



FRCA Newsletter

Funny River Community Association

November 2024

Presidents Letter



Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

We hope you have a safe and happy Thanksgiving with friends and family!

Have fun reading and I know you will enjoy VickySu's article on our community center building. If you were around and have pictures from that time please contact VickySu. We'd love to post pictures.

Own a business? Please plan on attending our annual Chamber meeting December 9th.

Check out notices and our calendar for November and BTW - do you know a veteran? Then take time to thank them for their service and come on down to the center November 11th for ice cream!

And don't forget-

November 5th is election day so exercise your right as a citizen of the good 'ole USA and vote.

Be safe out there!
Ron Gherman

FRCA
35850 Pioneer Access Road
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Email: frca35850@gmail.com
Web Site: frca.site/home
Phone: 907-262-0879



How it Began.
By VickySu Fritz

This is how the Funny River Community Center came to be....

In the beginning of 1993, the Funny River Chamber of Commerce (FRCC) was still meeting in the Tullos' quanset hut.

Continued on pages 2 & 3

As more folks moved to the area, it was obvious that a more formal facility was needed not only as a meeting place but also other community gatherings. The Kenai Christian Church, for the sum of \$10, deeded Tract A of the Whitcomb Subdivision Addition #3, to the FRCC. On February 17th the Statutory Warranty Deed was issued by the Kenai Recording District. The FRCC now had land on which to build their community center.

A grant application was submitted via the Kenai Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) District requesting monies for construction. The grant was awarded in late '93 thanks in part to the incumbent Senator Paul Fischer and many volunteers.

Plans were drawn up and approved, general contractor and crew hired, and the ground breaking ceremony was held in early 1994. The facility was approximately 2100sqft and had an great room, restrooms, a "mini" kitchen, office space and storage room. Wasn't able to determine when the building was completed but according to available documents,* in late '94/early '95 funds were being spent on furniture and the January 1996 newsletter states "...having some very fun events at the building". The address was HC-1 Box 1424, Soldotna. "HC" is Highway Contract.

The Funny River Community Center became the place to be! Along with monthly board/member meetings, other happenings at the center included the community church Sunday services and school; family nights of games/cards/bingo; potlucks; youth activities; holiday celebrations; and even the "Funny River Moose Goosers" Snowmachine Club met there once a month to plan their next ride. The ladies' group moved over from a private residence, making use of all the space for their sewing/handywork projects. Young boys moved the portable basketball hoop inside so they could play during the winter months. There was even a proposal to have a "smoking room" in the building.

Landscaping around the center was done in June 1997 followed by the paving of the lot in August which included the parking area and area South of the building to be used for tennis/basketball court and an ice rink in the winter.

Monies were received via a grant in late 1998 to place a roof over this area, however, that winter's snow proved too much for the supporting posts. It collapsed and the salvaged material was donated to the Funny River Store/Café. In June 1998, the first Memorial Garden was built with funds in memory of a Funny River homesteader. When the pavilion was constructed remains a mystery. I was unable to find any reference to the pavilion in available documents nor talk with anyone who remembers when or how it came to be. Seems it was always there! On October 1, 1998, the Community Center address became 35850 Pioneer Access Road, Soldotna due to enhanced 911 implementation.

April 2012 the FRCCCA received a grant to upgrade the Center. The 1600+ sqft included a commercial kitchen with scullery, restrooms and shower room, janitor's closet, and expanding of the great room. The metal sheeting on the outside of the building shows the addition.

Throughout the years, the Funny River Chamber of Commerce and Community Association have applied for various grants from RC&D District, U.S. Forest Service Economic Recovery Program of the 1990 Farm Bill, and the State of Alaska. Just recently, the Legislator & Governor approved funding to add emergency capabilities to the Center. This Community Improvement Project is a reimbursable appropriation meaning we pay up front for whatever work is done and submit receipts for reimbursement. Currently, an external fuel external fuel tank on a concrete pad is being installed on the North side of the building for the emergency GenSet. Once complete, the generator will have the capacity to provide power to the Center a minimum of eight days without being filled. Future projects are being discussed and the board is always looking for input from community members.

*Numerous documents such as meeting minutes, grant applications, newsletters, etc. were stolen from the community center.

Documents reviewed for this article were from private collections of Funny River residents.

Funny River Country Crafters meets on Monday @ 11:00 AM.

Contact Melody Newberry (907-398-8062)

Funny River Gardening Club meets the 4th Saturday of each month @ 1:00 PM

during gardening season. Contact Sharon Gherman (907-750-1760)

Exercise with Friends meets from 9:00 - 10:00 AM every Tuesday - Thursday - Saturday.

Contact Sylvia Shimmel (907-953-8788)

Like to Quilt?

Thread Benders meets Tuesday @ 10:00 AM.

Contact Lorraine Rohloff (907-260-3233)

Funny River Quilters meets Thursday from 10:00 am to 2/3 PM. Bring a lunch!

Contact Marilyn Pitts

Kenai River Quilts of Valor meet on Tuesday's @ 10:00 AM - 2/3:00 PM.

Contact Jeanette Pietro 907-252-4173



MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's that time of year again to begin or renew your Membership Dues for 2025. Member Applications are found in a Folder on the Office Bulletin Board or on the Website, FRCA.site/About/Documents Complete the Form and put it in the Office Mail Slot with your \$25/\$45, mail it to the Center at 35850 Pioneer Access Rd, Soldotna, AK 99669, or bring it by the office on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday Soup Days. All Member Applications received from October 15th forward will be counted as 2025 Membership. For continued email/mail newsletters, the Renewal deadline is February 28.



Funny River Community Association
35850 Pioneer Access Road
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-262-0879

2025 Member Application Form

MAILING ADDRESS		
Last Name:	First:	
Business Name:		
Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Home Number:	Cell Number:	
E-mail Address for the Newsletter:		
Mailing Address for the Newsletter:		
Person voting for Business:	1. _____	
If Family membership, names of two members voting:	2. _____	
FUNNY RIVER PROPERTY ADDRESS		
Street /Property Address:		
City: Soldotna	State: AK	Zip Code: 99669
New Member: <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal: <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member: <input type="checkbox"/>		

Membership Dues are for January 1st to December 31st.
Dues received from October through December 2024 count toward the year of 2025.
Renewal Deadline is February 28, 2025 for uninterrupted newsletter mailings.

A. Individual \$25.00 One vote C. Associate Individual \$45.00 No vote

B. Family \$40.00 Two votes Please make your check payable to **FRCA**, and mail to:
Funny River Community Association
35850 Pioneer Access Road
Soldotna, AK 99669

See page two (2) for membership definition

IT IS THE MEMBERS RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP THEIR MAILING AND EMAIL ADDRESS CURRENT.

Volunteers are needed to make the Community Center a better place. YOU ARE NEEDED.
PLEASE check an area on the back of this form to help your Community Center.

This form must be completed annually to verify and confirm mailing and email addresses
The newsletter will be sent by email unless otherwise noted above.

Direct any questions to our email at frca35850@gmail.com

For office use only:
Date received: _____
Amount received: _____
Committee Chair Notified _____
Newsletter Update: _____

Funny River Community Association

Contact Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Volunteering Your Skills and Talents: Please check all the areas of interest that you would be willing to help our Community Center. The Committee Chairperson will contact you.

- 1. Activities
- 2. Building/Grounds Maintenance & Repair
- 3. Business
- 4. By-Laws/ Policies & Procedures
- 5. Community Garden
- 6. Festival
- 7. Gaming / Split the Pot
- 8. Inventory
- 9. Kitchen
- 10. Memorial Garden Plaques
- 11. Nominating/Membership
- 12. Other _____

Definition of Membership:

- A. **Individual Membership:** Any individual over the age of 18 years who owns property or resides in the FRCA membership area, completes an application, and pays the required annual dues will become an individual member with one (1) vote.
- B. **Family Membership:** Any two (2) individuals living together over the age of 18 who own property or reside in the FRCA membership area, complete an application for family membership, and pay the required annual dues will be a family member with two (2) votes.
- C. **Associate Membership:** Individuals not residing in the FRCA membership area over the age of 18, and who would like to participate in activities and functions of FRCA may complete an application, pay a membership fee, and have all the privileges of active members; except the right to vote.

Community Center Events

Looking for something to do this winter?

Check out our groups on page 4 and join one, or two! Don't see anything you are interested in, (Guys! That's usually us!) then think about starting a new group! Contact one of our board members and we will be glad to help you get a group started! There will be others who share your interest!

Newsletter Ads	Monthly	6-Months	1-Year
Business Card	\$ 7	\$ 42	\$ 75
Quarter Page	\$15	\$ 90	\$150
Half Page	\$25	\$150	\$250
Full Page	\$40	\$200	\$400

Interested in Promoting a favorite charity or event?
 This is a good place to get the word out.
 Download the Ad Order Form
 from FRCA.site/about/documents



Veterans Day Ice Cream Social

Please come and join us on Veterans Day, Monday, **November 11th**, at **1:00 PM** at the Community Center to **Honor and Thank all our Veterans** for serving our country. Delicious ice cream & toppings along with fun camaraderie. This Veterans Day Special Event will also be giving everyone a chance to win a **door prize!**

Please spread the word. Bring a friend. Bring a veteran. **VETERANS... WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!!!**

See you there!



- ### Board Members
- President - Ron Gherman (907-750-1761)
 - Vice-President - Don Fritz (907-260-3453)
 - Secretary - Katie Pittmann (907-953-2510)
 - Treasurer - Mike Pittmann (907-830-3655)
 - Director - Terri Kunz (907-394-5403)
 - Director - Jill Tyler (907-953-0349)
 - Director - Erline Rasmusan

We Need Your Help!

When your group leaves the center **PLEASE turn out ALL the lights and check the restrooms.**

AND

Make sure the front door is locked. Pull on it and turn the handle to make sure.

Locking the doors keeps the center safe!!!

Advertisements

Jesse Bjorkman works hard for Funny River



Representing the Kenai Peninsula in the State Senate is, for me, a **sacred trust**. You, the voter, come first- not special interests. Instead of promoting ideas to raise your taxes, I've passed bills to **cut taxes and government red tape**. Together we can improve our economy and make the Kenai Peninsula a place where you can prosper. **I am honored to be your State Senator**. I've got your back and I'm asking for your vote so that I can keep delivering results for you.

Working for Funny River:

- Secured \$225,000 in the FY25 budget to upgrade Funny River Community Center to an Emergency Center.
- Focused on getting Funny River Road repaved and culverts replaced.
- Convinced DOT to pause using road brine last winter and I'm working to end its use permanently.

Standing up for Kenai Peninsula Families:

- **Good Roads** - Complete road projects and keep the Seward Highway plowed!
- **Quality Education** - Support homeschool families and community schools, increase vocational training and internships, and improve learning outcomes.
- **Public Safety** - End catch and release for criminals, support our troopers and officers, and reduce response times.
- **Economic Stability - Oppose new taxes**, support building the LNG pipeline to Nikiski, resource development and small business.

BJORKMAN

STATE SENATE

Paid for by Jesse Bjorkman, PO Box 8293 Nikiski, AK 99635

Funny River Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting

Our Chamber is required to have at least one meeting a year. The 2024 meeting will take place on Monday, December 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM. If you operate a business in Funny River and are interested please plan on attending.

Newsletter Article by VickySu on the Construction of the Center. If you have any pictures, old newsletter or newspaper articles, or memories of building the Center, please contact VickySu at 907.953.6566.

Heads Up to All Committee Chairpersons/ Group Leaders. Please prepare a 2025 Budget for your group along with a Calendar of Events or Functions to submit at the December 12 Meeting. This will help the Board see the Year at a Glance for Events and Needs for the coming year.



Installation of new Fuel Tank
for the Emergency Generator
has been completed.

Thanks Don!!!



Excess Inventory Sealed Bid. There are bids, Come on down and put your request in. Winners will be announced at the November Membership Meeting.

FRCA is offering 4 Excess Inventory items up for Sealed Bid Purchase to all Funny River Residents.

Select your choice and submit your bid in a sealed envelope

Addressed to
FRCA SEALED BIDS
 with the date of submission.
 to the FRCA office
 or mailed to

FRCA, 35850 Pioneer Access Rd, Soldotna, AK 99669.

The items are displayed on and by the glass case in the Center.
 Winner to be announced at the November Community Meeting.



Television with VHS Player

Value \$135

MINIMUM BID: \$ 30



Name: _____

BID: _____

Phone: _____

50" TV Monitor with DVD /CD Player

Value \$150

MINIMUM BID: \$ 40



Name: _____

BID: _____

Phone: _____

Bunn Coffee Maker

Value \$150

MINIMUM BID: \$ 35



Name: _____

BID: _____

Phone: _____

Bloomfield Coffee Maker

Value \$135

MINIMUM BID: \$ 30



Name: _____

BID: _____

Phone: _____

FRCA Receives State Funding for Capital Improvement Projects

Senator Jesse Bjorkman assisted FRCA to apply for Capital Improvement Funds in the State FY 2024 budget. A \$225,000 capital improvement grant was approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor to help FRCA add emergency capabilities to their existing programs at their community center in Funny River.

The project's goal is to provide a designated location for emergency providers to meet and/or stay during an emergency and for public meetings to be held, and to create the ability for us to refer and assist local residents in an emergency.

Sharon Gherman was elected as CIP Project Director.

The project will run from Fall 2024 through June 30, 2029 – although we hope to complete the project activities before 2029.

Included in the project's goals are:

1. Repair the community center septic and sewer system. There have been issues with the septic system for some time, and this will provide funds to hire a contractor to correct the problems.
2. Install two outside serviceable dry toilets on the community center grounds. These toilets will provide service to the public 24 hours a day and will be similar to a state roadside outhouse. (No running water, just hand sanitizer)
3. Cover and finish the unfinished community center ceiling, using donated/ volunteer labor.
4. Install 5-6 dry RV electrical stands on the community center property. This will allow emergency providers a place to park a trailer during an emergency.
5. Expand the outdoor covered pavilion at a right angle to the existing pavilion (along the edge of the asphalt).
6. Assemble and store emergency supplies for displaced families (using volunteer labor, with materials purchased with CIP funds)
7. *When #1-6 are complete, and *IF* remaining funds allow, improve and expand outside water supplies and drainage. This will improve our ability to provide water to emergency providers and others.*
8. *When #1-7 are complete, and *IF* remaining funds allow, develop a softball field on the FRCA property.*

Be sure to follow the progress on these projects here in the newsletter, with verbal reports at our monthly meetings.

November 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00 Exercise 11:00 Lynx 4-H Group
3	4 11:00 Country Crafters	5 Election Day	6 10:00 Thread Benders	7 9:00 Exercise 10:00 FR Quilters 7:00 Game Time	8 12:00 Noon Soup	9 9:00 Exercise
10	11 11:00 Country Crafters 1:00 Ice Cream Social to celebrate Veterans Day	12 9:00 Exercise 10:00 Thread Benders 10:00 - 2:00 QOV	13	14 9:00 Exercise 10:00 FR Quilters 5:30 Board Meeting 7:00 Community Meeting	15	16 9:00 Exercise
17	18 11:00 Country Crafters	19 9:00 Exercise 10:00 Thread Benders 10:00 - 2:00 QOV	20	21 9:00 Exercise 10:00 FR Quilters 7:00 Game Time	22 12:00 Noon Soup	23 9:00 Exercise
24	25 11:00 Country Crafters	26 9:00 Exercise 10:00 Thread Benders 10:00 - 2:00 QOV	27	28 Thanksgiving!	29	30

Noon Soup at the Center

We had 9 and 12 people this last month at Soup, but the last was because of the awesome sunny/warm day. So we'll give you that! Glenda Radvansky won the Split the Pot October 4th and we didn't do it on the 18th. Due to all the snow noon soup is altered this month to the 8th and 22nd. So come on down for Pumpkin Pie the 8th. Hope to see you there.



And our Split the Pot winners have been happy.

**Contact Katie at 907-953-2510 or Gloria at 541-405-2585.
Thanks for helping bring the community together**

Funny River Community Association

35850 Pioneer Access Road
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

