



Anoka County Historical Society

SERVING:

Andover

Anoka

Bethel

Blaine

Centerville

Circle Pines

Columbia Heights

Columbus

Coon Rapids

East Bethel

Fridley

Ham Lake

Hilltop

Lexington

Lino Lakes

Linwood

Nowthen

Oak Grove

Ramsey

St. Francis

Spring Lake Park

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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What: Anoka County Historical Society Sock Hop.

When: Friday, October 7, 2011, 7:00pm to 10:00pm.

Who: Anoka County Historical Society.

Where: Murzyn Hall, Columbia Heights.

Cost: \$20.00.

Murzyn Hall to Host Sock Hop

26 August 2011 – Dust off your poodle skirt and shine up your campus shoes. On Friday, October 7, from 7:00pm to 10:00pm, the Anoka County Historical Society will host the ACHS Sock Hop. The event, to be held at Murzyn Hall in Columbia Heights, is a fundraiser for the Historical Society. The TC Cats will play ‘50s and ‘60s doo wop and rock music, as attendees can bid on silent auction packages, and enjoy beer, wine, and pizza from Columbia Heights’ own Tasty Pizza. Advance tickets cost \$20 (\$25 at the door) and are available at the Anoka County History Center and Library. The 1939 building has hosted many community events and dances over the years. In 1989, it was recognized by the Anoka County Historical Society as an Anoka County Historic Site.

In addition to music, food and beer, the event will have sock hop appropriate activities like a cake walk and a hula hoop contest. Cakes from local bakers and individuals will be up for grabs in the cake walk. The hula hoop contest will determine who has the best hip moves in all of Anoka County. Auction items include trip packages, gift certificates for services from local businesses, and tickets to cultural and sporting events. There’s even a raffle prize of a Genographic Project Participation Kit. This project, offered through the National Geographic Society, shows someone their “deep ancestry” by taking a DNA sample and provides you with the migratory path of your ancestors. It is a great opportunity for genealogists and family historians.

John P. Murzyn Hall opened in 1939 as a WPA project at a cost of \$649,407. It was originally known as the Columbia Heights Field House, and has served as a community center of the people of Columbia Heights since it opened. The first official event was the January 28 Birthday Ball to celebrate President’s Day in 1939. It was officially dedicated later that spring.

Through the years it has 6 bowling lanes, billiards, and shuffleboard. It served as a

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youth center, a senior center and even a child care center. In addition to hundreds of weddings and other important occasions, the center has been the location of community dances—so the Sock Hop fundraiser is continuing in the long tradition of the building.

The building was named for John P. Murzyn in 1979. He is the man who developed Columbia Heights' park system. His father, Albert Murzyn, was a mason that worked on the construction of the building in 1939.

The Anoka County Historical Society, organized in 1934, is headquartered in the Anoka County History Center and Library at 2135 Third Avenue North in Anoka. For more information on its programs and activities please visit www.ac-hs.org or look for them on Facebook.

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