

Golden Valley

CITYNEWS

How Do We Define Community Standards?

These days there is a lot of pondering the role of government—what is too much, what is not enough. In the end, it comes down to making rules for the greater good of all who share a community. A set of standards that fairly provides for community safety, health, welfare, and basic livability.

What does this mean? To some, it is a guarantee that their faucets will deliver clean water, their toilets will flush away waste, their streets will be safe and efficient, and weather events will not overtly effect their ability to carry on with their lives. Many want to know that someone is looking out for their safety and protection. Others envision a neighborhood of well-kept yards and well-maintained living structures, or evidence that the environment is well protected and remains a source of inspiration to the community.

For many citizens, the definition of community standards is highly personal. For local government, it is perhaps the most demanding and delicate job of all. In cities like Golden Valley, where everyone lives in close proximity to their neighbors, citizens shoulder a high level of community responsibility braced by a commitment to community standards. In other words, to ensure that Golden Valley remains a high-quality place to live, everyone must work together.

This issue of *CityNews* strives to highlight some important issues for the greater community and outline a variety of ways citizens can contribute. Last year's *Envision Golden Valley* process sought citizen input on the future of the community and what its standards should be. Now City elected and appointed officials and City staff seek to carry forth the ideas presented by the community. A new *Envision Connection Project* will involve citizens in this process. Check the *Envision* results at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/Envision/ and consider volunteering for the *Connection Project*.

For more information, call 763-593-8014.

GV Will Be Smoke Free

Starting March 31, 2005, restaurant and bar patrons in Hennepin County will encounter smoke-free environments, courtesy of a new County law that prohibits smoking in those establishments. A similar, more restrictive City ordinance goes into effect the same day in Golden Valley.

Although Golden Valley bars and restaurants are required to comply with Hennepin County's law, the Golden Valley City Council went a step further when modeling its ordinance after one passed recently by the City of Bloomington, which requires work places and public places to be smoke-free as well.

When discussing the philosophy behind their decision, Golden Valley City Council members took to heart their responsibility for establishing and upholding community standards (see article at left), in particular, to "protect the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens by increasing the ability of all citizens to breathe safe and uncontaminated air."

Watch the March/April *CityNews* for updated information.

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City Utility RATES INCREASE

Effective March 1, 2005, the City of Golden Valley will increase its residential, commercial, and industrial utility billing rates to offset increased costs in operations and infrastructure maintenance. The City Council approved the new rates in January.

The minimum residential utility account will increase from \$101.80 to \$104.30. Sewer rates will increase 3%, from \$49.50 to \$51 to cover the increased fees passed on to cities by the Metropolitan Environmental Services Commission. Storm water utility rates will increase 5%, from \$19 to \$20, to help pay for storm water improvements along the Boone Ave and Hwy 55 project.

Water rates will remain stable. Although the City of Minneapolis has decreased the amount it charges the Joint Water Commission (JWC) to purchase water, the City must retain its current water rates to recoup losses from previous years' operating budgets and build capital for future improvements to the system.

The City will also initiate a \$1 credit per quarter to be applied to all utility accounts that use the automatic payment plan (see article at right). For more information about City utility rates, contact the City Utility Billing Department at 763-593-8016.

Council Approves 2005 Budget

At its December 21, 2004 meeting, City Council adopted the City's 2005 budget and certified a net property tax levy of \$12,545,135 to finance it.

A complete copy of the City's 2005 adopted budget is available for review at City Hall and at the Golden Valley Library. If you have questions about the budget, contact the Finance Department at 763-593-8012.

A DEAL FOR YOU!
Earn a \$1 credit per quarter on your utility bill when you sign up for the City's Utility Billing Automatic Payment Plan.

Automatic Payment Plan Saves Time And Money

Interested in a free, fast, easy way to pay your utility bill? The City of Golden Valley's Utility Bill (UB) Automatic Payment Plan offers all three. Forget about checks, stamps, or late charges. Instead, have the amount of your utility bill automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.

To get started, simply complete the authorization form below and include a voided check (for checking accounts) or deposit slip (for savings accounts). Make sure both bank and individual account routing numbers are located at the bottom of the check or deposit slip (for example, :091400046:200030119). Send the completed form along with your next utility bill, drop it in the box marked "Utilities" in front of City Hall, or mail it to City of Golden Valley, Utility Billing, 7800 Golden Valley Rd, Golden Valley, MN 55427.

The City bills quarterly, so if you return the authorization with your current payment, the first automatic payment should occur with the next quarterly billing. Please continue to pay the bill as usual until the message "Do Not Pay—Automatic Withdrawal On Due Date" appears on the top of your bill. Your monthly bank statement will clearly reflect the automatic payment, and your next utility bill will include a debit for that amount.

If you need a new authorization form or have questions about your bill, contact the City Utility Billing Department at 763-593-8016. Forms are also available online at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/utilitybill.htm.

utility billing AUTHORIZATION FORM

AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

Please enroll me/us in the City of Golden Valley's Utility Billing Automatic Payment Program. I/We authorize the City to collect payment of my/our utility bill by initiating debit entries (deductions) to the bank account shown on the attached voided check (required for checking accounts) or deposit slip (savings accounts only). I/We understand that this authorization will continue in force unless discontinued by my/our written request.

City Utilities Account Number (not your bank account number):

Address

Daytime Phone Number

Signature

Date

Signature (if joint account)

Date

Indicate form of payment: Checking Account (attach voided check)
 Savings Account (attach deposit slip)

Attached voided check or deposit slip here.

Run The Valley Race Set For April 16

Plan now to join friends and neighbors at 8:30 am, Saturday, April 16, 2005, for one of Golden Valley's most popular community events, the 11th annual *Run the Valley*. Sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF), this 5K/10K race and 5K walk is a successful fund-raiser for organizations that benefit the community. The 2004 event drew 685 runners and walkers and raised \$11,400 for the GVHSF, which allocated the funds to local human service organizations.



The race will start and finish near the Davis Community Center parking lot at Meadowbrook Elementary (one block west of Hwy 100 at the intersection of Glenwood and Xenia Aves). The certified course runs a relatively flat loop through residential Golden Valley; water stops and post-race complimentary snacks are provided. Participants receive a long-sleeve T-shirt.

For registration materials, call 763-593-8010. Register in person or by mail (no faxes) up to three days before the race at Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Rd (hours: 8 am - 4:30 pm). You may also register on-line at www.active.com or in person at Davis Center on race day between 7:15 and 8 am. Entry fee is \$20 before March 1, \$25 March 2–April 13, and \$30 the day of the race.

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

run the valley REGISTRATION FORM

Send completed entry form and check, payable to Golden Valley Human Services Foundation, to: GVHSF, c/o Sue Virnig, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Age _____ Birthdate _____

Male Female T-Shirt Size L XL

Event 5K Run 5K Walk 10K Run

Entry fee enclosed _____

Release Form: I am entering this event at my own risk and assume all risk and responsibility for injuries I may incur as a direct or indirect result of my participation in this event. I, for myself and my heirs and executors, also agree not to hold any participating sponsor or supporters or the directors, employees, and agents of such parties responsible for any such injury or damage suffered. I verify that I have full knowledge of the risks involved with this event, and that I am physically fit and sufficiently trained to participate in it.

Signature of runner/walker

Signature of parent or guardian if racer is under 18

Golden Valley Days Is Set

Come celebrate Golden Valley community spirit with your friends and neighbors Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21, 2005, at the second annual Golden Valley Days Art and Music Festival.



Friday's events will kick off early evening with a concert in Brookview Park featuring the Golden Valley Orchestra. Fireworks will follow. Saturday everything moves to the City Hall Campus (under the Water Tower), starting with a parade at 10 am. Once again, artists will show and sell their work and a music stage will provide entertainment throughout the day. Food stalls and games for kids will round out the events, and a high-energy evening concert will close things down at 10 pm.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Golden Valley Days is presented by the Golden Valley Community Events Fund (GVCEF), a non-profit community foundation organized by Golden Valley residents.

Volunteer time and talent is needed to help make this event a huge success. A meeting for volunteers is scheduled for 7 pm Wednesday, March 16, in the Senior Room at Brookview Community Center. For more information about volunteering at Golden Valley Days, call Adrienne Thomle at 763-383-1415.

For more information about Golden Valley Days, call the two co-chairs: Don Keysser (612-710-0995) and Luke Weisberg (612-201-9130), or go to the Golden Valley Days Web site (www.GoldenValleyFund.org).



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

763-593-8030

Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week—Pick-Up Date

Memorial Day—Sat, June 4
 Fourth of July—Sat, July 9
 Labor Day—Sat, Sept 10
 Thanksgiving—Sat, Nov 26
 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.

Reuse For The CREATIVE, OR PRACTICAL, SOUL

When it comes to reusing items bound for the trash, the only limitation appears to be imagination. A few minutes of research turned up a multitude of creative reuse ideas. For example, several worn wool sweaters became charming curtains. An old set of books were assembled into a unique bookshelf and chopsticks were transformed into a lamp. An old vinyl record became a wall clock, while bike parts were twisted into a towering CD holder. A mirror got a face lift with new frame made from tightly coiled recycled telephone wire. Some old pop bottles became fluttering butterflies.

If you don't have all the used materials you need to produce a new product, chances are someone nearby does. So stoke yourself with a few episodes of cable TV home improvement shows and go for it. The planet will thank you.

Improve Your Home With Recycled Materials

Recycling and the production of recycled-content products (those made from materials that would otherwise have been discarded) is a growing industry. Today more than 4,500 recycled-content products are available, many of which people purchase routinely. For example, aluminum cans, anything made from steel, car bumpers, carpeting, cereal boxes, comic books, egg cartons, glass containers, laundry detergent bottles, motor oil, nails, newspapers, paper towels, and trash bags all contain recycled-content.

Closing the waste-reduction loop (reduce, recycle, and reuse) remains vital to local and planetary health, but while reuse is becoming more prevalent, it is not often the first option people consider when embarking on a home improvement project. However, the growing array of available recycled products may soon change that.



PLASTIC LUMBER

BE A "GREEN" REMODELER

One of the hottest recycled products in the market today is plastic lumber. It doesn't rot, crack, or need paint or preservatives. Although plastic lumber tends to be more expensive than wood, longevity and reduced maintenance make it more economical in the long run. Flooring is yet another frontier. Most carpet contains recycled content, but carpeting with fiber labeled "100% PET Polyester" is made from recycled plastic soft drink bottles.

Several more green options are manufactured right here in Minnesota. Renewal by Andersen Windows of Cottage Grove uses recycled content in new and replacement windows. Its Fibrex™ material is made of reclaimed wood and vinyl and can be recycled back into the same material. In Warroad, Marvin Windows and Doors makes new windows and doors using 15 to 33 percent recycled glass. The aluminum contains about 40 percent recycled content aluminum in extruded form and 98 percent in rolled form.

In Minneapolis, Hirshfield's Paint Manufacturing makes an interior latex paint called RenewWall that contains 20 percent post-consumer latex paint (often from paint dropped off at a local transfer station). Amazon Environmental (Roseville) uses 80 percent post-consumer latex paint to make new paint.

Most glass containers in Minnesota are recycled into new containers, but many companies and counties are exploring alternatives. Winona ORC Industries is one of a few companies in the US making decorative products like stepping stones, coasters, and trivets from recycled glass. The Environmental Home Center (www.environmentalhomecenter.com) is creating some uniquely colored indoor tiles and glass knobs.



Recycled Tiles

CONSIDER THE OPTIONS

Whether your home improvement project is large or small, a bevy of recycled products awaits your consideration. For more information on using recycled products, visit the home and garden page of the Recycle Minnesota Web site (www.recycleminnesota.org).

Pick And Placement Vital To Tree Health

Trees are important elements in a community. They remove air pollution, replenish oxygen, lower home heating and cooling costs, and can increase property value by 10 to 20 percent (according to USDA studies). While it's difficult to place a value on a tree's appearance or emotional impact, many people become attached to trees. Just ask someone who has lost a tree to damage or disease (see sidebar at right for information on Dutch elm disease).

Preventing tree loss starts early—before a tree is even planted. One of the top five reasons for urban tree mortality is planting the wrong tree in the wrong place. To increase the chances that a tree will grow well, live long, and ward off insects and disease, you must follow three important guidelines: purpose, selection, and placement.

TREE PURPOSE

Are you planting the tree for shade, privacy, aesthetics, or to block wind or noise? Determining the tree's purpose will help you select the right specimen.

TREE SELECTION

Two main factors for tree selection in Golden Valley are climate and soil. A tree needs to be hardy to survive our infamous winters. Then, of course, there's Golden Valley's mostly clay soil. Trees that do well with local weather and soil conditions include

Bicolor (Swamp White) Oak, Red Maple, River Birch, Hackberry, Green Ash, Arborvitae, Black Hills Spruce, Tamarack, White Spruce, Basswood. The rare yards with primarily sandy soils make good places for Bur Oak, Honeylocust, Redmond Linden, Hackberry, Green Ash, Gingko, Hawthorn, Cedar, Junipers, or Pines.



THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE WILL GROW WELL.

Check with a nursery for more information on tree selection, size, and care. Buy from a reputable nursery that is a member of professional organizations and offers a replacement warranty (often one year).

TREE PLACEMENT

While purpose plays a role in tree placement, so should physical limitations. Imagine how big the tree will be when full-grown. Many trees are later removed because they're just too big. For example, will overhead wires become an issue as the tree matures? Will a full-grown tree obstruct a roadway, sidewalk, or other area you want to maintain as open space? The trees listed above generally prefer sunny locations. For a shade tolerant tree, consider American Linden, Maples, Japanese Tree Lilac, Arborvitae, Balsam Fir, Chokecherry, Pagoda Dogwood, and Serviceberry.

TREE CARE

Urban trees require the same care and maintenance as other property (see article on pages 8–9). Planning ahead can help ensure a long, healthy life for your tree.

For more information on tree selection and care, call Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046, or check the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/forestry.htm).

DUTCH ELM DISEASE TAKES LOCAL TOLL

Last year was devastating for the elms of Golden Valley. In 2004, Dutch Elm Disease (DED) claimed a total of 1,633 trees (see below). This is an increase of about 360% from 2003, when 456 diseased elms were removed.

Dutch Elm disease, caused by fungi carried by an insect from tree to tree, spreads rapidly in the water-conducting vessels of the entire tree. The vessels clog and the tree wilts and dies. The diseased tree then becomes a breeding site for more insects that will transfer the disease to healthy trees.

On the brighter side, there was a slight decrease in trees confirmed to have oak wilt in 2004 (four red oaks and two white oaks).

For more information on Dutch Elm Disease or oak wilt, check the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/dutch.htm).

DED by THE NUMBERS

Elms removed in Golden Valley in 2004

FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY
1,214
(up 315% from 368 in 2003)

FROM CITY PROPERTY
351
(up 444% from 79 trees in 2003)

FROM STATE PROPERTY
68
(up 756% from nine trees in 2003)

SENIOR STUFF

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

Celebrate Senior Dining—Feb 11, noon, Calvary Lutheran Church

Armchair Travelers—Feb 11: "Norway," 2 pm, Country Villa

Free Financial Talks—Feb 17: "Real Estate Investment Trusts," March 17: "How to Maximize Inheritance and Minimize Taxation to Heirs," 10 am, Brookview

Fabulous Forties Style Show & Brunch—Feb 18, 11 am, Brookview

Continental Breakfast—Feb 23: "Light Rail Transit: An Element of the Regional Transit Network," 9:30 am, Brookview

Blood Pressure Screenings—Feb 23, 11 am–noon, Brookview

Defensive Driving—Eight-hour course, March 1 and 8, 6–10 pm, Brookview

Wellness & You—March 3, "Growing Wiser & Appreciating Our Gifts," 1:30 pm, Dover Hills

Antiques Presentation—March 4, 1 pm, Brookview

Health Insurance Help—March 8, 9–11 am, Brookview

Moments to Remember—March 11: "Remembering Train Rides," 10 am, Calvary Center Cooperative

Upcoming Trips (register early)—March 10: "Triple Expresso," Music Box Theater; March 19: "Say Goodnight Gracie," March 29: Chocolate March

2005 Membership Dues—Pay \$5 dues now to enjoy year-round activities.

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 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

Brookview Junior Golf: A Swinging Good Time

There may still be snow on the ground and a nip in the air, but the time to schedule your child's spring and summer activities is here. Brookview Golf Course offers two popular youth programs—Junior Golf Leagues and Lessons.

JUNIOR LEAGUES

Brookview's six-week Junior Golf League (ages 8–17) begins Monday, June 13, 2005 and ends with a tournament July 25. Junior League days are Mondays for both the Par 3 and Regulation Course.

PAR 3 COURSE LEAGUE

Youth ages 8–12 play on the Par 3 Course. Tee times begin at 6:30 am. This league is limited to 150 registered players. Youth ages 13–17 who score more than 42 also play on the Par 3 Course.

REGULATION COURSE LEAGUE Youth who can shoot a score of 42 or less play the Regulation Course. Youth ages 13–14 play nine holes off the back nine beginning at 6:30 am (limited to 48 registered players). Youth ages 15–17 play 18 holes, starting off the first tee at 6:30 am (limited to 48 registered players).

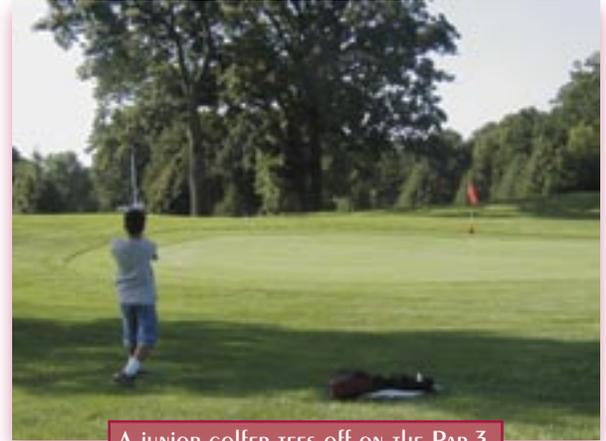
REGISTRATION Golden Valley residents may register in person Tuesday, March 15, 2005, 5:30–6:30 pm, at Brookview Community Center (first-come, first-served). After March 15, registration is open to anyone. For times and more details, check the upcoming Spring/Summer Parks and Recreation Brochure.

ORIENTATION/FUN DAY All league members must attend one of the orientation sessions Monday, June 13. Orientation includes rules and etiquette, a golf clinic, a putting contest, and refreshments. Juniors may play nine holes for free on the Par 3 Course before 2 pm. Juniors also sign up for tee times for the following week of play.

LESSONS, ANYONE?

If your junior golfer needs a little training before joining a league, consider Brookview's two-step group lesson program taught by PGA professionals (offered Monday–Thursday). Each step includes four 60-minute lessons for \$50; golf clubs and balls are provided. "Welcome to Golf" gives beginners an overview of the game of golf along with instruction on putting, chipping and pitching, and full swing irons and woods. "Next Step" lessons complement and build on initial instruction. For more information, call 763-512-2300.

For more information on Junior Golf or other Brookview Golf offerings, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn/brookviewgolf/.



A JUNIOR GOLFER TEES OFF ON THE PAR 3.

LEAGUE FEES

League fees include all weekly green fees, Orientation/Fun Day, tee prize, weekly golf event, prizes, club championship, and refreshments. All Junior rates apply to Monday Junior League times only.

- Par 3 League: \$65
- Regulation Course 9-Hole League: \$80
- Regulation Course 18-Hole League: \$100

To promote junior golf, Brookview offers kids ages 8–17 a \$65 Junior Punch Pass, good for 10 rounds of golf on the Par 3 Course. It can be purchased at the Brookview Golf Shop.

Brookview Has Gathering Places With A View

Whether the fairways of one of the Twin Cities most beautiful golf courses are winter white, summer green, or autumn amber, orange, and red, the view from the Brookview Community Center is spectacular. So, if you're searching for a place for a corporate event or a personal party, look no further.

Nestled in the tranquil setting off Brookview Golf Course, the Community Center offers space year-round for gatherings up to 215 guests. Facilities include a large tiled-floor banquet room with neutral decor and a caterer's kitchen, and a patio, deck, and gazebo that provide expansive

golf course views. For small- to moderate-sized gatherings during the off-season, the Brookview Grill offers the same views and a warm, comfortable atmosphere.

Brookview is conveniently 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 (Brookview Community Center), or visit www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us and select Brookview Golf or Parks, Recreation, & Leisure.



BROOKVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

REGISTER ONLINE FOR PARK PROGRAMS WITH **GV RecConnect**

GV RecConnect, the Golden Valley Parks and Recreation Department's online registration system, provides residents with fast, efficient access to the City's extensive array of parks and recreation programs. Just log on to the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us, go to "Parks, Recreation, & Leisure," click "Parks & Recreation Programs" (bookmark this page for future use), then follow the instructions to start the online registration process.

Three times a year, Golden Valley publishes a brochure that lists all City recreational programs offered for that season. Seasonal activities are also listed on the City web site under "Parks & Recreation Programs." The fastest way to register is to use the code numbers listed with each activity. Browse the selections, write down the code numbers, gather credit card information (Mastercard or VISA only) and your family ID and PIN numbers, then enter *GV RecConnect* to register. *GV RecConnect* accepts registrations up to the first day of the activity or until it is full. The few activities not available for online registration are noted on the Web site.

For security purposes and to expedite online registration, each family that has registered for a Golden Valley recreation activity in the last two years has been issued ID and PIN numbers. If you don't have these numbers, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 763-512-2345.

For more information about City recreation programs or online registration, call the Golden Valley Parks and Recreation Department at 763-512-2345.

PARKS & REC UPDATE

Personality/Behavior—Mon, Feb 14, 6:30–7:30 pm, Brookview, \$15

Valentines Day Spa—Feb 15, 1–3 pm, Brookview, \$29

Kids Club (ages 3–5)—Thurs, Feb 15–March 31 or Wed, Feb 16–April 6, 9:30–11 am, Brookview, \$34

Mixture Madness (ages 3½–6)—Wed, Feb 16, 12:30–2:30 pm, Brookview, \$16.50

Power Yoga & Pilates—Thurs, Feb 17–March 31, 6:15–7:40 pm, Brookview, \$70

Yoga & Pilates for Stress Reduction—Thurs, Feb 17–March 31, 7:45–8:45 pm, Brookview, \$63

A Day With Dinosaurs (ages 3½–6)—Wed, March 9, 12:30–2:30 pm, Brookview, \$16.50

Crazy Chemistry (ages 3½–6)—Fri, March 25, 9:30 am–noon, Brookview, \$21

DROP-IN ACTIVITIES AT DAVIS

Parent/Tot Gym Time (ages 2–5 w/adult)—Sat, 10–11:30 am, \$5/family/time

Parent/Child Gym Time (ages 6–12 w/adult)—Sat, 10–11:30 am, \$5/family/time

Adult Co-Rec Open Volleyball—Tues and Thurs, 10–11:30 am, Sun, 3–5 pm

Adult Open Basketball—Wed and Sat, 8–10 am

Adult Over 40 Open Basketball—Mon, 8–10 am

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

For more information, contact:
Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Parkway
Golden Valley, MN 55426
763-512-2345

Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm

Watch your mail in early March for the Spring/Summer Activities brochure.

Keeping Up Your Castle In The Golden Valley Kingdom

Clichéd, but true—your home is your castle, a sanctuary, an extension of yourself. There is, however, rarely a moat. Each home is part of the Golden Valley kingdom, which is why a major role of the City Council is to set community standards ordinances that keep the kingdom in top condition (see article on page 1).

As decreed by the *Envision Golden Valley* process, Golden Valley residents take great pride in their community. The fact remains, though, that Golden Valley is, shall we say, mature. The first house was built here in 1870, and the last major residential housing increase occurred in the 20 years or so after World War II (see Age of Housing Stock box below right). In fact, 85% of Golden Valley's homes were built between 1947 and 1968, and only about 3% were built after 1990. The age of housing explains why 777 Golden Valley residents spent a combined total of \$49 million on home improvements in 2004 (see Top Remodeling Projects box below left).

Bottom line, since Golden Valley housing stock is generally older and needs upkeep, the City wants to make home improvement as easy as possible. Use this information on City requirements, permits, and inspections as your guide when undertaking home improvement projects. (For project planning and home maintenance tips, check out page 13.)



Do You Have A Permit For That?

Permits are required to ensure that construction in Golden Valley meets local, state, and federal building standards and codes. The permit process provides a way for the City building official and inspectors to review the design and inspect construction and for property owners to ensure their investment is protected (see list at right for common permits).

Before the City can issue a building permit, you must submit project plans and a building permit application (applies to residential construction only, and requirements can vary for specific projects). Other forms, such as energy calculations, may be required. Call the City's Inspections Department (763-593-8090) for more information.

Getting an Inspection

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

Each major phase of construction must be inspected by a City building inspector to ensure the work conforms to the building code, the building permit, and the approved plans. The person responsible for the construction project must request each inspection.

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

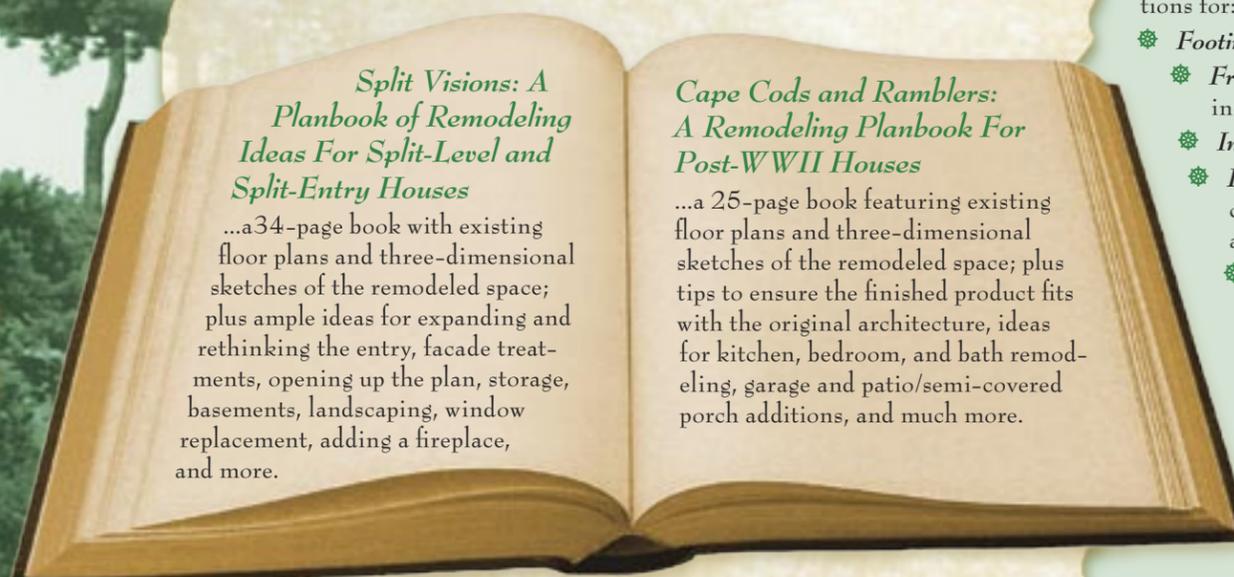
The City generally requires building inspections for:

- **Footings** (before concrete is poured)
- **Framing** (before insulation or sheet rock-ing)
- **Insulation and vapor barrier**
- **Final** (when work is completed and after electrical, plumbing, and mechanical inspections and approvals)
- **Roofing** (after the eaves treatment, or ice and water shield)
- **Electrical work** (contact the state electrical inspector at 763-241-2102 from 7 - 8:30 am)
- **Plumbing** (rough-in and final; final requires manometer test)
- **Heating** (rough-in and final; final requires orsat test and chimney stack sheet, if applicable)

Final inspections are required before occupancy. Other inspections may be required by the City building official. Schedule inspections 24 to 48 hours in advance (call 763-593-8090, or fax 763-593-3997). All inspection times are approximate.

Once Upon A Time...

...two home styles were very popular in Golden Valley, and now there are two remodeling books that can help homeowners bring them new life.



Split Visions: A Planbook of Remodeling Ideas For Split-Level and Split-Entry Houses

...a 34-page book with existing floor plans and three-dimensional sketches of the remodeled space; plus ample ideas for expanding and rethinking the entry, facade treatments, opening up the plan, storage, basements, landscaping, window replacement, adding a fireplace, and more.

Cape Cods and Ramblers: A Remodeling Planbook For Post-WWII Houses

...a 25-page book featuring existing floor plans and three-dimensional sketches of the remodeled space; plus tips to ensure the finished product fits with the original architecture, ideas for kitchen, bedroom, and bath remodeling, garage and patio/semi-covered porch additions, and much more.

Both books are a joint project of 15 Twin Cities suburbs. Golden Valley residents can buy the books for \$10 (\$15 for nonresidents) each at City Hall or by mail. For more information, call the City's Planning Department at 763-593-8095.

Common Permits

Your home improvement project may require one or more permits, including but not limited to the following.

Building Permits are required for construction of garages, decks, additions, porches, and sheds larger than 120 square feet; remodeling or repairs valued at more than \$500; installation of in-ground swimming pools, above-ground swimming pools (more than 5,000-gallon capacity), or underground sprinkling systems; and for re-siding, re-roofing, or work done on drain tiles.

Electrical Permits are handled by the state electrical inspector (763-241-2102). Applications are available at City Hall.

Grading, Drainage, and Erosion Control Permits are required for any activity that disturbs land by removing more than 10,000 square feet of soils, disturbing land within City right-of-way for more than 72 hours, installing underground utilities, or storage of borrow material. The City will not issue a building permit until after a Grading, Drainage, and Erosion Control Permit is approved. Call Public Works at 763-593-8030.

Mechanical Permits cover installation, repair, or remodeling of fireplaces, heating systems, and air conditioners and for gas piping for stoves, ranges, grills, etc.

Plumbing Permits cover installation or replacement of any plumbing; connection to the City's sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water main; or any repairs to your sanitary service.

Right-of-Way (ROW) Permits are needed for any work within 15 feet of the street (eg, driveway, curb cut, or boulevard work). Call Public Works at 763-593-8030.

Top Remodeling Projects in Golden Valley 2004

Total	Project
249	New Roof
189	Window/Door Replacements
141	Main Structure (kitchen, bath, etc)
60	Re-siding
60	Decks
36	Basement Finishing
27	Garages
13	Porches

Age of Golden Valley Housing Stock

Year	# of New Houses Built
pre 1900	5
1900-1919	48
1920-1939	224
1940-1959	3,083
1960-1979	2,698
1980-1999	297
2000-present	76

SECURE HOME ENTRYWAYS

Home burglary is often a crime of opportunity. Eliminate the opportunity and minimize the chance of burglary and other serious crimes by making your home as difficult as possible to enter.

DOORS

Exterior doors, including garage service doors, should be made of solid core wood or insulated steel. An alternative is a high-security storm door with a double-cylinder dead bolt (avoid look-alike doors made of aluminum with screwed-on grillwork). Peepholes are recommended.

Door frames should include an eight-inch high-security strike plate secured by six three-inch screws (to anchor the strike plate to the stud behind the decorative molding). The two 3/4-inch screws on the average door frame strike plate are easily kicked in by many burglars.

Windows

Double-hung windows are easily jimmied or pried open, but they can be inexpensively secured by "pinning" them in the closed position or in an open position when ventilation is needed.

Casement windows provide good security. Be sure the cranking mechanism works properly and that there is no excess play between window and frame. To add more security, remove the operator handle and store in a convenient place.

Locks

Dead bolt locks should secure all exterior doors. A single-cylinder dead bolt (thumb-turn on the inside) is adequate for exterior doors with no glass within 40 inches of the lock. A double-cylinder dead bolt (key needed on both sides of lock) should be installed if glass is within 40 inches.

Several lock types are made especially for sliding glass doors. Bolster existing locks with a solid strip of wood in the track of the closed door to block the door if the lock is broken. Also, adjust rollers so the door cannot be lifted off the track by a determined thief.

For more information on residential security, check the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/homesecurity.htm).

Fight Crime With Flowers, Fences, Foliage

For decades, architects have considered the threats of nature—fire, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes—when designing buildings. In the past 20 years, however, they have added the threat of crime to their purpose.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a growing specialty. While a neat, clean yard sends the message that the owners are aware of and watching their surroundings, the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) encourages residents who are considering landscaping or remodeling (see home improvement article pages on 8–9) to take more action, as recommended by CPTED, to reduce or eliminate the potential for crime.



FENCES

NATURAL ACCESS CONTROL

This type of design is intended to reduce the opportunity for crime by denying access to certain areas and making potential offenders look out of place so they become obvious and feel a sense of risk. Landscaping, flower beds, potted plants, and other structural elements are positioned to discourage traffic cutting through yards and access to private areas while highlighting public routes.

NATURAL SURVEILLANCE

Well-lit exterior doors and yards, a front door visible from the street, and properly maintained landscaping that provides maximum viewing to and from the house make intruders easily seen. View your home from the street after dark with the outside lights on. If the front door isn't easily visible, add more lighting. If trees or shrubs obscure doors and windows, trim them to eliminate places for a criminal to hide. Trim or add lighting to illuminate other dark places.



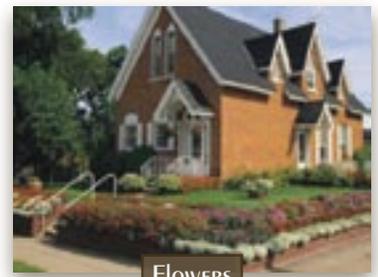
FOLIAGE

TERRITORIAL REINFORCEMENT

This two-fold design is intended to develop a sense of territorial control by residents and to discourage potential offenders. Shrubs, trees, flower pots, or other structural elements (such as pavement or fences) can help define property lines and establish territory. Street addresses should be clearly visible from the street with contrasting, non-reflective numbers at least five inches high. Finally, front porches or stoops should create a transitional area between the street and the home.

TARGET HARDENING

The most traditional means of crime prevention involves locks (see sidebar). Fundamentals of this strategy include single-cylinder dead bolt locks on garage service doors, locks on all windows, a stationary door outside of sliding glass doors and a locking device on the inside moving door, inside hinges and a single-cylinder dead bolt lock with a minimum one-inch throw on exterior doors, and door locks located at least 40 inches from windows. Try to imagine how you could break into your own home if you were locked out, and then consider installing better or supplemental locks.



FLOWERS

For more information on crime prevention, call the GVPD at 763-593-8058, or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/crimeprev.htm.

Plan Your Great Escape For Fire Safety

When the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) asked Americans how long they had to escape from a home fire, 58% answered two minutes or more. A full 24% thought they had more than 10 minutes. Both are dangerous assumptions. It takes only seconds for a fire to block a customary exit, and it's not much longer before stairways and upstairs halls fill with smoke. Long before 10 minutes are up, every bedroom could have life-threatening conditions.

PLANNING IS KEY TO SAFETY

The best way to keep safe is plan and practice an escape. Print the escape grid at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/firegrid.htm, then use it to draw a floor plan (include windows) and mark two ways out of every room. Consider various fire scenarios and develop a safe escape in each case. Be sure to plan for each household member, including babies and toddlers who may be unable to escape on their own. Teach children not to hide from firefighters. Uniforms can be scary, but firefighters are there to help (have children tour a Golden Valley fire station to see a firefighter in full gear). Finally, teach children to crawl under the smoke to reduce smoke inhalation and to touch closed doors to see if they are hot before opening. If so, use an alternate escape route. Always keep exits clear of clutter and toys.

Pick a neighbor's house to meet at after everyone has escaped. Remind children never to go back into the house. At the meeting place, do a head count to be sure everyone's there, then call 911. If someone has not reported to the designated meeting place, report their absence when you call 911.

ESCAPING AN APARTMENT FIRE

The chance a fire will start in an apartment is the same as in a house, yet the potential for growth is much greater. Your escape plan should include two ways out of your apartment and an outside meeting place away from the building. Do not use the elevator during a fire emergency. If you are unable to use the stairs, stay in your apartment and call 911. Tell the dispatcher where you are, and ask for help. If the fire is in your unit, quickly go to the stairwell, pull the fire alarm, and wait on the stair landing for help.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT, AND POINTS TO FLAWS

Plans are great, but practice is key. Review the escape plan several times and remind everyone that a fire drill is not a race. They should get out quickly, but be careful.

Begin practice drills by sounding one of your smoke alarms. Vary practice times, but be sure to include night drills when the children in the household are asleep to replicate the time when fires often begin (when people are asleep) and offer the opportunity to see how children respond to the smoke alarm (see sidebar) so appropriate measures can be taken to ensure their safety. During each practice, follow your escape route to your meeting place.

Once everyone in the house has the plan down, don't forget about it. Practice at least twice a year (more often if there are young children in the household).

Remember to take all building fire alarms seriously. Don't wait to determine the severity of the situation. Every second of delay wastes valuable time needed to escape. The US Fire Administration offers more information at www.usfaparents.gov.

If you have other fire safety questions, contact the Golden Valley Fire Department at 763-593-3977.

SMOKE ALARM MAINTENANCE

Replace all smoke alarm batteries twice a year. The Golden Valley Fire Department recommends you change the batteries during daylight savings time, in the spring and again in the fall.

Keep the alarm clean. Dust and debris can interfere with operation, so vacuum over and around your smoke alarm

SMOKE ALARMS Still SAVE LIVES

Recently there's been much reporting on research from Australia's Victoria University Sleep Lab, which found only 57% of children woke to a traditional smoke alarm signal while all woke to a recording of their mother's voice. Fire department and media outlets replicating the study had similar results. However, all fire authorities continue to agree that smoke alarms, combined with escape plans (see article at left), are the cornerstone of home fire safety technology.

By providing an early warning signal, smoke alarms are the single most important means of preventing death or injury in a fire. Statistics show that the introduction of home smoke alarms reduced fire fatalities by 50%.

Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home, including the basement. For extra safety, install them both inside and outside the sleeping areas. Since smoke rises, installing smoke alarms at the proper level (on the ceiling or six to eight inches below the ceiling on side walls) will provide the earliest warning possible.

Many hardware, home supply, and general merchandise stores carry smoke alarms. Be sure you buy one that is UL-listed. If, after practicing your fire escape plan, you find your children don't wake to a smoke alarm, there are alternatives. Kidde offers a combination fire/CO₂ alarm that shouts "Fire, Fire" or "Warning! Carbon Monoxide!"

The "Parent's Voice Smoke Alarm" by Hammacher Schlemmer (about \$70) lets parents record a spoken emergency alert. According to the company, a parent's voice has been "shown to be extremely effective at waking children from deep sleep."

Most smoke alarms install easily with a screwdriver, and some brands can be stuck to a wall or ceiling with self-adhesive. Always carefully follow the manufacturer's directions. If you need help, call the Golden Valley Fire Department at 763-593-3977.

GV MEETS WATER QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

For years the City of Golden Valley has published information in this newsletter and on the City Web site to educate the public about storm water as mandated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Here's the latest update.

In 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandated the National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Permit to reduce adverse impacts to water quality. It requires municipalities to develop and implement a storm water management program with six minimum control measures, including:

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

Golden Valley implemented a comprehensive Surface Water Management Plan in 2000. As required by NPDES Phase II, the City's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is available for review at the Public Works Department, Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road, the Golden Valley Branch of the Hennepin County Public Library, or the City's Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

A public hearing to consider the SWPPP will be held at 7 pm February 15, 2005, at Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road.

For more information on water quality in Golden Valley or the Phase II permit, contact Golden Valley's Environmental Coordinator at 763-593-8046 or alundstrom@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

Cross-Connected Sumps Are \$\$ Down The Drain

Each year during the rainy season (March through October), Golden Valley's sanitary sewer system handles up to two times its normal volume of wastewater because clear water is misdirected from sump pumps into the City's sanitary sewer system. This is called cross connection, and it results in higher residential charges for disposal and treatment of sewage.

After studying the problem last year, the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) recommended that communities still exceeding wastewater rates by 2008 be assessed a surcharge for water treatment. That means Golden Valley utility customers would see increased rates unless the cross-connected sump issue is resolved.

UNDERSTANDING WASTEWATER AND CLEAR WATER

Any water that goes down any drain inside a residence or structure is considered wastewater and is directed to a wastewater facility for treatment before it is released into the environment. Golden Valley wastewater travels through the City's sanitary sewer system to the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant, where MCES provides treatment. Utility customers pay a flat rate each billing period to cover costs for disposal and treatment of sewage.

Clear water is rainwater, ground water, or snow melt—exactly the type of water a sump pump handles. Clear water does not have to be treated before it's returned to area lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers. It needs to be directed into the storm sewer system or onto the ground where it can be absorbed. When this water is directed into the sanitary sewer system, utility customers pay for the increased flow and treatment of what is essentially already clean water.

CORRECTING THE PROBLEM BEFORE THE DEADLINE

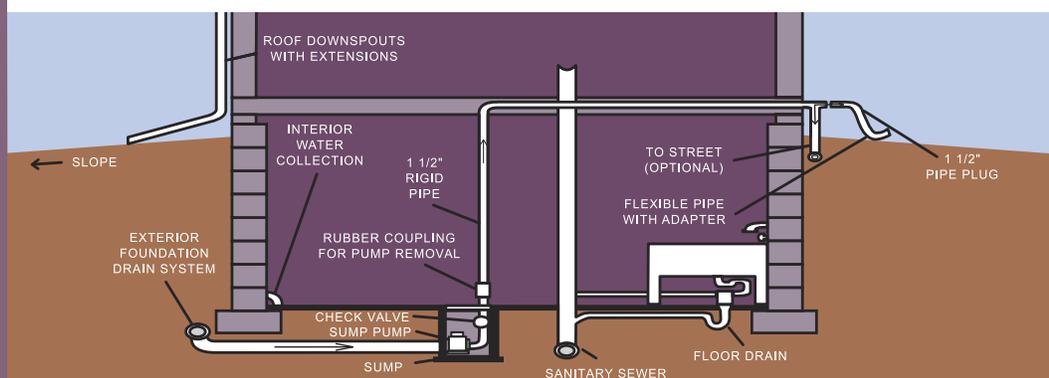
For several years, the City of Golden Valley has been encouraging residents to correct cross-connected sump pumps. With the MCES deadline looming, timing is important.

If the hose from your sump pump leads to a laundry tub or a floor drain, it is emptying into the sanitary sewer system and costing Golden Valley residents more in sewer treatment costs. An overloaded sanitary sewer system can also potentially cause back-ups, which can flood basements and defeat the purpose of the sump pump.

Sump pump discharges need to be directed to the storm water system via one of two methods (see drawing below):

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

For more information about sump pump discharge in Golden Valley, call Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom (763-593-8046), Bert Tracy (763-593-8078), or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/sumppumps.htm.



Smooth Remodeling Requires Preparation

When embarking on a home improvement project, regardless of size, it's wise to heed the Boy Scout motto: "Be Prepared." The best way to start is to gather ideas from a variety of sources. Speak to others who have completed similar projects, clip magazine articles, browse the How-To sections at local home improvement or book stores, go online, or visit local home remodeling fairs (see page 16 for information on Golden Valley's annual event). If nothing else, this footwork will clarify and hone the initial ideas you brought to the table.

IT'S ALL IN THE PLAN

Eagerness to start (and finish) home improvement projects is understandable, but the key to success is good planning and patience. Don't just plunge in. Even very small projects benefit from good planning.

Whether hiring the job out or purchasing materials to do it yourself, eventually you'll need to clearly translate your ideas so others can carry them out properly. A good project plan will serve as a valuable supporting document and minimize the potential for problems.



Roofing is the most commonly done home improvement project in Golden Valley.

START WITH THE CITY

The State building code requires separate permits for different elements of remodeling projects, such as plumbing, mechanical, and electrical work. Some projects require permits for tree preservation, right-of-way, or for grading, drainage, and erosion control (see "Common Permit Types," pages 8-9). In those cases, you must secure the necessary permits before the City can issue a building permit.

Before you hire and schedule contractors to begin the actual work, call City Hall to get complete information about how long it takes to obtain required permits, inspections, or variances. Visit the City Inspections Department early in your planning stage to review your "street file," which includes information about soil conditions and all work previously done to your property. It may also include an as-built survey of your lot, which shows the location of structures on your property. Inspections staff will provide you with a checklist of everything you'll need to do to apply for a building permit. Across the hall in the Public Works Department, you can find out if your project will require any of the additional permits mentioned above.

If you're planning an addition, shed, or any outdoor structure, make your first stop the City Planning Department (763-593-8095). Planning staff will help you determine if there is enough room on your lot to do your project or if you have to apply for a variance. That information will also help you avoid the frustration of beginning work on a project, only to find there's not enough room on your property or it is not permitted.

For more information on home improvements, see the article on pages 8-9 or call one of the City offices listed in the box at right.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

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

Planning (763-593-8095)

Inspections (763-593-8090)

Public Works (763-593-8030).

MAINTAINING YOUR HOME

Regular maintenance is a great way to keep your home in tip-top shape. The following spring home maintenance tips come from the Home Remodeling Fair (see page 16) organizers.

When the weather turns warm again, check and repair, if needed:

- foundation walls, floors, concrete, and masonry (including chimneys) for loose, deteriorating, or missing mortar
- grading for proper slope away from foundation. Build up soil where needed.
- all wood surfaces—especially at soil level—for weathering, peeling paint, or dry rot
- deck, patio, porch, and exterior stairs and railings for deterioration
- roofs for missing, loose, or damaged shingles, open seams, blisters, or bald areas; flashing around all surface projections and sidewalls; antenna supports for possible leak sources; fascia and soffits for deterioration and damage; roof louvers for damage and plugging (bird nests, etc); gutters and downspouts for debris and leaks. (If ice dams were a problem last winter, have your attic properly insulated and ventilated.)
- windows for loose and missing glazing putty or deteriorating weather-stripping and caulking. (Once windows can be opened, do interior painting, varnishing, or other projects where odor can be a problem.)
- screens for tears and windows for cracks. Replace broken sash ropes or hold-open devices.
- basement and crawl space for moisture or leaking water. Take care of all moisture problems.
- home's cooling system before hot weather arrives
- slow drains or back-ups (have sewer pipes cleaned before a back-up occurs)
- smoke detectors when you change the clocks ahead (see Smoke Alarm sidebar on page 11)
- door and window hardware. Replace as needed (see home security article on page 10).

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSING

The City of Golden Valley has a full-service Motor Vehicle Deputy Registrar Department right in City Hall.

LICENSES

The MV Licensing Department can license your all-terrain vehicle (ATV), bicycle, snowmobile, and watercraft.

Stop in for your small game, deer, and fishing license here, too.

REGISTRATION

Just bring in your license renewal card. No renewal notice? A vehicle license plate number will do.

DROP BOX PROCESSING

Process license tab renewals fast. Put the statement and a check (payable to the City of Golden Valley) in an envelope marked "Motor Vehicle" and slip it into the box marked "Utilities" outside City Hall. Drop by 8 am and pick it up at noon, or have it mailed back at no extra charge.

TITLE TRANSFERS

Cruise through the buying or selling process. For details on what you need to provide, call the Info Line below, or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

NOTARY SERVICE

Only \$1 per notary stamp. Don't forget to bring your driver's license or picture ID.

HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday: 8 am to 5 pm, and Tuesday: 8 am to 6 pm

24-HOUR INFO LINE: 763-593-8101

Where To Get A DRIVER'S LICENSE

The Golden Valley Motor Vehicle Licensing Office DOES NOT handle driver's licenses. For a list of metro locations, such as the MN Driver's Exam Station in Plymouth, call 651-296-6911.

Street Designations Serve Planning, Funding Needs

Motorists generally don't care how a street is classified, as long as it is a convenient route to follow as part of their trip. For example, calling Winnetka Ave a major arterial street, a minor residential street, or even a cow path will make virtually no difference in the volume of traffic on it. But it's a different matter entirely to residents. Often people are surprised to learn they live on a "collector" or "municipal state aid street (MSAS)," even though the street environment is primarily single-family residences.

Judging by the number of questions posed to City staff and elected officials, neighborhood traffic issues are near and dear to the hearts of many Golden Valley residents. Of particular concern are traffic volumes on residential streets. Understanding street designations can help citizens gain a big-picture perspective of the role their neighborhood street plays in the workings of the greater community.

PLANNING AND FUNDING STREETS

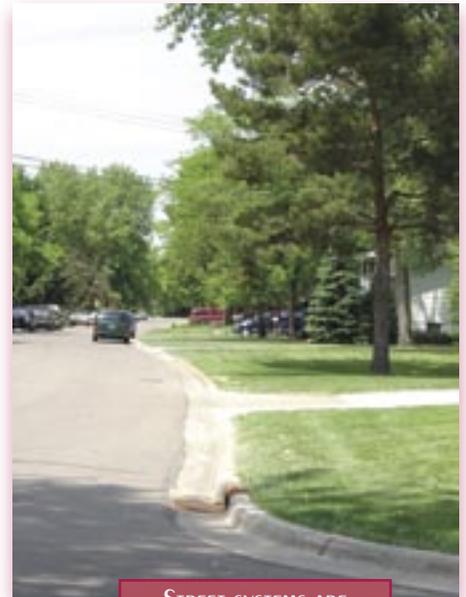
Most of the classification terms given to specific streets are for planning or funding purposes. Transportation planners use designation concepts to help prioritize streets and highways. In the Twin Cities metropolitan area, streets are sorted by functional classification, with the major classifications being arterial, collector, and local. In Golden Valley, I-394, Hwy 100, and Hwy 169 are principal arterials while Hwy 55 is a major arterial (one classification lower since it has a limited number of intersections). Minor arterials, such as Winnetka Ave and Medicine Lake Rd, have more frequent intersections but carry traffic between several communities. Collector streets (eg, Boone Ave N, Noble Ave, Olympia Ave, Laurel Ave) primarily serve as a main street in a neighborhood, bringing traffic to major arterials or connecting major streets and destinations.

Funding from the Federal or State government is based partially on the functional classification of streets. Streets of higher classification usually get more funding since they carry more traffic and have a more regional impact. Conversely, streets that carry more traffic or have more regional connections are usually given a higher classification.

Gas taxes are the major source of funds for road construction (except local streets), and a portion is shared between the State, counties, and some cities. Any city with population over 5,000 may designate up to 20% of the mileage of all streets under its jurisdiction (a general statement) as part of its MSAS System. Under a complex formula, the city then gets a portion of the gas tax funds designated for all cities with a population over 5,000 to construct, reconstruct, or improve MSAS streets. To become part of the MSAS system, streets must meet certain qualifications and design standards and be approved by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Despite all the classifications for funding and planning, most motorists do not care what a road is designated as long as it gets them where they want to go. And once residents understand the street designation system, they'll see the value in planning and funding a road system to move traffic through the community efficiently and safely.

For more information about street classifications in Golden Valley, contact the Public Works Department at 763-593-8030. 



STREET SYSTEMS ARE DESIGNED TO MOVE TRAFFIC.

City To Start Community Planning Venture For I-394

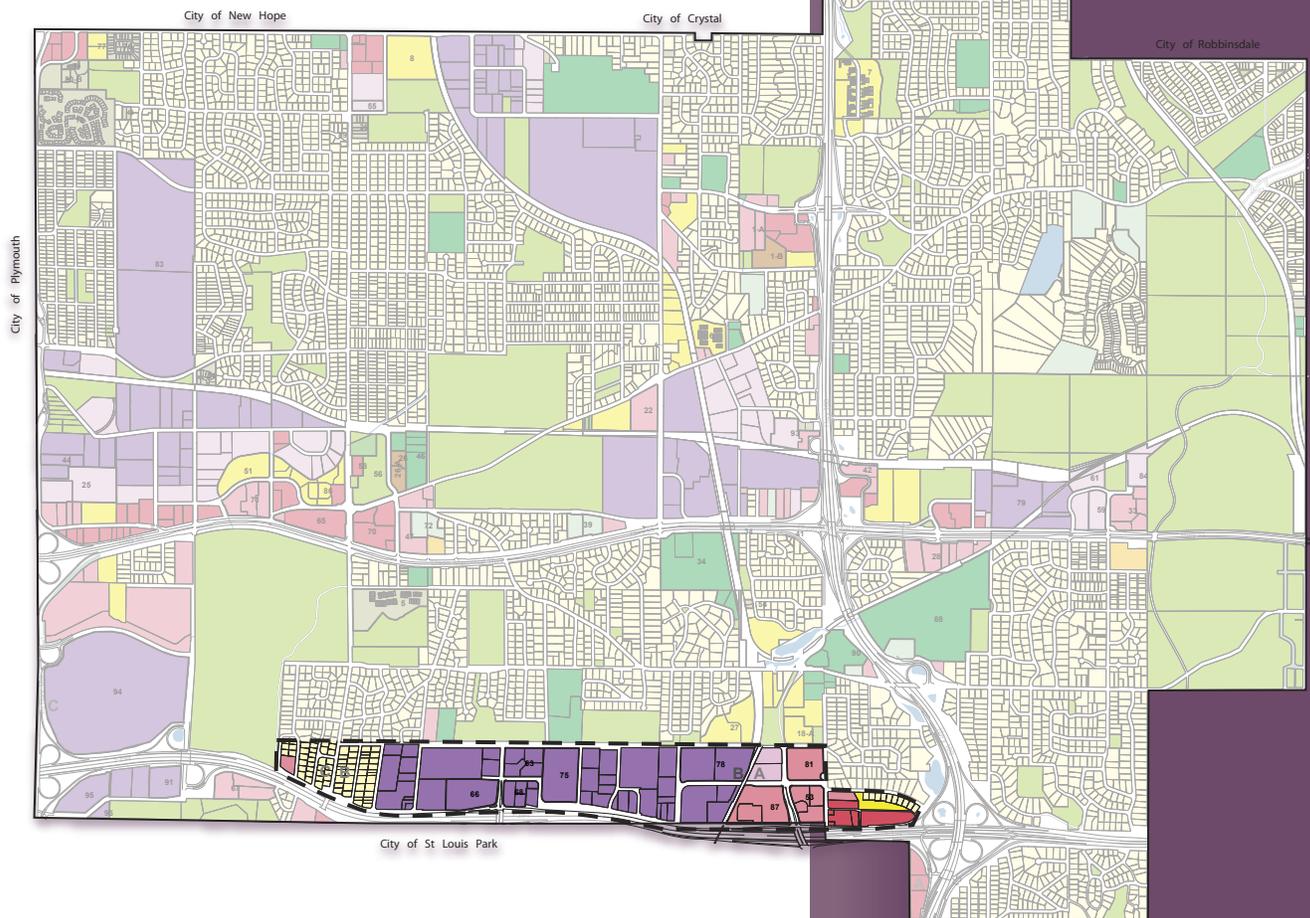
When I-394 pushed Hwy 12 into extinction through Golden Valley, few paused to consider how such a huge government investment might affect adjacent land in Golden Valley. In 1981, the City established a redevelopment district along I-394 from Hwy 100 to Colorado Ave in an attempt to manage development there. Using tax increment financing (TIF) to acquire property and assemble it for redevelopment, the City's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) has helped transform the area around Xenia Ave S and Golden Hills Dr. However, there is pressure for change in other parts of the corridor, and redevelopment by the HRA is not likely for this extended area.

Planning for growth in the area around I-394, therefore, takes on special significance for the community and for existing businesses. Even without significant revisions to the current plan, change will continue to take place. The ease of access and visibility from I-394, Golden Valley's high-quality housing stock, and changing traffic patterns will increase the land's value. By implementing a community process to plan for that inevitable change, the community will take leadership and develop a master plan to guide the change. Results of the recent *Envision Golden Valley* process indicate that the community is ready to assist in developing that plan.

As Golden Valley approaches the 2008 deadline to amend its comprehensive plan, the City Council determined that a comprehensive land-use study for the I-394 area would allow it to manage change through updated zoning. This year, Council is ready to begin developing a shared vision for the land surrounding I-394 and has directed staff to select a planning consultant and develop a plan for community involvement. Look for more information about the process in the next *CityNews*. For more information, contact Mark Grimes at 763-593-8095.

ZONING DISTRICTS

- Single Family (R-1)
- Two Family (R-2) Residential
- Multiple Dwelling Sub-Districts:
 - (M-1) maximum height 3 stories
 - (M-2) maximum height 4 stories
 - (M-3) maximum height 6 stories
 - (M-4) maximum height 8 stories
- Commercial
- Light Industrial
- Industrial
- Business & Professional Offices
- Institutional (For a complete list of all permitted and conditional institutional uses, see Chapter 11 of the City Code, titled Land Use Regulation (Zoning).
 - (I-1) Sub-District (churches, schools, etc)
 - (I-2) Sub-District (libraries, museums and colleges, etc)
 - (I-3) Sub-District (residing homes, private clubs and clinics, etc)
 - (I-4) Sub-District (golf courses, parks, playgrounds and government offices, etc)
 - (I-5) Sub-District (cemeteries, etc)
- 59 Planned Unit Development (PUD)



DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Developer KRJ North Wirth, LLC, is proposing construction of office condominiums in Golden Valley's North Wirth Redevelopment Area, in the vicinity of Dahlberg Dr and Olson Memorial Hwy.

The proposed North Wirth Business Center would have up to 31,500 square feet of space, with units ranging from 1,500 to 6,000 square feet.

The developer is seeking City approval of a Planned Unit Development (PUD) and, if approved, could close on the land purchase from Golden Valley's Housing and Redevelopment Authority and start construction this spring. Units could be available for occupancy in fall 2005.

For more information about the proposed project, contact Joe Antonucci at 952-837-9170.



Sunday, February 13

10:30 AM - 3:30 PM

EISENHOWER COMMUNITY CENTER

1001 HIGHWAY 7, HOPKINS

WWW.HOMEREMODELINGFAIR.COM

ONE-HOUR SEMINARS

Building a Deck, Window Replacement, Kitchen and Bath Remodeling Trends and Cost-Effective Solutions, Tree and Lawn Care, Preventing Cold Weather Problems, Finishing the Lower Level, Refinishing Wood Floors, Before You Remodel, Making Your Kitchen Work for You, Landscape Design Trends, Three- and Four-Season Porches, Green Remodeling, Choosing the Right Countertops for Kitchens and Baths

DEMONSTRATIONS

Color-Coordinating Your Home, Home Plumbing Repairs, Organizing Closets, Native Plants, Ceramic Tiling

Free Home Remodeling Fair Is February 13

A free Home Remodeling Fair featuring 75 contractor exhibits, 14 seminars, and an "Ask the Pro" booth will be held Sunday, February 13, from 10:30 am - 3:30 pm at Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy 7, Hopkins (one mile west of Hwys 7 and 169). Parking is available at the Community Center, and free shuttle service is available from the parking lot at Maetzold Field, 1215 1st St N in Hopkins (from Hwy 7, go south on 12th Ave one-half mile to 1st St, then turn right).

Exhibitors include remodeling contractors, architects, landscapers, electricians, tool rental services, roofers, siding and window contractors, lenders, city inspectors, and more. There will be free seminars and ongoing demonstrations for the do-it-yourselfer (see box at left). Architects and interior designers at the "Ask the Pro" booth will provide free, no-obligation advice—bring your photos, sketches, and questions. Food concessions will be available in the cafeteria.

This is the 13th year the Home Remodeling Fair has been organized by several western suburbs to promote improvements to their housing stock. Sponsors are the Cities of Golden Valley, St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka and St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka Community Education. Co-sponsors are Associated Bank, Boyer Building, CEE Financial Resources, DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen, Hedrick Design & Remodeling, Heritage Builders, John Orfield Construction, Neighborhood Building and Remodeling, Plumline Builders, Stonepocket Unique Landscaping, Twin City Home Remodeling, and Welcome Additions.

For more information, go to www.homeremodelingfair.com or contact Golden Valley Planning Director Mark Grimes at 763-593-8097.

City of
Golden Valley

763-593-8000

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City of
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7800 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55427

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