



# The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society  
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**November 13 meeting...**

## Richie publishes pictorial history of City of Robbinsdale

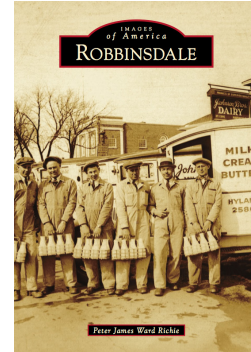
The November General Membership Meeting will feature local author Pete Richie and the newest addition to Arcadia Publishing's library, "Robbinsdale." Richie's pictorial history book, released July 7, 2014, uses black and white photographs to showcase Robbinsdale's compelling history.

While serving in the state legislature, Andrew B. Robbins visited the lakes, woods and rolling hills just north of Minneapolis. Inspired by the landscape and potential for development, he purchased 90 acres and created the Robbinsdale Park subdivision in 1887. Robbins worked tirelessly to bring schools, industry and a streetcar line to the area. In 1893 Robbinsdale incorporated as a village bearing his name.

Pete Richie grew up in Robbinsdale and remembers collect-



ing stories about the area's history when he was a paperboy. He went to Noble Elementary School and graduated from Armstrong High School in 1986. Many residents of Robbinsdale believe their city was named after a bird. Ideally, the story



and pictures of Andrew B. Robbins and his daughters will forever banish that notion.

The general membership

meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Golden Valley Historical Society's historic church, 6731 Golden Valley Road. The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Program review...

### Sannes presented details of Union Army volunteers

Darryl Sannes, co-author of the *Patriots of Brooklyn* book series, was most interesting and educational with a power point presentation about the year 1864 of the Civil War and a map of the Battle of Acton. His presentation included great details about the volunteers of the Union Army such as age, length of service, pay and respective bonuses, the number of volunteers who were killed in battles or died from their wounds and where they are buried. Twenty-three members and guests, students of Civil War history, enjoyed Sannes's presentation.

## Beegle proposes mini-orchards for GV neighborhoods

Margaret Beegle would like to install mini-orchards at six to eight locations around Golden Valley, primarily at schools, churches, business or two, and the Golden Valley Historical Society's historic church. The general "template" she has in mind will include a couple of semi-dwarf fruit trees, a mid-level of bushes like raspberries, and a lower level of strawberries or rhubarb. The fruit choices would be made in conjunction with the peo-

ple involved at the venue and they would be responsible for maintaining the plantings.

The timetable is to make plant choices over the fall and winter and to plant in the spring. The Golden Valley Community Foundation funded Beegle's mini-orchard proposal and she has a year to complete the project. For more information contact Ms. Beegle at [beegle@louberts.com](mailto:beegle@louberts.com).

## Exhibition research begins

The Golden Valley Historical Society hired Museology Exhibits and Programs to conduct exhibition research for the Society's museum addition. Funded by a Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant, Museology compiled a guide to the resources identified during their research and created an annotated bibliography. A brief overview accompanies each of the topical bibliographies. Topics include: Natural History; American Indian; Settlement; Agriculture;

Business and Industry; Suburban Development; Human Rights; and GLBT People in Golden Valley.

Little attempt has been made in this phase at interpretation. That work will be done during exhibition development as conversations take place between the Golden Valley Historical Society, the community, and the consultant hired to guide the process. Some additional research will undoubtedly be needed as more detailed content is developed. So begins phase two...

## Women entered city politics in 1972

With an election coming up very shortly, it's a good time to review the history of women in politics in the Village/City of Golden Valley. Prior to 1972 only men were elected to the Golden Valley City Council. It was November, 1972 that Pat Moberg was elected as the first female city council member. Moberg was later joined by Mary Anderson and followed by Rosemary Thorsen. Anderson was also the first woman mayor of Golden Valley. Gloria Johnson was elected to the city council in 1975 and reelected in 1979. Anderson says, "Gloria Johnson saw her role on the city council as asking hard questions and often being the 'one'

on a 4-1 vote. She said....'I guess my perspective comes from years of facing the council from the audience and maintaining an adversary role'." She was most influential on the council and challenged a developer who wanted to use the land East of Winnetka along Highway 55 to build a big box drug store and super market. Her leadership of the opposition to that development resulted eventually in the current development housing many small businesses on one site. As a result of women in Golden Valley politics in the 1970's and 1980's, other communities began to elect women to their city governments.

## Antiques, signs make good holiday gifts

Pamela London is downsizing her collections of antiques. She would like to sell a 1920's antique piano, old coins, dolls, some Bisque china, celebrity dolls, Shirley Temple dolls and various political items. London can be reached at 763-546-1119. This might be an opportunity to find a unique holiday gift for

someone special in your family.

And, don't forget that second-generation Golden Valley street signs are also a popular holiday gift. Contact Secretary Don Anderson to find out if your street sign or another of significance to you is still available. (maryanddon3030@aol.com or 763-588-8578)

## Cleanup on Nov. 8

The Society's Director of Buildings and Grounds and Vice President Jim Hera has scheduled the fall historic church yard cleanup for Saturday, November 8, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Please bring leaf rakes, leaf blowers, pruning and weeding tools, and work gloves. Dress for the weather is important too. Your help for as long as you can stay will be greatly appreciated. For questions contact Jim Hera at 763-545-4395.

## Video showcase

CGI Communications, Inc. has partnered with the City of Golden Valley to create a video showcase for the City webpage ([www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov)). The purpose is to highlight all aspects of the community for potential residents and businesses.

One of the videos CGI will be creating is a Community Organization video that describes the benefits of being involved in local charitable and community organizations. They are offering community groups, charity organizations, and non-profit agencies an opportunity for FREE sponsorship of the program, including a "logo and link" feature for direct access to their websites. It is anticipated that the showcase will be up and running by Thanksgiving.

## New members

Jerry and Sue Sorheim, 1425 Kelly Drive, Golden Valley, MN 55427; 763-545-6972; email: [ssorheim@hotmail.com](mailto:ssorheim@hotmail.com)

Nan Upin and Ed Murphy, 1631 Cedar Lake Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55416; email: [nan@timesnorth.com](mailto:nan@timesnorth.com)