

Golden Valley

July August 2001 CITYNEWS

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City Water Tower To Get Make-over

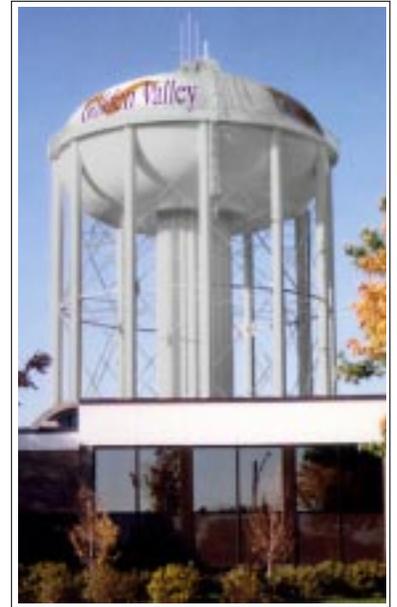
This summer, the water tower next to City Hall is getting a complete make-over. When the 10-week project is over, the 170-foot community landmark will be sporting a fresh coat of light gray paint and an updated City logo (see photo at right).

To prepare for the project, the water tower was drained July 10. Workers will bag the entire structure to prevent dust and other particles from escaping into the air, and the tower will then be sandblasted and painted with a primer coat. After the tower is painted, water will be replaced and will go through a series of purification tests before the tower is put back into service. During this time, residents may experience a small reduction in water pressure; however, two other water towers located in New Hope will help support the City's distribution system.

The colorful history of Golden Valley's water tower goes back to debate over painting it "Golden Valley Gold" when it was built in 1962. Groups of citizens believing the gold color to be an eyesore opposed it, speaking in favor of a color that blended better with the sky, such as light gray or blue. Based on this debate, the *Minneapolis Star* gave people the chance to break out their crayons and design a color scheme they would enjoy. More than 70 people from all over the state sent in their suggestions. Proposals included painting the tower to look like a giant flower, a candy cane, or a "green vegetation" color to symbolize a valley. Despite these bold suggestions and the ongoing crusade, the water tower was painted "Golden Valley Gold."

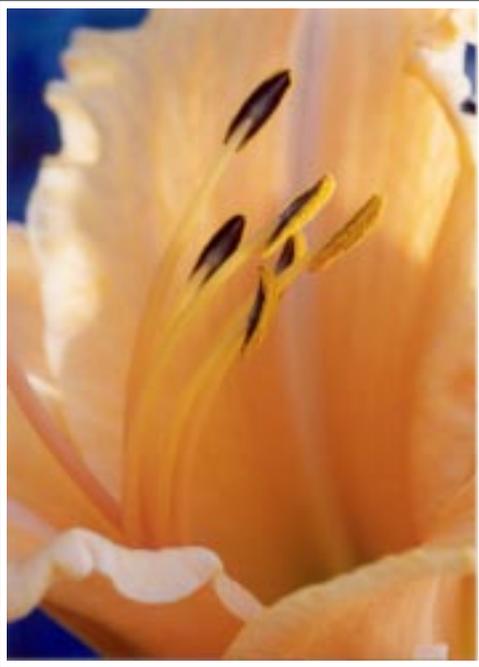
When the City repainted the tower in the 1980s, the debate was rekindled. Former Mayor Rosemary Thorsen remembers heated discussions about the color. "I still cannot believe we spent such a long time debating over such an insignificant issue." Thorsen recently visited with Golden Valley residents who remember the dispute. They recalled disagreements among themselves and their neighbors while they contemplated sending a survey to residents about the color of the tower. Although many people were vocal against painting the tower gold, survey results showed the majority of residents preferred gold. Meanwhile, workers applied the primer color—beige—and for lack of a consensus about a final color, that is the color the water tower remained.

Katie Legatt, Communications Intern



For More Information. . . about the Golden Valley water tower project, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030 or the City Manager's office at 763-593-8002.

2001 Photo Contest Awards Four Prizes



First Place

Judith Barat
5000 Westbend Rd
"Gold in the Valley"

Golden Valley's ninth annual *Views of the Valley* photo contest drew 42 entries from residents who tried to capture on film their version of the city's beauty, uniqueness, and quality of life. Keeping these standards in mind as well as the basics of good photography, the judges gave top honors to the photos on this page. The People's Choice Award is presented to the photo most favored by folks who viewed the photo contest exhibit at City Hall and the City's open house. This year there was a tie.



Second Place and People's Choice (tie)

Janice LauLain
6040 Golden Valley Road
"Wirth Park Center"

Winners receive certificates of recognition, publication of their photos in various Golden Valley public information pieces, and checks for \$100 (first place), \$30 (second place), \$20 (third place), and \$25 (people's choice). Entrants must be

Golden Valley residents and must agree to let the City of Golden Valley publish entered photos in City publications with proper credit. All photo entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and are not returned.

Judges were Rod Radtke of PhotoFast, Sue Webber of the *SunPost* newspaper, Sarah Larson, Golden Valley's Fire Education and Training Specialist and former photographer, and Liz Atherton, a Golden Valley Finance Department employee and former professional photographer.

The contest aims to promote Golden Valley and civic pride. The deadline for next year's photo contest will be June 7, 2002. For more information, call 763-593-8004. 

Third Place

Mary Lou Adams Meyer
2815 Kyle Ave N
"Orange Blossom"



People's Choice (tie)

Betty Crews
6500 North Cortlawn Circle
"6731 Golden Valley Road"

Golden Hills

The new Allianz Life office building will serve as the North American headquarters of the company. The 400,000-square-foot 10-story building will house about 1,800 employees from both the former Allianz headquarters on Hennepin Ave and the Life USA building in St Louis Park. The site has extensive landscaping and room for an expansion building of up to 200,000 square feet.



Redevelopment Areas See Significant Progress

Significant elements of the two remaining tax increment districts in Golden Valley are coming together. In the Valley Square District, the mixed-use Town Square building at the northwest corner of Winnetka Ave and Golden Valley Rd was recently completed, with the first units of for-sale housing next door expected to be done by September. In the Golden Hills District, the new Allianz headquarters at the southwest corner of Xenia Ave S and Golden Hills Dr is almost done, with employees moving into the building in August.

Both projects meet numerous redevelopment objectives set by the City Council. In Valley Square, which is considered "downtown" Golden Valley, the Council wished to shore up existing retail businesses by providing a mix of office and residential uses that would support them. These new uses were to be built in a way that would improve traffic circulation, encourage pedestrian movement, open up access to Bassett Creek, and beautify the area. In Town Square, the developer also sought to relocate existing local businesses and create a "new urbanist" presence, with buildings closer to the streets and to each other.

Environmental cleanup was necessary in both districts. The Allianz project in Golden Hills will also improve traffic circulation by limiting access points to the new detached service drive. Its beautiful landscaping provides a welcoming presence at a major entry point to Golden Valley, and it is hoped the number of employees at this site will be an

incentive to increase bus service to the area.

Valley Square Area B

A July 13 ribbon-cutting kicked off a two-day grand opening at the Town Square building, which is part of "Area B" of the Valley Square Redevelopment Area. The new building includes many of the familiar businesses that previously operated in older strip mall buildings located in roughly the same location. There are only two unleased retail spaces on the main floor. The Ranstad Corporation is a new office tenant on the second floor, leaving limited office space available for lease. For leasing information, contact Cindy Balderson (retail) at 952-474-0214 or United Properties (office) at 952-831-1000.

Wesley Commons includes 130 units of for-sale housing to the west of the Town Square building, where David Bernard Builders and Developers is constructing seven buildings with two styles of housing. Models should be available for viewing in September. Contact Steve Meyers at 651-387-8794 for information on the townhomes and Mary Kaye Golden at 651-387-8135 for information on the flats.

The last component of the Area B project is an affordable rental townhome building for families, named Valley Square Commons. It will be located north of the Town Square building. Construction is anticipated to start in September, with completion by fall 2002. The developer and leasing agent is CommonBond Communities, which can be reached at 651-290-6228.



Both projects increase market values in the City. The previous assessor's market value of the buildings in the Area B project was \$2.7 million, while the new value is projected to be \$24.8 million. For the Allianz project, the previous market value for the site was \$2.85 million, and the new projected value is \$42 million. Both projections are based on the minimum market value established in development agreements with the Housing and Redevelopment Authority; the actual market value is likely to exceed these projections.

Jeanne Andre, Assistant HRA Director

Composting Makes Comeback

Composting is the decomposition of organic material, such as plant matter, into soil-like material that adds nutrients for plant growth. Compost helps hold moisture in light, sandy soil and improves drainage in heavy soil.

The ancient art of composting seems to be on the comeback trail. Most experts believe the practice has been around for centuries. Some trace its origins to Rome nearly 2,000 years ago. Others believe composting was practiced by ancient people who threw food scraps near their homes and were awed by the seeds that found nutrients there and grew into more food. By the 1800s, many farmers in America used compost to fertilize their soil.

Now, judging by the success of Hennepin County Environmental Services' recent compost bin program (see box below), it is gaining popularity in more urban settings. With our landfills holding nearly 30% compostable waste that can be turned into useful material, environmental professionals are asking everyone to consider composting.

Composting in Golden Valley

In Golden Valley, residential properties having up to four dwelling units can compost. Compost structures must be contained in a bin of wood, wire mesh, a combination of wood and wire, or in commercially fabricated compost bins. Only one structure is allowed per lot. It must be in the rear yard of the property at least 10 feet from the property line (35 feet if the property line is also a street line) and no closer than 40 feet to any habitable building other than the resident's own home.

The Ingredients

Food scraps and yard trimmings are divided into two categories according to their carbon and nitrogen content. "Green" materials (ie, fresh grass clippings, garden plants, and kitchen scraps) contain a lot of nitrogen. "Brown" materials (ie, dried plants and leaves, branches, and woody materials) have a higher carbon content. A balance of "greens" and "browns" is recommended. Organic materials decompose more efficiently with adequate oxygen, moisture, and nitrogen. The smaller the plant particles, the faster they will decompose.

Large pieces of wood, bones, pet manure, dairy products, diseased plants, fish scraps, lard, mayonnaise, meat scraps, peanut butter, salad or cooking oils, or salad dressing should not be added.

The Result

Once the compost is dark in color and has an earthy, soil-like smell, it can be used to:

- fertilize gardens, lawns, landscapes, and house plants
- mulch around landscape and garden plants to protect against erosion

To learn more about composting, call the Minnesota Extension Service - Hennepin County at 612-374-8400. For complete information on Golden Valley's composting ordinance, call Golden Valley Recycling at 763-593-8119. 

Compost Bin Program

Following the success of its spring compost bin program, Hennepin County Environmental Services will hold another one in the fall. The first program offered compost bins to Hennepin County residents for \$15 per bin, with a limit of one per household. Please watch the City web site, and Hennepin County web site for more information about the upcoming program.

Holiday Notice

Recycling pick-up the week of the Labor Day holiday will be one day later than usual. Have your recyclables at the curb by 7 am Saturday, September 8.



The Golden Valley Recycling Program is partially funded by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

24-Hour Recycling Info-Line

Recorded answers to your recycling questions 24 hours a day. Just call 763-593-8119 to reach the Golden Valley Recycling Information Line (directions for rotary phone users are on the message). For information on:

- curbside recycling, press 1
- apartment recycling, press 2
- yard waste disposal, press 3
- household hazardous waste disposal, press 4

**763-
593-8119**

Missed Pick-Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Waste Management at 952-890-1100 before noon on the following Monday.

If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8119.



This silt fence helps prevent construction debris from entering a Bassett Creek.

New Eco-Yard Hosts Free Lawn and Garden Seminars

Hennepin County Environmental Services and the University of Minnesota Extension Service are hosting free lawn and garden seminars at the new Eco-Yard Demonstration Site (Hennepin County Recycling Center and Transfer Station, 8100 Jefferson Highway, Brooklyn Park). The Eco-Yard demonstrates landscaping that thrives with minimal inputs of pesticides, fertilizers, water, and time.

2001 Seminar Schedule

- ☐ July 11, 7 pm—Designing an Earth-Friendly Home Landscape
- ☐ July 14, 10 am—Summer Lawn Care
- ☐ August 4, 10 am—Summer/Early Fall Lawn Care; 10:30 am - Noon—Ask a Master Gardener Plant Clinic
- ☐ September 8, 10 am—Fall Lawn and Garden Tips; 10:30 am - Noon—Ask a Master Gardener Plant Clinic
- ☐ September 11, 7 pm—Fall Maintenance for an Earth-Friendly Home Landscape

For more information or to register, call Hennepin County Environmental Services at 612-348-2477 or visit www.co.hennepin.mn.us/environmental/household/ecoyard.html.



Erosion Control: Limiting the Human Factor

Many of us haven't thought about erosion since high school science; however, it's utmost on the minds of water resource professionals. Erosion is a costly problem and one of the leading causes of water pollution.

We know that nature slowly wears away land. Through erosion, the surface of the earth is constantly changing form. However, on untouched land, natural vegetation protects the soil. Rain that falls on grass or trees partially evaporates before it can reach the ground. Trees and grass create windbreaks, and roots help to hold the soil in place against both rain and wind.

When humans remove vegetation, soil is exposed to wind and water, leaving cuts and bare spots on the landscape and filling our waterways with sediment. Housing, industrial development, and highway construction can destroy vegetation and greatly speed up erosion. Land-disturbing activity (such as construction) on just one acre of land can result in a dump truck and a half of soil washing into nearby streams and lakes unless erosion control measures are taken.

What Golden Valley is Doing

Golden Valley city ordinance requires erosion control measures, even on small work sites, to stop sediment from entering runoff and our waterways. Erosion control has two main goals: (1) disturb the smallest area of land possible for the shortest time, and (2) quickly stabilize areas that have been disturbed.

When it becomes necessary to clear land, the materials needed to control erosion (such as straw bales, silt fences, stakes, rock, plastic tubes, grass/wildflower seed, etc) are easy to find and usually inexpensive. For specific erosion control measures required by law, contractors or homeowners working on new construction or remodeling projects need to contact the Public Works Department at 763-593-8030. To keep erosion at a minimum, the City requires permits and inspections for most construction or grading projects that involve disturbing any amount of land.

If you have questions regarding erosion control measures on any project you're considering, or for more information on Golden Valley's erosion and sediment control ordinance, call the City Environmental Coordinator at 763-593-8046.

Tina Perpich, Communications Assistant

Costs of Erosion

Lack of erosion control measures can affect a whole community through:

- ☐ increased local taxes to clean up sediment in streets, catch basins, the storm water system, and ditches. Sometimes dredging is also necessary to remove sediment from lakes and creeks.
- ☐ lower property values caused by the effects of waterways filled with sediment. Shallow areas in waterways encourage weed growth, which ultimately diminishes oxygen in the water and kills the waterway.
- ☐ poor fishing—muddy water kills fish like Northerns that need to see to eat. Settling sediment also smothers gravel beds where fish find food and lay their eggs.
- ☐ decreased recreational opportunities.

39 Years of Service: City Clerk Shirley Nelson Retires

After 39-and-a-half years, City Clerk Shirley Nelson, the longest-serving employee at the City of Golden Valley, is retiring. Starting when Golden Valley was still a village, Nelson witnessed many changes over the years and has taken pleasure in seeing the city double in size and grow into the prosperous suburb it is today. She also watched numerous faces come and go, working for eight Mayors and four City Managers.

Nelson was born in Glenwood, MN but has been a resident of Golden Valley since 1959. She came to work for the City in 1962, after applying for a receptionist position she learned about during a bowling outing with friends. Before becoming the City Clerk in the mid 1980s, her earlier years with the City included positions as receptionist and eventually supervisor for the Assessing Department, as well as utility clerk and switchboard operator. Nelson says there are many reasons she stayed at the City as long as she has. "On top of City Hall being close to home, I have always enjoyed the work I have done and have always had wonderful bosses who have been understanding and flexible, especially when I was raising my children."

Being on the front lines can be tough, Nelson admits. As City Clerk, she receives frequent calls from residents expressing their concerns and dislikes about a broad range of issues. "Once in a while you get a few people who think you are wrong no matter what you tell them," Nelson says with a chuckle. "I try to handle them the best I can, or I hand them over to someone else. Most people are pretty easy to deal with, though." Her experience with the City will be greatly missed. "Shirley's extensive knowledge of the history behind various properties will be impossible to replace," says Finance Director Don Taylor.

Nelson says the hardest part about retiring from the City of Golden Valley will be leaving all of the people. "I will really miss the people I work with here at the City as well as the surrounding community," she says. "It will be really difficult not coming to work each day. When you have worked at the same place for almost 40 years, it is a hard routine to break."

Nelson describes herself as a very active person who will not have any trouble finding things to do after she retires in August. She and Mel, her husband of 48 years, will travel to Australia for two-and-a-half months to visit friends. "The flight is really long, but my husband and I are in good shape, and we just have so many people we need to see," Nelson says. She also plans on visiting her three children and five grandchildren. When they aren't traveling, Nelson and her husband plan to take square dancing and old-time dancing lessons, a pastime they have always enjoyed. "I also have to do some boring stuff like clean closets and arrange pictures," she adds.

Why not wait another six months to retire? "It was a very difficult decision I had to make about leaving," Nelson says. "I thought a lot about staying here to make it an even 40 years, but I just thought it was time."

Katie Legatt, Communications Intern



Electrical Safety Helps Prevent Fires

On average, there are about 38,000 home fires per year caused by electrical malfunctions due to wiring, switches, outlets, and other equipment involved in distributing electricity around the home. Such fires kill 352 people and injure 1,343 annually. Cords and plugs cause one-sixth of home electrical distribution fires and one-third of related deaths. In most cases, these tragedies can be easily avoided.

Please study the following electrical safety tips and review them with your family.

- Replace or repair any electrical device with a loose or frayed cord.
- Never unplug a cord by pulling the cord. Always unplug from the plug itself.
- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets. Do not use extension cords as a replacement for permanent wiring.
- In homes with small children, receptacle outlets should have plastic safety covers.
- Avoid plugging more than one high wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet.
- Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn.
- Use only bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage.
- GFCIs (ground fault circuit interrupters) can greatly reduce the risk of shock by shutting off faulty electrical circuits and equipment faster than conventional fuses or circuit breakers can. GFCIs are inexpensive; professional electricians can hard-wire them into your home electrical system.

For more information about fire safety in your home, contact Fire Education Specialist Sarah Larson at 763-593-3977. 

GVFD Turns To Area Businesses For Support

When residents dial 911 to report a fire emergency in Golden Valley, the call is answered by men and women who live and work in Golden Valley and surrounding areas. Neighbors helping neighbors. More than half of Golden Valley's fire calls are logged between 6 am and 6 pm, Monday through Friday. Since this is the most difficult period to staff, the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) hopes to expand an alliance with local businesses to help fill the need for firefighters to respond to these calls.

Currently Golden Valley is home to more than 30,000 jobs, some which may allow for employees to leave work when needed to respond to fire and emergency calls. The GVFD is working to build a program in which Golden Valley business owners and managers would identify, then encourage and support, employees interested in becoming daytime responding firefighters.

The concept is not new. Several metro area cities are working on similar programs. In Golden Valley, both Tennant Company and QualiTek have employees that have been City firefighters. "Tennant supports this program 110%," says Ryan Rebman, Tennant's corporate safety engineer. "We think it is excellent. Support goes all the way to the top of the company."

Greg Brink and Ken Bence are daytime responders who represent both veteran and rookie viewpoints of the fire service. Brink is co-owner and vice president of sales and marketing for P.H. Brink International, a translation company in Golden Valley. He has worked in Golden Valley and served as a paid, on-call firefighter for the last 21 years and is currently the captain at Fire Station Two. Bence, a manager at Medica in Minnetonka, has been with the GVFD for two years.

Having a paid, on-call fire department versus a full-time department translates into substantial benefits for a community, including tax savings for businesses and residents. Businesses participating in the daytime responder program would receive additional benefits, including community recognition, on-site first responders and trainers for safety awareness and fire extinguisher training, and of course the feeling of helping people who are having the worst day of their life. For more information on the program, call Fire Chief Mark Kuhnly at 763-593-8080.

Tina Perpich, Communications Assistant



"The biggest challenge is production time—having an employee go on-call and still meeting production. The benefits, however, are numerous. This relationship creates closeness with both the community and the fire department. It's really a preventative relationship that puts us in contact with the proper personnel, fire codes, fire systems, programs, maps, and fire training. The firefighters who work here have great input."

Ryan Rebman, Tennant Company

"I like the challenges, the fires, and the search and rescues. The upper management is sensitive and supportive to life-styles and time commitments. There are people from all walks of life. When I respond to a call I am working side-by-side with friends. People don't join for the money—it's a demanding job. But I feel good about being able to meet those demands. A few years ago a car hit a neighbors' child. Though I was unable to respond myself, it was

comforting to know my friends [other firefighters] were doing the best they could."

Greg Brink



"I like the excitement. I like being a part of another group [firefighters] too, but it's the rush to respond, and the trust I have in myself and the others who respond, that is so amazing. We often don't know who else is going to respond. There's a baseline of trust, knowing that everyone is there and committed to a positive result, that makes [the experience] so amazing. It's also a nice contrast to my office job, though both require strong organizational skills."

Ken Bence



Pledge Encourages Citizens to Stand Against Discrimination

The Golden Valley Human Rights Commission (HRC) is asking all Golden Valley citizens to take a pledge to examine stereotypes and biases they may encounter, to speak out against harassment and intolerance, and to celebrate all cultures that make up their city.

This pledge is taken from the recent League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions' statewide campaign to "Advance Human Rights and Counter Hate and Bigotry." At its heart, the Golden Valley HRC's campaign asks all Golden Valley citizens to be a positive force for equality and to help promote a community atmosphere that welcomes others of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. To further the efforts of this campaign, the HRC is asking people to review and sign a Personal Action Pledge Form (shown below).

You may either mail or deliver the completed form to the Golden Valley Human Rights Commission c/o the City of Golden Valley, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427. If you have questions, please contact the Chairman of the Golden Valley Human Rights Commission, Hilmer Erickson, at 763-540-0279. The Human Rights Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month. Your participation and support are appreciated.

Michael Perelstein, Golden Valley Human Rights Commission

National Night Out

This year *National Night Out* is August 7, and the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) encourages all residents to participate to promote a safe community.

In the past, Golden Valley neighborhoods have come together for pot luck dinners, ice cream socials, lemonade parties, swimming pool parties, and have started City-charter Neighborhood Watch groups. Use your imagination and plan something fun! "Charity" socials, where neighbors bring nonperishable groceries for the food shelf, are also a wonderful way to support the community.

To learn more about participating in *National Night Out* or starting a Neighborhood Watch group, contact the Police Crime Prevention Unit at 763-593-8058.

*The League of Minnesota Human Rights Commission
and The Minnesota Department of Human Rights*

My Personal Action/Pledge

I pledge to be a positive force in my community, to be an ambassador of good will for justice, equality, understanding, and mutual respect, at work and in my neighborhood.

I pledge to examine my own biases and stereotypes that I may hold of other groups, in all aspects of my life.

I pledge to judge others on their individual character, and not the color of their skin, their religion, their national origin, or their sexual orientation.

I pledge to speak out against the escalation of hate crimes, racism, religious and ethnic bigotry, sexual harassment, harassment because of

sexual orientation, and the growing violence against women in our society, in my personal relations and through the organizations to which I belong.

I pledge to take positive steps in my community, at work, and in the organization to which I belong, by serving as a bridge to people of color, and by developing with them cooperative educational programs and common projects.

I pledge to work to understand, respect, and celebrate the mosaic of cultures and races that make up our state and country, and which enrich our lives through diversity.

*For more information or assistance, contact:
Golden Valley Human Rights Commission
7800 Golden Valley Road Golden Valley, MN 55427
763-593-3989*

Signature _____

Your Name (please print) _____

Phone # _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

- Please send me ideas for local and state programming.
- Please send me information on holding a diversity dinner or meeting with other racial, religious, or ethnic groups, or representatives of such groups.
- Please send me information on how to obtain League posters.
- Please send me more information on the Golden Valley Human Rights Commission.
- Please help us form a local Hate Crimes Response Network.
- Please call me at _____ am/pm to discuss some of the above program ideas, as well as other possibilities.

Golden Valley Foundation Taking Funding Applications



The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation, which is comprised of community volunteers, helps fund several nonprofit agencies that serve Golden Valley residents in need. In 2001, the Foundation contributed \$59,801 to Home Free Shelter, PRISM, YMCA Detached Work Program, Northwest Suburban Dinner at Your Door, and Senior Community Services.

The deadline for 2002 funding applications is August 31, 2001, at 4:30 pm. The Foundation will review funding requests and allocate available funds using the following guidelines:

- The services must not be duplicated by a level of government.
- The service provided is for Golden Valley residents at a time of crisis.
- The service must include cooperation or collaboration between organizations.
- Foundation funding should be a "last resort" source for funding the services.
- The organization should use the funds granted by the Foundation to serve Golden Valley citizens.
- Funding shall be granted to human service organizations and not to an individual or individuals.
- Funding will not be granted to any organization licensed in the City of Golden Valley for lawful gambling operations.

Pick up applications at the Finance Department in City Hall. If you want more information or would like to make a tax deductible contribution, call 763-593-8010. 

Foundation Invites Golfers to Fifth Annual Golf Classic

Golf enthusiasts are encouraged to join the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) in an upcoming community event to benefit local charities. The event, the fifth annual Golden Valley Golf Classic, is scheduled for Friday, September 14, at Brookview Golf Course. The 9 am shotgun start will kick off a day of fun and prizes for all participants.

There is a \$75 fee for individual golfers and a \$250 fee for foursomes; both include green fees, cart, continental breakfast, and lunch. Golfers also have a chance to win prizes, such as a Mazda Miata (sponsored by Morrie's Mazda and Sandy Benson) and a \$10,000 check for a hole-in-one (sponsored by United Properties). The tournament will feature other prizes for a variety of competitions, such as the longest drive, longest putt, etc. Foursomes are encouraged.

The Foundation is also still accepting sponsorship for the tournament in four areas:

- Corporate Sponsor:** A \$1,000 contribution provides green fees, cart, continental breakfast, lunch, and gift packs for four golfers. To acknowledge your support and generosity, your company name will be displayed on a tee marker at one of the 18 holes and will also appear on select advertising, programs, and all tournament publicity. You will also receive a commemorative award to display at your company. Current sponsors include Best and Flanagan, Marquette Bank, Northland Cardiology, and Preferred One.
- Golf Hole Sponsor:** A \$500 contribution provides green fees, cart, continental breakfast, lunch, and gift packs for four golfers. To acknowledge your support and generosity, your company name will be displayed on a tee marker at one of the 18 holes and will also appear on select advertising, programs, and all tournament publicity. Current sponsors include BPK&Z, Brookstone, David Bernard Builders, Xcel, Golden Valley Rotary, Liberty Carton, Mon-Ray, SEH, and Valley Dental.
- Cart Sponsor:** A \$75 contribution will be acknowledged with your company logo on one of the golf carts used for the tournament.
- Prizes and Awards:** Contributions of cash, merchandise, and in-kind items or gift certificates are welcome for hole contests, prizes, and drawings at the conclusion of the tournament.

All sponsors will be acknowledged in pre- and post-tournament publicity.

Last year's event drew 92 golfers from Golden Valley and surrounding communities who, along with corporate and individual sponsors, helped the Golf Classic raise \$8,897 for local human service organizations. The GVHSF distributes 100% of funds raised to causes directly serving the Golden Valley community. These include nonprofit organizations such as the Home Free Shelter (a domestic abuse shelter), YMCA Detached Work Program (a program to aid troubled youth), PRISM (a local food shelf), Northwest Suburban Dinner at Your Door (a meal service for home bound people), and Senior Community Services (an outreach program for seniors) and its HOME program.

For more information about the Golf Classic or the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation, call Sue Virnig, staff liaison, at 763-593-8010. 

State Debuts New Vehicle Registration Renewal Forms

If you own a vehicle that has a July registration expiration date, you'll notice that the renewal form has a new look. The new form is part of an expanded renewal package developed by Minnesota's Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) and Imagitas, Inc to provide customers with more information about the renewal process, explains Jean Ewald, supervisor of Golden Valley's Motor Vehicle Licensing Center. The Center is one of several area license agents that provide a variety of vehicle licensing services.

The new renewal package includes three things:

- ❑ a Registration Renewal Guide, which replaces the use of inserts in renewal notices. It provides customers with information on registration renewal options, answers to common questions, important dates for Minnesota motorists, and a DVS Resource Directory. This material can be updated every 90 days, and DVS welcomes customer suggestions.
- ❑ an advertising packet, which provides an innovative and cost-effective way to finance the project. DVS assures customers that personal information, such as their name and address, are not shared with the advertisers.
- ❑ a renewal form (prebill), which was redesigned to improve processing and includes all pertinent information on the face of the form

Golden Valley's Motor Vehicle Licensing Center, located on the first floor of City Hall at 7800 Golden Valley Road, provides complete vehicle licensing services, including boat licenses (good for three years) and trailer registration. The Center also issues small game and fishing licenses (valid from March 1 through February of the following year) and deer licenses (available shortly before the season opens in early November). Hours are 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday (open until 6 pm Tuesdays).

If you have questions about the new vehicle registration renewal forms, contact Golden Valley Motor Vehicle Licensing at 763-593-8101. 

Seniors Announce Essay Winners

The Golden Valley Seniors' 18th Annual Essay Contest, held in conjunction with the Minnesota Board on Aging, featured entries from

114 sixth graders from three Golden Valley schools who wrote essays about their grandparents or best older friend. The contest celebrated May as Older Americans month.

Students (and their families) were invited to read their essays at the Golden Valley Senior Intergenerational Supper May 21. The two overall winning essays were sent to state competition. Winners of the state competition will be presented at the Minnesota State Fair August 30.

Winners are Karinne Tarshish (overall girl) and Michael Dosedel, Meadowbrook; Darnell Parker, Sandburg; and Nick Wegleitner (overall boy) and Andria Kelzenberg, Park Valley. All participants received Certificates of Participation from the sponsor, given out by the teachers who were involved in the contest and encouraged their students to participate.

Thanks to Golden Valley Seniors Mable Swanson and Lorraine Diederichs, who served as this year's judges. 

Park & Rec News

Youth and Adult Tennis Programs—There's still an opportunity to take that tennis lesson! Classes are being offered in August for Pee-Wees (5 - 7 years old), youth (7 - 15 years old) and adults. Sign-up today to learn a lifetime sport.

Penny Carnival—August 3, 12:30 - 2:30 pm, Brookview Park. Enjoy carnival games, balloons, clowns, dunk tanks, puppet shows, hay rides, face painting, popcorn, and more. All activities are just two to five cents, so bring your pennies and enjoy this great day.

Punt, Pass, Kick—August 6, 1 pm, Lions Park. Punt, Pass, and Kick is a free program open to boys and girls ages 8 - 15 who compete individually against their peers.

August Youth Activities—Check out these great August activities at Brookview for youth ages 8 and older: "Magic and More", August 14 and 15, and "Balloon Animals", August 16.

Fall Softball Leagues—are filling up fast. Men's leagues are offered Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Co-Rec on Thursdays. To get a registration packet, call the Recreation office at 763-512-2345.

Fall Recreation Brochure—Watch for the Fall Recreation Brochure the end of August with lots of great activity offerings.

For more information about these or other City recreation programs, contact:

Park & Recreation
Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Parkway
Golden Valley, MN 55426
763-512-2345
Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm

Who to Call

For more information on reconstruction of the Golden Valley Road Bridge, contact one of these Hennepin County employees:

Bernie Jahn 763-745-7680
Bridge Engineer

Paul Backer 763-745-7569
Construction Project Engineer

Bruce Polaczyk 763-745-7650
Design Engineer

For construction updates, check the City web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/streetconst.htm.

Golden Valley Road Bridge Closes For Reconstruction July 23

Hennepin County's plans to reconstruct the bridge on Golden Valley Road (County Road 66) over the BNSF Railroad east of Hwy 100 call for closing the bridge July 23 to start construction. Throughout the project, traffic will be detoured to Hwy 100, Hwy 55, and Penn Ave (County Road 2). The project was awarded to Lunda Construction, and work is expected to be completed in November 2001.

During a routine inspection last year, Hennepin County Transportation Department officials found the bridge to be structurally deficient and established it as a priority for replacement. After the old bridge is removed, the contractor will begin excavation necessary to accommodate the pile driving operation, explains Bruce Polaczyk, Hennepin County Design Engineer. Then crews will drive piling to provide support for the structure. After the bridge footings are poured, crews will begin to form and pour the bridge piers and abutments. The next step, says Polaczyk, is to set the concrete beams and form the falsework (support system to carry the weight of the bridge slab), then set the reinforcing steel. After the concrete is poured for the slab, crews will pour sidewalks, form railings, and construct steel railings on each side. The new bridge will be longer and wider to accommodate both pedestrian and bicyclists on both sides of the bridge.

To help the project run smoothly, Hennepin County Transportation staff asks for your patience and understanding during construction (see also construction safety story on page 12). If you have questions about the Golden Valley Road Bridge project, contact the appropriate person (see box above). 

Who to Call

For more information on the Highway 100 reconstruction project, contact one of these MnDOT employees:

Dave Raley.....763-797-3069
(Segment I Construction—Glenwood Ave to Duluth St)

Joe Forpahl.....763-797-3070
(Segment II Construction—29th Ave to 39th Ave)

For construction updates, check the City web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/streetconst.htm, which includes links to MnDOT's web site.

Hwy 100 Project Going Strong

As summer reaches its peak, work on Hwy 100 continues at a strong pace. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) project is upgrading Hwy 100 through Golden Valley, Crystal, Robbinsdale, and Brooklyn Center in five phases over the next several years. The reconstructed freeway will be six lanes (three in each direction) from I-394 to County Road 81 and four lanes (two in each direction) north of County Road 81.

Between Glenwood and Duluth St, work on both the east and west frontage roads is in varying stages of completion, and crews are preparing to tear down the west frontage road bridge over the railroad tracks. Work continues on the main road southbound lanes and on the Hwy 55 bridge, where the northbound lane has been poured and is tentatively scheduled to open to traffic in late August.

North of Golden Valley, crews are working on Hwy 100 between 29th and 35th Aves, and traffic on Hwy 100 will be moved between the bypass roads and new roads throughout the summer. The 36th Ave bridge is open and expected to be near completion around mid-August. That is also the targeted time for opening the ramps from 36th to northbound Hwy 100 and from southbound Hwy 100 to 36th.

During construction, motorists can expect traffic delays and temporary lane shifts. Please watch for signs, drive the posted speed limit, allow additional time to reach destinations, and plan to take alternate routes whenever possible. Play it safe while driving through construction zones by watching the road and not equipment or construction activity (see also construction safety story on page 12). Remember, fines double in work zones. MnDOT and the contractors appreciate your patience and cooperation. If you have further questions about the Hwy 100 project, contact the appropriate person (see box above). 

Busy Construction Season Requires Attention to Safety

During the summer, the number one concern for the City of Golden Valley and its street construction crews is the safety of the workers and residents. Even if the construction is not directly on your street, there is still a lot of heavy equipment activity and increased traffic due to detours and construction haul routes. Because the equipment is large, operators often have limited visibility.



This toy construction site, in the right-of-way adjacent to a current City street project, is an example of an unsafe situation.

It is especially important that parents and pet owners heed extra caution during this time. Many children find construction fascinating and enjoy watching. Since most children under the age of 10 have a skewed perception of depth and speed, they can easily wander into or play in unsafe construction zones. It is also important for parents to educate their children to know that although their favorite cartoon superhero can escape from dangerous situations unharmed, there is a difference between real life and television. Pets can be just as curious as children and take pleasure in exploring construction sites. Their inability to understand the need for caution can put them in unsafe situations in construction areas.

To ensure a safe summer, have children and pets play in the backyard. Keep their toys and all play equipment far away from the street. Above all, make sure they do not climb on or play near dirt piles or work areas. Detective Jim Roberts, Golden Valley Juvenile Liaison Officer, stresses the importance of parents getting involved with what their children are doing at all times. "Ask what your children are up to, remind them of the risks of playing around these dangerous areas, and also make sure they know the City curfew laws."

If you have questions about City street construction projects, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030. If you would like more information about personal safety for children, contact Detective Jim Roberts at 763-593-8062.

Katie Legatt, Communications Intern

Concerts In The Park

7 pm Brookview Park

Monday, July 30

Golden Valley Puppet Wagon

followed by Stompin' Dixie

(Trumpet, trombone, bass, & banjo)

Monday, August 6

Greenwood Tree

(Music of Ireland, Scotland, England,
and American Folk Songs)

Monday, August 13

The Chmielewski's Fun Time Band

(Good wholesome variety, ethnic)

These free concerts last one to one-and-a-half hours and will be cancelled if it rains. Bring lawn chairs or blanket and picnic supper.

Sponsored by:
Golden Valley Park & Recreation
763-512-2345

Golden Valley
CITYNEWS

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