



MCF HAPPENINGS

Serving the Mequon Community to Enhance Our Quality of Life

Meet Mequon Police Officer Iron

The Mequon Police Department has a much appreciated and well employed officer on 4 legs: K9 Officer Iron! He is a male German Shepherd imported from (you guessed it) Germany.



K9 Officer Iron and his handler, Officer Jacob Shiller, trained at SteinigTal Kennel in Campbellsport, WI, and began working (and playing!) together in the fall of 2014. Officer Iron

is considered a member of Officer Schiller's family when not on duty. Iron is MPD's second K9 – the first was Officer Vero, who retired last year.

Mequon resident Dave Delahunt spearheaded the efforts to bring Vero to MPD after being inspired by attending Mequon's Citizens' Police Academy. Dave and his wife, Luan, raised nearly \$200,000 in just a few months to bring the first K9 Unit to our community.

Dave and Luan say it has been a most rewarding project and outcome. A K9 unit trained in patrol and narcotics work can de-escalate a crime scene quickly; when faced with "jaws of Iron," a resistant person usually submits without further violence.

The K9 Unit has been so successful that the City has now made it a line item in its annual budget. The Mequon Community Foundation is helping to raise funds to cover additional K9-related expenses not paid by the City. If you are interested in supporting K9 Officer Iron, or any of MCF's other fundraising projects, please visit MCFgives.org for more information.

ABOUT MCF

The Mequon Community Foundation (MCF), formed in 2001, provides a resource to undertake projects that enhance the quality of life in the city. Since its founding MCF has raised and distributed over \$600,000 through the charitable giving of the generous residents and businesses of Mequon.

Save the date **June 7, 2016:** fifth annual Pillars of the Community luncheon.

Visit our website:
www.MCFgives.org to learn more about MCF and to make a contribution.

2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Kathy Pederson	Immediate Past President: Jim Jurack
Vice President(s): Melissa Nimke Andrew Petzold	Directors: Stephanie Cox Sally Lyne Linda Maly Jane Wierzba
Treasurer: Trish McEnerney	
Secretary: Julie Petri	

CONNECT



WWW.MCFGIVES.ORG

Board Member Highlights

Melissa Nimke

A chance meeting at a community event in 2010 led Melissa Nimke to the Mequon Community Foundation. She sat next to then MCF Vice President Kathy Pederson. While talking, the two quickly realized they both lived in Mequon and shared a strong passion for philanthropy. Not long after, Melissa was invited to join the Board where she now serves as Vice President and Chair of the Communications Committee.

Melissa brings substantial communications and philanthropic expertise to MCF – she holds a BS in journalism and spent more than 10 years working for an area family foundation.

Melissa and her husband, Bill, moved to Mequon in 2005, drawn to the excellence of the school system. Their son, Will, is a senior at Homestead this year, and Bill is an active member of the Mequon-Thiensville Optimist Club. Two of Melissa’s three older stepchildren (all Homestead graduates) recently became first-time parents, and the two grandbabies are an exciting addition to the family. Melissa and Bill greatly enjoy their home on a quiet, wooded cul-de-sac where they frequently see deer, coyotes, wild turkeys, cranes, and herons around the backyard pond.

MCF contributes to the quality of life for Mequon and its residents through its past projects: • Rotary Park • Katherine Kearney Carpenter Park • River Barn Park Sommer Pavilion • Mequon Nature Preserve • Logemann Community Center • Weyenberg Library • Rotary Riverwalk • Highland Woods • Mequon Historic Society • Homestead Band Uniforms • Jonathan Clark House • Mequon Police Department K9 Unit

In Memorial and Honor

**Margaret Reiter
Richard Byrne, M.D.
Kathy Pederson
Jean Morano
Gerry Spooner**

Linda Maly

The MCF *Pillars of the Community* luncheon was attended by a record number of area residents, thanks in no small part to the organizational talent and hard work of POTC Committee Chair Linda Maly. Linda is a 23 year resident of Mequon, and has been an MCF Board member for the last six years. She has served as Chair of the POTC Committee for the last two years and was co-chair for the two prior years. Each of those events has been more successful than the one that preceded it.

Linda brought significant leadership experience to the MCF board; she served as President of Mequon’s Newcomers group for two terms and is involved with the Mequon Junior Women’s Club and the Ozaukee Family Services Auxiliary. Professionally, Linda worked as an RN at the Highland Family Health Center of Mequon for Dr. Peggy Callahan.

Linda and her husband Paul have raised four children in Mequon and are the proud grandparents of 3 grandchildren; another is expected in September. Linda says she enjoys living in Mequon and is pleased to give a little something back to the community through her service with MCF. She is happiest when her high energy and strong work ethic are applied to accomplishing the challenging tasks the Committee undertakes, whether it is developing projects or implementing our community relations programs.

FACT

River Barn Park - Sommer Pavilion

To date, this is the largest contribution we have made to our community, donating \$300,000 to the construction of the Pavilion, upkeep and playground equipment.

Article reprinted with permission from the News Graphic, June 4, 2015

Pillars award a home run

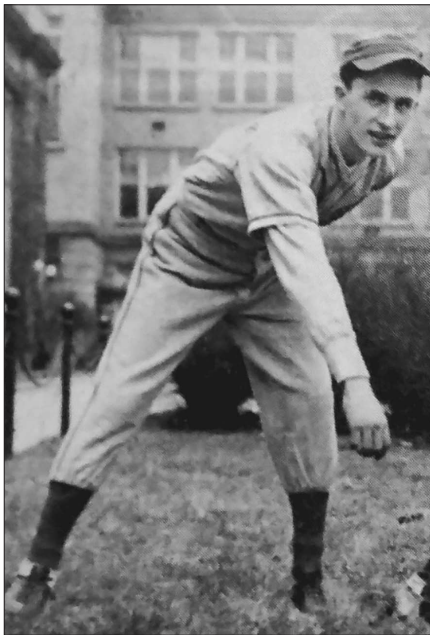
Mequon Community Foundation honors Rennie family for decades of service

MEQUON — It's impossible to think of baseball in Mequon and Thiensville — and its impact on both communities and hundreds of athletes over the decades — without recognizing the Rennie family.

The Mequon Community Foundation honored the Rennie family as the fourth annual Pillars of the Community at an awards luncheon Tuesday at Concordia University Wisconsin attended by about 150 people. A violinist from the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra provided background music during the lunch.

"We are pleased to honor the Rennie family, longtime Mequon residents and our city's first family of baseball," said Kathy Pederson, MCF president. "For four generations, Don and Betty Rennie and their family have contributed not only to baseball, but to the overall quality of life in our community."

In a day when few farm kids continued



Submitted photo

Don Rennie was a pitcher for Shorewood High School. This photo was taken in 1948, his senior year.

on to high school, Don Rennie left the family farm in south Mequon every day in the late 1940s and took the Interurban train to Shorewood High School, where he attended class and was a standout member



Above, James Jurack, left, immediate past president of the Mequon Community Foundation, and Kathy Pederson, right, MCF president, present the Pillars of the Community Award to Don and Betty Rennie.

of the Greyhounds' baseball team.

He went on to get a teaching degree from what is now the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He earned a master's degree from the University of Oregon before returning home.

It's perhaps fitting that Don Rennie, who is now 84, met Betty at a baseball game at Thiensville Village Park. She was a cheerleader from Cedarburg. They married in 1952, and raised four children in Mequon, Scott, Randy, Dean and Amy. Don and Betty Rennie will celebrate 62 years of marriage in December.

Don Rennie started his teaching and coaching career at South Milwaukee High School. He later moved to Granville, now Brown Deer. He came to Homestead High School in 1965. He spent 23 years there and was varsity baseball coach from 1969 to 1978.

"Mentoring is in Don's nature," James Jurack, immediate past president of MCF who told the Rennies' story during the luncheon with a PowerPoint filled with historic photos. "He says his teaching and coaching philosophy were pretty much the same: All kids are good; they just need to be focused on their goals and treated like they are members of your family."

In his career as a varsity baseball coach, including his nine years at Homestead, Don Rennie's teams won 321 games. While at the helm in Homestead, his teams won six conference titles, seven regional titles and three sectional titles. His Highlander baseball teams were state champions in 1974 and 1978. He was named the Wisconsin State Coach of the Year in 1974 and has earned a host of hall of fame hon-

ors. The baseball field behind Mequon City Hall is Rennie Field.

Don and Betty Rennie's children all have been successful, both in and out of the sports world.

Scott Rennie, now a Mequon dentist, led the Highlanders to their first state tournament appearance in 1972. Randy Rennie, who has a master's degree in management and works in sales, threw five no-hitters during 1974, including in the state championship game. Dean Rennie is now vice president of marketing for Kapco and played an instrumental role in launching the Lakeshore Chinooks. He had a 17-0 pitching record and threw two no-hitters as a senior and led Homestead to the 1978 state title. Randy and Dean Rennie both rose as high as AAA in minor league professional baseball. Amy Rennie was a softball standout. She earned an education degree from UW-Madison and has taught for the last 14 years.

"Don Rennie is a very highly regarded educator and coach," Jurack said. "I think what he treasures most — and would most like to be thought of as — is being the patriarch of a large and loving family. And the fact that, along with his wife Betty, they have passed along the values of their Christian faith, their hard work ethic and their commitment to excellence."

The Mequon Community Foundation previously has given its Pillars of the Community Award to the Sommers family in 2012, former Mequon Mayor Christine Nuernberg in 2013 and Richard R. Pieper Sr. in 2014. More information on MCF and its work is available online at www.mcf-gives.org.

2015 MCF Happenings



The Rennicke Family was honored at this year's Pillars of the Community Luncheon.



Save the Date June 7, 2016:
Fifth Annual Pillars of the Community Luncheon

See more at www.mcfgives.org
for other current happenings.

MEQUON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



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