Volume 26, Issue 1



The Record

"Minnesota on the Map" Exhibit Opens January 19





Every Saturday
January 19—March 9
11 a.m.—3 p.m.

Minnesota on the Map Exhibit
Free admission

Tuesday, February 5, 6 p.m. Valentine Potluck Dinner and Bingo



Visitors to the Fridley History Center will have an opportunity to view historic maps shared by the Minnesota Historical Society and the Fridley Historical Society.

What: A Minnesota Historical Society traveling exhibit featuring a dozen maps, a video station, and several laminated maps. In addition a selection of maps and historic aerial photographs of Fridley from the collections of the Fridley Historical Society will be on display

When: Every Saturday, January 19—March 9, 2013, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: The Fridley History Center, 611 Mississippi Street, lower level.

For: Anyone interested in the history and geography of Minnesota and Fridley. Children are welcome, as there will be map and craft activities for them. Coffee and juice will be served.

Admission is free!



Valentine Potluck Dinner and Bingo Tuesday, February 5, 6 p.m.



Come to the Fridley History Center and enjoy good company and delicious food prepared by the many excellent cooks in our Historical Society. Plates, cups, utensils

and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share if you can. If you are not able to bring anything you will still be welcome.; there is always plenty of food.

After dinner we will play bingo for prizes. If you have an unused gift you would like to regift or some handwork you've done, please contribute it for a prize. What you've been hiding away in a closet may be a prize that will delight someone else.





Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

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

Officers

Vice President

Dorothy Gargaro Grace Norton Judy Anderson

Secretary Treasurer

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Mary Ann Hoffman Mike Klosterman Mary Sue Meyers Allen Taylor

Committees & Chairpersons

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

Archives

Pete Bonesteel — 763-572-1009

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Allen Taylor - 763-422-3878

Hall of Fame

Allen Taylor - 763-422-3878

Maintenance

Mike Klosterman-612-325-1242

Membership

Mary Ann Hoffman—763-780-5911

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton-763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board Meeting of the Fridley Historical Society Thursday, January 3, 2013

Vice President Gargaro called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was said.

Future exhibit report

Hoffman reported that the Director of the Lake Benton Historical Society was delivering the Minnesota Historical Society traveling exhibit, "Minnesota on the Map" to our History Center on January 9 at 3:00 p.m.

Finding people to unload it and set up it up was discussed. Hoffman felt it was important to have two docents at the museum on Saturdays for the display. The exhibit will be open every Saturday from January 19—March 9. Who would take what days was discussed.

It was decided crackers, cheese, coffee, juice and water will be served on January 19. Meyers said she would bring the crackers and cheese. The rest of the Saturdays only coffee, juice and water will be served.

Committee Reports

Programs and Events: It was decided to have a Valentine potluck and bingo night Tuesday, February 5, 6:00 p.m. People will be asked to bring bingo prizes if they can.

Dates were discussed for AugustFest and the Hall of Fame dinner, but no decisions were made.

Gargaro reported that we will have a wedding gown display at the History Center in May and June.

Meyers made a motion that we adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Bonesteel and passed by the board at 7:40 p.m.

Grace Norton Secretary

We Offer Our Condolences



We offer our condolences to Lillian Meyer and her family. Jack (John) Meyer, Lillian's husband of 68 years, passed away on January 2.

lack was very active as a volunteer in helping to shape Fridley into the vibrant city it is today. He served on the District 14 school board for nine years and the Fridley Housing and Redevelopment Authority through three decades. Jack and Lillian have been very loyal members of the Fridley Historical Society since it came into existence, and have always been available to help the Society in any way they could. Jack will be dearly missed.

A Memorial Service was held on Thursday, January 10, at 10 AM at St. Philip's Lutheran

Church in Fridley.

"Christmas in the 1970s" a Huge Success

The History Center was a busy place in November and December when the Fridley Historical Society presented the exhibit, "Christmas in the 1970s". Featuring dozens of artifacts, including a stereo console, shag rug, Farrah Fawcett poster, Sears', Montgomery Wards', and LaBelle's catalogs, Star Wars toys, a fold-up fireplace, a McDonald's play set, macramé, latch hook hangings, and several items of clothing, the lower level of the history center was transformed into a '70s era setting.

Because this was the first new exhibit we had offered in a long time, we were unsure of the response we would receive from the public. Evidence of the exhibit's success began during our Grand Opening on November 10, when we welcomed 85 visitors. By the time the exhibit closed on December 18, our attendance had reached 773, which is without question the best turnout for any event ever held by the Fridley Historical Society. Further evidence of our success was the number of repeat visitors — some just couldn't get enough of it! Many visitors stayed long enough to participate in the many offerings of the exhibit: the vignettes, trivia, children's activities, and interactive activities. It wasn't unusual for people to linger for an hour or more while enjoying refreshments and activities; nor was it unusual to see people returning, this time with friends and/or relatives with whom they wanted to share the exhibit.

Visitors seemed to enjoy reliving a bygone era and sharing their memories with others. Many visitors who had grown up in the '70s pointed things out to their kids - we heard a lot of "I had one of those!" or "This reminds me of the house I lived in." or "I still have a lot of this stuff in my house!"

We were heartened by the many glowing comments from visitors. Typical ones included "job well done", "thanks for doing this," "a fantastic exhibit," "great display, brought back so many wonderful memories," "nice to bring my kids here," "very well done display - excellent," "thank you for bringing back a favorite decade for me," and "I loved this!!!" Though the event was free, approximately \$600 was donated by visitors, which we hope to use to create future exhibits.

One challenge we faced was a shortage of help. The hundreds of hours that went into planning the exhibit, locating artifacts, setting up the vignettes, and then hosting the event was done by only a handful of volunteers. Although a fun and worthwhile experience, it wore us out! We would like to continue to offer exhibits but we need additional people, both men and women, to offer creative ideas and help us plan and host them. Someone with a pickup to help occasionally would be very welcome, too. If you would like to find out more about our exhibit committee, please leave a message at the history center, 563-571-0120. (Pictures on next page.)

The Record Volume 26, Issue 1

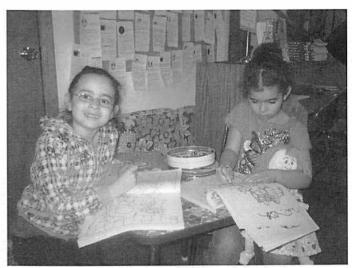


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These photos provide a glimpse of the exhibit and the fun times enjoyed by our visitors at our "Christmas in the 1970s" exhibit.



A local family enjoyed the exhibit



Girls enjoyed coloring in 1970s coloring books



Volunteer Fyllis Flanery helps visitor make 70s era reindeer ornament



Mom and daughter take part in a craft

Volunteer Spotlight

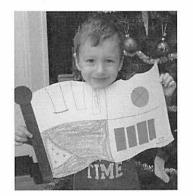
Everything that is accomplished by the Fridley Historical Society is done by volunteer labor. We would like to publicly thank two of our most dedicated volunteers, though they only started working with us in October. Sammi and Angie attend Fridley Middle School and each volunteered about 50 hours with our "Christmas in the 1970s" exhibit. They helped set it up, worked with the children who took part in the craft activities, and helped with the take-down of the exhibit. Continuing to help out when it's time to clean up shows true dedication and we are grateful for their sincere and willing help.

Sammi Kientop and Angie Norman

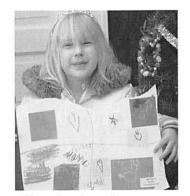


The 2012 Kindergarten Holiday Art Fair

Saturday, December 8, the art work of the kindergarten children from Hayes and Stevenson schools was displayed at the History Center. The children came with their parents to claim their pictures and had their photos taken in front of the Christmas tree. Afterwards they went downstairs and enjoyed the "Christmas in the 1970s" exhibit. Before Christmas each child was given a copy of their picture.



Kenneth Pfaff, Hayes



Maya Armstrong, Hayes



Claire Fortney, Stevenson



Parker Vardas, Hayes



Emma Butler, Hayes



Kristofer Kantor, Stvenson



Logan Zubich, Hayes



Franklin Doncavage, Hayes



Stella Brown, Stevenson



Jacob Felland, Hayes



Charilie Schroeder, Hayes



Jenna Pearce, Stevenson



Sudi Jama, Hayes







Michael Thompson –Goodridge Hayles



Owen Goon, Stevenson



Cecillia Fellner, Hayes



Tony Higgins, Stevenson



Chelsey Olson, Hayes



Melissa Juarez-Best Stevenson



Leiila Cichoniski, Stevenson



Mya Karsten, Hayes



Imani Blenks, Stevenson



Aysha Johnson, Hayes



Gemma Peel, Stevenson



Lucy Ecker, Hayes



Gracieann Khang, Stevenson



Norah Pehl, Stevenson



Ethan Haldorson, Stevenson



Ranajay Key, Stevenson



Omar Imihy, Stevenson

Liam Callahan, Hayes

Ethan Berger, Stevenson Nyomee Hallich, Hayes

FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

55432%5514 CO20

There's Still Time to Renew Your Membership or Become a new Member

Please fill in the 2013 renewal form below and mail it to the address provided. We are an all-volunteer organization that relies on membership dues for our day-to-day operations, as well as to fulfill our mission of collecting, preserving and disseminating the history of the City of Fridley. We appreciate your continued support and generosity.



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The Record

23rd Annual Lasagna Dinner, Sweepstakes and Live Auction Coming Soon



Reserve the date! Our main fundraiser of the year, the Lasagna Dinner, Sweepstakes and Live Auction is coming Saturday, April 27, 5:00 p.m., doors will open and seating will begin at 4:15 p.m. We are grateful to the American Legion Hall Post 303 who will again host the event. The Hall is located at 7365 Old Central Ave. There is parking in the rear of the building off of Onondaga Street. Everyone is required to register as they come

Saturday, March 9 11 a.m.—3 p.m. Minnesota on the Map Exhibit Last day Free admission

Saturday, March 23 11 a.m.—3 p.m. History Center Open House

Free admission

Saturday, April 6 9 a.m.—12 noon Cleaning Day at the **History Center** All help welcome!

Saturday, April 13 11 a.m.—3 pm.

History Center Open House Free Admission

> Saturday, April 27 5 p.m. Lasagna Dinner

Sweepstakes And Live Auction

At Fridley American Legion Post

Marino's will cater a dinner of their delicious lassons salad, garlic bread, coffee and punch. There will be cake for dessert. A cash bar will be available. Come for an evening of good company, fun and tasty food.!

Many valuable and unique items can be won in the sweepstakes or purchased in the auction. You do not need to be present to win a sweepstakes prize, but you won't want to miss the fun.

If you would like to make a donation of a sweepstakes prize or auction item, please call the History Center, 763-571-0120, and leave a message. Someone will get back to you. Your donation would be welcome. The prizes should be \$10 or more in value and in excellent condition.

Watch for the tickets and reservation forms to show up in your mailbox soon. They will be mailed about March 20. Dinner tickets are \$12 each and sweepstakes tickets are \$1 each. Be sure to send a check in right away after you get your mailing, before the dinner is sold out. Seating is limited. If you don't get your mailing, or you need more tickets, call the History Center, 763-571-0120. Someone will return your call. Also call if you would like to have sweepstakes tickets to sell.

A cleaning day is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 9:00 a.m. to noon. All helping hands are welcome!



Fridley Historical Society

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Officers

Vice President

Secretary Treasurer Dorothy Gargaro Grace Norton Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Mary Ann Hoffman Mike Klosterman Mary Sue Meyers Allen Taylor

Committees & Chairpersons

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Archives

Pete Bonesteel — 763-572

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Allen Taylor - 763-422-3878

Hall of Fame

Allen Taylor – 763-422-3878

Maintenance

Mike Klosterman—612-325-1242

Membership

Mary Ann Hoffman—763-780-5911

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton-763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Board Meeting of the Fridley Historical Society Thursday, February 7, 2013

Vice President Gargaro called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was said.

Discussion Item

Attendance at the Minnesota on the Map exhibit was discussed and the docent list was checked. The exhibit ends March 9. Hoffman and Gargaro will take it down and it will be picked up by someone from the Austin, Minnesota Historical Society.

Committee Reports

Hall of Fame: Meyers reported for Taylor that the date has been set for Saturday, November 2, 2013, 1:00 p.m. Forms to nominate someone to the 2013 Hall of Fame are available at the History Center.

Programs and Events: Meyers reported that the Lasagna Dinner will be Saturday, April 27 at the American Legion Hall. The doors will open at 4:15 p.m. and dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. Marino's' will cater. We should begin contacting merchants for prizes right away.

City and Family: Gargaro reported we will have an exhibit of St. Williams Catholic Church history recognizing their 50th anniversary, and a wedding gown exhibit May 11 through June.

Membership: Hoffman reported the figures for membership as of February 7, 2013:

 Individual dues
 \$1,067.50

 Business dues
 50.00

 Nonprofit dues
 25.00

 Total dues
 \$1,142.50

Agenda items for March 7, 2013 meeting: Cleaning day, April 6, 9:00 a.m. The possibility of Christmas in the 1950's exhibit beginning in November.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Grace Norton Secretary



Thank you for your membership!

As of February 23, the following people had renewed their membership for 2013. Thank you! Many included a donation with their dues, for which we also thank you. An * following a name denotes a donation up to \$50 and ** denotes a donation of \$50 or more.

Judy Anderson Ray and Virginia Anderson*

Gerrie Berg *

Don and Susan Blakeslee

Helga Bode Johnson**

Mark, Laura, and Nick Bonesteel **

Pete and Mary Bonesteel *
Barney and Ardella Buss *

Elaine Butorac *

Lee and Dick Carlson

David Carstensen

David and Yvette Christensen

Robert Christenson **

Robert and Betty Comer *

Bob Cook

Suzanne Edinger *

Gloria Egan*

James Ehlert

Lyle and Elsie Elverud *

Bill Erickson *

Drew and Peggy Flathmann *

Earl and Betty Fredrickson **

Cathy Fritz*

John and Alice Ganter *

Jim and Jan Golden*

Mary Ann Haines*

Ed and Arlene Hamernik *

Earl Hatten

Carrol and Mavis Hauge *

Chester Hayes

Chuck Hayes *

Mary Ann Hoffman*

Rosemarie Hofstad*

Eric and Pat Jaakkola *

Margaret Jewison

Dana and Sheila Johnson*

Don and JoAnn Johnson*

Jill Johnson

Kathleen Johnson*

Sonja Granlund Johnson **

Corine Kirkham *

Jim Kordiak *

Gary and Bey Larson *

Dorothy Linse*

Martin Lueders*

Scott and Cindy Lund *

Leon Madsen**

Gerald and Margaret Maeckelbergh *

Ron Malcom*

Jerry and Marilyn Manley*

Mel and Alicia Manlely*

Bernadine Matushak*

Mary Sue and Don Meyers*

Carole Miller*

Tom and Gloria Myhra*

Roger and Gwen Nawrocki**

Gene and Wally Ness**

Maynard Nielsen

Grace Norton**

Donna Olson*

Warren and Lilly Olson**

Andrea Oman and Pat Billig*

James H. Peterson

Wendy and Bill Plum

Sig and Marti Reckdahl*

Deborah Roberge**

Angela and Gordon Sangster**

Roy Scherer*

Art and Norma Swanson**

Lee and Gaylene Switzer

Al and Kathy Taylor*

Cindy Torfin

Mary Van Dan*

Pat Vant

Gloria Vye*

Walt and Sandra Wenholz

Larry and Pat Whittlef

Lenny and Ann Witucki*

Agnes Wolf

Warren Woods

Minco Products*

Miss Fridley Scholarship Ambassadors



A Dive into the Archive: The Tiger's Tale

By Mary Ann Hoffman

The Fridley Historical Society archive has on file 31 editions of Fridley High School's student newspaper, *The Tiger's Tale*, dating from August 1968 to April 22, 1976.



Let's take a look at the January 21, 1969 edition. The social change that permeated American society in the late 60s is reflected in a front-page article concerning a revised dress code. While the Student Council had recommended "a complete abolition of the dress code" (fat chance), the administration responded with, "There are too many pitfalls." Two changes that were approved allowed girls to wear slacks "if they were in good taste"—always a subjective standard—and allowed guys to wear boots. Principal Richard Stanton said the bottom line was "neatness and cleanliness." A photo shows students Laura Christenson, Doris Pregler, and Kathy Nebel posing in slacks that apparently met the "good taste" standard.

In other front-page news, Fridley students had on January 17 competed in the one-act play contest at

Brooklyn Center High School, performing "No Why." Note was made that, although the cast didn't place in the competition, cast and crew members went to Farrell's ice cream parlor (5524 Osseo Road in Brooklyn Center) following the contest. Another article touts Farrell's \$8.50 concoction of ice cream, sherbets, toppings, bananas, whipped cream, cherries, and almonds, called the "Zoo." Do any of you remember Farrell's? And how many high school students had a spare \$8.50 in 1969, given that the federal minimum wage was \$1.60?

A news brief inside announces Career's Day, thanks to the efforts of senior Sue Elliott. Guests such as WDGY radio announcer Jim Reed, Fridley detective Ron Allard, a social worker, auto mechanic, interior decorator, and a representative from North Central Airlines were invited to share information about their occupations. Another news brief is a plea from junior Becky Archibald that her 4' x 6' painted paper tiger displayed at Fridley's Invitational be returned to her.

The final page is devoted to Fridley athletic activities. The basketball team had won an exciting game against Columbia Heights in the championship game of the Fridley Holiday Tournament thanks to Mark Urista's shot from the corner with two seconds on the clock. Students could buy a 50¢ ticket to attend the January 24 wrestling meet at Cooper High School. Fridley hosted its first gymnastics clinic to 150 girls after custodians from Fridley High had spent eight hours "removing equipment to and from the junior high, Columbia Heights, and Spring Lake Park schools." .Hockey player Dave Perkins scored a hat trick against Mahtomedi in a 7—4 loss; sophomore Roger Mengelkoch set a Fridley pool record with a time of 2:19:06 in an individual medley on December 30; and, thanks to the 27 points contributed by captain Don Legun, the gymnastics team defeated Princeton 69.5 to 35.5.

So in 1969, high school girls were given permission to wear slacks. But this was three years before Title IX altered the course of high school sports by paving the way for greater participation for girls. It was a given that in 1969 the basketball team and the hockey team were boys' teams only. That, too, would soon change.



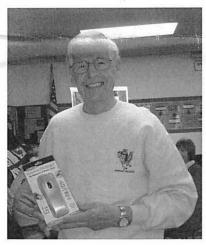
Valentine Potluck and Bingo Night



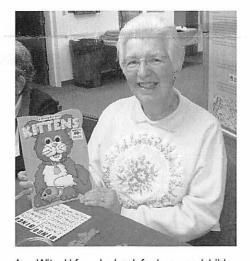
Making delicious choices: Left to right, Lenny Witucki, Bernadine Matushak, Ann Witucki, Chuck Hayes and Pat Sibert



In deep concentration: Sharon Vega, Pat Sibert and Helga Bode Johnson



Jerry Manley went for a high tech flashlight.



Ann Witucki found a book for her grandchild.

The Valentine Potluck and Bingo Night value, February 5. We had a good turn out, and a lot of delicious food. People brought an amazing number of great prizes. It was a fun, relaxing evening.

Tornado Anniversary Book

Allen W. Taylor, author of the "The Night the Sirens Blew," is beginning to write another book. This one will be about how the 1965 Fridley tornadoes affected the local neighborhoods and churches. The goal is to finish the book and have it published by May 6, 2015, the 50th anniversary of that momentous night. If you are interested in contributing to the book with your recollections of those storms or have pertinent pictures, I would like to meet with you to discuss this. Please feel free to contact me at 763-422-3878 or by email, 1965tornadobook@gmail.com. As with the first book, a generous portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Fridley History Center.

An interesting tornado fact: Residents in Mounds View complained that the sirens at City Hall did not go off. It was discovered that there was a thick piece of 2x4 lodged in the siren, thus rendering it inoperative. Please contact me if you have an experience from that night to share.

FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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Dues for 2013: One Senior is \$10.00, One Individual is \$12.50, Family (2 Adults or 2 Seniors, same household) is \$18.50. Please consider making an additional donation to help us reach our goals. Make checks payable to Fridley Historical Society.

Dues \$	Additional tax-deductible donation \$				
Name(s)					
C					
City	StateZip				
Telephone	F-mail				

Mail to: Fridley Historical Society, 611 Mississippi Street NE, Fridley, MN 55432.





The Record

Wedding Gown Exhibit at the History Center





Saturday, May 11, 2013 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. History Center Open House Free admission

> Saturday, May 25, 2013 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

History Center Open House Free admission

> Saturday, June 8, 2013 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

History Center Open House Free admission

> Saturday, June 22, 2013 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

History Center Open House

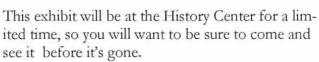
Free admission

Saturday, July 13, 2013 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

History Center Open House Free admission

You are invited to see an exhibit of wedding gowns at the Fridley History Center 611 Mississippi Street May 25, June 8 & 22, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Dorothy Gargaro has assembled an exhibit of beautiful and interesting wedding gowns, ranging from some over 100 years old to more modern gowns. Some of the gowns have an amazing amount of fine hand work on them. Some may have been worn by brides you know and will bring back many memories. You will see how gowns have changed through the ages.





A Dive into the Archive: St. William's 50th Jubilee

By Mary Ann Hoffman

On June 4, 2013, parishioners of St. William's Catholic Church will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first mass said in the parish. If you lived in Fridley at that time, you probably realize it wasn't in the church on 61st and University, it hadn't been built yet, nor was it held in the high school gymnasium. The newly organized parish had purchased the house at 792 Mississippi Street for use as a temporary rectory; the garage had been converted into a chapel and that is where the first mass was said. The Fridley Historical Society has several items pertaining to St. William's history in its archive. I chose two sources for this column: a remembrance written by Helen Buckley,

(Continued on page 5)



Fridley Historical Society

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Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Fridley Historical Society Thursday, April 4, 2013

Vice President Dorothy Gargaro called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance to the flag was said. Other members present were Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Mary Ann Hoffman, Mary Sue Meyers, Grace Norton and Al Taylor.

Action Items:

- 1. It was determined that the Board should appoint a President and Vice President. These appointments should be acted on by the membership at the annual business meeting in October. Meyers made a motion that we appoint Gargaro as President. The motion was seconded by Norton and passed by the Board. Anderson made a motion that the Board appoint Hoffman as Vice President. The motion was seconded by Taylor and passed by the Board.
- 2. The tornado exhibit was taken down for the Christmas exhibit. It was decided we will set it up again after the Lasagna dinner.

Committee Reports.

Programs and Events: The Lasagna Dinner is Saturday, April 27, 5:00 p.m. Meyers passed out the order of the program and list of Board members' responsibilities for the event.

Membership: Hoffman reported that since the March 7 Board meeting \$204.50 in dues and \$125 in donations have come in.

Hall of Fame: The Hall of Fame induction will be a buffet luncheon November 2, 12:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Fundraising: Taylor reported that he has started on his new book about the recovery from the May 6, 1965 tornado. He is also working on a 2014/2015 calendar that should be done by October of this year. He will give a percentage of the profit from the book sales to the Fridley Historical Society and the profits from the sale of the calendar will be for the society.

Archives: Hoffman plans to file a large amount of archive's material.

City & Family History: Gargaro reported a bridal gown exhibit will open May 11.

New item:

Hoffman reported that four third grade classes will visit the History Center; two on May 14 and two on May 15. Hoffman will be here both days; Meyers will help on May 14 and Norton on May 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Grace Norton, Secretary

Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting Thursday, May 2, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Dorothy Gargaro at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Committee Reports:

Programs and Events: Meyers reported that 96 dinners were served for the Lasagna Dinner. The event was a success, with 92 sweepstakes prizes won and 12 auction items sold.

Hall of Fame: Taylor said that nomination forms were put out on the tables at the Lasagna Dinner. He has received one completed form and is expecting more to come in. Monday, July 15 is the deadline for nominations. The 2013 Hall of Fame induction will be a luncheon rather than a dinner. It will be Saturday, November 2, 12:00 noon at the Community Center.

City and Family History: Gargaro has prepared a bridal gown exhibit for St. William's Church's 50th anniversary. She will move the exhibit to the History Center and set it up so that it will be ready for the May 11 open house. It will be on display through June. She has also done a display at the Mississippi Branch Library for May with an emphasis on Memorial Day.

Membership: Hoffman reported she sent out 33 reminder letters on April 15 to people who have not renewed their membership this year. During the month of April \$248 in dues and \$274.50 in donations have come in.

Archives: Hoffman reported that she is filing the archive's materials that were sorted earlier this year.

Maintenance: Klosterman is getting an estimate from John Peterson to repair the wind damage on the soffit in the back of the building. He has agreed to be the number one contact person for the Protection One security system

Fundraising: Taylor is working on his book about recovery from the 1965 tornado and a 2014/2015 calendar. He will be speaking on the tornado recovery at Abiding Savior Church on May 7 at 11:30 a.m.

Hoffman made a motion that the meeting should be adjourned. Norton seconded the motion and it was passed by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Grace Norton,	Secretary	

Monday, July 15 is due date for 2013 Hall of Fame Nominations

If you wish to nominate a person to the Fridley Hall of Fame who has contributed to the growth of our community and its quality of life, you can obtain a nomination form by calling the Fridley History Center, 763-571-0120. Leave a message with your name and number. Someone will call you back and a form will be sent to you. Forms will also be available at History Center open houses. To nominate someone it is necessary to fill out a provided form.

The 2013 Hall of Fame induction will be a luncheon, 12:00 noon, Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Community Center on the corner of 7th Street and 61st Ave.

Thanks for Renewing Your Membership

Between Feb. 24 and May 1, we received membership renewals from the following. An * behind a name denotes a donation up to \$50 and ** denotes a donation of \$50 or more. Thank you!

Bob Aldrich

Eleanor Anderson

Gordon and Linda Backlund

John Banholzer*

Bob and Jane Barnette

Don Betzold

Adeline Christenson

Gordon and Carol Christenson*

Carmen and Dean Coleman

Dawn Cordes and Fyllis Flanery*

Bud Dauphin and Marcia Schaaf**

William DeCoursey*

Stephen and Mary Eggert**

Dorothy Gargaro

Dave Harris

Carol Hoiby

Bill and Margaret Hunt*

Eleanor and Byron Jensen

Dorothy Lee

William and Hazel Linton*

Sue and Al Madison*

Audrey Mahr*

Matt and Sandra Manley*

Lillian Meyer**

Suzanne Miskowic*

Vicki Rockwell*

Mary Rozmark

Carole Schaaf

Agnes Shaw*

Kathy Smith

Carl and Adele Swanson

Ann Teskey

Glenn Theorin*

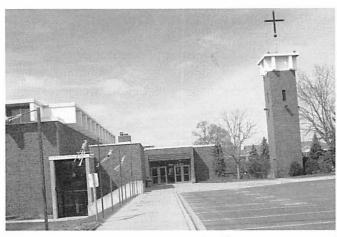
Craig and Terri Wolfe*

WELCOME BACK TO:

Gloria Egan, Dorothy Lee, Jim and Jan Golden, Jill Johnson, Kathy Smith

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Dawn Cordes and Fyllis Flanery, David Carstensen, Dana and Sheila Johnson, Lee and Gaylene Switzer, Walt and Sandra Wenholz



St. Williams Church today

(St. William's 50th Jubilee continued from page 1)

"St. Williams: The Early Years" and a booklet from the 1965 dedication of the church. Buckley's account is undated but covers the years 1963 - 1970 and provides a first-person overview of the beginnings of the parish. The archdiocese announced in the spring of 1963 that a new parish would be organized in Fridley. According to Buckley, Catholics in Fridley "were really an orphan family—split between Immaculate Conception, Saint Timothy's, Saint John's and Saint Stephen's." Father Gerald Keefe was chosen as pastor and had the monumental task, along with parishioners, of deciding, according to Buckley, where the church would be located and whether there would be a school. Buckley continues, "Father Keefe's dream was to have a parochial school....This is why our church is shaped like

a gym as it was planned to serve as a community [center] when we eventually would build our permanent church. We have neither our originally planned 'permanent' church or school."

The first Sunday Mass was held in the high school gym June 16, 1963 and on each Sunday until the May 6, 1965 tornado destroyed the gym roof. Buckley states that, "(t)he Sunday Mass of May 9, 1965 was held on the front slab at the Senior High School with many of the tornado victims attending—some almost in rags—to thank God at an open-air mass for our preservation and for the strength to rebuild our lives, homes and community." The new church at 61st and University was nearing construction at the time. Two weeks later a First Communion mass was said "in our unfinished church with a temporary altar, a rented organ, plastic windows which were flapping on that windy, rainy Sunday..."

The church was formally dedicated on Sunday, November 7, 1965 at 4 p.m. The commemorative booklet includes a letter from Father Keefe to his parishioners and several photos of the construction process of the church. Information is given about various organizations and personnel involved in the parish, such as the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The final pages are devoted to congratulatory ads placed by local businesses, including Fridley State Bank, Leib's Fashion Store, Spartan Department Store, Pat and Sadie's Bakery, Nelsons Wallpaper, Charles E. Johanson, Inc., Maple Lanes Café, Parks Corner Dairy Store, Rice Plaza Norge Village, and several others.

At 50, St. William's isn't the oldest church in Fridley. Older buildings include Redeemer Lutheran (1914), Grace Evangelical Free Church (1964), Fridley Covenant (1956), United Methodist (1956), Grace Lutheran (1958), Michael Servetus Unitarian (using the former Holy Trinity Chapel built in 1925), and Woodcrest Baptist (1964).

Wheelbarrow in a Tree!

There are many unusual and phenomenal stories from the tornado outbreak on May 6, 1965. One of these stories is that after one of the three tornadoes hit Fridley, a wheelbarrow was found in a tree at 6021 6th Street. Half of the wheelbarrow was completely sheared off but the other half remained in that tree for many years until a later wind storm blew down the tree. That green wheelbarrow is now at the Fridley History Center!

Allen W. Taylor, author of the "The Night the Sirens Blew," is beginning another book. This one will be about how the 1965 Fridley tornadoes affected the local neighborhoods and churches. The goal is to have it published by May 6, 2015, the 50th anniversary of that momentous night. If you are interested in contributing to the book with your recollections of those storms or have pertinent pictures, I would like to meet with you. Please feel free to contact me at 763-422-3878 or by email, 1965tornadobook@gmail.com. As with the first book, a generous portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Fridley History Center.

The 23rd Annual Lasagna Dinner was an enjoyable Evening

The annual Lasagna Dinner, sweepstakes and live auction was held. April 27, a beautiful spring evening, at the Fridley American Legion Hall again. We thank them for their hospitality. Marino's catered a delicious dinner and there were about 96 people enjoying the event. Mary Sue Meyers put many hours into organizing the event and was in charge of the cheerful decorations.

There were 92 sweepstakes prizes won and 12 auction items sold. The items were collected by the board members. We are grateful to all of the merchants and individuals who donated items.

Don Meyers called the sweepstakes numbers and Robert Christenson ably juggled the tasks of emcee, auctioneer and photographer. Jacob Taylor ran the prizes to the winners.



From left to right: table 1:)Dorothy Gargaro, Mary Sue Meyers, Don Meyers, Ron Malcom, Mike Klosterman, Margaret Taylor, Craig Hohensee, Bill Beery, Mary Ann Hoffman. 2:) Gerry Berg, Gwen & Roger Nawrocki, 3:) Ginny Jorgenson, Warren Woods, 4.)John & Phyllis Banholzer, Ardella & Barney Buss 5:)Bill Linton, John Ganter, Alice Ganter, Hazel Linton. 6:)Helen Sampson, Lillian Meyer, Suzanne Miskowic. 7:)Carriol Hauge, Susan Madison, Mavis Hauge. 8:)John Fitzpatrick, Bob Comer, Russ Olson, Lyle Elverud, Dorothy Linse, Elsie Elverud, Agnes Shaw, Annie White





Table 1:)Pat Sibert, Helga Bode Johnson, Janice Hanson, Marty Lueders. 2:)Gordon Backlund, Doreen Siedlecki, Debbie Roberge, Linda Backlund. 3:)Mary Bonesteel, David Speakman, Nancy Anderson, Theresa Speakman, Pete Bonesteel. 4:)Arlene Ingraham, Chuck Hayes, Chester Hayes. 5:) Gary Larson, Bev Larson, Gene Ness, Sonja Johnson (across from Gene Ness), Pat Nagele. 6:)Kathy Taylor, Al Taylor, Mike Klosterman, Jacob Taylor, Margaret Taylor. 7:)Mayor Scott Lund, Cindy Lund, Andy Lund. 8:)Gordie & Carol Christenson, Bernadine Matushak, Shirley & Roy Scherer, 9:)Mel Manley selling sweepstakes tickets. 10:)Jerry & Marilyn Manley, Margaret Jewison, Alicia Manley, Sandra & Matt Manley. 11:) Kathy Taylor pulling winning stubs and Don Meyers announcing winners.

FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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Chester Hayes 359 57th Place N.E. Apt. 6 Fridley, MN 55432



Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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Map Exhibit Drew Interest

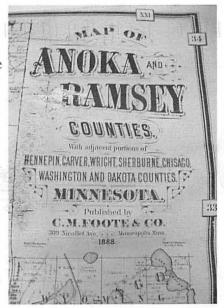
We had the Minnesota Historical Society's traveling exhibit, "Minnesota on the Map," at the Fridley History Center January 19 to March 9. We also included

Casandra Anderson, a third grader at Stevenson School, studied the maps in preparation for a report.

several Fridley maps from our archive.
The museum was open every Saturday during that time.

Most Saturdays there was a steady flow of visitors who were very interested in the exhibit. Many had questions about Fridley's history.

At right is an example of some of the maps, an early map of Anoka and Ramsey Counties from 1888.





Mark Your Calendars for AugustFest, Tuesday, August 13

Bring your friends and relatives of all ages and come for AugustFest on the grounds of the Fridley History Center. Enjoy Chicago hot dogs, the toe tapping music of the Fridley band and an old fashioned ball game.



The Record

Volume 26, Issue 4

18th Annual AugustFest Wednesday, August 14, 6:00 p.m.



Please take note of the date. In the last Record it was listed at August 13, so if you have marked your calendar, please change it to August 14.

Meet the new Fridley Ambassadors and enjoy the music of the Fridley band onstage in the showmobile. Check out one of the Fridley fire trucks and meet some of our brave

fire-fighters. Af-

ter the band concert cheer for our Fridley players as they play an old fashioned baseball game against the Quicksteps.

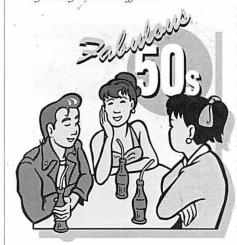


Chicago dogs, brats, hot dogs, water and pop will be for sale. Free lemonade and cookies will be served in the History Center after the ball game.

All the festivities will be on the grounds of the Fridley History Center. You can park next door at Hayes School. Bring your favorite lawn chair or camping chair for a comfortable seat. The admission is free.

Christmas is Coming...

By Mary Ann Hoffman



It was the height of the Cold War, everybody liked Ike, Fridley's population expansion generated our own Baby Boom, and ducktails and poodle skirts were de rigueur. Of course, it was the 1950s. After the success of our 2012's Christmas in the 1970s exhibit, the Fridley Historical Society will be presenting "Christmas in the 1950s" at the History Center this coming November and December. Yes, after an interminable wait, summer is finally here, but it's not too soon to start planning for the exhibit, and we can use your help in a variety of ways.

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Events



Saturday, July 13, 2013 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. History Center Open House

Free admission

July 27, 2013 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

History Center Open House Free admission

History Center Yard Work Day

Wednesday, August 7 8:00 a.m.

August 10, 2013 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. History Center Open House Free Admission

AugustFest

Wednesday, August 14, 6:00 p.m. In the History Center parking lot

> August 24, 2013 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

History Center Open House

Free Admission



Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

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

Officers

President Vice President Dorothy Gargaro Mary Ann Hoffman

Secretary Treasurer Grace Norton Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Mary Ann Hoffman Mike Klosterman Mary Sue Meyers Allen Taylor

Committees & Chairpersons

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

Archives

Pete Bonesteel — 763-572-1009

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Allen Taylor - 763-422-3878

Hall of Fame

Allen Taylor - 763-422-3878

Maintenance

Mike Klosterman—612-325-1242

Membership

Mary Ann Hoffman—763-780-5911

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton-763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting Wednesday, June 5, 2013

President Gargaro called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the flag was said.

New Item:

Christmas in the 1950's exhibit: We are seeking items from the 50s era and volunteers to work on the exhibit. Taylor reported that former members Jean and Irv Peters are donating an HO scale toy railroad set.

Committee Reports:

Hall of Fame: Meyers reported that the Hall of Fame Luncheon will be at 1:00 p.m., November 2 at the Community Center.

Fund Raising: Taylor reported that he is half done with his new book about the 1965 Fridley Tornado, and its effect on the community.

Programs and Events: AugustFest will be Wednesday, August 14. We need to find a team to play against the Quicksteps.

Archives: Hoffman reported that she is 99% done filing the materials that were sorted earlier this year.

Membership Committee: Hoffman reported that we now have 171 members. Since the May meeting \$37 in dues and \$6.50 in donations have come in.

Maintenance: Klosterman reported that he will check on the progress of repair of the soffit in the back of the building. He plans to paint the kitchen floor soon

New Business:

Anderson suggested that we change our meeting time from 6:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The board members agreed.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 3, 4:00 p.m. because of the 4th of July holiday.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Grace Norton, Secretary



Christmas in the 50s continued

- We will need a large number of artifacts to add to the display. Do you have any items from the 1950s that you can either lend or donate to us? We are looking for furniture, clothing, electronics, records, linens, Christmas decorations, kitchenware, toys, etc. for the exhibit. Included on our wish list are: 50s prom dresses, Priscilla curtains, a portable record player (working or not), a wringer washing machine and vintage 50s furniture, for starters.
- We are looking for volunteers to plan and put together the exhibit. If you saw the 1970s exhibit, you'll recall that the entire lower level of the History Center was used and many, many hours were spent preparing the display. No experience or special talents are needed, just a willingness to come in and help out as we put it all together this fall.



We will need volunteers to be at the History Center in November and December when we are open to the public. Last year, we planned on having two volunteers on hand each time, but the large attendance necessitated more meeters and greeters.

If you are able to help us out in any way (big or little), please call the History Center (763-571-0120) and leave a message. We would sure appreciate it.

A Dive into the Archive: Recent Acquisitions

by Mary Ann Hoffman

About a year ago, I mentioned in this column that the Fridley Historical Society is always on the lookout for items that reflect local businesses. Since then, a number of such items have come our way, all of which are welcome additions to our collection. They include:

- a yardstick advertising Nelson's Wallpaper and Paint Company. On one side is printed its Holly Shopping Center location and on the other its 616 Central Avenue location. Were you aware that there was once a Nelson's in Northeast Minneapolis?
- another yardstick advertising Gertzen's Hardware at 65th and Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis. On the back it says, "There's nothing better! Janney Best Paints, Varnish and Enamels."
- a take out menu from Sandee's in Fridley. It includes a history of the business and highlights its BBQ Rib Special: a Half Rack for \$5.99. Although it is undated, the phone number for calling orders isn't preceded by area code 763, which was instituted in 2000, so we can assume it goes back at least that far. The inexpensive special also offers a clue.
- a plastic key chain advertising Friendly Chevrolet Geo. Knowing that GM manufactured Geos from 1989 to 1997 helps date it.
- a matchbook advertising Les's Standard Station at Highway 65 and Osborne. Does anyone remember that business?

Thanks for Renewing Your Membership

Between May 1 and July 1, we received membership renewals from the following. An * by a name indicates a donation up to \$50, and ** indicates a donation of \$50 or more. Thank you!

Alice Johnson & Richard Jefferson* Mike Klosterman Joseph & Irene Maertens** Darryl & Diane Sannes Brian & Joanne Toews

Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting Wednesday, July 3, 2013, 4:00 p.m.

Discussion items:

Taylor and Bonesteel reported that they had gone to Irvin and Jean Peters' in Cloquet, Minnesota and picked up the HO scale train items the Peters donated. Taylor and Bonesteel said they would set it up before the Christmas in the 50s exhibit begins in November.

Committee Reports

Hall of Fame: Taylor reported that the Hall of Fame committee will meet later this month. The 2013 Hall of Fame Induction will be a light buffet luncheon, Saturday, November 2, 1:00 p.m. at the Community Center at 7th Street and 61st Ave.

AugustFest: Gargaro is working to get a team together to play against the Quick Steps team.

City and Family: Gargaro reported she took down the May and June displays she had done at the Mississippi Branch Library. On July 10th she will represent the Fridley Historical Society at the grand opening of the remodeled Cub Store.

Membership: Hoffman reported that we now have 174 members. Dues coming in during June were \$49.50 and donations were \$81.50.

Maintenance: Klosterman has improved the looks of the kitchen by painting the floor. He has replaced the battery in the security system so the trouble light on the key pad is no longer blinking and the soffit in the back of the building is repaired.

Wednesday, August 7, 8 a.m. was set as yard work day at the History Center.

Fundraising: Taylor said his book on the aftermath of the May 6, 1965 tornado is over half done. He will donate part of the proceeds to the Fridley Historical Society.

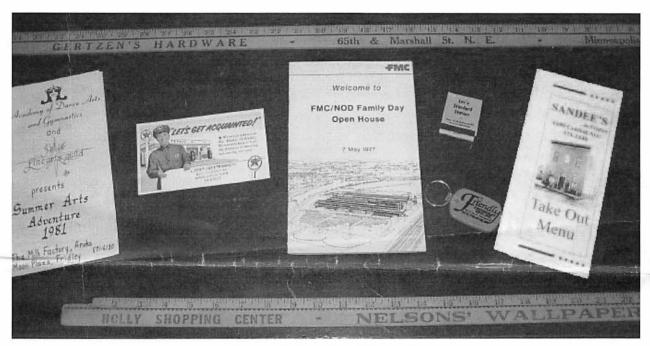
New Business

Eight members of the Coon Rapids Historical commission are coming to tour our building on July 18 at 8 p.m. Hoffman and Gargaro will meet and greet them.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Grace Norton Secretary

- a brochure advertising the Academy of Dance Arts and Gymnastics and the Jolie Fine Arts Guild. Dated 1981, it announces its Summer Arts Adventure to be held at Moon Plaza in Fridley and the Milk Factory in Anoka.
- a "Let's Get Acquainted" card stating, "We've just taken over this Texaco Dealership," distributed by Lud and Carl's Texaco at 6301 Highway 65, phone SU 4-9837. The phone number tells us that the card must go back to the 1950s or 60s.
- a collection of materials from the May 7, 1977 FMC Family Day Open House. Included are a brochure, a tour guide that acts as a map of the facility, and an April 1977 issue of "Northern Lights" which was apparently an inhouse circular for employees. Inside are details about the upcoming open house.



The donated items from Fridley businesses

Thank you to the supporters of the historical society who donated these items. One note: now that the Maple Lanes Bowling Alley is closed and about to be razed, does anyone have any memorabilia from that long established Fridley business? As far as I can tell, we have nothing in our collection that represents that business and we'd like to change that. My next column will focus on a long gone business that operated from a repurposed Fridley barn. Can you guess what it was?

May 1965 Tornado Stories

By Allen Taylor

After hitting St. Williams's Church, the tornado veered to the North West and viciously destroyed Fridley Methodist Church at the corner of Mississippi and Monroe. The roof flew off and landed right in front of the Fridley fire truck that was on a call to Hillcrest. The tornado destroyed the parsonage and wiped out Hayes Elementary School. LuBell Kendall, the pastor's wife, was blown out of the house and suffered life threatening injuries. Many churches were damaged or destroyed that evening.

If you have stories and/or pictures you would like to share, please contact Allen Taylor, 763-422-3878 or send him an email, 1965tornadobook@gmail.com.

Look for an amazing tornado story on the back page.

FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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Yard Work Day: Wednesday, August 7, 8:00 a.m. is yard work day at the History Center. Your help would be appreciated. Come when you can and leave when you need to. Please bring some tools with you, such as a rake, trimming tool for the bushes and compostable yard bags. The school district does the mowing so that won't be part of the work

An Amazing Tornado Story!

The Peterson family was enjoying a warm, humid Thursday night at home while Mr. Peterson was paying bills by check on the kitchen table. Suddenly, an F5 tornado was bearing down on their house in Mounds View after devastating Fridley. They all went into the basement. Everything was gone. A few weeks later, a person from Hayward, Wisconsin contacted them, informing them that one of their checks had been found. It was found in perfect condition stuck in the side of the callers garage. The check had been carried—dry—for over 150 miles!

Save the Date:

The 2013 Hall of Fame Induction will be Saturday, November 2, 1:00 p.m. at the Fridley Community Center., 7th Street and 61st Avenue. A light buffet luncheon will be served.

Volume 26, Issue 5



The Record

Members' Alert! Change of date for the Harvest Potluck Dinner and 2013 Annual Meeting.

The date of the Harvest Potluck Dinner and the Annual Business Meeting will be **Tuesday, November 12, 6:00 p.m.** The date was changed because the committee will be working on setting up the Christmas in the 50s exhibit. If you come you will be among the first to see this year's Christmas exhibit! The bylaws have been checked and it has been verified that as long as members have two weeks notice the date can be changed from the second Monday in October. Come and bring a dish to share. Plates, table ware and beverages will be provided.

Your input as a member is important. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar.

2013 Hall of Fame Luncheon

The 10th annual Fridley Hall of Fame induction will be a luncheon held Saturday, November 2, 2013, 1:00 pm at the Fridley Community Center located at 61st Avenue and 7th Street in Fridley. Doors open at 12:30pm.

The Fridley Hall of Fame was established in 2004 to recognize those who, through dedication, work and accomplishments have contributed most significantly to the growth and success of the city of Fridley.

The 2013Fridley Hall of Fame inductees are:

Gordon Backlund

In 1985 Gordon was elected to the State Legislature to represent Fridley. He was elected to the Fridley School Board in 1989, and has continued in that capacity for 24 years. He was recently appointed to the Fridley Housing Redevelopment Authority. In 1982 he joined the Fridley/Columbia Heights Rotary Club, serving as President, and currently as Secretary. Gordon is a member of the Lions Club participating in projects and community events. In 1999 Gordon formed the Fridley Schools foundation acting as the first president.

Charlotte Fitzpatrick

Char contributed to the Fridley community for over 50 years in a variety of roles, including founding member and a president of the Fridley Historical Society. She gave strong support to her husband, Ed, who was a city councilman for 20+ years. She wrote the grant for the 1965 Fridley Tornado Exhibit from General Mill and the successful grant for State Legislative funding to rehabilitate the Fridley History Center building. She was a nationally-recognized ad-

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Events



September 28, 2013 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. **History Center Open House** Free Admission

October 12, 2013 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. **History Center Open House** Free Admission

October 26, 2013 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. History Center Open House

Saturday, November 2, 1:00 p.m. **2013 Hall of Fame Luncheon** Fridley Community Center 61st Ave. & 7th Street

Saturday, November 9
Opening of Christmas in the
1950's Exhibit
In the Fridley History Center

In the Fridley History Center. 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Free admission

Harvest Potluck Dinner & Annual Business Meeting Tuesday, November 12, 6:00 p.m. 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 p.m.

Officers

President Dorothy Gargaro
Vice President Mary Ann Hoffman
Secretary Grace Norton
Treasurer Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Mary Ann Hoffman Mary Sue Meyers Allen Taylor

Committees & Chairpersons

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

Archives

Pete Bonesteel — 763-572-1009

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Allen Taylor - 763-422-3878

Hall of Fame

Allen Taylor – 763-422-3878

Membership

Mary Ann Hoffman—763-780-5911

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton—763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting Thursday, August 1, 2013

President Dorothy Gargaro called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Mark Halvorson from Cub Foods was introduced. July 10 Gargaro attended the grand opening of the remodeled Fridley Cub Grocery store. She was presented with a \$1,500 check for the Fridley Historical Society. Since Cub originated in Fridley, they felt it was appropriate to give a gift to our Historical Society. The board expressed our gratitude to Mark.

Robert Christenson was present and introduced Hannah Gruber and Scott Carlson from Fridley Patch. They encouraged us to use the site more and suggested we set up a blog profile where we can add our own news. Christenson graciously agreed to set up the profile and maintain it.

Before the meeting started Christenson presented us with a sign from a business his father, Art Christenson, founded in 1937 or 36 with his brother, Elder Christenson, Fridley Motor Service.

Exhibits and group visits to the History Center.

The evening of July 18 eight people from the Coon Rapids Historical Commission visited the History Center. Gargaro and Hoffman hosted them. July 25 about 60 people from the Fridley class of 63 reunion came for a tour of the History Center. Most of them had attended sixth grade here. They were hosted by Meyers, Gargaro and Norton. They were here from 2:30-3:30.

Committee Reports

Fridley Hall of Fame: Taylor reported that we have several highly qualified people nominated for the 2013 Hall of Fame. The induction will be Saturday, November 2, at 1:00 p.m. with a light luncheon at the Fridley Community Center.

Programs and Events: Meyers reported that a visitor to the museum during a July open house inquired about the Holy Trinity Church Cemetery on Mississippi St. and East River Road and its lack of upkeep.

Meyers made a motion that we buy 10 folding chairs. Taylor seconded the motion and it was approved by the board. Gargaro said she would purchase them.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Grace Norton, Secretary



Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting Wednesday, September 4, 2013

President Dorothy Gargaro called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was said.

Exhibits Report

A four member committee has met to plan for the Christmas in the 50s exhibit. The committee members are Hoffman, Gargaro, Meyers and a friend of Hoffman's. Anderson and Norton volunteered to bring cookies and help on Tuesday openings. More volunteers would be welcome.

Committee Reports

Hall of Fame: The Hall of Fame luncheon will be Saturday, November 2 at the Fridley Community Center. Letters with information about the 2013 inductees and an invitation to the dinner will be sent out as first class mail on Monday, September 9, 1:00 p.m. The 2013 inductees are Gordon Backlund, Char Fitzpatrick, John Meyers and Earl and Char Hatton.

Programs and Events: The AugustFest baseball game was canceled because of the condition of the ball field and difficulty finding Fridley players. The Fridley band played an extra half hour, which pleased the audience.

Hoffman suggested we change the annual meeting and potluck to Tuesday, November 12 at 6:00 p.m. because of setting up the Christmas exhibit. The board voted on the motion and approved it.

Archives: Hoffman reported that she has sorted 90% of materials in the office. She will go through the rest after Christmas.

Ladd Ohlsen recently donated 30 items to the History Center.

Membership: We now have 181 members. \$28.50 in dues came in during August and \$21.50 in donations came in.

New business:

A new maintenance chairperson needs to be found since Mike Klosterman resigned last month.

Rachel Mander at the District 14 office told Gargaro that our lease is being updated and will be available to sign at the October board meeting.

The meeting	g was	adjourned	at 3:28	9 p.m.
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Grace Norton, Secretary	

Mark Your Calendar for Christmas in the 1950s Exhibit

The Fridley History Center will be the site of the exhibit, "Christmas in the 1950s" with the following schedule:

11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m., **Saturdays**, November 9, 16, 23, 30; December 7 and 14 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m., **Tuesdays**, November 12, 19, 26; December 3, 10 and 17

Come and enjoy this free event that will be fun for the whole family.

Membership Update

Welcome new member: Robert Powell . Welcome back: Elizabeth Hitomi and Barbara Hughes. Membership Renewal: Charles Lindberg.

\$2850 in dues came in during August and \$21.50 in donations.

(Hall of Fame Luncheon continued from page 1.)

-vocate for senior concerns, a member of the Minnesota delegation that attended the White House Conference on aging. She was instrumental in creating the Federation Guide to Senior Housing, and a member of numerous boards and the Fridley City Council By-Laws Committee. Char was a member of Central Lutheran Church helping found the Church's Clothes Closet, providing clothes, food, training, and support to central city residents for 40 years until her death in 2012.

Charlene and Earl Hatten

Char

Char moved to Fridley in 1958 with her family and worked in the Fridley schools as a swimming instructor, substitute teacher, librarian and helped get the Latch Key Program started. For her contributions to Fridley Schools Char was honored with a Lifetime Learning Award in 2007. She played violin in the Northeast Orchestra, hand bells at St. Phillips, sang in the church choir and led Bible studies. She was active with local Girl Scout troops and was involved with scouting for over 60 years. Char served on the Anoka County Senior Council. Char passed away in January, 2009.

Earl

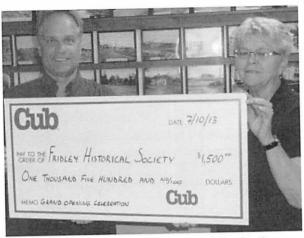
Earl spent five years active duty in the Army, including the Korean War where he was decorated. In addition he spent eleven years in the Minnesota National Guard. Earl worked at Medtronic, Inc. for thirty-five years. He does a lot of volunteering which includes; planting and caring for trees at the Fridley Community Center, sorting food at food shelves, providing transportation when needed, delivering Meals on Wheels, and is involved in several activities at St. Phillips Church. Earl has been honored as a WCCO Good Neighbor. In 2013 he was selected by both Fridley and Anoka County as their Outstanding Senior.

Char and Earl have contributed a great deal in making Fridley a better place to live. They have lived their lives in service to others.

John Meyer

John was a leader, mentor, teacher, and friend. He served in the military from 1943 to 1946. He earned a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota and founded a structural engineering firm, Meyer Borgman Johnson (MBJ). John was the structural engineer of record for many notable projects in the Twin Cities area, including Orchestra Hall, The Landmark Center, and many structures on the University of Minnesota campuses. John received a life time achievement award from The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota because of his many restorations of historically significant buildings. He was an avid volunteer and strong advocate for organizations that help people. He served on the City of Fridley Housing Authority for 26 years and advised on the rebuilding of Fridley after the 1965 tornado. In 1969 John was appointed to the Fridley School Board and subsequently was elected to serve more terms. He was a volunteer leader with the YMCA and promoted Springbrook as a nature center. John passed away January 2, 2013

Please show your support for the Fridley Historical Society by attending this Luncheon. Tickets may be purchased by sending \$15.00 for each ticket to Fridley History Center, 611 Mississippi Street, Fridley, MN 55432. Tickets will be sent by return mail. If you have Questions or wish to reserve a table of eight call the Fridley History Center at 763-571-0120. **No** tickets will be sold at the door.

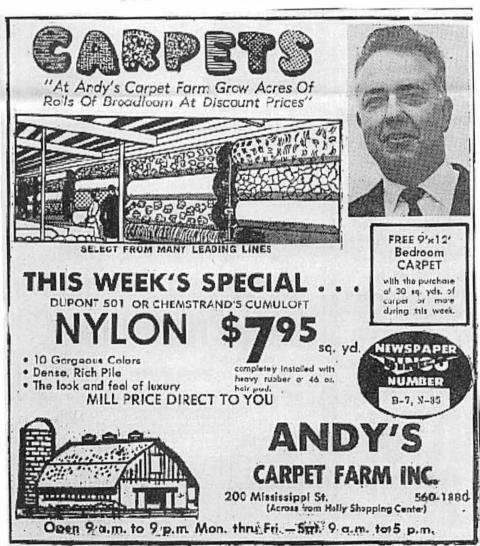


Cub Foods manager, Mark Halvorson and Dorothy Gargaro

Thank You! To Cub Foods

On July 10 our president Dorothy Gargaro was invited to attend a ceremony celebrating the grand opening of the remodeled Fridley Cub Food Store. To her surprise, at the ceremony she was presented with a check in the amount of \$1,500 for the Fridley Historical Society as an act of community outreach. They felt that since the first Cub store was in Fridley, it was appropriate to give recognition to the Fridley Historical Society. We are touched by their generosity and extremely thankful.

A Dive Into the Archive: Andy's Carpet Farm



By Mary Ann Hoffman

While doing some filing at the History Center this summer, I came across an ad for Andy's Carpet Farm that had been clipped out of a 1964 newspaper. Since I moved to Fridley in 1987, I have no memory of this business. Even so, the ad leads to a number of questions. Who was Andy? Was the barn in which he conducted carpet sales on his family farm or someone else's? What happened to the barn— was it destroyed by the 1965 tornado or simply razed as an outdated building? Notice that he wasn't open on Sundays and that the newspaper was sponsoring a Bingo contest. What a great business venture: selling carpeting to homeowners in booming Fridley in 1964! Next time I'll share a photo that involves the Fridley Welcome Wagon.

In Remembrance

I regret to report that six of our members have passed away since the July/August newsletter was sent out. We offer our condolences to their families and friends.

Robert Cook a longtime resident of Fridley and retired law enforcement officer passed away September 8. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lori. He is survived by his sons, Robb, Rodney (Michele), grandsons, Bob and Blake and many nephews and nieces. Robert was inducted into the 2008 Fridley Hall of Fame. A memorial service was held at St. William's Church September 16.

Betty Hendrickson passed away July 8, She is survived by her husband, Elroy and brother, Glenn Theorin and by nephews and nieces. Her obituary in the Star Tribune stated that, "if desired, memorials could be sent to the Fridley Historical Society."

Corine Kirkham passed away on August 26. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack, who served as Mayor of Fridley from 1966-71 and son, Terry. She is survived by children, Jack (Sue Ann) and Paul (Terri) and several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Services were held August 29 at Grace Lutheran Church in Fridley.

Walter (Wally) Ness passed away July 4. He was preceded in death by his son, Jeffrey, and survived by Genevieve "Gene" his wife of 62 years. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews and close friends. A service was held July 10 at First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights.

Gordon Sangster passed away September 13. He is survived by his wife, Angela, and children and grandchildren. Gordon served on the District 14 School Board from 1964 to 1991 and was inducted into the 2005 Fridley Hall of Fame. A memorial will be held in his honor September 30 at the McNamara Alumni Center.

Shirley Schleiss passed away June 21. She was preceded in death by her husband, DeWayne who was inducted into the 2012 Fridley Hall of Fame. She is survived by her son, Eric (Jenny), grandson, Liam; daughter, Amber (Mike) Havalek. A memorial service was held at Washburn-McReavy in Coon Rapids on Saturday, July 20.

AugustFest

The 18th Annual AugustFest was held Wednesday, August 14. The old tyme ball game had to be cancelled because of the condition of the field. The Fridley band came to the rescue and everyone enjoyed an extra half hour of their music. It was a beautiful evening for music and hot dogs. After the concert everyone went into the History Center for cookies and lemonade.



The Fridley band playing on the showmobile, led by Phil Raaen

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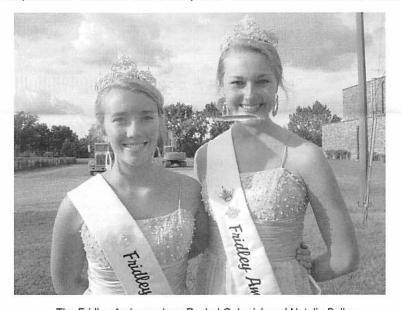
Our President Dorothy Gargaro welcoming the crowd



Fire Captain Dave Lenzmeier with Bill Shayolen, Autumn Johnson and Savana Thurman.



Mayor Scott Lund introducing the Fridley Ambassadors



The Fridley Ambassadors: Rachel Gabreick and Natalie Bailey



Fridley band brass section



Bill Beery preparing to enjoy a Chicago hotdog

FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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Celebrating Fridley's past and securing its future

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Another in a Series of 1965 Tornado Stories: After hitting St. William's Church, the tornado veered to the Northwest and viciously destroyed Fridley Methodist Church at the corner of Mississippi and Monroe. The roof flew off and landed right in front of the Fridley Fire truck which was on a call to Hillcrest.. The tornado wiped out Hayes Elementary School and destroyed the parsonage. LuBell Kendall, the pastor's wife, was blown out of the house and suffered life threatening injuries. Many churches were damaged or destroyed that evening. If you have any stories and/ or pictures you would like to share, please contact Al Taylor, 763-422-3878 or email him at 1965tornadobook@gmail.com.

Inside this issue highlights:

- Annual meeting change of date.
- 2013 Hall of Fame information
- Christmas in the 50s Exhibit schedule
- Thank you for gift from Cub Foods
- Dive into the Archive. Do you remember Andy's Carpet Farm?
- 2013 AugustFest pictures.

Volume 26, Issue 6



The Record

Come, Enjoy the Christmas in the 1950s Exhibit





Saturday, November 9 Opening of Christmas in the 1950s Exhibit In the Fridley History Center.

11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Free admission

Harvest Potluck Dinner & Annual Business Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 6:00 p.m. Fridley History Center

Christmas in the 1950s Exhibit

Saturdays, 11 a.m.—3 p.m. Nov. 16, 23, 30; Dec. 7 & 14 Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m. Nov. 12, 19, 26; Dec. 3, 10 & 17 Free admission

> Saturday, December 14 Kindergarten Art Fair 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. At the History Center Upper level



ny tails and outfits.

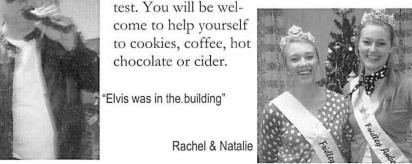
The Christmas Exhibit opened Saturday, November 9, but it's not too late to come and enjoy

It will be open Saturdays, 11 a.m.—3 p.m., November 16, 23, & 30; December 7 & 14 and on Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m. November 19 & 26; December 3, 10 & 17.

There was a good turn out for the grand opening. Mayor Scott Lund was there in full voice doing his Elvis impression. Rachel Gabreick and Natalie Bailey, our Fridley Ambassadors, were their with 1950s style po-

Seeing the 1950s clothes and home furnishings will bring back memories for many. Grandma and Grandpa can reminisce and the children can learn what life was like for their grandparents. When you hear the music from the old 45 records you might want to do a few dance moves. There is a large working electric train set with a fascinating village. You will be amazed at all there is to see including the kitchen, living room and bedroom areas. There are

crafts for the children and you can stretch your memory with a trivia contest. You will be welcome to help yourself to cookies, coffee, hot chocolate or cider.





Fridley Historical Society

Board & Committees

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

Officers

President Vice President Secretary

Dorothy Gargaro Mary Ann Hoffman Grace Norton

Treasurer Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Pete Bonesteel Mary Ann Hoffman Mary Sue Meyers Allen Taylor

Committees & Chairpersons

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

Archives

Pete Bonesteel — 763-572-1009

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Allen Taylor - 763-422-3878

Hall of Fame

Allen Taylor - 763-422-3878

Membership

Mary Ann Hoffman—763-780-5911

Newsletter & Public Relations

Grace Norton-763-571-9286

Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting November 7, 2013

All Board Members were present: Judy Anderson, Pete Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Mary Ann Hoffman, Allen Taylor and Grace Norton. President Gargaro called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Committee Reports:

Hall of Fame: There were 138 people at the Hall of Fame luncheon at the Community Center. Meyers said it would be good to have it there next year, but have it catered rather than preparing the food ourselves.

Fundraising: Taylor plans to raise funds for the Historical Society from the sale of his new book, "Hidden Revealed," about the aftermath of the May 6, 1965 tornado.

Taylor has a blog, it is 1965twincitiestornadoes.wordpress.com/blog.

Programs and Events: The Harvest Potluck Dinner and Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 6:00. Three board members are up for election. President, Gargaro; Vice President, Hoffman and Fund Raising Chairperson, Taylor.

The Kindergarten Art Fair will be Saturday, Dec. 14. Gargaro said she has already contacted the kindergarten teachers.

City & Family: Mike Schroer gave Gargaro two large Bob Produce ads from the past and mailed \$200 for future business exhibits.

Newsletter and Public Relations: Norton announced that after October 2014 she would no longer be doing the newsletter.

Grace Nor	ton,		
Secretary			

Membership Update

Membership Renewal: Virginia Steinmetz

\$10 in dues came in during October.

Corrections: The income from dues in August was \$28.50, rather that \$2850.

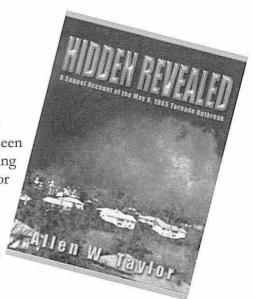
Robert Christenson's uncle's name was misspelt in the August minutes. It should be Alder Christenson, rather than Elder.

"Hidden Revealed" **Book Signing by Allen W. Taylor**

Saturday, November 30, 2013, 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

The "Hidden Revealed" is the sequel to the captivating "The Night the Sirens Blew!" This sequel focuses on all new stories, information, and never before seen pictures relating how God's presence was seen and felt in the community during and following those horrific storms of May 6, 1965. Come and meet the author and hive it personally signed in this rare opportunity. Remember, a generous portion of the proceeds goes back to the Fridley Historical Society!

He will also have book signings at Bob's Produce Nov. 23 and 27 and Dec. 5; at Embers Nov. 29, and at Coon Rapids Super America on Dec. 3.



A Dive into the Archive: Welcome Wagon

By Mary Ann Hoffman

The newspaper clipping regarding Fridley Welcome Wagon is undated. When would you guess the photo was taken? There are some clues: the dresses, the hairdos, the glasses, and the manner in which the women are identified.



FRIDLEY WELCOME WAGON officers elected at a recent meeting at Sandee's Cafe are back row, left) Mrs. James Zukowski. 249 N. E. Liberty, treasurer; Mrs. Wm. Keyes, 1000 Hackmann Circle, second vice president; Mrs. John Swanson, 5835 Certral Ave. NE., Welcome Wagon hostess; Mrs. James Reiland, 6068 Woody Lane, first vice president. Front row, Mrs. James Stedman, 6241 Sixth St. NE., secretary; Mrs. James Liston, 6272 Firth St. NE., president; Mrs. Gerald Sadowski, 401 Rico Creek Blvd., historian.

Welcome Wagon was created in 1928 by Thomas Briggs of Tennessee who was inspired by Conestoga "welcome wagons" heading west during pioneer times. These welcome wagons provided weary travelers with fresh food and water. Mr. Brigg's twist on this was to hire female hostesses to welcome new neighbors with baskets of certificates and samples from local businesses, as well as to provide information about civic organizations and cultural activities. Eventually, Welcome Wagon became one of the first female-owned companies in the United States. These home visits ended in 1998, as women were less likely to be home during the day. Today, Welcome Wagon uses mail, telemarketing, and online services to promote local businesses.

In regard to dating the photo, I'm guessing it was taken in 1967 or 1968, on the basis that two of the women are wearing dresses with empire waists, the hairdos are short and neatly styled (between the bouffant style of the early '60s and the shag of the early '70s,) and

(Welcome Wagon, continued from pg. 3)

that the women are identified by their husband's name rather than their given name. If anyone has a precise answer, please let us know.

Next time, a cute baby picture!



Adeline Christenson passed away September 15. She was preceded in death by her husband, Earle. She is survived by her son, Stephen, his wife, Rosemary and several grandchildren, great grand children and her siblings. Loved by many, she was known as Addie. She worked in the insurance business and once held the title, Insurance Woman of the Year for Greater Minneapolis. She held leadership roles on several civic and church boards. A memorial service was held for her on September 28 at First Lutheran church in Columbia Heights

The 2013 Hall of Fame Luncheon Update

The 2013 Hall of Fame Luncheon was held at the Fridley Community Center on November 2 with 138 people in attendance. President Dorothy Gargaro gave the welcome, Hall of Fame Chairman Allen Taylor spoke about the significance of the Hall of Fame in honoring the contributions individuals have made to the growth and quality of life of our community. Mayor Scott Lund was the emcee and introduced the 2013 inductees. Each inductee or their representative spoke and were presented with an acrylic award to keep. Their plaques were shown and will be displayed at the Fridley History Center. Violin music was provided by Jacob Taylor and Nick Luciow.

The 2013 Hall of Fame Inductees are:

Gordon Backlund: Gordon served in the State Legislature for four years and was on the Fridley School Board for 24 years. He has been appointed to the Fridley Redevelopment Authority, and was founder and the first president of the Fridley Schools Foundation.

Char Fitzpatrick: Char contributed to the Fridley community for over 50 years, including being a founding member and president of the Fridley Historical Society. She wrote the grant for 1965 Fridley Tornado Exhibit from General Mills and the grant for state Legislative funding to rehabilitate the Fridley History Center building. She was a advocate for seniors and on numerous boards. She passed away in 2012.

Charlene and Earl Hatten: Char worked for the Fridley schools in various capacities and helped to start the Latch Key program. For her contributions to the Fridley schools she was honored with a Lifetime Learning award in 2007. Char passed away January in 2009.

Earl has been called an extreme volunteer by the Minneapolis Star and Tribune. His volunteering includes serving at local food shelves, providing transportation to those who need it and planting and caring for trees at the Fridley Community Center.

John Meyer: John was a leader, mentor, teacher and friend. He was a founder of Meyer Borgman Johnson structural engineering firm. He served on the City of Fridley Housing Authority for 26 years and advised on the rebuilding of Fridley after the 1965 tornado. After being appointed to the Fridley School Board in 1996 he was subsequently elected to serve more terms. John passed away January 2, 2013





Left to Right: John Fitzpatrick, Lillian Meyers, Gordon Backlund, Earl Hatten



Hall of Fame Chairman, Allen Taylor



Gordon Backlund accepting award from Mayor Scott Lund



Left to right: Allen Taylor, Son Ed Meyer and wife Lillian accepting for John Meyer, President Dorothy Gargaro and Mayor Scott Lund.



Son John Fitzpatrick accepting for mother Char Fitzpatrick



Earl Hatten accepting for himself and wife Charlene



Violinists Jonah Taylor and Nick Luciow

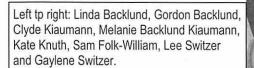


Lillian Meyer and State Rep. Connie Bernardy



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Left to right: County Commissioner Jim Kordiak, Kathy Taylor, Allen Taylor State Rep. Connie Bernardy, Mayor Scott Lund, Cindy Lund and Dorothy Gargaro





Left to right: Jodi Harestud, Karen Healy, Earl Hatten, Nancy Hanson, Peggy Gibson, Sandy Goman, Roger Goman

> Left to right: Barbara Johnson, Ed Meyer, Connie Metcalf, Lillian Meyer, Marti Reckdahl, Sig Reckdahl, Sue Miskowic, Helen Sampson

Names may not be in order: Jim Steinworth, Sally (Hatten) Oss, Tori Hatten, Danielle (Hatten) Oss, Mary Ella Pratte, Joey Hatten, Michelle Hatten. Bill Hatten



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

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Grace Norton, Editor Robert Christenson, Photographer



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It's Membership Renewal Time

Please fill in the 2014 renewal form below, make your check payable to the Fridley Historical Society and mail