

# The Record



611 Mississippi Street  
Fridley, MN 55432  
phone (763) 571-0120  
Website <http://fridleyhistoricalsociety.org/>  
Handicapped access on north side of building.

You're Invited to the  
  
Fridley Hall of Fame Induction and  
30th Annual Lasagna Dinner, Sweepstakes, and Silent Auction  
Saturday, October 8th, 2022  
Fridley Community Center Fireside Room  
6085 Seventh Street Fridley

The 2022 Fridley Hall of Fame was established to recognize those who through dedication, work, and accomplishment, have contributed significantly to the growth and success of the City of Fridley.

Names of nominees were solicited from the Community. This year's inductees are:  
Mark Bonesteel, Bill Burns, Joe Rickenbach Sr, and Joe Rickenbach Jr.

Schedule of Events:  
Doors open 11:30 am  
Buffett dinner 12:00 noon  
Followed by:  
Hall of Fame Induction  
Raffle and Silent Auction\*

\*Need not be present to win Raffle prizes but must be present to win the Silent Auction items  
Raffle tickets may be purchased at the event for \$1 per ticket.

Tickets must be reserved no later than September 30th and will be sent to you by mail.  
Tickets can be purchased by sending your payment of \$18.00 per ticket to the Fridley  
History Center, Attn. Mary Sue Meyers, 611 Mississippi Street, Fridley MN 55432

## Fridley Historical Society Board & Committees

### Officers

President	Mark Bonesteel
Vice President	Mary Ann Hoffman
Secretary	Lori Greiner
Treasurer	Judy Anderson

### Other Board Members

Mary Sue Meyers  
Allen Taylor  
Dorothy Gargaro

### 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

### Programs & Events

Mary Sue Meyers — 763-717-7987

## 2022 Open Houses 11am—3pm

October 8th and 22nd  
November 12th and 26th  
December 10th

## Meetings—6pm

*October 10th—Annual Meeting*

November 3rd—Board Meeting  
December 1st—Board Meeting

# Help Wanted

## Volunteers Needed!

As you know, the Fridley Historical Society is a volunteer only organization. We are in need of additional help to carry on our purpose of preserving and sharing the history of Fridley. The time commitment can be as little as a few hours a month being a docent when the museum is open or being a Board Member.

Due to retirements, opportunities exist for the Treasurer and Membership positions.

If you or if you know of anyone who would like to help, please contact us by leaving a phone message and we will get back to you. You can donate as little or as much of your time as you would like.

**Between June 2 and September 6, the following have renewed their 2022 Fridley Historical Society membership. 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.**

**As always, thank you for your continued support and generosity!**

Dora Mae Burdick\*\*

William Linton

Mary Bonesteel\*

Martin Lueders\*

John Fitzpatrick & Annette White\*\*

Leon Madsen\*\*

Mary Ann Haines

Alicia Manley\*\*

Betty Hults\*

Bernadine Matushak\*

Mary Huss\*

Katherine Mrozek\*\*

Karen Jacobson\*

Laurence Stahl\*

Jerry Johnson\*

Norma Swanson\*

Sarah & Tom Joslin\*\*



The Fridley History Museum was opened for visitors during special hours on September 1st, 6th, and 7th as part of the Fridley Open House Days as parents brought their kindergartners to school.

The young students and their parents enjoyed visiting our classroom. Writing on the black board, sitting at the teacher's and student desks, and ringing the hand held bells are always fun for the students.

## **Cloverleaf Creamery Charles A. Nelson-Fridley Pioneer**

Back before milking machines and refrigeration, persons who did not live in the country or own a cow had to rely on creameries to deliver milk to homes and local businesses. One of the largest creameries was founded and owned by Fridley pioneer, Charles A. Nelson.

C.A. Nelson owned over 3000 acres of farm land in Anoka County. Most of the land was in the Fridley/Blaine area. The Nelson family donated land for a new country school in 1931. That schoolhouse is the current Fridley Historical Society building. Land was also donated for the Blaine City Hall. Cloverleaf Parkway is a remnant of the once immense Nelson dairy farms.

Nelson and his son, Raymond, started Cloverleaf Creamery in North Minneapolis in the early 1900's. Their farms were milking 500 cows per day. In those days, they didn't have the refrigeration methods that modern dairies have today. Workers would go to Long Lake and cut ice and haul it all the way back to the home farm and put sawdust on it. All year long they would take the ice out of the ice piles they had created and haul it down to Cloverleaf. Home deliveries used the ice to keep the milk and other products cold. You could hardly get 3 days out of the milk and cream. Most people had ice boxes and needed 7 days a week delivery to keep it fresh.



Raymond took over the presidency of Cloverleaf in 1922 following the death of his father, Charles. Under his direction, the dairy improved refrigeration techniques and a broader offering of products. He was the first man to implement surge milking machines and refrigerated bulk tanks. That was probably the biggest improvement that has made milk good today. These techniques of refrigerated milk stored in bulk tanks transferred to refrigerated trucks greatly improved shelf life of milk and cream products.

Some of the Nelson farms were devoted to turkey production. During WW2, many tons of birds were butchered, trimmed, and frozen for the overseas troops. The government paid \$1 per pound for a trimmed bird provided Cloverleaf an enormous amount of profit.

The tornadoes of 1965 destroyed much of the turkey farms located at 67<sup>th</sup> & Central and 97<sup>th</sup> & Polk. Since then, Marigold Dairies bought out Cloverleaf ending an era of dairy farming in Anoka County.

The Fridley History Museum has a wealth of information about the early days of Fridley pioneers and the legacies they left behind! All are welcome and admission is always free!



## Revisiting the Red River Ox Cart Trail In 2022

In the early 1800's, it was very difficult to transport furs, Buffalo hides, food and other commodities from Canada to the United States. The railroad infrastructure had not yet been created and routes via water bound ships were limited. Ox carts were created in the 1600's and were easy to construct and use to transport goods. These carts became the primary mode to ship goods. Often these ox carts would travel in large caravans, sometimes miles long.

The Red River Ox Cart Trail started in Winnipeg, Manitoba and proceeded through the Eastern portion Of North Dakota. It was also known as the Pembina Trail. From Pembina North Dakota, several trails branched out through Minnesota and proceeded south. The Red River Ox Cart Trail proceeded to Wadena, Minnesota and continued south eventually ending in St. Paul, Minnesota. The trail was completed in 1844.

At Anoka, the trail crossed the Mississippi River and the Rum River. The trail then continued through Coon Rapids along what is currently East River Road. The trail then entered Fridley which was Manomin at the time. The Banfill Tavern was built in 1847 and served as a stop along the trail. From Fridley, the trail continued to St. Paul where the goods could be placed on ships to travel further down river.

Canadian resident Terry Doerksen became fascinated with the Red Ox Cart Trail after reading a book about it many years ago. In 2022, Terry set out to retrace the Red River Ox Cart Trail from Winnipeg to St. Paul. Terry had an ox cart built in the style of the 1800's cart. An Ox named Zik was purchased.

On May 17, 2022 Terry and his ox Zik began their adventure by leaving Winnipeg. Terry's wife Patty agreed to follow her husband in an RV and document the trip. A month after leaving Winnipeg, Terry and Zik arrived in Perham then continued on to Wadena. Terry was able to access Google Earth at times and the original Ox cart trail could still be seen by satellite imagery. Terry obtained permission from land owners to use the original trail when he could. Terry mostly walked along side Zik but also rode in the ox cart at times.



Along the trail, Zik lost several shoes which had to be repaired or replaced. The cart also suffered issues and had to be repaired several times along the way. At Wadena, Terry decided it would be safer to trailer Zik and the cart to St. Paul.

On July 15, Terry, Patty, and Zik arrived at the Banfill Tavern in Fridley. Terry wanted to stay overnight in the building and have a drink like travelers did in the 1840's. Insurance issues involving the county and insurance agency did not allow for an overnight stay inside the building. The county was able to grant Terry's wish of having a drink in the old tavern and made an event of his arrival.

County Commissioner Mandy Meisner brought a 12 pack of Nordeast Beer to the tavern. Fridley Council members Ann Bolkcom and David Oswald along with members of the Anoka County Historical Society, Fridley Historical Society and the public gathered for an informal celebration. Terry allowed the group to get up and close with Zik and also see the cart which was still trailered. Afterwards, everyone ventured inside the old Banfill Tavern. Terry talked about his trip and auctioned off some wool. A toast was made with the Nordeast beer and a group photo was taken.

On July 17, Terry, Patty, and Zik arrived in St. Paul. The ox cart was reassembled and Terry walked Zik into St. Paul. The first part of the trip had ended. Zik was eventually put into the trailer and taken back to her farm in Manitoba. Terry and Patty boarded a steamship to continue the adventure down the Mississippi River to St. Louis.

The Red River Ox Cart trail was used until 1857 when other modes of transportation became more viable. Less and less carts used the trail after that and at one point the trail was renamed the United States Military Road. In the end, the Red Ox Cart Trail gave way to the changing transportation systems in our state. The fact that the Banfill House Tavern still stands is a credit to all those that believe in preserving, documenting and sharing our history.



Left- County Commissioner Mandy Meisner.

Seated-Terry Doerksen

**Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting****July 7th, 2022**

Attendance: Dorothy Gargaro, Lori Greiner, Mark Bonesteel, Allen Taylor

Dorothy called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Treasurer's Report: Month ended June 30th 2022. Motion to approve Lori, seconded by Mary Ann, approved by all

Secretary's Report: June 2nd 2022 Board Meeting. Motion to approve Mary Ann, seconded by Al, approved by all.

Membership Report: Since the June meeting, \$41.00 in dues and \$259.00 in donations.

Maintenance Report: Projects/items to be done are painting outside wooden window coverings and a new garden hose.

Archives and Exhibits: Working on the downstairs office. Two new computers will be purchased. Archive room will be organized.

Other Business: Menards Cards and Micro Center Accounts. We will make maintenance purchases with our card so that expenses can be tracked more efficiently. A Micro Center account was set up for office equipment purchases.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm

Lori Greiner

**Fridley Historical Society Board Meeting****August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Attendance: Dorothy Gargaro, Lori Greiner, Allen Taylor

Dorothy called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Treasurer's Report: none submitted

Secretary's Report: Lori will bring to next board meeting

Membership Report: none submitted

Maintenance Report: All the shrubs and small trees have been trimmed. The material was hauled away. Mark from the district came to fix the sprinkler system but discovered a broken water regulator that needs replacing in order to pressurize the system. Painting the wood panels will be the next project. Special thanks to Karl and Alec Strina in their helping to trim shrubs!

Archives and Exhibits: none submitted

Hall of Fame/Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser: We discussed the old list of donors and who was responsible for getting those prizes. We will use past programs to present to donors. As prizes come in, Mary Sue will compile the 2022 list of prizes/donors for the program. The push is to get the prizes/donations in before Oct. 1, 2022.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm

Allen W. Taylor



**FRIDLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

611 Mississippi Street  
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phone (763) 571-0120

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED



*Celebrating Fridley's past  
and securing its future*

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**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Monday October 10th 6pm**

**Please join us at the annual meeting where we will share the successes of 2022 and what the future holds for the Fridley Historical Society. Pizza and beverages will be provided.**