

Golden Valley

March
April 2002

CITYNEWS



Survey Shows Satisfaction Remains High In City

Results are in from phase two of *Envision Golden Valley*, a community-wide effort to gather ideas about the future of the City from citizens, businesses, and organizations.

Facilitated by Decision Resources, LTD to ensure objectiveness, the City's visioning process kicked off in September 2001 with a series of six focus groups. In December, Decision Resources conducted a statistically valid, random sample community survey to test and quantify the issues raised in the focus groups and by City Council and staff. Professional interviewers polled 400 residents by telephone on everything from community identity, housing, property taxes, City Council, and City staff to streets and sidewalks, transportation and recreation issues, communications, and redevelopment. The 129-question survey took an average of 32 minutes.

Bill Morris of Decision Resources presented the survey results to the City Council at its April 1 meeting. He reported that Golden Valley citizens remain very pleased with their community—city services, tax levels, City staff, and City Council. In almost every case, very favorable ratings were either stable or had improved from two years ago (the time of the last community-wide survey). Community identity and neighborliness remain at remarkably high levels for an inner-ring suburban community.

"While residents expressed great satisfaction with their current park and recreation system, they were not overly enthusiastic about major augmentations, such as sidewalk connections to the trails or a community center facility," wrote Morris in his executive summary. "If there were a key concern, it centered around the issue of growth and redevelopment, not unusual for a first-ring suburb, with residents particularly interested in attracting more starter homes and entertainment establishments. But, beyond this issue, residents were markedly contented with their quality of life."

A copy of the entire survey, results, and focus group reports are available for viewing at City Hall, the Golden Valley Library, or on the City web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us). A tape of Morris' presentation of survey results to the City Council is also available for viewing at the Golden Valley Library. If you have questions about the survey or the City's visioning process, contact Assistant to the City Manager Jeanne Andre (763-593-8014) or Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler (763-593-8004).

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Lead Update

See page 3 for the City's annual report on monitoring for lead content in drinking water.

Golden Valley Water: From The River To Your Home

In 1963, the Cities of Crystal, New Hope, and Golden Valley formed the Joint Water Commission (JWC) to purchase water under one contract from the City of Minneapolis and to efficiently manage the three Cities' water distribution system in a fair and equitable manner. Each City maintains its own distribution system and utility billing, meter reading, and water sampling functions.

Source

Minneapolis gets its water from the Mississippi River near Fridley. After treatment and purification, the water is pumped to customers in Minneapolis, Columbia Heights, Hilltop, Bloomington, Edina, Crystal, Golden Valley, and New Hope.

Treatment

Mississippi River water is naturally softer than ground water, and it is further softened during treatment at the Fridley Water Filtration Plant (owned and operated by the City of Minneapolis). The treatment process removes cloudiness, or turbidity, from the water by filtering it through large beds of sand, gravel, and carbon. The water is softened with lime and then disinfected with chlorine before delivery to customers. This benefit saves water users the expense of purchasing and maintaining a home softening system.

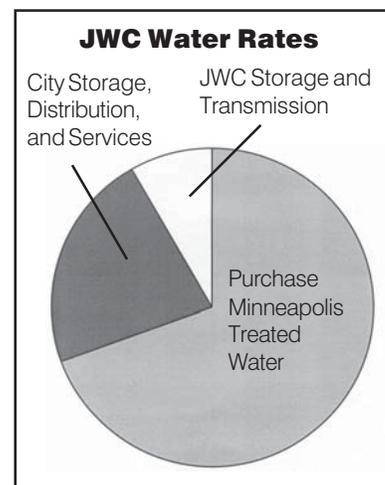
The City of Minneapolis' treatment systems are operated in accordance with standard utility practices, and the treated water quality meets all current State and Federal regulations. However, the systems currently do not provide a complete barrier against pathogens and other harmful bacteria. The City is undertaking a large-scale program to install such a barrier using a reverse osmosis technology, which squeezes water through manufactured membrane tubes at very high pressure. Pathogens and other harmful bacteria common in river water are left behind since they are too big to squeeze through the tiny openings in the membranes. This is expensive technology, but it is required by new Federal regulations. The treated water is then pumped through large diameter pipelines to the JWC's storage reservoirs in Crystal and Golden Valley.

Billing

Each JWC household receives a utility bill from its City's finance department. The water bill reflects three different costs (see chart above). The first is the cost to purchase treated Mississippi River water from the City of Minneapolis. The second is the cost to store the water in the JWC storage reservoirs and deliver it to each member City as it needs it. The third is the cost each member City incurs to deliver the water to each customer's tap.

Water rates have been increasing each year since 1997, a trend that is expected to continue. The increases will bring the JWC's water rate in line with the rate Minneapolis water customers are paying, and future increases will help cover planned capital improvements at the City of Minneapolis' Fridley Water Treatment Facility. Since the JWC is committed to providing its customers with the highest quality water at the least cost, it is evaluating its alternatives. *CityNews* will provide regular updates on JWC activities.

If you have questions about Golden Valley's water supply, contact Merlin Thorn at 763-593-8075. For more information about water rates, contact Finance Director Don Taylor at 763-593-8012. 



City Utility Rates Increase

In January, the City Council approved utility rate increases for water, sewer, and storm drainage to offset increased costs in operations and infrastructure maintenance as well as a significant increase in the cost of water the City buys from Minneapolis (see story at left).

Water rates increased from \$2 to \$2.70 per 1,000 gallons, with a minimum charge of \$27 per quarter. This helps pay for the water storage system Golden Valley shares with New Hope and Crystal (including water towers, reservoirs, and main trunk lines), water main improvements and relocation required for the Hwy 100 project (see Seasonal Construction Guide insert), the City's water meter replacement program (see article on page 3), rehabilitation of City water mains, and will offset the 59% increase in 2002 for the water the City buys from Minneapolis.

Sewer rates, which cover sewer operation costs, system restoration, and sewer improvements and relocation required for the Hwy 100 project, increased from \$44.50 to \$46 per quarter.

Storm drainage rates increased from \$12 to \$14 per quarter. This covers costs for cleaning streets, sump pump catch basins, storm drainage and water quality ponds, stream bank stabilization, and projects included in the City's Surface Water Management Plan. 

Water Meters Are Going High-Tech

In May 2002, the City of Golden Valley will begin a program to replace all residential water meters with the latest technology for improved efficiency and accuracy. The City expects to complete the program in 18 months to two years using the City's maintenance staff.

The average life expectancy a water meter is 10 to 15 years, and most water meters in Golden Valley were last replaced about 20 years ago.

The new radio-read meters will allow meter readers to collect information from the street instead of walking up to the outside register, which will save about eight to 10 reading days per month for one reader. All commercial meters have been updated to the new technology.

City crews will work in sections, completing one area before moving to the next. The City will notify residents by mail about two weeks before moving into their neighborhood. The letter will ask residents to clear an area around the meter, check the valves before calling for an appointment, and have an adult at home when the meter is changed. It takes 30 to 45 minutes to exchange a meter, barring any difficulties.

The City will take every precaution to prevent any damage to the residence. If the installer believes the plumbing could be damaged, the resident will be informed. The resident will then have to get a plumber to make repairs before requesting another meter exchange appointment.

Questions? Contact Merlin Thorn at 763-593-8075.



More On Lead

Lead is a common metal used in many consumer products. It can be found in some paints and pottery and in air, soil, household dust, food, pewter and crystal, and water. If inhaled or swallowed, lead can build up in your body over time. Too much lead can damage the brain, nervous system, red blood cells, and kidneys. Since smaller bodies absorb lead more rapidly, amounts of lead that won't hurt an adult can be harmful to a child.

City Monitors Drinking Water For Lead Content

For several years, your water bill and publications such as this one have carried precautionary and educational notices and articles about lead content in drinking water. The City of Golden Valley tests its drinking water for lead content annually, as required by the US Environmental Protection Agency. In 2001, samples were taken from 60 Golden Valley houses built between 1982 and 1985. Of these, seven

exceeded the acceptable levels of lead.

The 60 houses sampled in 2001 were chosen because of their high risk—they were possibly the last ones built that had lead solder plumbing. This doesn't mean newer or older homes could not also have a lead problem. However, if high lead levels posed a real threat to any resident, the City water system would be shut down until acceptable levels were met.

The Health Department requires cities to update the public annually about its water quality until test results show acceptable levels of lead (the Federal standard of less than 15 parts per billion). The lead level in the water Golden Valley buys from Minneapolis is less than one part per billion. That means any lead found in Golden Valley homes is coming from the plumbing and fixtures. Most plumbing fixtures are made of brass, which is a combination of copper, zinc, and lead.

It is not recommended that hot tap water be used for anything other than cleaning. If you are concerned about the possibility of lead in your water, there is a very efficient and cost-effective method of reducing the lead to acceptable levels. If you haven't run any water in the past six hours, simply run your water for 30 to 60 seconds, or until it changes temperature. This will flush out any water that has been standing in your pipes. More costly methods of lead abatement include changing the piping in your house, putting in plastic or ceramic fixtures, or installing filters.

In November 1993, the City of Minneapolis started a corrosion control treatment process. In conjunction with Minneapolis, the Department of Health, and other cities that buy water from Minneapolis, Golden Valley conducted a survey to determine the effectiveness of that treatment process. Quarterly water samples were taken from 10 homes that had lead levels above the federal standard. The results were very erratic—a home that passed one time would fail the next. *In 2002, Golden Valley will re-sample all 60 sites from the initial test. Regardless of the results, the City will most likely continue to place yearly notices in this and other publications about the possibility of elevated lead levels in some homes.*

If you have questions about lead in your water, contact Merlin Thorn at 763-593-8075, or the Minnesota Department of Health at 612-215-0749.

Merlin Thorn, Superintendent, Utility Maintenance

Brush Pick-Up Set To Begin April 29

Mark your calendar for Golden Valley's annual Spring Brush Pick-Up, which is set to begin Monday, April 29 and continue through the first three weeks of May (see schedule below). The program gives homeowners the opportunity to place tree limbs and brush at their curbs for collection and disposal.

Program Guidelines

Please observe the following guidelines when preparing your brush for pick-up:

- Tree limbs and brush must be less than four inches in diameter and six feet long.
- Stack so the larger ends face the street (do NOT tie limbs together).
- Condense brush to one pile per household. Trucks will stop only once at each property, so if there is more than one pile, only one will be picked up.
- Do not use plastic bags.
- Keep brush and limbs completely clear of sidewalks, mailboxes, streetlights and sign poles, landscaping and fences, overhead tree branches, and power lines. If piles don't fit between the curb and sidewalk, place them on the boulevard behind the sidewalk. The contractor uses trucks with automated loading arms to pick up the brush piles. If your brush is stacked near a restricted area or tossed in a pile rather than stacked, it will be left behind. The contractor will not load brush by hand.
- No leaves, grass clippings, stumps, roots, limbs exceeding the size limits, building lumber, landscape timbers, or bags of garbage will be picked up. If any of these items are mixed in the brush stacks, the **entire** stack will be left behind. The contractor will not sort through brush stacks for acceptable material.

Pick-Up Schedule

The City will be divided into three sections (see below), with a week designated for pick-up in each. Brush must be placed on the curb by 8 am Monday the week of pick-up and must remain there until picked up. If there is a lot of brush, pick-up may take longer than a week.

Section 1	Entire area south of Hwy 55	week of April 29
Section 2	Entire area north of Hwy 55 and west of Douglas Dr	week of May 6
Section 3	Entire area north of Hwy 55 and east of Douglas Dr	week of May 13

Be ready. This is a one-time pick-up only. Trucks will not return to neighborhoods for late set-outs. If you miss your pick-up week, you must plan for other means of disposal.

To dispose of brush or tree waste not collected in this pick-up, contact your garbage hauler or choose a contractor from the Yellow Pages. Watch this newsletter or check the Recycling Information Line (763-593-8119) for updates.

The Spring Curbside Brush Pick-Up is a component of the Golden Valley recycling program. If you have questions about the brush pick-up or about recycling, call 763-593-8119 or 763-593-8030.

Clip-N-Save

Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Memorial Day	Saturday, June 1
Independence Day	Saturday, July 6
Labor Day	Saturday, Sept 7
Thanksgiving	Saturday, Nov 23
Christmas	Saturday, Dec 28
New Year's	Saturday, Jan 4



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 763-593-8030.

County Offers Compost Bins

Compost Bin Order Form

Name _____
 Address _____
 City / ZIP _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Yes, I would like to order one compost bin. **I will pick up and pay for it at:**

- Maple Grove Government Center, 12800 Arbor Lakes Pkwy
Saturday, April 27, 9 am - 2 pm. **Orders due April 10.***
- Minneapolis - Anthony Middle School, 5757 Irving Ave S
Saturday, May 4, 9 am - 2 pm. **Orders due April 17.***
- Eden Prairie Education Center, 8040 Mitchell Rd (enter on Tech Dr)
Saturday, May 18, 9 am - 2 pm. **Orders due May 1.***

DO NOT SEND PAYMENT. Return form to: Hennepin County Environmental Services, Compost Bin Events, 417 North 5th St, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

Limit one compost bin per household.

Because of the overwhelming response to last year's compost bin distribution events, Hennepin County and the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board are sponsoring more distribution events this spring. Approximately 8,000 compost bins will be available to Hennepin County residents on a first-come, first-served basis. Bins are \$20 each.



Backyard composting is an easy way to turn much of the waste from your yard and kitchen into a rich material that you can use to improve your soil. Using finished compost on your lawn and garden will provide an organic fertilizer, suppress weeds, and hold moisture in the soil.

The first 4,000 residents to place their order will receive a free kitchen bucket with their compost bin. Residents are encouraged to order online at www.co.hennepin.mn.us/environmental or use an order form. For more information, call Hennepin County Environmental Services at 612-348-9266.



Free Earth-Friendly Landscaping Seminars

Hennepin County Environmental Services and the University of Minnesota Extension Service of Hennepin County are hosting free earth-friendly home landscaping seminars at the Eco-Yard Demonstration Site adjacent to the Hennepin County Recycling Center and Transfer Station, 8100 Jefferson Highway,

Brooklyn Park. The Eco-Yard demonstrates an approach to home landscaping in which plants thrive with minimal inputs of pesticides, fertilizers, water, and time.

Earth-Friendly Landscaping Basics

April 24 6:30 pm
 August 14 6:30 pm

Spring Cleaning-What Every Eco-Yard Needs

April 13 9 am

Composting 101

May 18 9 am
 June 12 6:30 pm

Low Input Lawn Care

May 11 9 am
 September 7 9 am

Soil & How To Improve It

May 1 6:30 pm

Selecting and Using Native Plants Wisely

June 22 9 am

Rainwater Gardens

July 10 6:30 pm

Fall Maintenance For Earth-Friendly Home Landscaping

August 28 6:30 pm

For detailed seminar descriptions or to register, call Hennepin County Environmental Services at 612-348-9266 or visit www.co.hennepin.mn.us/environmental/household/ecoyard.html.

Minnesota Ready To Battle Gypsy Moths

Ranked as America's single most destructive pest of trees and shrubs, the gypsy moth is a serious threat to Minnesota's forested landscape. A Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) monitoring program recently detected an infestation of gypsy moths in Golden Valley, St Louis Park, and west Minneapolis. In May, the MDA will pursue treatment efforts to eradicate the moth.



Female gypsy moths on tree bark.

The 1,836-acre treatment area extends from the east side of Hwy 100 to the west side of Xerxes Ave and from the south side of Minnaqua Dr to the north side of Highwood Rd. This is the second major gypsy moth infestation detected in the metro area through the MDA's 2001 detection efforts. Last fall, it reported an infestation near Lake Harriet in southwest Minneapolis.

Last year the MDA caught a significant number of gypsy moths in the Golden Valley area. In November 2001, the MDA, the US Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and local government officials found several gypsy moth egg masses in the Golden Valley area and determined that additional management efforts are needed.

Gypsy moth egg masses are usually deposited on trees, houses, and lawn ornaments. Individual egg masses can contain between 500 and 1,000 moth eggs. These eggs hatch into caterpillars in the spring, and each caterpillar can eat up to one square foot of foliage per day. MDA Gypsy Moth Coordinator Kimberly Thielen Cremers attributes the Golden Valley infestation to the moths' habit of traveling as a stowaway.

"The gypsy moth does not spread quickly on its own," Thielen Cremers says. "Unfortunately, people often unwittingly help the moth spread by giving it a free ride into new territory. In an infested area, the moths' egg masses can be deposited on any solid surface, such as camping gear, vehicle tires, and railroad cars."

Since the turn of the century, the gypsy moth has slowly spread westward from New England, injuring trees and dropping property values along the way. The moth is now common in Wisconsin but is not yet established in Minnesota. The MDA conducts an annual trapping program to monitor for the presence of gypsy moth populations. When a sizable start-up population is detected, the state moves in to eradicate it.

Given the destructive potential of this pest, the MDA works hard to eradicate start-up populations before they have a chance to spread. To date, the Department has eradicated more than 50 start-up infestations on more than 1,500 acres around the state.

The MDA held an informational meeting in St Louis Park in February 2002 for residents who live in or near the infested area to discuss implications of the infestation. For more information about gypsy moths, call the MDA's Gypsy Moth Hotline at 651-296-MOTH (Metro) or 1-888-545-MOTH (greater Minnesota). Additional gypsy moth information is also available on the MDA website at www.mda.state.mn.us.



Gypsy moth caterpillars sport five pairs of raised blue spots and six pairs of raised brick-red spots.

Phosphorous Free

The promise of spring, along with hopes for lush, green lawns, inspires a friendly reminder that Golden Valley is phosphorous free. Since most Golden Valley soil is rich in phosphorous, no additional phosphorous is necessary to keep lawns green. More importantly, the excess phosphorous eventually ends up in our surface water and can significantly impact water quality.

To help improve the quality of surface water in Golden Valley, the City Council passed two amendments to the City Code last year. One prohibits the use of fertilizers containing phosphorous. The other establishes licensing requirements for commercial lawn fertilizer applicators.

For more information on these ordinance amendments or yard maintenance, click to the City web site at www.ci.goldenvalley.mn.us or call Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046.



Yellow Mocassin Flower at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, by Sharyn Kastner Danielson, Views of the Valley 1993.

Views of the Valley Celebrates 10th Year With Something New

For the past nine years, Golden Valley residents have enthusiastically participated in the City's annual *Views of the Valley* photo contest. The impressive array of photo entries has documented their love affair with Golden Valley's nature areas, parks, public spaces, and community spirit. To provide a better outlet for these expressions, the 10th annual *Views of the Valley* will feature two categories for entries (see rules below).

The goal of the contest is to promote Golden Valley and civic pride in a way that's entertaining, educational, and fun. There are two ways to participate. One is to enter the contest (see rules below) by submitting your favorite photos of Golden Valley. What makes Golden Valley so special? Why is it so wonderful to live here? Everyone will have a different idea about this, and that's part of the fun. Another way to participate is to vote for your favorite photo in the "People's Choice" award category. Details about "People's Choice" voting will be published in the May/June issue of *CityNews*.

Rules

- You must be a Golden Valley resident.
- Submit photos in one of two categories: Natural Golden Valley (landscapes, flora, fauna, etc), or Golden Valley Lifestyle (cityscapes, buildings, people, activities, etc).
- Submit color or black-and-white 5 x 7 photos (no slides).
- Enter up to three photos. Include complete entry information for each (see form at left). All photographs submitted must be your own work.
- Deadline is June 7, 2002, 4:30 pm.**

Overall grand prize is \$100. Winners of each category will receive \$50. Winning photos will be published in *CityNews* and the City web site and reproduced for permanent display in City Hall. Winners will also receive certificates of appreciation at a City Council meeting. All entries will be displayed in City Hall. Winners will be notified by June 28.

Eloise Butler Garden To Host Mother's Day Open House

Since Mother's Day is a peak time for blooms in the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, and since the Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc, is celebrating its 50th anniversary, the group decided the time is right to host an open house at the garden Sunday, May 12, from 2 - 4 pm. The event will include activities for the whole family.

The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, which is right next door to Golden Valley in Wirth Park, is open April 1 through October 1. Entrance is just off Theodore Wirth Pkwy between Hwy 55 and I-394 (close to the Glenwood Ave intersection).

Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc, is a nonprofit organization of private citizens. For more information about other events at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, call a Minneapolis Park Board naturalist at 612-370-4903.

Photo Contest Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Title of Photo: _____

Day Phone: _____ Age (if under 18): _____

Category: Natural Golden Valley Golden Valley Lifestyle

I agree to let the City of Golden Valley publish my photo(s) in City publications with proper credit.

Signature: _____

All photo entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and will not be returned.

Mail or drop off complete entries to *Photo Contest, City of Golden Valley, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427*. City employees and their families are not eligible to enter. Questions? Need more entry blanks? Call 763-593-8004. Want to see past winners? Check the web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community.

Ready to Play? Register Online With *GV Rec Connect*

The City of Golden Valley offers an extensive array of park and recreation programs for people of all ages. You can now register for these programs online through *GV Rec Connect*, the Park and Recreation Department's latest customer service feature and the newest addition to the City web site.

Online registration began March 13 with the activities listed in the City's 2002 Spring/Summer Recreation Activities brochure (which began arriving in all Golden Valley homes the week of March 11). All activities are also listed on the City web site under "Park and Recreation Programs." *GV Rec Connect* accepts registrations up to the first day of the activity or

until it is full. The few activities not available for online registration are noted on the web site.

Online registration is easy (see box above for details). For security purposes and to expedite the online registration process, family ID and PIN numbers have been mailed to anyone who registered for a Golden Valley activity in the last two years. *If you don't have these numbers, call the Park and Recreation Department at 763-512-2345.*

As the City begins online registration, your comments and suggestions will be appreciated. Click on *Contact Us* in the upper right screen of the City web site, or call Cheryl Weiler, Communications Coordinator, at 763-593-8004. For more information about Park and Recreation programs or online registration, call 763-512-2345. 

Park & Rec News

Summer Employment—The Golden Valley Park and Recreation Department is taking applications through April for recreation leaders, coaches, tennis instructors, field attendants, park maintenance workers, and golf operations workers. For more information, call 763-512-2345.

Spring/Summer Recreation Brochure—The Spring/Summer Recreation Brochure, which includes information for Fall Soccer, was mailed to all residents in mid-March. If you have not received one, call 763-512-2345.

Special Notice—Beginning with activities in the Spring/Summer Brochure, the Park and Recreation Department will no longer mail registration confirmations unless specifically requested.

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

Online Registration

- ✓ Gather your credit card information (Mastercard or VISA only) and your individual family ID and PIN numbers. *If you don't have these numbers, call the Park and Recreation Department at 763-512-2345.*
- ✓ Log on to the City web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us. Click on "Parks, Recreation, & Leisure," then "Park & Recreation Programs" (bookmark this page for future use). Follow the instructions on this page to start the online registration process.

A Few Tips

Check out our *GV Rec Connect* online tutorial, which will walk you through the process before you start. The fastest way to register is to use the activity code numbers, which are listed with each activity in the Activities Brochure or on the web site. Browse the selections, write down the code numbers, then enter *GV Rec Connect* to register.

Mr Yuk Retires

Mr Yuk, a symbol associated with poison control for years, is being retired from active duty after a long and distinguished career of public service. In his place, the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) has set up a nationwide toll-free number (1-800-222-1222) that connects callers to the nearest poison control center. All other numbers used to contact Minnesota Poison Control System will work during the transition but will be slowly phased out.

The AAPCC is working in conjunction with other public safety organizations, like the Golden Valley Fire Department, to remind adults that having your child's actual weight available in case of poisoning will aid proper treatment. Twice a year, when you change your smoke detector batteries, weigh your children and update your records for poison control.

For more information on poison control, visit www.aapcc.org. Golden Valley's local poison control center is Hennepin Regional Poison Center, Hennepin County Medical Center, 701 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55415.



City Meetings

Council/Manager Meeting Time Change:

2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm (or after the 7 pm HRA meeting is finished). This informal workshop session with City Council and staff used to be at 5:30 pm.

City Council: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. Call 763-593-8006 for details.

Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA): 2nd Tuesday at 7 pm. Call 763-593-8002 for details.

Agendas are posted on the City web site as they are completed. For the latest, click to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us, then click "What's New," then "Meeting Agendas and Minutes."

City Continues Pool/Golf Exchange With St Louis Park

Summer is coming, and the Cities of Golden Valley and St Louis Park are gearing up for their annual pool/golf exchange program. Each summer, Golden Valley residents can enjoy St Louis Park's aquatic center by purchasing season passes at St Louis Park resident rates. In exchange, St Louis Park residents can purchase patron cards at Brookview Golf Course at the resident rate and with the same benefits. The exchange is a cooperative agreement approved by the Golden Valley and St Louis Park City Councils.

St Louis Park's outdoor family aquatic center is located at 2700 Monterey Dr, just east of Hwy 100 and Target. Scheduled to be open June 6 through September 2, it features a 300-foot water slide, a 275-foot inner tube ride, six-lane pool, two drop slides, and a one-meter diving board. There is also a large shallow water play area with zero-depth entry, water playground featuring amenities such as geysers and a tot water slide, a wet sand play area, outdoor beach volleyball courts, a concession area, and locker rooms. Hours are 11 am - 8 pm, Monday - Friday and 11 am - 7 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Daily admission is \$6.50 (ages 6 - 54) and \$4 (under age 6, age 55+, or after 5 pm). Infants under age one get in free. For more information, call St Louis Park Recreation at 952-924-2540.

Use the form below to purchase a season pass, or contact St Louis Park Recreation at 952-924-2540. Separate passes are required for each person over the age of one.

Season Pass Application

St Louis Park Aquatic Park

Mail this form with payment to SLP Parks and Recreation, 3700 Monterey Drive, St Louis Park, MN 55416, or fax to 952-925-5663. Season passes will be mailed back to you.

Name _____
 Street _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Personal Check: \$ _____ Check # _____
Checks payable to City of St. Louis Park

Credit Card Charge: \$ _____ to my VISA/
 Mastercard
 Account # _____
 Exp. Date: _____
 Card Holder's Signature: _____
 Date Received: _____ Received by: _____ Issued: _____

Learn to swim programs are available through the Cities of Crystal (763-531-0052) and New Hope (763-531-5100) and through the Community Education Departments of the Hopkins (952-933-9248), Robbinsdale (763-535-1790), and St Louis Park (952-928-6780) School Districts.

For more information about the pool/golf exchange, call Golden Valley Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345. 

Received by May 1, 2002

Circle the fee for each pass holder

First and last name of EACH pass holder:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

	Regular	Tot	Senior	Twilight
	Ages 6-54	Ages 1-5	Ages 55+	After 5 pm
1.	\$34	\$30	\$18	\$18
2.	\$34	\$30	\$18	\$18
3.	\$34	\$30	\$18	\$18
4.	\$34	\$30	\$18	\$18
5.	\$34	\$30	\$18	\$18
6.	\$34	\$30	\$18	\$18

Received after May 1, 2002

Circle the fee for each pass holder

	Regular	Tot	Senior	Twilight
	Ages 6-54	Ages 1-5	Ages 55+	After 5 pm
1.	\$44	\$40	\$28	\$28
2.	\$44	\$40	\$28	\$28
3.	\$44	\$40	\$28	\$28
4.	\$44	\$40	\$28	\$28
5.	\$44	\$40	\$28	\$28
6.	\$44	\$40	\$28	\$28

Property Tax 101: The Levy and the City Tax Base

Over the past few weeks, most property owners received their 2002 property tax statements from Hennepin County. Several factors determine the amount of your property tax, including the property's 2001 estimated market value, changes in class rates, and tax levies adopted by the City, County, and school districts late in 2001. This article will focus on Golden Valley's tax levy and tax base.

City Tax Levy

The City tax levy is made up of two parts: the general fund levy and the debt service levy (see Table 1). The general fund levy is the amount of money needed to balance the City's general fund budget (see Table 2 at right). In 2002, the general fund levy will provide about 68.3% of the revenue in the City's general

fund budget, which accounts for basic City services such as street maintenance, police, fire, park and recreation, etc.

The amount of the general fund levy is determined as part of the City's annual budgeting process and is

Table 1. City Tax Levy

General Fund Levy	\$ 7,947,120
Debt Service Levy	<u>2,735,000</u>
Total	\$10,682,120

certified for collection after a public hearing in December of each year.

The debt service levy is the amount of money needed to pay the *annual* principal and interest (debt service) on municipal bonds. These bonds were issued previously by the City to finance major capital improvement projects that were too expensive to finance out of the general fund in a given year. They are paid off over a number of years at an interest rate determined at the time of sale. The majority of Golden Valley's debt service levy is related to the annual street improvement bonds issued to finance the City's ongoing Pavement Manage-

ment Program. The debt service on these bonds is also financed, in part, from special assessments against benefiting properties.

City Tax Base

The City's tax base is the total of the

Table 3. 2002 City Tax Base

Property Type	Tax Base	%
Residential	\$12,879,548	61.7%
Commercial / Industrial	6,486,493	31.1%
Apartments	1,212,445	5.8%
Other	<u>303,508</u>	<u>1.4%</u>
Total	\$20,881,994	100.0%

individual tax bases of all *taxable* property in the City (see Table 3).

Class rates (see Table 4) are percentages set by the State legislature for different classes of property. Golden Valley has four major classes of property. To calculate the tax base of an individual property, multiply its market value (MV) by the appropriate class rate.

The January/February *CityNews* outlined how cities calculate tax on a residential property. One of the key factors in this formula is a City's tax rate (see Table 5), which is calculated by dividing its tax levy by its tax base.

Table 2. City's General Fund Budget

2002 Budgeted Revenue

Tax Levy	\$ 7,947,120
Licenses	146,725
Permits	750,000
Federal & State Grants	59,435
Charges for Services	1,690,150
Fines & Forfeitures	275,000
Interest on Investments	325,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	236,570
Transfers In	210,000
Fund Balance	<u>284,895</u>
Total Revenue	\$11,924,895

2002 Budgeted Expenditures

General Government	\$ 896,845
Administrative Services	1,205,410
General Government Buildings	618,760
Planning	259,450
Public Safety	4,711,640
Public Works	2,503,245
Parks & Recreation	891,645
Casualty Insurance	217,900
Transfers Out	<u>620,000</u>
Total Expenditures	\$11,924,895*

*City budgets have to balance, so total budgeted expenditures for 2002 equal \$11,924,895.

Table 4. Class Rates

Property	Class Rate
Residential - Homestead	1%
Commercial/Industrial	1.5% of first \$150,000 of MV; 2% of remaining MV
Apartments	1.8%

Table 5. 2002 City Tax Rate

2002 City Levy / City Tax Base = City Tax Rate		
\$10,682,120	/	\$20,881,994 = 51.15%

(Property Tax continued on page 11)

Wet Your Line, Not Wait in Line

Going fishing? Beat the rush before opening day and get your license(s) now.



Hook, Line, and... Licenses

Both fishing and watercraft licenses are available at the Motor Vehicle Licensing Center in Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Rd.

You can reach the Motor Vehicle Licensing Center's 24-hour information line at 763-593-8101.

Property Tax

(continued from page 10)

Tax Burden Shift

If there is a significant change in the relationship between the total tax bases of various property classes, there will be a *shift* in tax burden between those classes. The relationship between property classes can change for a number of reasons, including a legislative change in class rates and market value increases for one class that aren't matched by the other classes. Because this shifting of tax burden will have a major impact on residential property taxes in 2003, we will review it closely in the May/June *CityNews*. If you have questions about property taxes or the City budget, contact the City Finance Director at 763-593-8012.

Don Taylor, Finance Director

Warm Weather Requires Tighter Home Security

Inevitably, when the weather gets warmer, the crime rate starts to increase. Please take a few minutes to review the reminders below. Many of you know what precautions to take, but how many of you actually follow through? Here are several to consider:

- Close and lock the overhead garage door when you are not in or near the garage.
- Close and lock windows at night and when you are not at home.
- Consider "pinning" your windows for extra security (for double hung windows only).
- Don't leave bikes unattended, even in the front yard or open garage.
- ALWAYS roll up car windows and lock car doors, even if you are "just running in for minute."
- When walking or riding your bike alone, carry a whistle or some kind of noisemaker to attract attention if needed.
- Lock your front doors when working in the back yard (and vice versa).
- If you are going on an extended vacation, remember to have a trusted neighbor check on your house. Have someone water outdoor plants and mow the lawn.
- If you come home and suspect a burglary, go to a neighbor's immediately and call 911. DO NOT go into your house.
- Keep ladders inside to prevent use in reaching high windows that might be left open.
- Light up the outside of your house from dusk until dawn.
- Call 911 whenever you see or hear something suspicious. If possible, get the license number from vehicles and the direction of travel.

For more information about home security, call the Crime Prevention Unit at 763-593-8058.

Joanne Paul, Crime Prevention Specialist

Crime Prevention

Golden Valley's Neighborhood Watch program and its e-mail crime alerts and tips program are two ways to keep informed about crime and crime prevention in your community.

To receive Golden Valley crime alerts via e-mail, call 763-593-8058 or e-mail gvcrimealerts@ci.golden-valley.mn.us. Please provide the following information: name (and business name, if applicable), address, telephone number, and e-mail address

For more information about Neighborhood Watch, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 763-593-8058 or email jpaul@ci.golden-valley.mn.us

Run The Valley Supports Human Services

Sign up now for the eighth annual *Run the Valley*, sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF). The 5K and 10K race and 5K walk will be Saturday, April 20, at 8:30 am. Start and finish will be near the Brookview Park parking lot (one block south of Hwy 55 and Winnetka Ave at Brookview Parkway), and the certified course runs a relatively flat loop through residential Golden Valley.



Register by mail (mailed registrations must be received by Wednesday, April 17—no faxes will be accepted). You may also register on-line at www.active.com or in person before April 17 at Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road (8 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday). Registrations will be accepted on race day at Brookview Park between 7:30 and 8:15 am. Entry fee is \$15 before \$20 after April 17.

The GVHSF was established by the City of Golden Valley to provide financial support for organizations that benefit human services for the residents of Golden Valley. Revenue is generated or received from fund-raising events, a portion of charitable gaming proceeds, and private donations. The GVHSF distributes 100% of funds raised to causes directly benefiting the community. These include the Home Free Shelter, YMCA Detached Work Program, Suburban Northwest Dinner at Your Door, PRISM, Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Crisis Connection, and Senior Community Services.

Corporate sponsors for this year's event are Liberty Carton, Allianz, and Lupient Foundation. Other sponsors include Byerly's, Cable 12, Golden Valley Country Club, Golden Valley Rotary, Einstein Bagels, Perrier Group of America, Super America Golden Valley, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait.

For more information about *Run the Valley* or to get a registration form, call 763-593-8010. 

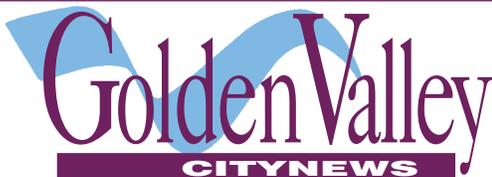
Laura Davies Wins *Run the Valley* T-Shirt Design Contest

Laura Davies, a freelance designer who lives and works in Golden Valley, won the third annual *Run the Valley* T-Shirt Design Contest. Each year the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF)

provides *Run The Valley* (see story at left) participants with a T-shirt to commemorate the event. The design is changed annually, and the design process is open to the community.

GVHSF members selected the winning design arbitrarily (no ranking system was used) by consensus. The only criteria were that the design be colorful, eye-catching, and unique and incorporate either the City of Golden Valley logo or the name "Golden Valley Human Services Foundation." The design (shown above) will be printed in three-color silk screen on white cotton, long sleeve t-shirts.

Davies is the proprietor of Davies Design. For winning, she was awarded 10 T-shirts printed with her design. GVHSF retains sole ownership of the winning design and permission to reuse it when so desired. To see the winning design in color, log on to the City website at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley. 



Golden Valley
CITYNEWS

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