

Golden Valley 2004

CITYNEWS

Envision Moves To Next Phase

Envision Golden Valley was created to inspire citizens to contemplate the meaning of community, then come together with ideas for the future to develop a community vision. Although initiated by the City Council, *Envision* was driven by citizens.

Since March 2003, nearly 900 people have participated in *Envision*, sharing their ideas and hopes for the future of the community. Of these, 112 volunteered their time, talents, and energy to develop and implement the process for their fellow citizens. The results are summarized in a 20-page Vision Guide that was recently mailed to every postal address in the city.

In *A Shared Vision for Golden Valley's Future*, the community vision is expressed in two core ideas: "Creatively Connecting People and Places," and "Inspiring Care for Community." The Vision Guide then outlines supporting themes and ideas in for the future of Golden Valley in six categories: development, transportation, community engagement, environment, recreation, and government.

Envision wants to encourage and enable cooperative, non-governmental approaches to making these visions reality. If you'd like to be involved in moving the community vision forward, consider joining the Golden Valley Connection Project. Read more about it on page 18 of your Vision Guide.

Questions? Contact Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014. 



MAINTENANCE STANDARDS SERVE COMMUNITY

These days the buzz in many aging communities can be summed up in three little words: housing maintenance standards. Some cities require that houses pass an inspection before being sold, others place restrictions on allowable building materials. Bottom line—what does a City need to do to maintain the vitality and integrity of its housing? One approach is to more stringently enforce current ordinances, which is what's behind the Golden Valley City Council's recent decision to approve the addition of a full-time housing maintenance inspector to City staff.

For years the City Council has heard complaints from residents about a variety of housing maintenance problems, including exterior and landscaping maintenance issues, dilapidated homes, unfinished improvement projects, absentee building owners, aging apartment buildings, and lack of maintenance in common areas of apartments. Putting more resources toward resolving these problems is a major step toward improved housing maintenance standards.

(MAINTENANCE STANDARDS CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

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NON-LEVY TAX FACTORS

MARKET VALUE SHIFT The proposed 2005 levy will be paid by two major classes of taxpayers—residential and commercial/industrial (C/I). The portion paid is based on the tax base of individual properties, and market value is a main determinant of tax base. Residential market values continue to increase at a faster rate than C/I market values, which shifts tax burden to residential property. This situation will probably remain until an improving economy increases the demand for C/I property. Limited market value legislation caps the increase in residential market values for 2005 taxes at 15%. The 12.8% tax impact on the average home (see table below) is based on an estimated 11% increase in market value. Of this 11% increase, about 8% is current and 3% is deferred market value from prior years. Residential market value increases will vary from 7% to the maximum of 15%.

HOMESTEAD CREDIT This State-funded program reduces taxes on residential homesteaded property. The credit phases out as residential properties increase in value. Therefore, most properties will receive a smaller credit in 2005 than 2004. A smaller credit results in a higher tax, leading to an increase.

CONSTRUCTION New residential and commercial construction increases the City's tax base, thereby reducing its tax rate. The tax rate reduction benefits all property taxpayers.

Tax Impact

(on the average Golden Valley home valued at \$242,050, assuming an 11% increase in market value)

LEVY

Operations	9.4%
Tax Abatement	1.2%
Bonded Debt	.4%
Fire Relief Levy	(.5)%

NON-LEVY

Increase in City tax base:	
New residential construction	(1.2)%
New commercial/industrial construction	(2.6)%
Increase in net contribution to fiscal disparities	.1%
Market value shift	5.2%
Reduction in homestead credit	.8%
TOTAL	12.8%

Council Adopts 2005 Proposed Tax Levy

At its September 7 meeting, the Golden Valley City Council adopted a proposed \$12,545,135 property tax levy for 2005. The actual levy, to be adopted in December, can be less than this amount but not greater (see table below for details).

	ACTUAL 2004	PROPOSED 2005
General Fund Levy	\$ 8,376,590	\$ 9,445,000
Fire Relief Levy	73,820	20,000
Sub-Total	8,450,410	9,465,000
Tax Abatement Levy	178,500	315,135
BONDED DEBT LEVY:		
Street Improvement Bonds	2,125,000	2,125,000
Equip. Certificates	600,000	640,000
Sub-Total	2,725,000	2,765,000
TOTAL LEVY	\$11,353,910	\$12,545,135
Percentage Increase		10.5%

Part of the \$1,068,410 increase to the proposed General Fund levy is a result of the City using \$461,440 less in reserves to balance the 2005 budget as compared to 2004. This was done to maintain the City's General Fund reserves, which are an important factor in determining the City's bond rating. The other \$606,970 is needed to finance increased expenditures, including salary and benefit increases, the new position of Housing Maintenance Inspector, the first year of a Growth Plan Study, and 30 tasers for the Police Department.

Because of anticipated cuts in State reimbursement for the 2005 homestead credit, the General Fund levy of \$9,445,000 will probably result in actual revenue to the City of approximately \$9,050,000.

The tax abatement levy, adopted by the City Council in 2001, replaces the 2005 City tax on the additional market value provided by the expansion of the General

Mills headquarters. The City tax on this expansion is financing improvements to the intersection of Hwy 55 and Boone Ave.

As in recent years, certain non-levy factors affect the "bottom-line" tax impact of the 2005 levy on residential taxpayers (see sidebar for details). The levy increase, plus the impact of non-levy factors, will increase the City tax on the average home (market value of \$242,050) approximately 12.8%.

Details about the 2005 proposed budget and the City's budget process are available on the City web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us. If you have questions about the budget and/or tax levy, contact Finance Director Don Taylor at 763-593-8012.

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 hearings that will be held to discuss the proposed tax levies. The City of Golden Valley's Truth In Taxation public hearing is scheduled for 6:30 pm Monday, December 6.

Lighten Your Load At GV's Mighty Tidy Day

As an affluent nation, the US is full of stuff (see *Combating the Clutter Creature* on pages 8–9). But once goods have served their purpose, getting rid of them can be a hassle. Golden Valley residents no longer have to be crowded out by unwanted items as winter bears down. They can unload at the City's first annual *Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day* Saturday, October 16, 8 am to 1 pm, at Brookview Park.

"Golden Valley recognized that other communities were having great success with these community clean-up programs," says Golden Valley's Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom. "Though the Transfer Station that accepts these types of things is not that far away [Brooklyn Park], other communities have shown that when these events are scheduled, people plan for them and say, 'Hey, let's get rid of that old washing machine.'"

Look around your attic and spend a little time in the garage. If you're like most Americans, you'll find plenty of items ready to go. *Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day* is your chance to dispose of old mattresses and sofas, broken bicycles, ancient appliances, unwanted tires, and even outdated electronics like computers and televisions.

HERE'S THE DRILL

Enter Brookview Parkway from the north along Winnetka Ave (it will be a one-way for the event). Workers will collect the appropriate fee (see box at right) and direct you to one of three lots: Lot 1—electronics, tires, batteries, and light bulbs; Lot 2—scrap metal and appliances; Lot 3—sofas, chairs, mattresses, and miscellaneous items (construction debris, lumber, swing sets, bricks, etc).

No hazardous waste (used motor oil, asbestos, cleaning solvents, pool chemicals, etc) will be accepted (see sidebar for disposal information).

"This is our trial run," says Lundstrom. "We'll see how it goes this year, and then we may make some change, such as what we accept and where it is held."

AND THE DISCLAIMER

The Golden Valley *Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day* is open only to Golden Valley residents, and proof of residency will be required at the entrance.

For more information on *Mighty Tidy Day*, call Golden Valley's Environmental Coordinator at 763-593-8046.

MIGHTY TIDY CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, October 16
8 am–1 pm
Brookview Park
(south of Hwy 55
at Winnetka Ave)

Mighty Tidy Day Disposal Costs

LOT 1

ELECTRONICS

TV monitor	\$15
Console TV	\$25
Small electronics	\$ 8

TIRES/BATTERIES/BULBS

Car tire	\$ 3
Truck tire	\$ 7
Tire rims	\$ 2
Batteries	\$ 2
Bulbs.....	\$ 1

LOT 2

SCRAP METAL

Clean metal	No charge
Other (bikes, etc).....	\$ 5

APPLIANCES

Non-refrigeration.....	\$12
Freon units	\$22

LOT 3

BULK ITEMS

Mattress/Box Spring	\$12
Couch	\$20
Hide-A-Bed	\$25
Chair (small/large)	\$ 5/\$10

MISC ITEMS \$18/per yard

Disposal RESOURCES

Still have stuff to get rid of? Use the following resources to do it safely and cheaply.

Recyclopedia

The *Recyclopedia* (produced cooperatively by the Cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Plymouth, St Louis Park and the West Hennepin Recycling Commission Cities of Greenfield, Independence, Long Lake, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medina, and Orono) is a 32-page alphabetical guide to safe disposal practices. Listings range from businesses that take used building materials (doors, windows, and lumber) to those that take used eyeglasses. The Guide extensively covers proper hazardous waste disposal as well as ways to reduce waste, reuse resources, and recycle more.

RECYCLING CENTERS

The Hennepin County Transfer Stations accept home electronics and appliances, such as washers, 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).

- Hennepin County Recycling Center and Transfer Station (8100 Jefferson Hwy, Brooklyn Park), 612-348-3777
- South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center (1400 W 96th St, Bloomington), 612-348-3777

Hennepin County Environmental Services also has an A–Z How-To-Get-Rid-Of-It Guide for households. Look for the environment link at www.co.hennepin.mn.us, or call 612-348-3777, Monday–Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm.

For more recycling resources, check the following web sites:

- www.greenguardian.com
- www.moea.state.mn.us
- www.epa.gov



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

Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week—Pick-Up Date

- Memorial Day—Sat, June 5
- Independence Day—regular pick-up
- 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

Annual Leaf Drop-Off Promotes Cleaner Water

Leaves are a leading source of excess nutrients in our waterways, and Golden Valley's annual Fall Leaf Drop-Off helps prevent those nutrients from washing into the storm water system and polluting local creeks, lakes, and ponds.

The 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 becomes a one-way road.

All traffic must enter the site from Winnetka Ave S and exit on Western Ave. City 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 29, 8 am–4 pm

Saturday, October 30, 7 am–1 pm

Friday, November 5, 8 am–4 pm

Saturday, November 6, 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).

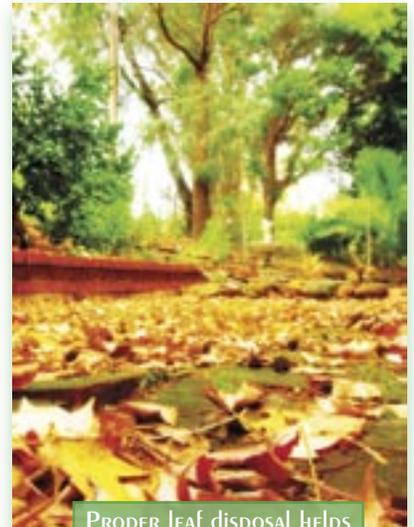
Time-Saving Tips

- For fast unloading and to conserve your bags, leave them untied. If you must tie them, do so loosely or use the yellow or clear plastic tabs (they break open easily). Bags 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.

For example, the nearby Maple Grove Yard Waste Site (14796 101 Ave N, Maple Grove) accepts leaves and brush up to two inches in diameter for \$7/cubic yard, and sod and dirt for \$13/cubic yard, from April through November. Accepts grass clippings for \$13/cubic yard from June through September (\$7/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 763-420-8971.

The Fall Leaf Drop-Off has been part of Golden Valley's recycling program for 13 years. If you have questions about the Leaf Drop-Off or yard waste in general, call 763-593-8030. 



PROPER LEAF DISPOSAL HELPS
PROTECT WATERWAYS.

A Nip And Tuck Boosts Tree's Appearance Too

As summer comes to a close, many people begin thinking about getting their lawns ready for winter. Keep in mind that trees and shrubs also need attention.

Fall is an ideal time to think about pruning. In fact, 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 forestry staff at 763-593-8030.

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.



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 oaks are wounded in April, May, or June.
- 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 trees. Regardless of how it is done, this greatly increases susceptibility to diseases, creates weak branches, and considerably reduces the tree's life span.

How To Hire A Good TREE CONTRACTOR

Hiring a tree removal or trimming contractor deserves the same consideration and caution that goes into selecting a doctor or home builder. A mistake can be expensive and long lasting, but the right choice can assure health, beauty, and a longer life for your trees. Use the following tips for optimal results.

- Start by checking the phone directory under Trees or Tree Service. Ask friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Beware of door-knockers. Most reputable companies have all the work they can handle without going door-to-door.
- Ask for certificates of insurance, including proof of liability for personal and property damage and worker's compensation. Call the insurance company to make certain the policy is current. Under some circumstances, you can be held financially responsible if an uninsured worker is hurt on your property.
- Ask for references and talk with former clients. Experience, education, and a good reputation are signs of a good arborist.
- Have more than one arborist look at your job and give you estimates. Don't expect one contractor to lower a bid to match another's, and be willing to pay for the estimate if necessary. Three or more cost estimates are worth the effort.
- Ask if the arborist will use climbing spikes. A good arborist will not use climbing spikes if the tree is to remain in the landscape.

THE CITY FORESTER

Golden Valley's City forester is responsible for maintaining and caring for public trees and consulting with residents about tree diseases, planting, watering, pruning, and other tree-related topics. If you have questions for the City forestry staff, call Public Works at 763-593-8030.

PARK & REC UPDATE

A complete list of Recreation offerings are in the Fall Recreation Activities Brochure or on the City web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us). Programs at Brookview Community Center:

Red Cross Baby-sitting Training (ages 11–15)—Sat, Oct 16, 8 am–1 pm, \$57

Beginning Knitting—Mon, Oct 18–Nov 8, 7–8 pm, \$25

Teen Yoga (ages 12 & up)—Tue, Oct 26–Dec 14, 6–7 pm, \$42

Kids' Club (ages 3–5)—Mon & Wed, Nov 1–Dec 13, or Tue & Thu, Nov 4–Dec 16, 9:30–11 am, \$34

Yoga & Pilates for Stress Reduction—Thu, Nov 4–Dec 16 (No Nov 25), 7:15–8:15 pm, \$52

Power Yoga & Pilates Fitness Workout—Thu, Nov 4–Dec 15 (No Nov 25), 6–7:10 pm, \$52

Canvas Painting (ages 6–12)—Sat, Nov 13, 10:30–11:30 am, \$12

Drop in for these open activities at Davis Community Center:

Parent/Tot Gym Time (ages 2–5 w/adult)—Sat, 1–3 pm, Mon, 6–7:30 pm, through Dec 20

Parent/Child Gym Time (ages 6–12 w/adult)—Sat, 1–3 pm, Fri, 6:30–8 pm, through Dec 17

Adult Basketball—Wed, 8–10 pm, and Sat, 8–10 am, through Dec 18

Over 40 Basketball—Mon, 8–10 pm, through Dec 18

Co-Rec Volleyball—Tue, 8–10 pm, Thu, 8–10 pm, and Sun, 3–5 pm, through Dec 19

Dodgeball—Wed, 6–8 pm, Fri, 8–10 pm, and Sun, 1–3 pm, through Dec 19

Register in person, by mail, by fax (763-512-2344), or online (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

For more information, contact:

**Parks & Recreation
Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Parkway
Golden Valley, MN 55426
763-512-2345
Monday–Friday, 8 am–5 pm**

Davis Community Center Offers Programs For All

It's been three years since the Ronald B. Davis Community Center opened to the public, and let's just say family entertainment has never been so clean and in demand.

"The Davis Community Center has given us a lot of opportunities for gym-type activities" says Sue Cook, Golden Valley's Park and Recreation Program Coordinator. "And we take full advantage by running activities seven days a week."

The Davis Community Center, attached to the Meadowbrook Elementary School, is the result of a \$4 million collaboration between the City of Golden Valley and the Hopkins School District. It features a 10,000-square-foot gymnasium, the equivalent of two full-size basketball/volleyball courts. Having this space in the community allows the Golden Valley Parks & Recreation Department to schedule quality gym programs for people of all ages.

The Parks and Recreation Department offers numerous activities to keep area youth busy. From "Shoot Some Buckets" to the "Holiday Youth Open Gym" to "Thursday Youth Sports Nights," there is something for everyone. From January through March, the youth basketball teams have priority use of the two gyms.

The younger tots also get their own gym time in the Parent/Tot and Parent/Child programs. Like the adult open sports, registration is not required and activities are on a drop-in basis without structured lesson plans. Staff simply puts out equipment, such as bean bags, kit kars, bouncing balls, etc, and parents and their children have at them.

Cook says adult drop-in co-rec volleyball is "a huge hit," and adult open basketball and over 40 open basketball, offered evenings and weekends nearly year-around, are also well-attended. New this fall is open dodgeball, a game many of us played in elementary and secondary school. It's all the rage now, and Golden Valley Parks and Rec makes it a point to stay with the times.

Whether your thing is B-ball, V-ball, or D-ball, the drop-in approach is attractive to many participants. With the equipment provided, but no game schedule or officials, it seems folks can relax and enjoy some great recreational play—and its economical, too. The daily drop-in fee is \$3, and the 10-time punch pass is \$20 (a \$10 savings).

For more information about programs offered at Davis Community Center, or to register, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 763-512-2345 or review the current Golden Valley Park and Recreation Activities brochure. The Activities brochure is also available online at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us, where online registration is available for most Parks & Recreation programs through *GV RecConnect*.



DAVIS COMMUNITY CENTER IS ADJACENT TO MEADOWBROOK SCHOOL, 5430 GLENWOOD AVE, AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF GLENWOOD AND XENIA AVE.

Fall Golf Extends Outdoor Season

Don't let the outdoor joys of summer go just yet. The Brookview Golf Course offers fun in the not-too-hot sun and an abundance of warm autumn colors until it snows. Grab your clubs, or rent some, and come out swinging for fall golf.

Brookview features some of the best open space in the city, its rolling hills and tree-lined fairways punctuated by Bassett Creek, which meanders across six holes. Add 28 moderate bunkers, fairly small greens, and an abundance of water hazards, and you get some challenging golf. The 18-hole regulation course has multiple tee settings, with total yardage ranging from 6,387 to 5,328 yards. Brookview also offers a nine-hole par 3 course, a driving range and teaching area, and a golf shop and grill (see box below).



Brookview's tree-lined fairways are picturesque and challenging.

Make reservations by calling 763-512-2330 or by clicking onto teemaster.com. The general public may reserve tee times by phone four days in advance. Patron card holders may make reservations up to seven days in advance.

For more information about Brookview Golf Course, call 763-512-2330 or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/brookviewgolf.

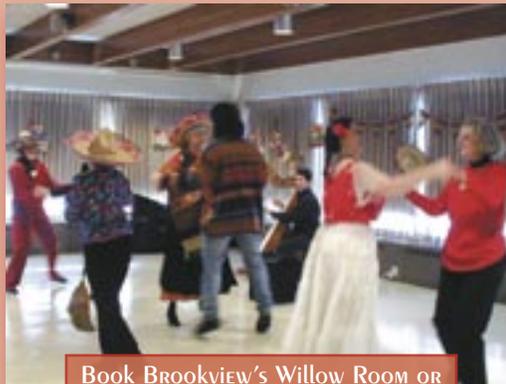
BROOKVIEW VENUES

Offer WARM HAVEN FOR EVENTS

Nestled in the tranquil setting off Brookview Golf Course, the Brookview Community Center features several areas alive with possibilities for group functions, including the upstairs Willow Room (with a caterer's kitchen), the gazebo and deck, and the downstairs Brookview Grill. Whether the fairways of the Twin Cities' most beautiful golf course are winter white, summer green, or autumn amber, orange, and red, the view from these spaces is spectacular in any season.

The Grill's warm and comfortable atmosphere makes it perfect for small- and moderate-sized gatherings (winter months only), while the larger Willow Room can accommodate parties of up to 215. Both are available for corporate retreats, meetings, training seminars, receptions, reunions, show-ers, and parties.

Brookview is located just west of Winnetka Ave between I-394 and Hwy 55. For more information, call 763-512-2305 (Brookview Grill) or 763-512-2345 (Community Center), or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us and select Brookview Golf or Parks, Recreation, & Leisure.



Book Brookview's Willow Room or Grill for your next group function.

SENIOR STUFF

Flu Shot Clinic—Oct 8–12, 3 pm, Winnetka Learning Center

Health Insurance Help—Oct 12 and Nov 9, 9–11 am, Brookview

Celebrate Senior Dining—Oct 14, noon, Calvary Lutheran Church

Defensive Driving—Four-hour refresher, Oct 14 and Nov 11, 9 am–1 pm, Brookview

Free Financial Talks—Oct 21: "Flat Rate Probates and Estate Planning," and Nov 18: "CD Alternative," 10 am, Brookview

Nutrition and You—Oct 26, "Nutrition and Cancer Prevention," 10:30 am, Brookview

Continental Breakfast—Oct 27: "Rare Coins: Going for the Gold," 9:30 am, Brookview

Blood Pressure Screening—Oct 27 and Nov 17, 1 am–noon, Brookview

Halloween Dance—Oct 29, 1 pm, Crystal Community Center

Wellness and You—Nov 4: "Maintaining Our Equilibrium," 1:30 pm, Dover Hills

Harvest Supper—Nov 8, 6 pm, Brookview

Armchair Travelers—Nov 12: "New Zealand," 2 pm, Country Villa

Upcoming Trips (register early)—Oct 21, 22, and 23: Milwaukee Art Museum, Village of Kohler, and Fireside Theater; Nov 12: Fanny Hill Theater; Nov 19: Hormel Homes Gala; Dec 2: "A Sister's USO Christmas;" Dec 8-9: Wausau Holiday Tour

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 763-531-1259, 8 am–3 pm, Monday–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**

Combatting The Clutter Creature

Psst. There's a creature in our national closet. It's hinted at in magazine articles citing ways to simplify, organize, and "take control" of our lives. But until the critter is dragged into the light and dismantled, we risk being buried by it.

Don't fear. Our foe may be mighty, but it is certainly defeatable. You may, however, be succumbing to the alluring creature if you have postponed having guests because you're embarrassed by the "mess," you park in the driveway because your garage is stuffed to the rafters, or the thought of cleaning out a closet or a shed sends you into an astonishing fit of avoidance. If you've done any of the above, chances are, as the burgeoning field of organization experts claim, the clutter creature around may be becoming the clutter creature within.

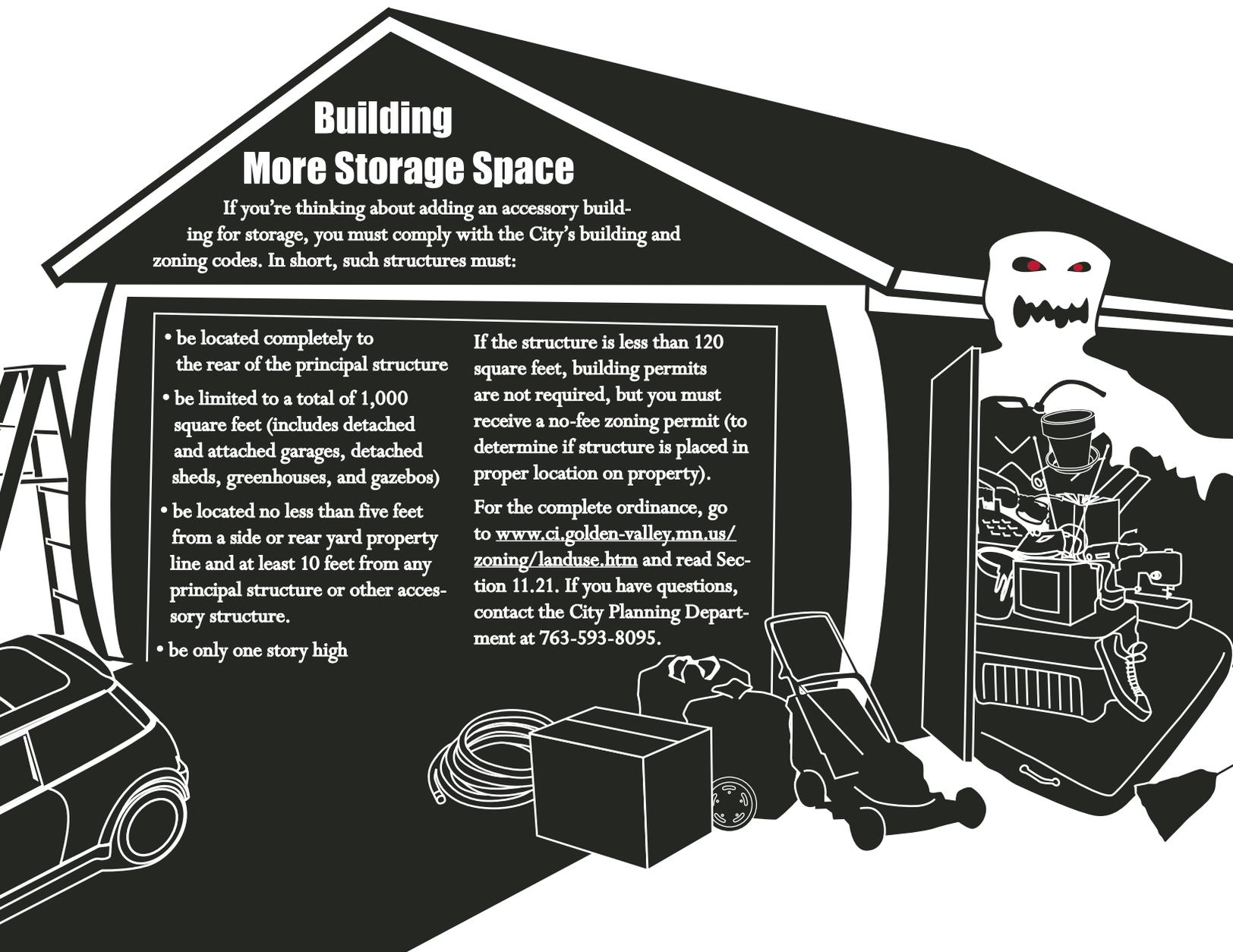
Building More Storage Space

If you're thinking about adding an accessory building for storage, you must comply with the City's building and zoning codes. In short, such structures must:

- be located completely to the rear of the principal structure
- be limited to a total of 1,000 square feet (includes detached and attached garages, detached sheds, greenhouses, and gazebos)
- be located no less than five feet from a side or rear yard property line and at least 10 feet from any principal structure or other accessory structure.
- be only one story high

If the structure is less than 120 square feet, building permits are not required, but you must receive a no-fee zoning permit (to determine if structure is placed in proper location on property).

For the complete ordinance, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/zoning/landuse.htm and read Section 11.21. If you have questions, contact the City Planning Department at 763-593-8095.





An Invitation To Clutter

Clutter hasn't always been such an issue. Many of our parents or grandparents have stories of doing without, and they probably aren't exaggerating. But according to the World Watch Institute's 30th annual State of the World (2004), "private household spending on non-essential goods and services has increased four-fold" since 1960.

So there you have it. A few extra purchases here, a few there, and poof, we dread opening a closet door, or perhaps even the garage. Of course, one can't discuss clutter without mentioning the perpetual influx of junk mail; papers from work, school, and other organizations; or the lack of time most of us have to figure out where to take a broken bike, radio, or washing machine for repair, recycling, or disposal. So, it's not surprising that the task of going through our accumulated stuff can seem as gargantuan as a landfill.

Buying too much stuff and being unable to organize it are two reasons for clutter but, for some, it may be a matter of thinking too well. Research by Randy O. Frost, psychology professor at Smith Col-

lege in Massachusetts, suggests that many people who accumulate many divergent items are often unusually intelligent. "They tend to see more connections between things, which leads them to value those things much more than the rest of us do."

The Attempt At Co-Existing

Comedian Steven Wright recently got a lot of laughs when he said, "You can't have everything...where would you put it?"

While Americans were laughing, they also answered with a resounding "Increase space!" The State of the World report asserts that US houses were 38 percent bigger in 2000 than in 1975. Where a one-car garage was once a luxury, a two-car garage is now considered the minimum, and three-car garages are becoming fairly standard (the third bay for seasonal items or general storage).

Not surprising, space to hold stuff has become a prime commodity. The 40-year-old self-storage industry used to serve people in some type of flux, such as recent graduates or those relocating. Today, more than 35,000 facilities make up a multi-billion dollar industry

renting to people with permanent homes but too much stuff. From 2002 to 2003, the number of self-storage units jumped 31 percent

(MiniCo 2004 Self Storage Almanac). Cris Burnam, president of StorageMart in Missouri, even believes the

business is transitioning from a warehouse model to a retail model, allowing future storage facilities to be located next to shopping malls. That way American consumers can buy, buy, buy, stuff their purchases into a conveniently-located storage unit, and go home to a pristine (uncluttered) space.

Banishing The Beast

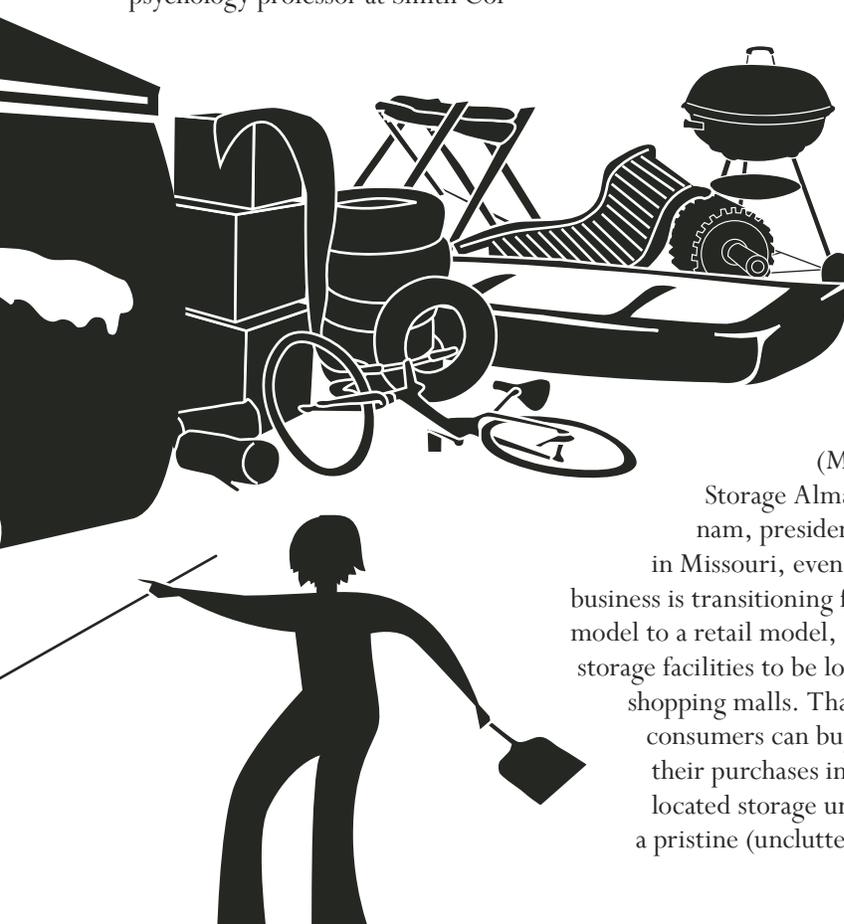
How you deal with too much stuff is up to you. MSN Money writer M.P. Dunleavey ("Storage Units, America's Creeping Menace") suggests that Americans examine their acquisition habits before looking for additional storage space. Numerous articles, web sites, and even a professional organizer's association are available to help you tame the beast. And tame you must. Organize, sell, give away, recycle, or simply trash chunks of your clutter creature, because it becomes the City's issue if that creature escapes the confines of the indoors and stalks your yard.

Roger McCabe, a Golden Valley community standard inspector, is often the one to take complaints about clutter that has escaped. "A typical complaint," says McCabe, "comes from people who have lived somewhere for 30 years and don't have the heart to talk to their neighbor about the mess."

Once a complaint has been lodged, McCabe contacts the property owner and explains the complaint. The owner is then expected to give a time frame for clean-up, usually seven to 10 days. If the property owner doesn't banish the clutter, a certified letter is sent. Upon receipt of the letter, the property owner has 15 days to contest the complaint. After 30 days, if the clutter is not gone, the City attorney takes over, and the City can clean up and charge the property owner.

Help Is Here

To help residents keep their property clutter-free, the City sponsors a number of annual clean-up programs, including the Spring Brush Pick-Up, The Fall Leaf Drop-Off, and this year's first *Mighty Tidy Day* on October 16 (see articles on pages 3 and 4 for complete details as well as a list of resources to help you keep the clutter monster at bay all year long). If you still have questions about outdoor storage and community standards, contact Roger McCabe at 763-593-8088. 



CHECK YOUR DRIVING HABITS

Elementary school parents—are you teaching your children to drive already?

You may be. Your children are greatly influenced by what you do, or don't do. Children begin forming their driving habits by watching their parents, long before they are old enough to even begin driver's education.

For example, if you roll through a stop sign, it does not go unnoticed by your children. Whether your non-stop is deliberate (there is no traffic around), accidental (whoops!), or bad habit, your child will begin viewing stop signs as signals to just slow down. This little trait, picked up as a fourth grader, may lead to a serious crash involving your teenager 10 years later.

Professionals who study pedestrian and vehicle flow around schools have indicated the biggest traffic problem is parents. Too often they are focused on their children and conversations regarding school rather than on driving and other vehicles, pedestrians, or traffic signs. They may be hurrying to meet a schedule, find their child, or get to a pre-appointed spot and neglect to pay attention to other traffic. The combination often results in traffic conflicts, near misses, or even crashes.

Specific observations around various Golden Valley schools include stop sign violations, parents traveling the wrong way in one-way streets, illegal parking, parking that blocks entrances, or even driving on the lawn. Are these habits you want your children to learn?

School and safety officials urge all drivers to use extreme caution in school areas. Be especially alert for students who may not be focused at all on traffic and for other drivers who may not be focused on anything but their route and their schedule.

For more information, contact the Golden Valley Police Department at 763-593-8058.

Safe School Transit Starts With Parents

For some 22 million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. Millions more ride to school with parents or walk. Unfortunately, each year many children are injured and several are killed in incidents involving school buses, cars, and pedestrians.

One way to ensure their safety is to go over a few simple rules. Help younger children practice safely waiting for and boarding the school bus. Review safe bicycling and pedestrian procedures if they'll be riding or walking. And don't forget older children who may be driving. They are at particular risk and need your guidance (see sidebar).

Riding THE BUS

Although drivers of all vehicles are required to stop for a school bus when it is stopped to load or unload passengers, children should not rely on them to do so. The National Safety Council encourages parents to teach children the following rules:

- Stay out of the street while waiting for the bus.
- Remain seated while on the bus, keep heads and arms inside the bus at all times, and never distract the driver.
- Take five giant steps away from the front of the bus before crossing the street (many injuries occur when children are in the blind spot that extends about 10 feet in front of the bus, obstructing the driver's view).
- Wait for the driver to signal that it's safe to cross, then look "left-right-left" to be sure traffic is stopped

Drivers must also remember that school bus stop-arms are there for the safety of the children, and violations carry penalties:

- Passing a bus when the red lights are flashing, the stop-arm is extended, but no children are present is a misdemeanor and can result in up to a \$700 fine and/or 90 days in jail.
- Passing a bus when the red lights are flashing, the stop-arm is extended, and children are present, or passing the bus on the right side, is a gross misdemeanor and can result in up to a \$3,000 fine and/or one year in jail.
- Neglecting to stop for a crosswalk patrol that is extending the stop flag is a misdemeanor and can result in up to a \$700 fine and/or 90 days in jail.

Walking to School

Pedestrian injuries are the second leading cause of unintentional death for children ages five to 14. For 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.

- Children under age 10 should walk with an adult or older child because they cannot judge the speed or distance of traffic. Also, 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.

For more information about school bus and traffic safety, contact the Golden Valley Police Department at 763-593-8058. 

GOLDEN VALLEY SCHOOL CROSSINGS

Jersey Ave S & Western Ave
 Glenwood Ave & Xenia Ave
 Medicine Lake Rd & Florida Ave
 Medicine Lake Rd & Boone Ave
 Noble Ave N & Hampton Rd
 Natchez Ave & Glenwood Ave*
 Medicine Lake Rd & Idaho Ave N*
 Douglas Dr & Sandburg Lane*

*Do not have school patrols



Douse The Risk Of Hazardous Material Fires

Unless you're a Hollywood stunt person getting paid the big bucks to set yourself on fire and run around, chances are you don't want this to happen when you're barbecuing or working in the garage. What those professionals use is a special ignitable gel, not the flammable liquids and hazardous materials found in most homes.

For your safety and the well-being of your family, be aware of what hazardous materials are, and then learn to store them or dispose of them properly.

IDENTIFYING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

By law, a flammable liquid is any product that corrodes other materials, explodes or is easily ignited, reacts strongly with water, is unstable when exposed to heat or shock, or is otherwise toxic to humans, animals, or the environment. Many cleaning supplies, such as bleach, ammonia, oven cleaners, and laundry detergents, are considered hazardous materials (see box below for more information). But the largest concern for the Golden Valley Fire Department is flammable liquids. If you're thinking, duh, everyone knows what flammable liquids are—gasoline and fuels, paint, paint thinners, varnish, and lacquers—you're right. But did you know hair spray (aerosol and pump), nail polish and remover, and banana oil are also highly flammable?

There is no way to list all common hazardous materials in this space, but flammable liquids are liquids with a flash point of less than 100° Fahrenheit. Interestingly, it is often not the liquid itself, but the vapors that present the most serious hazard. Flammable liquid vapors are heavier than air and may settle in low spots or move a significant distance from the liquid itself. Regardless of where the vapors end up, they can easily ignite or explode.

MINIMIZING THE RISK OF IGNITION

Follow these tips to minimize the risk of igniting flammable liquid or vapors.

- Always check the material you're using to understand the specific hazards involved.
- Do not store fueled equipment (eg, lawn mowers) in your house.
- Do not store flammable liquids in the basement. Store in cool, well-ventilated areas away from corrosives, oxidizers, and ignition sources.
- Place a fire extinguisher near any area where flammable liquids are stored.
- Use only approved safety cans to store flammable liquids.
- Never fill a container more than 80% full of a flammable liquid. (Leaving a vapor space in the container will allow the liquid to expand if the surrounding temperature changes.)
- Label all containers and cabinets with appropriate "flammable materials" signs.
- Never smoke within 50 feet of where flammable liquids are used or stored.
- Minimize the amount of flammable liquids used.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as splash aprons and goggles, when handling flammable liquids.
- Never pour flammable liquids down a drain, sink, or storm sewer.
- Dispose of empty flammable liquid containers in an approved manner (see sidebar on page 3 for locations).

For more information, contact Fire Education Specialist/Training Coordinator Sarah Larson at 763-593-3977.



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OBSERVED IN OCTOBER

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.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) works to reduce the worldwide burden of fire through codes and standards, research, education, and training. The public education section of NFPA's web site (www.nfpa.org) is another source of information, and its children's section (www.nfpa.org/sparkly/) is worth a look for the younger set.

Hazardous Materials In A Typical Home

(and reason for hazard)

- Bleach (reactive/toxic)
- Ammonia (flammable/corrosive)
- Oven cleaner (caustic)
- Detergent (harmful if swallowed/irritant)
- Aerosols (gas, irritant, corrosive, toxic, poisonous)
- Hair spray (flammable)
- Nail polish and removers (flammable)
- Perfume/cologne (flammable)
- Deodorant (aerosol/flammable)
- Paints, varnish, paint thinner (flammable)
- Gasoline (flammable/irritant)
- Diesel fuel (combustible)
- Pesticides/herbicides (poisonous)
- Fertilizer (poisonous, caustic, oxidizer, explosive when mixed with hydrocarbons)
- Lighter fluid (flammable)
- Propane tanks (flammable)
- Oily rags (spontaneously combustible if stored outside of airtight containers)

GETTING IT FIXED

Repairing a water main break is a time-consuming operation, and each excavation requires coordination of a series of events:

- Process starts with a call to Gopher State One Call for an emergency locate.
- A repair crew of four to five maintenance employees prepare required equipment, including:
 - a rubber tired excavator and/or tractor backhoe with a 360-degree range
 - two or more dump trucks
 - a well-stocked repair van
 - a one-ton truck and trailer (safety trench box)
 - Vactor (large vacuum truck)
 - Utilities Department pickup truck
- If necessary, crew uses special technology to locate the exact area of the leak. When found, crew turns off water to surrounding area.
- Excavation begins after Gopher One locates are complete.
- Crew diagnoses and repairs leak, then turns water on, pressurizes the water main, and operates a hydrant to flush the water main.
- Crew inspects the repair under pressure to verify completion.
- Crew backfills and tamps excavation for compaction.

City Crews Prepare To Battle Water Main Breaks

It's that time of year again, when changing temperatures and the advent of ground frost set the stage for water main breaks around the city. Water bubbles out of the ground, through cracks in the pavement, or from behind the curb and other places, and water pressure drops dramatically in nearby homes or businesses.

Enter the calvary. Golden Valley's Utilities Maintenance crew responds to the task of repairing water main breaks day and night, in all types of weather conditions. "We respond 24/7/365, but it doesn't always mean we're able to fix the water main break immediately," says Utilities Maintenance Supervisor Bert Tracy. "We assess each break case by case, and some take hours to repair."

WHY WATER MAINS BREAK

Water main breaks are caused by internal or external pressure on buried water main pipe. Ground frost creates external pressure, causing the pipes to crack and break. This typically happens in the fall as the ground frost goes deeper and in the spring as the ground frost thaws. In most cases, the pipes do not actually freeze.

Most winter water main breaks are circumferential breaks. These occur when ground pressure forces the pipe to bend and break in half. Circumferential breaks can normally be repaired with a full circle clamp (a stainless steel sleeve that wraps around the pipe and is clamped together to seal the crack). Other types of breaks and leaks include:

- cracks at the bell (the area where two pipes are slipped together)
- blow-outs through a hole (where the pipe wall has been thinned by corrosion)
- longitudinal breaks (a crack running the length of the pipe, normally caused by corrosion and internal pressures)
- leaking valves or fittings (corrosion of bolts caused by soil conditions)

Repairing water main breaks is both time- and labor-intensive (see sidebar). Equipment must be shuttled to the job site, and it often outnumbers the people.

TIPS FOR RESIDENTS

Before repairing any water main break, the Utilities Maintenance crew has to turn off the water in the affected area. Crew members do their best to notify residents before turning water off; however, if the leak is creating extensive damage to the road and/or property, they may have to turn the water off and then notify residents.

When you see dump trucks filling the excavation, it's safe to check your faucets for water. When water pressure is returned to your residence, turn on only the cold water. Start on the lower level, and run cold water into a bathtub or laundry tub until water is clear and free of air. Run cold water from all other faucets until it's clear. Next, run the hot water faucets throughout the residence (if the hot water is discolored, the water heater may require draining to make it clear).

Any time you see water bubbling out of the ground, through cracks in the pavement, or from behind curbs and other places, call Utility Maintenance at 763-593-8075 (Monday–Friday, 7 am–3:30 pm). After hours, call Police Dispatch at 952-924-2618.

UTILITIES MAINTENANCE CREW (L TO R): JOEL BONA, MATT ROWEDDER, BILLY REIMER, BERT TRACY (SUPERVISOR), DAVE LEMKE, JEFF M'CALL, MATT JEFFERSON, JERRY BAKKEN (CREW LEADER)



City Benefits From 2004 Construction Projects

As the 2004 construction season nears an end, Golden Valley's Public Works Department has completed one major project and is looking forward to completing another.

BROOKVIEW AREA PMP

The two-year Brookview Area Pavement Management Project (PMP) included many public improvements in the Brookview Park neighborhood. Winnetka Ave S, Laurel Ave, and surrounding neighborhoods south of Hwy 55 now feature traffic calming and pedestrian improvements, including a trail and walkway system that provides better connections between the neighborhood, Brookview Park, and downtown Golden Valley. A new pedestrian signal at Winnetka and Western Avenues is timed to flash during periods when drivers could expect to see school-children and park users crossing the street.

Less visible are the storm drainage improvements that will help manage runoff more efficiently and help protect the water quality in Bassett Creek and local lakes. Brookview Park also benefitted from the project and now sports renovated shelter buildings, new trails and sidewalks throughout the park, improved landscaping, and reconstructed parking lots.



THE RECONSTRUCTED WINNETKA AVE S FEATURES TRAFFIC CALMING AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS.

Hwy 55/GENERAL Mills Blvd INTERSECTION

Work is well under way at the intersection of Hwy 55 and General Mills Blvd/Boone Ave, where additional turn lanes and through lanes are under construction. The project includes upgrades to the area's sewer and water system, construction of a flood control levee to minimize flooding at Boone Ave and Golden Valley Rd; and construction of a floodplain and wetland nature preserve at the southeast corner of Hwys 55 and 169. Land for the 19-acre nature preserve was donated to the City of Golden Valley by General Mills. Construction of this project will continue throughout the winter and be completed in summer 2005.



THE PROJECT AT HWY 55 AND GENERAL MILLS BLVD/BOONE AVE WILL ADD TURN LANES AND REDUCE FLOODING.

For more information about these or other public improvement projects, contact Golden Valley's Public Works Department at 763-593-8030.

DEVELOPMENT Update

GOLDEN Ridge Subdivision

This project, near Gettysburg Ave N and Naper St in northwest Golden Valley, is ready to move forward with above-ground construction. Street and utility work is expected to be done by mid October, and Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity has started work on the first of four duplexes it will construct (eight housing units total). The foundation is in place for one duplex structure, and permits have been issued for the second. Habitat hopes to install foundations for all four duplexes this fall and complete construction of two over the winter. Eight more units (two single-family and three duplexes) will be built by Bullseye Development and sold at market rate. Most are pre-sold, and construction is anticipated to start by spring 2005. For information on available units, contact Bill Bergquist at 763-544-8523. For information on Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, go to www.tchabitat.org.

SUNRISE Assisted Living

Construction of an 80-unit senior assisted-living project is under way at the intersection of Hwy 55 and Ottawa Ave N. Extensive soil remediation is necessary before building construction can begin. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by fall 2005.

LAUREL Terrace Apartments

This project (see below), under construction on Turners Crossroad S near Laurel Ave, includes 86 market-rate apartment units with one, two and three bedrooms, ranging from 1,070 to 1,850 square feet. Amenities include underground parking, an indoor swimming pool, a sauna, and exercise and party rooms. It is expected to be completed by summer 2005. Rental information is available from Jane Loney at 612-247-0330.



MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

COMMON PROBLEMS

Of about 7,000 housing units in Golden Valley, 36% were built between 1940 and 1959. In some cases, these homes may now require substantial exterior repairs. For example, unpainted trim leads to deterioration of the entire structure. Although most of the 293 Golden Valley homes built before 1939 are well-maintained, some require substantial repair to meet the standards of today's housing codes.

Sometimes residents may attempt to complete too many renovations at once, leaving substantial amounts of exterior work unfinished for an extended time. And absentee owners are more likely to neglect their property than are owners who live in their homes.

Aging apartment buildings present another problem, especially when owners perform minimal maintenance while depreciating the property value to maximize tax incentives. The result is poor conditions in some of Golden Valley's few affordable housing units.

It's expected that these current problems will escalate in the future. Housing exteriors will continue to deteriorate, there will be fewer interior updates, and multi-unit dwellings will lack accountability as the numbers of such dwellings increase.

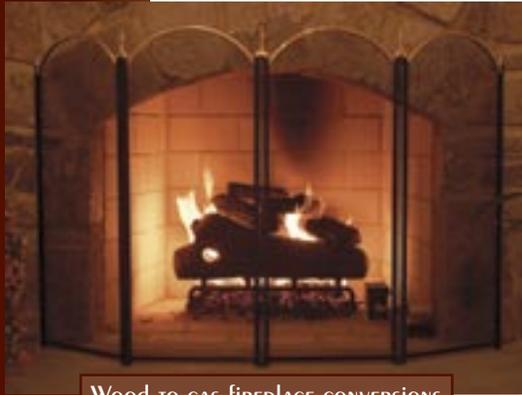
POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

The City's proactive enforcement approach will involve community education about current ordinances, education for first-time offenders, enforceable penalties for repeat offenders, and help for owners of dilapidated housing so they can connect with appropriate redevelopment partners.

Proactive enforcement enables inspectors to address problems immediately and improve community relationships. For more information, contact the Golden Valley Inspections Department at 763-593-8090.

Winter's Approach Calls For Heating Permit Review

One winter in Minnesota can strengthen an appreciation for heat, including that produced by fireplaces, furnaces, and water heaters, which is why the Golden Valley Inspections Department wants to review heating source permits before the snow flies.



WOOD TO GAS FIREPLACE CONVERSIONS ARE GROWING IN POPULARITY.

Converting a wood-burning fireplace to gas, or replacing a furnace or water heater, all require a permit from the City. Fireplaces and furnaces require a mechanical permit, the cost of which is variable because it's based on the cost of the job. Water heaters require a plumbing permit. This article breaks down the specifics.

GAS FIREPLACES AND CONVERSIONS

Back in the day, a fireplace burned wood from a seemingly endless supply. The source now seems finite, but Jerry Frevel, a Golden Valley building inspector, believes other factors are involved. "Fireplaces that burn solid fuel, like wood, just aren't as energy efficient. Gas fireplaces are also more convenient and make less mess."

If you are converting from wood to gas, or installing a new gas fireplace, there are several things you should know.

- Gas fireplaces must comply with the State Mechanical Code for gas appliances.
- The gas shut-off valve must be American Gas Association (AGA) listed, in the same room, and within three feet of the firebox but outside of the firebox.*
- New gas lines must be pressure-tested for 24 hours at a minimum of 25 PSIG (pounds per square inch gauge).
- Gas lines that pass through masonry walls must be protected by a sleeve.
- The existing damper must be removed or welded open.*
- Glass covers must be sealed closed and openable with special tools only.*
- Combustion air must be provided.
- Installation instructions must be posted on-site.*
- Rough-in and final inspections are required.*

*Applies to gas fireplace installation.

The requirements may not apply to the conversion of manufactured fireplace or chimneys. Read the manufacturer's instructions and check with a City building inspector.

FURNACES REPLACEMENT

As with fireplaces and water heaters, CenterPoint Energy recommends that furnaces be inspected annually to detect problems before an emergency develops. There are three permit requirements for a furnace replacement:

- an Orsat Report to measure furnace emissions for proper operation
- a Chimney Stack Sheet to verify that the furnace installer inspected the venting systems
- a final inspection by a City building inspector

WATER HEATER REPLACEMENT

Unlike furnace and fireplace replacements, water heater replacement often comes as a surprise. "Most of the time," says Frevel, "water heater replacements are due to an emergency. The heater breaks and floods or stops supplying hot water." Permits cost \$15.50.

For more information or to get a permit cost estimate for a furnace or fireplace, call Inspections at 763-593-8090. 

“Get A Grip” Intended To Help Kids See Choices

Detective Mark Persons is starting his third year as Sandburg Middle School’s Resource Officer (SRO). His primary role is prevention of juvenile delinquency, but he is often in the position of responding to incidents without the luxury of focusing on prevention. This year, Persons got a jump start on things by working with City communications staff to create the *Get A Grip* educational campaign.

“The two most important aspects of my job,” says Persons, “are to encourage kids to make good decisions and use common sense, and to respond quickly to the police service needs of the students and the school.” The goal of *Get A Grip* is to help students focus on the good choices and, hopefully, prevent some of the police service needs.

Get A Grip asks kids to take charge of their choices, their education, and ultimately their lives by making sound decisions. Because of the challenge of engaging children in this age group (grades 6–8), the posters developed for the campaign use the double whammy of catchy wording and wacky animal images.

MORE ON THE SRO ROLE

More than any other government agency, schools provide a direct link between families and communities, and they provide the greatest opportunity to reduce risk factors for youth. According to research by the National Institute for Justice, school-based programs aimed at increasing resilience, reducing substance use and delinquency, and clarifying norms about expected behavior work well as long as they are sustained.

For more than 30 years, Golden Valley has recognized this need and had a police officer working to prevent juvenile delinquency and responsible for investigating juvenile crimes on school property.

Currently, Person’s role as Sandburg’s SRO includes:

- creating a positive role model for students and a link to law enforcement
- serving as a resource for parents, staff, administration, and students
- reviewing reports and investigating complaints regarding juveniles
- remaining current on issues that affect juveniles and juvenile officers
- helping form and implement constructive policies and programs
- promoting special juvenile programs in cooperation with community agencies

Parents and other caregivers can reinforce the *Get A Grip* goals by asking students about the posters and other information they receive from the SRO. As always, feedback is helpful, so feel free to contact Persons at 763-593-8079 with your questions and suggestions.

OCTOBER IS CRIME PREVENTION MONTH

Preventing crime is not solely the job of law enforcement. Every member of the community bears responsibility, and everyone has the potential to prevent crime and spur others to action. Because of involved residents, Golden Valley has some of the best crime prevention projects in the Twin Cities.

Education is the cornerstone of crime prevention. The more people know about crime and how to take preventive action, the safer they will be. Education needs vary from community to community and from audience to audience, but everyone—from preschoolers to senior citizens—can benefit from learning how to prevent and report crime.

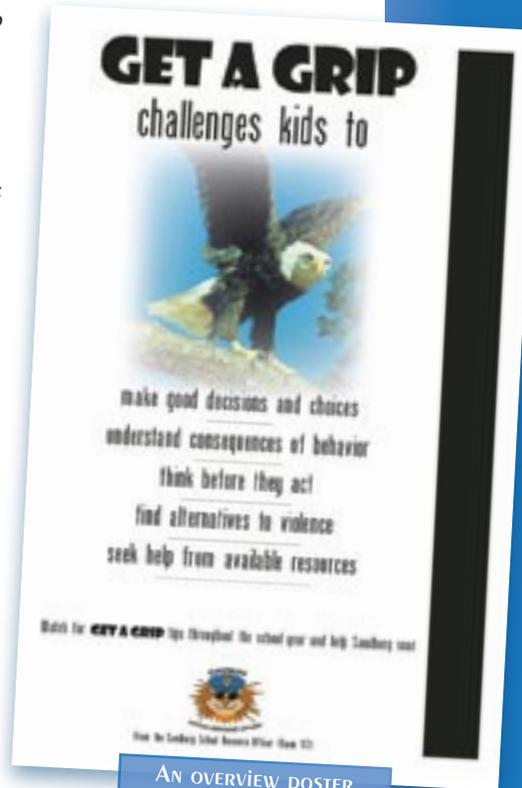
The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) is committed to working with the community to prevent and reduce crime. This involves educating citizens to recognize criminal activity, call police

when they see it, and take appropriate security measures to protect their homes, families, and businesses. The GVPD’s top two crime prevention priorities are to:

- educate people about safety and security for their lives and their homes
- reach out to young people with information to help them make healthy decisions about drugs, alcohol, and crime (see story at left)

Crime Prevention can improve quality of life by reducing fear and crime and by increasing citizens’ involvement and sense of ownership in their communities.

To learn more about the GVPD’s Crime Prevention Unit, its multiple programs, or how to get more involved, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us or contact Joanne Paul at 763-593-8058 or jpaul@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.



AN OVERVIEW POSTER INTRODUCES THE PROGRAM.



This “Get A Grip” REMINDS STUDENTS TO LOCK THEIR LOCKERS.

VOTING LOCATIONS

For the November 2 general 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

Council Appoints Pentel

At its September 7 meeting, the Golden Valley City Council appointed long-time Planning Commissioner Paula Pentel to the Council seat vacated when former Council Member Blair Tremere resigned July 6 to begin a job with the Metropolitan Council. She will serve out the rest of Tremere's term, which ends December 31, 2005.

Pentel has been active in Golden Valley City government since 1992, when she was first appointed to the City's Planning Commission. She has served as chair of that Commission since 1997. Pentel has also been a member of the City's Sidewalk Committee since 1993, and she served as the Planning Commission representative to the City's Board of Zoning Appeals from 1995 to 1997. In addition, she was the Planning Commission representative to the City's Area B and Area C task forces, which helped guide development of the housing and retail complex at the northwest corner of Winnetka Ave and Golden Valley Rd (Area B) and the retail complex at the northeast corner of Hwy 55 and Winnetka Ave (Area C).

Pentel is a teaching specialist and undergraduate advisor in the Urban Studies Program at the University of Minnesota. She has BA in urban studies from Augsburg College, a MA in geography from the University of Minnesota, and is working on a PhD in geography at the University of Minnesota. Pentel is also a member of the Golden Valley League of Women Voters, a Neighborhood Watch block coordinator, and a board member of the Minnesota American Planning Association. Other volunteer activities include working with schools and neighborhood groups.

The City Council selected Pentel on the basis of her written application, essay, and interview. Other applicants included Jeffrey Beske, Joanie Clausen, Daniel Freeman, Mark Friederichs, John Giese, Joan Halgren, Kevin McAleese, Martha Micks, Jon Pawluk, Bruce Peterson, Margaret (Peggy) Rasmusen, Luann Rockman, Scott Selmer, James Vaughan, and Luke Weisberg.

Luann Rockman, Scott Selmer,
James Vaughan, and Luke
Weisberg.

City of
Golden Valley

763-593-8000

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