

The Record



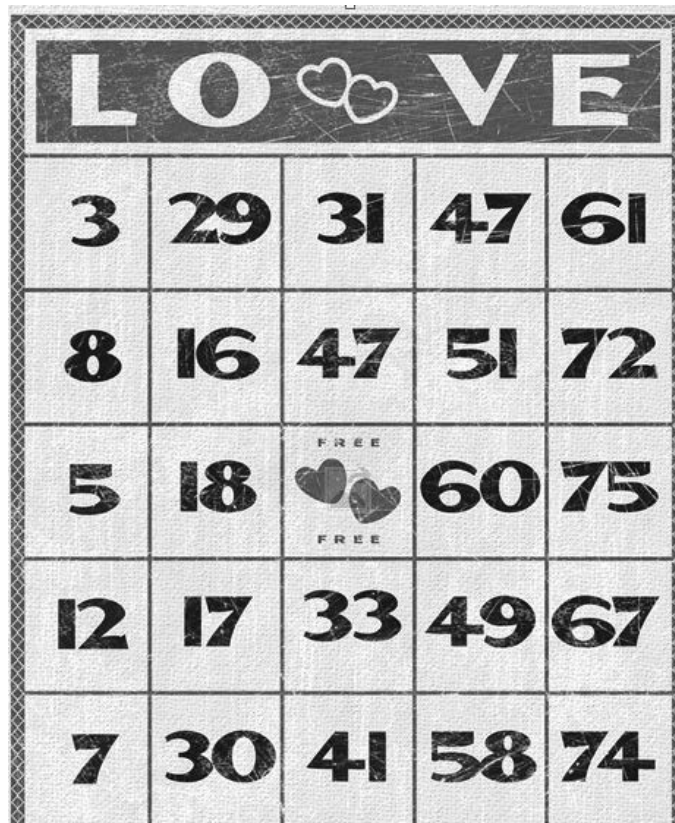
611 Mississippi Street
Fridley, MN 55432
phone (763) 571-0120

Website <http://fridleyhistoricalsociety.org/>
Handicapped access via elevator is on north side of building.

You're Invited to our Valentine's Dinner and Bingo Event!

The event will begin on Monday February 13th at 6:00 pm in the Fridley History Museum basement. We will serve pizza and beverages followed by Bingo!

After such a cold and snowy winter, Valentine's Day is a sign that we are that much closer to spring. The bingo prizes may be "white elephants" but seeing all of our friends and members is the true prize. We hope to see you there!



Fridley Historical Society Board & Committees

Officers

President Mark Bonesteel
Vice President Open
Secretary Lori Greiner
Treasurer Judy Anderson

Other Board Members

Mary Sue Meyers
Allen Taylor
Dorothy Gargaro-Past President
Rob Zelenak
Noreen Rickenbach
Grant Researcher - Mary Ann Hoffman

Committees & Chairpersons

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

Archives and Exhibits

Mark Bonesteel — 763-331-1885

City & Family History

Dorothy Gargaro — 763-792-1080

Finance

Judy Anderson — 763-767-2566

Fundraising

Open —

Maintenance Committee

Allen Taylor – 763-422-3878

Membership

Mary Ann Hoffman—763-780-5911

Newsletter Editor

Lori Greiner — 612-749-3917

Membership Update

The following people renewed their Fridley Historical Society membership since the Fall Newsletter was published.

A name followed by an * indicates that the renewal was accompanied by a donation up to \$50.

A name followed by ** indicates a donation of \$50 or more.

We thank all of our members for your support.

Ron and Karla Ackerman*
Mary Geisenhoff*
Carol Hoiby
Barbara Hughes and Beth Hitomi*
Peggy & Mike Kalm*
Barbara Kovacic**
Nancy Lambert*
Stan Mack II and Margaret Leibfried
Carolyn Nolan
Roberta Peterson**
Sig & Marti Reckdahl
Roy Scherer*
Kate Simon & Jerry Dastych*
Dick & Bernie Stawski*
Dr. Lee & Gaylene Switzer**
Erna Thomley*
Lenny & Ann Witucki*
Craig & Terri Wolfe*
Warren Woods

Welcome New Members:

David Schulze
Pliny Smith*
Ron & Janet Poire*



Kindergarten Art Fair

December 10th 2022

The art fair was a huge success and the museum had 250 visitors!

The children proudly showed their parents their art work and then went downstairs for treats and were able to meet Santa!

**2022 Open Houses 11am—3pm
Second and Fourth Saturdays of
the month**

**Board Meetings—6pm
First Thursday of the month**

2022 Hall of Fame Induction/Lasagna Dinner, Sweepstakes and Silent Auction

On October 8th, The Fridley Historical Society hosted the Sixteenth Hall of Fame Induction to recognize and honor individuals who have contributed most significantly to the growth and success of the City of Fridley. This year's inductees were Mark Bonesteel, Bill Burns, Joseph S Rickenbach Sr, and Joseph S Rickenbach Jr.

A lasagna dinner was served before the induction ceremony and, following the event, raffles prizes were drawn and silent auction items won by lucky bidders. This is our biggest fundraising event of the year and was a great success!

Thanks to everyone who attended this event, and to Mayor Scott Lund for introducing the inductees and John Fitzpatrick for acting a Emcee. If you were unable to attend, please stop in and see the HOF plaques which will be displayed



Pictured L to R: Bill Burns, Joseph S Rickenbach Jr., Joseph S Rickenbach Sr., and Mark Bonesteel



Veteran's Day 2022



In honor of Veteran's Day, in November the Fridley Library created displays which included Northern Pump, which produced naval armaments and ordinance, Women During the War who vitally contributed to the war effort, and the Charles Hayes family, a father who served in WWI and his son who served in WWII.

Trench Art describes souvenirs manufactured by service personnel during World War I

These three pieces of Trench Art were donated to the Fridley Historical Society by the family of Alfred Nielsen, who served in France during World War I. The military exhibit in the Fridley Historical Society schoolhouse museum includes many artifacts donated by local residents.



2022 Fridley Hall of Fame Inductee

William W. (Bill) Burns

(pictured with John Fitzpatrick and Mayor Scott Lund)

Bill Burns was born in Martinsburg, West Virginia and attended Eichelberger High School in Havover, PA, graduating in 1960. Following high school, he enrolled at West Virginia Wesleyan College and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science in 1964. Graduate school would follow. Bill earned his Master of Art degree in political science at West Virginia University and his PHD in political science from Kent State University. It was while he attended Kent State that he met and was influenced by one of his professors, Dr. James Coke, PHD, who would become his mentor. Bill married Roseanne in September 2010 and they have five children.

Bill Burns was the City Manager of the City of Fridley from September 1st, 1988 through December 31st, 2012. He was also the Executive Director of the City of Fridley Housing and Redevelopment Authority during that same time. His commitment to the residents, businesses, and the general community of Fridley was demonstrated by his dedication, leadership, and hard work. Always, he focused on how to enhance the quality of life in Fridley. He was well respected by elected officials, the citizens, and the city work force.

Prior to coming to Fridley, Bill had some extensive service in Academia and other City Manager positions in Ohio. He began his work life in 1965 as a school teacher in Bel Air ,MD, and after two years moved on to a position as an instructor at Westminster College, then became a Graduate Assistant at Kent State University. From 1973-1976 he was an Assistant Professor at Arkansas State University, leaving there for a City Manager position in Fairborn, Ohio which he held until 1985. Middletown, Ohio hired him to be their City Manager from 1985-1988. When Fridley, Minnesota had an opening in 1988 Bill applied and was selected to be the City Manager.

For nearly a quarter of a century, the City of Fridley was fortunate to have a dedicated professional leading our city government as City Manager. Dr. Bill Burns believed strongly in the value of providing a high performing city government service and worked tirelessly to have the city be the best that it could be. He expected the city workforce to be professional and to provide the most cost-effective service possible. He believed that the city served the people who lived and worked in the community and he listened to their concerns. He spearheaded regular Citizen Surveys to gain input from the community on their level of satisfaction with government services and ideas for future direction and needed improvements. He incorporated ideas from those surveys into action steps for the city government to take.

In addition to being a leader for the city, Bill served as a leader on numerous boards and communities to further the efforts and relationships of the City of Fridley and local government. These leadership positions were with the Board of Directors for Metro Cities, the League of Minnesota Cities Fiscal Futures Committee, and many other significant contributions. Additionally, he worked with State Legislators, County Commissioners, and other area representatives on NorthStar Rail, Springbrook Watershed, Gateway projects, and World headquarters projects for Medtronic and Cummins Power. For his incredible area involvement, in 2009 he was awarded the prestigious League of Minnesota Leadership Award, their highest honor. On December 20th, 2012 Mayor Scott Lund proclaimed it to be “Dr. Will Burns Appreciation Day” in the City of Fridley.



2022 Fridley Hall of Fame Inductees

Joe S. Rickenbach Sr & Joe S. Rickenbach Jr

(pictured with Mayor Scott Lund)

Ricky's Embers Restaurant was the final holdout of the Embers Chain; they kept the flames burning through Sunday, March 28th, 2021.

The first Embers Restaurant was opened by the founders, Henry Kristal and Carl Birnberg on East Lake Street and Hiawatha Avenue in Minneapolis in 1956. The star of their menu was the quarter pound hamburger, char-broiled and brushed with their secret barbecue sauce that sold for forty-five cents. Six months later, they opened a second spot of Ford Parkway in the Highland Park neighborhood, and the concept took off. In 1958, when Joe Rickenbach, Sr got a call from his Navy buddies, and heard the exciting news of a chain of Embers growing like gangbusters in Minnesota, he quit his job in the cough drop factory in Reading Pennsylvania. He landed as janitor at the Highland Embers and eventually worked his way up to Vice President of Operations. Besides spending off-hours training in the kitchen and learning to cook, he and his wife Noreen, did a lot of promoting from within. After working there for 30 years, he went to work for Heights Lutheran Church.

Joe Rickenbach, Jr. was 15 years old when he also started working as a janitor at the Fridley Embers. He was one of the first franchisees and chose Fridley Embers because he had grown up there, gone to Fridley High School, and went to church in the area. He also liked the little A-Frame building that held a manageable 90 seats. "It was a scary decision," says Rickenbach. "Denise and I had five kids and the twins had just been born! But it was a great opportunity. Our kids all liked to work there, too".

From the beginning, it has been a family business. Joe Jr. called his business Ricky's Embers after his dad, who coached him through the financing of the business, and dad stayed on as the facilities manager. "He's like Mr. Embers. He doesn't ever leave the place without talking to at least 15 people. He likes to play up how hard I work him, and the customers like that it's hilarious." Also memorable is that people of a certain age still remember the restaurant's jingle, "Remember the Embers".

Joe Rickenbach, Jr. was especially touched by a memory of a couple who had come to Ricky's Embers every March 19th for decades. Last year, the Embers was closed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This couple decided to pick up food at McDonald's and to eat their dinner in Ricky's Embers, like always, but now in the parking lot. When Joe saw them, he invited them into the closed restaurant so they could eat in the same booth that they always used.

Joe Rickenbach was very proud to have employed many talented and caring workers over the years. Even when they knew that the restaurant was closing, not one of them left before the end. He was very grateful.

The Rickenbach Family left a message online for all of Ricky's Embers' customers: "Thanks for all of your support over the years. Remember the Embers".



2022 Fridley Hall of Fame Inductee

Mark Bonesteel

(pictured with John Fitzpatrick and Mayor Scott Lund)

Mark was born in Fridley, Minnesota to Pete and Mary Bonesteel. He was raised in Fridley and graduated from Fridley High School. After high school, Mark received his Associate of Arts degree in Law Enforcement from North Hennepin Community College. Officer Bonesteel served as a Police Reserve for the City of Blaine in 1986. In 1993 he was hired as a police officer by Amboy and Vernon Center, Minnesota, and also served the Anoka County Sheriff's Office part time as a Court Security Officer. In 1996 Mark was hired as a full time Police Officer in Spring Lake Park where he served the community for twenty-five years. Mark dedicated his career to Law Enforcement and to service to the communities that he served. In 1998 he became a Fridley Community Service Officer (CSO), and later the CSO Coordinator and managed the entire Community Service Officer Unit. In 2002-2022 he worked as a School Liaison Officer at Spring Lake Park High School. Officer Bonesteel coordinated the Police Department Zero Deaths Program (TZD) and the Selective Intensified Traffic Enforcement Program (S.I.T.E.). Mark retired from his active Spring Lake Park Police Officer position in October 2021. but took a part time position as Historian for the Anoka County Sheriff's Department.

In 1991 Mark married Laura Nierengarten. In 2000, they were blessed with the birth of their son, Nick, who unexpectedly passed away in 2014.

Community Service runs in the Bonesteel family. Mark's brother Paul is a long-time Police Officer for a Department in Anoka County. Their father, Pete, was on the original board of the Fridley Historical Society. Pete served on the Archives Committee until his passing in 2017. Mark finished out Pete's term and has continued to serve on the Board up to today. In 2022 he began his term as President of the Board.

For the past five years, during his free time and vacations, Mark completely remodeled the various displays within the Fridley History Center. Note: We encourage all of you to come and see his Ricky's Embers, Military, Police and Fire Department displays. Most recently he revamped and added to the 1965 Tornado display. His dedication is beyond what any reasonable person would expect, and he is greatly appreciated by the Board and visitors alike. Mark also helps on the Maintenance Committee with numerous projects necessary to keep a 1930's building in good condition.

Mark is an active collector and in his free time he searches flea markets, antique stores, and eBay to add to his collections of Police patches, die cast cards, and post cards.

Mark is a service-oriented role model for all of the Board of Directors, and the community. He lives up to the purpose of the Hall of Fame; "To recognize and honor those individuals who, through dedication, work, and accomplishments, have contributed significantly to the growth and success of the City of Fridley".

Annual Meeting

October 10th, 2022

Our annual meeting was held on October 10th. After a serving a meal, the board of directors gave a recap of the past years events and accomplishments and well as goals for the upcoming year and beyond. Before the conclusion of the meeting, there were two nominees to the Board! Mary Ann Hoffman nominated Rob Zelenak, which was seconded by Allen Taylor, and approved by all. Also, Mary Sue Meyers nominated Noreen Rickenbach with a second by Allen Taylor, and approval by all. Please join us in welcoming Rob and Noreen to the Board!

Message from President Mark Bonesteel:

The museum is open the second and fourth Saturdays every month. When families come to our museum, the children always gravitate to the school room. They ring the class bell, play with the abacus, or play school. They also play games or read children's books in the school room. It is a huge draw for our museum.

The Embers exhibit was completed mid-summer. The exhibit consists of an actual table and booth from Embers. It also has menus, dinnerware, and a history of one of our favorite restaurants. The exhibit is also very popular with younger children that love to sit in the booth with their family.

In September, Hayes School asked if we could open our museum for three days before school started. This was just before the school year started and students were coming in to meet their teachers and obtain class information. We opened our museum for all three days for a total of 22 hours. Many families toured our museum and the children loved learning about how school used to be in the school room. We also opened the museum up to the public as well and this brought in may people that had never visited before.

In October we had our first combined Lasagna/Hall of Fame fundraiser. This was our first fundraiser in over three years. Four people were inducted into the Fridley Hall of Fame. The event brought in about \$2,000 after expenses. This was the first time the society conducted a joint event and it appeared to work well.

In December the museum will once again host the Kindergarten Art Fair. This is always hugely popular and very well attended. Art work will be displayed throughout the schoolroom and Santa will be making an appearance. Many teachers show up to be with their students which helps with attendance as well.

The Fridley Historical Society is a non-profit 501 C3 organization. We have no paid employees. Our entire budget comes from our membership dues and donations made to our museum. We currently have 122 members which is down from 178 in the early 2010's. Many of our long-term members have passed away or moved into care facilities. The society is struggling to attract new members.

The Fridley Historical Society has never had internet service. We work on a computer that that is twelve years old. We do not have any scanners or programs to catalog and preserve history. Currently board members bring items home to scan and catalog. We are in the process of adding an office area in the basement where preservation work can be completed onsite. WE are also looking for a larger flat file cabinet that can store some of our larger maps, plat books, photos, etc. It is our hope that adding technology will help attract new members and let those in the community that cannot physically come into the museum, visit from home virtually through an enhanced website and page.

Thank you very much for your past financial support. I hope that you will consider the Fridley Historical Society again for any financial help that you are able to award us.

(Annual Meeting continued next page)

(Annual meeting continued)

Membership Report submitted by Mary Ann Hoffman:

The number of Fridley Historical Society members is currently 115. This compares with 127 last year. We have 12 new members this year. As renewals for 2022 came in, we collected a total of \$1,140.50. Along with the dues, members were invited to include an additional donation. Well over half did so, for a total of \$3,696.50.

Thanks to all of our members. The dues keep our building heated and cooled, keep the plumbing working, and the lights on. It wouldn't be possible without you.

Maintenance Reports submitted by Al Taylor:

Some of the many maintenance items completed this year were the sewer cleanout situation, fixing broken water pipes next to the parking lot, repairing the sprinkler system, the water regulator was replaced with an outdoor faucet, the shrubs were trimmed and bramble removed, painting of the wood panels covers the windows, and maintaining the pest control. We achieved tremendous savings on our heating and cooling bills.

A special thanks goes out to Rick Hitt, Karl Strina, Alec Strina, and Ed Bryant.

Next year's goals are to replace three window panels, place wood chips around the museum, create a cleaning team, and to clean out the storage rooms of unused items. We need volunteers to help us maintain this very special, one of a kind schoolhouse! Please consider it and let me know!



Programs and Events by Mary Sue Meyers:

The main event of the year was the Hall of Fame/Lasagna fundraiser. The net profits from the event was \$2,442.27. Thank you to everyone who worked on and attended our biggest fundraiser of the year.

Financial Report submitted by Judy Anderson:

Judy submitted the October Income and Expenses. The net profit from the lasagna dinner was a good boost to our finances. The annual dues renewal will be in our next newsletter so more funding should be received in early 2023.



Attendees of the annual meeting. Please note that some are seated in the Ricky's Embers booth (far right). If you haven't yet, come and see the exhibit which is located in the basement.

Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting Minutes—November 3rd, 2022

Members Present: Al Taylor, Lori Greiner, Mary Ann Hoffman, Dorothy Gargaro, Rob Zelenak

Submission of the September minutes-Motion to approved made by Mary Ann, Seconded by Rob, approved by all.
Submission of the October financial reports-Motion to approve by Mary Sue, seconded by Al, approved by all.

Membership Report-since the September meeting, \$57 in dues and \$40 in donations were received.

Lasagna/Hall of Fame Event-We have received positive comments regarding the event. The lasagna and cak was excellent and the HOF was very well done.

Open Houses at the Museum-We will be open on November 12th, closed Thanksgiving weekend, and open on December 10th to host the Kindergarten Art Fair.

Maintenance-The sprinklers were blown out, windows painted, and Christmas lights hung. Next year we will paint the front door.

Archives and Exhibits-The back room is being cleaned out. Mark and Al will be purchasing a new computer and equipment.

Anoka County Historical Society-They will hold a board meeting in our downstairs area on December 8th from 5:30 to 7:30pm.

Fridley Women of Today Food Drive-A food drive was held in the museum parking lot which collected 45 pounds of food and \$60.

Fridley Library-The library no longer has the showcases so Mark purchased a display case for Veteran's Day and put trench art in it.

Fire Department-Mark gave pictures of fire trucks to the Fridley Fire Department.

Fundraising-Mark wrote a letter to the Fridley Education Foundation to request financial assistance. He will also request that the Lion Club help us get a new outdoor sign.

Meeting adjourned 7pm

Lori Greiner-Secretary

FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

RETURN SERVICE
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*Celebrating Fridley's past
and securing its future*

Membership Renewal Form



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Dues for the year 2023: senior dues \$10, individual dues \$12.50, family dues (2 adults, same household) \$18.50.
Please consider making an additional donation to help us reach our goals.

Dues \$ _____ Additional tax-deductible donation \$ _____

Check here to request an IRS donation receipt.

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Thank you for your support!