April 15, 2008

Meeting convened by President Pro-Tem Mel Manley at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance: Pete Bonesteel, Robert Christenson, Dorothy Gargaro, and Mary Sue Meyers.

Past President's Report Robert Christenson reported on a full-day workshop he attended in Stillwater at the Washington County Historic Courthouse sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society. The workshop addressed digitization, user statistics, annual funds, grants and self-assessment programs.

Discussion Item:

The final planning for the upcoming 18th Annual Lasagna/Spaghetti Dinner, Raffle and Live Auction were discussed. 83 prizes had been collected with many more on the way.

Committee Reports

- Hall of Fame: Mel Manley reported that the committee's plan to create a
 business hall of fame and a nonprofit hall of fame was being dropped after
 researching the problems experienced by other historical societies that experienced negative feedback from businesses not inducted into their business hall
 of fame.
- 2. <u>City History</u>: Dorothy Gargaro reported progress is being made on the new history book and a new bid with an increase in size by 50 pages came in lower than their latest bid at 200 pages.
- 3. <u>Maintenance</u>: Jerry Manley assembled and installed the new desk and chair in the front office. He also mentioned we go through 3 flags a year on our flagpole due to wear and tear.
- 4. <u>Archives</u>: Pete Bonesteel reported lots of files are being digitized and Robert Christenson brought in files on the Fridley Chamber of Commerce from the 1960s.

<u>Fundraising</u>: Christenson reported meeting with Sam's Club regarding their grants programs.

Memberships & Donations

New Individual Member Jeanne Schmidt; Honorary Lifetime Member Herb Bacon; Senior, Individual & Family Renewing Members: Carol Hoiby, Joseph & Irene Maertens, Melinda Manley, Lucy Mickman; New Business Members Wells Fargo Bank & Pickle Park; Business Renewal Ricky's Embers; Non Profit Renewal Fridley Lions Club

Donations: In April, we received a very generous donation of \$2,000 in memory of Bob Schroer from the Robert Schroer family. Other donations in memory of Bob Schroer were from Dorothy Gargaro (\$10). Bill Beery (\$50) and Robert Christenson (\$50). We also received a donation from Joseph & Irene Maertens for \$81.50 and Melinda Manley for \$60.



The Fridley Hall of Fame

Mel Manley, Chair

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, 2008.

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 which will be held at noon on November 8th, 2008, at the North Air Events Center (formerly known as the Knights of Columbus) 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 2007 Fridley Hall of Fame inductees were:

- Gretchen Hansen
- Lillian Meyer
- Tom Myhra

They joined the other members of the Fridley Hall of Fame:

Herb Bacon,	William Beery,	Satveer Chaudhary,
Arthur Christenson,	John Gargaro,	John Haines,
John K. Hansen,	Carl Hartman,	W. Harold Hayes,
Barbara Hughes,	Charlie Johanson,	Stan Kowalski,
Ernest Madsen,	William Nee,	Harvey Peterson,
Gordon Sangster,	Donald Savelkoul,	Marcia Schaaf,
Robert Schroer,	Wyman Smith	



18th Annual Lasagna Dinner

A huge **Thank You** to all of our members for making our 18th Annual Lasagna/Spaghetti Dinner, Raffle and Live Auction at Broadway Bar & Pizza a huge success. We sold all 125 dinner tickets available and our total revenue set an all-time record.

Mary Sue Meyers, Chair of Programs & Events, did a remarkable job organizing the event, Vicki Rockwell created the programs and placemats & recorded winners, Judy Anderson kept track of ticket sales, Dorothy Gargaro helped with raffle prizes, Mel Manley picked winning tickets, Pete Bonesteel was greeter and solicited the most raffle prizes and sold ads, and Jerry Manley collected raffle prizes. Every Board member worked overtime soliciting raffle and auction prizes, organizing mailings and selling tickets.

We had valuable assistance from member volunteers as well. Bud Dauphin was magnificent as raffle announcer mixing in humor with his speedy calling of winning numbers. Other volunteers who helped were Andy Oman (created poster); Jerry Blem-Melinda Manley-Erin Manley (raffle ticket collectors); Warren Woods (prize runner); Eric Jaakkola, (photographer); and Pat Jaakola (dinner ticket taker).

We also set a record for raffle prizes donated: 131 versus 117 last year. We also had a very successful auction with 14 items offered for bidding, 8 of which had a value of over \$100. And the dinner prepared by Broadway Pizza was truly superb. Everyone said this was the best Lasagna dinner to date!



A few raffle prizes



Attendees



Bernadine Matushak, Gordon & Carol Christenson



Char Fitzpatrick, former President

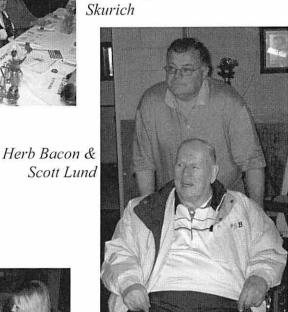


Kate & Dick Kemper



Jerry Blem, Melinda Manley, Erin Manley collecting raffle

stubs



Gloria Egan, Joan Sandidge,



Mary Bonesteel, Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro getting organized



Pat Billig & Andy Oman

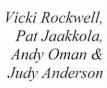


Jim Lawrence & server

Mayor Scott Lund and wife Cindy



Warren Woods, Bud Dauphin, Mel Manley & Vicki Rockwell announcing & delivering prizes







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

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson

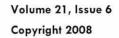


I started school in Fridley in the first grade in 1942. We had no kindergarten, no middle school or junior high, and no high school. We only had our 77 year-old District 23 two-room schoolhouse with eight grades? and two teachers. In 1942, it reduced to four grades and still had only two teachers.

It took another 16 years (1958) until Fridley ISD 14 had its own high school. Today there are three high schools in Fridley, the other two being Totino Grace and Al Amal. The ISD 14 Middle School (formerly the Junior High) was the original high school building.

Now another 50 years has passed, and Fridley High School is celebrating its 50th commencement on June 5th. Of the 52 original 1959 graduating class, 24 have confirmed they will be in attendance at this year's Commencement Ceremony as special guests.

We are also celebrating this event at our History Center on Monday, May 19, with a History Conversation on Fridley High School. We have invited members of the original graduating class and faculty. If you ever attended Fridley High, were (or are now) a faculty or staff member, or are affiliated in any way with the school, please join us that evening at 7 PM to be part of the celebration of Fridley High School's 50th Anniversary.





The Record

The Fridley Lions

Decades of Service to Fridley History Conversation #18

Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 7 & 21 11 Am—3 p.m. Museum Open House \$3 Donation Children free Old Tyme Movies

Monday, June 16 7 - 8:30 p.m. Fridley History Center Fridley History Conversation #18 "Fridley Lions"

Monday, July 21 7 - 8:30 p.m. Fridley History Center Fridley History Conversation #19 "Fridley's Historical Homes"

Monday, August 4
6 p.m.
Fridley History Center
13th Annual AugustFest
Quicksteps 1860s Style
Baseball Game
Fridley City Band
Fridley Royalty
Clowns, Magician, Brats,
Hotdogs, and more!

The lion sleeps tonight—but not in Fridley. The Fridley Lions Club is one of the most active and enduring Fridley organizations over the past 60 years. Founded in 1954, the Lions currently have 58 members. We will honor this leading service organization with a History Conversation on Monday evening, June 16, at 7 PM at the Fridley History Center.

This list of contributions the

Lions have made over the decades is too long to mention here. Many of the their projects were hands-on work members undertook for the community. Others involved the financial assistance they provided from funds they earned through fundraisers such as pull tabs, wine tastings and other events.

In its early years, the Lions sponsored the circus that came to Fridley. It was held under a big tent erected on University Avenue north of Rice Creek. In the 1960s, they sponsored a community Bingo game to raise funds for doing community service. They also provided assistance to a Fridley Boy Scout troop. For many years they have sponsored a Christmas party that was free to all Fridley senior citizens.

They have sponsored annual the annual 49ers Day Parade for many years. The Lions provided the football field scoreboard when Fridley's new high school was built, and supplied the lighted outdoor message board for Fridley High School, Hayes Elementary School and the Fridley History Center. In addition, the Fridley Historical Society has been a grateful benefactor of the Fridley Lions by their 20+ years of financial assistance to help maintain the Fridley History Center.





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

VP & President Pro Tem:

Mel Manley

Treasurer:

Judy Anderson

Past President:

Robert Christenson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel

Mary Sue Meyers

Dorothy Gargaro

Vicki Wendell

Jerry Manley

Committees & Chairpersons

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

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Meetings: Tuesdays, 9 a.m.

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro - 763-792-1080

Meetings: 4th Wednesday, 10 a.m.

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-Fundraising

Robert Christenson - 763-789-9069

Hall of Fame

Mel Manley - 651-286-6558

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

Maintenance

Jerry Manley - 763-571-6963

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

Membership

Vicki Rockwell - 763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson - 763-789-9069

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers - 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

Summary of Minutes

May 1, 2008

Meeting convened by Immediate Past President Robert Christenson at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance: Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Mary Sue Meyers and Vicki Rockwell.

Past President's Report: Christenson reported that Fridley Cable Channel 15 would be filming a special feature on the Fridley History Center on Wednesday May 28.

Treasurer's Report: Judy Anderson reported that income for April was \$6,867 and expenses were \$2,876. The Lasagna Dinner, Raffle and Live Auction set a new record generating \$4,986 in revenue.

Discussion Item:

The Board undertook a debriefing of last month's Lasagna Dinner. On the plus side, we sold out the dinner for 125 people; we had a record in raffle prizes (131) and auction items (14); and a record in total revenue. The event was a huge success. Because of the post office problem with our mailing of raffle tickets, it was decided to have a silent auction in 2009 combined with a live auction.

Committee Reports

- 1. <u>Archives</u>: Pete Bonesteel reporting photo digitizing going well. Robert Christenson donated a 1960s Chamber of Commerce membership list and an article with photos of a drowning in Rice Creek from the 1955 edition of the Fridley Echo.
- 2. <u>Membership</u>: Vicki Rockwell reported current membership is now 202 members. She is preparing a thank you letter to all businesses who contributed raffle items and include a membership brochure
- 3. <u>Program & Events</u>: Mary Sue Meyer reported the City Band has agreed to be on our 49er Day Parade float if we can find a truck. Dorothy Gargaro suggested free admission to the History Center on Saturday June 14 for those wearing 49er Day buttons.

<u>Fundraising</u>: Christenson reported meeting with Sam's Club regarding their grants programs.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Memberships & Donations

New Individual Member Senior, Individual & Family Renewing Members: Elsie Hanscom (renewing); Lynne Grigor and Julie Jones (new)

Donations; William Beery \$100; Herb Bacon \$100 in memory of Lawraine Beery (Bill Beery's wife); Lynne Grigor \$16.50; Ellie Hanscom \$10 In Memoriam

Earle Christenson, a long-time member of the Fridley Historical Society who regularly attended Historical Society events over the years, passed away on May 1 at age 86. Mr. Christenson was born and raised in Fridley and lived most of his life in Fridley. For many years he was a school bus driver for Fridley Bus Service.



RAFFLE & AUCTION PRIZE DONORS

The Fridley Historical Society salutes the following businesses and individual donors for helping us set new records for our annual Lasagna Dinner, Raffle and Live Auction with their generous prize donations. Please support businesses who gave prizes

Applebee's Fridley	Dunn Bros.	Charles Martin, Artist	Schaaf Floral	INDIVIDUAL PRIZE DONORS
Applebee's North town	Eye Care Center	Miller Funeral Home	Shortstop	Mary Bonesteel
Axmen Surplus	Fantastic Sims	Mille Lacs Golf Resort & Marina	Smith Diving	Todd Christenson
Bachman's	Friendly Chevrolet	Panera Bread	Taste of Thailand	Gloria Egan
Bagman's Pub	Global Grounds	Papa John's	TCF Bank	Dorothy Gargaro
Bob's Produce	Grandpa's Ice Cream	Perkins	Total Health Clinic	Pat & Eric Jaakkola
Bright wood Hills	Half-Price Books	Pickle Park	Tontine's	Joanne & Roger Kaye

Bona Bros. Auto Service	Height's Theatre	Potbelly Sandwiches	Two Stooges	Melinda Manley
Broadway Bar & Pizza	JAX Cafe	Red Lobster	U.S. Federal Credit Union	Jerry & Marilyn Manley
Buffalo Wild Wings	Jeff's Bobby & Steve's Auto World	Ricky's Embers	Wells Fargo Bank	Mel & Alicia Man- ley
Chanticleer Pizza	Key's Restaurant	Riverside Car Wash		Lillian Meyer
Cross-town Eatery	Kemps	Ron's Barber		Don & Mary Sue Meyers
Curves	Labastida Restaurant	Salon Amore		Andy Oman
Dave's Sport Shop	Luther Auction	Sam's Club		



Fridley History Conversation #17, "Fridley High School"

Our History Conversation #17 on May 19 featured the 50th Anniversary of Fridley High School. There was an excellent turnout for this meeting including four members of the first graduating class (Dennis Johnson, Karen Madsen, JoAnne Nelson and Bob Powell); two members of the original faculty (Thure "Bud" Erickson—Industrial Arts Teacher and Don Meyers — Social Studies & Boy's Health Teacher and Head Wrestling Coach); former School Board Members John Meyer and Gordon Sangster (who is in the Fridley Hall of Fame); and Independent School District Superintendent Mark Robertson who was honored in April as the 2008 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year.

Robert Christenson, Moderator of Fridley History Conversations, opened the program with a pop quiz, believing this was appropriate considering the theme of the evening and that the History Conversation was being held in a 77-year old Fridley schoolhouse. Answers follow the quiz:

- 1. What current school building housed the original high school?
- 2. When was that building constructed?
- 3. What was the population of the school district in 1950? 1957? 1965? 1970?
- 4. When was the new senior high school built?
- 5. Who was the first senior high principal?
- 6. Who was the vice principal in 1958?
- 7. Who was the senior high counselor?
- 8. Who was the football coach and how many games did the team win?
- 9. Who was Valedictorian?
- 10. How many students were in the first graduating class?





Answers:

- 1. Fridley Middle School that formerly was the Fridley Junior High School 1955, with wings added in 1957, 1958, 1964, and 1966. It opened in 1956 for grades 7 10; in 1957 it had grades 7 11; and in 1958 it had grades 7 12. Even with all the wings added, there were so many students that classes were only half-days.
- 2. 1950: 543 1957: 1,400 1965: 4,899 1970: 5,766 from which it continued to decline until 2005.
- 4. Built in 1961 and dedicated in 1962
- 5. Vernon Knutson
- 6. Frank Cummings
- 7. Duane Lundgren
- 8. Harold Boeck and they won 1 game. Harold was also baseball coach. And the head wrestling coach who went on to win many state titles was Don Meyers, and the basketball coach was Dick Donlin
- 9. Karen Madsen
- 10. 51 students of whom 48 graduated.



Karen Madsen, Class of 1959 "When we were in 10th grade, the first class for girls was gym class, and rather than go to the junior/senior high school we had to go to the old Hayes School where there was a gymnasium. In the 11th grade, school was held half-day with senior high in the morning the junior high in the afternoon. I was in band, and in senior high band you had to stay an extra hour. I also remember in 10th grade the Asian flu epidemic went through and we had one or two deaths of at the school. When we were seniors, we had to get everything set up for extra-curricular activities. We chose the name "Tigers" for the school mascot and along with that our school colors were black and gold and the yearbook became the Bengalian. The newspaper was called the Tiger's Tale. The building was still under construction with an added wing so there were disruptions now and then. Band was 7th through 9th graders and 9 of us got together and formed a pep band called the 'Nine Notes'."

JoAnne Nelson, Class of 1959 "9th grade was horrible because we were shipped to Jordan Junior High in Minneapolis. 10th grade was cool because there were so few of us. I went from Mary in the Christmas play to Flotilla Floss in a fun play at Hayes school in which Karen and I painted ourselves up. We were on the yearbook, and I was privileged to be invited to the senior high psychology class where I learned how to come out of my shell. I remember our annual class trip to Chicago, which was the only trip the seniors had, but I won't say why we weren't allowed any more. It was my first time out of Minnesota. And I also was a cheerleader in the 10th grade and we had lots of after school activities that were really fun. Teachers like John Flood and Don Meyers really encouraged us. Sputnik had just happened, and I was told, "Joanne, you can really do it!" And Fridley teachers were the ones who really encouraged me to go to college and become a teacher.

Mark Robertson, Superintendent, District 14 "In 1959 I was starting school in Bigelow, Minnesota, and remember coming to Fridley when I was a young teacher in Blaine High School and coaching basketball and was very awe-struck coming into the Fridley gymnasium, because Blaine was a very small community back then, and we were very scarred of the Tigers. We are very happy we have begun to partner with the Fridley Historical Society and it has done great things for the District keeping memories alive. When I came to Fridley if felt like being in a small town planted inside a big city. People have loyalty. Good things must have happened in the 50s because nobody seems to want to leave Fridley and we are getting third generations coming through our high school now. There has been a slow decline in admissions over the past many years but three to five years ago we started giving a new direction to our schools with a new vision reflecting what we want the world to look like, not where its been. We bottomed out at 2,450 students and now will open with 2,800 students this fall which is a 15% increase over the past 3 years.

Bob Powell, Class of 1959 "I moved to Fridley from Philadelphia in 1955 as a 9th grader and went to Jordan. When I went to Fridley High in 10th grade, I sold lunch tickets in front of the lunchroom and I got to learn the names of a lot of the kids. In the 11th grade I did a theme paper on the Mississippi River. I am a history card collector and used the collection that I used for my report. I remember Mr. Flood who was my English teacher and I respected him greatly (Bob proceeded then to repeat from memory the first 14 lines of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales in middle English). I struggled as a student; school was hard for me but I managed to graduate second in my class as Salutatorian. I worked on the yearbook which originally we named 'The Dromedary' because Fridley has so much sand, but we settled for the Bengalian-tigers are more ferocious than camels. We used "roads" as the theme for the yearbook, and in the back, we had photo ads using students at the businesses. I graduated from the U of M and went into teaching."

Dennis Johnson, Class of 1959 "I remember going from 7 in the morning to 12 noon for half-day classes which made it great to then have a whole half day in which to go out and have a good time after school. Fridley had a lot of open space back then with the big truck farms on East River Road, woods and corn fields" Continued on next page.



Fridley History Conversation #17, "Fridley High School", continued

Thure "Bud" Erickson, Industrial Arts Teacher 1959 "I came to Fridley in 1956 after teaching in southern Minnesota for three years after graduating from the U of M. Harold Hayes hired me to be one their shop teachers. We didn't have a shop then, but we had a classroom in the north wing. I taught in the afternoon and had the junior high and Harold Beck had the senior high in the morning. I remained at Fridley as a teacher for 28 years. My wife taught at Hayes School until it was destroyed by the tornado. I was timekeeper and operated the scoreboard for sports events and helped set up the track for junior and senior high competitions. I have the honor of my son currently student teaching in Health & PhyEd at Fridley High School now."

Don Meyers, Social Studies Teacher and Head Wrestling Coach "After graduating from the U of M, I got a job teaching here at Fridley in 1958. I was jock coach at the time and a PhyEd major and History minor. My friend, Dick Donlin (first football coach), told me Fridley was looking for a wrestling coach and I got the job starting in 1958 with the added role teaching Social Studies. I was at Fridley for 34 years. I had a flamingo pink Lincoln convertible. I drove up the first day of school, the same time that Superintendent Hayes drove up in his 4-door Chevrolet, He made some comment 'Young man, you better enjoy that car because you won't be able to afford it 5 years from now.' So true. My first paycheck was \$134.60 for 2 weeks. I coached wrestling for 10 years. In the early years, Fridley did not do well in sports. But I had one student, Jim Anderson, who wrestled at 112 pounds and went to the State tournament in Mankato and won. In 1958 we doubled the faculty from 18 to 36 and were on split shifts. I had to start teaching at 10 minutes to 7 AM and be at the school 15 minutes before that. Our major football rivalry was Spring Lake Park and Dick Donlin decided we should play for an annual trophy. He created it as a bucket of sand representing our land-scape. The best thing I did in my life was coming to Fridley, for here I met my wife Mary Sue and had a great time associated with Fridley schools."

Gordon Sangster, Former School Board Member "I was a school board member for 27 years and graduated from that position in 1991. The building of the schools in the District was done on a master plan. Fridley has 23 major highways with a corridor between them. On the West side we would have two schools, Riverwood on the north and Stevenson on the south; in the Central was Hayes on the north and Parkview on the south; and in the East corridor was Rice Creek on the north and Gardena on the south with the two secondary schools where they are today. This worked fine until enrollment declined. Today we only have two elementary schools remaining."



Fridley Independent School District #14



John Meyer, Former School Board Member "I got on the School Board after Ernie Powell retired. I was on the Board for 10 years. Gordon Sangster was the guiding light and stalwart chairman of the School Board for many years, and a few years was honored as the outstanding school board member in the State of Minnesota."



Page 7



Bob Powell



Dennis A. Johnson



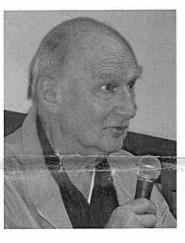
Don Meyers



Gordon Sangster



JoAnne Nelson



John Meyer



Mark Robertson



Thure Bud Erickson



Students and Staff at Fridley's 50th Fridley High School Reunion



FRIDLEY HISTORY CENTER

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

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



We had a memorable evening celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Fridley High School. Our normal History Conversation lasts about one hour; this one went for 2 1/2 hours. There were so many great stories of Fridley High School shared by members of the first graduating class, first faculty, and school board members. We will edit this long History Conversation into a 1-hour DVD that can be viewed at any of our open houses on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month as well as on Fridley Cable Channel 15.

Mark Robertson, Superintendent of Fridley School District 14, responding to an impromptu request, spoke eloquently about what a wonderful relationship Fridley schools have had with the local community. He also reported on how admissions are increasing once again in the District, which represents the fruits of a new vision crafted for the District a few years ago. Mark was recently honored as the Minnesota School Superintendent of the Year. He acknowledged the efforts being made by the District and the Fridley Historical Society to collaborate on historically related initiatives.

We continue to seek unique heirlooms of Fridley including old photographs. Mark Bonesteel saw some photos being offered for sale on E-bay that showed Larson Lumber from the 1920s era.

Does anyone remember a Larson Lumber in Fridley? If you do, please leave a message on our voice mail at 763-571-0120 and we will try to acquire the photographs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT CHRISTENSON FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A first class commencement Focus -5-29-08

Six people who either attended or taught at Fridley High School during its first year of existence (1958-59) were in attendance at a special event of the Fridley History Center May 19 to celebrate the school district's 50 years. Seated (I. to r.) are Class of 1959 alumni Karen Madsen and JoAnne Nelson. Standing (I. to r.) are Class of 1959 alumni Bob Powell and Dennis A. Johnson, and teachers Don Meyers (taught social studies and boys' health, coached wrestling) and Thure "Bud" Erickson (taught industrial arts).

Students in Fridley's 50th graduating class – the Class of 2008 – will go through their commencement beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 5, in the high school gymnasium. Student speakers include Julie Reinisch, Catherine Rogers and Octavia Korczak. The senior class has selected Joe Bue, math teacher and football/baseball coach, as the faculty speaker. Madsen, who was the valedictorian in 1959, will also be addressing the new graduates.

Volume 21, Issue 7



The Historic Homes of Fridley **History Conversation #19**



@ What constitutes a historic home? Age? Period in which it was built? Length of occupancy by the same family? Architecture? Yes-all of these. And Fridley has its share of historic homes.

> On Monday, July 21, 7 PM at the History Center (6 PM potluck dinner), we will be reminiscing about the great

homes of Fridley that have given our community its character over the past 150+ years. Many of these old homes are still here, but some have been moved to different addresses in Fridley.

We still have the Reidel home on East River Road across from BAE Systems, the Banfill home, the oldest residence in Fridley that now houses the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts, the home where Bill Weiss lived that was built in the 1880s and is now the location of Tamarisk Hospice, and so many more.

If your home in Fridley was built over 50 years ago, please come to this History Conversation and share what you know about your residence: when it was built, who built it, who was the first family that occupied it, and any interesting stories about the life of your house. If you do not know the total history of the house, let us know the address and maybe we can help you discover its origin.

Bringing a dish/salad/dessert etc. to the potluck dinner is optional. We always have more than enough, so come and enjoy the culinary contributions of others

First Book Signing on Fridley Tornadoes

Over a year ago, Al Taylor, a teacher in the Anoka Hennepin School District, contacted the Fridley Historical Society requesting information on the 1965 tornadoes. He wanted to write a book about that incredible night. We gave Al all the information we had and provided him with people to contact. Now he has completed "The Night the Sirens Blew," and will be doing his first book signing at the History Center Open House on Saturday, July 26, between 11 AM and 3 PM. Al is donating part of the proceeds from the sales of this book to our historical society. Please come and meet Al. He would be happy to get acquainted with Fridleyites who were there the night the sirens blew.





Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 12 11 AM to 3 PM Museum Open House \$3 Donation; Children free Old Tyme Movies

Monday, July 21 $7 - 9 \, PM$ Fridley History Center Fridley History Conversation #19

"Fridley's Historical Homes"

Saturday, July 26 11 AM to 3 PM Book Signing by Al Taylor "The Night the Sirens Blew"

Monday, August 4 6 PM Fridley History Center 13th Annual AugustFest Quicksteps 1860's Style Baseball Game Fridley City Band, Fridley Royalty, Clowns, Magician, Brats, Hotdogs, etc.



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

V.P. & President Pro Tem Treasurer Past President Mel Manley Judy Anderson Robert Christenson

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

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

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Hall of Fame

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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 — 763-789-9069

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

June 4, 2008 Summary of Minutes

Meeting was convened by President Pro-Tem Mel Manley at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance: Vicki Rockwell, Pete Bonesteel, Jerry Manley, Dorothy Gargaro, and Mary Sue Meyers.

Discussion Items:

It was decided to post a message on our outdoor sign inviting people to the History Center Open House on June 14 with free admission with a 49ers Days button.

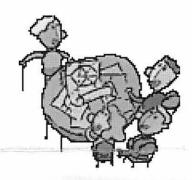
Committee Reports

- 1. <u>Hall of Fame:</u> Mel Manley reported that an article was published in the Fridley City newsletter requesting nominations for the 5th Annual Hall of Fame.
- 2. <u>Program & Events</u>: Mary Sue Meyers reported that Northeast Towing has agreed to provide a truck and trailer for the City Band and our signs for the 49ers Day Parade.
- 3. <u>City History</u>: Dorothy Gargaro reported great progress in editing but still awaiting financing.
- 4. <u>Archives</u>: Pete Bonesteel reported that Mark Bonesteel has a display of the Anoka County police and a book about police departments located in Anoka County that he will bring to the next meeting.
- 5. Membership: Vicki Rockwell

stated we now have 207 total members.

- 6. <u>Maintenance</u>: Jerry Manley reported the sprinkler system is being activated.
- 7. <u>Nominating Committee</u>: Mel Manley led a discussion about changing term limits.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM



Membership & Donations

New Individual Member

Julie Jones

Senior, Individual & Family Renewing Members:

Gordon & Carol Christenson Jerry & Debbie Johnson Virgil & Shirley Herrick Dr. Maurice Meyer

Donations;

➢Gordon & Carol Christenson -\$22.50

Schaaf Floral - \$16 (Growing Together Program)

≈Dr. Maurice Meyer - \$15.00

≈Virgil & Shirley Herrick - \$6.50



Fridley History Conversation #18 "The Fridley Lions Club"



Fridley Lions: Left to right; Dean Saba, Gary Hagen, Hal Hinchliffe, Ron Ackerman, Bob Cook, Tony Petrangelo

Lions International began in 1917. There are currently 1.3 million men and women who are Lions in 202 countries. It started as a way to give something back to their communities.

For 54 years, the Fridley Lions Club has been serving Fridley residents, and serving them well. We featured the Fridley Lions at our History Conversation on June 16 with many Lions in attendance. The meeting began with a

Lions in attendance. The meeting began with a 15-minute slide presentation of photos of Lions

events over that past 6 decades. This was followed by a panel discussion that included Tony Petrangelo (first president), Bob Cook, Ron Ackerman, Hal Hinchliffe, Gary Hagen, and Dean Saba (current president). The moderator of the discussion was Robert Christenson, also a former president of the Fridley Lions.

<u>Tony Petrangelo, First President</u>: Tony told about how an invitation was extended to about a dozen Fridley men by a member of the Northeast Lions Club. Tony said, "He educated us about how Lions clubs operated and the good things they did for their communities. After a couple of meetings, the number attending increased and in a few months, we were able to form the Fridley Lions Club in 1954. Why they chose me as the temporary chairman for the first 6 months I will never to this day understand.

The numbers attending increased over those months and we finally needed a permanent board and officers. So they nominated me for President and I served for one year. We originally met at the Fridley Village Hall. We learned that the role of Lions Clubs was to raise money for local projects that helped people out. One of our first projects was the selling of Christmas trees on the northeast corner of University Ave. and Mississippi Street where Walgreen's is now situated."

<u>Bob Cook, President (1977-1978) & Past District Governor</u> - "I originally got started in Lions through Art Christenson, a charter member who owned Fridley Hardware & Appliance. I worked for him at his store, and when there were Lion's events, he invited me and my wife to go along. I finally joined the club in the late 1960s which was difficult because I was on the police department.

Fundraisers back then included our annual smelt fry. We also held beach parties over on Moore Lake in conjunction with the Fridley Parks and Rec Department, Bob Schroer would bring water melon from Bob's Produce and we would have canoe races as well. In the winter, we would put a car on Moore Lake and raise money by people guessing when it would go down.

When the new Fridley City Hall was built, the Lions moved the Eisenhower flagpole from the old City Hall to Moore Lake beach. We tried to get the City to name the park the Fridley Lions Park, they refused, but they did accept all our donations including building all of the shelters, volley ball courts and other improvements. We had many projects back then, and raised money to get wheel chairs for the needy."



Ron Ackerman "I have lived in Fridley for 34 years and was active helping kids in Fridley sports and Boy Scouts. After my kids grew up I was looking for something to do and John Gargaro (past president1980—1981) suggested I join the Lions. Having hung around with kids for many years, I decided to hang around adults so I joined about 20 years ago.

We got into charitable gambling in 1968 and ran bingo at the former Skywood Mall (now Menards annex). Then about 20 years ago we got into the world of pull-tabs. With that opportunity, we were able to make many more donations to the community. We set priorities, like you must be a Fridley organization or school.

We have sponsored the scholastic banquets at the Fridley High School since they started 50 years ago, and give scholarships to Fridley schools and some to Spring Lake Park District 16 schools. We have sponsored the Fridley 49er Day Parade which has 120 to 130 units. It costs us \$15,000 to \$16,000 to sponsor it. Another project that is a lot of fun is the annual Seniors Christmas Dinner that has been going on for about 35 years. We serve about 550 citizens who register ahead of time. The seniors have been very appreciative of this event.

We have done many pancake breakfasts over the years. Now do two to four a year at the high school and the community center. We get assistance from Fridley school choirs, Fridley Key Club, the Scouts, and in turn we donate back to these groups. For over 20 years, we have done softball tournaments including state tournaments. We also get involved with the wrestling program and girls gymnastics with help from the Boy Scouts and we donate back to these programs.

For needy people within Fridley, we help them pay some of their expenses. We support the Lions International with sight and hearing programs. Lions International built a sight research center at the University of Minnesota.

In the last 20 years, Fridley Lions have donated between \$1.5 and \$2 million dollars to needy projects, with the highest percentage (30%) going to Fridley schools. About 20% goes to meet needs of people. The other big items are the 49ers Day Parade, the City of Fridley where we put up scoreboards for City ball fields and volley ball courts at Moore Lake. We built a memorial to John Gargaro by ball fields 5 & 6, we sponsor youth sports teams."

<u>Hal Hinchliffe, President (1994 - 1995)</u> "Like Ron, I was brought into the club by John Gargaro. The biggest things I have been involved with over the 18 years I have been with the club are doing softball tournaments, concession stands and the scholastic banquets which was the one thing that John got me involved with. I find it very rewarding to be able to go see the students excel and give recognition to our young people."

Gary Hagen, President (1979-1980) "My way into the Lions was I got married. The year after, my father-in-law signed me up to be a Lion. So I guess I got married to the Lions too. I have been a Lion for 36 years. When my kids were younger, I became involved with foreign exchange students. We had four of them over the years for about six weeks each or shared them with another Lion. I had a young girl from Finland to start with, and then one from Australia, one from Peru, and one from my nationality of Norway. All of them have been enjoyable.

I have two daughters who in turn have gone through the exchange program with the Lions. My oldest went to Turkey. She was also a U.S. representative to Camp Sally in northern Minnesota where the foreign exchange students who came to America would meet. They went from there to the Mall of America, to Duluth. My youngest daughter got to go to where I would like to go someday, which is New Zealand and Australia.



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The Northeast Minneapolis Lions Club originally sponsored us and we had 40 members when we were chartered. Since then, we have sponsored three clubs: Columbia Heights, the Golden Club in Fridley and the 5 Star Women's Club with ladies from five communities. My wife is a member of that club and the present District Governor is from that club."



Dean Saba narrating slide presentation on Lions Club.

<u>Dean Saba – current President</u> "One of the reasons I joined the Lions is that I was very active in City committees and commissions and I am still part of the Fridley Planning Commission. But whenever we had an activity that required volunteers, it was the Fridley Lions that not only volunteered but also jumped at the chance to serve and that impressed me. No matter how much labor was involved or time that was involved, it was the Fridley Lions that raised their hands and said "We'll do it." I decided I wanted to join that organization. I saw Clay Storley (President 1995-1996) running around at the 49ers Day Parade and asked how one became a Lion, and I became a Fridley Lion in 1996.

For many years, I have seen organizations that are thriving today because of donations, work projects, and contributions the Lions have made to help those organizations. This includes some the sports organizations like the football teams, wrestling teams, swim teams, and barbecue fundraisers for football boosters. All of their budgets have been cut over the years and the Lions have come to their rescue.

In the future I see lots of fun activities. This next year I want to have more activities for families, making the Lions even more family-friendly. We have our picnics and our banquets, and I would like to see activities with families, kids, and having fun doing it.

I would like to get more members (there are now about 58 members). If anyone would like to get involved, please give me a call (763-571-1953). There are a lot of things you can do as a Fridley Lion. Our motto is "We Serve" and you can be involved with many projects with the City government, the school system and other projects. We built a bridge at Springbrook Nature Center this past year, that was a lot of work and a lot of fun.

We have been involved with many fundraising activities and it is so great to see the results. Last year we found a person who could barely read due to macular degeneration, and because Lions are involved in sight, hearing and diabetes, we give priorities to those needs. We gave this lady a vision machine and she felt she was reborn. She was now able to look at photos of her grandchildren that were a blur to her before."

Christenson asked the panel what the major benefits were of being a Fridley Lion.

Dean Saba: "The major benefit of being a Fridley Lion is the friendships you form including those you serve with, contributed to, and formed with others from the county, the state, the city and local organizations."

Bob Cook: "For me it is self-satisfaction when you help people. If you walk away from some of these projects with a dry eye you better see an eye doctor."

Gary Hagen: "If you want to help others, the Lions is a good organization to join. Over the years, there are so many groups and individuals we have helped I could not name them all. It includes giving Christmas presents, food to Meals on Wheels, SACA, and the other things that were mentioned."

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 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

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Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson

I invite you to read the interesting stories on pages 3, 4 & 5 shared by six members of the 54-year old Fridley Lions Club that we featured at our 18th History Conversation. The Fridley Historical Society has been a major beneficiary of the generosity of the Fridley Lions over many years, including their purchase of our outdoor lighted sign.

My dad was a charter member of the Fridley Lions and brought me into the club in 1961. Some of my favorite memories include working at the Fridley Lions Christmas tree lot each December, the outdoor circus under the big tent we sponsored for a number of years, and providing the scoreboard for the new Fridley High School football field.

Another great memory was personally sponsoring Peter Swedenborg, a young man from Sweden, as part of the Lions International Foreign Exchange program the summer of 1962. Peter and I had a great time on a week-long trip driving the just opened Lake Superior Circle Route into Canada, Michigan and Wisconsin in my 1961 Chevrolet Impala convertible (white with red interior). I held my breath every time Peter was behind the wheel, because in Sweden, they then drove on the opposite side of the road.

A couple years later, I spent a week visiting Peter and his family in Lund, Sweden as part of a 3-week vacation I took to Scandinavia. So many great memories I never would have had, had I not become a Fridley Lion.



Volume 21, Issue 8



13TH Annual AugustFest

Great summer fun awaits you at our annual AugustFest celebration at 6 PM on Monday, August 4 at the Fridley History Center, 611 Mississippi Street, Fridley. Admission is free.



From 6 to 6:45 PM, the Fridley Dixieland Band will be on stage with their toe-tapping music of New Orleans. Mayor Scott Lund will be introducing the newly crowned Fridley Royalty: Queen Elizabeth Lund and Princesses Olga Lezhepekova and Bre Bertozzi.

Al Taylor will be on hand to sign his new book, "The Night the Sirens Blew," that recounts powerful stories of the 1965 tornadoes that struck Fridley:

At 7 PM we are fortunate once again to have our 1865-style base ball game featuring the Quicksteps in their 19th century uniforms compete against Fridley fire, police, parks and recreation, public works and administration employees. The Quicksteps will be fielding their original team from years ago – no young ringers in this group of wellseasoned ball players.





For the kids, Mango the Clown and his assistants will be on hand to make animal balloons, perform magic, paint faces, perform juggling and keep children and adults

smiling. And the Fridley Fire Department will have their monster ladder truck on hand

for the kids to see up close, sit in the cab, and talk with real fire fighers.

Skip supper and enjoy the brats, Chicago dogs, hot dogs, beverages and ice cream. After the game, join us for free lemonade and cookies in the lower level of the Fridley History Center!



Upcoming Events

Monday, August 4 6 PM Fridley History Center 13th Annual AugustFest Quicksteps 1860's Style Baseball Game Fridley City Band, Fridley Royalty, Clowns, Magician, Brats, Hotdogs, etc.

Saturday, August 9 & 23 11 AM to 3 PM

Museum Open House \$3 Donation; Children free Old Tyme Movies

Saturday, August 23 11 AM to 3 PM

Book Signing by Al Taylor "The Night the Sirens Blew"

Monday, September 15 7 - 9 PM

Fridley History Center Fridley History Conversation #20

"The Industries That Built Fridley"



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

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Officers

V.P. & President Pro Tem Treasurer Past President Mel Manley Judy Anderson Robert Christenson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Vicki Rockwell

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Membership

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Newsletter & Public Relations

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Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

July 2, 2008 Summary of Minutes

Meeting convened by President Pro-Tem Mel Manley at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance: Vicki Rockwell, Pete Bonesteel, Jerry Manley, Dorothy Gargaro, Mary Sue Meyers, Judy Anderson, Robert Christenson

Action Items:

- 1. Motion approved to recommend to the membership that the bylaws be amended to remove term limits for board members.
- 2. Motion approved to permit Fridley Women of Today to hold their annual meeting at the History Center.
- 3. Motion approved to permit Al Taylor to hold his first book signing of "The Night the Sirens Blew" at the History Center on July 26, and future book signings on August 4 (AugustFest) and the Open House on August 23.

Discussion Items:

A group of board members will visit Unity Hospital to explore the hospital archives to develop a display of the history of the hospital for the History Center. Guidelines will be discussed at the next board meeting regarding future use of the History Center by nonprofit organizations.

Committee Reports

- 1. Archives: Pete Bonesteel reported that various 49ers Day Parade awards from over the years are available to us at City Hall for pick up.
- 2. <u>Maintenance</u>: Jerry Manley reported landscaping maintenance will be undertaken later this month including distributing 25 bags of wood chips, weeding, and shrub trimming.

Announcements

Coon Rapids Historic Commission requested to be included on our mailing.

Meeting adjourned 7:20 PM

Membership & Donations

Senior, Individual & Family Renewing Members:

Satveer & Dee Chaudhary Barbara Hughes Suzanne Miskowic Eurice & Richard Pearson Linda Pearson Cynthia & Gary Torfin

Donations:

Suzanne Miskowic, \$120 Craig Hohensee & Eileen Arnold, \$100 Linda Pearson, \$15 Cynthia & Gary Torfin, \$10



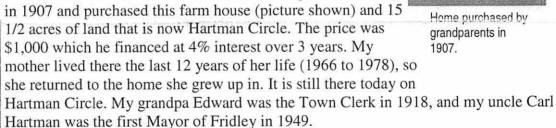
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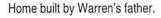
Fridley History Conversation #19 "FRIDLEY'S HISTORICAL HOMES"

We had a strong turnout for our history conversation on Fridley's historical homes on Monday evening, July 21. The meeting was preceded by a delightful potluck dinner that delivered the very best in home cooking. Robert Christenson opened with a membership meeting in which he shared news of major repairs needed to one of our central air conditioners and to our sprinkler system that will amount to \$1,350.

Following the membership meeting, Robert introduced the history conversation by explaining how it was decided homes over 50 years old qualified as historical. The first history book of Fridley that included the first 50 families of Fridley was published in the 1950s and covered Fridley's first 100 years. So that is the period that is being designated as historical for this history conversation.

Warren Woods: The home I grew up in was built by my dad adjacent to the Girl Scout Camp on East River Road. This was during the depression, about 1931-32, I have the abstract here that goes back to December 1, 1848. My grandfather, Edward Hartman, and grandmother Anna Hartman, moved from New Brighton to Fridley

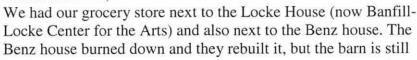




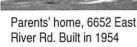


Wendy Plum — who came to the history conversation from San Diego, California. She brought with her census sheets of Fridley from 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930.

"I am Bill Plum's daughter. My father was born in 1922 and was named William Carl Plum after Carl Hartman being his father adored Carl Hartman, and their families were friends at the time.



there. My dad grew up in the Benz's house. On 6601 East River Road is the house where my grandparents lived. My dad, Bill, built his house in 1954, 6652 East River Road. We sold it in 1973 and the people who bought it redesigned it, but the house is still there.





Grandparents' home, 6601 East River Rd.



Page 4



Grace Norton: In 1917, my husband's parents, Wade and Jenny Norton, bought 10 acres bounded on the northwest by Rice Creek and on the east by what is now Central Avenue. Wade started constructing out-buildings and they lived in what wasn't much more than a "lean-to." By 1922 the house was nearly completed and the family was still living in the basement. The District 6 school building was still under construction and wasn't usable so the classes were held in the Norton house on the main floor. In



The Norton house, 1200 Norton Ave.

April, 1929, it was decided to wire the house for electricity. Wade and the oldest son went into town to buy supplies to do the wiring, and came home to find the house demolished by a tornado. Sometime after the house was rebuilt in the 1930s somebody came along and said the house would make a great nightclub. The family moved out and the house became La Normandy. They didn't make a go of it and the family moved back into the house. In the 1940s the house was divided into 5 apartments. More homes were added on the property and the family home was known as "the big house."



Bernadine Matushak: Our Scherer family moved here in 1931 when I was 5-years-old. We lived on Old Central in a house my grandfather had bought. Then we moved to Jackson and Mississippi Street and had a story and a half house. We had 10 acres as a little farm and my dad, Dru Scherer, raised turkeys, had a pig and chickens. I had a lamb for 4-H and my brother Roy had a pony. We had five kids living here and Roy was living in the basement because he was the only boy. We



Herder & Camille Nelson House on Jackson St.

had a playhouse as well. We added on to the house and it is still there. From there we moved to 840 Mississippi into a 3-bedroom rambler. Herder and Camille Nelson lived



Gordon Christenson: My grandpa and grandma's house was on Mississippi Street pretty close to where Main Street goes north off of Mississippi Street and directly south of it was the Nelson's Tiperrary Farm. My dad, Alder, managed that farm for Ted and Ray Nelson for several years. In 1929 Ray Nelson was in the barn with my dad when the tornado hit and they ran out of the barn and lay down in the corn field. My dad said that Ray, who was about a 275 pounds, kept rolling over him in the corn field. My father built a story and a half 2 bedroom house behind the shopping center that used to be on the southeast corner of University Avenue and Mississippi Street. He built it in 1937 and it cost \$3,700.

My son Todd and his wife live in the Craig house on Pearson Way and East River Road. When it was built in 1937 it sat on the Mississippi river. Craig was an asphalt contractor and a gentlemen farmer. The house was quite unique when it was built. When you opened a closet door, the light came on. It had fireplaces upstairs and in the basement. In the dining room there is a hole in the hardwood floor which was where the buzzer was for the maids.



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Robert Christenson: Just a short distance east from the house that Gordon Christenson's father built on Mississippi Street and University, was the school that our dads attended when they were young. That school burned down in 1929. When I was born in 1936, my dad purchased the school property and built our house on its foundation. It was built out of cinder block and was so sturdy it withstood more than one tornado. In 1957, my dad built the first home on the part of Rice Creek Terrace that is west of University. He chose a spot next to Butler Spring from which his family got fresh drinking water in the early 1900s. He built a birm next to Rice Creek so the spring could create a pond for ducks behind the house. Also in the 1950s, he and Carl Bennett started a sub-

division of homes in Fridley just north of Fridley Commons that is legally described as the Christie Addition.



Chester Hayes: One of the older and most beautiful homes of Fridley was the Nelson home on East River Road just north of 694. Ted and Ray Nelson founded Clover Leaf Creamery. The other beautiful home is the Riedel home built in the 1880s across from BAE Systems south of 694 on the river. There was also the Gertzen house and I have here a Gertzen Hardware yardstick prior to 1949 that I am donating to the Society. Our homestead was immediately north of the Nelson farm on East River Road and dates back to 1932. Anna Lutz was my grandmother. The

home I grew up in was built in 1941. My uncle, George Hayes, had a pig farm there.



The Nelson home, which has been torn down.



The Riedel home on East River Rd.

Other Historic Fridley Homes



First house built in Fridley, the Banfill house, 6666 East River Rd. Built in 1847. Now the Banfill/Locke Center for the Arts.



The Bill Weiss House on Mississippi St. Built in the 1880's

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

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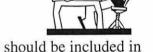
Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



.How does one define history? That was my problem in determining what age of homes should be included in our History Conversation of Fridley's historical homes.

Fridley is "only" about 150 years old. To a European, Asian, African, Middle Easterner or Pacific Islander, that brief term does not even qualify as an era. Far too short. What is 150 years to a civilized world that historians believe commenced 7,000 years ago? The land that is now Fridley did exist then.

In your lifetime, when did your history begin? When your parents first thought of having a child—at conception—at first consciousness—at birth? And then there is ancient history, which is a relative term depending on your age. To a teenager, the 1970s are ancient history.

The Fridley Historical Society's mission is to collect, preserve and disseminate the history of Fridley. To fulfill this mission, we are committed to collecting representations of life in Fridley from 150 years ago to what happens today. If we don't, who will? What has already been lost because there was no organized way of collecting the City's history for 135 years? And what will be lost if we don't?

Does history really matter? That is what I intend to address in my September column. If you have an opinion on this, please e-mail it to me at robert@fridleyhistory.org.



Septmeber 2008

Volume 21, Issue 9



FRIDLEY COMMERCE & INDUSTRY History Conversation #20



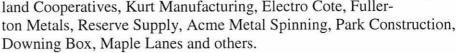
AT 7 PM, Monday evening, September 15, we will remember and recognize the contributions Fridley businesses and industries have made to develop one of the leading cities in Anoka County at our Fridley History Conversation #20. The meeting will be held at the Fridley History Center, 611 Mississippi Street.

Fridley, for many decades dating back to the 1800s, attempted to become an incorporated municipality. Yet it did not succeed until 1949 when there was sufficient business and industry to convince the Minnesota legislature that Fridley qualified to become incorporated as Fridley Village. We did not become a city until 1957.

Northern Pump, now BAE Systems, photographed every business in Fridley in 1949 to submit as evidence that Fridley deserved to be incorporated. We have all of these photos in our archives and many are on display.

Fridley's assessed valuation grew from \$1,203,000 in 1950 to \$8,290,000 in 1960, giving it the largest tax base in Anoka County. Industrial development was the catalyst for this growth.

The Fridley Chamber of Commerce and the Fridley Industrial Commission worked hand-in hand luring new businesses and industry to Fridley. The two largest industries in 1950 were Northern Pump and Minnesota Linseed Oil. By 1960 we had added Designware Industries, Columbia Millwork, Summit Gear, Midland Cooperatives, Kurt Manufacturing, Electro Cote, Fuller-



These industries employed many workers who chose to build their homes in Fridley resulting in a population growth from 5,000 in 1950 to 30,000 in 1970.

We hope you will join us on September 15 and share your stories about early Fridley businesses and industry. We will be inviting some business and industry leaders to attend as well share some of their history.







Monday, September 15 7 – 9 PM

Fridley History Center Fridley History Conversation #20

"The Industries That Built Fridley"

Saturday, September 13 & 27 11 AM to 3 PM History Center Open House

> Monday, October 20 Fridley History Center 6 PM Potluck Dinner 7 PM Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 8 Knights of Columbus Hall 12 noon

Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

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

Officers

V.P. & President Pro Tem Mel Manley Treasurer Past President

Judy Anderson Robert Christenson

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 - 612-860-9685

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 — 612-860-9685

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

August 7, 2008 **Summary of Minutes**

Meeting convened by Past President Robert Christenson at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance: Vicki Rockwell, Pete Bonesteel, Jerry Manley, Dorothy Gargaro, Mary Sue Meyers, and Judy Anderson.

Action Items:

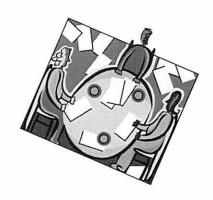
- A. Motion to delay repairs to upper level air conditioner at a cost of \$950 until next year. Passed unanimously.
- **B.** Motion to establish policy to permit local nonprofits that are members of the Society to use History Center at no cost if a Society board member is present, and \$25 charge per hour to nonmember nonprofits and member nonprofits if no Society board member is present. In all cases, the nonprofit using the History Center must clean up after their meeting. Passed unanimously.
- C. Motion to set up a display in October at the Mississippi Branch Library that will feature the Fridley Hall of Fame and promote the upcoming Hall of Fame Dinner Nov. 2009. Passed unanimously.
- **D.** Motion to sell DVD's of History Conversations for \$15 each, and pay Eric Jaakkola half of the fee for editing the DVDs and du-

plicating discs. Passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

- 1. Program & Events: Mary Sue Meyers reported that our 13th Annual AugustFest was a huge success. Although this was a free event for the community, we made about \$150 after receiving a donation of \$100 from Suzanne Miskowic to help cover expenses. It was agreed to hold the Annual Meeting October 20 at the History Center as a Harvest Dinner.
- Archives: Pete Bonesteel said the Government Room at the History Center now has displays of the police and fire department, and the schoolroom has a display of Fridley schools. An old organ has been offered to us. We currently have two old organs on display so may pass on this one.
- 3. Nominating Committee: Robert Christenson reported that Grace Norton, Assistant Editor of the newsletter, has agreed to serve on the Board.

Meeting adjourned 7:25 PM





Page 3

Bits and Pieces from the Archive Room

The first of four major projects by the archives committee is nearly finished. Mark Bonesteel has set-up a new display showing pictures of all the Fridley schools in the school room section of the museum. Over twenty school pictures are now on display starting with the earliest and running through the latest school built. A printed guide also tells a little about each of the schools and the locations. A small lettering project remains to be done before this project is completed.

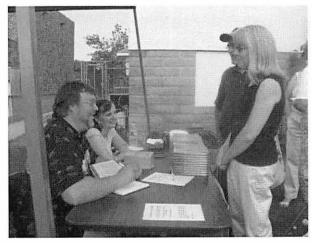
Three other projects scheduled by the Archives Committee are as follows:

- 1. A new display, also in the school room section, showing pictures of Fridley's many churches.
- 2. A continuation in the gathering of pictures for both the Fridley Fire and Police Departments to up-date both departments and other improvements to the City Hall section of the museum.
- 3. A start on collecting information including pictures for a display at the Fridley Library in October 2009.

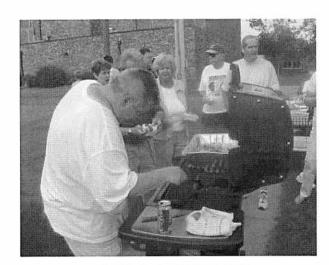
All enjoyed AugustFest, 2008

We had a fantastic AugustFest celebration this year. The weather was perfect. The Fridley City Band's Dixieland contingent provided lively outdoor music. The Fridley Fire Department had their monster ladder truck on hand and demonstrated its amazing capabilities to fight fires – and gave Fridley Royalty and the Mayor a special experience. This year's Chicago dogs were the best ever with many home-made toppings (by Mary Sue Meyers) available.

We also had a very exciting ball game with the Quicksteps in their 1865 uniforms competing with Fridley Police, Fire and players recruited from the audience. The Quicksteps won by one run, but the game had to be called because of darkness. After the game, the lower level of the History Center was filled to capacity with many event goers enjoying the lemonade and cookies.



Allen Taylor autographing his book, "The Night the Sirens Blew," for Mike and Marcia Cleys



Mel Manley tending the "dogs.".



Page 4



Vicki Rockwell and Joanne Larson selling Chicago dogs



Fridley City Band Dixieland Group



Left to Right: Miss Fridley, Elizabeth Lund; Princess Bre Bertozzi, Princess Olga Lezhepekova & Mayor Scott Lund in the ladder truck bucket

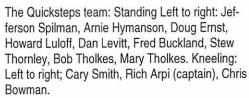




Fridley Royalty Reach for the sky.

The Game





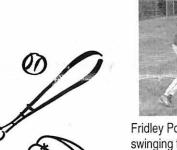




The Fridley Team: Front row left to right: Travis Volk (Fridley Police), unidentified, Eldon Nelson, Nick Knaeble (Fridley Police) Back Row:First 2 unidentified, Steve Monsrud (Fridley Police), Mike Spencer (Fridley Fire Dept.) Kurt Becker (Fridley Fire Dept.)



Howard Luloff (Quicksteps) batter; pitcher, Fridley fire fighter, Kurt Becker & catcher, Eldon Nelson



Fridley Police Officer Steve Monsrud swinging for the seats.



Fridley Fire Fighter Mike Spencer



Police Officer Steve Monsrud ringing the bell after scoring a run.



Quicksteps Umpire Robert Tholkes giving the fans an update on the score.



Watching a long fly ball to left field.

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 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

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Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Last month I discussed defining history relative to time. Should we assign historical status to something that occurred or was constructed 25 years ago? 50? 100? Much depends on when you were born and how far back you remember. An equally important question is "Does history matter?" The Minnesota Historical Society for the past two years has been printing buttons that read "History Matters!" But how does it matter and to whom?

From my perspective, it matters to all of us. The inscription in stone above the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City says, "The past is prologue to the future." In fact, without a past, there would be no future, or to state it another way, what future there would be would have no relevance and thus no meaning.

History matters to us because it is our reference point for problem solving. It gives meaning to what we think about and do today. It facilitates understanding. It offers an opportunity for reverence and gratefulness for those who shaped it. It helps us avoid mistakes others have made. It refines and redefines us over periods of time. It opens the door to new opportunity by providing a launching pad of experience.

We ignore history at our own peril. Collecting, preserving, disseminating and interpreting history is what the Fridley Historical Society does—and we hope with your help and support we do it well. Our greatest hope is that we can help Fridley continually improve in the future by honoring its past.

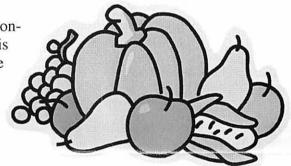
Volume 21, Issue 10



FRIDLEY HARVEST DINNER & ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting and Harvest Dinner will be held at the Fridley History Center, 611 Mississippi Street at 6 PM on Monday, October 20.

This is a potluck dinner, but contributing a dish or other food is optional. Potluck dinners have been a staple of the Fridley Historical Society for many years. The Annual Meeting potluck dinner has always been the most outstanding.



From Foodtimeline.org we learned the origins of potluck. The Oxford English Dictionary traces the term "potluck" in print to the 16th century: "Potluck. One's luck or chance as to what may be in the pot, i.e. cooked for a meal: used in reference to a person accepting another's hospitality at a meal without any special preparation having been made for him, i.e. to take pot luck."

The phrase "pot luck" was originally used when inviting someone to a very informal family dinner on the spur of the moment. The visitor was to expect nothing specially prepared, but only what the family would have eaten in any case that day. The guest's "luck" lay in what day he or she happened to arrive, and what meal had been prepared for the family. The phrase changed its meaning with the increasing popularity of meals or parties where the guests come with contributions of food: the "luck" now lies in the uncertainty about what everyone will bring.

The surprise-me aspect of potluck has increased with the invention of the potluck supper (late 19th century), to which each invitee is expected to bring a "dish to pass" or a "dish to share." So please join us in the wonderful tradition of potluck at our Harvest Dinner on October 20th. We provide the beverages.



Upcoming Events



Saturday, October 11 & 25 11 AM to 3 PM History Center Open House

Monday, October 20 6-8 PM Fridley History Center **Annual Meeting & Harvest Dinner Potluck** - bringing a dish is optional

Saturday, November 8 Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner

Fridley KC Hall North Air Events Center 6831 Highway 65 12 noon Tickets: see page 3

Saturday, December 6 12 - 3 PM**Annual Kindergarten Holiday Art Show** Fridley History Center

Monday, December 15 7 - 8:30 PM**Annual Christmas Concert**



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

V.P. & President Pro Tem Treasurer

Past President

Mel Manley Judy Anderson Robert Christenson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Vicki Rockwell

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

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Membership

Vicki Rockwell—763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Robert Christenson - 612-860-9685

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors Meeting

September 4, 2008 Summary of Minutes

The meeting was convened at 6:00 p.m. by President Pro Tem, Mel Manley. Other members present were Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Robert Christenson, Dorothy Gargaro, Jerry Manley, Grace Norton and Vicki Rockwell.

Action Items:

A. Hayes School has requested to hold their annual book fair at the History Museum. After parents and children have observed the books they will be given a tour of the rooms upstairs. Several board members will need to be present. A motion was made, seconded and approved that we allow them to use our facilities and waive the fee.

B. It was agreed that the annual meeting, Oct. 20, will be held at the History Center, rather than at the Community Center, to save rental costs. A Harvest Potluck Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m., the annual meeting will be at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Reports:

Hall of Fame: Mel Manley reported that the three nominees for the Hall of fame this year are Bob Cook, Ed Fitzpatrick and Bob Barnette. Motion made, seconded and approved to induct the three new nominees into the Hall of Fame at the Hall of Fame dinner on Nov. 8.

Membership: Vicki Rockwell stated that we presently have 229 members. She is planning to contact non-members who purchased books at Allen Taylor's book signings.

Maintenance: Jerry Manley said the fire extinguishers were serviced last month. He is working on picture frame holders to put on the walls in the upstairs rooms.

Archives: Pete Bonesteel reported that in Oct. 2009 we will set up a display at the Mississippi Branch Library featuring the Fridley Hall of Fame and promoting the 2009 Hall of Fame Dinner. The committee is presently working on Fire Dept. and church displays for the west display room..

Fundraising: Robert Christenson said that he is making contact with the older Fridley corporations to encourage corporate officers to represent them at the Sept. history conversation.

Nominating: A motion was made to approve Grace Norton as secretary for Sept. and Oct. and recommend her for election at the annual meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Memberships and Donations

New Members: Caroline R. & Dennis A. Johnson

Donations:

Robert Christenson — \$50 in memory of Gen Peterson.



2008 Fridley Hall of Fame Induction Dinner!

The Fridley Historical Society will hold the fifth annual Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner at noon on November 8, 2008. The dinner will be at North Air Banquets Center (also known as the Knights of Columbus Hall) 6831 Highway 65 in Fridley.

The Fridley Hall of Fame was established to recognize those who, through dedication, work and accomplishment have contributed most significantly to the growth and success of the city of Fridley. Nominations to the Hall of Fame were solicited from the community over the past six months, and a large number were received, making the selection process very challenging. The inductees being honored at this year's dinner are:

Bob Cook: Long time member of the Fridley Police force. Lions Club for 40+ years, VFW life time member, American Legion 40+ years, community fundraiser, member of first 49ers day committee and announcer of the parade for many years.

Ed Fitzpatrick: City council 18 years, Parks and Rec Commission Chair, Created "Kiddie Parks", Planning Commission Chair, Fridley rep to Metro League of Cities, School Board member, charter member of the Anoka County Mental Health Board.

Bob Barnette: Teacher, Counselor, Coach, Assistant Principal, PTA, early promoter of girls sports in Fridley, one of the founders of FRIDFANS (scholarships), City Council 20 years, American Legion, Values 1st.

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

Please show your support for Fridley and the Fridley Historical Society by attending the Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner. To attend, send your payment of \$25.00 per ticket to the Fridley History Center, 611 Mississippi Street, Fridley, MN 55432. Your tickets will be mailed to you. Tickets must be paid in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door.

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

Special Open House

Hayes Elementary School held their annual open house and book fair the evening of September 25. It originally was going to be held at the History Center, but we just did not have enough space to handle the thousand people expected to attend. Yet we did not miss this opportunity to show off our museum.

We made arrangements with Hayes Elementary Principal John Piotraschke Ed.S. to offer their open house attendees a free pass to tour our History Center before or after attending the book fair. We had a large turnout of first-time visitors to the museum. Board members Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Jerry Manley, Grace Norton and Robert Christenson served as docents.



Schultz family, first visitors: Left to right,; Katrina, Doyle and Michael Schultz and docent, Grace Norton



September History Conversation Fridley Industry

What a wonderful turnout we had for our 20th History Conversation that featured Fridley Industry! Four major industrial companies whose roots run deep in Fridley shared the stories of their companies.



Bob Olsen, Chairman, RAO Manufacturing

"We've been in Fridley since 1975. Our company is a metal stamping company. We specialize in deep draw shells, and tool and die work. My grandfather, Reuben Olsen, started the company in 1920 on 4th Street N. in Minneapolis. The company had continual growth and moved to new locations a number of times. In the 1970s we needed more room. At that time, Onan was 60% of our business. In addition, a number of our employees lived in Fridley and north of here. We got together with Dave Harris who was on the City Council and looked at a number of properties.

We purchased five plus acres on Mississippi Street next to the railroad tracks in 1970. At that time, it was an old farm (Tipperary Farm) that had a house, barn and machine shed. Between the time we bought the property and began building, the barn burned down. The farmhouse and machine shed fell into disrepair and we tore them down. We built our building in the summer of 1975 and moved in between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

In the 30+ years we have been in Fridley, we have grown from 30 employees to over 100. Sales then were just getting close to a million dollars and now we are at about \$30 million. We recently got a 5-year contract with Devilbiss, which is the largest air compressor manufacturer in the U.S. That doubled our sales overnight. RAO is still a family business—I am the third generation, and my two sons Chris and Dodd are president and vice president. We are going strong as ever, and hope to have a bright future in Fridley."



John Holman - All-Temp Distribution Company

"I had been in the public warehouse business for about 25 years when I got a call from Land O'Lakes in 1983. They asked if I would be interested in buying the Midland Cooperatives building they owned on Main Street and converting some of it into refrigerated storage space. They sold the building to me and leased back a major portion of it for other things Land O'Lakes was starting at the time.

For the first six months my oldest daughter Sue, my first employee, and I occupied a cubbyhole in the reception area as our office. Over the next five or six years, we con-

verted about 80,000 square feet into refrigerated storage.

In 1988, I was trying to decide what to do with the second floor and bingo – public records. That business went very well, and over the next few years we went from 25 employees to 75. My second employee was Gerry Mrosla who is married to my fourth daughter, Josie. The two of them are basically running the company now as my oldest daughter wanted to do other things.

Seven years ago I sold the company to Recall Corporation that has record centers all over the world so we went back to being a landlord. Now we operate with 25 employees versus 75. In 1998 we acquired a second



Page 5

building on Industrial Boulevard that we operate as a 185,000 square foot public warehouse. We have a half-million square feet in the Main Street building. That is as much as we can do there. We are now 100% full."

Bill Beery - Fridley State Bank's First & Only President

"Fridley State Bank is one of the real success stories of Fridley. I heard that a bank president was needed for a new bank in Fridley and applied for the job in 1962 to help get the necessary charter and the approval of the regulatory authorities. The only job I had up to that time was working for Bremer Bank organization.



The bank had six founder-directors who had experience we could use: Bernie Black (insurance), Herb Bacon (electrical contractor), Bill Beery (banking), Ray Carlson (Lampert Lumber), Don Harstad (builder) and Don Savelkoul (attorney). We formed a holding company called Babbscha using the first letters of our last names excluding the letter a. Only Herb and I are still living today. (At the end of Bill's presentation, Robert Christenson remarked that Bill celebrated his 93rd birthday the preceding week.)

We were required to have \$400,000 in capital to start the bank, which we raised from 112 stockholders. But we needed to raise additional funds to purchase land and construct the building. We checked all the corners at University and Mississippi Street and none of them had a site large enough for a bank plus expansion. We chose a piece of land at 6315 University Avenue. The bank opened December 17, 1962. In March of 1995, we had a merger with Norwest.

At our high point, we had 63 full and part-time employees. We expanded twice. Our first building was 50 x 100 feet with 2 floors, and then we doubled our size and added drive-up auto banking after seven years of using TV banking which was very innovative back then. We had over 10,000 bank accounts."

Dick Harris - Owner, Dick Harris Company

The business was started in the early 1920s by my grandfather who operated Harris & Son House Movers. He owned land just south of the Minneapolis Water Works on 37th and old Marshall Street. They moved houses back then using a 1918 Mack Truck. One of the houses they moved was the old Fridley mansion. They built much of their own equipment and learned welding and structural steel. That put them into the ironworking business.



After the war, my dad worked as a welder for Minneapolis Steel Bridge Co. whose parent company was Minneapolis Moline. The owner felt he could do as well selling tractors as building bridges. My father bought some equipment from them, got their list of customers, and started Structural Welding Company in 1949 on the same property my grandfather owned on 37th & Marshall. It later became Harris Erection Company.

I started working for them and went off to school and got some engineering background, then went into the steel erection business. After a few years North Suburban Sewer District needed our property. We moved to 77th and Main Street in Fridley in 1966. We built some buildings and became landlords. We closed down Harris Erection in 1975 and we became H & R Enterprises, a property management company, and I started the Dick Harris Company, a construction firm.

Our mother ran the company and my dad and I ran the crews. When she died in 1979, there was just my dad and I and we scaled things back a little. In 1982, my dad passed on and I operate the business today.

611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432
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www.fridleyhistory.org
Robert Christenson, Editor
Grace Norton, Assistant Editor

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson

One of Fridley's Most Valuable Assets



A few weeks ago, we had a large number of visitors to the Fridley History Center who had just attended the Hayes Elementary School annual book fair and open house (see story page 3). This got me to thinking how blessed we are to have the only local community history museum in Anoka County. But are we really using this valuable asset to it highest and best potential?

Currently, we use this museum for storing the precious archives of Fridley's history, creating displays of photos and artifacts for visitors, holding 12 special community events each year plus 24 open houses, 12 board meetings, our annual planning meeting, and occasionally allow it to be used by other local nonprofits for their events and meetings.

The History Center has been open to the public for 18 years. It has two floors of exhibits, an elevator, a meeting room that can accommodate about 60 people, a kitchen (no stove), three restrooms, display areas and private parking for events. It is in marvelous condition and has a large outdoor lawn area surrounding the building.

I invite your suggestions of how the History Center can better serve Fridley citizens, businesses, schools, government and organizations. I really feel that we can be much more creative in using this treasure. If you have any suggestions, please e-mail me at robert@fridleyhistory.org.

November 2008

Volume 21, Issue 11



5TH ANNUAL HALL OF FAME DINNER Noon, November 8

The Historical Society will induct Bob Barnette, Bob Cook and Ed Fitz-patrick into the Fridley Hall of Fame at its annual dinner at 12 noon on Saturday, November 8 at the Knights of Columbus Hall (North Air Banquets Center) at 6831 Highway 65 in Fridley.



Jim Shannon

Live entertainment will be provided by singer/pianist Jim Shannon. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by sending a check to the Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi St. N.E., Fridley, MN 55421. Tickets will be mailed to you. If you have questions or wish to reserve a table of 8, call Jerry Manley at 763-571-6963

Bob Barnette has been serving on the Fridley City Council for 20 years. At Independent School District 14, he was a teacher, counselor, coach, and assistant principal, an early promoter of girl's sports, and one of the founders of FRIDFANS (scholarships).

Bob Cook was a long-time member of the Fridley Police Department, as well as serving as a Fridley Lion for more than 40 years. He has been active for many years as a community fundraiser. He is a lifetime member of the VFW, and a 40+ years member of the American Legion.

Ed Fitzpatrick served on the Fridley City Council for 18 years, was Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, created "Kiddie Parks" in Fridley, Chair of the Planning Commission, School Board member, and charter member of the Anoka County Mental Health Board.



Left to Right; Angela Sangster, Gordon Sangster, Char Fitzpatrick, Agnes Shaw, Chuck Hayes, Jim Lawrence at 2007 Hall of Fame dinner.

You will have an opportunity to meet many old friends and acquaintances at this great event, so order your tickets now.





Events



Saturday, November 8
Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner
Fridley KC Hall
North Air Events Center
6831 Highway 65
12 noon
Ticket \$25 – Call Jerry Manley
763-571-6963

Saturday, November 22 11 AM to 3 PM History Center Open House

Saturday, December 6
12 – 3 PM
Annual Kindergarten Holiday
Art Show
Fridley History Center

Monday, December 15 7 – 8:30 PM Annual Christmas Concert Fridley History Center



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

V.P. & President Pro Tem Secretary Treasurer Mel Manley Grace Norton Judy Anderson Robert Christenson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Vicki Rockwell

Past President

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: 1st Thursday, 4:05 pm

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Robert Christenson — 952-920-0656

Hall of Fame

Maintenance

Jerry Manley — 763-571-6963

Meetings: 1st Monday every other month, 7 pm

Membership

Vicki Rockwell—763-571-3669

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton-763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors" Meeting October 2, 2008

President Pro Tem, Mel Manley, convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Other members present were Pete Bonesteel, Robert Christenson, Dorothy Gargaro, Jerry Manley and Grace Norton. Absent were Judy Anderson, Mary Sue Meyers and Vicki Rockwell.

Action Items:

The Metro North Chamber of Commerce made an offer to exchange memberships with us. Their nonprofit dues are usually \$150. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept their offer.

Committee Reports:

Hall of Fame: Mel Manley said 68 tickets have been sold for the Hall of Fame dinner.

Programs and Events: The Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair will be held Dec. 6. Marilyn Manley is contacting kindergarten teachers and making preparations.

City and Family History: Dorothy Gargaro said the committee is working on the cover for the History of Fridley book.

Archives Committee: Robert Christenson said he had received a letter and pictures from Dorothy Austad in Washington State with information concerning a Fridley family that lived in Fridley Park in the late 1800's. He turned the information over to the Archives Committee.

Maintenance: Jerry Manley said Mickman Brothers' Nursery had blown out the irrigation system and closed it down for the winter. There is a broken window in the west classroom. He has been trying to contact a company to repair it.

Fundraising: Robert Christenson said he is contacting companies represented at the Sept. History Conversation to help sponsor the cost of the Fridley History book and the Hall of Fame dinner.

Newsletter and Public Relations: Christenson said he would send out an email to remind members of the potluck and annual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.



Fridley Historical Society 2008 Annual Meeting October 20, 2008

President Pro-Tem Mel Manley convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and introduced Past President Robert Christenson. Christenson introduced the Board of Directors. Present were Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Jerry Manley, Mary Sue Meyers, Grace Norton and Vicki Rockwell. Dorothy Gargaro was absent.

Jerry Manley made a motion that we approve the minutes of the 2007 meeting. It was seconded by Jim Lawrence and passed by voice vote.



Treasurer's report: Judy Anderson reported that so far in 2008 member dues brought in \$1,956.50; donations were \$3,752.50, Lasagna Dinner netted \$3,607.00 with total income through September of \$12,173, After expenses, we have a deficit of \$84. We have postponed the repairs of one air conditioner until next spring as the cost is expected to be \$900.

Judy Anderson, Treasurer

Committee Reports:

Hall of Fame Committee: Mel Manley reported that the fifth annual Hall of Fame dinner will be held on Saturday, Nov. 8 at the North Air Banquet Center. The inductees to the Hall of Fame are Bob Cook, Ed Fitzpatrick and Bob Barnette. The members were urged to attend and show their support.

Mel Manley, President Pro Tem





Pete Bonesteel, Archives Chair

Archives Committee: Pete Bonesteel reported a display of Fridley schools has been completed, and they hope to complete a display of churches next year. A display of the fire and rescue squad is being developed. Mark Bonesteel has done a considerable amount of work on these displays. They are working on a display of pens from Fridley companies that has been donated by Christenson. Next February the Historical Society will have a display about Abraham Lincoln at the Mississippi Library branch and in October one promoting the Hall of Fame Dinner.

City History Committee: Because Dorothy Gargaro was absent Christenson reported that the book about the history of Fridley is almost ready to publish; funding is needed.

Maintenance: Jerry Manley introduced the members of the Maintenance committee and said they are looking for more volunteers. Help is needed keeping up the yard in the summer and shoveling snow in the winter.

Jerry Manley, Maintenance Chair

Programs and Events: Meyers had to leave early so Mel Manley reported that there were seven history conversations this year. We had a float in the 49ers parade with the Fridley City Band and good attendance for August Fest. The Annual Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair will be Dec. 6 and an Annual Christmas Concert Dec. 15. Volunteers were invited to help with decorating the building for Christmas on Nov. 22.

(Continued on next page.)



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Newsletter and Public Relations: Norton reported that 12 issues of the newsletter were sent to about 201 recipients and asked for volunteers to contribute stories and help with mailings. Regarding public relations, Christenson said that we have had good coverage from the Fridley-Columbia Heights Sun Focus.

Grace Norton, Secretary & Newsletter & Public Relations Chair



Membership: Rockwell reported that we have 208 Individual and Family members, plus 14 businesses and 6 nonprofits. She suggested that members give friends and family a Historical Society membership as a gift this holiday season.

Vicki Rockwell, Membership Chair

Fundraising: Christenson reported that we grossed \$5,000 for the lasagna dinner, the highest amount yet. Next year we will have a variation on a silent auction rather than a raffle because postal regulations do not allow mailing raffle tickets. We are working on raising funds for the new book of Fridley history. DVD's are being made of the history conversations and will be sold for \$15.

State of the Fridley Historical Society:

Christenson reported on the successes of the Society over the past year. The Lasagna Dinner sold out and raised record funds. We had a successful Hall of Fame dinner with 3 individuals inducted. Memberships have stayed strong, the new history book of Fridley is almost completed, 7 History Conversations were delivered with ever-increasing attendance. We had excellent turnouts of over 150 people at both AugustFest and the Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair. There were 12 issues of the Fridley Record published, and we had great exposure on cable TV with our History Conversations on Channel 15. We sponsored the Fridley Band in the 49ers Day Parade and had many people tour our museum. We also made improvements to our website www.fridleyhistory.org.

Christenson next reported on the challenges we face. The first major challenge is recruiting board members. Other major challenges include raising the funds for the new history book, connecting more closely with Fridley schools, and recruiting members to serve on committees and volunteer for special projects. Finally, he confirmed the announcement he made at the last Annual Meeting that he would be leaving the board at the end of 2008 after serving for 8 years, 6 as president/past president. Overall, the Fridley Historical Society is in excellent condition and has a bright future ahead of it.

Actions taken

Jerry Manley moved, and Warren Woods seconded a motion to delete term limits of board members established in Article 5, #1 of the Bylaws. It passed by voice vote.

Robert Christenson placed in nomination Pete Bonesteel to serve another term on the Board of Directors for three years from 2009 to 2011. Seconded by Bill Linton. Passed by voice vote.

Robert Christenson placed in nomination Grace Norton to serve on the Board of Directors for three years from 2009 to 2011. Seconded by Jim Lawrence. Passed by voice vote.

Robert Christenson placed in nomination Grace Norton to serve as Secretary on the Board of Directors for two years from 2009 to 2010. Seconded by Jerry Manley. Passed by voice vote.

Robert Christenson thanked members for their contributions and the meeting was adjourned at 8pm. Grace Norton

Secretary



Page 5

Annual Meeting Photos



Left to right: Grace Norton, Virginia Anderson, Carol Christenson, Gordie Christenson, Warren Woods



Left to Right: Mary Sue Meyers, Don Meyers, Vicki Rockwell, Bernadine Matushak , Judy Anderson



Left to Right: Jo Ann Johnson, Beth Werking, Dorothy Linse, John Meyer, Lillian Meyer, Suzanne Miskowic



Left to right: Marty Lueders, Gloria Myhra, Tom Myhra, Hazel Linton, Bill Linton, Chuck Hayes, Chester Hayes



Left to right: Pete Bonesteel, Mary Bonesteel, Jerry Manley, Mel Manley

611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 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

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Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson



Major Challenges for 2009

At the Annual Meeting, I shared 4 major challenges the Fridley Historical Society will face in 2009. We are not alone in this economic crisis. The New York Times had an article on the day of our Annual Meeting with the heading, "Museums Fear Lean Days Ahead." The Star-Tribune the following day had an article on struggling nonprofits.

Our challenges are these: 1) Recruiting more board members—we will have openings for 4 board members in January; 2) Electing a new president and vice president; 3) Developing more joint projects with local schools; and 4) Attracting more members to serve on committees and special projects.

What is in our favor in meeting these challenges is that we still have a strong membership, money in the bank (although our reserves may be in jeopardy short-term in our investment fund), and expect to be able to deliver 13 programs again next year.

We know we can count on our membership to keep us vibrant and moving forward, for they are by far our most important asset, which you have proved repeatedly over the past 22 years. We are deeply grateful for your generous support in the past, present and in the years to come.



December 2008

Volume 21, Issue 12



"Tis the Season" for Holiday Art & Music at the Fridley History Center

Cold weather has arrived, and members of the Fridley Historical Society Board have been busy decorating the History Center with the trimmings of the holiday season including two Christmas trees adorned with old-fashioned decorations.

Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair

Saturday, December 6 - 12 Noon to 3 PM

You are welcome to join us for our annual display of Fridley Kindergarten art that will supplement the holiday decorations in the History Center. Hayes School Kindergarten has 110 Kindergartners creating their own interpretations of the holiday themes given to them by their teachers. The students' teachers are Molly Foster, Deborah Janssen, Anna Rogosheske, Amy Taylor and Ashley Tomoson.

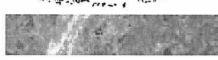
Stevenson Elementary has 112 Kindergarten students who will demonstrate their creative talents in cut paper, color and paste pictures of holiday symbols. They are lovingly guided in these efforts by their teachers Michelle Barrett, Tricia Carlson, Debbie Rein, Katherine Talafous, and Sue Skarolid. As she has for many years, Marilyn Manley, former Treasurer of the Historical Society, is organizing this event. We will have free cider and Christmas cookies for all who come to visit.

"The Kids From Fridley" Christmas Concert

Monday, December 15, 7 - 8:00 PM

You will not want to miss our Annual Christmas Concert featuring "The Kids From Fridley" vocal ensemble. These are a truly talented group of singers. We typically have about 25 talented Fridley Middle School boys and girls entertaining us with creative arrangements of holiday music. Once again their Music Director, Blair Berger, will lead them. Mary Sue Meyers will be offering her famous Wassail to drink and the board members are donating homemade Christmas cookies to munch on. Come early to ensure a place to sit.





Upcoming

Events



Saturday, December 13 & 27 11 AM to 3 PM History Center Open House Museum is decorated for the holidays

Saturday, December 6 12—3PM Annual Kindergarten Holiday Art Show

Fridley History Center Hot Cider and Christmas Cookies Free Event

Monday, December 15
7 – 8:30 PM
"The Kids From Fridley"
Annual Christmas Concert
Fridley History Center
Christmas Cookies & Wassail



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

V.P. & President Pro Tem Secretary Treasurer Mel Manley Grace Norton Judy Anderson Robert Christenson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Dorothy Gargaro Jerry Manley Mary Sue Meyers Vicki Rockwell

Past President

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: 1st Thursday, 4:05 pm

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Robert Christenson — 952-920-0656

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

Grace Norton-763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board of Directors" Meeting November 6, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Past President Robert Christenson. Other members present were Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Jerry Manley, Mary Sue Meyers, Grace Norton and Vicki Rockwell. Mel Manley was absent.

Action and Discussion Items:

Christenson reported that the Comics Camp would like to hold an event for Fridley students at the History Center. The Society would provide the venue and open the archives to them. The students will write a story and do drawings to create a comic strip telling the story of Fridley's development from 1953-1964. This was previously approved by the board.

Committees:

Programs and Events: If we continue to have History Conversations next year, it was recommended that the January 19, 2009 History conversation be "The 1940's in Fridley."

City and Family History: Gargaro reported that the committee has discussed promoting the book on the History of Fridley.

Archives: Bonesteel reported that we will not be able to do the Lincoln display at the Mississippi Library branch next February; the date is taken by another group. We will do a display on Washington and Lincoln for February 2010. October 2009 we will do a display for the Hall of Fame dinner.

Maintenance: Manley reported that the school district's insurance covered the replacement of the broken window in the west classroom.

Membership: Rockwell reported renewal forms will be sent out this month.

Fundraising: Christenson reported that the All Temp Company bought a table for the Hall of Fame dinner.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, December 3, 6:00 p.m. rather than Thursday, December 4 because of a conflict of dates.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.





Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner

The Fifth Annual Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner was held on Saturday November 8 at North Air Banquet Hall (formerly known as the Knights of Columbus). A large crowd of approximately 170 people were on hand to honor this year's three inductees into the Fridley Hall of Fame.

The Fridley Historical Society established the Fridley Hall of Fame to recognize and honor those individuals who, through dedication, work and accomplishment, have contributed most significantly to the growth and success of the City of Fridley.

The inductees have spent much of their lives making Fridley a better place. These people who have meant so much to Fridley too often receive little recognition for their service to the community. We hope to begin rectifying that situation by giving them some of the recognition they deserve.

The Fridley Hall of Fame Class of 2008 in alphabetical order is:

Bob Barnette: Teacher, Counselor, Coach, Assistant Principal, PTA, early promoter of girls sports in Fridley, one of the founders of FRIDFANS (scholarships), City Council 20 years, American Legion and Values 1st.

Bob Cook: Long time member of the Fridley Police force. Lions Club for 40+ years, VFW 1 ifetime member, American Legion 40+ years, member of first 49ers day committee and announcer of the parade for many years and community fundraiser.

Ed Fitzpatrick: Inducted posthumously, was on the City council 18 years, Parks and Recreation Commsion Chair, Created "Kiddie Parks", Planning Commission Chair, Fridley rep to Metro League of Cities, School Board member and charter member of the Anoka County Mental Health Board.

The emcee for the afternoon, Mayor Scott Lund, introduced each inductee. The inductees were presented with an engraved acrylic award to keep. Their Hall of Fame plaques were shown, which are now on display in the Fridley Hall of Fame at the Fridley History Center.

Other participants in the Hall of Fame dinner were the Fridley Historical Society's Past President, Robert Christenson who provided the opening and closing remarks and Mel Manley, Chair of the Fridley Hall of Fame Committee spoke about the Hall of Fame. The musical entertainment for the afternoon was provided by Jim Shannon and his piano.

Financial contributors to the event were All Temp Distribution and the Fridley Lions Club. The Fridley Historical Society would like to thank them for their support.

Thanks must also go to the entire Fridley Hall of Fame Committee. Without their hard work over the last year, the Fridley Hall of Fame and the Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner would not have been possible. The members of the committee in alphabetical order are, Pete Bonesteel, Robert Christenson, Dorothy Gargaro, Jerry Manley, Mel Manley, Sue Meyers.

Planning is now underway for next year's Fridley Hall of Fame Dinner, which will be held on Saturday November 14, 2008.



Hall of Fame Dinner Photos



Left to Right: 2008 Hall of Fame inductees, Bob Barnette, Char Fitzpatrick, with husband Bob Fitzgerald's award, and Bob Cook



Left to Right: Mayor Scott Lund, John Fitzpatrick who accepted for his father Bob Fitzpatrick, President Pro Tem Mell Manley and Past President Robert Christenson

Inductee, Bob Cook with Scott Lund & Mel Manley



Inductee, Bob Barnette



Fridley Mayor, Scott Lund was emcee for the fifth year.



Past President Robert Christenson brought opening and closing remarks.

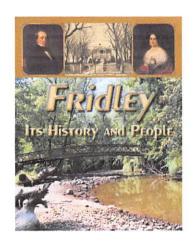


Jim Shannon brought the entertainment with his keyboard



Room full of guests, Mel Manley is at the podium

The long awaited Fridley History book is on its way!!!



each book being mailed.

The book, Fridley: Its History and People includes the history of the City of Fridley, the Historical Society, schools and accounts of 118 Fridley families, past and present. Also included are overviews of the city government, and its police, fire, park, and public service departments, as well as features on Fridley's library, churches, service organizations, cultural activities, Unity Hospital, and the major disasters that have struck the community.

Contained in a colorfully printed soft cover, the stories and photographs contained on its 260 pages provide a glimpse at the lives, times, successes, and failures of many of the people who have shaped our community.

The book is an appropriate gift for anyone with a tie to Fridley, the grown child who has left home, the neighbor who has moved away, or as a treat for yourself.

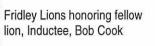
This will be your **BEST** opportunity to obtain this book – a book which will be ever more prized for its historical information and data with each succeeding year. Don't let the opportunity to purchase a book from our very limited print run pass you by. Fill out the form at the bottom of this page and return it with your payment to reserve your book today.

BOOK ORDER FORM	(Please Print Clearly)
First Name / Last Nam Street Address:	ne:
City / State / Zip: Telephone: E-mail:	Cell Phone:
Check One: Please notify me who can pick up my book the Historical Societ	\$4.50 / book for Shipping and Handling
Please mail my book have included an additional \$4.50 to co	Total Submitted over Checks should be made payable to: Fridley Historical Society

Please write Family History Book on the Memo line of the check



Page 5

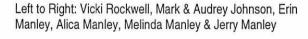




Left to Right: Elsie Hanscom, Ron Allard, Robb Cook, Bob Cook (Inductee) & Jim Golden



Left to Right: Marti & Segwald Reckdahl, Peter Treunfels, Helen Sampson, Suzanne Miskowic, John & Lillian Meyers, Ed Meyers & Barbara Johnson





Left to Right: Brooke, Mike & Skylar-Swenson, Sheila & Tom Barnette, (Inductee) Bob Barnette, Jane Barnette & Josie Swenson

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Left to Right: Dolores & Virgil Farasyn, Jerry Keller, Tom & Shirley Reynolds, Sandra & Walt Wenholz

Left to Right: Christine Hitomi, Elizabeth Hughes Hitomi, Barbara Hughes, Esther Campbell, Agnes Shaw, Chuck Hayes



Left to Right: Marty Leuders, Bill and Hazel Linton, Adele and Carl Swanson, Carole Miller, Dorothy Gargaro



Left to Right: Roger & Gwen Nawrocki, Grace Norton, Karen & Warren Woods, Angela & Gordon Sangster





Left to Right: Cheryl & Dennis Schneider, Lois & Leo Fitzpatrick, Richard Jefferson, Alice Johnson, Colleen Matzke, Char Fitzpatrick

Left to Right: Elaine Butorac, Joan Giorgio, Cindy Robb, Connie Samuelson, Gretchen & Jim Hanson



Left to Right: Carson Barnette, Amy Vreeland & Shannon, Bob, Mary Callie, Sidney and Macky Barnette



611 Mississippi Street Fridley, MN 55432 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

Past President's Corner

by Robert Christenson

The Joy of Serving

It is a little over a week until Thanksgiving as I am writing this, and being I am leaving the Board at the end of the year, I have been reflecting on how grateful I am that I had the privilege to serve on the Board of Directors for 7 years, and the honor of being president for 6 of those years.

As I reflect on my life, nothing has given me greater pleasure than the volunteer work in which I have been involved. I was given the opportunity to serve on numerous nonprofit boards, as well as many committees, task forces, commissions etc. There are so many people whom I would never have met and become friends with, precious people I have called on when I needed help or guidance, had I not been active in nonprofit organizations like our Historical Society.

Volunteer work has delivered to me a beautiful gift that is embedded in my heart—knowing that this was really worth more than every minute I might have invested elsewhere, realizing it gave me a satisfaction that can never be lost or taken away, and gaining a deep appreciation for all of those who have served with me as well as those we together served with joy. Life does not get any better than this.

I hope this holiday season you are equally enriched by all that you have done for those you love, and for all the others who have been calling for your love.