



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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HISTORY OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY PARK SYSTEM IS THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM ON NOVEMBER 10TH



**RAY STOCKMAN AND
JOANIE CLAUSEN**

The Village of Golden Valley organized its first park board in 1948. Lillian Seeman was president of the 3 person board. The budget was \$500.00. By 1954, the total park system consisted of six parks: Scheid, Glendale, Golden Oaks, Papoose,

Harold and Belmont. (Source: "Golden Valley 1886-1986" author: Golden Valley Historical Society.)

So how did the city expand its park system to the meet the needs of the families of Golden Valley? That question will be answered by Councilmember Joanie Clausen at the November 10th general membership meeting. She is the daughter of Ray Stockman who is known as the "father of the Golden Valley park system" when he served on the Golden Valley City Council.

The program will be held at the Golden Valley Historical Society's historic church at 7:00 p.m., located at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427. The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available following the program.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

January 12, 2017 – Barbara Bailey will have a presentation "From Bread Boards to Awards" which will show her history in developing park and recreation programs in Golden Valley as well as other locations in Minnesota.

February 9, 2017 – Philip Brunelle, a leading American conductor of choral music and opera, Golden Valley resident and member of our historical society, will give his presentation about his adventures around the world with music.

All the programs will be held at the historic church at 7:00 p.m.

IN REVIEW:

The October general membership meeting featuring Doug Ohman of Pioneer Photography, encouraged the members in attendance to join in with their personal experiences living on a farm. About half of the 35 members and guests were raised on a farm. Ohman's presentation and photos of the icons of a farm, windmills, silos and tractors was most interesting, educational and entertaining to all. For nearly 20 years, Ohman has made a yearly presentation of his research and photos of Minnesota history to the Society's programs. Some commented that this was one of his best presentations and probably his encouragement of former farm residents to share their personal experiences helped.

FALL HAS ARRIVED! THAT TRIGGERS THE FALL CHURCHYARD CLEANUP!

Calling all historic church yard cleanup volunteers! The date is Saturday, November 12th, at the historic church from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. Bring your work gloves, leaf rake, leaf blower (gas fired or electric), and branch trimmer. Dress for the weather. Many hands make the job get done quickly. Your two hands are welcome and appreciated.

HELLO, GVHS MEMBERS, GREAT NEWS!

The Historic Resources Advisory Council (HRAC) recommended GVHS's grant proposal for exhibit funding. The proposal needs to pass through one additional hoop, and we hope to hear by late December, 2016 if the grant has officially been awarded. If so, the museum exhibit would open by December, 2017.

The following presentation was given by Crystal Boyd to HRAC on September 26, 2016 at the Minnesota History Center.

“Chair and Committee Members: Hello. My name is Crystal Boyd. I'm the museum project manager for the Golden Valley Historical Society. I'm here today to request \$139,500. to fabricate and install a permanent museum exhibit.

GVHS is prepared to contribute an additional \$45,000 as cash match. These contributions are approximately 25% of this project's costs. It is important to know that this is the fourth and final phase of our exhibit development strategy. Previous phases included: Physically building strategy. Previous phases included: Physically building the museum space, including actually constructing a new wing to the historic building that is owned by GVHS; Researching exhibit themes; Developing an interpretive plan; And writing the exhibit text.

These previous phases cost over \$430,000 and were 95% funded by GVHS itself. The remaining funds were provided by small grants from the Minnesota Historical Society and Cultural Grants Program.

We do have contingency funds to cover any unforeseen costs, but we anticipate staying on budget. Overall, we'll need

your help to bring this project to fruition.

I'd like to give you a small taste of why this exhibit is so exciting for Golden Valley. It includes local stories that reflect typical themes, such as geography, early Native American life, pioneers, and truck farms.

But it also includes some unique-and sometimes-stories. For example, the addition discusses tensions over civil rights in the 1960s; Golden Valley was one of the first suburbs in the nation to hire a full-time Civil Rights Director. The exhibit also includes experiences of GLBT residents in Golden Valley, and a legacy of minority leadership in local government. We selected these topics after engaging local stakeholders in front-end evaluations. We also secured four peer-reviews from scholars of suburban, African American, and Native American history. This project is important and has enduring value for several reasons: First, it will increase access to Golden Valley's history. Second, it helps visitors to develop ownership of local history. Third, it shows that suburbs have an interesting and important history. Yes, the suburbs have history! Fourth, it will encourage future interpretive products, like rotating exhibits and special events. So, to summarize, this project is thoroughly planned, fiscally sound, and sustainable. It has enduring value and includes engaging stories from a diversity of voices.

It would be my pleasure to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.”

GOLDEN VALLEY ONCE HAD THE LARGEST GREENHOUSE WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER:

In 1927, Thomas Hart's parents moved to Golden Valley from Owatonna, Minnesota. They purchased an operating greenhouse on Golden Valley Road. The greenhouse had 125,000 square feet under glass, and, was the largest greenhouse West of the Mississippi River.

They were in the flower growing business and marketed their flowers in the City of Minneapolis. (Greenhouses were the second largest industry in Golden Valley next to the dairy business. Golden Valley also had a large number of taverns in the community.)

Thomas Hart's father started a petition drive for bringing electricity to Golden Valley. This was during the 1930's depression times (Source: Thomas Hart).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

David and Jan Kuball, 2620 Perry Avenue North, Golden Valley, Mn 55422

Curtis M. Wise, 1135 Sylvan Road, West Chester, PA 19382

Steve Barrett, 9619 Union Terrace Lane, Maple Grove, MN 55369

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTION:

At the October 12, 2016, meeting of the Society Board of Directors the board appointed David Kuball to fill one board vacancy. His term is through the fiscal year 2017-2018. Welcome to the board, David.