JUNIOR PIONEERS
OF NEW ULM AND VICINITY

Vol. 37 / No. 2 JUNIOR PIONEER NEWSLETTER Summer 2023

# Junior Pioneers Summer Picnic
# Tuesday, June 13, 2023

**Junior Pioneer Park**

**5:30 pm, with meal at 6:00 pm**

**Bring a dish to pass, your beverage of choice and a lawn chair.**
**Burgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, plates and utensils provided.**

**Come check out the progress at the park shelter!**

Photo credit: Foresee Studios, LLC

Construction has begun on the park shelter.

Target completion date is late fall of 2023.

General Contractor is Steve Farasyn with Farasyn Construction.

MR Paving has completed the sitework for footings and back filling.

Footings and below grade work has been done by Pinnacle Masonry.

Many thanks to our Project Manager, Larry Mack!

We are still accepting donations for future tables and benches. In addition, an endowment fund has been started with an initial generous gift from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. If you'd like to donate to either of those funds, please indicate which fund you're contributing to.

The Schanus' continue to work hard to mow and trim and pick up sticks and branches as time allows.

Check out our Facebook page for additional photos and continued updates.
www.facebook.com/JuniorPioneersofNewUlm

**We gratefully acknowledge the following donors to the park shelter construction project.**

Carol Ackerson
Garry Andersen
Jeff Andersen
Anonymous
Kathleen Backer
Jean Backman
Thomas & Kathleen Berg
Dayle Besemer
Lisa Besemer
Robert & Cheryl Buessman
Andy & Anne Biebl
Kathie Bierbaum
Matt & Jody Boisen
Mary Borstan
Joel E. Botten
Betsy A. Bradford
Rita Brand
Herbert Dummer
Diane Carlson
Jenna Carlson
Betty Christiansen
Andrea Danforth
Charlene & Jerry Dannheim
Robert & Norma Dempsey
Katherine Derong
Toni Wicherski Dey
Charlton Dietz
Florian & Rosie Dittrich
Robert & Mary Ellen Domeier
Pat & Nicole Eckstein
Steven & Frani Fesenmaier
Rosemary Franta
Dr. Thomas R. Fritsche
Bill & Eileen Furth
Herbert Furth
Mike & Tamara Furth
Paul Furth
Loren & Yvonne Gag
Darla Gebhard
George Glotzbach
Brian & Lori Gramentz
Dan & Mary Gulden Groebner
Thomas E. Haubrich
Kevin Henle
Michael Henle
Delores Holden
Dan & Sandra Juni
Dave Kading
Thomas Kienlen
Vern & Pam Kitzberger
Susan Kolbinger
Loren & Pat Kraetz
Eugene Kruschke
Ellen Kruschke-Olson
Pam & Randy Krzmarzick
Willard & Sandra Kuester
Larry Mack
Anne Makepeace
Nate & Jessica Marti
Corinne Marz
John Massopust & Linda Massopust
Jyneal McCrea
Dave & Ruth Mecklenberg
Vianna Moody
Richard & Mary Niemann
Jane Furth Nordin
Wade & Kathleen Olsen
Kim & Rhonda Olson
Margaret Oswald
Bill, Lori & Taylor Otis
Gordon & Ruth Palmer
Robert Paulson
Duane & Vicki Piere
Wayne & Sharon Plagge
Karl & Patricia Preuss
Bob & Gayle Ranweiler
Keith & Trudy Richter
Elizabeth Russ
Don & Diana Saffert
Kenneth & Jeanie
Ron & Barb Saffert
Seth & Jamie Schaefer
Sharon Shamber
Kathryn Scheurer
Dean & Suzanne Schilling
Alan & Barbara Schmucker
Jeff Schmucker
Jelaine Schreiner
Nancy W. Schwalen
Heidi & Steven Seifert
Ruth McCrea Simpson
Virginia Sislane
Carolyn Marti Smith
Reuben & Ruth Stoll
John W. Strate
Karl Sturm
Terry & Ellie Sveine
Diane & Al Swintek
Charles Tausche
Leon Treml
Jerry & Maggie Ubl
Jay & Ellen Vancura
Ann Vogel
John A. Weatherwax
Lee & Yvonne Weber
Dave & Linda Weldy
Jerry Weldy
Jean Wenk
Penny Williams
Gary Wiltscheck
Jamie Windhorn
Tom Wyczawski
Judy Zahn
Sharon Zins

**GRANTS**
Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation
New Ulm Area Foundation

**IN KIND DONATIONS**
Kraus Tree Service for some tree removal
Hoffman Construction for pre-construction site work

Photo Credit: Carolyn Marti Smith

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***PLEASE NOTE - WE HAVE A NEW EMAIL!*** juniorpioneersnu@gmail.com

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In honor of our upcoming 100th anniversary, it's interesting to reflect on the 50th anniversary of the founding of New Ulm. The following is taken verbatim (grammatical and punctation errors and all) from a digital copy of the book History of Brown County, Minnesota: Its People, Industries and Institutions (Volume 1) Edited by L. A. Fritsche, M. D. published in 1916. It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain.

**Col. William Pfaender's Address**

(At the fiftieth anniversary of the settlement of New Ulm, held at the Turner's theatre in 1904, under the auspices of the Junior Pioneer Society, Colonel Pfaender delivered this address.)

"For some time I had intended to cause the opening, fifty years ago, of this region of country through the pioneers of the Chicago Land Association to be celebrated in a manner worthy of the important event. When I found that the Junior Pioneers were following up the matter in a praiseworthy manner, and I was requested by the committee to deliver a short address on this occasion, I consented the more willingly, as I felt that those pathfinders for their courageous endeavors deserved the warmest expression of gratitude, but in order to correctly judge the difficult enterprise it will be necessary to look to the conditions of this region at that period.

"The Territory of Minnesota had been established by Congress in the year 1849, and the largest part of it at that time was still occupied by the different Indian tribes, and not until 1851, through the treaty with the Sioux at Traverse des Sioux was the territory north of Iowa and west of the Mississippi river thrown open for settlement.

"Brown county after the first division into counties comprised all the land north of Blue Earth county along the Minnesota river up to Big Stone Lake and westerly to the Missouri river, but at that time contained no white settlers, and the tract of land upon which our prosperous neighboring city of Mankato now stands, was only in the year 1852 settled by two squatters.

"Through the treaty with the Sioux Indians a reservation was established for them commencing on the line of the present township of Milford and extended ten miles wide along the Minnesota river to Big Stone lake, but the Indians still considered the whole ceded region as their hunting grounds, and after Ft. Ridgely had been built the only settler in it in 1854 was Joseph La Framboise, whose trading post was about four miles this side of the fort, in the bottom near Minnesota river. The contractors for the building of the fort had a temporary lime-kiln near the mouth of the Big Cottonwood into the Minnesota river, and the Canadian, La Chapple, ran a primitive ferry across the Minnesota river.

"This was the condition of the country in this neighborhood when the Chicago Land Association in the summer of the year 1854 sent out a committee to find a place for the projected townsite, and who thought that they had found a suitable spot opposite the present city of LeSueur, but when the first installment of settlers arrived in the fall, it was found an impracticable one and they proceeded up to Traverse de Sioux to look for suitable places.

"Four of the number, Louis Meyer, Alois Palmer, Athanasias Henle and Franz Massopust, went toward Ft. Ridgely, and were directed to see Joseph La Framboise who received them in a friendly manner and recommended to them a location a few miles below his home on the south bank of the Minnesota river, which joined the Indian reservation and appeared to be the suitable place for a townsite. Whereupon they returned to Traverse des Sioux, and induced the whole party to go with them to the place selected, as it was necessary to prepare for approaching winter. The site had been occupied as a small village by the Indians, and contained a few primitive log huts, which could possibly be fixed into winter quarters; and as all provisions had to be procured from distant places the pioneers were in hopes to get many articles of food from Ft. Ridgely, which was only eight miles distant, and although they were not allowed to purchase anything at the fort, they were able to receive the most necessary articles through trading with the soldiers, mostly for liquor, which could not be obtained from any other source, and in this way they went through the winter, which fortunately, was a very mild one, without actual suffering, but under very great hardships.

"Plans for the laying out of the town plat were made and a few streets were cleaned, as the adjacent country was timber land, and the settlers also began to select claims and prepare for opening farms, as the land back from the river bluffs proved to be prairie of very fertile soil. In the spring of 1855, after navigation on the Mississippi had been opened, a few steamboats with supplies for Ft. Ridgely and the Indian agencies passed up the Minnesota river, and also brought a number of the association with stores of provisions and merchandise, so that the survey of the town plat could be continued, bur during the winter many doubts of the practicability of the site had been expressed, as the strip of land lying along the river bank seemed too low and the valley for the contemplated town too narrow; and during their hunting trips in the direction of the lime-kilns a number of men came to the conclusion that this spot was far superior to the former site, and they began to agitate plans, which were finally approved by the association at Chicago, with the reservation that the erection of the water power saw-mill which had been begun should be finished and carried on for the society.

"About the middle of May several officers of the company with a competent surveyor arrived, and under their direction a branch of the society was established here, and on the 30th of May, 1855, the new town was formally declared established and named New Ulm.

"It cannot be the intention of this anniversary to dwell more particularly upon the further development, which must properly be reserved for later occasions, and we therefore return to the doings of our pioneers who had commenced the breaking up and cultivation of the prairie in order to produce the necessary crops for themselves and the newcomers, and these consisted of corn, potatoes, beans and vegetables, as our own experienced farmers had the impression that wheat could only be raised after the prairie had been cultivated for several years; but even if this desirable and necessary grain had been raised it would not have been of much benefit, as all small grain had to be harvested with sickle and cradle and threshed with flail, as there was no grist-mill within sixty or seventy miles, and if there had been it would have taken at least four days with an ox-team to get flour or sell the grain for cash; as I know from my own experience three or four years later it was only possible to realize forty cents per bushel for wheat in trade.

"With the means of communication now, it is hardly possible for our present generation to form correct ideas of the difficulties of beginning a new settlement fifty years ago. For if we considered that the nearest railroad station was at Galena, Illinois, and no telegraph, and the production of food in the territory was nearly sufficient to meet the wants, and most of the necessities of life came from Dubuque, Chicago or St. Louis, and that steamboats only arrived during four or five weeks in the spring, and meantime everything had to be hauled by ox-teams from St. Paul, and that even in the spring of 1856 there was but one horse in the settlement, which was owned by Joseph Dambach, then those who enjoy the advantages of civilization can hardly believe that there were people who braved all those hardships to secure for themselves and families a home where in the course of time they could live peaceably and independently. It is, therefore, but an act of justice that the names of the thirty-two person who formed the first settlement of the Chicago Land Association should be reverently remembered by posterity. They were: Ludwig Meyer, Alois Palmer, Athanasius Henle, Franz Massopust, Anton Henle, Miss Elizabeth Finck (present widow of Athanasius Henle), David Haeberle, Leonard Haeberle, John Keck, Martin

Weidmann, Christ Voehringer, Martin Walser, Meinroth Wall, J. G. Mack, William Winklemann, William Thiel, John B. Zettel and wife, Fred Julius and wife and son Fred, Casmir Boermann and wife and mother, John Brandt, B. Drexler and wife, Joseph Dambach, L. Meyer, Jr., and Surveyor Schwartz.

"Twenty of them came originally from the village of Erbach, near the historic city of Ulm, in Wurtemberg, Germany. A number of these fell as the first victims of the Sioux Indian outbreak on the 18th of August, 1862, and only Alois Palmer, Mrs. Elizabeth Henle, Meinroth Wall and Peter Mack are able to participate in this festivity and enjoy the privileges of a community, which in spite of many difficulties and obstacles, has developed into a flourishing city, for which they laid the first foundations.

"To do full justice to the subject and to mention all the most important data in the history of this first German settlement in Minnesota, it would take an address of hours; but as we have assembled here to celebrate only the first beginnings of the history of New Ulm and to enjoy ourselves socially, I close this sketch, and would only express the hope that the pioneers of this region in remembrance of early associations will meet from time to time and organize an Old Settlers' Society, to perpetuate in mutual intercourse the friendly relations which bound them together and which they enjoyed in spite of all hardships."

***Deceased Members**

Ellen K. Olson
Toni Dey
Robert Buesmann

***New Members**

| ***Name*** | ***Ancestor*** |
|---|---|
| Christine Oswald Rahn | Oswald |
| Stacy Zahn Scheid | Holm/Wilfert |
| Megan Zahn | Holm/Wilfert |
| Kristin Zahn Bleick | Holm/Wilfert |
| Amy Wyczawski Cooke | Schweiss/Green |

*** Memorials & Donations**

Debbie Zahn - *Memorial in honor of Donald Bode*
3M (via Charities Aid Foundation America) - *$1,000 General Donation*

*If we have forgotten or miscredited anyone concerning Memorials & Donations, Deceased Members or New Members, please notify Rebecca Fliszar (Secretary) at 507-404-0427 or fliszarfamily@gmail.com or any Board Member and we will correct it.*

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**Do you have a topic that may be of interest to Junior Pioneer members?**
Consider writing an article for a future edition of the newsletter!
Please keep articles to 2-4 pages and photos are welcome.

Please send questions or submissions to Jyneal McCrea at jynealmccrea@gmail.com

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**Have you paid your dues?**
**2023 Annual Membership fees were due October, 2022**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

| | |
|---|---|
| Single Membership | $25 _____ |
| Joint Dues (*Husband & Wife both qualify for membership*) | $35 _____ |
| Surviving Spouse | $25 _____ |

*Send checks to: Junior Pioneers, PO Box 22, New Ulm, MN 56073*
*Questions? Rebecca Fliszar at 507-404-0427 or fliszarfamily@gmail.com*

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***Please consider receiving future newsletters via email.***
This saves the organization considerable funds in printing and mailing costs.
BONUS – Photos will be in color if you opt for email delivery!
Please forward your email address to Lynn Henle at l.henle@comcast.net

# SAVE THE DATE

## Annual Meeting – Friday, October, 2023

| 2023 Junior Pioneer Board Members | |
|---|---|
| Mark Furth, President | Jeff Gulden, Vice President |
| Rebecca Fliszar, Secretary | Mary Ellen Schanus, Treasurer |
| George Downs | Darla Gebhard |
| Lynn Henle | Daniel Juni |
| Jyneal McCrea | Gordon Palmer |
| Ruth McCrea Simpson | Judy Zahn |

**Junior Pioneers**
**P.O. Box 22**
**New Ulm, MN 56073**
(Address Service Requested)