

The Record

Kindergarten Art Fair

at the

Fridley History Museum

♦♦ Saturday, December 14, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm ♦♦

For over 20 years, The Fridley Historical Society has hosted the Kindergarten Art Fair in our 1931 school building located at 611 Mississippi Street. The annual event will take place on Saturday, December 14, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. All kindergarten students in both Stevenson Elementary and Hayes Elementary work with their Art Specialists in their schools. There are almost 100 students in each kindergarten school. All the artwork gets displayed in the 1931 school building. A special thank you goes out to Laura Charles Art Specialist at Hayes Elementary, and Lindsie Faber Art Specialist at Stevenson Elementary.

Collecting Memories

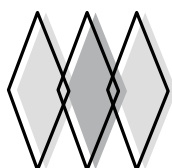
The Fridley Historical Society (FHS) will be 40 years old in 2025 and resides in the Fridley's early school called the Annex. We want to know your memories of attending school in this building. Please tell us the year (if you remember), and grade, along with your memories. We hope to receive enough submissions to publish them. You can remain anonymous if you want. Please email kathy.smith@hrserviceteam.com or mail your memories to 611 Mississippi St. NE, Fridley, MN 55432. Thank you in advance!



Upcoming Events

Open House

November 23
11 am to 3 pm



Kindergarten Art Fair and Open House

Saturday, December 14
11 am to 3 pm

FridleyHistoricalSociety.org

✉ FHS1949@outlook.com

Officers

President: Mark Bonesteel 763-331-1885

Vice President: Mary Ann Hoffman 763-780-5911

Past President: Dorothy Gargaro 612-709-2840

Secretary: Kathy Smith 763-432-5633

Treasurer: Dave Linton 763-843-3415

Other Board Members

Archives Chair: Rob Zelenak robzelenak1993@gmail.com

Programs and Events Chair: Mary Sue Meyers 763-717-7987

Grants Chair: Mary Ann Hoffman 763-780-5911

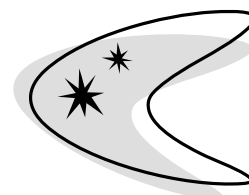
Maintenance Chair: Al Taylor 763-422-3878

Membership Chair: Open

Newsletter Chair: Rachel Westhoff rachel.westhoff@gmail.com

Social Media Chair: Pat Barrett pat.barrett@fridley.k12.mn.us

Member at Large: Lori Greiner lorifridley2@outlook.com



Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting ~ September 5, 2024

Attendance: Mark Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Mary Ann Hoffman, Mary Sue Meyers, Kathy Smith, Rachel Westhoff, Rob Zelenak.

Treasurer's Report: The financial summary report was given for July & August. The motion was approved by Rob Zelenak and seconded by Mary Sue Meyers. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve August minutes was made by Mary Ann Hoffman and seconded by Dorothy Gargaro. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Membership is now at 142. Three new members joined since the last meeting.

Maintenance Report: We will be reaching out to another handyperson to fix the railing. The person who we had contacted can no longer do the job. Partitions in the basement have been removed. The goal is to have the East wall painted, organize things stored, and create a space to film old-timers from Fridley.

Lasagna Dinner and Hall of Fame Update: Hall of Fame Awards will go to: Glenn Johanson, Betty Ann Addison, and the Fridley Lions Club. Mary Sue Meyers requested we try to get raffle prizes. The goal is to have 100 prizes.

Next Newsletter: The next newsletter will have a recap of the Lasagna Dinner, Raffle, Hall of Fame recipients and annual meeting recap.

Fridley Early Grant Update: There will be a pause in the large grant process until after Christmas. The 2012 grant allowed FHS to interview long-time Fridley residents. Mary Ann Hoffman will be reaching out to the participants or their family members to attend a meeting on either 10/22 or 10/25 in the afternoon to gather artifacts from their family. The grant consultant (Steve Boyd) liked this idea.

Archives and Exhibits Update: A donation for the next time capsule was made. A school ledger from Mid 1920 – early 1930 was donated by Hayes School. Mary Ann Hoffman received another copy of the book, "Fridley – Our Home Town" written by Emma Christenson.

Social Media Update: Rob reported there are now 19 videos on the YouTube channel. The site has 73 subscribers.

Museum Tour Update: The Superintendent, Finance Director, and Secretary toured the building. They liked what they saw. After the meeting, Mark Bonesteel received a request from the School Board to have a tour for their members.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting is on October 7. Board members will provide food for the pot luck. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm. ~Kathy Smith

Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting ~ October 3, 2024

Attendance: Mark Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Mary Ann Hoffman, Kathy Smith, Rachel Westhoff, Rob Zelenak.

Treasurer's Report: The financial summary report was given for the month September. The motion was approved by Kathy Smith and seconded by Rob Zelenak. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve September minutes was made by Mary Ann Hoffman and seconded by Dorothy Gargaro. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Membership is now at 145. Eleven members renewed, and three new members joined since the last meeting.

Maintenance Report: Adams Pest came out – there was nothing else to report.

Lasagna Dinner and Hall of Fame Update: Board members will be at the event at 10 am to set up.

Annual Meeting Discussion: Board members will make speeches. Kathy Smith and Pat Barrett will be officially elected to their three year term. Mark Bonesteel agreed to be President for another three year term.

Fridley Early Grant Update: On October 29, Steve Boyd-Smith and Mary Ann Hoffman will host an event for individuals/families interviewed in 2012 to gather artifacts from them/families. The draft of the large grant must be sent to the Minnesota History Center by May 31, 2025. If our application is approved work would start in September 2025.

Archives and Exhibits Update: Rob Zelenak stated that we have 75 subscribers to the YouTube channel and 20 videos. Time capsule donations for 2049 will be accepted through December 2024. FMC photos have been digitized.

Social Media Update: Nothing to report.

Museum Tour Update: We are still waiting for dates for the school board to tour the museum.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm. ~Kathy Smith

Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting ~ November 7, 2024

Attendance: Mark Bonesteel, Dorothy Gargaro, Mary Sue Meyers, David Linton, Kathy Smith, Rachel Westhoff, Rob Zelenak.

Treasurer's Report: The financial summary report was given for the month October. The motion was approved by Rob Zelenak and seconded by Rachel Westhoff. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve October minutes was made by Rob Zelenak and seconded by Rachel Westhoff. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Membership is now at 151. Six new/or members renewing after 12 months, and five renewing members since the last meeting.

Maintenance Report: Adams Pest came and sprayed for the Asian Beetle problem. A repair person is coming out to hopefully fix the lift.

Lasagna Dinner and Hall of Fame Update: Mary Sue Meyers said that as our only fund-raising event of the year, the results were disappointing, and the event will be reviewed by the Hall of Fame Committee.

Archives and Exhibits Update: Nothing to report.

Social Media Update: Rob Zelenak reported that he added one more video on YouTube, we now have 21. We have 76 subscribers.

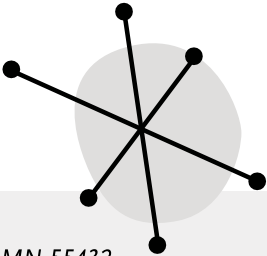
Time Capsule Discussion: The time capsule will be closed the end of December. Mark Bonesteel has requested that we have some Fridley Senior High students write up what Fridley will be like in 25 years.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm. ~Kathy Smith

2024 Lasagna Dinner and Hall of Fame

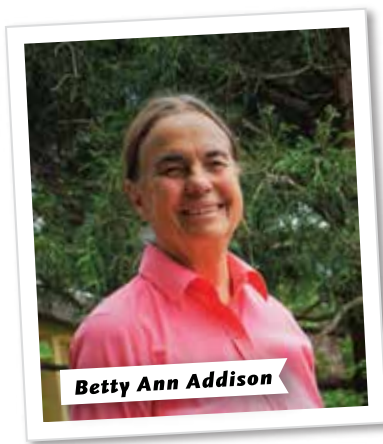
On October 5, The Fridley Historical Society hosted its 32nd Annual Lasagna Dinner and 17th Hall of Fame Induction. Thanks to everyone who attended and to Mayor Scott Lund for acting as emcee.

FHS thanks these local businesses for their support with our lasagna dinner and Hall of Fame ceremony!



Bachman's Floral, Home and Garden 8200 University Ave. NE, Fridley, MN 55432 763-786-8200	Eye Care Center 1202 East Moore Lake Drive NE, Fridley, MN 55432 763-574-0075
Bobs Produce Ranch 7620 University Ave. NE, Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-6620	Kohl's Department Store 10311 Baltimore St. NE, Blaine, MN 55449 763-784-1629
Brightwood Hills Golf Course 1975 Silver Lake Rd NW, New Brighton, MN 55112 651-638-2150	Miller Funeral Home and Cremation 6210 Highway 65 NE, Fridley, MN 55432 763-363-1874
Buzz the Barber / Salon 10 433 87th Lane NE, Blaine, MN 55434 763-784-4422	Revitalife Center Chiropractic and Wellness 8097 Hwy 65, Suite 102, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432 763-710-4085
CorTrust Bank 10107 University Ave. NE, Blaine, MN 55434 763-786-0123	Salon Amore 1278 East Moore Lake Drive Fridley, MN 55432 763-572-0605
Dave's Sports Shop 1001 East Moore Lake Drive, Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-4110	

2024 Hall of Fame Inductees



Betty Ann Addison



Fridley Lions Club



Glenn Warren Johanson

Betty Ann Addison ~

Betty Ann Addison enjoys inspiring love of the natural world. Her vision has helped shape notable landscapes in Fridley and the surrounding metro, from the yards and gardens of residents to large public spaces. She owned two plant nurseries: Rice Creek Gardens in Blaine and the current Gardens of Rice Creek in Fridley. In 1973, she started a small nursery for unusual evergreens and rare plants. Gardeners from all over Minnesota and surrounding states come to visit Betty Ann's gardens and nursery, making her a Fridley community treasure. The Peace Garden at Lake Harriet was designed and built under her direction, as well as the Rock Garden at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Betty Ann's legacy also involves the Rice Creek Trail, where she organized community members to press Anoka County to develop the trail by petition and meetings, thus avoiding a proposed garbage transfer station on the banks of Rice Creek.

Fridley Lions Club ~

The Fridley Lions Club was chartered 70 years ago. Consistent with the Lions' Mission "We Serve", the Fridley Lions have been the primary service organization in Fridley for the community, schools, and needy people. The organization consists of about 60 members who contribute their time and energy to many worthwhile projects within Fridley and Anoka County. The Fridley Lions have been very fortunate in being able to donate funds to various causes within Fridley. Over the past 35 years, the Fridley Lions have donated \$6.1 million from Charitable Gambling Operations. The breakdown in donations are: schools – 44%, community – 18%, needy people and organizations – 38%. The Lions are also the major contributor to a non-profit, the Friends of the Fridley Education Foundation, which donates thousands of dollars to Fridley High graduates and Fridley youth.

Glenn Warren Johanson ~

Glenn Warren Johanson was a third generation Johanson who was born, raised and lived in Fridley as an adult. He was committed to helping in the development of the City, and served on numerous local committees, including the city council and the school district school board. In the early 1950s Glenn was a charter member of the Fridley fire department. He served as a trustee for the Fridley city council in 1954 and as a Fridley council member in 1955-1956 as the city was beginning to experience significant growth. During the mid 1950s Glenn served as acting Mayor for a period of time and was appointed the first Village Marshall, and also was a member of the recreation committee. From June 1957 through 1964, Glenn served as the council member-at-large. During his time on the council he was instrumental in helping establish the installation of the water and sewer systems that the city has today.

Grant Update

by Mary Ann Hoffman, VP and Grants Chair

In the last several newsletters, a synopsis of one of the interviews collected by the Fridley Historical Society in 2012 has been recorded. This continues the series.

Lee Switzer

by Mary Ann Hoffman, VP and Grants Chair

Lee grew up on a North Dakota farm and aspired to be a schoolteacher. After four years of teaching, he realized there would be greater opportunity for advancement in education if he moved to the Twin Cities. He connected with the Fridley school district, which was experiencing a growth spurt, and was hired as a 6th grade teacher at one-year-old Parkview Elementary. Lee was 26 years old and he and his wife were expecting their first baby.



He signed a contract for \$4,900. Due to an expanding student population, the Parkview schedule was divided into two shifts; Lee taught the morning shift. This allowed him to work for the Fridley assessor's office in the afternoons in order to supplement his income. Lee described a portion of his career by saying, "I was at Parkview. I taught there for four years and then when they opened the elementary school at the Senior High School, I was the Teaching Principal there, my fifth year in Fridley. And then in my sixth year they opened up an elementary school in the Junior High School, so I was given the principalship of both the Senior High Elementary and the Junior High Elementary." The following year he was named Principal of Parkview Elementary. Eventually, he earned a doctorate in education.

Lee's fondness for the Parkview families was evidenced when he stated, "I've always thought that the Parkview community was a close-knit community, that the people in that area were starting out in life with their families and they liked their school and the location of their school and everybody walked to their school -- and I think they felt they had a good staff at the school, and they were extremely supportive of the school." Later in the interview he added that Fridley was sometimes referred to as "Fertile Flats. There were families with four, five, six children." In addition, he pointed out that, "When I first came, the family unit was very strong. Very strong."

In 1963, the Switzers bought a new home on a corner lot on 7th Street, for which they paid \$17,700. According to Lee, the houses in his neighborhood were, "Starter houses....7th Street was brand new...and by our house, going south, the road was all sand. The asphalt ended at 59th Street. South of that was sand until they put in the freeway."

Lee Switzer continued...

In regard to Fridley in those years, Lee remarked, "The things parents would do then, what parents would not even dream of doing now with respect to the safety of their children....We had a school carnival every year and the children would sell tickets for a raffle. They'd go door-to-door. These were fifth and sixth graders, and third and fourth graders, and no one thought any problem about children going door-to-door by themselves."

By 1978, the demographics in Fridley had changed, causing the school district to face declining enrollment in its elementary schools. As a result, the Fridley school board closed three schools in one fell swoop: Parkview, Gardena, and Riverwood. Lee then became Principal of Hayes Elementary, where he remained until his retirement in 1992, completing over 30 years of serving Fridley Schools.

Help Wanted

The Fridley Historical Society is always looking for volunteers – it is what keeps the organization running. Think about joining this fun team. We currently have the membership chair position open.

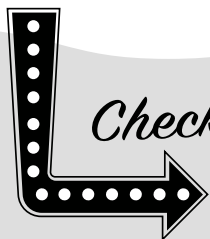
Membership Chair – board member position

- ☛ Attend a monthly board meeting and provide a report on the year-to-date membership activities.
- ☛ Be a docent at least four times a year.
- ☛ Track new and renewed membership via an Excel spreadsheet.
- ☛ Make membership deposits at the Fridley located credit union and report amount to treasurer.
- ☛ Mail out reminder notices to members to renew.
- ☛ Work with the President to create mailing list for newsletter.
- ☛ In January, send out receipt of donations to those requesting a receipt.

To apply or to find out more about any of the above opportunity, email kathy.smith@hrserviceteam.com or call Kathy at 763-432-5633 or 763-571-0120.

Tidbits from the past...

How many of you remember your mother hanging the clothes outside to dry? Personal items were always hung on the inside so no one could see them.



Check us out on our socials!



Fridley Historical Society



YouTube Fridley Historical Society Videos

Membership Update

by Kathy Smith, Secretary

Listed below are the names of the people who have sent in their membership since the last newsletter. We welcome new and renewed members and are now 151 members strong. We know that at the end of the year many nonprofit organizations ask for donations, and we are no exception. Please consider us in your year-end gift giving.

Betty Ann Addison*

Nancy Anderson

Mary Frauly

Joseph & Therese Frederick**

Alice Ganter

Betty Hults*

Jerry Johnson*

Carol Klitzke

Nancy Lambert*

Dennis & Diane Lee*

Martin Lueders*

Margaret & Gerald Maeckelbergh*

Audrey Mahr*

Jennifer Ruff

Pat Sibert

Kathy Smith**

Pliny Smith**

JoAnn Veres*

Craig & Terri Wolfe*

Rosalee Zipp



Many members included a donation; a name followed by an * denotes a donation up to \$50, and ** denotes \$50 or more.

Thank you



As always, we thank you for your generosity, and we invite you to include us in your will or estate planning.

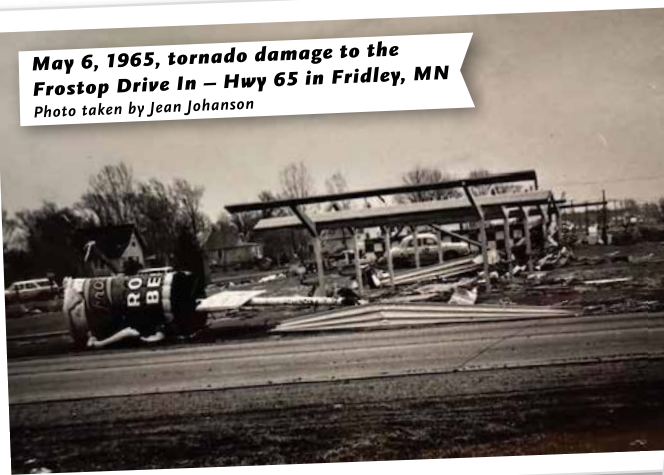
**Membership Renewal Form
on other side**



Keeping History Local!

Joining or renewing is key to keeping history local. End of year donations are always welcomed!

May 6, 1965, tornado damage to the Frostop Drive In – Hwy 65 in Fridley, MN
Photo taken by Jean Johanson



1952 – House on the 300 block of 66th Avenue NE.
Any guesses on what year the car is?



Preserving this history is important. We need your support.

If you haven't joined or renewed your membership, consider doing so now. Donations are also welcomed.