



The Record

Kindergarten Art Fair

at the

Fridley History Museum

Saturday, December 13

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Kindergarten Art Fair

December 13
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.



For over two decades, the Fridley Historical Society has proudly hosted the annual Kindergarten Art Fair at our 1931 school building, located at 611 Mississippi Street. This year's event will be held on Saturday, December 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

All Kindergarten students from Stevenson Elementary and Hayes Elementary collaborate with their school's Art Specialists to prepare for the celebration. Each school has nearly 100 participating students. We extend a heartfelt thank you to Laura Charles, Art Specialist at Hayes Elementary, and Lindsie Faber, Art Specialist at Stevenson Elementary, for their dedication and creativity.

Merry
Christmas

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 (Interim): Rachel Westhoff

Treasurer: Dave Linton 763-843-3415

Other Board Members

Archives & Communications Chair: Rob Zelenak robzelenak1993@gmail.com

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

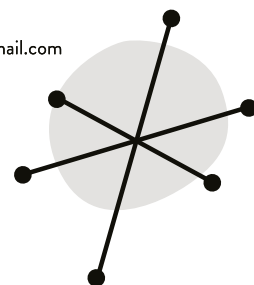
Grants Chair: Mary Ann Hoffman 763-780-5911

Maintenance Chair: Al Taylor 763-422-3878

Membership Chair Interim: Mark Bonesteel

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

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



2025 Annual Meeting by Mark Bonesteel, President

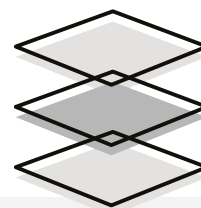
The Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck Dinner were held on October 13. We had fifteen people attend, including eight Board Members. Left over penne from the Pasta Dinner Fundraiser was served along with salad, bread, cookies, vegetables and candy! Each Board Member presented a summary of their achievements over the year. It was a good time for everyone that attended and we are very grateful for the support of our generous members!



2025 Pasta Dinner Fundraiser

On October 4, the Fridley Historical Society held its 33rd Annual Pasta Dinner. We appreciate everyone who joined us, and we extend a special thank you to former mayor Scott Lund for serving as the afternoon's emcee.

FHS thanks the board members and the local businesses listed below for their support with our pasta dinner fundraiser!



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

Bob's 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



Highlights from the 2025 Pasta Dinner



Carol Westhoff receives her raffle prize



FHS volunteers



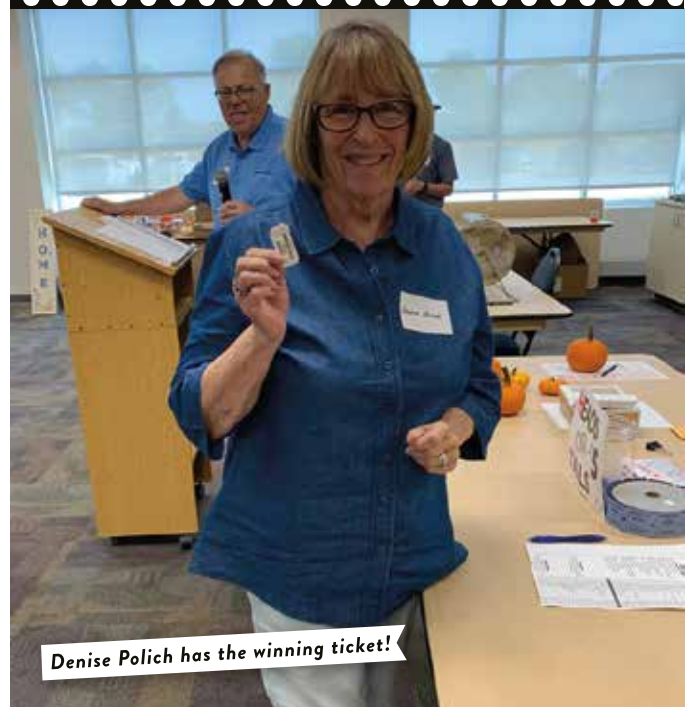
Andy and Cindy Lund



Heads or Tails - part 1



Heads or Tails - part 2



Denise Polich has the winning ticket!

In Memoriam

by Mark Bonesteel, President

The Fridley Historical Society is saddened to announce the passing of several members over the past months. Each of these members contributed to Fridley's history in one way or another and they will be missed. Please keep their family members in your thoughts and prayers.

Arlene Hamernik 1936-2025

Arlene passed away March 17. Arlene was a former High School Teacher in North Dakota.

In the 1970's, Arlene wrote a book titled, "101 Microwave Favorites Plus 4" which sold over 26,000 copies. Arlene worked for many years with Pillsbury and General Mills and was active with St. Phillips Lutheran Church.

Alice Ganter 1931-2025

Alice was the only child of Hazel and Carl Hartman, Fridley's First Mayor. Alice grew up helping in the Hartman Store on East River Road. Alice served as a school Nurse and retired from McKinley Elementary School. Alice was active with the Glen Cary Lutheran Church in Ham Lake. Alice passed away on September 5, 2025.

Jerry Johnson 1950-2025

Jerry was a Fridley High School graduate who received a business degree from the U of M. Jerry worked for his father's parade business until he purchased the business in 1977. Jerry frequented many local parades selling novelties along the route. Jerry was an active model railroader and served on our Board of Directors for many years. Jerry passed away on September 17, 2025.

Margaret Taylor 1942-2025

Margaret Taylor was born in Nebraska and eventually moved to Mora, where her family farmed. Her family then moved to Isle and started the Persson's Shoe Shop. Margaret had a deep Christian faith which she and her children strongly followed. Margaret was very active attending civic events like Isle Days and the Ogilvie Corn on the Curb event. Margaret was the mother of FHS Board Member Al Taylor and visited our museum many times over the years.

Margaret passed away on September 13, 2025.



Please visit our website for detailed board meeting minutes.



fridleyhistoricalsociety.org/board-meeting-minutes/



Grant Update

by Mary Ann Hoffman, VP and Grants Chair

As stated in the last newsletter, we have submitted an application for a Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant. It is a very competitive process, and the Minnesota Historical Society, which administers the program, will announce in December which of those entities will be awarded a grant. If we are so fortunate, early next year work will begin on designing the permanent exhibit we have planned, which will interpret the midcentury transformation of Fridley from a rural farming community to an inner ring suburb of Minneapolis.

Much of the exhibit will be based on a series of interviews with people who lived and/or worked in Fridley at that time. Following is one more example of the 2012 interviews.

Art & Norma Swanson - 2012

by Mary Ann Hoffman, VP and Grants Chair



“Live where you work” was the advice given to Art and Norma when they took over management of Theisen’s Market in Fridley, a grocery store long gone but fondly remembered. Norma’s father owned several food markets in the metro and was approached by Art Christenson to expand into his shopping mall on the southeast corner of Mississippi and University Avenues. Norma had grown up in North Minneapolis, while Art grew up in Brooklyn Center while it was still farmland. They met while both worked in a Theisen’s market in North Minneapolis and married in 1952.

Norma’s dad chose Art and Norma to manage the Fridley Theisen’s, and they cut short their honeymoon to be at the store for its opening. Several years later, in 1959, following her dad’s advice, they moved into a home on Rice Creek Terrace, an area that was owned and being developed by Clover Leaf Creamery. Norma recalled that the street was gravel rather than paved and that one could cross University Avenue from their street.

By that time, the Swansons were raising a daughter and three sons, and later had twin boys. This was during the nationwide Baby Boom, with Art stating, “there were quite a few kids in the neighborhood.” Norma added, “It’s just a fabulous place to raise five boys—and they lived in that creek and brought me home all kinds

Art & Norma Swanson continued...

of critters.” They described some of the children’s activities in the neighborhood, including pet parades and ice skating, made possible because a neighbor would flood Rice Creek each year.

Suburban living has a reputation among some of causing social isolation, with people never getting to know their neighbors. Art and Norma’s interview totally belies that. Time and again, they expressed the joy of living in their Rice Creek neighborhood, and they spoke glowingly of the camaraderie shared by their neighbors, several of whom were mentioned by name, along with what they did for a living. Norma described the neighbors as, “tightknit...We used to have neighborhood progressive parties, so we’d start at one house and have hors d’oeuvres and then we’d move on and have a full-fledged dinner. We just had a blast in our neighborhood.” In addition, Theisen’s sponsored bowling leagues at Maple Lanes, as well as girl’s baseball teams.

One of their favorite activities was being part of the Fridley Dancers. Norma described it as “a lot of fun. A lot of couples in Fridley belonged to it, and at the beginning of the year they’d draw names out of a hat and one couple would be a host couple and then six or eight couples would come to their home and then prepare hors d’oeuvres and drinks. And then we’d go to a place that had a band and dance.”

When asked by the interviewer, “how sand and Fridley go together,” Norma laughingly said, “Fridley is sand. That’s what it is. When we built the house, we put a sandbox in the back of the yard and we just had to put a box around it, you didn’t have to haul in any sand.”

Theisen’s closed in 1968 and was resurrected briefly as Art’s Superette. Sadly, Art passed away in 2015 at age 86, while Norma continues to live in their beloved 1959 Fridley Rambler.



Check us out on our socials!



Fridley Historical Society



YouTube **Fridley Historical Society Videos**

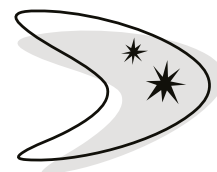
Proposed By-Law Charter Change Request

The Fridley Historical Society Board of Directors wishes to change a section of our By-Laws and Charter regarding the Annual Membership Meeting. The Annual Membership Meeting is covered under Article VII of our By-Laws. Over the past several years, less than ten members have attended the Annual Membership Meeting. One of the reasons for the poor attendance may be due to the event being scheduled too closely to our Annual Pasta / Pasta Dinner Fundraiser or the time of year the event is scheduled.

» The current Article VII By-Laws currently read:

The Annual Meeting shall be held on the second Monday of October in each year.

The Board of Directors may change the meeting provided two weeks notice is given to the members.



» The Proposed Change is:

The Annual Meeting will be held yearly on a date and at a time agreed upon by the Board of Directors. Membership will be notified of the Annual Meeting date by publication in the society's Newsletter, Webpage or other Social Media accounts.

This proposed change allows for more flexibility regarding when the Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled. The proposed change will be voted on at the 2026 Annual Membership Meeting. Any member wishing to submit a comment on the proposed change can send an email to our society at FHS1949@outlook.com or speak with a Board Member. Thank you!

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Fridley Historical Society Board Minutes Summary (August – November 2025)

Pasta dinner update: The Pasta Dinner was a success! Al reported that expenses were cut down by \$1,000 compared to previous years. The games were also a hit.

Maintenance: The following repairs were done: duct cleaning, new AprilAire hoses, and conducting a mold test. Future maintenance projects include replacing the back door, sewer pipe clean out, reinstalling the front step railing, city replacement of water/sewer street pipes, more advance mold abatement, and landscaping around the museum.

Grant update: Mary Ann received an email from the MNHS that the committee HRAC was meeting Nov 6 and 7 and will recommend the grant award winners. The grant recipients will be announced in December.

Board of Director Reappointments: The following board members renewed their terms: Dorothy Gargaro (Past President), Mary Ann Hoffman (Grants), Al Taylor (Maintenance), and Rob Zelenak (Archives & Comm)

Other: Mark will be writing a letter to the Friends of Fridley Education Foundation for possible funding.

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Membership Update

by Mark Bonesteel, President

Our current membership stands at 147, with 26 expired memberships. We still have open Board positions for Membership Chair and Secretary. If you're interested in helping with either role, please reach out to any of our board members!

Welcome New Members:

Mary Ann Mattson

Pat Persson

Linda Kaphing

Renewing Members

37 total