

Golden Valley

CityNEWS

Share Your Views and Help Envision Golden Valley

This fall and winter, join your friends and neighbors in an exciting process called *Envision Golden Valley*, where people who live, work, and play in Golden Valley will gather to discuss ideas for making the community shine even brighter in the years to come. Your chance to influence the future kicks off October 21 (see story at right), when several *Envision* opportunities become available.

More than 60 citizen volunteers spent the past six months developing *Envision* options to generate the highest possible participation levels. Depending on your level of interest and time commitment, you can participate in a number of ways: *Envision-In-A-Box*, *Envision Online*, *Envision Summit*. You can also become part of the process by volunteering as a facilitator (see box at right).

Envision-In-A-Box is geared to encourage participation from people who are unable or do not want to attend the *Envision Summit*. Gather a small group (neighborhood, workplace, book club, for instance) in the location of your choice, and a trained facilitator will help guide you through the process. Interested parties can contact Bob Provost (763-377-7494), *Envision-In-A-Box* Sub-Committee Chair, to book a facilitator and reserve a box containing all necessary meeting materials. Results will be integrated into the *Envision Summit*.

Envision Online is an Internet-based opportunity for people to participate in *Envision* without physically attending meetings.

(**ENVISION CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**)

Facilitators Needed

Volunteers are needed to lead small groups of people in imagining the Golden Valley of the future. Depending on availability, facilitators may choose to lead one event or several (see *Envision-In-A-Box* and *Envision Summit* in story at left). Events will be organized and scheduled by other volunteers, and all training and materials will be provided. If interested, contact Assistant to the City Manager Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014.



OUR COMMUNITY TODAY AND TOMORROW

Envision Kick-Off Is OCTOBER 21

Get in on the action at the official start of *Envision Golden Valley* Tuesday, October 21, 4:30 - 5 pm, at Odland Plaza (just north of City Hall near the water tower). Join the festivities and catch the spirit!

COMMUNITY VIDEO Available

The story of Golden Valley is now available on video, thanks to a joint effort by the Golden Valley Historical Society, the Golden Valley Rotary, and the City of Golden Valley. Entitled *Celebrate Golden Valley: A Tradition of Pioneer Spirit and Community*, the documentary-style program shows how Golden Valley developed from a small farming community to a dynamic, yet tranquil first-ring suburb of a large and growing metropolitan area.

Pre-purchase copies are available from the Historical Society for \$18 through October 30, 2003. After that, the video goes on sale for \$24.95. To order, call 763-588-8578 or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/video.htm.

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TRUTH IN TAXATION NOTICE

In November, property owners will receive individually mailed Truth in Taxation notices showing how the proposed tax levies of all jurisdictions will affect each parcel of property. The notice will include the dates and times of the public meetings that will be held to discuss the proposed tax levies. The City of Golden Valley's Truth In Taxation public hearing is scheduled for 7 pm Monday, December 1.



OUR COMMUNITY TODAY AND TOMORROW

(ENVISION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Comprised of an idea gathering phase and an idea grouping, connecting, and prioritizing phase, *Envision Online* will be available to participants via the City web site. Results will be integrated into the *Envision Summit*.

Envision Summit will be a large-scale gathering where small groups of participants, guided by facilitators, will share and discuss their ideas for the future of the community and then group and prioritize them into broad "Vision Statements." This festive community gathering will be February 23, 2004.

At the end of the *Envision* process, a committee of volunteers and city staff will consolidate the Vision Statements into a Vision Guide, which will be used by elected officials, city staff, and community groups to make decisions about the future of the community.

GET INVOLVED

For more information about *Envision Golden Valley*, or to get involved, contact Mayor Linda Loomis (763-593-3990, linda.loomis@ci.golden-valley.mn.us) or Assistant to the City Manager Jeanne Andre (763-593-8002, jandre@ci.golden-valley.mn.us). For updates, watch the City web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/Envision.htm.

City Council Adopts Proposed 2004 Tax Levy

At its September 16 meeting, the Golden Valley City Council adopted a proposed property tax levy of \$11,353,910 for 2004. The actual levy, to be adopted in December, can be less than this amount but not greater (see table below for details on the proposed levy and the actual 2003 levy).

	ACTUAL 2003	PROPOSED 2004
General Fund Levy	\$ 8,129,590	\$ 8,376,590
Fire Relief Levy	79,980	73,820
Sub-Total	8,209,570	8,450,410
Tax Abatement Levy	0	178,500
BONDED DEBT LEVY:		
Street Improvement Bonds	1,575,000	2,125,000
Equip. Certificates & Storm Sewer Bonds	1,210,000	600,000
Sub-Total	2,785,000	2,725,000
TOTAL LEVY	\$10,994,570	\$11,353,910
Percentage Increase		3.3%

New in 2004 is the tax abatement levy. This levy replaces the 2004 City tax on the additional market value provided by the expansion of the General Mills headquarters. In 2001, the City Council adopted an abatement resolution dedicating the City tax on this expansion to financing improvements to the Hwy 55/Boone Ave intersection.

Tax LEVY

LEVY

Operations	2.2%
Tax Abatement	1.6%
Bonded Debt	(.5)%
Sub-Total	3.3%

NON-LEVY

Increase in City tax base:	
New residential construction	(1.8)%
New commercial/industrial construction	(4.7)%
Increase in net contribution to fiscal disparities	5.0%
Market value shift	7.3%
Reduction in homestead credit	1.0%
TOTAL	10.1%

As in recent years, certain non-levy factors affect the "bottom-line" tax impact of the 2004 levy on residential taxpayers. The levy increase (3.3%) plus the impact of the non-levy factors (see chart) will result in an approximate 10.1% increase in the City tax on the average home (\$218,050), or approximately \$7 per month in 2004.

NON-LEVY FACTORS

Non-levy factors include increase in City tax base, fiscal disparities, market value shift, and reduction in homestead credit.

New residential and commercial construction increases the City's tax base, thereby reducing its tax rate. Tax rate reductions benefit all property owners.

Fiscal disparities is a tax base sharing program that involves all cities in the seven-county metro area. It involves pooling 40% of the increase in commercial/industrial (C/I) market value over the base year of 1971. This pool of C/I valuation is distributed to cities based on population and per capita property value. Cities with high per capita value, like Golden Valley,

receive less from the pool than they put in. Golden Valley's net contribution to fiscal disparities increased in 2004 vs 2003, reducing the City's available tax base and increasing its tax rate.

(TAX LEVY CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

JWC: High Quality Water Possible For Lower Cost

For nearly a year, the Joint Water Commission (JWC) Cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, and New Hope have been studying options for a future water supply. The objective: to provide customers with water of comparable quality for a lower price than that currently supplied by the City of Minneapolis. After months of extensive technical research, the

A Little Background

The Joint Water Commission (JWC) is the joint powers agency through which the three cities have purchased water cooperatively from the City of Minneapolis for more than 40 years. However, water rates have increased more than 150% since 1997 and are expected to increase another 32% within the next four years. These increasing costs prompted the JWC to look at other options.

JWC has narrowed its options to two: 1) continue buying Mississippi River water treated by the Minneapolis Water Works, or 2) pump groundwater from the Prairie du Chien/Jordan aquifer to a new JWC water treatment facility for distribution to customers in Crystal, Golden Valley, and New Hope.

Both options provide a similar water quality. Neither requires the installation of home water softeners. However, the JWC is keeping its options open until it has more information about the water system's reliability, security, long-term cost-effectiveness, and compliance with probable future drinking water regulations.

TESTING AND TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Current studies, authorized by the JWC in June, focus on testing and technical considerations. In early August, the JWC began looking at potential sites for a water treatment plant. It plans to select two candidate sites for detailed soil testing but will select a final site only if the three Cities decide to proceed with the project.

In September, the JWC began testing the groundwater aquifer to determine if it can provide the seven million gallons of water the JWC needs every day without affecting neighboring well systems. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requires the test to establish a scientific case for the project and for the JWC to obtain a groundwater appropriations permit. Test results are expected in October.

FINANCING AND GOVERNANCE

Conservative estimates show that the JWC may be able to produce treated water more cost-effectively than the anticipated rates from Minneapolis in 2007. An independent JWC water system would also provide relief from future Minneapolis water rate increases driven by that City's need to replace its aging water treatment infrastructure.

After several months of study, the JWC's Governance Task Force (consisting of two city council members from each of the three cities) concluded that the existing JWC joint powers agreement is the most promising way to govern and manage a new water system, if it is approved. The Task Force also evaluated various financing options available to pay for a new system.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

In October, the JWC will host three open houses to give residents a chance to raise questions and concerns about both water supply options. Each open house will feature informational displays, technical presentations, and opportunities for discussion with the JWC's technical staff. Watch for a separate mailing with dates for the open houses, or go to jwcontap.org. Information is also available from Public Works Director Jeannine Clancy (763-593-8035).

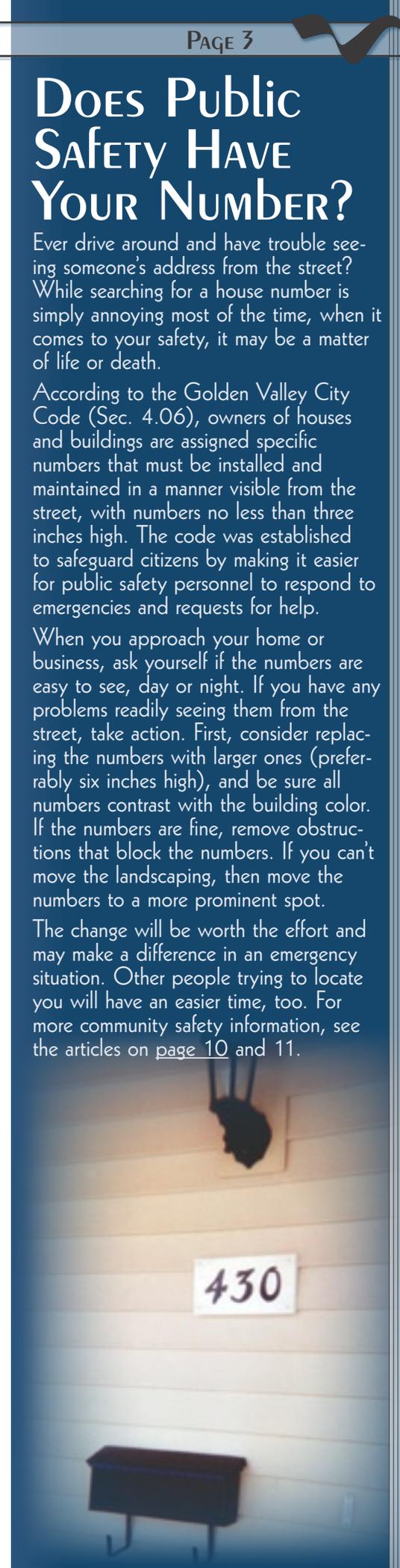
DOES PUBLIC SAFETY HAVE YOUR NUMBER?

Ever drive around and have trouble seeing someone's address from the street? While searching for a house number is simply annoying most of the time, when it comes to your safety, it may be a matter of life or death.

According to the Golden Valley City Code (Sec. 4.06), owners of houses and buildings are assigned specific numbers that must be installed and maintained in a manner visible from the street, with numbers no less than three inches high. The code was established to safeguard citizens by making it easier for public safety personnel to respond to emergencies and requests for help.

When you approach your home or business, ask yourself if the numbers are easy to see, day or night. If you have any problems readily seeing them from the street, take action. First, consider replacing the numbers with larger ones (preferably six inches high), and be sure all numbers contrast with the building color. If the numbers are fine, remove obstructions that block the numbers. If you can't move the landscaping, then move the numbers to a more prominent spot.

The change will be worth the effort and may make a difference in an emergency situation. Other people trying to locate you will have an easier time, too. For more community safety information, see the articles on page 10 and 11.



Holiday Notice

Recycling pick-up the week of the Thanksgiving holiday will be one day later than usual. Have your recyclables at the curb by 7 am Saturday, November 29.



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.

Annual Leaf Drop-Off Promotes Cleaner Water

Leaves are a leading source of excess nutrients in our waterways, and fall leaf clean-up helps prevent those nutrients from washing into the storm water system and polluting local creeks, lakes, and ponds.

Golden Valley's annual Fall Leaf Drop-Off provides residents a monitored site to dispose of their leaves at no charge during the last weekend in October and the first weekend in November (see box at right for dates and times). The drop-off site will be at Brookview Park, south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave. During drop-off days, Brookview Parkway will become a one-way road. All traffic must enter the site from Winnetka Ave S and exit on Western Ave. Traffic personnel will direct vehicles to drop-off points, where other personnel will help residents unload or de-bag leaves.

LEAF DROP-OFF FOUR DAYS ONLY

Brookview Park (south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave)

Friday, October 31	8 am - 4 pm
Saturday, November 1	7 am - 1 pm
Friday, November 7	8 am - 4 pm
Saturday, November 8	7 am - 1 pm

RULES

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

TIME-SAVING TIPS

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

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

Maple Grove Yard Waste Site: 14796 101 Ave N, Maple Grove. Accepts leaves and brush up to two inches in diameter for \$6/cubic yard, and sod and dirt for \$12/cubic yard, from April through November. Accepts grass clippings for \$12/cubic yard from June through September (\$6/cubic yard other months). For mixed material, add \$2/cubic yard. Open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 7 pm, and Sunday, noon to 7 pm. Site closes November 30 and re-opens April 1 each year. For more information, contact the Yard Waste Site directly at 763-420-4886.

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

Pruning Can Make Or Break A Tree

Leaving stubs, or flush cutting branches, can lead to cankers and frost cracks that greatly reduce the health and longevity of your tree. The diagrams on this page show proper pruning procedures.

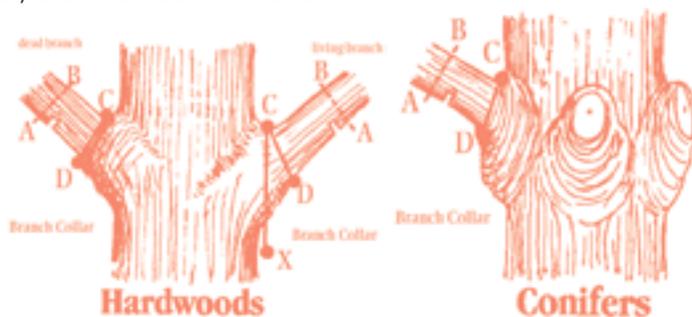
Crisp fall weather finds many people preparing their lawns for winter. Since trees and shrubs also need attention, fall is an ideal time to think about pruning. However, tree pruning done improperly or at the wrong time can cause problems. It's best to do major pruning after the tree's seasonal growth is complete, or after September 30 (see "Proper Pruning" box below for more information).

If you don't prune your own trees, now is a good time to begin soliciting bids for winter pruning. Contractors may use heavy equipment to access trees, and the frozen winter ground can help minimize damage to sod and landscaping. Ask friends or neighbors for referrals, or start with the *Yellow Pages*. Regardless of how you select a tree contractor, always ask for proof of insurance and check references.

The City of Golden Valley prunes many of its public trees after the coldest part of winter has passed. Winter pruning can result in vigorous new growth in the spring. Although some species (maples, walnuts, and birches) may "bleed" when the sap begins to flow, this is not harmful and will stop when the tree leafs out.

Proper pruning benefits trees and the entire urban landscape. It helps direct growth by slowing unwanted branches, and it reduces the total leaf surface, thereby reducing the food manufactured and sent to tree roots for their development and next year's growth of the crown.

For more information, contact City Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046.



FIRST, CUT PART WAY THROUGH THE BRANCH AT A, THEN CUT IT OFF AT B. MAKE THE FINAL CUT AT C-D. DO NOT CUT ALONG LINE C-X.

proper PRUNING

Follow these techniques to properly prune your trees:

- Prune when trees are young so wounds are small and growth goes where you want it.
- Identify the best leader and lateral branches before pruning.
- Never use wound dressing unless you accidentally wound your oaks in April, May, or June.
- Always remove 100% of the deadwood but never more than 30% of the live wood.
- Light pruning and removal of dead wood can be done anytime, but never prune oak trees between April 15 and July 1. During this time, the beetle that carries the oak wilt fungus is active and could enter the tree via the open wounds.
- Keep tools sharp. Scissor-type pruning shears with curved blades are best for young trees. Never use anvil pruners on trees.
- When pruning large limbs, cut just outside the branch ridge and collar with a slight down-and-outward angle. Don't leave a protruding stub (see graphics above).

Never top your trees. Regardless of how it is done, this greatly increases susceptibility to diseases, creates an abundance of weak branches, and considerably reduces the tree's life span.

SENIOR STUFF

Health Insurance Help—October 14, 9 - 11 am, Brookview.

Blood Pressure Screenings—October 22, 11 am - noon, Brookview.

Continental Breakfast (register early)—October 22: "Holiday Traditions," 9:30 am, Brookview.

Defensive Driving Course—Four-hour refresher at Brookview. October 30 and November 20, 9 am - 1 pm.

Halloween Dance Party (register early)—October 31, 1 - 3:30 pm, Crystal Community Center.

Wellness & You (register early)—November 6: "Be Safe At Home," 1:30 pm, Dover Hill Midrise,

Classes (register early)—October: Cribbage and "500" card lessons offered by volunteers; November 3: Button Pin Class, 9:30 am, Brookview.

Upcoming Trips (register early)—October 9 - 12: Norsk Hostfest, Minot, ND; October 20: Fall Color Tram Ride; November 6: 100th Anniversary Concert at Orchestra Hall; December 2: Angel Hill Holiday Tour; December 10 - 11: Hometown Tradition at Hotel Pattee, Perry, Iowa.

Five Cities Transportation Program offers rides to seniors for shopping, social activities, and senior program events. For a schedule, see the Seniors newsletter or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/transportshed.htm. To reserve a ride, call the Five Cities office at 763-537-0229 between 8 am - 3 pm, Monday through Friday.

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

Golden Valley Human Services Foundation: A Beacon Of Community Support

Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Through its work in the community, the 13-member Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) has probably changed the world for many local residents. GVHSF Vice Chair Karen Neis, a board member since 1998, believes that the GVHSF is more necessary than ever

given the current economic times. "I think all cities need organizations like the GVHSF," she says, "at least to maintain current services." Neis adds that the GVHSF is "one way for residents to contribute and know it's going back to the community. We're always looking for dedicated volunteers."

The GVHSF was established in 1992, when the City Council was exploring new ways to fund human services that benefit Golden Valley residents in times of need. Appointed by the City Council, the GVHSF is a volunteer board com-

prised of six citizens-at-large, five community or business members, one City Council member, and one Human Rights Commission member to review funding requests, and allocate funds, and raise additional funds. Since 1992, the GVHSF has collected and disbursed \$617,392 to local human service organizations that serve Golden Valley residents.

For more information on the GVHSF, call Sue Virnig, Assistant Finance Director, at 763-593-8010.

Since the GVHSF began, it has been giving to the community. In 2002 alone, the GVHSF gave a total of \$85,501 to organizations, including:

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (763-591-0400) provides 72 hours of shelter care for children up to age six for families who are dealing with stress or crisis and need time away from children to stabilize themselves. There is no fee for this service, and advocates are available to assist the family in finding resources. In the past year, the Crisis Nursery served 87 families and 159 children.

Children find a safe haven at GMCN.



Home Free Domestic Assault Intervention Project

Home Free Domestic Assault Intervention Project (763-545-7072) volunteers respond to victims 24 hours a day by phone or via home or hospital visit to offer support and information. Home Free also provides assistance in court proceedings to promote safety and protect the rights of women who have been battered. In the past year, this program provided 1,257 services to local residents.

Trained staff responds to requests for help.



Northwest YMCA Detached Work Program

Northwest YMCA Detached Work Program (763-535-4800) helps troubled youth by working to identify problems before they escalate to a crisis level. Using a broad community networking system, including police, probation officers, and school officials, Detached Workers take the initiative to find high-risk youth instead of waiting for them to seek help. They connect with young people in their schools and hangouts, rather than exclusively at the YMCA or other formal settings. Then, through positive peer groups and supportive environments, Detached Workers strive to prevent future problems and keep youth on the right path. Last year they served 700 youths.

Equestrian Program keeps kids engaged in positive activities.



Senior Community Services OUTREACH

Senior Community Services OUTREACH (763-537-0709 or 763-541-1019) helps seniors in suburban Hennepin County remain independent by linking them with a broad range of services and programs. Staff meets with seniors (and often families) in their own homes to explore the most appropriate and cost-effective services available to them. This program of Senior Community Services also provides support groups for seniors and caregivers. In the past year, the program served 102 seniors.

Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door

Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door (763-520-7386) provides approximately 800 hot nourishing meals each month to people who are homebound and unable to afford a home-cooked meal. This service allows these residents to stay in the comfort of their own homes longer.

PRISM

PRISM (763-529-1350) offers support to low-income residents of Golden Valley, Crystal, New Hope, Robbinsdale, Plymouth, and Brooklyn Center. PRISM's philosophy is "responding to people's needs... walking alongside them on the road toward self-sufficiency." Services include financial assistance, ongoing caseload work, and provision of emergency and supplemental food, clothing, senior transportation. In the past year, PRISM provided 3,356 individual services to local residents.

Food shelf staff help provide food for low-income residents.



Senior Community Services HOME

Senior Community Services HOME (763-504-6980) program helps Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and New Hope seniors remain in their own homes by providing volunteers to assist with indoor and outdoor home maintenance. Last year the program helped 82 seniors.

Volunteers help seniors with household maintenance.



North Hennepin Mediation Program, Inc

North Hennepin Mediation Program, Inc (763-561-0033) strives to help "families, courts, schools, neighborhoods, workplaces, and communities by promoting civil and effective conflict management." Its mediation services are available to residents, businesses, schools, and organizations in north and west Hennepin County. Disputing parties voluntarily enter the process, in which neutral mediators facilitate discussions and write up agreements the parties reach. The staff contacts the parties involved, explains the process, and schedules the mediation. Last year the program handled 15 cases.

Two Annual GVHSF Fund-raisers

Run the Valley 5K/10K Race and 5K Walk

The 2003 event drew 635 runners and walkers and raised \$8,725 for the GVHSF. In 2002, the event drew 620 runners and walkers and raised \$8,547. The 10th Annual Run the Valley Race/Walk is set for April 17, 2004, starting at the Ronald B. Davis Community Center.

Golden Valley Golf Classic

The 2003 event drew 88 golfers and raised \$8,797 for the GVHSF. In 2002, the event drew 104 golfers and raised \$9,600. The 8th Annual Golf Classic is set for September 10, 2004 at Brookview Golf Course.

To volunteer for the Run the Valley Race/Walk or the Golf Classic, or to make a tax deductible donation to the GVHSF, contact staff liaison Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010 or at svirnig@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

TAX LEVY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

The market value shift is the non-levy factor that is the most difficult to explain but will have the most long-lasting negative impact on residential taxpayers. The proposed levy will be paid primarily by taxpayers in two major classes—residential and commercial/industrial (C/I). The portion to be paid by individual members of each class is based on the tax base of their individual properties. One of the main determinants of tax base is market value.

When the market values of one class of property (residential) increases at a faster rate than the market values of another class (C/I), the tax burden shifts to residential property. The market values of residential property continue to increase at double digit rates while the market value of C/I property is increasing at a much slower rate, if at all. This situation will probably continue until an improving economy increases the demand for C/I property. Limited market value legislation caps the increase in residential market values for 2004 taxes at 12%. This is the increase in market value that was used to calculate the 10.1% increase in City tax (see chart on page 2).

The homestead credit is a State-funded program that reduces the taxes on residential homesteaded property. It phases out as residential properties increase in value; therefore, most properties will receive a smaller credit in 2004 than 2003. A smaller credit results in a higher tax.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

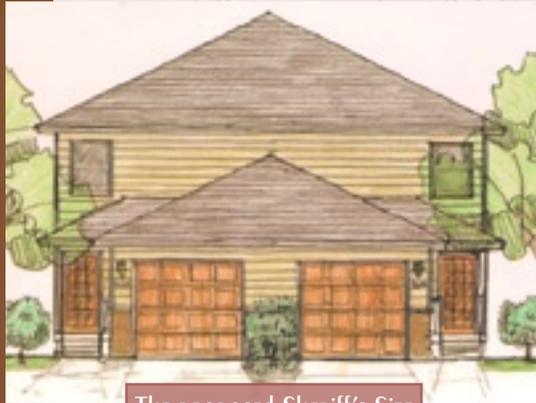
Details about the 2004 proposed levy and the City's budget process are available on the City web site at www.ci.golden-valley.us. If you have questions, contact Finance Director Don Taylor at 763-593-8012.

Sheriff's Site May Become Golden Ridge Subdivision

Golden Ridge, a small subdivision of for-sale market-rate and affordable homes, has been proposed for the former Sheriff's Pistol Range Site in northwest Golden Valley. Local developer Bill Bergquist presented preliminary plans to interested residents at a recent community meeting. Before it could move forward, the project requires decisions by the City's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), Planning Commission, and City Council.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The Sheriff's Site is adjacent to the existing Hennepin County Dispatch Center at 9200 Naper Street. The proposed subdivision includes 16 lots on a short cul-de-sac extending northeast from Gettysburg Ave N, with two single-family lots at the end of the cul-de-sac and lots for 14 duplex units along the new street and facing Naper. Eight of the duplex units would be constructed by Habitat for Humanity, a group that uses contributed materials and volunteer labor to reduce costs to prospective homeowners. The City has asked Hennepin County to retain the forested area north of the site along Earl Street as a natural park to benefit the surrounding neighborhood. A walking trail through the new subdivision would then connect to existing trails at the General Mills Research Facility. A storm water retention pond would link to the existing retention pond on the site of the Dispatch Center.



THE PROPOSED SHERIFF'S SITE DEVELOPMENT WOULD FEATURE DUPLEX UNITS SUCH AS THIS.

NEXT STEPS

HRA staff is negotiating with Hennepin County to purchase the land. Staff is also working with Bergquist to refine his proposal and negotiate a development agreement allowing him to buy the land for the project. A public hearing is required

before the HRA could consider such an agreement. The developer has also asked for City Council involvement in the project.

At its August 5 meeting, the City Council preliminarily agreed to provide about \$90,000 in assistance to Habitat for Humanity through the use of Community Development Block Grants to help reduce the cost of the land and improvements for the eight affordable housing units. The public improvements (streets, water, sewer) could be constructed through a 429 Assessment Project, which enables the City to construct and bond for the public improvements with all costs assessed back to the developed lots. Under a time line set by Hennepin County, these preliminary steps are to occur by November 1; however, required planning approvals would take an additional three to four months.

PLANNING APPROVALS

Because the project has been proposed as a Planned Unit Development (PUD), the approval process involves consideration at the preliminary and general plan stages, which would require a public hearing before the Planning Commission and two public hearings before the City Council. The land purchase and sale, 429 Assessment Project, and dedication of Community Development Block Grant funds are all contingent on receiving planning approvals.

For more information about the Sheriff's Site or the current proposal for its development, contact HRA Assistant Director Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014.

Building Codes and Permits Ensure Safety

Building permits are used to ensure that structures meet building codes, and building codes are the government's official statement on building safety. Over the years, building codes have changed as our safety knowledge expanded.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUILDING CODES

Concerns about building safety are not new. In fact, they go back to early civilization. The Minnesota Department of Administration cites the Code of Hammurabi (2200 BC), which included a rather brutal building code provision: if an architect built a house so poorly that it fell down and killed the owner, then the architect would also be put to death. More civilized building codes were established in the United States in 1625. George Washington supported building regulations to ensure public health and safety. In 1865, New Orleans was the first city to enact a law for inspecting public buildings.

Early in the 20th century, US building code officials broke into three separate organizations and established a model building code for their regions. While it was not required that any community follow one of the models, most did. Now, the goal of the new international code is to move toward a single building code model that will standardize minimum building safety standards throughout the US.

CONNECTION BETWEEN BUILDING CODES AND PERMITS

When people get a building permit, inspectors can make sure the building plan and the execution meet safety requirements set by building and fire codes. The reason for building and fire codes, and permits to aid enforcement, is simple—people want to know they are safe when in a building. Further, homes and businesses are investments. According to the International Conference of Building Officials, if construction does not comply with building codes, the value of the property could be reduced. By obtaining permits and following code requirements, completed projects will meet minimum safety standards and reduce the chance of injury for both the current owner and occupants and the future ones.

BUILDING PERMITS IN GOLDEN VALLEY

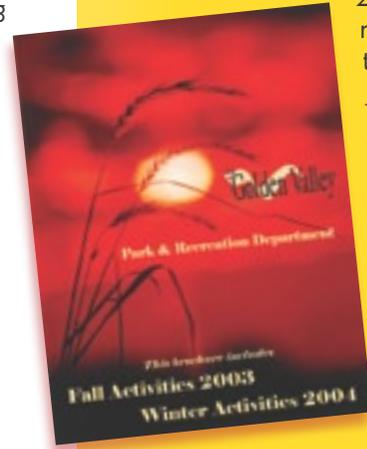
Building permits are required for nearly all construction and home improvement projects in Golden Valley, whether the work is completed by the owner or a contractor, and the state building code requires separate permits for different elements of remodeling projects. When planning a home improvement project, it's important to contact the City Inspections Department (763-593-8090) as early as possible. There you can find the information and resources needed to comply with building codes so you can draw up your plans. If your plans meet with code requirements, a permit is issued. If not, Inspections may be able to suggest solutions.

Once you receive a permit and pay the fee (based on the size of the job) to cover the application, review, and inspection costs, you are legally able to begin the project. Job site inspections are required to ensure that the work conforms to the permit, building codes, and approved plans. When the work is completed, the Inspections Department will provide documentation confirming code compliance.

For more information, contact Golden Valley Inspections at 763-593-8090.

PARK & REC UPDATE

Registration for Golden Valley's fall and winter recreation programs began August 20. If you did not receive a copy of the [Fall & Winter Recreation Activities Brochure](#), contact the Park & Recreation Department.



Because of budget cuts, all fall and winter recreation programs (through March 2004) were combined in one activities brochure. The Spring & Summer activities brochure will be mailed in late February.

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

Got a Motor? GET A LICENSE

Golden Valley's [Motor Vehicle Licensing Department](#) provides fast, friendly, no-hassle service—just what you'd expect in a neighborhood setting.

When you receive your license renewal for your car, truck, motorcycle, snowmobile, trailer, boat, RV, or ATV, bring it on over along with your check (payable to the City of Golden Valley) or cash payment (ATM available in lobby). If you do not have the renewal notice, please be prepared to provide your vehicle license plate number so State records can be accessed.

Fees vary, depending on type and size of vehicle. What doesn't change is the helpful, convenient service without the long lines. You'll find us on the first floor of City Hall at 7800 Golden Valley Rd.

763-593-8101

SMOKE ALARM REQUIREMENTS

After reading about the newly adopted International Building and Fire Codes (July/August 2003 CityNews), some residents requested clarification about smoke alarm requirements. According to the new International Residential Code, any interior home alterations, repairs, or additions that require a building permit must include smoke alarms in bedrooms, outside of bedrooms, and on each level. As with the previous code, the smoke alarms must be hardwired and interconnected in the area of construction. For more information on smoke alarms, see [page 11](#).



School-Related Traffic Violations

Every year, dozens of school bus stop-arm violations are reported:

Misdemeanor stop-arm violation—Passing a bus when the red lights are flashing, the stop-arm is extended, but no children are present can result in up to a \$1,000 fine and/or 90 days in jail.)

Gross-misdemeanor stop-arm violation—Passing the bus when the red lights are flashing, the stop-arm is extended, and children are present, or passing the bus on the right side, can result in up to a \$3,000 fine and/or one year in jail.)

Misdemeanor—Neglecting to stop for a crosswalk patrol that is extending the stop flag can result in up to a \$1,000 fine and/or 90 days in jail.)

With the arrival of a new school year, the GVPD will have an additional presence around school zones. For more information, contact the GVPD at 763-593-8079.

School Safety Begins On The Way To Class

Traffic accidents are the leading cause of death and injury among school-aged children. Each year, almost 800 children ages five to 18 are killed in motor-vehicle accidents and 60,000 more are injured. Primary-school students are at greatest risk because they lack the ability, physically or developmentally, to make safe judgments about traffic. The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) would like you to review the following safety precautions to help make this school year a safe one.

IN THE CAR

- First, drive very slowly. Slow to 20 miles per hour in school areas, whether children are present or not, and never pass another vehicle in a school zone.
- Avoid distractions such as cell phones, CD players, and other devices.
- Look for safety patrols, school buses, and other signs that children are in the area.
- Scan between parked cars and other objects for children who might dart out.
- Talk with your school board to change the location of dangerous bus stops.

SCHOOL CROSSING LOCATIONS

Jersey Ave S & Western Ave
 Glenwood Ave & Xenia Ave
 Medicine Lake Rd & Florida
 Medicine Lake Rd & Boone
 Noble Ave N & Hampton
 Natchez Ave & Glenwood Ave*
 Medicine Lake Rd. & Idaho Ave N*
 Douglas Dr & Sandburg Lane*
**Do not have school patrols*

ON THE SCHOOL BUS

About 25 million students ride buses every school day. For better bus safety, make sure children have short backpack straps and wear clothing without loose drawstrings to avoid catching on the handrail or bus door. Teach children to:

- get to the bus stop on time, stay off the road, and avoid rough play
- stay seated on the bus, keep their heads and arms inside, and not distract the driver
- take five giant steps away from the front of the school bus before crossing the street, so the driver can see them (many injuries occur when children are in the blind spot that extends about 10 feet in front of the bus)
- wait for the driver's signal that it's safe to cross
- look "left-right-left" when exiting the bus to be sure traffic is stopped
- ask the bus driver for help if they drop something under the bus
- report to you any dangerous situations in their school zone or on the school bus

WALKING TO SCHOOL

Pedestrian injuries are the second leading cause of unintentional death in children ages five to 14. In children nine and under, about 50 to 70 percent of injuries result from darting into the street. Remind children to cross at corners or crosswalks, NOT from between parked cars or from behind bushes.

- Have children age 10 and under walk with an adult or older child. They cannot judge the speed or distance of traffic, and their peripheral vision is one-third less that of an adult.
- Choose the direct route with the fewest street crossings and walk it with your child.
- Teach children to understand and obey traffic signs and crosswalk markings.
- Be a good role model.

Back-to-school season provides a great opportunity to practice common sense safety behavior. The GVPD looks forward to your cooperation. 



Get The 411 On Smoke Alarms

Forty years ago most US citizens had never heard of a smoke alarm. By 1995, an estimated 93 percent of American residences had alarms, and the impact has been dramatic. According to the Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota, between 1970 and 1979 there were 961 fire deaths in Minnesota, compared with 516 between 1990 and 1998. Today, the majority (60 percent) of fatal fires occur in homes without smoke alarms or with smoke alarms that have dead or missing batteries.

A smoke alarm is an early warning system that reduces the risk of dying in a fire by nearly 50 percent. Since the mid-1980s, laws have required smoke alarms in all new and existing residences in 38 states and thousands of municipalities. Their proven effectiveness is why the new International Building and Fire Codes (adopted in May 2003) require newly constructed dwellings to have hard-wired smoke detectors in each sleeping room, outside sleeping rooms, and on each level of the house. The new code may require hardwired smoke detectors with additions or interior remodeling projects that require a building permit (see Building Permit article on [page 9](#)).

Buying A Smoke Alarm

In the 1970s, the cost of protecting a three-bedroom home with professionally installed alarms was approximately \$1,000. Today, owner-installed battery-operated alarms can be purchased for as little as \$10 per alarm, or less than \$50 for an entire home. The only requirement in purchasing a smoke alarm is to make sure it is UL-listed.

Installing A Smoke Alarm

Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions. Often a screwdriver is the only tool needed, and many brands are self-adhesive and automatically stick to the wall or ceiling. Placement is also very important. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Since many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning, be sure smoke alarms are installed in and near all sleeping areas, too. Because smoke and many deadly gases rise, units should be installed on the ceiling or on side-walls six to eight inches below the ceiling to provide the earliest warning. To avoid false alarms, do not install smoke alarms in kitchens, bathrooms, or near fire places. If you are uncomfortable standing on a ladder, ask a relative or friend for help. The GVFD is also available to install a smoke alarm in your home for you.

Caring For A Smoke Alarm

To keep your smoke alarms functioning:

- test them monthly and replace the batteries at least twice a year. Some come with a 10-year battery, so the whole unit is replaced, not just the battery.
- vacuum over and around them regularly. Dust and debris can interfere with their operation.
- replace them every eight to 10 years. Like most electrical devices, smoke alarms wear out. Write the purchase date with a marker on the inside of the unit and follow the manufacturer's replacement instructions.

If you have questions about smoke alarms, contact Fire Prevention Specialist Sarah Larson at 763-593-3977 or slarson@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

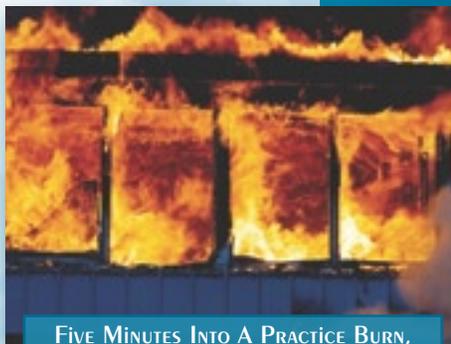
BEYOND SMOKE ALARMS
Smoke alarms are the foundation of home fire safety technology, but it's equally important to have a home escape plan and to practice it. For detailed information on a home fire escape plan, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/fireescapeplan.htm.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS ABOUT INFORMATION

Fire Prevention Week is observed each October in North America in remembrance of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, in which 250 people died and 17,430 buildings were destroyed.

The Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) observes National Fire Prevention Week by providing the community with valuable information about fire prevention and safety—information that saves lives.

For more information, click to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/firedept.htm.



FIVE MINUTES INTO A PRACTICE BURN, THIS HOME IS TOTALLY ENGULFED IN FLAMES

GVFD Offers FREE SMOKE ALARMS

Through its participation in a grant program called "Alarmed and Alert: The Minnesota Initiative to Prevent Residential Fire-Related Injuries," the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) is offering free smoke alarms while supplies last.

As part of the program, firefighters will visit your home, do a fire-safety survey to detect fire hazards, share their extensive knowledge about fire safety, and install needed smoke alarms.

Participation in Alarmed and Alert is open to everyone; however, the GVFD wants to focus on what the United States Fire Administration identifies as high-risk populations—households with children younger than 14 and adults older than 65.

Golden Valley residents, especially seniors, interested in Armed and Alert should call Fire Prevention Specialist Sarah Larson at 763-593-3977 to make an appointment.

Six Candidates File For Three City Council Seats

Six Golden Valley residents will be on the ballot November 4 for three Golden Valley council seats. Incumbent Linda Loomis was the sole person to file for the two-year mayoral term. Five candidates filed for the two four-year council terms. The box below provides details, including phone numbers and where to find web site or email addresses. Incumbent Jan LeSuer, who began his service on the City Council in 1996, is not seeking reelection.

For more information about the election, contact Election Official Jean Ewald at 763-593-8029, or click to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/voting.htm. Official election

results will be posted on the City web site as soon as they become available.

City Council CANDIDATES

City Council

Tracy K. Anderson
2001 Hillsboro Ave N
763-545-3895

Mike Freiberg
200 Brunswick Ave S
763-544-9229

John Giese
5545 Golden Valley Rd
763-546-4650

Gloria L. Johnson
4200 Golden Valley Rd
763-588-6013

Bob Shaffer
2316 Zenith Ave N
763-588-3352

Mayoral

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

For web site and email addresses, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/voting.htm, or call City Hall at 763-593-8006.

VOTING LOCATIONS

You must vote in your own precinct between 7 am and 8 pm on election day. If you have questions or need to register, call 763-593-8017.

Precinct 1
NE Fire Station
3700 Golden Valley Road

Precinct 2
Valley Presbyterian Church
3100 North Lilac Drive

Precinct 3
Meadowbrook School
5430 Glenwood Avenue

Precinct 4
Sandburg Middle School
2400 Sandburg Lane

Precinct 5
SE Fire Station
400 Turners Crossroad South

Precinct 6
Golden Valley City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Road

Precinct 7
Emmaus Baptist Church
8025 Medicine Lake Road

Precinct 8
Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Parkway



763-593-8000

COUNCIL MEMBERS

SCOTT D. GRAYSON | GLORIA L. JOHNSON | JAN A. LESUER | BLAIR TREMERE

MAYOR | LINDA R. LOOMIS

MAYOR/COUNCIL MSG LINE | 763-593-8001

CITY MANAGER | THOMAS BURT

EDITOR | CHERYL WEILER

ASSISTANT EDITOR | TINA PERPICH

GRAPHIC DESIGNER | SIRI KHALSA

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Notice: To retain cost-effective rates, new postal regulations require us to mail to complete carrier routes, even if they are beyond city borders. We apologize to non-Golden Valley residents who get this newsletter unsolicited.