



The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society
Mailing Address: 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427
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THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL: ITS HISTORY AND CURRENT ISSUES IS THE FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM



PAHOUA YANG HOFFMAN

This program is a joint meeting between the Golden Valley Historical Society and the Golden Valley League of Women Voters. The presenter will be Pahoua Yang Hoffman, the Executive Director of the Citizens League. She has been working at the Citizens League for four years. Previously she was manager of government affairs with Twin Cities Public Television. The Metropolitan Council was

created 50 years ago to “promote the orderly development of the region.” Hoffman will explain the historic authority and its decision-making processes. Also, she will share information from two recent Citizens League studies completed in 2016. The meeting will be held at the Society’s historic church located at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN. starting at 7:00 P.M. and it is free and open to the public.

HISTORY OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT:

This is the last 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.

Virtually all of the Golden Valley faculty got jobs in the Hopkins School District. There were some inevitable merger gains, especially at Meadowbrook, but according to Art Bruning, the Hopkins superintendent at the time, they were resolved in two years or so. When I talked with Art Bruning he had very nice things to say about the Golden Valley faculty, especially Buzz Flolid, who became an assistant

principal at Hopkins Lindbergh and Hopkins High School, Roman Borgerdilng, Bill Anderson and Bob Lockwood. Bob Johnston became the Assistant to the Superintendent at Hopkins.

There is still a little bit of GVHS history on the Hopkins High School campus, but you have to look hard. All the yearbooks are in the Hopkins High School library. On the wall at the Lindbergh Center – the huge athletic complex on the Hopkins campus – the Golden Valley Vikings are listed along with the other Hopkins school names. There are banners for each Hopkins school sports

state championship, including swimming in 1971 and 1972 – the only two Golden Valley High School state championships. There also a softball state championship banner in 1981, which was won by Hopkins Lindbergh. The roster of successful Golden Valley softball teams that went to the Class A state tournament in 1978, 1979 and 1980. The 1980 team took second place, losing the championship to Jordan by a score of 4 – 2. It was the very last varsity game played by the Golden Valley Vikings. (EDITOR’S NOTE: We thank Bob Mattison for contributing his speech and allowing us to print it in “The Little White Paper”.)

GOLDEN VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATE'S ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2018:

In 1923, the village bought a 1923 Oshkosh fire truck formerly owned by the Winsted, Minnesota Fire Department and it was overhauled and freshly painted by Flour City Truck Company. The village purchased the necessary equipment to complete the truck and the Number "1" was painted in large gold numbers on both sides of the shiny red truck. All available creeks and water holes were marked on maps so all firemen knew the location of the nearest water supply.

The only 24 – hour switchboard in the village was located at Glenwood Hills Hospital, so the administrator, Ray Rascop, agreed that the hospital would accept fire calls. This number was given to all village residents. When a call was received, the switchboard operator called the fire chief or the next man on the list. It was then the duty of the fireman's wife to call other firemen.

The fire truck was housed in a drafty old shed behind the village hall. Heat was provided by a used oil burner in order to keep the water in the tank from freezing. Burlap and canvas were hung around the doors to help keep out the cold air. When a call came, each volunteer rushed to the fire station. The first to arrive wrote the address of the fire on the board and sounded the siren which doubled as an air raid warning. The signal for a fire was three long blasts; the air raid warning was one continuous wail.

The first fire to be tackled by the new department showed

the need for careful training. It occurred on a very cold and windy New Year's Day in 1944 at Larson's tavern on Wayzata Boulevard near the Minneapolis, Northfield and Southern Railroad. It was necessary to remove many wooden cases from the porch in order to get at the fire. A large new cooler that was set into the tavern wall and exposed to the outside was removed to a safe place. As this opening was made, the wind blew through the building and whipped the flames across the parking lot, igniting the row of wooden cases and destroying the new ladders that leaned against them.

It was soon evident that more equipment was needed but there was no money in the village coffers to finance the cost of another truck. The volunteers went from house to house from business to business soliciting funds. They collected about \$4,500.00. Many interesting stories are told about things happening while collecting. A single dollar from an old man living in a garage to a \$500 donation from the Minneapolis Northfield and Southern Railroad. The fire chief told the village trustees that kids on their bikes could get to a fire scene before the Oshkosh truck to get to the fire.

A used International truck was purchased in May, 1944. (EDITOR'S NOTE: The history of the Golden Valley Fire Department will be continued in the next newsletters. Source: "Golden Valley, Minnesota, 1886 – 1986", Author: Golden Valley Historical Society.)

THE NEW MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT IS "ROUNDING SECOND AND HEADING FOR THIRD BASE":

The Society Board of Directors is looking to the future and starting to get organized for the grand openings next Spring. What they are seeking are a few members who would be willing to serve on a "Grand Opening Committee". The committee would develop ideas on when and how to have the Grand Openings sometime next Spring. In other words, meet, exchange ideas, budget, and present a plan to the Board of Directors meeting in March, 2018. Do you have a little time available to meet and work on this once in a life time project? Contact Don Anderson, Secretary at 763-588-8578 or email: maryanddon3030@aol.com.

UPCOMING SOCIETY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

March 8th, Thursday: Program to be announced. April 12th, Thursday: Program to be announced; May 10th, Thursday: Program to be announced; All general membership meetings are held at the Society's historic church located at 6731 Golden Valley Road at 7:00 P.M. The meetings are free and open to the public.