



The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society
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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN RECESS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 10, 2015:

The Society by-laws dictate that the general membership meetings be held monthly from September through May of each calendar year. The program details for the September meeting will be carried in future Society newsletters. At that meeting, known as the annual meeting, will have election of Society board of director members.

MANY THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEER YARD CLEAN-UP CREW:

The weather cooperated as ten members and friends of the Society cleaned up the historic church yard of accumulated winter stuff on Saturday, April 18th. Thanks to the volunteers: Jim Hera; Ken Huber; Jim Nielsen; Jean Schultz; DeDe Scanlon; Linda Loomis; Betty Crews; Nancy Azzam; Jacob Breth and Justin Breth.

A GLANCE AT THE HISTORY OF RESIDENTIAL LOT SALES IN GOLDEN VALLEY:

It was not until 1910 that land developers acquired large sites of land and started promoting the sale of residential lots. In 1912, the same year that the Luce Line was put through the area, a two page advertisement appeared in a Minneapolis newspaper. Bold black two inch high letters announced the sale of lots in the Winnetka Addition.

Quote: "BRING A DOLLAR TO WINNETKA AT ONCE and secure a home site where any man or woman would be proud to live. – Don't delay a minute – these lots are cheap – only \$149 – You can pay any amount at any time – you will never miss 50 cents or \$1 a week – 10 percent discount for payments of \$10 or over – you pay no interest or taxes for three years. HOW TO REACH WINNETKA – Take a Luce Line car at 2nd Avenue North and 7th Street. All cars stop at Winnetka Addition. Free fare for all white persons over 18 years of age."

The development of the Winnetka Addition involved 200 quarter-acre lots laid out in a straight grid pattern. Later residential streets in Golden

Valley were largely curving and were planned to accommodate the hills and valleys.*

In the mid 1960's, 100'x150' lots in the Woodlawn Park 3rd Addition in the area of Culver Road and Regent Avenue were sold for \$4,000, with \$1,000 down payment and monthly payments of \$40.00. The interest was 6%. Today, developers have been acquiring large houses on large lots and subdividing the land into 3-4 lots. Most of the time the older home is demolished. The lots are then improved with maxi-sized residences. This has caused residential neighbors to object stating that their older homes are being effected by the building of maxi-sized structures. The Golden Valley City Council responded by declaring a six month hold on the approval of the subdividing to allow for the review of the building codes of the city.*Source: "Golden Valley 1886-1986 Minnesota A History of a Minnesota City" Copyright 1986 by the Golden Valley Historical Society, Golden Valley, Minnesota. Published through the efforts of the Golden Valley Centennial Committee.

THREE GOLDEN VALLEY WOMEN BECAME A FIRST IN MINNESOTA:

In 1972, 13 years after the establishment of the council-manager form of government, Golden Valley became a city when the Minnesota legislature made all villages statutory cities. This did not change the form of government. The main intent was to provide uniformity throughout the state, particularly in matters of local elections. Terms of office in Golden Valley changed from three years to a two-year term for mayor and four years for council members. Terms for council members overlap so that every two years Golden Valley elects a mayor and two council members. The year of 1972 was significant not only because Golden Valley became a city but also because voters chose a woman as a council member for the first time in Golden Valley history. Patricia Moberg took office in January of 1973 for a three year term. In November of the same year Mary Anderson became the first woman to be elected to a four year council term. In January of 1974, when Anderson took office, two of the five council members were women. Moberg resigned in the spring of 1975 and Rosemary Thorsen was appointed on April

COMPUTER TECH FOR SENIORS

Tech support: What kind of computer do you have?

Customer: a white one...

Tech support: Click on the "my computer" icon on the left of the screen.

Customer: Your left or my left?

21, 1975, to fill out the term. She ran for election in November 1975 and won a four year term. That same year Gloria Johnson ran for council and was elected. From 1976 to 1984, there were three female members, a majority, probably for the first time in Minnesota history.

In 1979 Rosemary Thorsen ran for mayor and was elected, taking office in January of 1980 as Golden Valley's first woman mayor (60 years after women got the vote). In 1983 Thorsen chose not to run. Mary Anderson then ran for mayor and was elected. In January 1984, when Anderson took office, Larry Bakken was appointed to fill two years of Anderson's term, thus ending the eight year women's majority.

*Source: "Golden Valley Minnesota 1886-1986 – A History of a Minnesota City" copyright by the Golden Valley Historical Society, Golden Valley, Minnesota. Published through the efforts of the Golden Valley Centennial Committee.

ACCESSIONS TO THE SOCIETY:

Nancy Azzam donated from the celebration of the grand opening of the Arcata Luxury Apartment Community a beer glass, cocktail glass and advertising brochures.

Betty Crews donated a booklet, "Pioneer to Present – History of Golden Valley United Methodist Church 1886– 1972".

IN REVIEW:

The May 14th general membership meeting had a sudden change in the presenter. Dean Urdahl, a Minnesota State Representative, was scheduled to present the history of the final year of the Civil War in 1865 – which covered the last battles, surrender of Lee to Grant at Appomattox, and Abraham Lincoln's part in the Civil War. Urdahl was required to be present at the legislature in its closing hours and thus had to cancel his presentation at the Society.

Society board member, Rudi Martignacco, a member of the Civil War Round Table, was able to bring to the Society meeting Professor Emeritus Joseph Fitzharris, from St. Thomas College, who had the latest in power point electronics and did an outstanding job in telling the history of the final year in the Civil War. 25 members and guests were held spellbound by Fitzharris's presentation.

DO YOU HAVE A RELATIVE OR FRIEND WITH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FIRST NAMES?

Julianne; Kyle; Lewis; Adeline; Kelly; Adell; Earl; Harold; Kenneth; Lindsay; Patsy; Rose; Margaret; Wally; Alfred; Janalyn; Mary; Douglas; Ellis; Wills; Beverly; Jonellen; Gregory; June; or Lee; How about a surprise gift of a second generation Golden Valley street sign with their name? Great idea?

To order a sign for only \$25.00, contact Secretary Don Anderson for details.