

Golden Valley 2005

CITYNEWS

City Begins Long-Term Planning For I-394 Area

Golden Valley's Comprehensive Plan provides a blueprint for long-term land use in the city, and every 10 years (as required by State law) the City Council revisits that plan. With a revised Comprehensive Plan due in 2008, the City Council is focusing this year on developing a vision for the land along I-394 (from Hwy 100 to Winnetka Ave). This means studying what's there now and getting community input to create an updated plan for the area, complete with updated land use regulations.

The I-394 Corridor Study will kick-off in early April as the City begins surveying businesses in the I-394 corridor and soliciting resident input. On April 25 the City Council and its Planning Commission will meet (televised live at 6:30 pm on Cable 16) with planning consultant URS, who was recently hired by the City to assess existing land uses, building character, etc, in the area. URS will lead the planning effort, which is expected to extend into 2006.

A highlight of the I-394 Corridor Study will be the Visual Preference Survey. Images of existing conditions in the project area will be contrasted with those from other areas, highlighting urban design, building types and architectural styles, parking treatments, setbacks, landscaping, and signage. Participants will be asked to give their preferences on how the area should look in the future. The Visual Preference Survey will be conducted at Golden Valley Days May 21. It will be available at Golden Valley City Hall (Monday-Friday, 8 am-4:30 pm) and online (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) through the end of May. All community members are invited to participate.

Information about the I-394 Corridor Study will be available on the City's Web site, which will feature an ongoing question and answer segment as well as email listserve updates. Look for regular updates about the process in each issue of *CityNews*. For more information, contact Mark Grimes at 763-593-8095. 

GOLDEN
VALLEY
DAYS
art & music festival

Celebrate Golden Valley's creative community and spirit with friends and neighbors.

Friday, May 20

6 pm – 10 pm

Brookview Park
Pavillion

Saturday, May 21

10 am – 10 pm

City Hall Campus

Friday's Golden Valley Chamber Orchestra concert is followed by fireworks.

Saturday morning's parade is followed by an art fair, music performances, games and prizes for kids, food vendors, local interest booths, and special offers by area merchants throughout the day. The event ends with a street dance by High & Mighty.

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

For more information, call 612-710-0995 or 612-201-9130, or visit www.GoldenValleyFund.org.

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PHOTO CONTEST AWARDS

OVERALL GRAND PRIZE

Winner receives additional \$50.

FIRST PLACE PRIZE

Winners in each of the three categories receive \$100, publication of photo on City Web site and in *CityNews*, and a certificate of appreciation presented at a City Council meeting.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Publication on the City Web site and in *CityNews*, \$25, and a certificate of appreciation presented at a City Council meeting.

All entries will be displayed at City Hall and on the City Web site. From June 13–24, Golden Valley residents may vote for the "People's Choice" award at City Hall during business hours (8 am–4:30 pm, Monday–Friday) or online at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/PhotoContest/photocontest.htm. Winners will be notified by June 29.

Expose GV in Views of the Valley Photo Contest

Enter the 2005 *Views of the Valley* Photo Contest, and join the crowd of enthusiastic Golden Valley residents who for the past 12 years have used photos to document the community's nature areas, parks, public spaces, and community spirit.

The contest goals are to promote Golden Valley and civic pride in a way that's entertaining, educational, and fun. Entries will be judged on subject matter, composition, clarity, lighting, depth of field, artistry/drama, degree of difficulty, technical excellence, and overall impact. The judges also appreciate creative photo titles. All photo entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and will not be returned.

If you're not a photographer but, as all great art critics, know what you like, you can participate by voting for your favorite photo in the "People's Choice" award category. Photos will be posted online and displayed in City Hall, and you can vote at either venue. Watch for more "People's Choice" voting details in the May/June issue of *CityNews*.

To enter, read the rules (see box below) and submit your favorite photos, taken in Golden Valley of course. The entry form on this page can be photocopied. To see past winners or to download an entry form, check www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/PhotoContest/photocontest.htm.

Mail or drop off complete entries to Photo Contest, City of Golden Valley, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427. City employees and their families are not eligible to enter. If you have questions or need more entry forms, call 763-593-8004.

2005 ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Age (if under 18) _____

Category

Natural Golden Valley

Golden Valley Lifestyle

Enhanced*

Title of Photo _____

*Enhancement Explanation _____

I agree to let the City of Golden Valley publish my photo(s) in City publications with proper credit.

Signature _____

All photo entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and will not be returned.

contest RULES

- You must be a Golden Valley resident.
- Submit each photo in one of three categories:
 - Natural Golden Valley (landscapes, flora, fauna, etc)
 - Golden Valley Lifestyle (cityscapes, buildings, people, activities, etc)
 - Enhanced (photos significantly altered by editing software, lenses, etc). On the entry form, explain what alterations were made to each enhanced photo.
- Submit up to three color or black-and-white photo finish prints.
 - Do not submit slides, photocopies or prints that aren't on photo-quality paper.
 - Digital files must be accompanied by a print on photo-quality paper.
 - All photos must be trimmed to 5x7.
 - Do not mat or frame photos.
 - Include complete entry information for each photo (see form). Be sure to indicate the category.
- All entries submitted must be your own work.
- All decisions will be final, and judges reserve the right not to award in any category.
- The City of Golden Valley will not be responsible for lost entries.
- The contest organizers reserve the right to re-categorize or disqualify any entrant.
- If there are identifiable people in the photo and it was taken in a non-public space, it is the responsibility of the photographer to obtain permission to use the photo.
- **Deadline is June 6, 2005, 4:30 pm.**

Minneapolis Approves New JWC Water Contract

Following an extensive contract renewal process, the Minneapolis City Council recently approved a 20-year contract to provide treated water to the Joint Water Commission (JWC) cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, and New Hope retroactive to January 1, 2004. The new contract (highlighted below) will extend the JWC's working relationship with Minneapolis, which began in 1962.

The new contract locks in the wholesale rate the JWC will pay for water for the first five years, starting at \$1.75 per thousand gallons in 2004 and increasing incrementally to \$2.12 per thousand gallons in 2008.

In addition, the JWC pays for maintenance of the collective storage and distribution system. Utility customers in each JWC city will pay a different water rate based on the additional costs each city incurs to maintain its water distribution system. Watch your utility bill for more information about Golden Valley's rates.

Following 2008, JWC rate increases will be based on a percentage of the water rate Minneapolis residential customers pay. A study will be conducted every five years to determine the actual costs Minneapolis incurs to provide water to the JWC.

The contract rate applies to JWC water usage of up to 21 million gallons per day (mgd). Current daily usage by the three cities averages about 8 mgd, with summer peak usage as high as 27 mgd. If JWC water needs occasionally exceed 21 mgd, the entire water volume on that day will be priced at a 15 percent surcharge.

Water use restrictions imposed on Minneapolis residents and businesses will simultaneously be imposed on JWC utility customers. Minneapolis cannot place additional restrictions on the JWC beyond those affecting its in-city customers; however JWC cities may choose to restrict water use in their communities.

The contract includes a provision that the City of Minneapolis and the JWC will participate in a joint task force that will meet regularly over the next three years to consider a stronger governance role for the JWC in the Minneapolis water system, emergency interconnections of water systems in the west metro, development of an emergency backup water supply, and potential future use of JWC groundwater to augment Minneapolis' river water supply. An interim report will be prepared by 2007, with a final report by 2008.

If either party determines that the other is in default of, or has breached any of the terms or provisions of the contract, that party may terminate the contract with five years written notice following a mandatory mediation process.

For more information about the new water contract between the JWC and the City of Minneapolis, contact Public Works Director Jeannine Clancy at 763-593-8035. After final adoption, the contract will be published online at www.jwcontap.org.



City Updates LAWN ORDINANCE

The Golden Valley City Council updated the lawn maintenance section of the City Code March 15 with two major changes. First, the City will no longer send certified letters to residents who violate the lawn ordinance. Second, residents can now cultivate native plants in residential lawns.

The new ordinance still bans noxious weeds and requires turf lawns to be maintained at eight-inches or less; however, the City will now use regular US Mail to notify those in violation of the ordinance. Property owners will then have seven days to comply before the City mows the vegetation at the property owner's expense.

Residents who want to vary their landscape can apply for a "Native Vegetation Permit." Watch for more information in the next issue of *CityNews*.

The complete lawn maintenance ordinance is available at City Hall, the Golden Valley Library, and on the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/chapter10index.htm). For more information, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030.

Board of Review

Each spring property owners receive a valuation notice that gives them the estimated market value of their property as of January 2 of that year. This market value is the basis for the following year's tax on the property. For example, the market value as of January 2, 2005 will be used to calculate the 2006 property tax.

If property owners have questions about their valuation or think it is incorrect, they should first talk to the assessor (see phone number below). The City of Golden Valley contracts with Hennepin County for assessing services, but the assessors have offices at City Hall.

If there is still a problem, the next step is for property owners to appeal to the Local Board of Review. The City Council acts as the Board of Review and can reduce the assessor's market value on a given property, if the property owner presents a persuasive argument. Most successful appeals include an independent appraisal of the property (paid for by the property owner).

Golden Valley's Local Board of Review hearing is scheduled for 7 pm Wednesday, April 27, 2005 at City Hall. Property owners who want to appear before the Board of Review can get on the agenda by contacting the Hennepin County assessor before the meeting. Next year, Hennepin County will assume Golden Valley's Board of Review duties.

For more information about property valuation or the Board of Review, contact the Hennepin County Assessor at 763-593-8025.



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

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.

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

COUNTY IMPROVES RECYCLING CENTER

To improve customer service and safety, the Hennepin County Recycling Center and Transfer Station in Brooklyn Park will undergo a 7,500-square-foot expansion this year from May through December. During construction, facility services will be limited and the Free Product Center will be closed.

Hennepin County suggests customers wishing to avoid delays and limitations at the facility during construction either use the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center (1400 West 96th St, Bloomington) or annual household hazardous waste collection events in their community (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/RecyclingPrograms.htm).

For more information on materials accepted during construction, visit www.hennepin.us (keyword search: Brooklyn Park Facility), or call Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services at 612-348-3777, Monday–Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm.

Spring Brush Pick-Up Begins May 2

Mark your calendar for Golden Valley's annual Spring Brush Pick-Up, which is set to begin May 2 and continue through May 21 (see schedule below). The program gives homeowners the opportunity to place tree limbs and brush at their curbs for collection and disposal.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Please observe the following guidelines when preparing your brush for pick-up:

- Tree limbs and brush must be four inches in diameter or less and approximately six feet long or less.
- Stack so the larger ends face the street (do NOT tie limbs together).
- Condense brush to one pile per household. Trucks will stop only once at each property, so if there is more than one pile, only one will be picked up.
- Do not use plastic bags.
- Keep brush and limbs completely clear of sidewalks, mailboxes, streetlights and sign poles, landscaping and fences, overhead tree branches, and power lines. If piles don't fit between the curb and sidewalk, place them on the boulevard behind the sidewalk. The contractor uses trucks with automated loading arms to pick up the brush piles. If your brush is stacked near a restricted area or tossed in a pile rather than stacked, it will be left behind.
- No leaves, grass clippings, stumps, roots, limbs exceeding the size limits, building lumber, landscape timbers, or bags of garbage will be picked up. If any of these items are mixed in the brush stacks, the entire stack will be left behind. The contractor will not sort through brush stacks for acceptable material.

To dispose of brush or tree waste not collected in this pick-up, contact your garbage hauler or choose a contractor from the Yellow Pages. For more information, check the City web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/SpringBrushPickUp.htm) or call 763-593-8046.



pick-up SCHEDULE

The City will be divided into three sections (see below), with a week designated for pick-up in each. Brush must be placed on the curb by 8 am Monday the week of pick-up and must remain there until picked up. If there is a lot of brush, pick-up may take longer than a week.

Section 1	Area north of Hwy 55 and east of Douglas Dr	week of May 2
Section 2	Entire area north of Hwy 55 and west of Douglas Dr	week of May 9
Section 3	Entire area south of Hwy 55	week of May 16

Be ready. This is a one-time pick-up only. Trucks will not return to neighborhoods for late set-outs. If you miss your pick-up week, you must plan for other means of disposal.

The Spring Curbside Brush Pick-Up is a component of the Golden Valley recycling program. If you have questions about the brush pick-up program, call 763-593-8030.

Shoreline Owners Have Unique Responsibilities

With Bassett Creek, Sweeney Lake, Twin Lake, Wirth Lake, and numerous ponds and wetlands, Golden Valley is quite a watery community. Those who live near area waterfronts have a special responsibility. How owners manage this property has a significant impact on the water quality and the ecosystem of the larger surrounding area.

Creeks, lakeshores, and other waterfront areas are biologically diverse communities. Three common activities that can have negative impacts to the water quality and shoreline property include:

- mowed lawns that extend from residence to shoreline, which remove habitat for native animals and do not provide a barrier to stop pollution and erosion from entering the water
- the removal of native vegetation—both on land and in the water—which destroys natural cover and, again, allows excess nutrients and sediment to enter
- the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides, which can pollute the water and disrupt the natural biology of the area

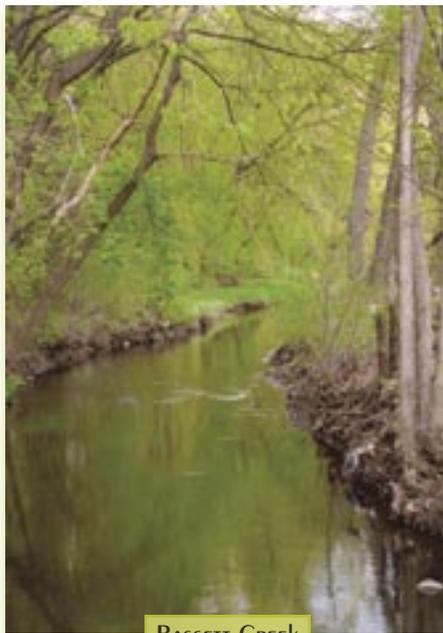
How To Improve Water Quality

One of the best ways to promote good health in and around water is to create a buffer zone, or strip of natural vegetation between the managed lawn and the water. A good buffer zone covers at least 75% of the shoreline and extends 25 to 100 or more feet on land and 25 to 50 feet into the water. Native vegetation provides the best results (see sidebar).

The benefits of a buffer zone are immense. A good buffer zone:

- creates a natural filter to prevent lawn fertilizer, pesticides, and sediment from running off from the land into the water
- helps purify the water by removing contaminants and encouraging soil particles to settle to the bottom
- allows deep root plant buffers to stabilize sediments and shorelines and increases water clarity
- reduces acreage of lawn and the amount of time needed for mowing and maintenance, and the amount of fertilizers and herbicides required (native plants do not require fertilizers or herbicides)
- deters geese from loitering on the lawn and shoreline, eliminating goose dung
- discourages muskrats burrowing under the lawn area (if property owner does not mow within 25 feet of the water's edge) because their burrows do not extend far enough into the bank to reach the lawn
- absorbs the energy of waves that may erode the soil
- preserves natural appearance of shoreline
- provides increased wildlife diversity and improves habitat
- reduces noise, such as from motor boats and jet skis, coming off the water

It's never too late to improve shoreline management practices or develop a buffer zone. For more information, contact Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom (763-593-8046) or visit the City web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/water.htm.



BASSETT CREEK

Photo by Diane Henderson, Views of the Valley 2004

DON'T FEAR NATIVE PLANTS

Hate the thought of giving up your well-kept lawn and sandy beach and replacing it with what may appear to be a small jungle overrun by wildlife and insects? Well, don't. According to Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources (DNR), you can keep the lawn around the house as long as you restore the last 30 feet or more to the water with native plants, and you can also keep about 25% of the shoreline for a dock or swimming area.

For the buffer strip protecting the water, consider red maples, bur oaks, cranberries, dogwoods, native grasses, and wildflowers. Beneficial aquatic plant options in the water include bulrushes, wild rice, arrowhead, cattails, and bur reeds.

The DNR is a helpful resource. Its instructional, multimedia CD program titled "Restore Your Shore" offers:

- information on understanding shoreline ecosystems and natural shoreline management
- innovative approaches to numerous lakeshore problems
- an extensive interactive database of more than 400 native plant species with photos and information on species suitable for planting in your area
- worksheets and forms to assist with both design and implementation

The CD is \$29.95 at Minnesota's Bookstore. Call 651-297-3000 for ordering information.

The University of Minnesota is another great resource for those wanting to go native in the backyard, and the information is free. Just click to www.sustland.umn.edu/related/water5.html. The site includes step-by-step details, such as how to clear old plants and prepare the site for the new native ones, how to identify and select plants, and photos of areas that have been restored. There are also numerous links to other resources.

The Golden Valley City Council recently updated the City lawn ordinance, specifically addressing native vegetation. Check page 3 for more information.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

A complete list of Recreation opportunities is available in the Spring/Summer Recreation Activities Brochure or online at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/prprograms.htm.

BROOKVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Music, Mom/Dad & Me (ages 2–3 w/adult)—June 14–July 26, 9:30–10:15 am (check for fees)

Rainbow Science (ages 3½–5)—May 12, 12:30–2:30 pm, \$17

Kid Smart (ages 5–12)—May 7, 1–3 pm, \$35.

American Red Cross Babysitting (ages 11–15)—April 23 and 30 or May 14 and 21, 8 am–1 pm, \$57

Scrapbooking “Sleep At Home Retreat” (adult)—April 22, 3:30–9:30 pm, and April 23, 9 am–4 pm, \$32

Women’s Self Defense (adult)—May 7, 3–5 pm, \$35

Decorating With Color (adult)—May 10, May 18, June 7, or June 22, 7–8 pm, \$21

DAVIS COMMUNITY CENTER

Hoopstars Basketball Camp for Girls (grades 2–4)—Tues and Thurs, May 3–31, 6–7:30 pm, \$45

Teen Open Gym (ages 13–18)—Sundays through May 8, 3–5 pm; Mondays through Aug 15, 6–8 pm; \$1 at door

Adult Open Gyms—Volleyball: Tues & Thurs, 8–10 pm; Basketball: Wed, 8–10 pm & Sat, 8–10 am; Over-40 Basketball: Mon, 8–10 pm; \$3 at door, 10-punch pass for \$20

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

For more information, contact:
Park & Recreation
Brookview Community Center
 200 Brookview Parkway
 Golden Valley, MN 55426
 763-512-2345
 Monday–Friday, 8 am–5 pm

Try “Mindful Golf”: It’s The New Yoga

Thinking too much? Trying too hard? Head over to Brookview for some “Mindful Golf.” Whether you’re already a golfer or you’re looking for a new activity to help you relax and stay fit, this may be just the ticket.

“Golf is more art than science, and it’s much more enjoyable when viewed that way,” says Brookview Golf Instructor Michael Turnbull, PGA professional and coach. “I look at golf as a form of self-expression, like dancing or singing.”

Turnbull has been helping people learn golf since 1977 and is in his third year at Brookview. He was formerly PGA Head Professional at Balboa Park Golf Course in San Diego and Baker National Golf Course in Medina, Minnesota, and he is also a three-time winner of the Minnesota PGA Junior Golf Leader Award.

Why should golf be mindful? Take a moment to consider these questions:

- If you’re having problems with your golf swing, why don’t you just try harder?
- If you’re new to golf, why does everyone tell you how hard it is?
- Are your good shots a glimpse of your potential or just dumb luck?
- What really makes golf so difficult?

Turnbull believes his Mindful Golf skills and methods can help show that learning and playing golf don’t have to be difficult. Instead, it should be a very natural thing. “You learn directly from your own experience instead of relying on others for help,” he explains, “and you’ll become your own coach. Students have choices about how they want to swing a golf club, instead of trying so hard to swing the ‘right’ way.”

Mindful Golf emphasizes learning by doing, rather than thinking about doing. “You won’t have to memorize a series of movements, remember a lot of instructions, or try really hard to do anything right,” says Turnbull. “Explore, experiment, and maybe have some adventure—three learning essentials which are generally absent from modern instruction. And you’ll hit a lot of golf balls while learning.”



Mindful Golf Instructor Michael Turnbull works with a student.

GOLF LESSONS

Brookview Golf Course offers a broad array of lessons and clinics for anyone who wants to learn more about golf and how to enjoy it.

- **Learn While You Play**—Brookview is one of the few courses to offer lessons ON the golf course.
- **New Golfer**—The last lesson is on the course!
- **Next Step**—Intermediate players hone their game.
- **Junior Group Lessons**—For new golfers and intermediates.
- **Private and Semi-Private Lessons**—Alone or with friends or colleagues.
- **Saturday Clinics**—Great for working on just a part of your game. Topics include golf-specific exercises, trouble shots, women-only classes, woods and irons, and more.
- **Corporate Clinics**—A great way to reward your employees or entertain customers. Customized to fit your needs.

For more information about Brookview, see pages 8–9 or go to www.brookviewgolf.com. For more information about golf instruction at Brookview, call 763-512-2330.

Golden Valley Is Now Smoke-Free. Here's Why.

All public places and places of work in Golden Valley were rendered smoke-free March 31, courtesy of a city-wide smoke-free environment ordinance adopted by the City Council October 19, 2004. The ordinance is an expansion of one that went into effect in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties the same day.

The County ordinance prohibits smoking in all food and liquor establishments and in public areas where food and beverages are served. Golden Valley's ordinance goes a step or two farther by prohibiting smoking:

- in both indoor and outdoor dining areas of liquor and food establishments
- in all places of work
- within 25 feet of entrances, exits, open windows, and ventilation intakes of public places and places of work
- within 25 feet of any outdoor dining area at any liquor or food establishment
- in all public parks and recreation facilities

Many have questioned why Golden Valley took those extra steps. The City Council discussed the policy for months before passing it, and in the end the decision was based on concerns for people who work in smoke-filled environments. "This ordinance will help protect employees and customers throughout Golden Valley from the well-documented health risks of inhaling second-hand smoke," explains Council Member Mike Freiberg.

"People have choices as to which restaurants they eat at," says Council Member Scott Grayson. "However, the more I thought about it and read the research, it became obvious that bar and restaurant employees do not have a choice. Many restaurant employees really don't have a choice about where they work. Employees at restaurants that allow smoking—whether they like it or not—are faced with secondhand smoke."

Council Member Paula Pentel agrees, adding: "For me it comes down to being a workplace health issue. We're not just concerned about customers in bars and restaurants. We're concerned about employees. And we're not just concerned about employees in bars and restaurants; we're concerned about them in all work places."

While Mayor Linda Loomis tends to agree that the marketplace should be the arbiter of such issues, she believes it's hard to protect workers from the hazards of secondhand smoke. "Impacts from exposure to environmental tobacco may be experienced so far in the future that it's hard for any individual, or employer, to make an informed decision regarding the health risks," she says. "I believe it's up to government to take action to protect the health of workers. If employers were exposing their employees to some other kind of pollution that poses a health risk, we would surely protect them."

"The criteria I look at in this is that workers' safety comes first," says Council Member Bob Shaffer. "I feel it is very much the responsibility of government to protect employees' health, safety, and welfare. We're not imposing new regulations as much as we're broadening protective measures already in place."

Northwest Hennepin Human Services is working with the City to ensure that businesses receive information necessary to comply with the new ordinance. Its staff is also working with regional partners to inform and educate the public about the new smoke-free laws going into effect across the metro region and to provide resources to interested individuals. For more information, contact Health Promotion Specialist LeeAnn Mortenson at 763-503-2520.

If you have questions about enforcement of Golden Valley's smoke-free environment ordinance, contact Public Safety Director Bob Hernz at 763-593-8059. If you have comments about the ordinance itself, contact the Golden Valley City Council Message Line at 763-593-8001. 

SENIOR STUFF

Support your Seniors Program with your annual \$5 membership dues. All programs at Brookview Community Center unless otherwise noted.

Free Financial Talks—April 21: "The Next Four Years," 10 am

Nifty 50s Party & Lunch—April 22, 12:30 pm

Blood Pressure Screenings—April 27, 11 am–12 pm

Continental Breakfast—April 27: "It's Only Skin Deep," 9:30 am

Wellness & You—May 5: "Phones & Better Hearing," 1:30 pm, Dover Hills

Celebrate Senior Dining—May 10, 12 pm, Calvary Church

Bowling Tourney—May 10, 12:30 pm, Texa-Tonka Lanes, St Louis Park

Pedal Pushers Bicycle Group—May 10: Season Kick-off Meeting, 10 am

Health Insurance Help—May 10, 9–11 am, (call for an appointment)

Senior Par 3 Golf League Season Kick-off & Short Game Clinic—May 12, 9 am

Armchair Travelers—May 13: "Galapagos Islands," 2 pm, Country Villa

Defensive Driving—Four-hour refresher, May 20, 9 am–1 pm

Upcoming Trips (register early)—April 29: Art Institute; May 6: Montgomery, MN; May 20: Minnesota State Capitol; June 28–July 1: Chicago By Train & Bus (deposit due by May 1)

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

For more information, to receive the Seniors Newsletter, or to register for a program or trips, 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 GOLF COURSE HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Today's golfers are an extremely diverse group. Golfers who play during busy times may find themselves paired with anyone from cabbies, CEOs, and nurses to truck drivers, accountants, or the 16-year-old down the street. To successfully serve such a diverse clientele, today's smart

public golf course offers an equally diverse menu of options. The City of Golden Valley has such a facility, and it invites everyone to stop in for a taste of Brookview.

Brookview Golf Course is a friendly, full-service, neighborhood golf course that has something for

everyone. Whether you chart your handicap, are just learning, or don't even play golf, you'll find a welcoming atmosphere and engaging cast of characters.

If you golf, you may already be familiar with Brookview's charms. If golf stereotypes are keep-

ing you away from the links, understanding a few realities about Brookview may change your mind. If you don't golf but enjoy a home-cooked meal at a reasonable price, the Brookview Grill is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Come on over!

FIND US

Brookview Golf Course is centrally located just south of Hwy 55 and west of Winnetka Ave.

200 Brookview Parkway
Golden Valley, MN 55426
763-512-2300

www.brookviewgolf.com

SIX GOLF REALITIES AT BROOKVIEW: YOUR FRIENDLY, FULL-SERVICE, NEIGHBORHOOD GOLF COURSE

GOLF IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK—

Any so-called expert worth his or her weight in golf balls will tell you *just play*. Once you get hooked, like many folks do, you may want to get better, and you won't have to go far to do it. Brookview offers a full array of lessons for all levels (see article on page 6), because learning and playing golf should be fun and feel natural.

Besides group lessons and private instruction, Brookview offers weekly golf leagues, including the Brookview Men's Golf Association (BMGA), Brookview Women's Golf Association (BWGA), or Brookview Junior League. There are also Industrial Leagues for employees of local companies to enjoy after work.

No lessons? No leagues? No problem! If you just want to play—your time, your way—Brookview can oblige with a variety of tee time options, including sunrise and twilight hours, special Par 3 deals, and off-peak specials.

GOLF AT BROOKVIEW IS A GREAT VALUE—

When compared to the hourly cost of other entertainment, like pro basketball and football tickets, golf at Brookview is a bargain. Further, Brookview has a host of discount programs, such as the annual patron card (check the Web site for details). Brookview's Golf Shop rents clubs at low rates, which makes golf affordable and accessible.

REGULATION COURSE Brookview's 18-hole Regulation Course offers fun, yet challenging golf in a relaxing, beautiful setting. Its traditional design features tree-lined fairways, 28 moderate bunkers, and bent grass greens. Bassett Creek provides a serene backdrop as it meanders through the course. Water is the main hazard, coming into play on 15 holes. The course features multiple tee settings, with total yardage ranging from 6,387 yards to 5,328 yards. Reservations are recommended and accepted up to four days in advance for the general public. Fees range from \$13 to \$31.

PAR 3 COURSE Brookview's nine-hole Par 3 Course, with abundant trees and water hazards, offers an enjoyable experience for golfers of any age or ability. It's a perfect course for those short on time but needing a golf fix. Fees range from \$7 to \$10.

DRIVING RANGE Bring your irons or use ours at no charge (no woods allowed) to hit from grass or mats. Chipping green and practice bunker also available. Hours are dependent on daylight, so be sure to call. Fees range from \$2 to \$6.

IN GOLF, TIME IS RELATIVE—Golf is flexible. An 18-hole round takes around four hours. You'll need about two hours to play nine holes on the regulation course (even less on the Par 3 course). Playing when the course is not busy can also speed things up. And for those who simply want to swing their irons, Brookview will happily oblige with a bucket of balls at the driving range. Just want to soak up the atmosphere? Stop by the Grill for something to eat or drink and a visit with the locals.

GOLF IS GOOD EXERCISE—Experts estimate a golfer's exercise intensity ranges from 40% to 70% of maximum aerobic power, and that four hours of golf is comparable to a 45-minute fitness class. If you walk Brookview's Regulation Course, you just put in five-miles. Add the swing for upper body development and to keep the spine, hips, wrists, and ankles flexible, and the squats required to retrieve the ball, and it's a full-body workout.

Brookview hosts more than 65,000 rounds of golf every year. Carts are allowed in the fairways, weather permitting, but the course layout encourages a lovely stroll through the pastoral greens. If the one-armed curl is more your idea of exercise, Brookview Grill serves a variety of sandwiches and beverages for your enjoyment.

YOU DON'T NEED A FOURSOME—

There are those who believe golf is good for the soul and can sometimes produce a spiritual experience. Some golfers like to play alone, but for most, golf is a social game. Just come by Brookview to see families, neighbors, friends, and colleagues spending time together in a beautiful outdoor setting without the interruption of TV, cell phones, movies, or computers.

The National Golf Foundation estimates about 26.2 million adults play golf in the United States, and an additional 6.1 million kids ages 5 to 17 play golf or visit practice facilities. If you can't find a golf partner, ask to be paired with another single or group.

YOU DON'T NEED SPECIAL CLOTHES TO GOLF—

If you got 'em, wear 'em, but many folks just wear jeans or shorts, a T-shirt, and sneakers. Or, pick up a pair of golf sandals at Brookview's Golf Shop, and get your stylin' self out on the course.

Brookview Golf Shop carries a host of moderately priced golf apparel, including shirts and shorts, socks and shoes, visors, accessories, and assorted logo head wear, jackets, wind shirts, and more.

GRILL, CATERING, AND ROOM RENTAL

The Brookview Grill overlooks the tranquil beauty of the golf course and is a casual diner open to both golfers and the general public.

During the golf season, the Grill serves up hearty, homemade breakfasts, burgers, hot and cold sandwiches, and refreshing beverages.

Whether you eat in the Grill, on the patio, or on the deck, you'll be treated to the sweeping views of one of the Twin Cities' most beautiful golf courses, complete with the friendly service reminiscent of a small-town cafe.

Brookview also offers catering services. Just call 763-512-2305.

A HISTORY OF GREAT GOLF

Brookview is one of the older golf courses in the Twin Cities metro area, dating to the 1920s. It was operated as a private country club until the late 1960s, when it was purchased by the City of Golden Valley.

With its full-service facilities, Brookview is a choice destination for both local and visiting golfers and helps identify Golden Valley as a place with great recreational opportunities.

RESERVATIONS

Regulation: 763-512-2330
(www.teemaster.com 24 hours per day)
Par 3: 763-512-2333
Driving Range: 763-512-2323
Golf Shop/Lessons: 763-512-2330
Group Outings/Catering: 763-512-2305

THE MINI-GOLFER

Children out for a round of golf with family or friends.

THE KILLER

Tries to whack every ball as far as humanly possible.

THE ARMY GOLFER

Hits the ball right, then left, then right, etc. Yells "fore" a lot.

THE DEW SWEEPER

Tees off at dawn, even before maintenance crews arrive.

THE GADGETEER

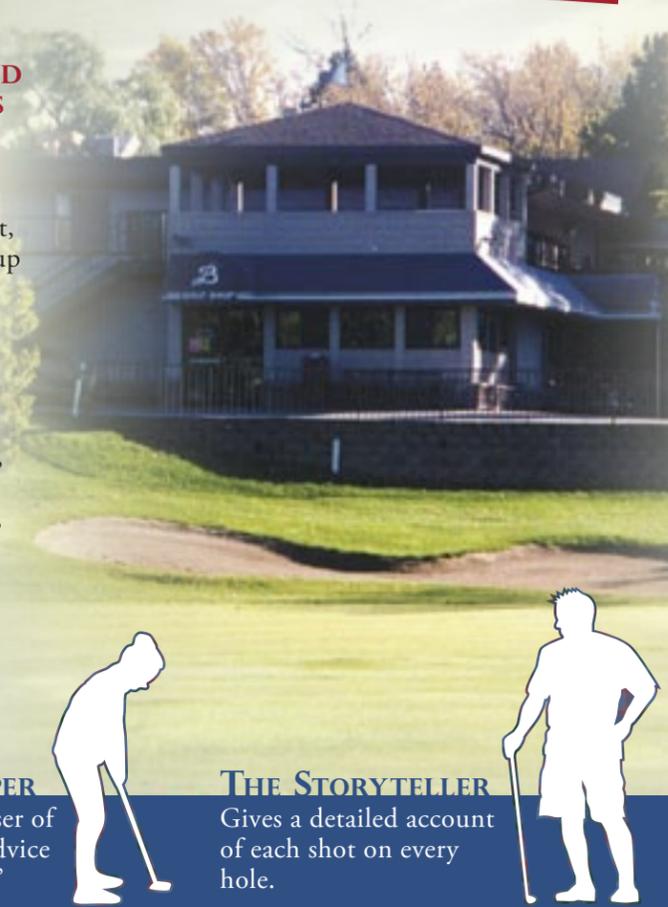
Owns every new golf club and gizmo on the market.

THE HELPER

A pez dispenser of unsolicited advice and "lessons."

THE STORYTELLER

Gives a detailed account of each shot on every hole.



PET POOP IS PROPERTY; PICK YOURS UP

Show of hands, please. Who likes poop? Not a lot of hands going up, but if your pet poops, especially in public places, it is your—the owner's—responsibility to pick up that package and dispose of it properly. It's also required by the City's animal control ordinance. If that isn't enough, it's just plain neighborly.

No one likes to step in poop, and judging by the phone calls to City Hall, Golden Valley residents have had it up to their shoelaces with the pet poop left in City parks, on sidewalks, and especially on walking trails.

Just so there is no question, here's the stinky on the Golden Valley pet ordinance regarding poop.

"Owners shall not allow their dogs or cats to foul any lawn, garden, or other property. Dog owners are required to carry supplies for excrement removal when walking their dogs. Any mess made by a dog must be cleaned up (including in public parks)."

If you don't own a pet, keep in mind that it's not the animal's fault if its owner doesn't pick up after it. Review the article at right to determine if your pet-owning neighbor is being rude or actually breaking City ordinances before deciding how to address the issue.



MIND THE PS AND QS OF PET OWNERSHIP

While America is a nation of pet lovers, pet owners must do what they can to ensure their pets are good neighbors. To address this, several sections of the City's animal control ordinance provide for pet welfare, public protection, and nuisance abatement.

PET WELFARE

While City ordinances can't require that every pet owner love their dog or cat, it is illegal to poison, mistreat, abandon, or in any way further an act of cruelty toward any dog or cat.

PET CONTROL

This one's the biggy in regard to annoying pet behavior (with the exception of poop—see sidebar), which is why it is unlawful for dogs or cats to bark, meow, or howl excessively or continuously. Any noise by a pet that can be heard outside and occurs repeatedly over at least a five-minute period, with a 30-second or less lapse of time between each noise, is considered a nuisance and is against City ordinance.

Physical control is vital, too. Pets running wild are a definite no-no. Pets not on the owner's property or under the owner's control are considered at large and can be picked up. Unlicensed dogs can be impounded.

Impounded pets can be claimed at the Public Safety Department within five days of impoundment. If the pet is not claimed, it may be sold or disposed of. Before a pet is released, owners must prove ownership, buy a license (dogs only), and pay impounding, boarding, and medical treatment (if necessary) fees. If a pet is not claimed, the owner remains liable for all charges and fees, including disposal.

Sometimes owners must confine their pets. Female dogs in heat, and any dog that annoys or threatens people on public streets or chases vehicles, must be confined or effectively restrained. Pet bites must be reported ASAP to the Public Safety Department. The offending pet must be confined at the owner's residence (at a veterinary hospital if vaccinations are not current) for 10 days or until released by the Public Safety Department.

If a dog attacks or bites anyone without provocation, it is considered vicious. Anyone can sign a complaint against a vicious dog, after which the owner must appear in court to prove why the dog should not be destroyed, disposed of, or confined. Owners disobeying the court's order are subject to misdemeanor prosecution, and a public safety officer may impound the dog.

For Golden Valley's complete animal control ordinance, including kennel information, visit the City web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/chapter10index.htm), City Hall, or the Golden Valley Library. To receive the Golden Valley Pet brochure, which includes suggestions about dealing with your neighbor's pet, call 763-593-8079.

QUICK PET ORDINANCE REVIEW

All animals, except dogs, cats, gerbils, hamsters, and caged birds, are prohibited.

There is a limit of three cats and three dogs per residence.

All dogs older than five months must be licensed, and the tag must be secured to the dog's collar.

Dogs must be vaccinated every 12 months (killed rabies vaccine) or every 24 months (live rabies vaccine). The owner must retain a copy of the vaccination certificate. Cats over six months old must be vaccinated every 12 months, and the tag must be securely attached to their collar. Any animal off the owner's premise without a tag will be impounded.

Dogs off the owner's property must be restrained by a leash no longer than six feet. Dogs restrained by the owner's voice are exempt, except in public parks, where all dogs must be leashed.



Understanding Fire Is Key To Prevention And Safety

No home is immune to fire, but understanding how fire starts and how to prevent ignition could save your life and minimize damage. This article outlines the four basic defenses against fire:

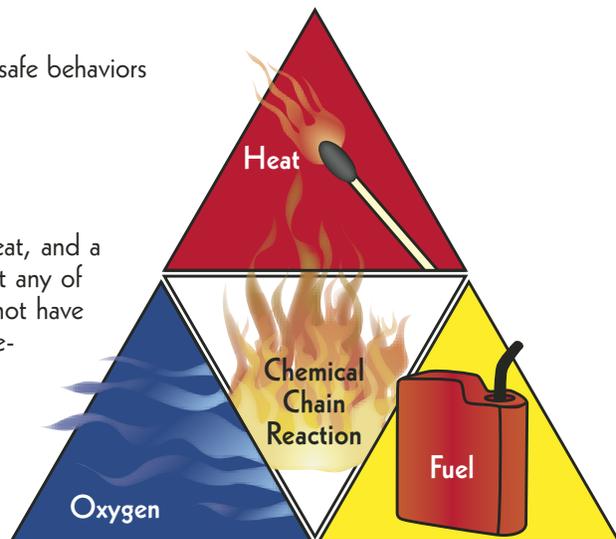
- prevention
- development and use of fire-safe behaviors
- preparation
- quick response

HOW FIRE STARTS

All fires require oxygen, fuel, heat, and a chemical chain reaction. Without any of these four components you cannot have fire. This is called the fire tetrahedron (see illustration at right).

Oxygen is everywhere, most anything can become fuel for a fire (clothing, furniture, paper, plastics, flammable liquids, etc), and heat can be supplied by a human act or oversight, a mechanical or electrical malfunction, or a natural event (such as lightning). Oxygen, fuel, and heat together create the chemical chain reaction that is fire.

Fires can be extinguished by cutting off the supply of oxygen, fuel, or temperature, or by interrupting the chemical chain reaction.



FIRE-SAFE BEHAVIORS

The best protection from fire is to stop it before it starts. Develop the knowledge to recognize situations where fuel and heat might come together. Avoiding and correcting these situations will help keep your family safe from fire, as will the following basic safety practices:

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep your stove top and oven clean, and keep clutter and combustibles away from your stove top.
- Learn how to react to a small fire on your stove top or in your oven.
- Keep all combustibles away from heating appliances and fireplaces (at least three feet of clearance).
- Do not overload electrical outlets, or ignore circuits that frequently trip.
- Do not burn candles.
- Remove flammable and combustible liquids from your home.

PREPARING AND RESPONDING QUICKLY

Even if you've followed the first two recommendations (understanding fire and using fire-safe behaviors), it's essential to be prepared and respond quickly. Smoke detectors provide a vital early warning, but it's just as important to develop an escape plan that includes a neighbor's house as a meeting place for your family, and practice the plan at least twice a year. Every second counts in a fire emergency, so make sure your family understands what to do and what not to do in a fire.

For more information on fire safety, contact Fire Prevention Specialist Sarah Larson at 763-593-3977 or slarson@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

Bike Rodeo Is May 4

Join your friends for a bicycle safety check and riding skills test.

Wednesday, May 4
5:30–7:30 PM

GOLDEN VALLEY CITY HALL CAMPUS
7800 GOLDEN VALLEY RD

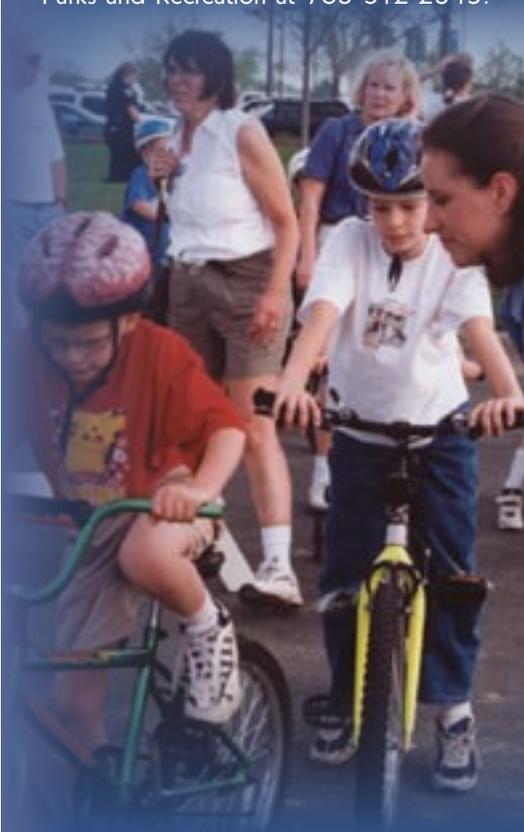
Buy a bike license, enjoy special treats, and register to win terrific prizes. Highlights include:

- free bike safety checks
- bike skills tests
- demo on bike helmet fitting
- complimentary refreshments
- music
- appearances by McGruff and Sparky

The Bike Rodeo will be held rain or shine.

This annual event is sponsored by the Cities of Golden Valley, New Hope, and Crystal. Co-sponsors: Golden Valley VFW Post 7051, Wells Fargo Bank, AAA Minneapolis-Auto Club Foundation for Safety, Eric's Bike & Fitness, and McDonald's of Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, and New Hope.

For more information, call Golden Valley Parks and Recreation at 763-512-2345.



Golden Valley Is Phosphorus FREE

By City ordinance, Golden Valley has been phosphorus free since 2000, and the seven metropolitan counties followed suit in 2004.

Although phosphorus is an important nutrient for plant growth, it's not necessary in some soils. Excess phosphorus runs off lawns and pollutes lakes, rivers, streams, and creeks, producing algae and water weeds. Homeowners unintentionally contribute to the problem by using fertilizer with phosphorus their lawns don't need. Since soil in Golden Valley (and most of Hennepin County) is phosphorus-rich, it rarely needs more to keep lawns green.

Before buying any fertilizer, it's a good idea to have your soil tested. Results will tell you exactly what nutrients are needed in what amount to make your lawn healthy. For \$15 per soil sample, the University of Minnesota Soil Testing Lab tests for phosphorus (P), potassium (K), and pH (acidity of the soil). If results show a need for phosphorus, lawn fertilizers with higher phosphate content can be used in accordance with rates recommended by the U of M and approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. For more information, or for soil test forms and sample bags, contact the University of Minnesota Soil Testing Laboratory at 612-625-3101 or go to <http://soiltest.coafes.umn.edu/index.htm>.

When purchasing fertilizer, locate the three numbers on the bag or bottle that indicate the percent content of nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium. Phosphorus-free fertilizers will have 0 for the middle number.

Using phosphorus-free fertilizer is just one way to boost water quality. If you need more information about phosphorus or water quality, contact Golden Valley's Environmental Coordinator, Al Lundstrom, at 763-593-8046.



City Sweeping Signals Spring Clean-Up

While the National Weather Service reports that only about two feet of snow fell in the metro region this winter, Golden Valley crews have used about 1,000 tons of salt and 300 tons of sand to battle icy conditions on City streets since November 2004.

Even though some winters seem to have less snow and fewer icy conditions than others, mother nature's antics keep City crews busy maintaining Golden Valley's streets so they are safe. Things like nuisance snows, prolonged cold periods, and endless days in the freeze/thaw cycle all provide conditions where the streets require attention.

As winter fades, City maintenance crews shift to their spring job of sweeping the sand and salt that become visible on the streets when the snow melts. Street sweeping usually begins around mid-March, depending on the weather. The first priority is "bulk sweeping" major intersections, hilly areas, and high traffic roads, where large amounts of sand and salt were distributed over the winter. A special effort is made to focus on areas near Bassett Creek, lakes, and ponds to minimize the amount of sand entering these outlets. After this is complete, crews move into neighborhoods. Waiting a little longer to do residential streets minimizes the chance of a plowable snow while the street sweepers are in action. If the weather cooperates, bulk and curb-to-curb sweeping is done by May 1. Streets are swept again in the summer and fall (see schedule below).

For more information about street maintenance, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030.



street sweeping SCHEDULE

SPRING: Sweep curb-to-curb in mid-March/April.

SUMMER: Sweep all gutters in June; clean low collection areas and sweep as needed in July, August, and September.

FALL: Sweep curb-to-curb in October and November (wait for as many leaves to fall as possible).

Golden Valley is divided into four sections for street sweeping. This allows crews to rotate sections each year so no area is always first or last. This year, Section II leads off the rotation, followed by Sections I, IV, and III.

Section I boundaries: Winnetka Ave, north City limit, south City limit, west City limit.

Section II boundaries: Winnetka Ave, north City limit, Hwy 100, Hwy 55

Section III boundaries: Hwy 100, north City limit, east City limit, Hwy 55

Section IV: Hwy 55, Winnetka Ave, south City limit, east City limit.

Start A Three-Season Porch Or Addition

With summer coming and folks wanting to be outdoors sans the warm weather insects, it's no surprise many consider extending their living space with a three-season porch, deck, or even an outright addition.

"It's a popular home improvement in Golden Valley," says Building Official Gary Johnson, "but there are some things people should know before beginning."

IS THERE ENOUGH SPACE?

Johnson is referring to the work that has to be done before the actual project begins. First, make sure there's enough space for the project (see box on setback variances). Residents may own the property, but that doesn't mean they can build right up to the edge of it. There's a leeway space, called a setback, to leave open space between residences. There are also utility easements along property lines (to provide space for relocation and maintenance of power lines, sewer and water pipes, and cable and phone lines) that cannot be built over.

There are two ways to get setback information on your property. If you can locate the property's corner stakes, call the Inspections Department (763-593-8090) so someone can verify the setbacks. If the corner stakes can't be located, a property survey will be required before a building permit can be issued.

PAPERWORK

Once setbacks are verified, the next step is to acquire a building permit. Depending on the foundation of the addition or three-season porch, the project may require a grading permit, which must be obtained before a building permit can be issued.

To get a building permit for a porch or addition, you or your contractor must bring several documents to the City's Inspections Department:

- two sets of plans (minimum scale: 1/4 inch = 1 foot)
- soil information
- energy calculations if addition will be heated
- type of material to be used (if project is a deck)
- other required permits

If the application is complete and accurate, it generally takes the City five to 10 working days to review and approve submitted documents. When plans are approved and permit fees are paid, the City issues a building permit and list of required inspections, both of which must be posted at the work site at all times.

GETTING THE ONCE OVER (AND OVER)

Each major phase of construction (eg, footings, framing, insulation, roofing, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, etc) must be inspected by an inspector. The person responsible for the construction project must request each inspection a minimum of 24 hours in advance. Work that does not conform to the approved plans must 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.

For more information about porches, decks, or additions, contact the Golden Valley Inspections Department at 763-593-8090.

Setback VARIANCES

If your project does not meet setback requirements, it may be possible to obtain a setback variance IF certain hardship conditions exist. For more information about the setback variance process, contact the Planning Department at 763-593-8095.

How To CHOOSE A CONTRACTOR

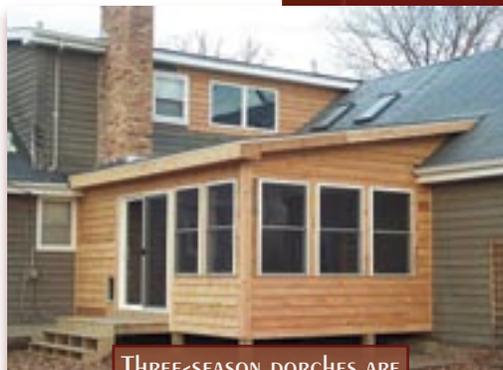
The Golden Valley Inspections Department estimates that more than three-fourths of three-season porches and additions are completed with the help of a contractor.

Locate potential contractors by asking for referrals, and make sure all contractors considered are licensed and insured. Once you've found some, ask about:

- experience, qualifications, and warranty policy
- professional licenses issued by the state and trade organization affiliations (verify all)
- insurance coverage for liability and workers compensation (verify both)
- payment schedule at specific milestones
- what on-site equipment will be required and how long dumpsters, machinery, tools, etc, will be on site
- trash removal and site cleanup policy, and how often it will occur (daily, weekly)
- daily work schedules to make sure there's no ordinance violations
- who will be on site and responsible for the project, the crew, materials, supplies, fixtures, purchasing, and other products, and who is responsible for property damage from work site activity and worker behavior

To get accurate bids, be sure to convey the same job requirements to each bidder. Bids should specifically address your project. Plan deviations should be thoroughly explained.

For more information about choosing a building contractor, contact the Golden Valley Inspections Department at 763-593-8090.



THREE-SEASON PORCHES ARE popular additions.

Help Reduce WATER USE

With the rising cost of water (see article on page 3), little wonder residents care about water usage. Many call the City concerned about their water bill because they "have hardly used any water at all." The truth is, a drop of water adds up... fast (see gauge below), and the only way to save money is to conserve water. Here are some tips to help.

INDOORS

- Do not use a garbage disposal.
- Install flow restrictor faucets, low-flow shower heads, and low-flush toilets.
- Store water in the refrigerator instead of running it from the faucet until cold.
- Flush toilets only when necessary.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes; reuse wash water if possible.
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.
- Install water-efficient appliances.

OUTDOORS

Residents are often surprised by their water bills during lawn watering season (March–October). But it is extremely easy to go through thousands of gallons of water without even realizing it. (To witness this, read your water meter before you begin watering your lawn and again afterward.) Try these tips to put a damper on water consumption through the warmer months:

- Sweep, don't wash, sidewalks and driveways.
- Water lawns, plants, and trees only when necessary, and then do it in the morning to minimize evaporation.
- Landscape with plants that require little moisture, and mulch to retain moisture.
- Install a shut-off nozzle on hoses.

For more information on water conservation, check out the American Water Works Association Web site (www.awwa.org/advocacy/learn/conserve/).

Bond With New Water Meter And Save \$\$

Since May 2002, the Golden Valley Public Works staff has replaced 5,690 residential water meters in the city with new meters featuring efficient radio-read technology. The new meters, which allow for very accurate water consumption readings, are located inside because water runs through them and they can't freeze. Because the new meters can be read by transmitter from the street, it saves about eight to 10 reading days per month for one meter reader.

The old meters were about 20 years old and had far surpassed their average life expectancy of 10 to 15 years. The new meters last up to two decades, so once residents get to know them, they won't have to meet another new meter for quite a while. However, if batteries need to be changed during this time, Public Works staff will need access to the meter.



READING YOUR NEW METER

The Badger Recordall Water Meter (see photo) has seven number slots on the number wheel, but the first one from the right does not move. Once the meter's red needle makes a complete revolution, the second number slot registers one, indicating the use of 10 gallons of water (the smallest increment of measure on the meter). The third slot measures water in increments of 100 gallons. Both the 10 and 100 number slots are black with white numbers. The remaining number slots are white with black numbers (these will correspond to the meter reading indicated on your utility bill). The fourth measures water use in increments of 1,000 gallons, the fifth measures 10,000 gallons, the sixth measures 100,000 gallons, and the seventh 1,000,000 gallons. The meter capacity is 10 million gallons.

Residents are billed for each 1,000 gallons of water (indicated on the fourth number slot). When this slot reaches 9, it will return to 0 after another 1,000 gallons are used and the fifth slot will move to one, recording the consumption of 10,000 gallons, and so on.

LEAK GAUGE

A continuous leak from hole this size would, over three months, waste water as shown.

Streams-Diameter at 60 psi	Gallons	Daily Average
1/4" ● 6.5 mm	1,181,000	13,122
3/16" ● 4.8 mm	652,000	7,244
1/8" ● 3.2 mm	296,000	3,288
1/16" ● 1.6 mm	74,000	822

MONITORING WATER CONSUMPTION

By learning to read the meter, residents can check water consumption and save money on their water bills (see sidebar). The small red wheel near the center of the meter spins when water is being used. If it spins when no water is being used, it has detected a continual leak somewhere in the residence that is wasting water. If the leak is intermittent, it will not make the small red dial spin, so don't rely solely on this dial to detect leaks.

Another way to check for leaks is to record the numbers on the meter before going to bed and then again first thing in the morning. If the number has changed and no one used water during the night, a leak somewhere needs correcting.

For more information about the new water meters, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8075. For information on water billing, contact Golden Valley General Services at 763-593-8016.

How's Your Crosswalk Safety Sense?

Major studies have found that while two-and-a-half times as many people use marked crosswalks, six times as many crashes occur in them. Other studies have confirmed this. Since the law (see box below) is in the pedestrian's favor, how can that be?

Sometimes pedestrians step off the curb onto a marked crosswalk and expect motorists to stop for them. Or they see one vehicle stopped and assume all vehicles in other lanes will also stop. Unfortunately, not all motorists are going to stop at a marked crosswalk for a pedestrian. In several instances, their view of a pedestrian may actually be blocked by the previously stopped vehicle. Either way, the result could be a crash.

ARE MARKED CROSSWALKS SAFER?

As you read above, not necessarily. Marked crosswalks help concentrate pedestrians at a specific location and provide a defined pathway for them. They also discourage crossing at other, less desirable, locations. Crosswalk signs and markings are meant to alert motorists to the potential presence of pedestrians.

In Golden Valley, crosswalks are marked at intersections with substantial conflict between vehicle and pedestrian movements, where significant pedestrian concentrations occur, or where pedestrians could not otherwise recognize the proper place to cross. Because of the studies mentioned earlier, the City evaluates each crosswalk individually to determine whether pedestrians and motorists would be better served by marking the crosswalk, leaving it unmarked, or providing other types of safety devices.

Motorists throughout Golden Valley should expect crosswalks, and any type of traffic control or warning sign, to have consistent application. Overuse of marked crosswalks or other devices will soon lead to them being ignored by motorists, further reducing any potential positive effects. Thus, the City will not install crosswalk markings where there are only a few pedestrians crossing, at locations where pedestrians should not be crossing, or where there is a closer, safer crossing location.

Existing crosswalks are reviewed through the City's Pavement Management Program. Some are upgraded with standard markings and signage, and some are occasionally removed because the conditions that justified their original installation are no longer present or a more convenient or safer route has been provided.

PEDESTRIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

While pedestrians within a crosswalk are afforded protection legally, no pedestrian should assume a motorist will obey the law. There must be a mutual respect.

Before stepping into the street, make eye contact with the drivers of approaching vehicles to make certain there is recognition of your presence and an indication the vehicle will stop. Never step in front of a vehicle and assume it will stop. Too many motorists are distracted or may not see you in time. State law indicates no pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of the vehicle that is so close it is impossible for the driver to yield. Use extreme caution once you start crossing. Many pedestrian accidents occur when one vehicle stops for a pedestrian but a second vehicle in another lane does not.

State law only provides protection for pedestrians crossing a roadway in a marked crosswalk or at any intersection with no marked crosswalk. Pedestrians in all other locations shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles. At intersections with traffic control signals, cross only in the crosswalk and follow the directions of the "Walk" and "Don't Walk" signal indications.

For more information about pedestrian crosswalks in Golden Valley, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.

BROOKVIEW PROJECT RECOGNIZED

Golden Valley's 2003-04 Brookview Neighborhood Pavement Management Project was recently named 2004 City Engineers Project of the Year by the City Engineers Association of Minnesota (CEAM) and received an Honor Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota (ACEC/MN).

Both organizations recognized the project for its highly involved public participation program, complex engineering components (traffic calming, hazardous waste, water resources, floodplain and wetland impacts, pedestrian facilities, utility replacement and relocation, park rehabilitation, and construction schedule), and joint preparation of construction plans between City staff and consulting engineers Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc (SEH). That team effort enabled the City to complete the \$12 million project ahead of schedule and under budget, says Public Works Director Jeannine Clancy.

For more information, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030.



PEDESTRIAN CROSSING LAW



Minnesota state statute 169.21 requires drivers to stop and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk. The driver must remain stopped until the pedestrian has passed the lane in which the driver is stopped.

GVHSF SELECTS 2005 T-SHIRT DESIGN

Each year the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) provides *Run the Valley* (see story at right)

participants with a T-shirt to commemorate the event. The design is changed annually and the process is open to the community. This year's winner is Barb Benson Keith, a St Paul resident, originally from Hopkins.

Keith, a freelance graphic designer and mosaic artist, saw the contest on the City Web site and decided to enter. For winning, Keith was awarded 10 T-shirts printed with her design. GVHSF retains sole ownership of the winning design and permission to reuse it when so desired. For more information on the *Run the Valley* T-shirt design contest, including past winners, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley.htm.



On Your Mark: Run The Valley April 16

Lace up your shoes and sign up now for the eleventh annual Run the Valley, sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF). The 5K and 10K race and 5K walk will be Saturday, April 16. Start and finish will be near the Meadowbrook Elementary (5430 Glenwood Ave) parking lot (one block west of Hwy 100 and Glenwood at Xenia Ave).

Entry fees are \$25 through April 13 and \$30 on race day. Register online at www.active.com; in person or by mail before April 13 at Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Rd (hours: 8 am-4:30 pm); or in person at Meadowbrook Elementary School on race day between 7:30 and 8:15 am. Medals are awarded to the top three males and females in each age category. All entrants receive a long-sleeve T-shirt and post-race complimentary snacks.

Corporate sponsors are Liberty Carton, Wells Fargo Golden Valley, and BNC National Bank. Other sponsors include Byerly's, Cable 12, Golden Valley Country Club, Golden Valley Rotary, Perkins, Super America Golden Valley, Valley Pastries, and Nestle Waters North America, Inc.

The GVHSF distributes 100% of funds raised to causes directly benefiting the community, including Crisis Connection, the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Home Free Shelter, North Hennepin Mediation Center, PRISM, Suburban Northwest Dinner at Your Door, Senior Community Services, and YMCA Detached Work Program. For more information about Run the Valley or the GVHSF, call 763-593-8010.

City of
Golden Valley

763-593-8000

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