



# FRCA Newsletter

*Funny River Community Association*

*March 2025*

## Presidents Letter



### *It's March!*

Hard to believe it is March already! My goodness, time flies by, or maybe I'm just getting old. LOL, probably both! Alice is calling for help with our Festival so please see her post. VickySu has another great 2-Part article on our history you will enjoy. Our last Movie Night for the winter is March 14th. Our Annual Meeting is on Saturday, May 17th at 7:00pm. Please put that on your calendar and consider a Board Position. Until Next Time-

*Be safe out there!  
Ron Gherman*



*How it Began.  
By VickySu Fritz*

*This is how the Funny River  
Emergency Services came to  
be....*

**In 1996, with the Funny River Chamber of Commerce in full swing and gaining members, the issue of emergency services became a hot topic.**

Continued on pages 2 & 3

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A newsletter article in July of '96 stated the need for fire protection in the area and solicited support for the establishment of a volunteer fire department. Suggestions from the residents included obtaining and placing a fire extinguisher in each home in Funny River and to set up a telephone warning system. It wasn't "full service" but it did ease the residents' minds, however slightly.

The Advisory Planning Commission (APC) in early 1997 was negotiating with the Central Emergency Services (CES) for an ambulance and for them to provide training in its operation and in basic medical aid. The ambulance was received in June, fully stocked with supplies. Next step, get volunteers to attend training and construct a building to house the ambulance.

Later that year, some residents, with assistance from CES, began organizing a group to address the fire protection and emergency services needs of the community. They want this topic on the minds of all the residents. A house fire in December really brought the topic to the forefront. The residents were not home at the time. A neighbor saw the flames and jumped into action, calling other neighbors who in turn called other neighbors. Soon folks showed up in force and their efforts were able to save the garage and its contents along with other out buildings. The house was a complete loss. This tragedy seemed to inspire residents to get involved and soon everyone was talking about fire protection and emergency services.

A survey was conducted, results of which indicated a majority of residents wanted a volunteer fire department made up of 20-30 volunteers who would be trained to fight fires in structures, perform rescues and operate a pumper truck. The other option was for a fire brigade of a minimum of 12 individuals whose only job was to keep a fire from spreading to other buildings. After that survey, the Funny River Newsletter included an informative article titled "Options for Fire Protection". The four options were: 1) form a non-profit volunteer fire department; 2) request the borough expand the existing CES boundary to include Funny River; 3) create a new, independent service area; or 4) do nothing. As for emergency medical services (EMS), Funny River was within the CES boundary for EMS. This meant an ambulance would be dispatched upon receiving a 911 call. However, due to the distance, there was still a need to form a "first responders team" to augment CES. Their role would be to stabilize the victim until CES arrived on the scene. Funny River already had the ambulance and CES would provide volunteers training.

April 1999, the Funny River Emergency Services Group (FRES) held a meeting to elect officers, start actively recruiting volunteers for EMS and firefighting, and review options for obtaining equipment and a fire station. In May, the first FRES Chief and board of officers were appointed. Many volunteers came forward and soon underwent training. Their Articles of Incorporation were filed with the state, officially making the FRES a non-profit organization. Their goal was to begin fighting brush fires as soon as equipment was available and responding to structure fires within five years.

In the mean time...there was a brush fire in August and thanks to the quick response of some residents enjoying their coffee and conversation at the store, the fire was put out, only burning a couple of trees. A CAT was even brought out to cut a fire break. Amazing what the neighborhood volunteers can do!

The APC submitted a letter to the KPB Planning Department to include in their legislative priorities capital projects list a request for \$375k for a firehall. The project would include a well, septic, water storage tank and a building/garage with three bays. They felt the chances the State Legislature would provide the funds were slim but it never hurts to ask.

Oops, out of space! More about the FRES operation that eventually became CES Station 5 in the April newsletter.

*This portion of the FRES article was obtained from Rose Marie Galloway's collection of newsletters/minutes.*

# We Have Groups!

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

Contact Melody Newberry (907-398-8062)

**Funny River Gardening Club** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> 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)

**4-H Funny River Lynx Troup** meets Monthly. Please check the calendar for date.

Contact Alicia Glessing at [akgirl@hotmail.com](mailto:akgirl@hotmail.com) or 907-953-9452

## **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 907-227-4075

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

Contact Jeanette Pietro 907-252-4173



# Community Center Events

## Festival Logo Contest!

You only have a few days to submit a LOGO for the 2025 Funny River Festival logo contest.

All of you creative people, get to work!

Then submit your logo design electronically to

[frca35850@gmail.com](mailto:frca35850@gmail.com)

by Thursday, March 6th.

The Board will make their selection at the March 13th meeting.

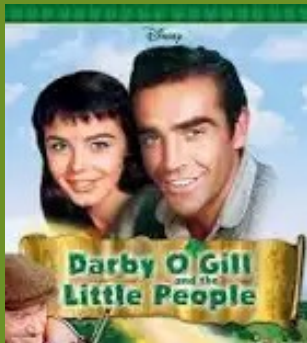
Thanks, Alice Garrod

## MOVIE NIGHT

March 14th starting at 7:00 PM

*"Darby O'Gill and the Little People"*

*Come on down, share some popcorn, and enjoy some fellowship!*



## 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 (907-912-0972)

Director - Erlene Rasmusan (907-741-2740)

## 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!!!

# Community Center Events

**WANTED!!!!**

## Newsletter Editor

**In May I will be stepping down as President and Newsletter Editor. I have enjoyed putting the newsletter together each month but it is time for fresh ideas. Creating the newsletter once a month is a great way to stay in touch with the community and keep abreast of what's happening. I have been creating the newsletter on a MacBook Air using Pages. I can also export the format to Microsoft Word.**

**Do you enjoy being creative? Staying in touch with this great community? Love people? If so, please consider this position. I will transfer these formats and help anyone interested.**

**Contact any board members or send an email to [frca35850@gmail.com](mailto:frca35850@gmail.com).**

## Advertisements

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](http://FRCA.site/about/documents)

# *Community Center Events*

## Festival Notice

### **We need your help!**

Several of our volunteers from last year are unable to help this year. That means we need new talent with new ideas and a willingness to help to get everything ready for July 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

Some things, like soliciting donations and vendors, coordinating the sale of raffle tickets, planning the silent auction, and getting the T-Shirts printed, need to start happening soon.

Other things, like running the games, doing Split the Pot, hosting the Pet Parade, and running a horse shoe or ladder ball tournament can wait until we are getting close. But we need to know now that we have people to do those things.

We're also looking for volunteers to cater the Saturday night dinner!

Our next meeting is at the Community Center on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. Grab a friend and join us. Let's make this a fun couple of days for the whole community!

Thanks,  
Alice Garrod  
[wfgarrod@protonmail.com](mailto:wfgarrod@protonmail.com)  
907-529-1161

# March 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> <b>9:00</b> Exercise <b>5:00 6:00</b> Yoga
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>11:00</b> Country Crafters	<b>4</b> <b>9:00</b> Exercise <b>10:00</b> Thread Benders <b>10:00 - 2:00</b> QOV	<b>5</b> <b>2:00</b> Festival Meeting <b>7:00</b> FRAPC	<b>6</b> <b>9:00</b> Exercise <b>10:00</b> FR Quilters <b>7:00</b> Game Time	<b>7</b> <b>12:00</b> Noon Soup	<b>8</b> <b>9:00</b> Exercise <b>5:00 6:00</b> Yoga
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>11:00</b> Country Crafters	<b>11</b> <b>9:00</b> Exercise <b>10:00</b> Thread Benders <b>10:00 - 2:00</b> QOV	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>9:00</b> Exercise <b>10:00</b> FR Quilters <b>5:30</b> Board Meeting <b>7:00</b> Community Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>7:00</b> Movie Night "Darby O'Gill and the Little People"	<b>15</b> <b>9:00</b> Exercise <b>5:00 6:00</b> Yoga
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>11:00</b> Country Crafters	<b>18</b> <b>9:00</b> Exercise <b>10:00</b> Thread Benders <b>10:00 - 2:00</b> QOV	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>9:00</b> Exercise <b>10:00</b> FR Quilters <b>7:00</b> Game Time	<b>21</b> <b>12:00</b> Noon Soup	<b>22</b> <b>9:00</b> Exercise <b>5:00 6:00</b> Yoga
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>11:00</b> Country Crafters	<b>25</b> <b>9:00</b> Exercise <b>10:00</b> Thread Benders <b>10:00 - 2:00</b> QOV	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>9:00</b> Exercise <b>10:00</b> FR Quilters <b>7:00</b> Game Time	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>9:00</b> Exercise <b>5:00 6:00</b> Yoga
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>11:00</b> Country Crafters					



## **Noon Soup at the Center**

**Come join us for Noon Soup the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at the Center. We regularly have 10-20 people. Cost is just a donation. Catch up on what's happening and enjoy time with friends and family. See ya there!!**

**Contact Terri at 907-394-5403**

**Thanks for helping bring the community together**



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