



# The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society  
Mailing Address: 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427  
Historic Church and Museum: 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley  
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**Thursday, October 10, meeting...**

## Wascoe and Vegners bring back ragtime memories

Remember hearing the bells play music from the Minneapolis City Hall? Dan Wascoe is one of the volunteer bell-players. Wascoe will be performing a selection of ragtime music at the general membership program for October along with singer Baibi Vegners. Ragtime was popular in saloons where pioneers were settled on their land, had built their farmhouses and were growing crops.

Wascoe is a career newspaper reporter, but has played piano in venues as varied as an airplane hanger, cruise ship, army base, hotels and restaurants, the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota governor's office and the University of

Minnesota's president's residence, Eastcliff.

Wascoe's singing partner, Baibi Vegners, comes from a musical



family; her grandmother was an opera singer in Europe. Baibi joined a professional touring band at 19, but has also performed close to home as a lead singer with bands at Eddie Webster's restaurant and Rupert's nightclub. One of her many talents is appealing to mature audiences.

This 'bringing back memories' program, will be on Thursday, October 10, at the historic church, 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, at 7:00 p.m. You may be prompted to tap your toes and remember a favorite saloon or nightclub that was located in Golden Valley. Refreshments will be served following the program. The program is free and open to the public.

## Kelly Drive celebrates 17th annual pumpkin weigh-off

What is involved when neighbors have a contest to see who can grow the largest pumpkin in the neighborhood? Well, hayrides for the kids, games for kids, face painting, photo ops with giant pumpkins, and food. Who attends this big neighborhood party? Only about 1,000 people.

For 17 years this Kelly Drive neighborhood has come together to weigh their pumpkins! It started with four neighbors wondering if they could grow giant



pumpkins in their yards and grew from there. The original four families got an Envision Golden Valley award a few years ago.

Yes, the pumpkin weigh-off will be on Saturday, October 12, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the intersection of Kelly Drive and Duluth Street in Golden Valley. There is no cost to

attend but donations are welcome. If the weather cooperates, they will again expect about 1,000 people to attend. What a great neighbor-

hood event to get all the neighbors to meet, become friends, and hoist their pumpkin to be weighed this year, betting it is the winner.

**November program...**

## John Cox' book on Gettysburg battle

The November 14 general membership program will be given by author John Cox, who will talk about his research for a book about the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Historic Church.

## Annual report highlights vibrant and active year for GVHS

*Message from President Ken Huber:*

Although we welcome the opportunity to share a copy of the GVHS Annual Report with our special friends each year, I am especially delighted to be able to share it with you this time, because it is possibly the most remarkable annual report that GVHS has ever issued! Yes, this report once again illustrates, in its own numerical way, what a vibrant and active year it has once again been for GVHS.

But this year there is even more. Through this report, you are witness, in part to what is shaping up to be a seminal event: the fund-

ing and construction of our long hoped for and anticipated Museum Addition. The numbers on the page can only hint at the significant impact that the Museum Addition will have on our future GVHS program. We're excited to be able to share this Report with you, and we hope that you continue to share your energy and enthusiasm with GVHS, as we move forward together, to continue to bring the story of Golden Valley and its varied history to the community in new and exciting ways.

(Editor's Note) The GVHS Annual Report is given to the Society Directors, members of the Golden

Valley City Council and the City Manager and staff. It will be mailed to members who request a copy after October 1.

### Fall cleanup day is Nov. 2

Volunteers, friends and neighbors are needed to help rake leaves and clean up the Historic Church yard on Saturday, November 2, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Come with work gloves, rakes, leaf blowers, pruning shears and work clothes for the weather of the day. Questions – call Secretary Don Anderson, 763-588-8578 or email: maryanddon3030@aol.com. Your help is very much needed and appreciated.

### Officers elected

At the September 18 Board of Director's meeting the directors elected officers for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. They are: President Kenneth Huber; Vice President John Colwell; Secretary Don Anderson; and Treasurer Linda Loomis.

### New members

**The Crown Construction Co. Inc. (Willie Anderson)**, 5249 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, 55422; 612-868-1899; email: willie@crownmn.com;

**Andy and Gretchen Snope**, 1320 Unity Ave. N., Golden Valley, MN 55422; 763-522-6705; email: asnope292@gmail.com;

**Larry Fonnest and James Nepp**, 4901 Dawnview Terrace, Golden Valley, MN 55422; 763-529-2955; email: dawnview+@msn.com.

Welcome these new members at our general membership meetings.



## History of the Golden Valley Cemetery

The fall, September 12, kick-off meeting program was Doug Ohman, of Pioneer Photography with a new presentation about "Cemeteries of Minnesota". It was well done, as are all his programs, although since Ohman did skip over how the Golden Valley Cemetery was started, I will fill you in.

"The cemetery, located on Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue, was founded on May 17, 1869, by 12 of the earliest settlers.... At the time, David Bies owned the land where the Midland Shopping Center is now located on the NW corner of the intersection. He offered to donate one half acre of land

for the cemetery. In Germany, the homeland of all the founders, it is tradition that all cemeteries face the east. Because the Bies' property did not have the proper slope, the offer was turned down. Instead, the men accepted a donation of one half acre from Henry Yentsch, Sr., who owned the property where the cemetery now stands. There are eight men who served in the Civil War buried in the Golden Valley cemetery: Friedrich Becker; David Bies; Friedrich Bies; C. M. Johnstone; H. Kleffler; Carl Moser; Carl Nassig and John Wetzl."

(Source: Golden Valley Minnesota 1886-1986)