



# The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society  
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## **WHEN AND HOW THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS ALMOST MADE GOLDEN VALLEY THEIR HOME IS THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM.**



MARSHALL TANICK

Local lawyer/historian Marshall Tanick will provide the membership with the interesting details of the Vikings Football Team almost coming to be our neighbors, at the general membership meeting on Thursday, October 12th, 2017, being held at the Society's Historic Church located at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Mn, at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the program.

## **HISTORIC CHURCH FALL YARD CLEAN – UP SCHEDULED:**

Based upon years of experience, it is projected that all the leaves on the abundance of trees on the Historic Church grounds, will have fallen and need to be cleaned up. So, on Saturday, November 11th, from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m., volunteers are needed. Please bring your rake, work gloves, pruning shears, and work clothes for the temperature, to help with the clean – up. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated. Reservations are NOT needed.

## **SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED FOR THE 2017-2018 FISCAL YEAR**

At the September general membership/annual meeting, the members re-elected Don Anderson and elected new board member Jenny Brookins to three-year terms.

Current members of the board of directors are: Nancy Azzam; David Kuball; Steve Schmidgall; (one-year terms); Kenneth Huber; Nancy

Kochendorfer; (two-year terms); There are openings on the Society's board of directors at the present time. If you are interested in serving on the board, email or call Secretary Don Anderson at the number at the top of the page.

The Society's Directors meet once a month on the second Wednesday at the Historic Church at 7:00 P.M.

## **FUTURE IN – DEPTH FEATURE ARTICLE:**

The History of the invasive Golden Valley Prudential Insurance Company building built on the North end of Brownie Lake by Robert Provost.

## HISTORY OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT:

This is the third in a series of a script of a presentation to the Golden Valley High School Class of 1966 50-year reunion, July 30th, 2016, by Bob Mattison, Golden Valley High School Class of 1966.

By 1955 the situation had become untenable for the remaining common school districts. Westview finally joined the Hopkins District; Oak Grove joined Robbinsdale District. The dream of a school district for Golden Valley died, and the future of the Meadowbrook district was in danger. Meadowbrook stood alone, a little three -square mile patch – barely 1/3 of Golden Valley – with no good place to send its ever-growing population of children to high school. Children from Meadowbrook were forced to leave Golden Valley for Minneapolis West High school, private or parochial schools.

In November 1955, the Meadowbrook Board of Education received a 200+ page comprehensive report from the University of Minnesota School of Education, which had been asked to study the best solution. Its conclusion: St. Louis Park and Hopkins were not good fits,

building a high school would be too expensive, and a small high school would not offer its students the range of opportunities available at a big high school. Its recommendation: consolidate the district into Robbinsdale. We were in second grade at the time, blissfully unaware that our educational future was hanging in the balance.

The Meadowbrook board almost immediately rejected the report's recommendation. Instead, led by Bruce McNeil (there is a reason the football field was named after him), the board went into action. They toured other small high schools, talked to architects, identified a parcel of land, and called for a vote to float a \$1.25 million bond issue. Neighborhood committees were formed to explain and sell the plan. On March 12, 1956, the board – made up of names familiar to many of us – McNeil, Gulstrand, Enghauser, Gomsrud, Seed and Lucille Rosenow, the Meadowbrook principal, unanimously approved the bond issue. It was put to the voters on April 10, 1956, and passed by an overwhelming 713 in favor, 101 against. After the vote the board didn't slow down.

Vacant land was purchased in April 1956, the biggest part of it for \$17,000. Ground was broken in October, and classes began in September 1957. The first class, less than 50 students, graduated in 1959.

These folks, our parents and their neighbors, knew the time that Golden Valley High School would be the smallest in the metropolitan area, but they wanted their own school in their own community, under their own control. They defied the experts and figured out a way to make it happen. Without their courage, foresight and a lot of very hard work, we would be having a very difficult reunion today – certainly not this group, and we would not be celebrating Golden Valley High School. (EDITOR'S NOTE: GOLDEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL WAS UNABASHEDLY COLLEGE-PREP, AND COMPARED FAVORABLY TO THE BEST PRIVATE SCHOOLS! This presentation, by Bob Mattison, to the Golden Valley High School Class of 1966, will be continued in the November issue of the newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society.)

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

**November 9th** – David Kuball will present a power point on the 19th century immigration and discuss why people left their country and why did they come to the USA.

**January 11th** – To be announced.  
**February 8th** – Golden Valley League of Women Voters will host a panel of experts who will discuss the History of the Metro Council.

