

Golden Valley

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CITYNEWS



City Visioning Process to Address Future Challenges

What's in store for Golden Valley in the next 10 to 20 years? How will the community prepare for the challenges of being a first-ring suburb in one of the nation's fastest-growing metropolitan areas?

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While many citizens want their City Council to respond to a changing environment to maintain the vitality of their community, questions often arise as to what is the best way to do so. Several years ago, the Golden Valley City Council worked with a consultant to develop the skeleton of a vision for the city's future. Together they pictured "an attractive, vibrant, diverse, and economically strong Golden Valley" with "an active, informed citizenry."

This fall the Golden Valley City Council embarked upon a community visioning process to gather ideas from citizens, businesses, and organizations about the future of the city. The three-step process will take several months and will be facilitated by Decision Resources, LTD to ensure scientific validity and objectiveness.

The first step includes interviews with six focus groups—three representing various Golden Valley neighborhoods; one representing local businesses; one representing local service organizations, schools, and churches; and one representing Golden Valley youth grades 9 – 11. Individuals were identified for participation on a random basis to minimize potential bias. Decision Resources will provide a full analysis of each two-hour focus group session as well as comparisons among the entire set of six focus groups.

The only way to ensure that the focus group conclusions are reflective of the entire population is through a random sample survey of the entire community. For step two, Decision Resources will conduct a telephone survey to test the issues raised in the focus groups as well as benchmark measurements of the current "state of the city." Benchmark measurements obtained in this survey will then be re-tested periodically to track progress in reaching objectives over time. Decision Resources will present all findings, including major differences from and similarities with other recent suburban attitude surveys and comparisons to previous Golden Valley surveys.

(Visioning continued on page 9)

State Revises Procedures for 2002 Budgets and Tax Levy

Golden Valley's budget hearing procedures will be modified a bit this year. All taxing jurisdictions, including cities, are usually required to hold mandatory Truth in Taxation public hearings on their annual budgets and tax levies. This year, because the State of Minnesota took longer than usual to adopt the 2001 Tax Law, certain Truth In Taxation procedures have been revised for the 2002 Budget and Tax Levy.

Truth In Taxation notices, which usually are sent out mid-November, show the projected tax impact of the various taxing jurisdictions' proposed tax levies on individual properties. Early to mid-December is then usually set aside for the mandatory Truth in Taxation public hearings. This year the notices will not be available to property owners until mid-December, so the State has made the public hearing optional for all cities.

The Golden Valley City Council indicated it will hold a public hearing on the 2002 Budget and Tax Levy at some time in late November or early December, even though it is not required to do so. Notice of the hearing will be included in the *Golden Valley/New Hope SunPost* and the City newsletter. Next year, the regular Truth In Taxation procedures will be back in place.

Look for detailed information in November on the recommended City budget. If you have questions about the recommended 2002 budget and tax levy, contact City Finance Director Don Taylor at 763-593-8012.



Motor Vehicle Licensing Offers New Service

**Motor
Vehicle
Licensing**



Golden Valley's Motor Vehicle Licensing Center has added something new for its customers—Drop Box Processing. This free service enables customers to avoid lines and still process their license tab renewals in a timely manner.

To use Drop Box Processing, simply place your license tab statement and check (payable to the City of Golden Valley) in an envelope marked "Motor Vehicle" and slip it into the Utility Drop Box near the front door of City Hall. All envelopes received by 8 am will be ready for pick-up by noon on the same day.

If you are not able to pick up your tabs by the end of business that day, the Golden Valley Motor Vehicle Licensing Center will mail the tabs to you—no extra charge!

If you have questions, call the Golden Valley Motor Vehicle Licensing Center at 763-593-8101.



Q: Are Cable TV Rates Regulated?

A: For the most part, the answer is no. The exception is known as Basic 1, which includes the first 23 channels of cable service and is comprised of broadcast channels and local access channels. The federal government, through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), has established formulas for allowable rate increases affecting Basic 1. Every year the cable company fills out the federal forms. Then, local governments (that choose to) review the information on those forms to make sure the increase does not exceed the federal standard.

The City of Golden Valley does this annual review through the Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission, a group of nine northwest area cities that work together on cable television issues. Cities are prohibited by federal law from regulating any other cable rates.

Rates not regulated include Basic 2 (which is the bulk of cable stations), Basic 3, pay services such as HBO and Showtime, Internet service, telephone service, and the new digital services.

Congress has done away with most rate regulation, preferring to stimulate competition. But competition has been very slow in developing. Satellite dish service, or Direct Broadcast Satellite, is the only truly competitive service available to most area residents.

Last fall the Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission granted two new companies the right to provide competitive cable service to the entire area. However, both companies declined to proceed because of economic issues.

If you have questions about cable television issues, contact Greg Moore at 763-533-8196.

*Greg Moore,
Northwest Suburbs Cable Commission*



The Sheriff's Site property (outlined in white) is located north of Naper St, south of Earl St, west of the General Mills Research Nature Area, and east of the Sheriff's radio facility.

Sheriff's Site History

For more than 40 years, Hennepin County has owned about 10.2 acres in Golden Valley on Naper St east of Hwy 169. The property housed the Hennepin County Sheriff's radio facility (including a 400-foot tower) and a pistol range. In the late 1980s, the County closed the pistol range and vacated the east five acres of the property. Although the Sheriff's radio facility continues to operate on the west five acres, in 1999 the County determined that it no longer needed the east five acres of the property. The County then completed a \$270,000 environmental clean-up of the site, making it suitable for housing or other uses.

By policy, Hennepin County first offered to sell the excess property to the Golden Valley Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), which decided to consider development options for the site. According to Golden Valley's General Land Use Plan map, the property is designated for low-density residential uses (fewer than five units per acre) and is zoned residential. If anything other than single-family homes is built in this zoning district, a PUD would be required.

The Golden Valley HRA established the Sheriff's Site Advisory Board to review the site conditions and consider options for development, including housing and open space. The Advisory Board consisted of five citizens from the neighborhood and five representatives from City Commissions and interest groups.

Sheriff's Site Will Be Developed With Housing

For the past year, the Golden Valley Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) has been working with a citizens committee to study potential uses for the five-acre parcel of land in northwestern Golden Valley that used to be the Hennepin County Sheriff's Pistol Range Site (see sidebar at left). At its August 14, 2001 meeting, the HRA set the direction for future development of the site by deciding on a plan that featured housing while retaining wooded areas. The project is still at a concept stage, but HRA staff will work to find developers who can make it reality.

The HRA had previously indicated its interest in acquiring the site but waited for recommendations from a citizen's advisory board before deciding on a development approach. The vision for the site has housing clustered in the center to retain the wooded areas on the north and east sides. To improve access to the General Mills trail system for neighbors from the south, a trail will be constructed from Naper Street to the northeast corner of the site. A public road will provide access to the new homes; however, it will not follow the existing right-of-way for Flag Ave, which will be vacated adjacent to the site.

Although the exact design and type of housing has not been determined, the HRA expressed a desire for 12 units to be constructed, with four designated to be available for residents through Habitat for Humanity. The project will probably use the Planned Unit Development (PUD) provisions of the City Code, which will allow innovative design and preserve more of the natural amenities on the site (see box on PUDs).

It is anticipated that identifying a developer and creating specific design options will take at least a year. The project would then go through the City's regulatory process, which requires at least three public hearings for a PUD.

For more information about the Sheriff's Site project, call HRA Assistant Director Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014, or City Planner Dan Olson at 763-593-8096. 

What is a PUD?

A Planned Unit Development (PUD) is an application of the zoning code that permits design flexibility for provisions such as uses, setbacks, height, or parking. It must be used if there are to be more than two principal buildings on a single parcel. When a PUD is used for residential proposals, the City requires that any open space designated for the project is permanently restricted from development and that a Landowner's Association is established to manage the property.

Fall Leaf Drop-Off Is Set

Leaves are a leading source of excess nutrients in our waterways, and fall leaf clean-up helps prevent those nutrients from washing into the storm water system. Golden Valley's annual Fall Leaf Drop-Off provides residents a monitored site to dispose of their leaves at no charge during the last weekend in October and the first weekend in November (see box below for dates and times). The drop-off site will be at Brookview Park, south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave. During drop-off days, Brookview Parkway will become a one-way road. All traffic must enter the site from Winnetka Ave and exit on Western Ave. Traffic personnel will direct vehicles to drop-off points, where other personnel will help residents unload or de-bag leaves.

Rules

- Participants must provide proof of Golden Valley residency (Minnesota driver's license, ID, or proof of identity and address).
- Residents must help de-bag their leaves at the site and take the bags home for reuse or disposal (see tips below for conserving bags). No brush will be accepted.
- Residents hauling loose leaves must help unload their leaves at the site (see tips below for loading loose leaves).

Time-Saving Tips

- For fast unloading and to conserve your bags, leave them untied if possible. If you must tie them, do so loosely or use the yellow or clear plastic tabs (they break open easily). Bags that are tightly knotted or tightly tied with wire "twisties" will be cut open to save time.
- If you're hauling loose leaves, line the trailer or truck bed with a tarp before loading the leaves. To unload, help the workers lift the corners of the tarp and dump the leaves into the disposal box.

Leaf Drop-Off

Four Days Only

Friday, October 26	8 am - 4 pm
Saturday, October 27	7 am - 1 pm
Friday, November 2	8 am - 4 pm
Saturday, November 3	7 am - 1 pm

Brookview Park

(south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave)

If you miss the Leaf Drop-Off, or if you have brush or other yard waste to get rid of this fall, contact your garbage hauler for its policies and rates or check the *Yellow Pages* for names of commercial yard waste processing sites. The commercial yard waste site listed below is in nearby Maple Grove.

Maple Grove Yard

Waste Site: 14796 101 Ave N, Maple Grove. Accepts leaves and brush up to 1-1/2 inch in diameter for \$6/cubic

yard, and sod and dirt for \$12/cubic yard, from April through November. Accepts grass clippings for \$12/cubic yard from June through September (\$6/cubic yard other months). For mixed material, add \$2/cubic yard. Open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 7 pm and Sunday, noon to 7 pm. Site closes November 30 and re-opens April 1, 2002. For more information, call 763-420-4886.

The Fall Leaf Drop-Off has been part of Golden Valley's recycling program for 10 years. If you have questions about the Leaf Drop-Off or yard waste in general, call 763-593-8030. 

Holiday Notice

Recycling pick-up the week of the Thanksgiving holiday will be one day later than usual. Have your recyclables at the curb by 7 am Saturday, November 24.



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 or 8030

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 763-593-8030.

Leaves and Water Don't Mix

Ordinance Briefs

The City regularly hears complaints on a number of problems. Below are summaries (with corresponding City Code numbers) of the most commonly violated ordinances.

Lawns (10.51): Keep weeds or grass mowed; they must not be allowed to grow taller than eight inches.

Litter (6.35): The owner of a private property (occupied or vacant) must always keep premises free of litter and provide for regular disposal of garbage, recyclables, and yard waste. Garbage and refuse containers shall be kept at, in, or near the rear of the building or in a garage, or at the rear of the property, and shall be accessible to haulers at reasonable times.

Noise (10.62): It is unlawful to disturb the peace by creating excessive noise between 10 pm and 7 am.

Parked Vehicles (10.70): No stock, racing, or junk car is allowed on a public street or private property longer than 12 hours unless it is within a building on such private premises.

Parking (9.06): Parking is allowed on City streets for up to 72 hours (unless otherwise noted).

Pets (10.52): Dogs or cats must not be allowed to bark or meow excessively, continuously, or in an untimely manner.

(10.53): Pet waste must be picked up and disposed of immediately.

For more information on City ordinances, check the City Code at the Golden Valley Library, City Hall, or on the City web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/index.htm. For information on a specific ordinance or to file a complaint, call 593-8006, and you will be directed to the appropriate department.

No one likes to see lakes turn green, yet it is increasingly common throughout the land of more than 10,000 lakes. Often the green water we see is the result of algae blooms. An algae bloom is a rapid growth increase in algae in an aquatic environment caused by an overabundance of nutrients. One source of these nutrients is falling leaves. Since 1993, when state law banned yard waste from landfills, the City has been suggesting alternatives for leaf disposal. One alternative is the popular Fall Leaf Drop-Off (see article, page 4). Other alternatives include mulching and composting the leaves.

Mulching

Leaves make an excellent mulch that can protect roses and other plants over the winter. To use leaves as mulch, shred them with a mower to make them smaller and to speed up decomposition. Shredded leaves make a good organic fertilizer when lightly dug into annual flower beds or vegetable gardens. Leaves also help condition the soil, moderate daily and seasonal soil temperatures, and reduce soil erosion. In the spring, leftover leaves can be used to protect seedlings from late freezes and to smother emerging weeds. The important thing is that leaves do not make it to the street, where they can enter the storm sewer system and cause flooding or algae blooms in Bassett Creek and other natural waterways.

Composting

Leaves make for great compost, providing some of the essential 'brown' component to the mix. As with mulch, leaves should be shredded for quicker decomposition. To learn more about composting, call the Minnesota Extension Service - Hennepin County at 612-374-8400.

Preventing Water Pollution

Responsible yard care, which includes cautious use of fertilizers, proper mowing and aeration, and taking care that excess nutrients and pollutants do not enter the storm water system, results in healthier lawns and cleaner water (see sidebar above). Residents living directly next to waterways need to take exceptional care that nutrients don't get into the water.

If you have questions about algae blooms, Golden Valley's Surface Water Management Plan, or the Golden Valley composting ordinance, please call Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046.

Prevent Water Pollution

Everything that enters storm water drains eventually ends up in our natural waterways (lakes, streams, etc). Here are some things you can do to help prevent surface water pollution:

- ▼ Direct downspouts onto lawns instead of hard surfaces, such as driveways or sidewalks.
- ▼ Keep cars tuned and repair leaks.
- ▼ Recycle oil.
- ▼ Sweep paved areas instead of hosing debris into the street.
- ▼ Clean up pet waste.
- ▼ Limit use of fertilizers and pesticides, and do not use fertilizer that contains phosphorus.
- ▼ Leave grass clippings on your lawn.
- ▼ Pick up leaves.
- ▼ Dispose of chemicals properly (never into a storm water drain).

*Tina Perpich,
Communications Assistant*

Winterize Your Lawn . . .

As the growing season winds down, people begin getting their yards ready for winter. Having the right information now can make a big difference in the spring. (For example, grass does not need to be cut shorter for winter. Continue to mow so that only 30% of the grass blade is cut.) Use the list below as a guide to prepping your lawn for winter.

Aerate—Aerating helps grass grow better, especially if your soil is heavy and clay-like or compacted. When renting an aerator, make sure it takes plugs out of the soil and deposits them back onto the lawn. Don't remove the plugs. Just let them crumble over time. You can aerate your lawn through October.

Fertilize—Fall lawn fertilization encourages good root and runner formation so grass comes back greener and thicker next spring. When fertilizing in October, you'll need to rake thoroughly so the fertilizer can reach the soil. Remember, use a phosphorous-free fertilizer (see box below), keep all fertilizer off hard surfaces (sidewalks, driveways), and sweep up any accidental spills.

Control Weeds—Fall is the best time to control perennial broadleaf weeds. From mid-September to early October, broadleaves are actively growing and readily take up herbicides. Carefully follow the application recommendations, but don't spray if rain is forecasted for the following day or two or if the weather is unusually hot.

Water—If it's dry, watering can help strengthen plants before winter. Evergreens especially come through winter in better shape if they are not moisture stressed. Newly planted trees and shrubs should be watered every 10 to 14 days. And don't forget those bulbs, which need to make roots before the soil freezes. If the weather is dry, they need water about once a week.

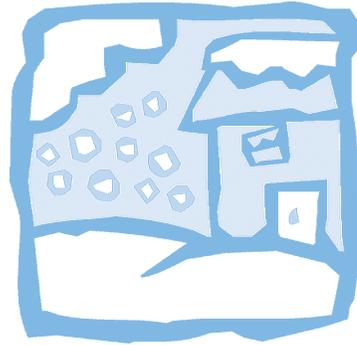
Plant—Late September through early October is the time to plant flowering bulbs for a burst of color next spring. If you're not sure which end of the bulb is the top, plant it sideways. Through a process called geotropism, the stem will always grow upwards and the roots downwards.

Phosphorus-Free Fertilizer

The Golden Valley City Code (Chapter 10, section 10.84) prohibits the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus in the city. Because most Golden Valley soil is rich in phosphorous, no additional phosphorous is necessary. Further, since everything we put on the ground eventually ends up in our surface water, this ban is vital to the health of our surface water.

For more information, click to the City web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/water.htm, or call Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046.

wildlife or water quality expert. Experts on horticulture, plant diseases, and insect problems answer lawn and garden questions weekdays between 9 am and 3 pm through the University of Minnesota Yard and Garden Clinic (612-624-4771). There is a \$5 fee, billed to a credit card, to speak to these experts. 



. . . and Your House

Saying farewell to summer can be hard on houses too. Here are a few things you can do to get your house ready for the winds and rain of autumn.

Outside

- ✓ Repair damage to roofs and valleys.
- ✓ Have fireplaces cleaned.
- ✓ Check foundation, masonry, and exterior.
- ✓ Seal driveway and sidewalk cracks.
- ✓ Clean the septic tank every two years.

Doors and Windows

- ✓ Replace loose and missing glazing putty.
- ✓ Replace deteriorating weather-stripping and caulking.
- ✓ Replace damaged or deteriorating hardware.

Heating Systems

- ✓ Clean and change furnace filters monthly, or as recommended by the manufacturer.
- ✓ On forced-air systems, check fan belt tension and lubricate fan and motor bearings.
- ✓ For steam systems, check shut-off valve for leaks and drain low water cutoff per manufacturer's instructions.
- ✓ For hot water systems, top off water, bleed radiators, and bring up to recommended pressure.
- ✓ Clear debris away from heating and cooling equipment.
- ✓ Have heating systems serviced annually.
- ✓ Check boiler pressure relief valve.
- ✓ Check pressure and temperature valve on water heater.

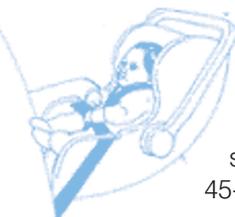
Regular maintenance does wonders for our homes and helps us get through winter without unexpected repairs. For more information, check out the *Your Home* section on Golden Valley's web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us, or call 763-593-8004 to get a home maintenance flyer. 

Parents and Caregivers Should Be Car Seat Savvy

Each year, about 2,000 children under the age of 16 die as a result of car crashes, making that the leading cause of death among children age 14 or younger. Children are at greater risk of injury in vehicle crashes because the seats are designed for adults.

The safest place for all children under age 13 is in the back middle seat, if there is a shoulder belt. If not, use the outer back seats. The force of an air bag can seriously injure or kill a child under age 12. Children at least 4' 9" tall and weighing at least 80 pounds can use a seat belt if they are tall enough to sit without slouching, with knees bent at the edge of the seat, and with feet on the floor. The lap belt must fit low and tight across the hips and not the stomach. The shoulder belt should rest flat over the shoulder and across the chest. Never put the shoulder belt under the arm or behind the child's back.

Minnesota law requires children under age four to be restrained in a car seat that meets federal safety standards. Children up to age 11 must be buckled in, regardless of where they are sitting. Parents and caregivers should know which car seats meet safety standards and the correct way to install car seats and use seat belts by reading the manufacturer's directions and the vehicle owner's manual. Any car seats involved in a crash must be destroyed and replaced immediately. While seat belts and car seats are extremely effective safety measures, four out of five car seats are used incorrectly.



Infant-Only Seats—Newborns and children under age one should ride in the back seat in rear-facing car seats reclined at a 45-degree angle.

Toddler/Convertible Seats—Children over age one and up to age four can use forward facing seats placed in an upright position in the back seat. Move the harness straps to the proper slots for forward-facing, *and check the manufacturer's instructions for exact positioning.*



Child-Only Seats—For children ages one to four, place seats forward only. Some types of child-only seats can be used as a booster.



Booster Seats—Children ages four to eight, who have outgrown convertible or child-only seats, can use a booster seat, which keeps the lap belt positioned properly around the child's hips and the shoulder belt in proper position. Some boosters come with a high back, and others come with a removable shield. Either is fine when accompanied with a lap and shoulder safety belt. If the vehicle is only equipped with lap belts, use a shield or tethered harness to maximize safety and check with an auto dealership to have shoulder belts installed.

The Golden Valley Public Safety Department will offer car seat inspections in the near future—watch *CityNews* and the City web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) for details. If you have car seat questions now, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Joanne Paul at 763-593-8058 or Fire Education Specialist Sarah Larson at 763-593-3977.

Katie Legatt, Communications Intern

School Safety Tips

To and From Home

- ✍ Do not display children's names on clothing or backpacks. Strangers could call them by name. Remind them to never talk to strangers or accept rides or gifts (and remember to talk to your child about what a stranger is).
- ✍ Children under 10 years old should not walk or bike to school without an adult.
- ✍ If your child walks to school, help choose the most direct route. Avoid routes with heavy traffic and/or intersections without crossing guards. Teach children to obey all traffic signals, signs, and safety patrols.
- ✍ Insist children wear helmets when biking, skating, rollerblading, skateboarding, etc.
- ✍ If your children are home alone after school, set up rules for locking doors and windows, answering the door and telephone, and which activities are allowed or not. Have them check in with you or a trusted neighbor immediately after school.

At School

- ✍ Be sure the school or daycare will NOT release your child to anyone other than you and/or another you officially designate. Create a code word that only you and your child know. If someone else picks your child up, let this person know your code word so your child will know it's ok.
- ✍ Teach your child about how to handle bullies at school. Discuss alternatives to responding to bullies, such as walking away or getting help.
- ✍ Make sure children wear backpack straps on both shoulders. Children should never carry more than 10 - 15 percent of their body weight in their backpacks.
- ✍ Remove drawstrings on hoods or around the neck of clothing. Drawstrings at the waist or bottom of an article of clothing should be trimmed to no longer than three inches.

Help Sparky Strike Out Home Fire Risks

Every year, at least 3,500 Americans die in house fires, and half of those fires are caused by cooking, heating, and electrical problems. That's why this year's National Fire Prevention Week theme, "Cover the Bases & Strike Out Fire" is structured around a classic baseball diamond. With cooking safety as first base, heating safety as second base, and electrical safety as third base, the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) hopes to hit a home run for fire safety education. At home plate are smoke alarms and home fire escape practice. Here's the line-up.



National Fire Prevention Week Starts October 7

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year in North America and several European countries in remembrance of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, in which 250 people died and 17,430 buildings were destroyed. It is held the full week of October—Sunday through Saturday—that includes October 9, the anniversary of the fire.

"Cover the Bases & Strike Out Fire" is the National Fire Prevention Association's (NFPA) theme for Fire Prevention Week 2001 (October 7-14). The focus is preventing cooking, heating, and electrical fires, which account for half of all home fires (see article at left).

The National Fire Prevention Week campaign is aimed at children who, according to the NFPA, "are very effective at driving fire safety messages home, which is where the risk of fire is greatest."

Just like baseball, fire prevention is a team game, and we encourage parents to work closely with their children to stay safe," says the NFPA.

For the last three years, "Fire Drills: The Great Escape!" was Fire Prevention Week's campaign theme, focusing on home fire escape planning and practice. That campaign reached seven million children through collaborative work of the fire service and public and private schools. So far, documented reports confirm that 74 lives have been saved—mostly children—as a result of that campaign.

Golden Valley observes National Fire Prevention Week by providing the community with valuable information about fire prevention and safety—information that saves lives. For more on fire safety and prevention, contact the Golden Valley Fire Department at 763-593-3977. 



Kitchen Safety

- ✗ Don't leave food cooking on the stove unattended. Keep all things that can burn away from the stove.
- ✗ Maintain a "kid-free" zone, at least three feet around your stove. Turn pot handles inward so pots cannot be knocked off the stove.
- ✗ Keep pan lids near your stove in case of a small grease fire. Keep fire extinguishers close by.

Heater Safety

- ✗ Keep space heaters at least three feet away from walls and anything that can burn, and turn them off every time you leave the room or go to sleep.
- ✗ Have chimneys and heating systems checked and cleaned at least once a year.
- ✗ Always use the proper fuel in a heater.
- ✗ Have a sturdy screen on your fireplace to prevent sparks from flying.



Electrical Safety

- ✗ Replace or repair any electrical device with a loose or frayed cord.
- ✗ Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
- ✗ In homes with small children, receptacle outlets should have plastic safety covers.
- ✗ Avoid using "cube taps" and other devices that connect multiple appliances into a single receptacle.
- ✗ Push back cords of countertop appliances to keep children from pulling them off the counter.
- ✗ Use bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage.



The Basics

- ✗ Install at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home and in or near all sleeping areas. Test them once a month and replace batteries twice a year. When the alarm "chirps," this means the battery is low. Replace smoke alarms that are 10 years old or older.
- ✗ Every household should develop and practice a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place. Practice this plan regularly, at least twice a year.
- ✗ Consider installing an automatic sprinkler system if you are building a new home or retrofitting your existing home. 



Public Works Vehicles

- ✓ Reduce your speed when approaching large public works vehicles. They cannot stop as fast as smaller vehicles.
- ✓ Keep a minimum distance of 50 feet behind them, the minimum distance they need to be able to see another vehicle behind them.
- ✓ Flashing yellow or blue lights on public works vehicles mean there is activity occurring nearby. Use your best judgment around such areas and exercise patience. Take alternative routes when possible.
- ✓ Reduce your speed to accommodate slower traveling snowplows.
- ✓ Never pass a snow plow, and stay as far away from them as possible.
- ✓ Visibility, especially in the rear of the snow plow, is limited. Never drive into a snow cloud, and stay clear of trucks spreading sand.

Share The Road Safely

The buzz you hear about inattentive driving is getting louder (or maybe it's a cell phone ringing in a car somewhere). That's because cell phones and other distractions can lead to inattentive driving and put both the driver and others in great danger. When you factor in the number of drivers who just don't have a clue, it signals a growing problem.

For example, it's estimated that up to 60 percent of drivers do not properly yield the right of way to approaching emergency vehicles. School bus drivers also see their share of action—they must watch for drivers who fail to stop for buses when lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended. Drivers of heavy machinery, such as snowplows and dump trucks, must deal with drivers who follow too closely or drive into a vehicle making a wide turn.

Emergency vehicles, school buses, and public works and maintenance vehicles can be found all over the city in every season, so it is important to know how to react while sharing the road with such vehicles.

Katie Legatt, Communications Intern

Visioning

(continued from page 1)

The third step in the visioning process will be a town meeting open to all members of the public. This provides an opportunity for participation to anyone who was not immediately involved in a focus group or called in the telephone survey. At the town meeting, participants will respond to ideas raised in the focus groups and telephone survey and discuss strategies for implementing the community vision.

Golden Valley's visioning process began with the first of its focus groups in mid-September. For more information on the process, contact Assistant to the City Manager Jeanne Andre (763-593-8014) or Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler (763-593-8004).



Emergency Vehicles

- ✓ On a two-lane road, pull over to the right side of the road and stop. On a one-way road, pull over to the side of the road nearest to your vehicle and stop. On a freeway, move over to the closest side of the road and stop.
- ✓ Do not panic, slam on the brakes, or swerve into other lanes. Never cut an emergency vehicle off when moving out of its way. Emergency vehicles always try to pass on the left of your vehicle. At an intersection, try to get across before stopping.
- ✓ Remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has completely passed. Check for other emergency vehicles that might be following.
- ✓ You are not required to stop if the emergency vehicle is separated from your traffic lane by a physical barrier such as a fence, wall, or median strip.
- ✓ Always remain at least 500 feet away from fire trucks.
- ✓ If you fail to pull over for an emergency vehicle, a peace officer may arrest you within four hours of the violation if there is probable cause of negligence.



School Buses

- ✓ Flashing red lights mean the school bus is

stopped and is loading or unloading students. You must stop 20 feet away and may not move until the red lights stop flashing and the stop arm is retracted. This law is for both oncoming traffic and traffic behind the bus.

- ✓ The only time you are not responsible for stopping for a school bus with its red lights flashing is when it is on the opposite side of a separated roadway.
- ✓ Flashing yellow lights indicate that a school bus will be stopping in a speed zone. It is against the law to try to pass on the right-hand side of a school bus when these yellow lights are flashing.
- ✓ A peace officer may arrest a driver up to four hours after a violation occurs.

Little White Church In The Valley Gets A Ramp

One more phase of renovation has been completed at the Golden Valley Historical Society's Museum in "The Little White Church in the Valley". The "Accessibility Project" consisted of planning, designing, and constructing a ramp from the front sidewalk of the building to two access doors on the east side. The ramp will allow persons with disabilities to attend and enjoy the programs the Historical Society offers.

The project to enhance the building was partly financed by funds from the Minnesota Historical Society Grants Office, with the remaining balance drawn from donations to the Golden Valley Historical Society. Many people donated their time, resources, and talents for this project. Gregg Hackett, an architect with Partners and Sirny, volunteered to draw the building plans and serve as the project director. JP Michels Construction Company of Lino Lakes was the contractor.

The Historical Society would like to extend thanks to the following people who also helped make the project a success: Harry Mustard, Judy Mustard, Nancy Azzam, Edith Varner, Edward Jordan, Pamila Welch, and Betty Crews. 

Police Complete Tobacco Compliance Checks

As required by state mandate, the Golden Valley Police Department recently completed its annual compliance checks on businesses licensed to sell tobacco to ensure they aren't selling to underage consumers. The City of Golden Valley acknowledges the good work on the part of the following businesses that passed the compliance checks. Because of their efforts, it is more difficult for youth under age 18 to buy tobacco.

Businesses that passed include Byerly's Liquors, Byerly's Food, Chester Bird American Legion Post #523, Golden Valley Liquor Barrel, Golden Valley VFW Post #7051, Malik's Texaco, Medicine Lake Citgo, JJ's Clubhouse, MGM Liquor, KKS Gift Shop (Colonade), Malik's 76 Station, Merwin Valley Drug, Schuller's Tavern, SuperAmerica on Market Street, Sunny Hollow Market, United Health Care Shop, United Liquors, and Walgreens.

Eight businesses failed the initial compliance check. They include Dick's Amoco, Doolittle's Air Cafe, Golden Valley Country Club, SuperAmerica on Douglas Drive, Westview Superette, the Holiday station, and Fielding's Cigars, Pipes, and Tobacco. Each business that failed was rechecked; all passed except for the Holiday station. Stores that failed received an administrative fine, and the clerk was fined as well.

Denny Arons, Police Sergeant



The new ramp at the Little White Church will improve accessibility to the Golden Valley Historical Society Museum.

Visit With Santa

Bring your child to visit Santa and make the holidays a little brighter for someone



during Northwest Community Television's (NWCT) 16th annual "Visiting With Santa" event Tuesday, December 4 through Sunday, December 9 at the NWCT studio, 6900 Winnetka Ave N, Brooklyn Park. The event is free—just bring non-perishable food items or cash donations, which will go to stock area food shelves to help those in need during the holiday season.

All visits are videotaped and cablecast on cable channel 19 or 20. You can also bring your own camcorder and record the visit yourself, or buy a tape from NWCT for \$10. Scheduling starts Monday, November 12. Choose from weekday slots (6 - 8 pm) or Saturday (9 am - 1 pm) or Sunday (1-7 pm) slots.

Call 763-533-8196 for more information or to make an appointment.

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)

Joe Forpahl.....763-797-3070
(Segment II Construction)

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 Continues; Remains Weather Dependent

As autumn approaches, work on Hwy 100 continues a little behind schedule. 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. Crews have removed the west frontage road bridge over the railroad tracks and are currently driving the pilings. Work also continues on the main road southbound lanes and on the Hwy 55 bridge. Though this portion of the project was scheduled for completion by mid-August, it remains closed to traffic. MNDot officials say the timeline for its completion is entirely dependent on weather.

North of Golden Valley, crews are working on Hwy 100 between 29th and 35th Aves. The 36th Ave bridge is now open and, except for some minor work, is completed. The ramps from 36th to northbound Hwy 100 and from southbound Hwy 100 to 36th are also open to traffic. It is anticipated that the work in this area will be essentially completed by mid-November.

During construction, motorists can expect traffic delays and temporary lane shifts. Please watch for signs, drive the posted speed limit, and play it safe while driving through construction zones by watching the road and not equipment or construction activity. 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). 

GV Road Bridge Still Scheduled To Open By Winter

Since July 23, Hennepin County has been reconstructing the bridge on Golden Valley Road (County Road 66) over the BNSF Railroad east of Hwy 100. The bridge is closed throughout the project, and traffic is being detoured to Hwy 100, Hwy 55, and Penn Ave (County Road 2). Though the original completion date was scheduled for November 2001, funding problems delayed the start and set that schedule back.

Currently, the old bridge has been removed and crews have completed the footings for the new bridge. According to Project Engineer Paul Backer, the contractor is operating in an accelerated mode. Hennepin County plans to open the bridge by mid-November.

The East Abutment and most easterly pier have been completed, and crews will complete the westerly pier and the West Abutment within the next two weeks. Bridge beam placement is scheduled for early October. After the beam is in place, the bridge deck and railings will be formed and poured. The contractor will do minor roadway approach work adjoining each side of the new bridge before reopening Golden Valley Rd for the winter. The new bridge will provide a wider deck to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists along both sides.

If you have questions about the Golden Valley Road Bridge project, contact the appropriate person (see box above right). 

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.

Ten Candidates File for Three City Council Seats

Ten Golden Valley residents will be on the ballot November 6 for three Golden Valley City Council seats. Two candidates filed for the two-year mayoral term, and eight candidates filed for two four-year council terms. The box below provides details, including phone numbers and web site or email addresses when available.

The Candidates

Mayoral

Gloria Johnson
4200 Golden Valley Rd
763-588-6013

Linda R. Loomis
6677 Olson Memorial Hwy
763-545-4659
www.lindaloomis.com

City Council

Tracy K. Anderson
2001 Hillsboro Ave N
763-545-3895
tkagv@aol.com

Scott Grayson
1800 Sumter Ave N
763-593-0613
www.scottgrayson.com

Joanie Stockman Clausen
2516 Lee Ave N
763-588-6873

Tod Hoaby
7100 Archer Ave
763-541-7848
web site should be up soon

Mark Friederichs
7501 Western Ave
763-591-1192

Blair Tremere
2305 Lee Ave N
763-521-7700
blairtremere.com

John M. Giese
5545 Golden Valley Rd
763-546-4650

Dwight Wells
6020 Wolfberry Lane
763-545-0252
gvgolf@quest.net

Incumbent Mayor Mary Anderson, who began her service with the City Council in 1974, will not seek reelection. City Council members Larry Bakken, who has served 13 years on the Council since 1984, and Marti Micks, a two-term Council member, have also decided not to run.

For more information about the election, contact Election Official Jean Ewald at 763-593-8029, or click to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/voting.htm. Official election results will be posted on the City web site as soon as they become available. 

Where To Vote

Precinct polling places for the November elections are listed below. If you have questions or need to register, call 612-593-8017.

#1

NE Fire Station
3700 Golden Valley Road

#2

Valley Presbyterian Church
3100 North Lilac Drive

#3

Meadowbrook School
5430 Glenwood Ave

#4

Golden Valley City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Road

#5

SE Fire Station
400 Turner's Crossroad S

#6

Calvary Lutheran Church
7530 Golden Valley Road

#7

Sandburg Middle School
2400 Sandburg Lane

#8

Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Parkway



7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427

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Available on audio tape.

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