

Golden Valley 2004

CITYNEWS

Elm Trees Forced Out On A Limb (Again)

Dutch elm disease (DED) is back with a vengeance, so if you have an elm on your property, or even in your neighborhood, be alert for signs of the dreaded disease. While there is only a very small chance the elm can be saved once infected, early detection and removal decreases the risk of DED destroying the community forest.

DETECTING DED

The experience of a North Tyrol homeowner is sadly a common one. Recently, she noticed the 50-year-old elm in her back yard was dropping brown, dried leaves and that some upper branches didn't have any leaves. The first sign of DED is the wilting of one or more branches in the upper part of the tree. Leaves turn dull green to yellow, then curl and sometimes fall to the ground. As the disease progresses, it travels down the infected branch and into the main trunk.

Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom examined the homeowner's tree and gave her the bad news—DED (certified tree inspectors can identify DED by peeling back the bark of a wilted branch and exposing the tissue). The tree has to go. "It will change the landscape of the entire yard," the homeowner commented. "And what is going to happen to the plants beneath it that used to get an hour of light? Now they'll get 12."



IMAGINE THE NORTH TYROL LANDSCAPE WITHOUT THIS 50-YEAR-OLD ELM.

(Dutch Elm, CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

Vision Guide Will Be Ready In September

Envision Golden Valley volunteers have been working long and hard since the *Envision* Summit to capture the richness and texture of the thousands of ideas put forward by the community throughout the *Envision* process. The resulting Vision Guide will be presented to the City Council in September and then published and shared with the community.

Entitled *Golden Valley's Shared Vision For The Future*, the Guide introduces two themes that summarize the ideas presented within: "creatively connecting people and places," and "inspiring care for community." It further encapsulates the broad areas of community agreement that emerged in the six main categories of *Envision*: development, transportation, community engagement, environment, recreation, and government.



For more information about *Envision* or the Vision Guide, contact Assistant to the City Manager Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014.

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GOLDEN RIDGE GETS GO-AHEAD

Northwest Golden Valley will get more housing when the Golden Ridge Development starts emerging this summer in the area known as the former sheriff's pistol range site. Housing has been contemplated for this site since 1996, when the pistol range was closed and the ground cleared of residual lead. With the City Council's July 6 approval of the Planned Unit Development (PUD) and purchase of the site by Bullseye Development LLC, contemplation will end and bulldozers will move in.

The first step is construction of Gettysburg Court, a short cul-de-sac extending from Gettysburg Ave to terminate at the forested area north of the site. The State of Minnesota deeded this forested area to the City for use as a passive neighborhood park. A sidewalk and asphalt trail will connect it to the General Mills Nature Area. The new street should be completed this summer, and trail construction is anticipated this fall. The developer is paying for the street and utility work.

Following construction of the street and utilities to serve the homes, construction will begin on 16 housing units. Bullseye is developing two single-family and six twin-home units to be sold at market rate. Another eight twin-home units will be developed by Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, which provides affordable homes for purchase.

Habitat homes are built by a combination of volunteer labor and professional subcontractors, then financed with no-interest mortgages. The cost of the land and public improvements was underwritten by federal and county funding (Community Development Block Grants, HOME, and the Affordable Housing Incentive Fund) administered by Hennepin County and the City of Golden Valley. Habitat home buyers are required to commit 300 hours to the construction of their homes.

More information about Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity is available at www.tchabitat.org. For more information about Golden Ridge, contact Golden Valley HRA Assistant Director Jeanne Andre (763-593-8014).

JWC Board Recommends Minneapolis Option

After nearly two years of studies, tests, research, and public information meetings, the Joint Water Commission (JWC) has recommended that the Cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, and New Hope continue to purchase their water from the City of Minneapolis.

The recommendation concluded an 18-month study to assess the advisability of a JWC owned and operated well and water treatment system, several public events to ensure that interested residents could keep informed on the water supply options available, and the approval of legislation that would allow the JWC to drill its own wells.

Major factors in the JWC's decision included a final contract offer from Minneapolis that would provide lower rates for treated water over the next five years, better protection from excessive rate increases in the future, and a commitment to work with Minneapolis and other metro-area communities toward a regional water policy.

The Golden Valley City Council approved the JWC's recommendation at its July 6 meeting and directed staff to work with the City of Minneapolis to finalize a contract to provide water to the JWC. Several factors influenced the City Council's decision.

WATER RATES

The Golden Valley City Council believes the contract offered by Minneapolis is within the parameters of what the JWC originally desired to attain in terms of a water rate. In addition, the proposed contract allows for discussions regarding governance and partnership between the City of Minneapolis and the JWC.

WATER QUALITY

Residents of Golden Valley demonstrated an appreciation for the quality of water Minneapolis provides to the JWC. Many expressed they understand it might be more expensive than a ground water system, but their affinity to the product outweighs their concern about the product's price.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

If the JWC and Minneapolis work together, the City Council believes it is possible to develop a regional water system that could provide good quality water with reasonable insurance against man-made or natural disasters, or climatic changes. The proposed contract provides for the initiation of dialogue to achieve that regional system.

SUMMARY

The City Council believes it is in the City of Golden Valley's best interest to focus on concluding the contract negotiations. The water system study empowered the JWC with knowledge about water supply options and enabled it to negotiate with Minneapolis from a position of strength. Now the JWC knows it's viable to construct its own water system, a fall-back option that's available if necessary or desired by the JWC.

Crystal and New Hope City Councils are expected to vote on the JWC's recommendation by the end of August. If you have questions about the proposed contract, contact Golden Valley Public Works Director Jeannine Clancy at 763-593-8035. For more information about the JWC, go to www.jwcontap.org.



Start Swinging: Golf Classic Is September 10

Golf enthusiasts are encouraged to join the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) in an upcoming community event to benefit local charities. The event, the eighth annual *Golden Valley Golf Classic*, is scheduled for Friday, September 10, at Brookview Golf Course.

The fee for foursomes is \$260 before August 31 or \$300 after, which includes greens fees, cart, continental breakfast, and lunch. Golfers also have a chance to win prizes.

The Foundation is accepting sponsorship for the tournament in three areas:

- Corporate Sponsor (\$1,000)
- Golf Hole Sponsor (\$500)
- Prizes and Awards: Contributions of cash, merchandise, and in-kind items or gift certificates are welcome for hole contests, prizes, and drawings at the conclusion of the tournament.

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

Last year's event drew 88 golfers from Golden Valley and the surrounding area who, with corporate and individual sponsors, helped the Golf Classic raise \$8,797 for local human service organizations. The GVHSF distributes 100% of funds raised to causes directly serving the Golden Valley community (see box at left). For more information about the Golf Classic or the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation, call Sue Virnig, staff liaison, at 763-593-8010. 



gv foundation Taking Funding Applications

The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation, which is comprised of community volunteers, helps fund several nonprofit agencies that serve Golden Valley residents in need. In 2004, the Foundation contributed \$80,001 to Home Free Shelter, PRISM, YMCA Detached Work Program, Northwest Suburban Dinner at Your Door, North Hennepin Mediation Program, Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, and Senior Community Services (see box at right).

The deadline for 2004 funding applications is August 31, 2004, at 4:30 pm. The Foundation will review funding requests and allocate available funds using the following guidelines:

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

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



GVHSF Gives Local Support

The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation helps fund several nonprofit agencies that serve Golden Valley residents in need.

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (763-591-0400) provides up to 72 hours of free shelter care for children up to age six for families dealing with stress or crisis that need time away from children to stabilize themselves. Advocates also help the family find resources.

Home Free Domestic Assault Intervention Project (763-545-7072) responds to victims 24 hours a day by phone or via home or hospital visit to offer support and information, including assistance in court proceedings.

PRISM (763-529-1350) offers emergency and supplemental food, financial assistance, clothing, senior transportation, and case load work to low-income residents of Golden Valley, Crystal, New Hope, Robbinsdale, Plymouth, and Brooklyn Center.

North Hennepin Mediation Program (763-561-0033) provides residents and businesses with respectful, confidential, and accessible mediation services.

Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door (763-520-7386) provides hot nourishing meals to people who are home bound and unable to afford a home-cooked meal.

Northwest YMCA Detached Work Program (763-535-4800) operates out of the Northwest YMCA and helps troubled youth by working to identify problems before they escalate to a crisis level.

Senior Community Services HOME (763-504-6980) helps Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and New Hope seniors with home maintenance.

Senior Community Services OUT-REACH (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.



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

Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week—Pick-Up Date

Labor Day—Sat, Sep 11
 Thanksgiving—Sat, Nov 27
 Christmas—regular pick-up
 New Year's—regular pick-up

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.

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

Pull the Plug on Electronic Waste

With technology advancing almost as fast as new products hit the shelves, it's no surprise that more than two million tons of electronics are unplugged and sent to landfills every year (US Environmental Protection Agency). At that rate, it appears future archeologists may find our civilization buried in them if we don't stop the madness. Further, many electronics contain lead, cadmium, and mercury, all of which are bad for the environment and our health.

TELEVISIONS AND COMPUTERS

When it comes to electronic waste, televisions and computers are the biggies. Usable items can be donated, but be sure to contact organizations first to see if they're interested. Items beyond use must be recycled. Both Hennepin County Transfer Stations (see box at right) take TVs and computers, VCRs, camcorders, telephones, stereo equipment, and other electronics. They don't take fax machines and photocopiers, but the Hennepin County web site (see below) provides a list of companies that do.

You can also try contacting the manufacturer of your electronic item. In 2002, Waste Management, Inc and Sony partnered to recycle Sony electronics and computers free of charge at several Waste Management sites. This five-year program is the first of its kind in the US and collected more than 8,000 pounds of electronics the first year. This July, Office Depot and Hewlett-Packard also teamed up to offer the first free nation-wide in-store electronics recycling program. As two of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Plug-In To eCycling partners, they will accept most standard consumer electronics (cell phones, pagers, PDAs, and computers and TVs with 27-inch or smaller screens) in stores at no fee to the consumer. Office Depot will accept one product per day, per person at its locations.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones are everywhere, and new models come out every day. So what do you do when you upgrade? First, try the donation route again. The Donate A Phone *Call to Protect* campaign (1-888-901-7233) collects cell phones for domestic violence victims to provide them a way to call for help (non-working phones are recycled).

If you can't find a person or organization in need of a cell phone, several area companies will take it off your hands. AT&T Wireless, the Call2Recycle program (Best Buy, Target, and Radio Shack), Office Depot (see above), Sprint, Staples, and Verizon Wireless all accept unwanted cell phones and accessories free of charge. Just check their web sites or call a local store to confirm they participate.

OTHER ELECTRONICS

The Hennepin County Transfer Stations accept other home electronics and appliances, such as washers and dryers, hot water heaters, garbage disposals, trash compactors, stoves, air conditioners, refrigerators/freezers, furnaces, microwave ovens, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, and heat pumps (there is a fee for appliances).

For more electronic recycling resources, check the following web sites:

www.co.hennepin.mn.us, www.greenguardian.com/throw6.asp, www.moea.state.mn.us/plugin/recyclers-household.cfm, and www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/conserves/plugin/index.htm.

RECYCLING CENTERS

Hennepin County Recycling Center and Transfer Station (8100 Jefferson Hwy, Brooklyn Park), 612-348-3777

South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center (temporarily located at 14600 Minnetonka Blvd), 612-348-3777

Bold, Bossy Buckthorn Is Bane Of Natives

The aliens have not only arrived, some have taken over and driven out the natives.

You've heard of Zebra mussels, milfoil, and purple loosestrife. Golden Valley has buckthorn, an aggressive, non-native, woody plant that is quietly invading parks and woodlots, wetlands and yards. In some areas it's threatening total domination, and it's time to fight back.

"Of all the invasive species, buckthorn is the biggest problem here," says Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom after a recent environmental assessment of the city. "And right now, education is our main tool of control."

KNOW THY ENEMY

Both common buckthorn (also called European) and glossy buckthorn are well-established in Minnesota. They are recognizable as tall understory shrubs or small trees with brown bark and silvery projections that grow to 20 feet high. Buckthorn was brought to the US from Europe in the 1800s, mostly by folks who liked that it grew fast and created privacy fences.

For years buckthorn went unchecked. Then in the 1930s, the common type was identified as an alternative host to oat crown rust, a fungus that destroys oat crops, and sales were stopped. But buckthorn continued to thrive, and the State of Minnesota officially listed common buckthorn as a "restricted" noxious weed in 1999. By 2001, glossy buckthorn was an outlaw plant, too. (Note: aiding and abetting buckthorn through transport or sale is illegal.) Still, the invader continues to proliferate and residents are needed to do battle.

CAPTURE OR CONTROL

Experts agree control may be possible if buckthorn isn't too thick. If the buckthorn is well-established though, reduction may be the only hope. As Lundstrom points out, "You don't get rid of buckthorn. You try to manage it."

Current control methods are mechanical, chemical, or both. Mechanical control for large infestations is a losing battle, but for small infestations, experts suggest digging up the roots and continuous cutting (new sprout-growth must be cut every week for several growing seasons).

For larger buckthorn infestations, experts recommend chemical treatments (be sure to follow label instructions) such as: Roundup, Razor, GlyStar Plus, Rodeo, Aqua Neat with the active ingredient Glyphosate or Garlon 3A, Ortho Brush B-Gone with the active ingredient Triclopyr or Garlon 4, Crossbow, and Pathfinder (ready-to-use) with the active ingredient Triclopyr ester. Chemical treatments work best when the plant is dormant in the summer, autumn, and winter.

DON'T GIVE UP THE FIGHT

It's easy to feel overwhelmed if you have a heavily buckthorn-infested area, but don't give up. Doing something is far better than leaving the invasion unchecked.

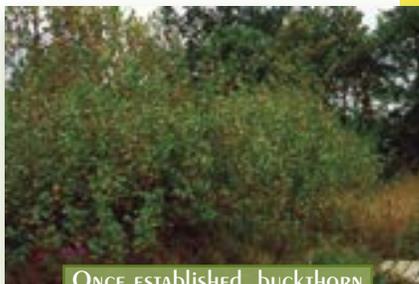
For more information on buckthorn control, go to www.dnr.state.mn.us (MN Department of Natural Resources) or www.mda.state.mn.us (MN Department of Agriculture).

(c) J.S. Peterson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



COMMON (OR EUROPEAN) BUCKTHORN

(c) Barry A Rice/The Nature Conservancy



ONCE ESTABLISHED, BUCKTHORN IS HARD TO GET RID OF.

(c) Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Glossy buckthorn

NATIVES TO ARRIVE IN NEW NATURE AREA

With its approach to developing a new nature area, the City of Golden Valley is taking yet another opportunity to reintroduce native plants to the community. As reported in the last *CityNews*, General Mills generously donated 19 acres of land to the City at the south-east corner of Hwys 169 and 55 to facilitate a major reconstruction project at Hwy 55 and General Mills Blvd.

The land is being developed for floodplain storage and wetland mitigation, but a permanent conservation easement through the Minnesota Land Trust will also preserve it as a nature area. A wide range of wetland habitats will be developed, including deep and shallow marshes, a wet meadow, and floodplain forest. Native grasses and forbs will be seeded in and adjacent to the wetland, and shrubs and trees will be planted for bank stabilization and erosion control.

PLANTS, SHRUBS, AND TREES

More than 50 different native species will be established to create the deep marsh habitat, shallow marsh habitat, wet meadow habitat, and floodplain forest habitat. Swamp white oak, hackberry, and American basswood are a few of the trees. For shrubbery, expect to see high bush cranberry, buttonbush, and red-osier dogwood, among others. Grasses will include big bluestem, slender wheat, annual rye (vegetation cover for erosion control), and Indian and prairie cordgrass. Forbs will include joe-pye weed, boneset, wild bergamot, and tall blazingstar.

The nature area's diverse habitats are intended to provide a number of public and environmental benefits, such as:

- feeding, breeding, and resting habitat for wildlife species
- erosion control and nutrient uptake
- water quality treatment for the upstream watershed, including flood storage
- public wetland education, aesthetic appreciation, and hiking opportunities

SENIOR STUFF

Register in advance for the following events, seminars, classes and trips.

Health Insurance Help—Aug 10 and Sept 14, 9 - 11 am, Brookview

Defensive Driving Course—Four-hour refresher at Brookview. Aug 12 and Sept 9, 9 am - 1 pm

Celebrate Senior Dining—Aug 19, noon, Calvary

Picnic Supper and Concert in the Park—Aug 23, 6 pm, Brookview Community Center and Park

Upcoming Trips (register early)—Aug 23 - 24: Grand Marais & North Shore; Sept 8: Music Man Square; Sept 21: Western Wisconsin Magic; Sept 29: Old Log Theater; Oct 21, 22, & 23: Milwaukee Art Museum, Village of Kohler, Historic Cedarburg and Fireside Theater Trip

Continental Breakfast (register early)—Aug 25: "Swedish Immigrant Trunk," 9:30 am, Brookview

Senior Par 3 Golf League—Thursdays, 8 am, Brookview Golf Course. End of Season Lunch, Aug 26, 11 am

Fun "N" Games Supper—Aug 30, 6:30 pm, Brookview

Autumn Splendor Dance—Sept 10, 1 pm, Crystal Community Center

Free Financial Talks—Sept 16, 10 am, "CD Laddering Technique and Value Line Update," Brookview

Supper & Band Concert—Sept 30, 6 pm, Brookview

Pedal Pushers Bicycle Group—Call the Seniors Office for a schedule.

Five Cities Transportation Program offers rides to seniors for shopping, social activities, and senior program events. For a schedule or to reserve a ride, call the Five Cities office at 763-531-1259 between 8 am and 3 pm Monday through Friday.

For more information, to receive the Senior Newsletter, or to register for a program or trip, contact:

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

Golf, Always Fun, Grows With Inclusion

Once upon a time, golf courses seemed filled with executives, mostly men doing business and escaping their families to "relax." In the past 20 years or so, times have changed. Golf has become an inclusive game that draws women, youth, entire families, and people from all walks of life, which is perhaps why golf has become one of the fastest growing sports in the US.

The National Golf Foundation estimates there are about 26.2 million adult golfers in the United States, 5.76 million of which are women. An additional 6.1 million kids ages 5 to 17 report playing golf or visiting a practice facility. Part of the current upswing is likely the knowledge that exercise is vital to good health. Just look at comedian Bob Hope, who lived until 2003 to the age of 100. "I just feel better after I play. It's done an awful lot for my health." (*Golf Magazine*, March, 1980)

HOW TO BEGIN

Whether you're new to the game or have been playing for years, Golden Valley's Brookview Golf Course can meet your needs. Adult novices can take the first step class, then advance to the second step class or take private lessons. The two-step lessons are also available to youth. Those wanting a more personal approach can forgo group lessons and arrange private instruction with one of Brookview's golf pros.

Those familiar with an eagle, fairway, and their handicap (see *Golf Lingo* below) can jump right in with a tee time or join one of Brookview's weekly golf leagues, including the Brookview Men's Golf Association (BMGA), Brookview Women's Golf Association (BWGA), or Brookview Junior League. There are also Industrial leagues for employees of local companies to enjoy after work.

A CLOSER LOOK AT BROOKVIEW GOLF COURSE

Brookview hosts more than 70,000 rounds of golf every year. The facility offers an 18-hole Regulation Course and a nine-hole Par 3, a Driving Range, a teaching area, and a Golf Shop and Grill. The Regulation Course is a challenging, mature course with tree-lined fairways, 28 moderate bunkers, fairly small greens, and a load of water hazards, including Bassett Creek, which crosses six holes. Carts are allowed in the fairways, weather permitting, but the course layout encourages a lovely stroll through the pastoral greens.

For more information about Brookview Golf Course, or to get a tee time, call 763-593-2300 or visit the City web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us).



GOLF NOW ATTRACTS PARTICIPANTS OF ALL AGES.

INTRO TO GOLF LINGO

- Ace:** A hole-in-one
- Birdie:** A score of one stroke under par
- Cut:** A shot that curves from left to right
- Double Bogey:** A score of two over par
- Eagle:** A score of two under par
- Fairway:** Closely mown area around hole
- Handicap:** Number assigned to a player's ability (the lower the handicap, the better the player)
- Lip:** The edge of the hole
- Mulligan:** An agreement to let a player take another shot after a bad one
- Par:** Expected score on a given hole
- Yardage Marker:** Indicates distance to a hole

GV Soccer Kicks Up Fitness and Fun

Get within striking distance of Lions, North Wesley, or Scheid Park or Perpich School for the Arts on a spring, summer, or fall Saturday, and chances are there will be a soccer game happening. In the US alone, more than 40 million people age five and up enjoy this international game, known as football elsewhere in the world.

Soccer in Golden Valley

If you and your child are looking for a way to get and stay fit, have fun, and score some goals, soccer may be the answer. Last year Golden Valley Parks & Recreation had 29 youth soccer teams, with players from kindergarten through eighth grade trying to get that ball past a goalkeeper. The younger players showed up in force. Junior Soccer (grades K and 1) made up the biggest age group (more than 100), but there were close to 300 total participants. Youth games are usually played on Saturday afternoons and some weekdays. Parental involvement is strongly encouraged—volunteer coaches and referees are always needed, making soccer a family experience.

This fall, games run from Saturday, September 11 through October for most participants. Practices are generally scheduled to begin a couple weeks before the first game. The registration deadline is Friday, August 6, and registration is accepted online, in person, by mail, over the phone, or by fax. The fee is \$27 and the T-shirts are \$12.



While Park and Rec soccer is open to all who want to play, kids ages nine to 19 who have mastered soccer basics and want a more competitive atmosphere should consider the Phoenix Soccer Association, which offers both in-house and traveling leagues. While the rules are basically the same, kids have to try out for this level of play, so be ready to dribble, pass, and head because players are assigned to a team based on their skill level.

Ever hear a grown-up ask why kids get to have all the fun? You won't hear it here in regard to soccer. Golden Valley Park and Rec offers a fall adult co-rec league from September through October. Last year, 17 teams joined the league, playing games on Friday nights and Sunday afternoons at Lions Park. Better hurry though. Registration materials have been available since the end of June and the registration deadline is August 6.

BENEFITS of SOCCER

While any and all exercise promotes good health, soccer offers a lot for people of any age. Boston's City Kicks Soccer Organization put together the following list of benefits.

- Continuous play (no time-out) makes soccer very active and aerobic.
- Free-flowing game challenges players to think on the go and make quick decisions.
- Team element challenges players to work together to create solutions and cooperate.
- Skills such as patience, courage, flexibility, cooperation, persistence, discipline, concentration, courage, and resilience are honed.
- As an international sport, soccer can help children learn about other countries and cultures.
- The basic game is simple enough so everyone can join right in.

For more information about soccer in Golden Valley, contact the Golden Valley Parks and Recreation Department 763-512-2345 or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/index.htm. For more information on the Golden Valley Phoenix Soccer Club, call 763-544-9829 or go to www.gvphoenixsoccer.org.

PARK & REC UPDATE

Concerts in the Park—Aug 9 : Bruno & Friends; Aug 16 : CODA; Aug 23: Big Stoop Band

Magic & More (ages 8 and up)—Tue and Wed, Aug 10 -11, 1 - 3 pm, Brookview, \$24

Balloon Workshop (ages 8 & up)—Thurs, Aug 12, 1 - 3 pm, Brookview, \$12

Big Picture Scrapbooking—Wed, Aug 18, 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Brookview, \$15

Tennis Camps and Lessons at Brookview—Youth Day Camp (ages 4 - 6): Mon - Fri, Aug 16 - 20 or Aug 23 - 27, 9 - 11 am, \$55; Tennis-N-Fun Day Camp (ages 6 - 14): Mon - Fri, Aug 16 - 20 or Aug 23 - 27, 11 am - 3 pm, \$150; Tennis-N-Fun Day Camp (ages 12 - 15): Mon - Fri, Aug 16 - 20 or Aug 23 - 27, 3 - 6 pm, \$115; Pee Wee Lessons (ages 5 - 7), various dates and times, \$22; Youth Lessons (ages 7 - 15), various times and dates, \$24 - \$31.50; Adult Lessons: Tue and Thurs, Aug 3 - 17, various times, \$25

Easy Photo Organization for Kids (ages 8 - 15)—Thurs, Aug 19, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Brookview, \$11

3rd Lair Skateboarding Camp—Ages 6 - 16: Mon - Fri, Aug 9 - 13, \$180 with lunch, \$160 without lunch, 3rd Lair Skate Park, 850 Florida Ave N

3rd Lair Skate Park Partnership with the City of Golden Valley provides free outdoor skating to Golden Valley youth 16 and under. For more info, call 3rd Lair at 763-797-5283 or go to www.3rdlair.com.

Watch for the Fall Activities Brochure in August.

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

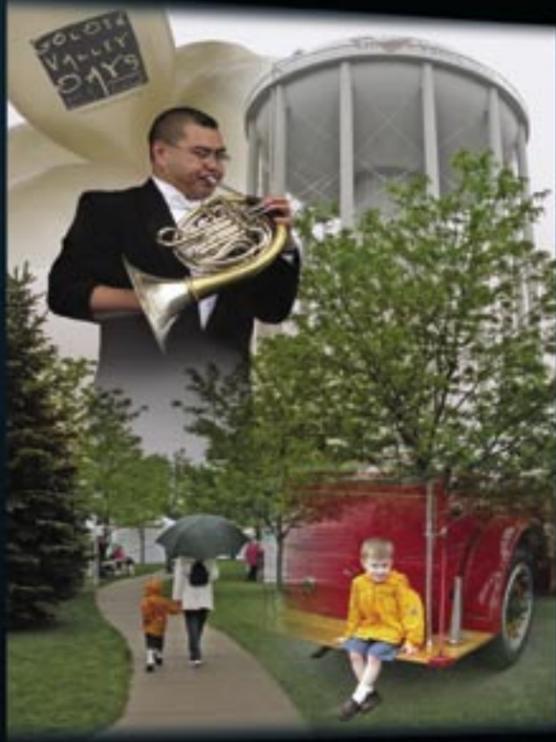
2004 Photo Contest Entries Range from Traditional to High-Tech

Golden Valley's 12th annual *Views of the Valley* photo contest drew 52 entries in three categories from residents who tried to capture on film or digitally their version of the city's beauty, uniqueness, and quality of life. The Natural Golden Valley category brought in photos of landscapes, flora, fauna, etc. The Golden Valley Lifestyle category featured photos of cityscapes, buildings, people, and activities. The new Enhanced category attracted entries significantly altered by editing software, lenses, etc. And to satisfy the art critic in all of us, a People's Choice award is presented to the photo voted most popular by citizens who view the entries online and at City Hall.

Keeping the contest standards in mind as well as the basics of good photography, four judges chose the three winners shown below. Richard Gunderson's "Golden Valley Days" won the overall grand prize as well as first prize in Enhanced Golden Valley; Ellen G. Anderson's "General Mills Bluebirds" won first prize in Natural Golden Valley; and Lowell Gordon's "Snowman" won first prize in Golden Valley Lifestyle. This year the people chose Janice Laulainen's "Majestic Monarch" as their favorite photo. All winners receive a cash prize, certificates of recognition, and publication of their photos in various Golden Valley public information pieces.

Views of the Valley aims to promote Golden Valley and civic pride. Judges for 2004 were Rod Radtke, a professional photographer at Great Photos Fast in Golden Valley; Jacquie Larson, communications coordinator for the City of Minnetonka; Jeff Syme, a former newspaper photographer and current writer, editor, and photographer in the Metropolitan Council's Communications Office; and Sarah Larson, a former professional photographer and current fire education training specialist for the City of Golden Valley. Next year's contest deadline will be June 6, 2005.

The winning photos and all entries can be viewed online at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/PhotoContest/photocontest.htm.



Golden Valley Enhanced First Place and Overall Grand Prize Winner
"Golden Valley Days," by Richard Gunderson

Gunderson's collage of images from the recent Golden Valley Days Art and Music Festival did a masterful job of showing off the beauty and spirit of the community. It is also his second win in the contest. He earned a second place award in 2003.



Natural Golden Valley First Place
"General Mills Bluebirds,"
by Ellen G. Anderson

This technically excellent shot of two bluebirds perched on a birdhouse earns Anderson her fifth win in the contest. She won first prize in 2003, the grand prize in 2002, and both first and second prize in 1995.



Golden Valley Lifestyle First Place
"Snowman," by Lowell Gordon

Gordon's whimsical close-up of an affable snowman is one of his first entries in *Views of the Valley*.



People's Choice
"Majestic Monarch," by Janice Laulainen

Laulainen's classic study of butterfly and flower represents her seventh win in the contest. She won a first prize in 2002, second in 2001, first prize and People's Choice in 2000, third prize in 1999, second in 1996, and first prize in 1993, the contest's inaugural year.

WHERE CAN Go-Peds Go?

Go-peds are hot. These small gas- and electric-powered vehicles (small scooters with or without seats, skateboards, and even powered inline skates) can travel from five to nearly 30 mph. They're available at many retail outlets, but before you buy, make sure you're aware of all of the state laws and requirements for these vehicles.

Minnesota law defines go-peds as motor vehicles. As such, they cannot be used on public streets or highways until they are registered with the state and display license plates.

However, most go-peds do not meet registration requirements

because they lack required safety equipment, a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), or Motor Vehicle Title. And like all motor vehicles, go-peds are prohibited by City ordinance from operating on a sidewalk, bike path, or in a park.

So where can you go with your go-ped? These recreational vehicles can only be used off road or on private property, much like an ATV. Anyone riding an unlicensed go-ped on the street can be cited for violating motor vehicle registration laws. Vehicles may be impounded and held as evidence until the case is resolved. Failure to respond to traffic citations can result in loss of driving privileges and/or issuance of an arrest warrant.

For more information, contact the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Unit at 763-593-8058 or police@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

For more information on MN traffic statutes, go to www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/statutes.asp or www.dps.state.mn.us.



Without a seat belt, a 35-mph crash is like falling three-stories.

During a crash, an unbelted body becomes a lethal flying object. Unbelted rear passengers are three times more likely to die in a crash, and they double the odds that the driver will be killed.

Of the 544 motor vehicle occupants killed in 2002, 62 percent were unbelted. If all unrestrained occupants had buckled up, 205 could have survived.

Buckle Up For Safety

Don't like wearing a seat belt? Get over it and buckle up. That was the message sent by the State of Minnesota when it passed a mandatory seat belt law in 1986. To back it up, a ticket for not wearing a seat belt carries a fine between \$70 and \$115.

Along with care for its citizenry, Minnesota passed this law because medical bills for unbelted crash victims are about 75% higher than those for victims wearing a belt. Further, research indicates that those injured pay only 26% of costs, leaving the rest to be covered by society in higher insurance rates and public assistance. In 2002 alone, unbelted crash victims cost Minnesotans nearly \$515 million.

Think an air bag will save you? Think again. An air bag is a supplemental restraint system; it's meant to work with a seat belt, not by itself. Dashboard air bags only work in frontal crashes. A seat belt, not the air bag, is the primary source of protection in rear and side collisions and rollovers.

Kids AND SEAT BELTS

When it comes to kids and seat belts, parents set the example. Research by the American Academy of Pediatrics shows a direct correlation between driver seat belt use and child restraint use. When a driver buckles up, child passengers are restrained 87% of the time. For unbuckled drivers, the percentage drops to 24.

Children under age 13 should always be in the back seat, regardless of air bag technology. Kids are 39% safer in the back seat with or without air bags. Babies and preschoolers under age four are required by law to be securely placed in a child safety seat that meets federal safety standards. Infants should remain in a rear-facing position until they are over 12 months old and at least 20 pounds. Children ages four to eight, under 80 pounds, and less than 57 inches tall should ride in a booster seat. Although not mandatory, booster seats keep the seat belt in proper position—around a child's hips and across the chest and shoulders.

Minnesota teenagers and seat belts are a special challenge. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death of adolescents. Between 1997 and 2001, more 15- to 17-year-olds died in traffic crashes than by suicide, other accidents, and homicides combined. Again, it's up to parents to set a good example and insist on seat belt safety.

For more information about child passenger safety, contact the Auto Safety Hotline (800-424-9393) or Minnesota Child Passenger Safety Program (800-818-9296 or www.buckleupkids.state.mn.us).

SCHEDULE A SAFETY SEAT CHECK-UP

Because vehicle seats and safety belts are built for adults, not children, seven of 10 child safety seats are not used properly. The Golden Valley Public Safety Department offers residents free Child Passenger Safety Seat Check-ups to help with proper installation and usage. Child passenger safety specialists also check to see that older children are using safety belts properly.

Check-ups are available by appointment only. To schedule, call the Public Safety Department at 763-593-8079. Bring your child(ren) with you, along with the manufacturer's directions for the child safety seat and the owner's manual for your vehicle.

In 2002, three percent of passenger vehicle crashes were rollovers, but they accounted for 36% of vehicle occupant fatalities in MN because 78% of passengers were not wearing seat belts.

Traffic crashes are the leading killer of people in Minnesota ages 4 to 33 (Center for Disease Control).

Extinguish The Risk Of Candle Fire

Romance, relaxation, rituals, and birthdays are just a few reasons why people light candles. Although they're known for contributing a special mood to many occasions, candles are also dangerous. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), part of the problem is that candle use has increased so much in recent years—20% from 1998 to 1999 alone. The last year of the past millennium also marked a 20-year peak in candle use, resulting in an estimated 15,040 home candle fires that caused 102 deaths and 1,472 injuries.

Now, no one wants to douse the nation's love of candles. But there are some very common-sense ways to reduce the risk of a candle fire. Here are the big three, followed by three more NFPA tips:

- First and foremost, **candles should never be left alone**. Not only are candles meant for viewing, NFPA research shows that more than one in three candle fires start when candles are left unattended, abandoned, or inadequately controlled. Extinguish all candles before you leave the room.
- Second, **don't leave candles close to combustible materials** such as curtains, books, paper, and flammable liquids. This causes one in five candle fires. Remember the three-foot rule: Anything combustible needs to be kept three feet from a heat source.
- Finally, **children (and pets) and candles don't mix**. Children playing with candles account for one in 10 candle fires.
- Avoid candles with combustible items embedded in them.
- Extinguish taper and pillar candles when they have burned within two inches of the holders, and votive and container candles before the last half-inch of wax begins to melt.
- Use extreme care when carrying a candle. Hold it well away from clothing (avoid loose, flowing clothes that are not flame-resistant) and other combustibles near the path you're walking.

Recognizing the need for candle safety advice, the National Candle Association also offers the following tips.

- Place candles on a secure surface in sturdy noncombustible holders that won't tip over and are big enough to catch drippings.
- Trim wicks to 1/4 inch before each use.
- Never burn candles longer than the manufacturer recommends.
- Extinguish candles if they smoke, flicker repeatedly, or the flames are too high.
- Keep the wax pool free of wick trimmings, debris, and matches.
- Place lighted candles at least three inches from each other.
- Keep burning candles away from drafts, vents, and air currents.
- Avoid using candles during a power outage. A flashlight is a safer option. Avoid carrying a lit candle.

For more information, contact the NFPA (800-344-3555) or go to www.nfpa.org and type "candles" in the search box. 

BEING ALARMED AND ALERT MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE

Last year, the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) was awarded a grant from "Alarmed and Alert: The Minnesota Initiative to Prevent Residential Fire-Related Injuries" program. This federally funded grant, administered through the Minnesota Department of Health, is being used to supply Golden Valley citizens with smoke alarms and fire prevention education.

To date, more than 150 homes have participated in the program. Golden Valley residents, especially seniors, interested in being involved in Armed and Alert should call Fire Education Specialist/Training Coordinator Sarah Larson at 763-593-3977 to make an appointment.

Once you make an appointment, 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. "Our goal is to make their home as safe as we can before we walk out the door," Larson says.

For more information on the program or to participate, call Sarah Larson at 763-593-3977. 

The Importance of SMOKE ALARMS

According to the National Center for Disease Control (CDC), someone is killed or injured in a home fire every 27 minutes, and every one dollar spent on a smoke alarm can save up to \$69 in the costs associated with a fire.

Any firefighter or injury prevention agency will tell you smoke detectors save lives. The National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) reports that while 15 of 16 homes in the US have at least one smoke alarm, most home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms.

The GVFD recommends people install at least one smoke alarm on every floor of their home (don't forget the basement) and both outside and inside each sleeping area. Smoke alarms should be mounted high on ceilings or walls because smoke rises. Ceiling-mounted alarms should be at least six inches away from the nearest wall, while wall-mounted alarms should be four to 12 inches away from the ceiling and at least six inches from the corner. Alarms should be mounted at the highest point of vaulted ceilings. People are advised not to paint or decorate smoke alarms and not to mount them near windows, doors, or ducts where a draft may hinder their operation.

MANAGING BASSETT CREEK

The Bassett Creek Water Management Commission (BCWMC) is mandated to manage the water resources of the Bassett Creek Watershed in order that the beneficial uses of wetlands, lakes, and streams remain available to the community. Such uses may include simple aesthetic appreciation, wildlife observation, swimming, boating, and more. Its mission is to control flooding and to maintain and enhance the quality of the surface and ground water resources in the watershed.

The BCWMC got its start in 1969, when the Bassett Creek Flood Control Commission (BCFCC) was formed by a joint powers agreement between the nine communities (Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St Louis Park) in the Bassett Creek Watershed. As required by the joint powers agreement, the BCFCC adopted the Watershed Management Plan for Bassett Creek in February 1972.

In accordance with the 1982 Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act, the BCFCC revised its joint powers agreement and created the BCWMC.

The Bassett Creek Water Management Plan was adopted December 18, 1986 and approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources July 26, 1989.

Regular BCWMC meetings are held at noon the third Thursday of each month at Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road. A special notice is sent out if a meeting is cancelled or rescheduled. For more information about the BCWMC, to go www.bassettcreekwmo.org.

Bassett Creek Project To Protect Flood-Prone Homes

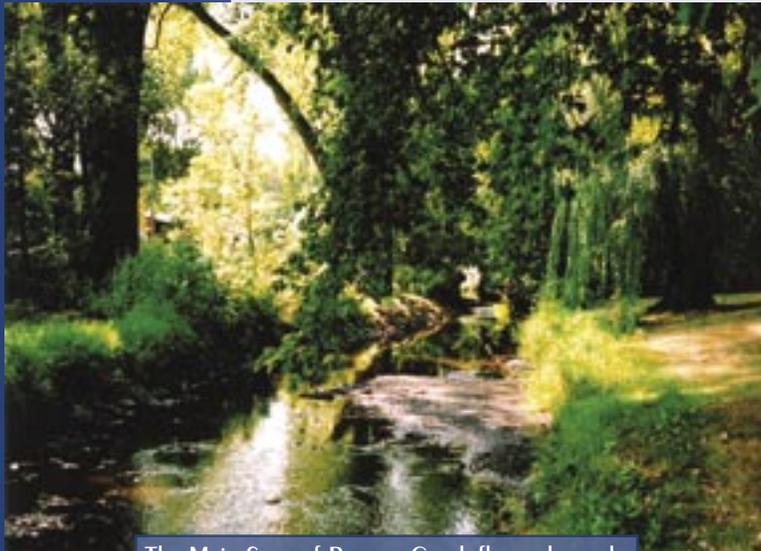
Flooding along Bassett Creek has occurred following heavy rains ever since the first homes were built in Golden Valley. To address this, the City of Golden Valley and the Bassett Creek Water Management Commission (BCWMC) have teamed up to create a flood-proofing project scheduled to begin along the Main Stem of Bassett Creek in late fall 2004.

PROJECT HISTORY

Golden Valley lies almost entirely within the Bassett Creek Watershed, which exceeds 40 square miles and is divided into four major sub watersheds. The Bassett Creek Main Stem, where the flood-proofing project will occur, originates in Medicine Lake and flows east through parts of Plymouth, Golden Valley, and Minneapolis to the Mississippi River.

For years various organizations have worked to manage the Creek (see sidebar on BCWMC). Flooding originally affected approximately 70 homes along the Creek's banks; however, after 30 years of projects by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the BCWMC, most of the homes are no longer subject to flooding. By 1982, the 23 homes that remained in the floodplain were included in the Bassett Creek Flood Control Plan, which was then dropped by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Since then, some homeowners took it upon themselves to flood proof; other homes were removed from the floodplain through revisions in flood levels related to public improvements made by the BCWMC. The current flood-proofing project will include 14 homes.

Photo by David J Walters (2004 Views of the Valley)



THE MAIN STEM OF BASSETT CREEK FLOWS THROUGH GOLDEN VALLEY TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

In this collaborative effort between the City and the BCWMC, the City is primarily in charge of design and construction, and the BCWMC will handle the majority of the funding. Golden Valley Public Works staff has met with the homeowners who are affected by the flood proofing to discuss various options. Several neighborhood meetings were also conducted.

CONSTRUCTION NOTES

Work is scheduled to begin this fall and continue into the winter when the rainy-season soaked soils have dried some and can support heavy equipment.

Most of the work will occur in the vicinity of Scott and Regent Avenues. A flood

control levee will be built along the Creek for most of the project. In a relatively small area where there is not enough room for a berm, a steel sheet pile wall will be erected. Storm water runoff behind the levee will be directed to a dry pond that will be constructed along the Creek at the corner of Hampton and Regent. A lift station will be constructed nearby to pump the runoff to the Creek. While two pumps would handle nearly any flood event, the third will serve as a back-up. The City will also coordinate with Reliant Energy for a gas service line to the lift station generators in case there is a power failure, a common occurrence during major storms. The project is expected to be completed in spring 2005.

If you have questions about the flood-proofing project, contact City Engineer Jeff Oliver at 763-593-8030. 

Sump Pump Users Must Mind I and I By 2008

Don't know what I/I is? You're not alone. But since inflow and infiltration (I/I) issues affect nearly every resident in the metro area, and since Golden Valley is one of many metro area communities that exceeds allowable inflow during peak hours, it's time to get with the program.

Excess surface water (inflow) and groundwater (infiltration) in sanitary sewer pipes causes back-ups, overloads treatment plants, and results in higher costs to treat sewage. Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) formed an Inflow and Infiltration Task Force last year to study the problem, and in its May 2004 report it recommends that communities exceeding I/I rates by 2008 be assessed a surcharge for water treatment. That means Golden Valley utility customers would see increased rates unless they get their I/I under control.

THE LOWDOWN ON I/I

One major source of I/I surpluses are the sump pumps many homeowners use to keep groundwater out of their basements. Sumps directed (cross-connected) to discharge into the City's sanitary sewer system are a major contributor to excess I/I. At current I/I rates, the water treatment systems cannot meet the needs of expected population growth.

"With a projected growth of 930,000 people in the seven-county region from 2000 to 2030, we have to protect the growth capacity designed into our current wastewater system," explains Metropolitan Council Member and Task Force Chair Russ Susag. "Because the problem originates in local communities, we believe communities need to take responsibility for addressing the problem."

MCES's updated Water Resources Policy Plan is scheduled for adoption in 2005. At that time the I/I Task Force recommendations would become policy and be implemented when adopted by the Metropolitan Council. Public meetings to discuss this issue are scheduled for December 2004.

KEEP COSTS DOWN: REDIRECT YOUR SUMP PUMP

For several years Golden Valley Public Works has been issuing information to residents about directing sump pump discharges into the storm water system or onto their yard, NOT into the sanitary sewer system. Sump pump water does not need treatment before it returns to area streams, ponds, and lakes.

To correct cross-connections, residents can direct sump pump discharge into the City's storm sewer system through one of two methods:

- a direct connection (a pipe from the house to the main storm sewer line), if available
- directly onto the ground (about 20 feet from the house but not into a neighbor's yard)

For more information on correcting your sump pump connection, call Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030 or check the City

web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/sumppumps.htm.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning agency of the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area. It works with local communities to provide mass transportation services; wastewater collection and treatment; assistance to communities and the public planning for future growth; population and household growth forecasting; affordable housing opportunities; planning, acquisition, and funding for a regional parks and trails system; and a framework for decisions and implementation for services such as aviation, transportation, open space, and water quality and management.

For more information on the Met Council and the I/I Task Force, go to www.metrocouncil.org/environment/environment.htm.

CITY REPLACES WATER METERS

Of the 5,690 residential water meters that needed replacing in the city, Golden Valley Public Works staff have replaced all but 475. Merlin Thorn, Golden Valley Utilities Supervisor, hopes to have that number right around 300 by the end of July.

"And we hope to be done with the replacement by October," he adds.

The City began the water meter exchange program in May 2002 with the goal of improving accuracy and efficiency.

The new radio-read meters feature the latest technology, allowing meter readers to collect information from the street instead of walking up to the outside register. This saves about eight to 10 reading days per month for one reader. All commercial meters in the city were updated to the new technology in 2002.

Most water customers in Golden Valley have been very cooperative. However, some customers have chosen to keep their old meter, resulting in a surcharge of \$100 per quarter. Eventually, these customers could have their water service shut off until they choose to comply.

For more information about the new water meters, or if you have questions about the exchange process, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8075.

No Time for Tabs? Stop, Drop, AND WE'LL DELIVER

Golden Valley's Motor Vehicle Licensing Department can process your license tab renewals with a fast, free service. Simply place your license tab statement and check (payable to the City of Golden Valley) in an envelope marked "Motor Vehicle" and slip it into the Utility Drop Box near the front door of City Hall. Envelopes received by 8 am will be ready for pick-up by noon or can be mailed at no extra charge.

CITY CLARIFIES SIGN REGULATIONS

Golden Valley's sign ordinance restricts sign placement in public right-of-way for the safety of motorists and pedestrians.

- Garage sale and real estate signs may be placed only on the sale premises or where the property is for sale, lease, or rent. Both types of signs may not exceed six square feet in area.
- Only one sign may be displayed on a property.
- Garage sale signs cannot be displayed for more than three days at a time and six total days per year.
- All signs placed on the public right-of-way or other public property will be removed and thrown away by City staff.

City Council is currently reviewing this section of the sign ordinance. Questions? Call Golden Valley Inspections at 763-593-8088. 

Drive Safely In Construction Zones

Summer in Minnesota means road construction, and during this time the number one concern for the City of Golden Valley and its contractors is the safety of workers and the public. Constant awareness will keep everyone safer in a construction zone. Your help and cooperation is especially necessary when it comes to heeding reduced speed limits, obeying "road closed" signs, following parking guidelines, and staying away from the work zone.



"Road Closed" signs ARE THERE FOR YOUR SAFETY.

travel lanes, or any other potential hazard. One thing is very clear; if you get a ticket in a work zone, the fine will automatically double. Because of the large number of crashes in construction zones, they have become well-patrolled areas, many with enforcement officials hired specifically to monitor speeds and motorist activities.

REDUCED SPEED LIMITS

Reduced speed limits in construction areas are part of a nation-wide effort to reduce crashes in construction areas. In 2000, such crashes killed 1,093 individuals, 80 percent of them motorists. If you see a speed limit sign in a construction or maintenance zone, assume it is legally placed and adhere to it whether workers are present or not (see sidebar).

Remember, any posted speed limit is a maximum. You can, and should, drive slower in cases of bad weather, congested traffic, work near

Understanding SPEED LIMIT SIGNS

Reduced speed limits posted in work zones must be followed at all times.

Work zone speed limits are posted in short-term construction or maintenance zones during continuous worker activity. The signs are installed at the beginning of a work shift and removed at the end. They are generally in place because of the close proximity of the work to the traveled lanes of the roadway.

Temporary speed limits are posted in long-term construction or maintenance projects where there are construction hazards to motorists (eg, reduced-width road, construction adjacent to the traveled roadway, or two-way traffic on a freeway roadway). The speed zones are in effect 24 hours a day.

Advisory speed limits have black letters on an orange background and are posted in conjunction with warning signs to alert motorists that reduced speed is necessary because of a potential hazard at the location.

"Road Closed" Signs

It is illegal to drive around a barricade or "Road Closed" sign and into a construction zone. "Road Closed to Thru Traffic" signs mean use another route unless your destination is within the construction area. If you do need to drive in the construction area, watch for construction equipment. Never pull up behind or beside equipment or trucks. Equipment operators have limited visibility, and they won't be able to see you. Always make eye contact with the operator before passing close to a piece of equipment. If the equipment is beeping, it is backing up.

PARKING

For the safety of the entire community, Golden Valley's Police and Fire Departments ask for your cooperation regarding parking during construction. Streets under construction are narrower, and a parked vehicle has a greater impact on traffic flow. Please park on one side only until construction is completed. This will allow emergency vehicles to get through if necessary.

WORK ZONE DANGERS

Even the safest work area can be dangerous. Please, do all you can to keep yourself and your children and pets away from the construction work. The safest route is to stay away from construction equipment, have children and pets play in the back yard during working hours, and above all, do not climb on or play near dirt piles, equipment, or work areas.

If you have questions about construction safety issues, contact the Golden Valley Public Works Department at 763-593-8030. 

Dutch Elm

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

How Big Is THE Problem?

The North Tyrol homeowner is certainly not alone in her loss. Last year 456 Golden Valley elms were infected. Losses are lower than those of the late 1970s, when from 1976 through 1981 DED claimed about 883 Golden Valley trees per year. Through education and vigilant awareness, Golden Valley DED losses gradually decreased to a low of 37 in 1997. However, DED's recent comeback has everyone scrambling. Minneapolis destroyed 4,000 elms last year and nearly 2,200 so far this year. Crystal and Robbinsdale report more than 230 infected trees this year.

How DED SPREADS

DED is spread two ways: overland via an infected beetle and underground through common root systems. Elm bark beetles breed in diseased trees and in recently cut (non-diseased) firewood. They become active in April and fly from tree to tree, introducing spores of the fungus into healthy elm trees. Once the fungus takes hold, it grows rapidly in the water-conducting vessels of the tree. The vessels clog and the tree wilts and dies.

DED PREVENTION Tips

To decrease the chance of infection, do not trim elm trees during the growing season (April 1 through September 30). The safest time to prune elm trees is late winter, before April 1.

Recent trimmings from elm trees, whether the tree was healthy, diseased, or died from another cause, provide excellent breeding material for the elm bark beetles that spread DED. These beetles breed in any dead elm wood where the bark is intact.

If you have firewood or branches obtained from trimming or storm damage, check it for green elm wood. Any elm wood with the bark intact must be destroyed (burned), debarked, or removed by April 1. The wood cannot be safely stored in a garage or indoors.

DISEASE MANAGEMENT Policies

Normally, the City's environmental coordinator or tree inspector check trees on public and private property throughout June, July, and August to detect diseased elm. This year City staff is overwhelmed, which is why it's vital that residents pay attention to elms in their neighborhoods. If you suspect that trees on your property have problems, report them to the City as soon as possible. Staff will respond as soon as possible, but please understand that staff resources have been severely impacted by the DED epidemic. Once a tree is identified with DED, here's how the City deals with the problem.

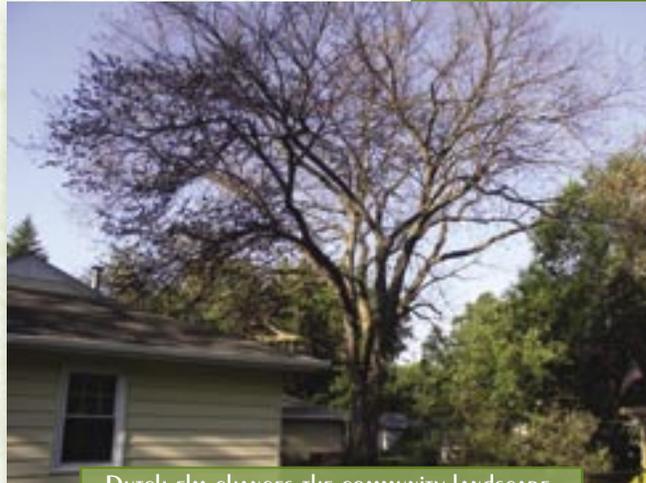
- The City is responsible for removing diseased trees from public property. Diseased tree removals on private property are the responsibility of the property owner.
- State and City regulations require you to cut down marked diseased trees and properly dispose of all portions.
- Trees must be removed within 20 days of disease confirmation and notification.
- If no action is taken by the property owner within 20 days following notice of removal, the City will issue a "Forced Removal Notice" and have the tree(s) removed. The cost of removal, plus an administrative surcharge, will be assessed against the property owner's tax liability.
- A property owner may NOT store elm wood unless all of the bark has been removed. If the stump is not removed, all above-ground portions must be debarked. These restrictions apply to all species of elm.

If you need to report a diseased tree or have any questions, call Golden Valley's environmental coordinator (763-593-8046) or seasonal tree inspector (763-593-3976).

How Much Is A TREE WORTH?

So you're not a tree-hugger, you don't own an elm, and you wonder what the big hoopla is over the loss of a few trees. Here's a brief look at the benefits bestowed by urban trees.

- Tree shade can reduce air conditioning costs in residential and commercial buildings by 15 to 50 percent. Windbreaks can shield homes against wind and snow, reducing heating costs as much as 30 percent.
- The American Forestry Association found that in just one year, one mature tree absorbs 26 pounds of carbon dioxide and cleans up pollution created by a car driven 11,300 miles. An acre of trees can store 2.6 tons of carbon (pollution) annually and generate enough oxygen daily for 18 people.
- For every five percent of tree cover area in a community, storm water run-off is reduced by approximately two percent.



DUTCH ELM CHANGES THE COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE.

- Trees reduce the impact of rain, which results in less soil erosion and runoff into our storm sewers (see I/I article on page 13).
- USDA studies indicate that healthy trees can increase property value by 10 to 20 percent.
- Aesthetics are important. For example, the National Arbor Day Foundation reports that people spend more time shopping along tree-lined streets.
- Trees help to absorb loud sounds from freeways and other roads.
- Trees provide a suitable habitat for animals and birds that wouldn't survive in Golden Valley without them.

Although individual opinion may differ regarding the value of a mature tree, their value to the community is immeasurable.

VOTING LOCATIONS

For the September 14 primary election, you must vote in your own precinct between 7 am and 8 pm.

Precinct 1

NE Fire Station
3700 Golden Valley Rd

Precinct 2

Valley Presbyterian Church
3100 North Lilac Dr

Precinct 3

Meadowbrook School
5430 Glenwood Ave

Precinct 4

Sandburg Middle School
2400 Sandburg Lane

Precinct 5

SE Fire Station
400 Turners Crossroad S

Precinct 6

Golden Valley City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Rd

Precinct 7

Emmaus Baptist Church
8025 Medicine Lake Rd

Precinct 8

Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Pkwy

Tremere Resigns; Council Seeks Applicants

The Golden Valley City Council is seeking applicants to fill a seat left vacant by Council Member Blair Tremere's July 20 resignation. Tremere resigned to begin a new job July 21 as Director of Community Development for the Metropolitan Council. The four remaining Council Members will appoint a citizen to serve out the rest of Tremere's term, which ends December 31, 2005.

People interested in being considered for the vacant Council seat can obtain application materials from Judy Nally at 763-593-3991. Application deadline is August 16, 2004 at 4:30 pm. City government experience and involvement will be important considerations in the selection process. Questions? Contact Judy Nally at 763-593-3991.

what is a perfect day?

DOING SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE WHO WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO REPAY YOU - JOHN WOODEN

**BECOME A PAID
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Call Judy Smith at 763-593-8055.

City of
Golden Valley

763-593-8000

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