



# Chanhassen Historian

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## HISTORY BITS

### 1966

At the October 1966 meeting of the Chanhassen Fire Dept. it was noted in the minutes that any fireman not wearing his fireman's cap to the meeting would be fined 50 cents.

Tom Klingelhutz sold the fire department an old mail truck for \$1. It was converted into a rescue vehicle.

### 1967

At the June 1967 meeting of the Chanhassen Fire Department, complaints from the public regarding firemen not stopping at stop signs on their way to calls were noted.

### 1975

As of January 1975, members of the Chanhassen Fire Department will receive \$2.50 per drill. Any member arriving more than five minutes late will not be paid for the drill.

### 1998

The first Chanhassen Rescue Dive Team was formed.

### 2016

The Chanhassen Fire Department is now a paid on-call department. Its 47 members serve the residents and businesses within the City of Chanhassen. In addition, the department also responds to mutual aid requests to neighboring departments, typically for larger incidents such as structure fires, grass fires and other weather-related events.



Groundbreaking for a combination village hall/fire station was held on Nov. 6, 1966. The new building's garage served as the first fire station.

## Chanhassen Fire Department celebrates 50 years of service

The Chanhassen Fire Department will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 9. Though still a relatively young department when compared to neighboring departments, it shares the rich traditions found in the fire service.

Village leaders recognized early the need for fire prevention. In October 1931, Ordinance Number 13 was passed mandating all men ages 21 to 60 belong to the Fire Department. Un-

fortunately, no further information on the department could be found.

Neighboring Fire Departments from Excelsior and Chaska had been providing some level of fire protection for the village and there was a definite need for the service. On Aug. 25, 1964 a hay barn on the Harold Kerber farm was lost to a fire. The farm was located in the area where McDonalds **FIRE DEPARTMENT to page 4**

## Historical Society Annual Meeting

Come join us for fun, friendship and a brief update of your Historical Society's activities and financial update.

**When:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016

**Time:** Social time starts at 6:30 p.m.; event starts at 7 p.m.

**Where:** Maple Room of the Chanhassen Senior Center.

Enter at the East Parking lot and follow the signs

**Entertainment:** Please bring a family treasure to share!

Do you have an old toy from your childhood? A tool used many years ago? An old kitchen item that reminds you of dinners around the table? No matter how small, bring it and help us all recall when days were simple and sweet. Smart phones and Computers are NOT welcome.

**Prizes to be won, Don't miss out!**

# Fire Department

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now resides on Dakota Ave. In an interview with charter member Earl McAllister which appeared in the book, *Chanhassen: A Centennial History*, McAllister recalled the village receiving a notice from the Excelsior Fire Department that they could no longer provide fire protection services. Then Mayor Gene Coulter began seeking volunteers to form its own department.

The first regular meeting of the new Fire Department was convened on May 9, 1966 in the village hall. There were 28 members in attendance. The first business noted in the meeting minutes were the election of officers. Jim Thompson was chosen as the organization's first Fire Chief. Also elected were Assistant Chief Bill Robertson, Fire Captain Al Skluzacek, Fire Marshal Earl McAllister, and Drillmaster



**Harold Kerber's barn fire in 1964 prompted the formation of the Chanhassen Fire Department.**

Tom Klingelhutz. Members were also selected to form committees to begin the plans for the construction of a new fire hall and for the acquisition of its first fire truck.

By their June meeting, the department had secured a five-year contract for fire protection services from the Village and took possession of its first vehicle, a used, 1953 Dodge, 1200 gallon



**Fire department officers included (l. to r.) Jack Lambert, Tom Klingelhutz, Bill Robertson, Jim Thompson, and Al Skluzacek.**

per minute pumper purchased for \$2,600 from the Golden Valley Fire Department. Later that year, a 1957 Ford, 500 gallon per minute pumper was purchased for \$4,020 from the Waconia Fire Department.

The very first recorded fire department call for service was for an overheated oil fired space heater at the Lazy C Drive In. This was located on land now occupied partly by the City's water plant and was ironically owned by Mayor Gene Coulter. The fire was out when the firemen arrived.

Groundbreaking for a new combination village hall and fire station occurred on Nov. 6, 1966. When completed, the Fire Department moved into the garage area while Village staff utilized the rest of the building for office space and a council chambers. In 1981, city staff moved into the new building that still serves as City Hall today.

The department continued to add new members and expand its fleet of fire vehicles. Its members held various fundraisers to purchase new equipment. Development in the western portion of the city prompted the construction of a second station which was built in 1981 at the intersection of Highway 7 and Minnewashta Parkway. Station 1 was also expanded to four truck bays in 1989 to accommodate a growing fleet that would include the department's first ladder truck which is still in service today.

Today the Chanhassen Fire Department, with roughly 45 members --including a full-time Chief -- continues to respond to fires as well as car crashes, emergency medical calls and a host of other emergencies ranging from severe storms, to floods, to ice rescues and more.



## Join the Chanhassen Historical Society

Your membership will help with the preservation and restoration projects of Chanhassen's historic buildings, plus educational programs about our community's history. You also automatically become a member of the Carver County Historical Society.

### Membership Application

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual: \$15; Family: \$25; Bronze: \$50 - \$100; Silver: \$101 - \$25-; Gold: \$251 - \$500; Platinum: \$500 - \$1,000**

**Make checks payable to: Chanhassen Historical Society,  
P.O. Box 941, Chanhassen, MN 55317**

# President's notes

Part adventure, part history lesson, part treasure hunt. Please join us for Treasures Uncovered™ on Saturday, May 7.



**Lynn Murphy**  
CHS President

We will be gathering at Chanhassen Recreation Center (2310 Coulter Blvd). Guests bring an object from home and a team of experts provide instant professional opinions of value along with intriguing stories about the item's history. Up to 80 items will be reviewed by the team of experts. Each participant will be allowed to bring no more than two items in order to give more people a chance

to participate. Audience participants can expect to have the afternoon filled with fun and entertainment in the Treasures Uncovered experience. We suggest you mail in the registration form along with a check \$15 fee for each item. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis. There will be numerous research tools used to provide the professional opinion; including encyclopedic expert knowledge to speed evaluations and maximize the number of participants. Light refreshments will be served.

### About the Team Members

Bonnie Lindberg and Jim Marrinan are two of the most knowledgeable people in their field. They make it a great deal of fun for everyone. Bonnie is the co-creator of the

KareCollectibles segment on KARE-11 TV. A specialist in art appraisals, for 25 years Bonnie was owner of Elayne Galleries, a nationally renowned art gallery in Minnesota. She has appeared on H&G Network, numerous Twin Cities TV stations and many Home & Garden shows.

James has an M.A. degree in history and completed the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) course in 2006. A member of the Appraiser's Association of America, he specializes in decorative arts, coins, stamps, antiques and collectibles. He has appeared on the PBS series Antiques Roadshow and History Detectives, H&G Network, and WCCO radio. With Bonnie, Jim is co-creator of the KareCollectibles segment on KARE-11 TV.

We hope to see you for a great fundraiser event!

## Program honors Chanhassen WWII Veterans

The wartime experiences of Chanhassen WWII veterans Martin Schlenk, Jerry Yanish, and Gene Coulter were featured at a Veterans program hosted by the Chanhassen Historical Society Nov. 21 at the Chanhassen Library.

The Coulter, Yanish and Schlenk families honored the service of their fathers by sharing their stories at the program which included presentations by Fritz Coulter, Terry Yanish, and Steve Yanish. The program included excerpts of the vivid wartime diary kept by Schlenk who was onboard the USS Bunker Hill on May 11, 1945 when it was attacked by the Japanese. Photos, uniforms, and other memorabilia from the veterans were shared by their families at the event.

The Chanhassen Historical Society seeks to preserve and share the history of our community. Do you have a suggestion for a future Veterans program?

Please contact us if you would like to share a story that honors the contributions and service of our veterans. All other program topics and suggestions are welcome.

## Join us on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 2 pm to 4 pm

A unique interactive experience. Discover the history and value of your item!!



Chanhassen Recreation Center  
(at Bluff Creek Elementary)

All are welcome to attend.  
Free Admission.

# Treasures Uncovered™

Presented by

Chanhassen Historical Society

ASM Appraisal Specialists Midwest

**REGISTRATION FORM:** To bring items to the event, please register in advance (\$15 per item)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Item 1 Description \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Item 2 Description \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$15/item. Please make checks payable to the Chanhassen Historical Society. Items reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis. Mail to P.O. Box 941 Chanhassen, MN 55317 or register online at [www.chanhistorical.org](http://www.chanhistorical.org). No dolls, jewelry, wristwatches or firearms.

### PAYMENT

CREDIT CARD     CHECK    # of items \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 CARD TYPE \_\_\_\_\_ CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 CCV CODE \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_



For more information about sponsorship and how you can get involved and support us, please contact us on line at [www.chanhistorical.org](http://www.chanhistorical.org) or call 952-353-4547

# Options for Old Village Hall being reviewed

Old Village Hall, located near the intersection of West 78th Street and Great Plains Boulevard in downtown Chanhassen, has served many purposes since its days as the primary city office.

According to a city report, the building has housed a library, antique store and book store.

After receiving an extensive rehab, the building was home to the Chanhassen Chamber of Commerce from 2001 to 2006. Since 2006, the city-owned building has been leased to Seattle Sutton's Healthy Eating. That lease, which includes annual rent at \$450 per month as well as utilities, taxes and snow removal charges, is set to expire at the end of the year.

Representatives of the Chanhassen Historical Society have expressed an interest in potentially using the building as a home base. Currently, the historical society is allowed to use space at Chanhassen City Hall for meetings.

Meanwhile, the current lease holder, Tracy Haelterman of Seattle Sutton's, would like to continue operating out of the historic building.

During an informal work session discussion Feb. 22, city officials asked the two parties to consider whether dual tenancy is a possibility.

Haelterman indicated that a shared arrangement could be a possibility as long as liability issues are addressed. Seattle Sutton's offers fully prepared and sealed meals that are delivered to the building twice a week and regular hours are Mondays and Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., according



**Old Village Hall in Chanhassen**

to a city report.

The last major rehabilitation to Old Village Hall was completed in 2005 to the exterior of the building. Regardless of what happens with the lease, city staff has determined that the exterior of the building will need additional repairs, including replacing the roof. City money has been budgeted for that repair in 2016.

The council directed staff to work with the Chanhassen Historical Society and Seattle Sutton's to see if joint tenancy is viable.

*Reprinted with permission from the Chanhassen Villager*

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## Chanhassen Historical Society

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