

Golden Valley

CityNEWS

2003 PMP Will Be In The Brookview Area

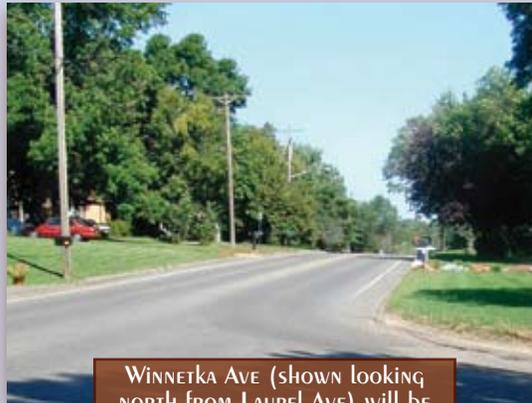
For the 2003 street construction season, Golden Valley's Pavement Management Program (PMP) will move to the vicinity of Laurel Ave and Winnetka Ave. Called the Brookview Neighborhood Project, it includes streets in the area bounded by I-394 on the south, Harold Ave on the north, Jersey Ave on the east, and General Mills Blvd on the west. It also includes the neighborhood located south of Hwy 55 and west of General Mills Blvd as well as the neighborhood south of I-394 and west of Winnetka Ave S. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2003 and continue through the summer of 2004.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The scope of this \$18 million project includes street and parking lot reconstruction, sidewalk and trail reconstruction, landscaping, storm sewer installation, storm water pond construction and enhancements, limited water main replacement, and limited repair and replacement of sanitary sewer.

To calm traffic on Winnetka Ave, medians with and without landscaping will be installed on Winnetka north of Western Ave along with roadway narrowing and landscaping on Winnetka. Additional traffic calming measures will be made on Laurel and Western Avenues.

(2003 PMP continued page 8)



WINNETKA AVE (SHOWN LOOKING NORTH FROM LAUREL AVE) WILL BE RECONSTRUCTED IN SUMMER 2003.

ATTENTION Split-ENTRY DWELLERS

Do you live in a split-level or split-entry home? What do you like about it? What do you dislike? What would you change?

A group of Twin Cities communities is preparing a planbook full of ideas for remodeling, improving, and updating split-level and split-entry homes. They're currently soliciting input for their project and want to hear from people who live in these homes.

To share your ideas, log on to www.split-level.com. Thoughts posted on the web site will be included in the final book, *Split Visions: A Planbook of Remodeling Ideas for Split-Level and Split-Entry Homes*, which will be published in spring 2003. Hundreds of visitors have already posted their unique thoughts and experiences.

The book is a joint project of 14 Twin Cities suburbs and counties. It is a follow-up to *Cape Cods and Ramblers: A Remodeling Planbook for Post WWII Houses*, which was published several years ago and offered existing floor plans, three-dimensional sketches of the remodeled space, and tips to ensure the finished product fit with the original architecture.

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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The City Council is seeking citizens interested in becoming more active in their city government by volunteering to serve on one of Golden Valley's Advisory Boards and Commissions.

Advisory Boards and Commissions recommend policy to the City Council and advise the Council on a variety of diverse issues (see list below).

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (BZA)

Meets monthly, fourth Tuesday, 7 pm.

BUILDING BOARD OF REVIEW (BBR)

Meets monthly, first and third Mondays, 8 pm.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC)

Meets annually and on call.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (EC)

Meets monthly, fourth Monday, 7 pm.

GOLDEN VALLEY HUMAN SERVICES FOUNDATION (GVHSF)

Meets monthly, second Monday, 7 pm, and requires additional time commitment for planning and working at fund-raisers.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC)

Meets monthly, second Thursday, 7 pm.

NORTHWEST HENNEPIN HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMISSION (NHHSCAC)

Meets monthly, third Thursday, 7 pm.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION COMMISSION (OS&RC)

Meets monthly, fourth Monday, 7 pm.

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC)

Meets monthly, second and fourth Mondays, 7 pm.

You must be a resident of Golden Valley to apply. Detailed information and applications are available on the City web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/boards.htm) or by calling Judy Nally at 763-593-3991.

2003 Is Beginning of End For Limited Market Value

Over the next several years, many homeowners will see increases in their residential property tax as the state gradually phases out the limited market value program. This legislation limits the percentage increase that can be applied to the market value of a residential property, in a given year, for tax purposes.

Because of the limited market value legislation, each residential property tax statement includes two market value amounts. One is the "estimated market value," which is equal to the actual market value of the property as determined by the County Assessor. The other is the "taxable market value" (also called the limited market value), which is used to determine the current property taxes on the property.

In 2001, lawmakers extended the limited market value legislation for five more years and established a schedule for its phase-out (see box at right). For taxes payable in 2003, the percentage increase in market value is limited to 10%. Therefore, even if the actual value of a property increased 15%, only a 10% increase would be used for tax purposes.

The difference, or "gap," between actual and limited values doesn't disappear. It is just deferred to later years. Since the market values of residential property have been increasing so dramatically in recent years, the gap for most properties has also been increasing.

The planned phase-out schedule means that most residential properties will see double digit increases in market value for awhile, even if the real estate market starts leveling off, because the deferred, or gap, values will start hitting the books. And when residential values increase at a faster rate than commercial/industrial values, there is a shift in tax burden to residential property. (For a basic primer on property tax issues, click to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/taxes/propertytaxes.) This will be the situation over at least the next few years.

For more information about limited market values, contact Finance Director Don Taylor at 763-593-8012. For basic information on how the property tax system works, click to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/taxes.htm.

Don Taylor, Finance Director

Limited Market Value PHASE-OUT SCHEDULE

Tax Year	Maximum Percentage Increase
2003	10%
2004	12%
2005	15%
2006	15%
2007	15%
2008	Unlimited

City Council

APPROVES 2003 BUDGET

At its December 17, 2002 meeting, City Council adopted the City's 2003 budget and certified a net property tax levy of \$10,994,570 to finance it.

A complete copy of the City's 2003 adopted budget is available for review at City Hall and at the Golden Valley Library. If you have questions about the budget, contact the Finance Department at 763-593-8012 or 763-593-8010.

Get Ready to Run The Valley April 12

Mark your calendar for 8:30 am, Saturday, April 12 to participate in one of Golden Valley's hottest community events, the ninth annual *Run the Valley*. Sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF), this annual 5K/10K race and 5K walk has become a successful fund-raiser for organizations that benefit the community. The 2002 event drew 620 runners and walkers and raised \$8,345 for the GVHSF, which allocated the funds to local human service organizations.



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. Water stops and post-race complimentary snacks will be provided. All participants receive a long-sleeve T-shirt.

For registration materials, call 763-593-8010. Register in person or by mail (no faxes) up to three days before the race at Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Rd (hours: 8 am - 4:30 pm). You may also register on-line at www.active.com or in person at Brookview Park on race day between 7:30 and 8:15 am. Entry fee is \$15 before April 9 and \$20 the day of the race.

For more details about *Run the Valley* and the GVHSF, watch for the next issue of *CityNews*, click to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley.htm, or call 763-593-8010.

help recognize CARING YOUTH

Area youth in grades seven through 12 who contribute to their communities by helping others will be honored March 18, 2003 at the eighth annual *Caring Youth Recognition*. The event, which will be held at Hopkins City Hall, is a collaborative effort between the Cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, and Minnetonka, Hopkins District 270, and Minnetonka District 276.



Caring Youth recognizes youth in grades seven through 12 who are unselfishly involved in a cause or situation that benefits others, who demonstrate caring by reaching out to others, or whose day-to-day life-styles reflect uncommon concern for others.

The *Caring Youth Recognition* event supports the attitude of giving without the expectation of reward or recognition. As part of the February *We Love Our Kids* Month activities, the *Caring Youth* event recognizes these young citizens' outstanding contributions to the community.

In early January 2003, the sponsors began soliciting *Caring Youth Recognition* nominations from schools, the faith community, civic and service organizations, and the community at large. Past recipients have included youth living, working, going to school, and serving as volunteers in Golden Valley, Hopkins, and Minnetonka.

For more information on the program, or if you know a deserving youth and would like to nominate him or her for this recognition, please contact Golden Valley City Council Member Jan LeSuer (763-595-0721) or Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler (763-593-8004).

RUN THE VALLEY T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Each year the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) provides *Run The Valley* participants with a T-shirt to commemorate the event. The design is changed annually, and the process is open to the community.

PARAMETERS

The GVHSF seeks a colorful, eye-catching, and unique graphic design for the T-shirt. There is no particular message to convey, and the use of humor is welcomed. While the designer chooses the content, either the City of Golden Valley logo or the name "Golden Valley Human Services Foundation" must appear in the design. The GVHSF reserves the right to add these features to the design.

SPECIFICATIONS

The winning design will be printed in three-color silk screen (two colors are acceptable if it better suits the design) on an all-white, long-sleeve, cotton T-Shirt. The designer chooses the colors. There are no color requirements for the Golden Valley logo or Golden Valley Human Services Foundation lettering. Submit design in camera-ready format for use by the printer (color separations preferred). The GVHSF handles all printing. The designer may proof the printing, if desired.

JUDGING AND AWARDS

The winning design is selected arbitrarily (no ranking system is used) by GVHSF members and possibly City staff. The selected printing company is asked for input regarding the mechanics in printing particular designs. The winning designer (or designers) are awarded 10 T-shirts after printing and are acknowledged in *Golden Valley CityNews* and the *Sun-Post* newspaper. GVHSF retains sole ownership of the winning design and permission to reuse it whenever desired.

DEADLINE

Submit entries by 4:30 pm Friday, February 7, 2003.

Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week—Pick-Up Date
 Memorial Day—Sat, May 31
 Independence Day—Sat, July 5
 Labor Day—Sat, September 6
 Thanksgiving—Sat, Nov 29
 Christmas—Sat, Dec 27
 New Year's—Sat, Jan 3



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

24-Hour Recycling Info-Line

Features 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.

Keep The Cycle In Recycling

Recycling is a three-step process, and Minnesotans are strong on the first two steps—sorting used products and getting them out for collection. But we have a way to go when it comes to the final step in recycling—purchasing products made with recycled content. All recycled paper, plastic, metals, and glass are made into everyday products and packages available on the market. To help keep the “cycle” in recycling, there is just one thing left to do—*buy them*.

Buying recycled products is important because it gives value to the materials collected. The basic equation of economics is value equals demand. Demand for recyclable materials is created when people purchase products made with recycled paper, metals, plastics, and glass. Without demand for the recycled products, recycling fails.

One hindrance to buying recycled is the perception that recycled-content products are inferior in quality. In reality, these products are of the same quality, reliability, and dependability and undergo the same testing and performance documentation of new materials. Further, while it was once difficult to find recycled items, these products are now available everywhere and are competitively priced or less expensive than new material products.

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE BUYING

Most recycled-content products are labeled as having *pre-consumer* or *post-consumer* content. Pre-consumer content means the product contains used waste material that never made it into the marketplace (ie, paper scraps at a paper mill). Post-consumer content is material that has been used at least once. This is the preferred type of recycled content. *Recovered material* refers to waste material and by-products that have been recovered or diverted from solid waste.

Types of Recycled Products

Consumers already buy many recycled content products and don't even know it. For instance, most tissue products are made from recycled paper, and most cereal boxes are made from 100% recycled paperboard. Many name brands use post-consumer plastic in bottles. Nearly every steel product (like soup cans) has recycled steel in it. Asphalt, concrete, and the metal in new cars are all also highly recycled products (see list below for more).

Residents 18 years and older may pick up or drop off, at no charge, items designated for reuse by Hennepin County. Oil-based paints and stains, adhesives and glues, cleaners, latex paints and stains, and automobile products (such as motor oil and filters) are available at Free Product Centers in Bloomington (South Hennepin Recycling & Problem Waste Drop Off Center, 1400 West 96th St) and Brooklyn Park (Hennepin County Recycling Center & Transfer Station, 8100 Jefferson Highway).

Tina Perpich, Communications Assistant

recycled-content PRODUCTS

- Office Equipment & Supplies
- Home Furnishings & Decorating
- Recreation & Sporting Goods
- Kitty Litter
- Packing & Shipping Supplies
- Automobile Parts
- Building, Construction, Gardening, Yard, & Landscaping Supplies
- Manufacturing Supplies
- Grocery Packaging
- Toys & Gifts
- Clothing
- Sign Materials

EPA Requires Expanded Storm Water Program

For the past two years, the City of Golden Valley has published information in this newsletter and on the City web site as part of an initiative to educate the public about storm water as mandated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Now, with the emergence of a federal mandate from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) called the Storm Water Phase II Final Rule, residents can expect an expanded public education effort.

STORM WATER PHASE II FINAL RULE

Unfunded mandates (federal or state directives that don't include a funding source) have been coming down the river, so to speak, to improve water quality in the United States since the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972. In 1990, Phase I of the EPA's storm water program required medium-to-large municipalities, such as Minneapolis and St Paul, to implement programs and practices to control polluted storm water run-off.

To further reduce adverse impacts to water quality, the EPA's Phase II mandate requires smaller municipalities (population 10,000 or more) to apply for a permit by March 2003 to discharge storm water into public waterways. The permit application must develop and implement a storm water management program with six minimum control measures, including:

- public education and outreach on storm water impacts
- public involvement/participation
- illicit discharge detection and elimination
- construction site storm water runoff control
- post-construction storm water management in new development and redevelopment
- pollution prevention/good housekeeping



To meet the mandate, Golden Valley is one of more than 70 cities working with the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) to develop a Guide Plan as a tool to help prepare its Phase II permit application and satisfy the six minimum measures. Although communities can submit permit plans that exceed the minimum standards, whatever is placed in the plans must be met. The state, which will administer and enforce the permit requirements, can impose a \$10,000 per day penalty for municipalities that fail to meet the specifications of their submitted permits.

WHAT PHASE II MEANS TO GOLDEN VALLEY

Because Golden Valley implemented a comprehensive Surface Water Management Plan in 2000, the City is poised to meet the challenges of the Phase II rule. "We live in a first-ring suburb with a commitment to water quality," said Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom. "Golden Valley is about 70% in compliance already. We are way ahead of the game."

Besides receiving more information about storm water, including an annual public meeting, residents will see an increase in the storm water fee on their utility bills. This fee was adopted in 1999, when the first storm water initiatives were required. It funds implementation of water quality projects, such as street sweeping, and now requirements for the Phase II mandate.

For more information on water quality in Golden Valley or the Phase II permit, call Golden Valley's Environmental Coordinator at 763-593-8046.

Tina Perpich, Communications Assistant

Park & Rec Update

Treat yourself and your family to an upcoming Park and Recreation class.

Valentine's Day Spa—An afternoon of renewal through Yoga, Pilates, Qi Gong, meditation, and massage. Brookview. Sunday, Feb 16.

Yoga & Pilates—Brookview. Thursdays, Feb 27 - April 10.

Kid Smart-Self Defense and Safety Training—Children ages 5 - 12 learn response to 'no win' situations, escaping holds, what to say, and how to take action. Davis Center. Sunday, March 2.

Kids' Club—Games, stories, music, finger plays, arts, crafts, and more. Ages 3 - 5. Brookview. Mondays and Wednesdays, Feb 24 - April 2 or Tuesdays and Thursdays, Feb 20 - April 1.

Disney on Ice—"Princess Classics" for all ages. Target Center. Saturday, March 8.

Fundamentals of Drawing—ages 5 - 14. Brookview. Saturday, Feb 8.

Canvas Painting—ages 5 - 14. Brookview. Saturday, March 8.

Karate—ages 7 and up. Brookview. Tuesdays, March 3 - 25.

Four ways to register—in person or by mail (address below), by fax (763-512-2344), or on-line at GV Rec Connect (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/prprograms.htm).

For more information, contact:
Park & Recreation

Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Parkway
Golden Valley, MN 55426
763-512-2345

Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm

HOME IMPROVEMENT: PLAN EARLY

So you want to improve your property? Proper, and early, planning is the key to a successful home improvement project. The information on this page was developed to help your project progress as smoothly as possible.

STEP 1: DO YOUR RESEARCH

When your home improvement project is still in the idea stage, contact the City Planning Department to review setback requirements for your property (see "Lingo" box on page 7). This will tell you if there is enough room on your lot to do your project or if you have to apply for a variance (see "Lingo"). It will also help you avoid the frustration of having a contractor hired and scheduled, only to find there's not enough room for your project or it is not permitted.

Variance requests must be approved by the City's Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). Planning Department staff will help you with this process and provide you with a variance application, which must be turned in three weeks before a BZA meeting. If the variance request is denied, you can change your project or appeal the deci-

sion to the City Council. If it is approved, you proceed to the City Inspections Department for a building permit application.

Visit the City Inspections Department early in your home improvement planning stage to review your "street file," which includes information about soil conditions and all work previously done to your property. It may also include an as-built survey (see "Lingo") of your lot. Inspections staff will also provide you with a checklist of everything you'll need to do to apply for a building permit. Then, cross the hall to the Public Works Department to find out if your project requires any additional permits, such as ROW or grading (see "Common Permit Types" below).

Building permits are required for all construction and home improvement projects, whether the work is completed by you or a contractor. This includes, but is not limited to, new buildings or demolitions; remodeling, repairs, or additions; garages, swimming pools, sheds, decks, fences (more than six feet high), or porches; and re-siding, re-roofing, drain tile, and electrical revisions.

The state building code requires separate permits for different elements of remodeling projects, such as plumbing, mechanical, and electrical work. Some projects require permits

for tree preservation or for grading, drainage, and erosion control (see "Common Permit Types"). In those cases, you must obtain the necessary permits before the City will issue a building permit.

COMMON PERMIT TYPES

Electrical Permits. The City of Golden Valley requires, but does not issue, permits for electrical work. For questions on electrical inspections or permits, contact the state electrical inspector at 763-241-2102. Applications are available at Crystal and New Hope City Halls.

Grading, Drainage, and Erosion Control Permits are required for any activity that involves disturbing land by removing more than 10,000 square feet of soils or vegetation. This includes, but is not limited to, cleaning, digging, dredging, draining, or filling; installing, modifying, or expanding a building foundation wall; disturbing land within City right-of-way for more than 72 hours; installing underground utilities; or storage of borrow material. The City will not issue a building permit until after a grading, drainage, and erosion control permit is approved.

Mechanical Permits cover installation, repair, or remodeling of fireplaces, heating systems, and air conditioners.

Right-of-Way (ROW) Permits are required for work such as driveways (to dig holes, install, or restore ANY driveway within 15 feet of the street) and right-of-way work (to place fences, shrubs, trees, flower gardens, retaining walls, or lawn irrigation systems in the right-of-way between one's property and the street).

Plumbing Permits cover installation or replacement of plumbing for toilets, bathtubs, sinks, floor drains, water heaters, showers, garbage disposals, backflow preventers for underground sprinkler systems, and dishwashers. Permits are also required if you hire a plumber to make connections to the City's sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water main, or any repairs to your sanitary service.



STEP 2: APPLY FOR A BUILDING PERMIT

When it's determined that your project can proceed, submit plans and other required documentation to the Inspections Department to apply for a building permit.

It generally takes the City five to 10 working days (depending on work load) to review and approve submitted

WHY PERMITS

Permits ensure that construction provides a way for City building codes to be met and appropriate municipalities to ensure the health, sa-

KEY FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT

documents, providing the permit application is complete and accurate. If items are missing or inaccurate, the review process takes longer than it has to. Refer to the checklist supplied by the Inspections Department to make sure your application is complete. At a minimum, you will need:

- verification that the project meets setback requirements. If setbacks cannot be verified by locating your property corner stakes, you'll need an as-built survey (see "Lingo"). If setback requirements are not met, you must include a variance from the BZA.
- two sets of plans (minimum scale: 1/4 inch = 1 foot)
- soil information (if existing dwelling is on piles or corrected soil, the addition or deck foundation must meet the same design requirements)
- energy calculations on spaces that will be heated
- type of material to be used (if project is a deck)
- other required permits

STEP 3. PERMIT APPROVAL AND INSPECTION SCHEDULING

After the City approves your plans and you pay the permit fees, you will receive the building permit and a list of required inspections. Work on your project can now begin. One set of approved plans and a list of required inspections must be posted at the work site at all times.

When you receive the permits, Inspections Department staff will help you determine what inspections will be required for all phases of the work (eg, footings, framing, insulation, roofing, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, etc).

Each major phase of construction must be inspected by a City building inspector to ensure the work conforms to the building code, the building permit, and the approved plans. The person responsible for the construction project must request each inspection. Normally a minimum of 24 to 48 hours advance notice is required.

If a building inspector finds that some work does not conform to the approved plans, he or she will advise (and possibly provide written notice) that the situation is to be remedied. If the violation is serious, a stop-work order may be posted until the problem is resolved. Another inspection may be necessary before work can resume.

GETTING STARTED

To get your project started, call the following City departments:

Planning Department (763-593-8095)

Inspections Department (763-593-8090)

Public Works Department (763-593-8030).

For additional information, visit the free local Home Remodeling Fair set for February 23 ([see article on page 12 for details](#)).



LINGO

Knowing the language of home improvement can make the process easier and less confusing.

As-Built Surveys show property lines, the actual (not proposed) location of all buildings on the property, and the buildings' distance to those lines. Surveys are done to ensure that buildings are not constructed in setback areas, on City-owned property, or over property lines. A survey must be done by a registered land surveyor hired by the homeowner or contractor.

Setbacks are the minimum distance a structure can be located from each of the property's boundary lines. Buildings and structures are not allowed in the setback for the safety of the occupants. For example, if a building is not set back a certain distance from a property line, firefighters may not have access in the event of a fire, or a fire may spread more quickly if buildings are too close together.

Variations are exceptions granted by the City that allow structures to be closer to the property line than is allowed by City Code



PERMITS ARE REQUIRED

Construction in Golden Valley meets local, state, and federal building standards and codes. The permit process involves building officials and inspectors to review the design and inspect construction to ensure that minimum standards and materials are used. When a property does not comply with the codes, its value decreases. Building permits provide a way for safety, and welfare of the community and property occupants and for property owners to ensure that their investment is protected.

2003 PMP

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

For pedestrian safety, a sidewalk will be constructed on the east side of Winnetka from I-394 to Western Ave. From there the walkway will shift into Brookview Park and connect with the pedestrian bridge over Hwy 55. The Brookview Park trail will be altered to minimize the recurrent flooding. Trails on Western Ave will be reconstructed, and a new walk will be built between Jersey and Winnetka. New sidewalks on the north side of Laurel between Pennsylvania and Winnetka Avenues and on segments of the south side of Laurel, as well as a trail on Brookview Parkway between the golf course parking lot and Harold Ave, will complete the pedestrian system.

While the project is under way, residents and businesses in project areas will receive regular

BROOKVIEW POND

Construction Update newsletters from the City with current scheduling information and useful tips for coping with construction.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Traffic in the Brookview Park area has been of concern to the City and area residents since the completion of I-394. In December 1999, the City Council appointed an advisory committee of area homeowners and business representatives to study the situation and make recommendations. Six months later, the committees' reported goal was "renewing a strong sense of community," which started with "radically improving traffic conditions and pedestrian safety in the Laurel-Winnetka corridor."

Many of the advisory committee's recommendations were incorporated into the final project plans. To receive further public feedback after the proposed plans were developed, the City held a series of open houses last fall and a public hearing January 7, 2003.

For more information or if you have questions, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/pmp.htm or contact City Engineer Jeff Oliver (763-593-8030 or joliver@ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

Public Works Prepares For Pothole Season

Potholes, like dandelions, pop up in a fresh crop every year. Minnesota's pothole season usually begins around the middle of February and continues until the freeze-thaw cycle ends sometime in April. Right now, the Golden Valley Street Maintenance crew is gearing up for pothole season.

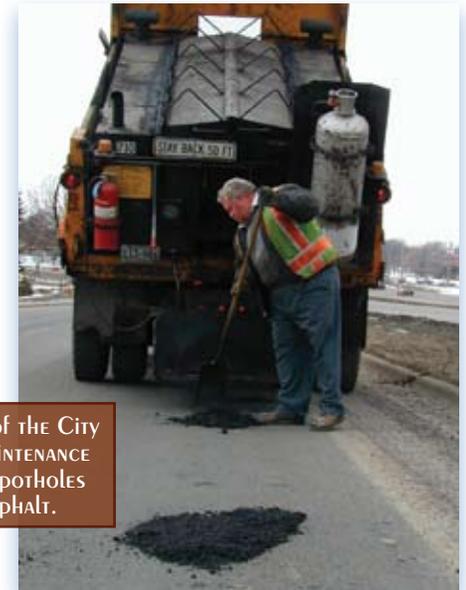
PRODUCING POTHOLES

Potholes are not random occurrences. Pavement is put through its paces during the changing temperatures of winter. As daytime temperatures begin to rise, ground surfaces thaw, allowing runoff to collect in the cracks of the pavement. At night, when temperatures often drop below freezing again, the ground and water refreeze and expand. This process breaks up the pavement. Traffic pops these broken pavement sections out, and potholes appear. Roads with high traffic volumes generally have more potholes because of the amount of use. Bridges and ramps, which are doused with snow removal chemicals all winter, also sprout numerous potholes.

REPAIRING POTHOLES

During pothole season, City maintenance crews repair potholes daily. Priority is given to heavily traveled roads, but all holes are repaired as they are detected.

During cold weather, temporary repairs are made with cold patch asphalt because hot asphalt is not available. Crew members begin by sweeping the area clean of debris. Asphalt is then placed in the hole and leveled just above the existing grade. Finally, the new asphalt is compacted into place. Unfortunately, with the cold patch materials currently available, a pothole can be repaired one day and need to be repaired again within a day or two. This is frustrating and annoying for everyone on the road as well as for City crews trying to keep up with filling the holes.



A MEMBER OF THE CITY STREET MAINTENANCE CREW fills potholes with asphalt.

PREVENTING POTHOLES

The Golden Valley Public Works Department's pothole reduction initiatives include preventive maintenance, such as monitoring sections of road most prone to potholes and other damage. Problem areas are then scheduled for repairs or resurfacing to minimize future damage. Repair techniques include permanent patching, crack filling, and sealcoating. Sealcoating, the most commonly used preventive street maintenance method, is a surface treatment that seals and protects existing pavement and adds new life but does not add significant structural strength.

Potholes are part of life in Minnesota. Help keep them under control by reporting large or deep potholes to Street Maintenance at 763-593-8082, so they can be patched as soon as possible.

If you have concerns on a county road or state highway, please call Hennepin County Public Works (763-745-7700) or the Minnesota Department of Transportation (651-582-1550). 

Frisbuoys: Inexpensive Device Aids Rescue

Minnesota was spared at least one ice-related fatality last year, thanks in part to an orange, frisbee-like device with about a \$30 price tag. The device, called a Frisbuoy, was instrumental in the Golden Valley Public Safety Department's rescue of a Golden Valley resident who fell through the ice on Sweeney Lake December 1.



Public Safety Director Bob Hernz came across the Frisbuoy in October at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Convention in Minneapolis. He immediately recognized that the device with a cord wound around the middle would be useful in the hands of a first responder when time was of the essence. By mid-November, there were Frisbuoys in each of the City's 10 squad cars.

Lucky for David Hanson. Despite the many stay-off-the-ice warnings engendered by the unseasonably warm weather in November and December, Hanson thought he was safe ice skating on Sweeney Lake. He fell through the ice about 100 yards from shore and, standing chest-high in water, found he couldn't get out. His wife, who was watching from their living room window, called 911.

Golden Valley Police Officer Joe Dutton responded to the call. On his second toss he got the Frisbuoy to Hanson, pulling him out of the water and towing him to shore on his stomach. Frisbuoys are designed to be easier to throw than ropes and lifesaving rings.



"I think the simplicity and easy use of the Frisbuoy was well demonstrated by Officer Dutton's rescue of Mr. Hanson," said Hernz. "We are always looking for equipment to better serve Golden Valley residents."

The Frisbuoy was invented in 1997 and patented in 1999 by Robert W. Hyde of Ocala, Florida. It includes 80 feet of line wound around the outside of a disc that uncoils as it spins. It is designed to keep the head of a 200-pound person above water as he or she is being pulled to safety. The bright yellow tape is designed to pull more than 300 pounds. The device is marketed to police and fire departments, as well as to boaters and people who fish.

UNSAFE ICE



The ice on the Golden Valley's storm water ponds is unsafe and should never be walked, driven, or played on.

Storm water ponds are intended to minimize flooding and to remove nutrients and other pollutants from storm water runoff. To help remove the pollutants, water is moved through the pond from inlet to outlet. This movement, along with varying water levels, can hinder solid ice formation, making the ice unstable and unsafe (see photo).

ICE SAFETY

Ice is a fascination with a lot of cold weather folks. However, differences in type and thickness of ice can mean the difference between life or death.

For skating and recreation, it is recommended that kids use one of the many ice rinks maintained by the Golden Valley Park and Recreation Department. All other ice should be checked first for safety.

The biggest safety concern is ice thickness. This can be tested using an ice chisel, ice auger, or cordless quarter-inch drill with a long bit. Local resorts or bait shops are also often aware of ice conditions.

MINIMUM ICE THICKNESS NEEDED TO:

- support a person: 4 inches
- support snowmobiles: 5 inches
- support cars: 8 to 12 inches
- support trucks: 12 to 15 inches

IF SOMEONE FALLS IN:

- stay calm
- don't run up to the hole
- throw a line of some type
- call 911
- get medical assistance

IF YOU FALL IN:

- stay calm and turn toward the direction you came from
- place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface of the ice
- work forward on the ice by kicking your feet. If the ice breaks, maintain your position and slide forward again. Once you're on the ice, don't stand; roll away from the hole until you are on solid ice.

REMEMBER:

If ice is two inches thick or less, **STAY OFF.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information on ice safety, contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at 651-296-6157 or visit the DNR web site at www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/index.html.

SENIOR STUFF

Membership Dues for the Golden Valley Seniors Program are \$5 per person. Pay now to receive 2003 calendar.

Tax Aide Program—Feb 20, March 6 and 20, and April 3, 9 – 11:30 am, Brookview. First come, first served.

Fantastic Fiesta—Feb 7, 12:30 pm, Lunch and Entertainment. Brookview.

Accent Lamp & Shade Class—Feb 10, 9:30 am, Brookview.

Defensive Driving Course—At Brookview. Four-hour refresher: Feb 21, 9 am – 1 pm; Eight-hour course: March 4 and 11, 6 - 10 pm.

Blood Pressure Screening—Feb 26, 11 am - noon, Brookview.

Special Events—Feb 20: "IRA Changes, Distributions, and More," 10 am, Brookview; Feb 21: Armchair Travelers, "Romania & Bulgaria," 1:30 pm, Country Villa; Feb 26: Continental Breakfast, "Travel Tips & Personal Safety," 9:30 am, Brookview; Feb 26: Travel With Us Pizza Party, "2003 Trips," 11:30 am, Brookview

Upcoming Trips (register early)—Feb 13: Valentine Outing; Feb 27: Church Architecture Tour; March 11: Irish Heritage Tour; April 2: "Camelot," Chanhassen Dinner Theatre

Health Insurance Help—Second Tuesday of each month, 9 am - noon, Brookview. Trained volunteer counselors help sort health insurance and Medicare forms, file insurance claims, and obtain information about Medicare supplemental or long-term care policies. Schedule in advance at 763-512-2339. Sponsored by Senior Community Services.

Computer Classes—Beginner and Intermediate: Mondays, 10 am – 12:15 pm, Brookview. Call for class schedule. For more information or to register, contact:

**Golden Valley Seniors Program
Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Parkway
Golden Valley, MN 55426
763-512-2339
8 am - 5 pm, Monday - Friday**

Preventing Vehicle Theft: A Layered Approach

If auto theft were a legalized and incorporated business, it would rank 56th among Fortune 500 companies. In Minnesota, about 49 vehicles are stolen every day. In Golden Valley, 36 cars were stolen in 2002. To avoid becoming a victim of vehicle theft, the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) recommends that you understand the facts and take a layered approach to prevention.

FAST FACTS

The highest percentage of auto thefts occur in January and July and the lowest percentage in February and April. Two-thirds occur at night. Nearly half of all stolen vehicles are not locked, and 20% have keys in the ignition. Most stolen vehicles are at least four years old or one of the "Top 10" (see box at below).

LAYERS OF PROTECTION

No vehicle or anti-theft device is 100% theft-proof; however, time is a thief's greatest enemy. An experienced auto thief needs only seven seconds and a screwdriver to break into a vehicle and less than a minute to drive away. If your car is difficult to steal, the thief will move on to an easier mark rather than be caught in the act. For the best protection, use a layered approach to prevention. The more layers you use, the more difficult the vehicle will be to steal.

First Layer—Always secure your vehicle, even if parking for brief periods, by locking all doors and closing the windows. Park in well-lit areas. Never leave keys in the ignition or the vehicle unattended and running, even if for just a few minutes.

Second Layer—Use visible or audible devices to alert thieves that your vehicle is protected before they attempt to steal it. This includes audible car alarms, steering wheel locks or steering column collars (such as The Club), or decals announcing the vehicle is in a theft deterrent program (see *Watch Your Car* below).

Third Layer—Use devices that prevent thieves from bypassing your ignition and hot wiring the vehicle, such as electronic keys, starter disablers, fuse cut-offs, and vehicle immobilizers (which interrupt starter, ignition, and fuel systems).

Fourth Layer—Use a tracking system that emits a signal to police or a monitoring station when the vehicle is reported stolen. These systems are very effective in helping authorities recover stolen vehicles.

WATCH YOUR CAR PROGRAM

The goal of this free theft deterrent program is to make your vehicle a less desirable target. Vehicle owners sign an agreement stating their vehicle is not normally operated between 1 - 5 am, and *Watch Your Car* decals are displayed on the vehicle to warn would-be thieves. If police observe the vehicle being driven anywhere in the US during these hours, they may stop the vehicle and verify ownership.

For more information on crime in Golden Valley or the *Watch Your Car* program, contact the GV Crime Prevention Unit at 763-593-8058 or jpaul@ci.golden-valley.mn.us. 

Top Ten STOLEN VEHICLES IN MN

Toyota Camry
Oldsmobile Cutlass/Supreme/Ciera
Honda Civic
Honda Accord
Chevrolet Blazer
Buick LeSabre
Ford Taurus
Oldsmobile Delta 88/Royale
Chevrolet Full Size C/K Pick-up
Jeep Cherokee/Grand Cherokee

Seniors Must Heed Home Safety Issues

At the dawn of the new millennium, 35 million Americans (one in eight) were age 65 or older. This growing population is expected to double over the next 30 years as the baby boom generation ages, and by 2030, 20% of Americans will be considered senior citizens. Although today's seniors are often healthy and active, safety issues become an increasingly important consideration in everyday life. Two common home safety issues involve fall-related injuries and hypothermia.

PREVENTING FALLS

Seniors have a 33% chance of falling in any year and are five times more likely to be hospitalized for a fall-related injury than any other injury. To help prevent falls in your home, follow these recommended safety tips:

- Keep floors and walkways clear of clutter, cords, and spills. Make sure floors are completely dry and not sticky, and remove small throw rugs.
- Keep living spaces well-lit and use night lights in bedrooms, bathrooms, stairways, and hallways. Install light switches at the top and bottom of stairs and at both ends of hallways.
- If you must use stairs, mark edges with fluorescent tape. Install handrails on all stairways and grab bars next to toilets and in tubs and showers, and use non-slip tub and shower mats.
- Organize cabinets and closets so items are accessible without use of a stool.
- Wear shoes with good support and thin non-slip soles.
- Always give yourself time to adjust to new medications and eyeglass prescriptions, and check with your pharmacist or doctor or if you have any adverse reactions.

If you fall, don't panic. Tuck your body, lift your head, and don't try to break the fall with a hand. Assess the situation and determine if you are hurt. If you can't get up, call for help. If you are alone, crawl slowly to the telephone and call 911.

HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia is a less common but often overlooked problem. It is marked by body temperatures below 96 degrees and can cause irregular heartbeat leading to heart failure and even death. Although cold weather is generally risky, senior citizens' living conditions, medications, and health issues may foster hypothermia in milder climates as well.

To avoid hypothermia, make sure your home is weatherized. Local agencies can help you do this. Again, discuss the effects of medications with your doctor. Certain medicines, including ones for anxiety, depression, or nausea, and over-the-counter cold remedies, can increase the risk of accidental hypothermia. Medical conditions, such as hypothyroidism, strokes, severe arthritis, and Parkinson's disease, can also affect the way your body deals with the cold.

If you notice any signs of hypothermia (confusion, sleepiness, slowed or slurred speech, shallow breathing, weak pulse or low blood pressure, a change of behavior or how you look during cold weather, excessive shivering or no shivering, stiffness in arms and legs, or poor control over body movement or slow reactions) during the cold weather season, contact a health care professional immediately. 

CARING FOR Older People

About five million Americans care for an aging parent, a figure that is expected to double in the next 20 years. The following tips are from the National Safety Council.

Conduct a Home Safety Evaluation—Have a physical or occupational therapist evaluate the home for safety.

Plan Ahead—Consider options before your parents' health deteriorates. Talk about their preferences and finances.

Pay Attention—Watch how your parents perform basic activities. Problems with personal hygiene, dressing, meal preparation, and shopping can be signs they need assistance.

Talk About Finances—Examine your parents' savings accounts, medical insurance, or supplemental insurance for expenses not covered under Medicare. Have them update wills with a power of attorney for finances (allowing a designated person to make decisions) and an advanced directive (living will).

Consider Nonprofessional Help—Church groups and other community service organizations, such as Meals on Wheels, are often a good source for volunteer visits, cleaning, yard work, or rides.

Hold a Family Conference—Include as many members of the immediate family as possible and the person involved, even if they are unable to actively participate, before making any decisions. Respect your parents' wishes for as long as possible.

Ask Questions—Before deciding to place an aging relative in a facility, ask a lot of questions. An informative source on nursing facilities is the quality assessment survey of nursing homes published by the federal Health Care Finance Administration. You can also contact the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), American Association of Homes for the Aging, Family Caregiver Alliance, National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers, and Eldercare Locator.

SENIOR SAFETY FAIR

Friday, April 25, 2003

Learn about:

- avoiding frauds and scam
 - privacy protection
 - fire safety
 - fall prevention
- responding to emergencies

SPONSORED BY GOLDEN VALLEY
PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

For more information or to register, call
763-593-8058.

Free Home Remodeling Fair Is February 23

A free Home Remodeling Fair featuring 76 contractor exhibits, 10 seminars, and an "Ask the Pro" booth will be held Sunday, February 23, from 10:30 am - 3:30 pm at Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy 7, Hopkins (one mile west of Hwys 7 and 169). Parking is available at the Community Center, and free shuttle service is available from the parking lot at Oak Ridge Country Club.

Exhibitors include remodeling contractors, architects, landscapers, plumbers, tool and dumpster rental services, roofers, siding and window contractors, lenders, city inspectors, and more. There will be free seminars and ongoing demonstrations for the do-it-yourselfer (see box at right). Architects, landscape designers, and interior decorators at the "Ask the Pro" booth will provide free, no-obligation advice—bring your photos, sketches, and questions. Food concessions will be available in the cafeteria. Free sign language interpretation is available if the request is made by February 7 (call 952-401-5077).

This is the 11th year the Home Remodeling Fair has been organized by several western suburbs to promote improvements to their housing stock. Sponsors are the Cities of Golden Valley, St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka and St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka Community Education. Co-sponsors are Associated Bank, Boyer Building, Community Revitalization Resources, DR Remodeling, New Concepts Home Care, Norton Floor Refinishing, and Welcome Additions.

For more information, contact Golden Valley City Planner Dan Olson at 763-593-8096. See also the [related article on pages 6 and 7](#).

HOME REMODELING FAIR

Sunday, February 23
10:30 am - 3:30 pm
Eisenhower Community Center
1001 Highway 7, Hopkins

SEMINARS

11 am—Decks and Porches, Decorating With Intention/Feng Shui, Refinishing Wood Floors (Part 1), Window Replacement, Kitchen and Bath Remodeling on a Budget

12:15 pm—Refinishing Wood Floors (Part 2), Kitchen and Bath Remodeling on a Budget, Finishing the Lower Level, Landscape Design, Kitchen and Bath Design Trends

1 pm—Window Replacement

1:30 pm—Kitchen and Bath Design Trends, Healthy Homes in Cold Climates, Interior Design ABCs

DEMONSTRATIONS

Installing Laminate Flooring—11:30 am, 1 and 2 pm

Do-It-Yourselfer Designer Accessories—11 am, 12:30 and 2 pm

Bathroom Vanities and Plumbing Fixtures—11:30 am, 1 and 2:30 pm

Garage and Closet Organizing Systems—11 am, 12:30 and 2 pm

City of
Golden Valley

763-593-8000

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