



# The Scribe

HISTORY CENTER OF OLMSTED COUNTY

## FALL 2021 Newsletter



**HISTORY CENTER**  
OF OLMSTED COUNTY

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**REMINDER: Please make sure we have the most up-to-date email and mailing address for you. Thanks!**

## WHAT TYPE OF HISTORY CENTER DOES A GROWING COUNTY DESERVE:

### OLMSTED COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GIVE A SIGNAL WITH PLAN TO CUT \$50,000 FROM HCOC BUDGET

By Wayne Gannaway, Executive Director

The county administrator notified us earlier this summer that the County Commission intends to permanently cut the History Center’s budget by \$50,000. That’s 17.5% of our annual funding from the County and almost 10% of our overall revenue in 2020. It’s important for all of us to understand the rationale of our elected officials but also the likely impact on the programs and services we offer.

### Making an Apples-to-Apples Comparison

As we understand it, Commissioners are basing their cut by comparing Olmsted County’s annual allocation to those made by other Minnesota counties to their respective historical societies. When we look at the basket of counties, all members of the Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA), to which Olmsted County is being compared, we see an apples-to-oranges mismatch in terms of population and economic growth trends. In the graph on page 3, we can see two categories: population size (small, medium, and large) and location (Greater Minnesota and the Twin Cities Metro area).

See Figure 1 on page 3.

Olmsted County definitely has one thing in common with Winona, Crow Wing, and Blue Earth counties: we are all located in Greater Minnesota. But strong growth in Olmsted County for the last couple decades has placed us in a very different position than those other counties. Yet, we are not

WHAT TYPE OF HISTORY CENTER - CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



**Christine Rule**  
President

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall is beautiful at the History Center of Olmsted County. This fall is particularly so with the return of Mayowood Mansion tours. The Hootenany, local history presentations, Cemetery Walk, Creepy Dolls, and ongoing exhibits and research at the museum; I can't recall a busier fall events calendar at HCOC!

Behind the scenes, we are continuing to implement our strategic plan. Broadening our sources of revenue has been a large part of the Board's efforts this year. Grant applications are increasing in number thanks to many hours of effort. Media coverage of HCOC's activities continues to grow. Partnerships and collaborations are increasing and continue to be a priority. Maintaining our buildings and collection while providing educational offerings is unquestionably costly.

The largest portion of our annual revenue currently comes from the City of Rochester and Olmsted County budgets. In 2021, HCOC received a 10% cut in support from the City of Rochester. 2022 budgets are currently being discussed by both entities. Olmsted County is planning a \$50,000 reduction in their 2022 HCOC support. If approved, this cut will have noticeable impact on our services. Please read the Executive Director's article for more information about this issue.

We recently received an 1860s grain cradle used for harvesting on our site by the Stoppel family long ago. It is now in our permanent collection. What a wonderful reminder of this season's hard work and harvests! The efforts of our volunteers, sponsors, staff, and board are the reason we can provide much more than our revenue alone allows. Their dedication and care for our community's stories have improved our educational work, increased the number of people we serve, and make it all enjoyable too! We hope to see you at the resulting harvest of events this season!



## MAYOWOOD IS BACK OPEN FOR BUSINESS

By Kathy Dahl, Mayowood Tour Coordinator

The History Center is pleased to announce that Mayowood Tours have resumed! The Mayowood guides are excited to share the stories of Dr. Charlie's family and lead you through the beautifully maintained mansion.

Tours will be offered on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays in September. In October they will be offered on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Please visit [olmstedhistory.com/select-tour](http://olmstedhistory.com/select-tour) to order your ticket for the day and time of your choice. This season we are offering two Specialty Tours. On Saturday, September 12th we invite you to join us for a Mayowood "Art & Garden Tour" and on Saturday, October 2nd a "Conservation Tour" will be conducted in the home. Online ticket reservations are required as numbers are limited. Christmas Tours will be offered in November and December. The 2021 theme is "Puttin' On The Ritz". A few creative decorators are still needed. Contact Kathy or Dan if interested in participating.

Please help us spread the word that Mayowood is open for the remainder of 2021. Please note that Masks and Online Tickets are required for all tours. We look forward to seeing you at Mayowood!

Figure 1

# POPULATION COMPARISON, 2019

- Population less than 70,000
- Greater Minnesota, Pop. 159,900-200,000
- Minneapolis-St. Paul Suburbs

## What is Comparable to Olmsted County?

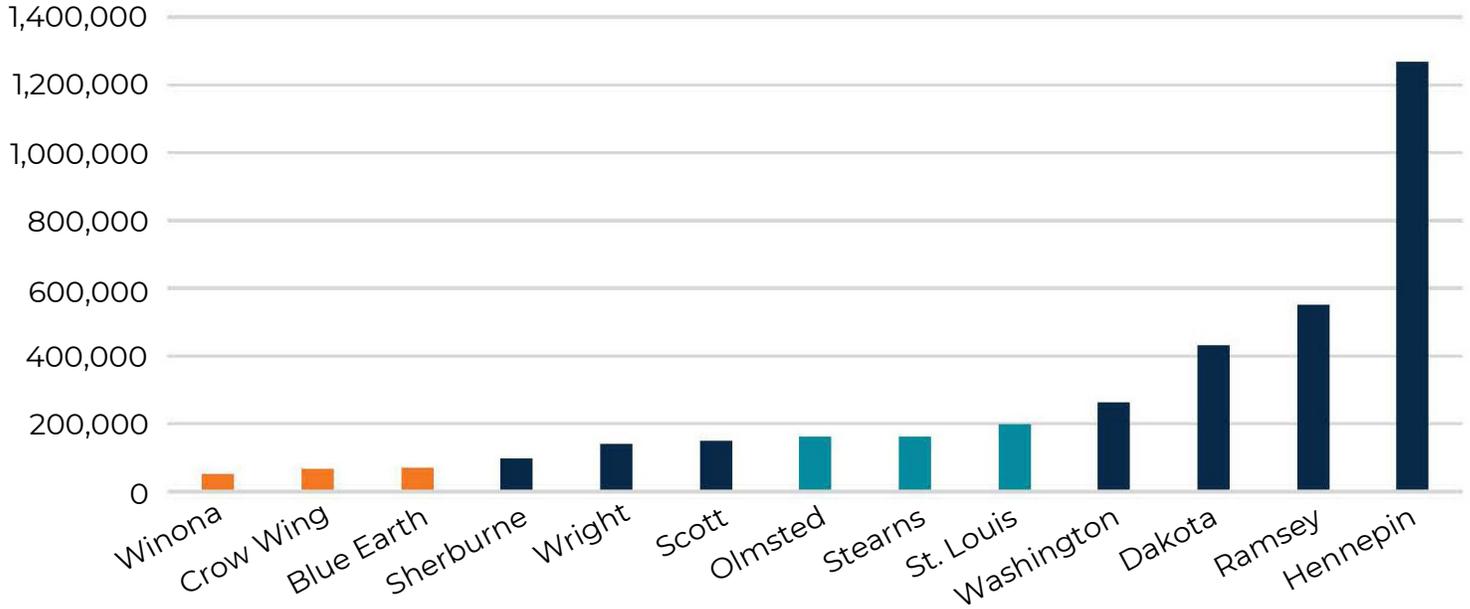
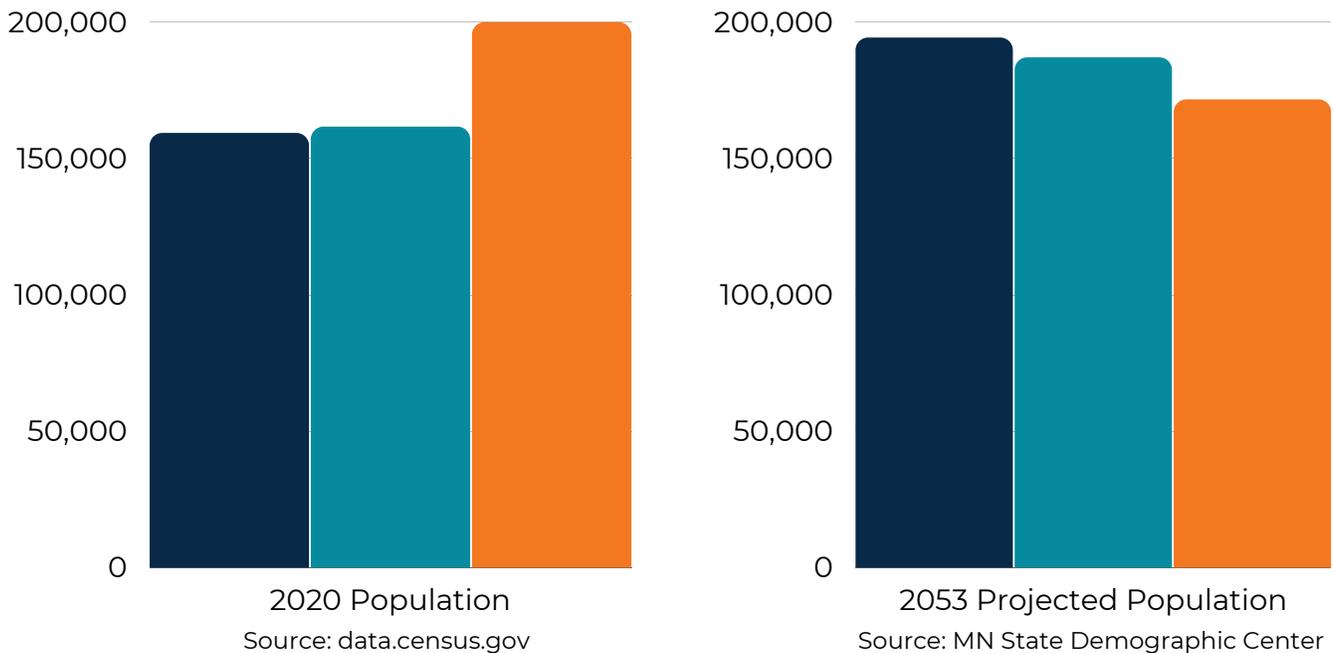


Figure 2

# DYNAMIC POPULATION

- Olmsted
- Stearns
- St. Louis

## 2020 Population Compared to 2053 Projections



## WHAT TYPE OF HISTORY CENTER - continued

part of the Twin Cities, with its Metropolitan Council, MSP International Airport, numerous foundations, abundant cultural and heritage attractions, and so on.

By our reckoning, with a population of 162,847 Olmsted County is most comparable to Saint Louis County (200,000) and Stearns County (158,292), each of which are also located in Greater Minnesota. But our county is expected to grow to nearly 200,000, with Stearns following behind, and Saint Louis County actually losing population. Among all counties in the state, Olmsted was the third fastest growing and is expected to grow by 24.2% by 2053.

See Figure 2 on page 3.

It is worth noting that some MICA counties have modest economic capacity. That is not true of Olmsted County. Based on tourism-generated gross sales and overall gross domestic product (GDP), Olmsted County is nearly even with Saint Louis County and eclipses Stearns County. According to National Association of Counties,

“ long term, output for [Olmsted] county increased by 71.7 percent, going from \$6.3B in 2001 to \$10.8B in 2019. During the same period, medium-sized county economies grew by 37.8 percent, and the U.S. economy grew by 44 percent. ”

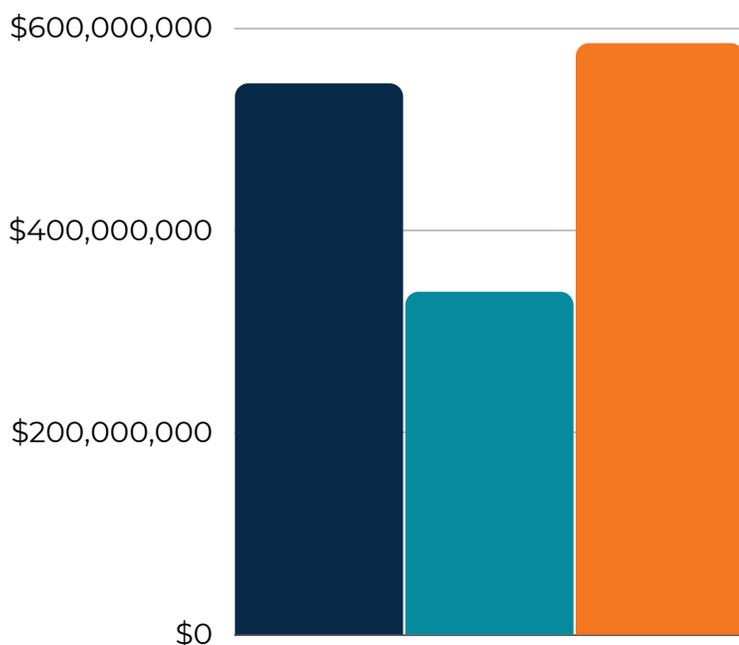
See Figure 3.

Figure 3

# TOURISM AND ECONOMIC CAPACITY

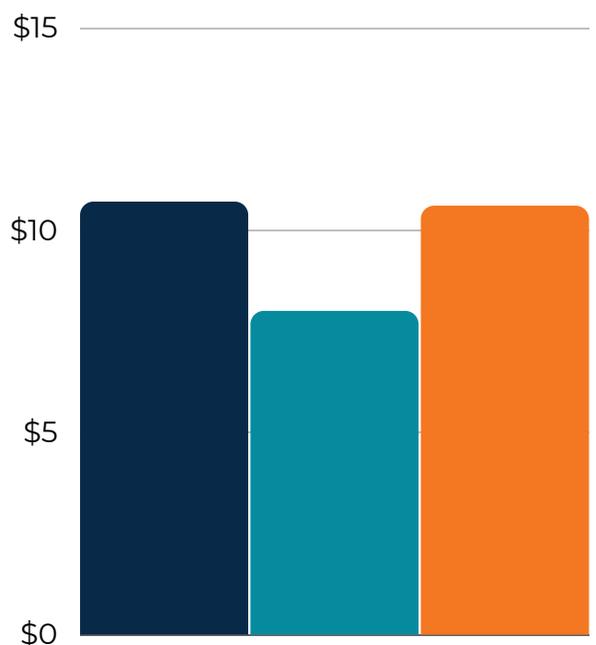
■ Olmsted ■ Stearns ■ St. Louis

## 2019 Tourism-generated Gross Sales



Source: [https://mn.gov/tourism-industry/assets/FactSheet\\_2021\\_tcm1135-468754.pdf](https://mn.gov/tourism-industry/assets/FactSheet_2021_tcm1135-468754.pdf)

## 2019 County GDP (in billions)



Source: <https://ce.naco.org/?find=true>

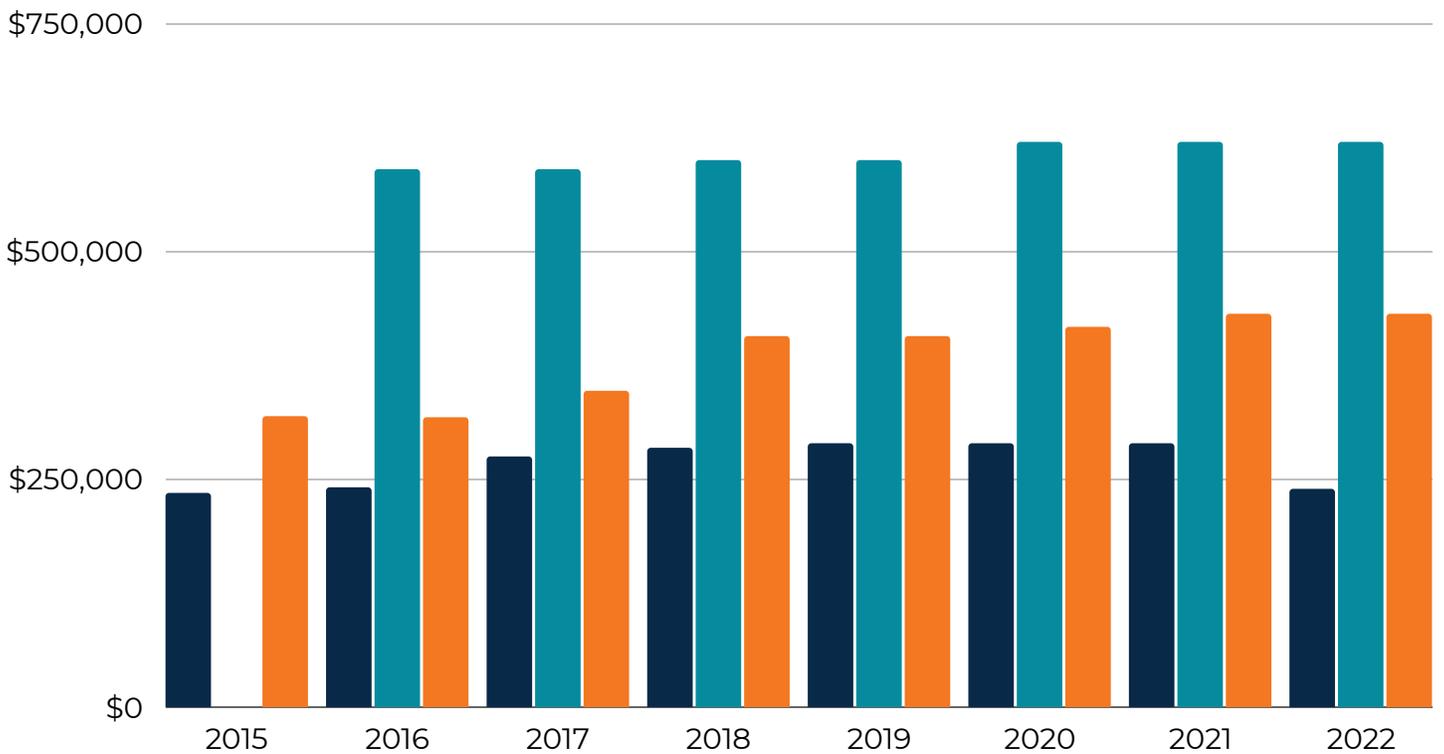
As described above and illustrated in Figures 1-3, Olmsted County's population is growing faster than the comparable counties, and the same is true regarding economic growth. Yet, Figure 4 (below) shows that Olmsted County Government allocations to HCOG are well below that of Stearns and Saint Louis Counties, 214% and 149% less, respectively. In 2022, if the proposed cuts are made, the gap between Olmsted County's contributions compared to Stearns and Saint Louis counties increases to 259% and 180%, respectively.

See Figure 4.

Figure 4

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDING, 2015-2022 COMPARISON

■ Olmsted ■ Stearns ■ St. Louis



Year	<b>Olmsted</b>	<b>Stearns</b>	<b>St. Louis</b>
2015	\$234,151	no data	\$317,998
2016	\$241,176	\$590,000	\$317,998
2017	\$275,000	\$590,000	\$346,998
2018	\$284,515	\$600,000	\$406,998
2019	\$289,515	\$600,000	\$406,998
2020	\$289,515	\$620,000	\$417,173
2021	\$289,515	\$620,000	\$431,498
2022	\$239,515	\$620,000	\$431,498

So, in summary, as our county population grows and as the county economy expands, the History Center's capacity to serve will, as a result of these cuts, shrink. Moreover, Olmsted County's projected growth will almost certainly create historical change to our county: Our population will continue to become more diverse. Farmsteads and agricultural fields will continue to be replaced by housing and commercial developments. Boundaries for township (the building blocks of the county) will shrink. Who will be preserving, for the benefit of the public, the artifacts and archival material which document these changes?

County governments in Minnesota support their respective historical societies in many ways. In addition to an annual appropriation, Saint Louis County (with Duluth as the county seat) also owns and maintains the building that houses their historical society. Carver County provides a smaller allocation but owns and maintains their historical society building, as well as provides IT equipment and internet access. Other county governments provide project funding and capital improvement funds. Olmsted County provides the History Center with an annual appropriation only.

To be clear, county governments are under no statutory obligation to provide anything to their county historical society. But since 1929 the Minnesota legislature has approved statutes specifically allowing county governments to provide material support for their county historical societies. Perhaps they did so because they witnessed so much change (e.g., war, a pandemic, battles over voting rights, technological advancement). In debating the issue of county government support for county historical societies at the 1928 annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society, state senator Victor Lawson of Willmar declared "If history is worth making, it is worth preserving."



▲ *Our first museum in the public library basement, 1941. Come 2026 we'll be celebrating 100 years of collecting and sharing Olmsted County's history!*

## How the History Center Serves a Growing Population and Changing Demographic

HCOC is unique among cultural organizations in the county because of the variety of constituents we serve, the scope of our services, and our accessibility, and dependability. We provide in-person services to tourists both at the History Center and particularly at Mayowood. Our core services, however, are preservation and education for the entire county. HCOC is the only entity in Olmsted County whose mission is to be the public memory for a rapidly changing county.

### HCOC and the Tourist

As with many other attractions in Olmsted County, Mayo Clinic patients and their visiting friends and family account for a large number of our visitors, particularly at Mayowood. Perhaps even more than the typical leisure tourist, this segment wants to avoid hassles and unpleasant surprises. The History Center is an asset for satisfying these travelers in that it:

- Is open to the public on a regular, dependable schedule
- Provides in-person, one-on-one service staffed by professionals
- Is easy to find, offers plenty of parking; is accessible to all ages and is affordable

While the county offers a lot of amenities, particularly in the way of parks, how does it compare to Stearns and Saint Louis counties when it comes to museums that are fully staffed and open to the public on a regular basis?

### HCOC and Olmsted County Residents

In a growing county, with an increasingly diverse, dynamic population, the History Center is an active, energetic part of Olmsted County's civic infrastructure.

Long-time residents know that HCOC is a reliable custodian of thousands of historical records and artifacts, caring for them in perpetuity (we have been part of the community for nearly 100 years). Not only does HCOC collect, catalogue, and preserve many records, we also provide reliable public access to our collections, with in-person, hands-on assistance from a certified archivist, collections manager, and curator. Who do we serve on a daily basis?

- Individuals (genealogists, neighborhood historians, students, farmers, teachers)
- Civic Groups (e.g., Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Gay/Lesbian Community Services, American Association of University Women, Zumbro Watershed Partnership)
- Businesses (receiving and providing public access to e.g., Waters Conley, Olmsted County Bank and Trust, Reid Murdoch/Libby's/Seneca, IBM, Mayo Clinic)
- Government (receiving and providing public access to e.g., flood control project records, probate records, township, and county records—with personal, one-on-one service)

**“ Museums and libraries are the vaults that hold our knowledge and history. They educate us on the discoveries and blunders of our past. ”**

**- Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA, Surgeon General of the United States.**

### **Strengthening Civic Engagement, Weaving Together Community**

It is often said that America is a nation of civic beliefs, not founded on a basis of race, creed, or aristocracy. (In fact, John Hancock wrote that very sentiment in a letter to General George Washington in 1776.) Yet, as fundamental as that belief is to our identity, few of us today are happy with the level of civic literacy or quality of civic engagement or discourse—and we haven't been for years. How are we (i.e. the public) investing in a citizenry that is informed and prepared to engage in civic and civil discourse that lives up to our national identity? And where do we find lessons on such topics? Consider nearly any issue that is making news today: public health, immigration, the legacy of chattel slavery, political parties and electoral politics, voting, war, flooding, urban development, food supply. Archival material and museum artifacts and the work of local and public historians provides, at a minimum, clues to better managing and having more informed debates about these challenges, at the national, state, and local levels.

Enough county officials were concerned about the issue of civic literacy to invite Louise Dube, executive director of iCivics, a nonprofit that champions and re-imagines civic education, to the National Association of County's 2021 Virtual Legislative Conference. In explaining recommendations on how to teach American history and civics in an in-depth, integrated manner, she stated:

**“ That is the kind of thing we want students to do is to look at the history, look at the perspectives that it's taking and then become ready to help us lead our counties in the future. ”**

HCOC does not just collect, preserve, and passively provide access, we actively invite all segments of the community to examine, explore, and add their history to our county's rich tapestry. For a county with so many business transplants, immigrants, and refugees, creating attachment to community is vital. Cultural heritage organizations like HCOC are a key component in cultivating a shared understanding among our county's diverse population. Citing a 2010 Knight Foundation report regarding community attachment, Partners for Livable Communities concluded:

**“ Interpreting the past creates attachment to the present... Effectively highlighting the culture and heritage of a place cultivates attachment to that place, and thus makes people want to settle in that area and lay their roots down. ”**

How does the History Center help create attachment in Olmsted County? We engage with residents as individuals and groups through myriad channels and forums. A key part of our work involves exploring timely historical topics through community engagement, highlighting common ground between the past and the present; between rural and urban; between long-time residents and newcomers. Specific examples include:

- Our Homegrown History Zoom talks provide convenient, affordable virtual programs on such topics as voting rights, the local history of water treatment, pandemics and public health, local architecture, immigration, farming, and local biographies.
- Thousands engage with our social media posts at no cost to them though HCOC invests hundreds of hours of staff and volunteer time selecting, curating, and scheduling posts of photos and documents that we preserve and protect in our archives.
- Long-time residents as well as those returning to Olmsted County reconnect by researching family, farm, business or neighborhood history—assisted by our archivist.
- Our events and tours highlight historic places, e.g., the Hootenanny at the Historic Stoppel Farmstead, tours at Maywood, and the Cemetery Walk at Oakwood.
- We partner with businesses, civic and arts groups, unions, and community interest groups to co-create exhibits and programs, for example:
  - League of Women Voters for the exhibit, “The Onward March of Suffrage”
  - Kalmar Township Board and Byron Area Historical Society for the exhibit, “Get to Know a Township” currently featuring Kalmar and previously, Farmington
  - Rochester Symphony for their centennial season (2019)
  - African American residents for the exhibits “Community Connections: African Americans in Rochester” and “The Green Book: Traveling While Black”
  - LGBTQ residents for the exhibit “Rochester's Pride: The Beginning of Pridefest”
  - North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters for the exhibit, “Constructing the City's Future”
  - The Village Community Garden and Learning Center in matching immigrant and refugee gardeners with HCOC garden plots at no charge
  - Rochester Cambodian Association exhibit (2022) and Flavor Fest event
  - IMAA and other immigrant organizations and individuals for the exhibit “An Immigration Journey: Immigrants Finding Their Way, 1850s to Today” (2022)

## Impact of Cuts to HCOC County Allocation

In comparison to our better-funded peers in Stearns and Saint Louis counties, we believe HCOC measures up well. Despite numerous leadership changes at HCOC in the past and the pandemic, HCOC is now positively impacting community attachment. Cuts will erode those gains at a critical time—not just for the History Center but for the broader community, as our fast growing county becomes increasingly diverse and the need for sharing our common history grows.

While our dedication to Olmsted County's public history compels us to make every effort to continue to meet the community's need, the contemplated cuts may require us to:

- Raise admission and service and membership fees
- Reduce staffing by an additional full-time position
- Reduce hours of operation
- Reduce expenses for preservation of assets not related to collections or National Register Properties

Our staffing pattern is extremely frugal. Even prior to the pandemic, in 2019 we reduced our staffing by 2.5 full-time equivalents (FTE) to our lowest staffing level in over 15 years. Today, we have seven FTEs and all full-time staff perform multiple jobs: the collections manager also maintains equipment and grounds; the archivist also does marketing; the curator also does education, etc.).

Do you agree that the History Center has made a difference either with you personally or in the community? If so, please share your perspective with our elected county officials. Find their contact information at <https://www.olmstedcounty.gov/government/county-boards-commissions/board-of-commissioners>.

# ENCOURAGING WORDS

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We strive to provide the community with quality experiences and services. But don't just take our word for it. Here's what our visitors and patrons have to say.

“ Thank you for all of this information! You have always been so helpful. Thank you for being such a great resource! ”  
-Breanna Holtan

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“ Wow! I am so impressed with your service! Thank you so much. ”  
-Carla Infante

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“ We so appreciate the time you took to look for the information we inquired about. When we started this little project we had no idea where it would lead us or who we might discover but it's certainly been an interesting journey. Thank you so much for being a part of it. You have our utmost respect for doing the tedious but rewarding work you do. ”  
-Dennis and Sherry Johnson

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“ Our [Mayowood] tour guide was awesome! She gave wonderful insight into not only the families that occupied the rooms but also what life was like at that time and cool little factoids about the architecture and hidden gems inside the rooms that anyone would overlook if she hadn't pointed them out. It's a great experience to take family to who are visiting. ”  
-Nicole N.

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“ The program was magnificent – so well narrated, interesting pictures, and remembering the names from the past. And those of you who moderated and hosted did a superb job. ”  
-Home Grown History attendee

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“ The speaker was funny and thoughtful and amazing!!!!!!! ”  
-History from Around the Bend attendee

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Much more of this and we'll start blushing...

# ARCHIVES UPGRADES: NEW TOOLS TO SAVE THE PAST

By Krista Lewis, Archivist, CA

Some recent developments in the Archives have been music to our ears. First, one of our volunteers, Mark Samson, has created a more efficient system to digitize our collection of negatives. Our standard method relies on a flatbed scanner, which takes several minutes to scan a single high resolution image. Mark's system uses an overhead camera and a light table. Once a negative is positioned, a high resolution image can be taken in the blink of an eye.

Second, at the end of June we learned that the county was auctioning off a book scanner. Similar to Mark's digitizing setup, a book scanner uses overhead cameras to photograph pages from large ledger books or other oversized documents. This allows for much easier and gentler handling of awkward and heavy material. Book scanners typically cost tens of thousands of dollars, something we could not afford without grant funding. We were fortunate to win the auction, and now the dream of "one day" digitizing the large record books in our collection is a lot closer.

Finally, all of this digitizing work (and more!) will be made publicly accessible through a new collections management system (CMS) called CollectiveAccess. In the spring, we successfully applied for a grant from the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants (Legacy Grant) program to fund the purchase of and transition to a new CMS. This has been on our radar for several years, but got kicked into high gear after our strategic planning session in 2019 where we made it a goal to bring our collection online. CollectiveAccess is a completely online program, which means before long, you will be able to see thousands of books, artifacts, photos, and documents, as well as detailed descriptions of discrete collections, without having to come on site (but we still want you to visit!). The Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums is hosting CollectiveAccess for us and dozens of other similar Minnesota organizations. It will take some time before we are fully online, but to get an idea of what to expect, check out what other locations have available by going to [mncollections.org](http://mncollections.org).



▲ The new digitizing rig.



**While the HCOC's expertise lies in the past, the work we do is very much a modern undertaking, which requires us to keep up with the latest technology and equipment as best we can. Without grant funding and a generous bequest from the late Alan Calavano, who left an endowment to HCOC's Archives, the developments described here would not have been possible.**

An unfortunate development worth mentioning is the Archives storage area roof. On July 6th we had a deluge of rain and discovered several leaks. We immediately went into action, moving boxes that had already been exposed to water and those that were in dangerous proximity and placing trash bins (nine in total) beneath every leak. With the situation stabilized, we went home hoping we wouldn't come back to a nightmare. Overnight two of the leaks migrated, exposing additional boxes to water damage. Thankfully, because most of the boxes had double wall construction, little water actually penetrated far enough to damage the contents of the boxes. We count ourselves lucky that only about a dozen boxes needed to be replaced and the contents aired out. With renewed vigilance, when another storm struck a few days later, we were better prepared and no additional collection materials were harmed. That day we had Schwickert's assess the roof and do what they could to mitigate the problem. They saw signs of "imminent failure".



▲ A most unwelcome view.

**Unexpected repairs of this sort are distressing on many levels, not the least of which is financial. To not invest in a proper and thorough repair, however, would be a disservice to HCOC, its patrons, and, above all in this case, its collections, for without a collection there would be no HCOC.**

# IMMIGRANT CULTURE: MUSIC AND INSTRUMENTS

By Kevin Whaley, Collections Manager

To celebrate music in Olmsted County, a new exhibit featuring instruments of Olmsted County is now open. This exhibit looks at several different instruments of residents of the county, including a zither, melodeon, and harp. Music is a universal element of human civilization. While the definition of music is abstract and varies by culture, most people would say they know it when they hear it. This is because music is not just different genres and instruments but different sounds and meanings coming from all parts and times of human civilizations.



▲ *The melodeon currently on display. This instrument makes a sound similar to a pipe organ.*

For the early settlers of Olmsted County, music was an important part of their lives. As immigrants left their home country they had to leave behind much of their identity, friends, and family, as they usually had to travel with few personal items. However, some parts of their identity and culture were intangible or took up little room, including music. Families sang and played traditional songs from their homeland. Immigrants brought instruments with them if they were small in size, but more importantly because of their ability to entertain and unite people. Music also helped create connections between people of different backgrounds. As different groups mingled, the music they played reflected this, drawing sounds and instruments from across all backgrounds, creating a new and unique sound for the new community. This sound kept elements of the old culture but evolved, much like the people, to be diverse and changed in the new world.

Exhibits like these are a great deal of fun for staff to research and create but do take resources to make. Staff and visitors alike enjoy new exhibits and want to see the museum exhibits changing on a regular schedule. However, if funding is reduced, exhibits might have to stay out longer, causing potential damage to the artifacts and leading to a less exciting visit.

## ARTIFACT FROM THE VAULT: KOREAN WAR HARMONICA

By Dan Nowakowski, Curator

HCOC is home to a wide range of artifacts. Each has a unique story linked to an early pioneer, immigrants, or businesses. Our goal is to highlight the artifacts and their stories in exhibits and displays. Our new display about musical instruments does just that.



Regrettably, not all of the instruments in our collection could make it into the exhibit, including the harmonica shown here nicely tucked away for storage. This belonged to Richard McFarlin, who used it while serving in the Navy as an Aviation photographer stationed in Virginia during the Korean War (1948-1953). Harmonicas can be traced back to 1100 BCE to an instrument called the Chinese sheng. The modern version, invented by Christian Friedrich Ludwig Buschmann in 1821, became popular in Europe and the U.S. during the 19th century. It has most notably been used in the musical styles of blues, folk, country, and jazz.

Artifacts like this won't last forever without proper care and preservation. When not on display, this piece is wrapped in acid-free foam, then stored with foam padding in an acid-free box. All the artifacts in our collection get similar treatment. These materials do an excellent job of protecting the artifact, but they come at a significant price in both material cost and personnel time. Without proper funding, care would suffer, leading to the loss of artifacts and their histories.



## FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN: HOOTENANNY AT THE HISTORY CENTER

▲ Hootenanny 2020.

By Abby Currier, Community Engagement  
& Events Coordinator

In 1856, George Stoppel, his wife, Maria, and their children arrived in Minnesota determined to carve out a life for themselves. The house and barn that they built have stood for over 150 years, but time has not been kind to the buildings. Stone walls are leaning the wrong way, wood has rotted away, and small critters have moved in. But none of these problems are irredeemable. As the current custodians of this gem, it is our duty at the History Center to protect and preserve this historic treasure. While this will be a very expensive undertaking, if we do not do this work, no one will. We love the Stoppel Farmstead and hope that you will fall in love with it as well. It represents the memory of a different time; when transportation was only as fast as your fastest horse, when all messages were delivered in person, and where farming was the main profession. This farm was the whole world to the Stoppel family. They cared for the land and it cared for them. Now, it is our turn.

As we undertake projects to rehabilitate the Stoppel Farm, we also want to open more of it up to our audience. We want you, our guests, to explore these grounds and learn more about this story of immigrants who were determined to make this area work for them. Last September the History center tried something brand new to bring people out to the farmstead. In the middle of a global pandemic, we decided to host a bluegrass concert on the farmstead. Despite many obstacles, we were delighted with a successful event and came away from it determined to do it again, bigger and better this time.

Right now, our staff are busily working to pull together all of the final details for this year's Hootenanny. Once again, we are hosting the event in the middle of the rise of the Delta variant but we are determined to throw another great party. We are so excited to be welcoming back Root River Jam and adding Becky Schlegel and Luke Hendrickson to the lineup. We are also delighted that Taco Jed will be coming back and will be joined by True Smoke BBQ. It is going to be a roaring good time and we hope that you will join us to explore the farmstead while enjoying good music, good food, and good times.

In addition to this great party, we are excited about our full slate of programming this fall. September will see, in addition to the Hootenanny, the return of Cemetery Walks at Oakwood Cemetery, two brand new lectures on the history of Rochester, and our first ever specialty tour at Mayowood. October will see the return of our world-famous Creepy Dolls and even more stories about Mayowood with another specialty tour happening at the beginning of the month.

Be sure to check out [olmstedhistory.com/events](https://olmstedhistory.com/events) to stay up to date on all of our offerings. We are so excited about all that this fall has in store and we look forward to celebrating and learning with you.

**Special thanks to our  
Hootenanny sponsors!  
First Alliance Credit Union,  
Minnwest Bank, Pandemic Pictures,  
& Dunlap & Seeger, P.A.**

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

### JOEY CARLSON, ERIN LEARY, & IRIS PANTOVICH

Back in June, the History Center opened four brand new exhibits: *Rochester's Pride*, *Get to Know a Township*, *Community Connections*, and *North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters*. This work would not have been possible without the dedicated effort of three new summer volunteers. Joey Carlson, Erin Leary, and Iris Pantovich spent most of the month of June working with Kevin Whaley and Dan Nowakowski to take down old exhibits, put artifacts away, prepare spaces for new exhibits, research and create text panels, and help install new exhibits. Additionally, they worked on day camps, attended events, and helped in the 3-D collections.

These three volunteers were excited to learn more about the life of a museum worker and jumped in feet first when we told them about these summer projects. We hope that they learned a lot this summer and wanted to highlight their amazing work. You should definitely come and check out the fruits of their labor.

▶ *Erin, Iris, and Joey earning their keep this summer.*

*Here they are preparing a space for a new exhibit after taking down the old and putting away the artifacts.*



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

HCOC needs YOU to help with a variety of projects and programs.

We cannot operate without YOUR support.

We have work for all kinds of people and can find a job that will best fit YOU!

#### Areas where you can volunteer:

- Outdoor Work
- Storytelling
- Indoor Work
- Archives and Library
- Exhibits
- Collections
- Ambassador

To learn more, check out  
[olmstedhistory.com/volunteer](http://olmstedhistory.com/volunteer)  
and fill out an application!  
We cannot wait to see you!

# OUR GENEROUS SPONORS:



HOME  
FEDERAL



MINNWEST  
BANK®



First **Alliance**  
CREDIT UNION

 **Knutson** Construction

- RMS Law Firm, PLLC
- Marco Technologies
- Olmsted Medical Center
- Dunlap & Seeger, P.A.
- Ryan Siding & Windows
- Compeer Financial
- Pandemic Pictures



Thank you for helping us make  
history happen every day!

# 2021 EVENTS & PROGRAMS

All **orange** events and programs are virtual. All **teal** events and programs are hybrid. More details can be found on our website. Please check our website and Facebook regularly as the schedule is subject to change.

- September 12 ● Beautiful Inside and Out: Mayowood Arts & Garden Specialty Tour
- September 18 ● Hootenanny at the History Center
- September 23 ● **Just Deeds: Acknowledging the Past to Understand the Present**
- September 23 ● Volunteer Appreciation Event
- September 25 ● A Walk Among the Stones: Oakwood Cemetery Walk
- September 28 ● **Members Quarterly Meeting**
- October 2 ● Conserving Mayowood: Past, Present, & Future
- October 14 ● **Gardening for the Future: The Importance of Cover Crops**
- October 21 ● Fall Fest
- October 23 ● Creepy Doll Cocktail Party
- October 28 ● **Federal Medical Center: Past & Present**
- October 31 ● Trick or Treat at HCOC
- November ● Mayowood Christmas Tours
- November 18 ● **Rochester Stories: Origins**
- December ● Mayowood Candlelight Tours
- December 16 ● **National Geographic on Assignment: Civil War Battlefield Preservation**
- December 28 ● **Members Quarterly Meeting**

## Stay tuned for our 2022 calendar!

### STAFF

**Wayne Gannaway**  
Executive Director  
**Darla Buss**  
Member Services  
Coordinator  
**Krista Lewis**  
Archivist

**Abby Currier**  
Community  
Engagement  
& Events Coordinator  
**Kathy Dahl**  
Mayowood Tour  
Coordinator

**Dan Nowakowski**  
Curator  
**Kevin Whaley**  
Collections Manager  
**Barb Whipple**  
Accountant

### BOARD

**Kyle Benish**  
**Ken Brown**  
**Kati Cooley**  
**Daniel Dogo-Esekie**  
**Sam Gill**  
**Alison Kryzer**

**Tom Leimer**  
**Josefina Pozas**  
**Christine Rule**  
**Kirk Schumacher**  
**Roger Stahl**  
**Linda Willihnganz**



**HISTORY CENTER**  
OF OLMSTED COUNTY

1195 W Circle Dr. SW  
Rochester, MN 55902

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# The Scribe

HISTORY CENTER OF OLMSTED COUNTY

Elocution  
Bring me some ice, not some mice.  
Red leather, yellow leather.  
Push the washing, Russell.  
Two tired turkeys trotting to the trolley.

Ha  
Carry Ware  
Empty Ashes  
Sweep Classroom



The new school year may have just started, but the Hadley Valley School House had a full classroom this summer!