



# Chanhassen Historian

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## A Historic Chanhassen Landmark in Jeopardy

### *An update on efforts to save Historic St. Hubert Church*

The last six months have seen significant developments regarding Historic St. Hubert Church, Chanhassen's most significant historic landmark. After years of disuse, the historic church has fallen into disrepair and is in need of restoration. St. Hubert Parish, sent out a survey to the parish and wider community in late 2025 to collect input.

Despite the survey results indicating strong support for preserving the church in the community, St. Hubert Parish announced in January that the building would be razed rather than restored, citing the cost of restoration and ongoing upkeep. This means if nothing is done, the historic landmark will be demolished.

The Chanhassen Historical Society was founded in part with the mission to preserve the historic church. Our efforts to save the church continue, and more than 1,400 people have added their names to a petition in support of preserving the historic church. We are heartened by this outpouring of support from the community, and believe the issue deserves more discussion.

### *SOS: Save Old St. Hubert Committee*

In late 2025, a committee of community members came together with the goal of exploring alternatives to demolition. The Save Old St. Hubert (SOS) Committee is planning to hire a consultant to facilitate an impartial, community-wide discussion about the fate of the church. The committee hopes this discussion will help to define options for repurposing the church that best serve the community, as well as provide more realistic restoration cost estimates. More than anything, the committee hopes to appeal for more time before any action is taken to raze the church. The Chanhassen Historical Society fully supports the efforts of the SOS Committee.



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## 2026 Annual Membership Meeting

**Topics: Save Old St. Hubert Church & Fire Department Turns 60**

Tuesday April 28, 2026 at 6:30pm

Chanhassen History Center—391 W 78th St.



A brief business meeting will begin at 6:30 pm, including status, updates, and discussion regarding work saving Historic St. Hubert's Church. The meeting will be followed by a short presentation on the history and creation of the Chanhassen Fire Department, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year! Drinks and light snacks will be available.

**Members and nonmembers are welcome!**



# Chanhasen History Center Opens for 2026 Season



**Opening Date: Saturday May 2, 2026**

**11am-1pm**



**And Saturdays all summer!**

Come visit the Chanhasen History Center museum,  
located in the Old Village Hall building at 391 W 78th St.

We can't wait to see you there!

## THANK YOU!

We would like to extend a huge "THANK YOU" to Historical Society members Rick and Liz Nustad for generously donating space for storage of our items since we lost our space at the remodeled City Hall.

Thanks Rick and Liz!

## A Historic Chanhasen Landmark in Jeopardy

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### *The History of the Church, The History of the Town*

The Church of St. Hubertus, as it was originally named, was built in 1887 and is the oldest building in Chanhasen still in its original location. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, with the nomination form noting that the church "provides the last surviving link to the early development and German Catholic heritage of the city."

Know that we will continue in our efforts, and your support is truly appreciated. We will continue to update our members on ways to get involved.

The fate of Old St. Hubert hangs in the balance.

You can find updates, sign the petition, and learn more about the history of the church and efforts to save it at [chanhistorical.org](http://chanhistorical.org).



Hubert Church being built. 1887

### St. Hubert Station.

This Station on the "Cut off" in Chanhasen is growing into quite a little village.

Peter Barthel, has opened a grocery Store there and his son Johnny has recently opened a saloon in the same building.

Hubart Bongard, has also opened a first class saloon near the Church and is doing a nice business.

The Catholic Church Congregation are also completing a fine school building near the church at that place, and other new buildings are also contemplated in the near future.

Weekly Valley Herald  
August 24, 1882

## SIGN THE PETITION

Save the Historic Church of St. Hubertus The Church of St. Hubertus is a landmark of our shared history in the Chanhasen community. Built in 1887, it is the oldest building in town still in its original location. We call upon our leaders to take action to preserve, restore, and reuse the historic church.

NAME	EMAIL	ZIP CODE	SIGNATURE

Return by mail to: Chanhasen Historical Society, P.O. Box 941, Chanhasen, MN 55317

Or in person to the Chanhasen History Center. Also available on our website.

## Chanhasen Fire Department Turns 60

*This article appeared on page 172 in "Chanhasen: A Centennial History"*

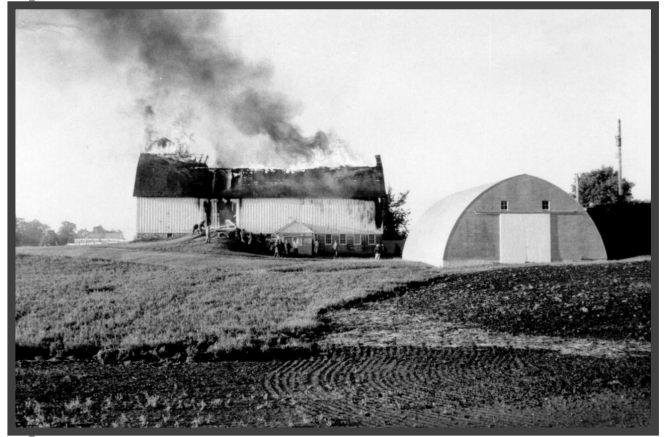
The Beginning.

On August 25th, 1964 Harold Kerber's barn burned down. Since it was the end of summer, the barn was filled with almost ten thousand bales of dry alfalfa and hay. The blaze was spectacular. It was clear that Chanhasen needed a fire department.

The volunteer fire department held their first meeting in May 1966. Earl McAllister remembered, "We received a notice from the Excelsior Fire Department... that they would not be unable to serve us because... if they had a call at the same time that we had a fire here that they would have to respond to their call and ours would be left until later."

Mayor Coulter suggested a local fire department to several men in the community and a meeting was held in May 1966, at the Legion Hall. Thirty men signed up. At the first meeting on May 16th, they elected officers, including Fire Chief Jim Thompson, Assistant Chief Bill Robertson, Earl McAllister, Fire Marshal, and Tom Klingelutz, Drillmaster.

The new department purchased a 1950 Dodge Tanker from Golden Valley for \$2,600. Golden Valley "threw in a few helmets and a few boots," McAllister remembered. "Tom Klingelutz sold the unit an old mail truck for a dollar. The truck was converted into a rescue vehicle. The volunteers rented an old garage just off of Main Street. That's where we held our first training meeting."



**PUZZLES AVAILABLE!**

Local Artist Lee Newcomb of Chanhasen created this watercolor painting of the Old Village Hall / Chanhasen History Center.

This beautiful painting is available as a jigsaw puzzle for purchase at the History Center – fun for the whole family. Also makes a great

**The Chanhasen Fire Department is turning 60 this year! Join us to learn more about its creation and history at our Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 28 at 6:30pm.**

## Join the Chanhasen Historical Society!

It's more important than ever to join or renew your membership.

Please consider an additional donation as we continue to develop the History Center and community events.

Check your address label for expired membership status.

Membership automatically includes subscription to Carver County Historical Society's mailing list!

### Membership Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone# ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Individual (\$20)     Family (\$30)     Additional Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

OR PayPal payments to: [contact@chanhistorical.org](mailto:contact@chanhistorical.org)



## **Notes from the President**

Greetings fellow friends of history!

Chanhasen Historical Society is in its 19th year – it almost seems like yesterday when a group of caring residents banded together to “Save Old St. Hubert”’s, Chanhasen’s oldest and last structure still standing in its original location in our Historic District.

We have been working in collaboration with St. Hubert Parish over the last year in an effort to find a way to save the historic building, which was placed on the MN Registry of Historic Places in 1982, from demolition. The building is being “deconsecrated” by the Archdiocese and will no longer be used for Masses, etc. We are excited by the prospect of possible development as a Community space, but there are still many challenges we face. Things are rapidly changing in our city, and public interest is vital to preserving this historical landmark.

If you feel any sense of curiosity about our Chanhasen community, I urge you to please attend **our next General Membership meeting on Tuesday April 28**. This meeting will focus on the work being done to save the historic church, followed by a presentation on the history of the Chanhasen Fire Department. As we learned last year, 60 years ago, multiple tornadoes tore through Chanhasen and

because there was no public warning system in place at that time, people had to rely on radio for Tornado Warnings. Soon after this event a group of citizens met and formed our fire department in 1966. Come and hear the stories of these early fires - and firefighters. Join us! **Everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike!**



Paula Atkins, President

I hope to see you there!

Paula Atkins, President

**I would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in becoming a board member or volunteer to drop me a line. No experience is required and the minimum commitment is just 6 meetings per year. We have many positions to be filled and welcome anyone who is curious to reach out and get involved - there are so many different ways to do so. It's not only a fun way to meet new people and engage with your community, it's also a great way to build your resume and experience!**

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## **Chanhasen Historical Society**

**P.O. Box 941**

**Chanhasen, MN 55317**

[chanhistorical.org](http://chanhistorical.org) 

### **Board of Directors**

**Paula Atkins, President**

**Phone: 952-270-9193**

**[contact@chanhistorical.org](mailto:contact@chanhistorical.org)**

**Lucy Haukoos, Treasurer**

**Sally Atkins, Secretary,**

**Newsletter Editor**

**Jackson Atkins, Web Editor**