

# Golden Valley

## CITYNEWS

### GV eConnect: Your Online Link To City Hall

Keeping time with technological advances that help increase customer service and overall satisfaction, the City of Golden Valley is working to enhance its use of a variety of e-services that both communicate with and accept information from the public (see sidebar). The latest is *GV RequestConnect*, an service request system that will debut in September.

Currently citizens can sign up online for Parks and Recreation offerings through *GV RecConnect* and get a limited number of permits through *GV PermitConnect*. In June, the introduction of *GV DirectConnect* added two types of services. One is an email subscription service that provides one-way information to members. The other allows members to participate in two-way moderated discussion on specific topics. All three programs are expected to grow and provide more offerings.

*GV RequestConnect*, available to the public September 1, is an online function for citizen service requests. Residents log in to the system, select the topic that best fits their issue, and then input the relevant information in an easy-to-use form. Once the form is submitted, it is automatically routed to the City staff person responsible for dealing with the issue. At the same time a response log is created that tracks the status of the service request and posts information that can be viewed by the resident who filed the request, the staff person who is handling it, and the staff supervisor. As with the other three *GV eConnect* programs, *GV RequestConnect* will grow to provide more offerings.

To choose the services you want, visit [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/econnect/](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/econnect/). For more information about *GV RequestConnect* and other online initiatives, contact Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler at 763-593-8004. 

### CITY ENHANCES ONLINE SERVICES

Golden Valley's menu of *GV eConnect* programs is growing to provide timely updates, information, and service delivery. Let's take a quick look.

**GV DirectConnect** Subscribe to email updates (eg, agendas, minutes, and more) as well as discussion lists, such as Business CyberWatch for area businesses and an I-394 Corridor Study list.

**GV RecConnect** Register for City Parks and Recreation programs.

**GV PERMITConnect** Apply for a limited number of permits (contractors and homeowners).

**GV REQUESTConnect** Request City services, notify the City of issues that need to be addressed, and more. (Available September 1)

To use these services, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) and follow the *GV eConnect* link. 

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## MET COUNCIL PLANS REGIONALLY

The Metropolitan Council, the Twin Cities' seven-county regional planning agency, works with local communities to:

- operate the region's largest bus system
- collect and treat wastewater
- engage the public in planning for future growth
- forecast population and household growth
- provide affordable housing opportunities
- plan, acquire, and fund parks and trail systems
- provide a framework for decisions and implementation for aviation, transportation, parks and open space, water quality, and water management

For more information about the Metropolitan Council, go to [www.metrocouncil.org](http://www.metrocouncil.org).

# In The Zone: A Beginner's Guide To Development

It has been said that an informed citizenry is the basis of a strong democracy. At times, however, being informed is not all that exciting. Words such as zoning, comprehensive plan, and subdivisions can cause eyes to glaze, but these terms determine how a community is developed. Knowing about the process can help residents grasp the big picture, and even play a role in it.

The big development picture in Golden Valley is determined by three things: the City's Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Districts, and Subdivisions (the latter two are often referred to by the generic term *land use*).

## THE BIG PICTURE

Golden Valley's Comprehensive Plan is basically a bunch of policy statements, goals, standards, and maps to guide all development (private and public) in the city and address changes that will occur due to various social and market forces. The Metropolitan Council (see sidebar) requires all communities in the seven-county metro region to have such a plan.

Golden Valley's Comprehensive Plan includes chapters on land use, transportation, wastewater, water supply, storm water management, housing, and parks and recreation. It was originally created through collaboration between the City Council, City staff, citizens, business owners, and various City Commissions. Now the Comprehensive Plan is managed by the City Council, which is required to consider its goals, policies, and programs when reviewing and setting City ordinances and policies. Copies can be viewed at City Hall and the Golden Valley Library.

## Zoning FYI

In 1916, New York passed the first zoning regulations in America to establish building height and setbacks and to stop industry encroachment on Manhattan's office and retail district. Following that example, most states established zoning laws by the 1930s.

## Golden Valley ZONING DISTRICTS

Most land in Golden Valley is considered low-density, but each parcel corresponds with one or more Zoning District:

- Single-Family Residential
- Two-Family Residential
- Multiple Dwelling
- Business and Professional Offices
- Commercial
- Light Industrial
- Industrial
- Institutional

## THE DETAILS

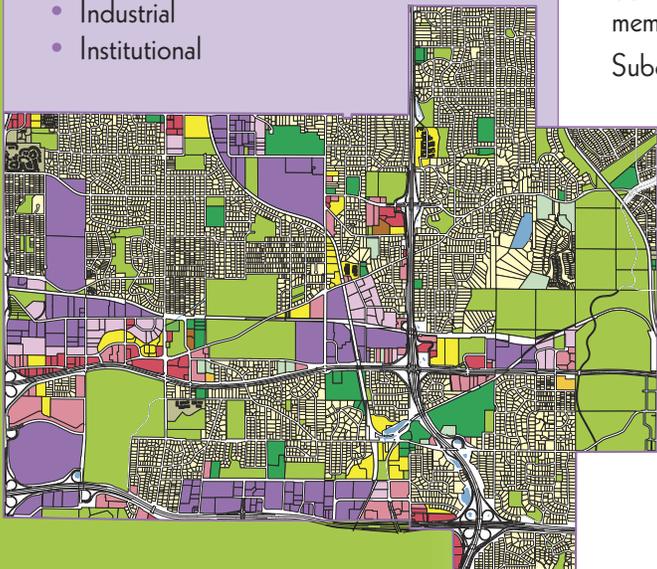
Zoning and Subdivision ordinances are tools used by the City to implement the Comprehensive Plan and assist orderly development and/or redevelopment.

Zoning (City Code Chapter 11) is the City's main form of land use regulation. It outlines property use requirements and restrictions as well as building location, size, height, arrangement, and density. Zoning arranges the city into districts (see box at left) to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of all community members.

Subdivision (City Code Chapter 12) refers to creating new parcels of land by dividing existing parcels. Requirements for subdivisions include design standards for streets and utilities, lot size, easements, drainage and erosion control, and park dedication.

Stay tuned for more information on zoning and development/redevelopment, and how you can get involved. To get involved today, check out the I-394 Corridor Study (see page 7) or the Envision Connection Project (see page 16).

The entire City Code is available on the City Web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/index.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/index.htm). If you have questions about zoning in Golden Valley, contact Mark Grimes, Director of Planning and Zoning, at 763-593-8095.



# Swing "Fore" Charity At Golf Classic Sept 16

Buff up those clubs and join the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) to benefit local charities in the ninth annual Golden Valley Golf Classic, scheduled for 8 am Friday, September 16, Brookview Golf Course.

The fee for foursomes is \$280 before August 31 or \$320 after, which includes greens fees, cart, continental breakfast, and lunch. Golfers also have a chance to win prizes.

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

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

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

Last year's event drew 100 golfers from Golden Valley and the surrounding area who, with corporate and individual sponsors, helped the Golf Classic raise \$9,142 for local human service organizations. The GVHSF distributes 100% of funds raised to causes directly serving the Golden Valley community (see sidebar). For more information about the Golf Classic or the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation, call Sue Virnig, staff liaison, at 763-593-8010.



## GV FOUNDATION TAKING Funding Applications

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

The deadline for 2005 funding applications is August 31 at 4:30 pm. The Foundation will review funding requests and allocate available funds using the following guidelines:

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

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



## GVHSF GIVES Local Support

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

### GREATER MINNEAPOLIS CRISIS

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

### HOME FREE DOMESTIC ASSAULT

**INTERVENTION PROJECT** (763-545-7072) responds to victims 24 hours a day by phone or via home or hospital visit to offer support and information, including assistance in court proceedings.

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

### NORTH HENNEPIN MEDIATION PROGRAM

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

**NORTHWEST SUBURBAN DINNER AT YOUR DOOR** (763-520-7386) provides nourishing meals to home bound people unable to afford a home-cooked meal.

### NORTHWEST YMCA DETACHED

**WORK PROGRAM** (763-535-4800) operates out of Northwest YMCA to help troubled youth by working to identify problems before they escalate to a crisis level.

### SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

### SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES OUT-

**REACH** (763-537-0709 or 763-541-1019) helps seniors in suburban Hennepin County remain independent by linking them with a broad range of services and programs. Staff meets with seniors (and often families) in their own homes to explore the most appropriate and cost-effective services available to them.

## Groups Welcome Donations

Donated items should be in relatively good condition and dry (musty, moldy textiles cannot be given away or recycled). Some charities will even pick up items. Call to verify what items are accepted. For a more comprehensive listing of places that accept textiles, including consignment shops, check your *Recyclopedia*.

**Arc Hennepin Carver's Value Village**  
612-866-8820

**Bethesda Thrift Shop**  
952-939-0988

**CROSS**  
763-425-1050

**Disabled American Veterans Thrift Stores**  
651-487-2002

**Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota**  
651-641-0011

**Goodwill**  
952-935-2760

**Martha's Closet**  
651-224-4728

**Mpls League of Catholic Women**  
612-332-2649

**People Responding in Social Ministry (PRISM)**  
763-529-1350

**St Vincent DePaul Thrift**  
612-722-7882

**Salvation Army**  
612-332-5855

**Silver Angel Thrift Store**  
612-789-0600

**Unique Thrift**  
763-535-0200

**The Unlimited**  
612-789-3591

**Vietnam Vets**  
(pick-up in most suburbs)  
651-778-8387

# Textile Twofer: Recycle For People And Environment

Most Golden Valley residents recycle. They put that bin out every week overflowing with paper, aluminum, and plastic. Although Golden Valley doesn't yet offer curbside pick-up for textiles, textile recycling is a growing industry, and there are convenient options available that help both the environment and other people.

Donation tops those options. According to the Council for Textile Recycling, 48% of donated clothing is reclaimed as secondhand clothing and sold to third-world nations, 20% becomes wiping and polishing cloths, and the remaining 26% is converted into new fiber to be used in new textile products.



## Clothes, Shoes, And Household Items

Believe it or not, there are many people who would appreciate your stuff, even if it is gently worn or out of fashion. Clothing and shoes are popular donations, and numerous charities will take them. Household goods

such as rugs, curtains, towels, sheets, blankets, sewing scraps, etc are also accepted by most charities (see sidebar).

## Rugs, Carpet, And Padding

Area rugs that could be reused with repairs are accepted by Bob's Binding (9925 13<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Plymouth, 763-544-1177). Carpet Recovery Innovations (763-441-8300) accepts both carpet and padding for a fee. To unload padding only, call Hanks (763-559-7454). Finally, the Hennepin County Recycling Center & Transfer Station in Brooklyn Park accepts carpet in rolls less than three feet long and one foot in diameter as solid waste for a fee.



## "UNUSABLE" ITEMS

Textile items beyond being donned or donated are welcomed by Brotex (800 Hampden Ave, St Paul, 651-645-5721), the Textile Center of MN (3000 University Ave SE, Mpls, 612-436-0464) and TUBS, Inc (1431 W 32<sup>nd</sup> St, Mpls, 612-825-8827). Call for details. More information about recycling in Golden Valley can be found at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/RecyclingPrograms.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/RecyclingPrograms.htm). 

## Golden Valley Recycles



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

### Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 10
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 26
Christmas	regular pick-up
New Year's	regular pick-up
Fourth of July	Sat, July 9

### 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.

## PLAN AHEAD FOR Mighty Tidy Day

Plan ahead to unload at the City's second annual **Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day** Saturday, October 15, 8 am–1 pm, at Brookview Park (south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave).

Golden Valley's **Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day** was established to provide residents a monitored site to dispose of items they no longer use and that cannot be donated, such as old mattresses and sofas, broken bicycles, ancient appliances, unwanted tires, and outdated electronics (computers and televisions).

Watch the September/October *CityNews* and the City Web site ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us)) for more information on **Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day**. 

# Battle Back That Belligerent Buckthorn

Zebra mussels and Eurasian milfoil are commonly cited Minnesota invaders, but Golden Valley's most prevalent foe is buckthorn. This aggressive, non-native, woody plant has quietly invaded parks and woodlots, wetlands and yards, and it's time to fight back.

"Of all the invasive species, buckthorn is the biggest problem here," says Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom. "And education is our main tool of control."

## RECOGNIZING THE ENEMY

Both common buckthorn (European) and glossy buckthorn are well-established in Minnesota and officially listed as restricted noxious weeds. They are recognizable as tall understory shrubs or small trees with brown bark and silvery projections that grow to 20 feet high.

## LAUNCHING AN ATTACK

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by a buckthorn-infested area, but don't give up. Doing something is far better than leaving the invasion unchecked. Experts agree banishment may be possible if buckthorn isn't too thick, but if the buckthorn is well-established, control may be the only hope. Current control methods are mechanical, chemical, or both. (See sidebar for details on Golden Valley's new volunteer buckthorn removal program.)

### Mechanical Control

If buckthorn plants are 3/8 inch in diameter or less, uproot plants by hand. If the plants are greater than 3/8 inch in diameter, use a shovel or weed wrench. Be sure to call Gopher State One Call to check for buried utilities.

Pruning or shearing every three to four weeks may be a final option for mechanical control when confronted with a wall of large mature hedges. This can dramatically reduce the flowers and berries and prevent birds from eating the berries and distributing buckthorn seeds. This method only works if pruning is done every three to four weeks.

### Chemical Control

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

### Combination Control

When controlling large quantities of buckthorn, it may be effective to cut the stems and then paint or spray the stumps with the herbicide (see list above). To ensure the herbicide is taken up by the buckthorn, apply herbicide immediately after cutting when the plant is active or when the leaves are fully expanded and temperatures are above freezing. Late summer and autumn are the best control times.

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

# Help Combat Buckthorn

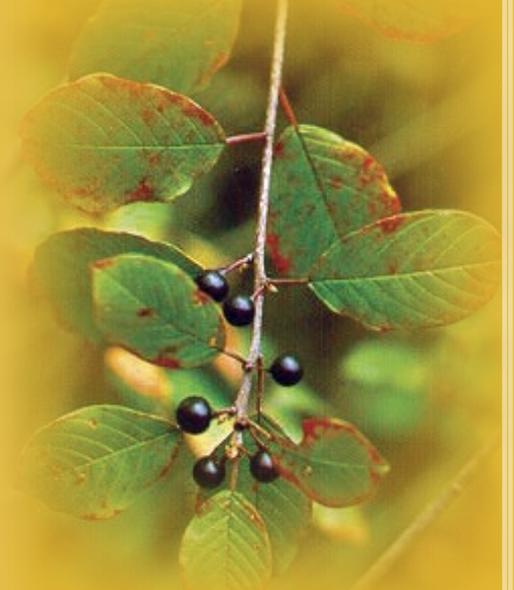
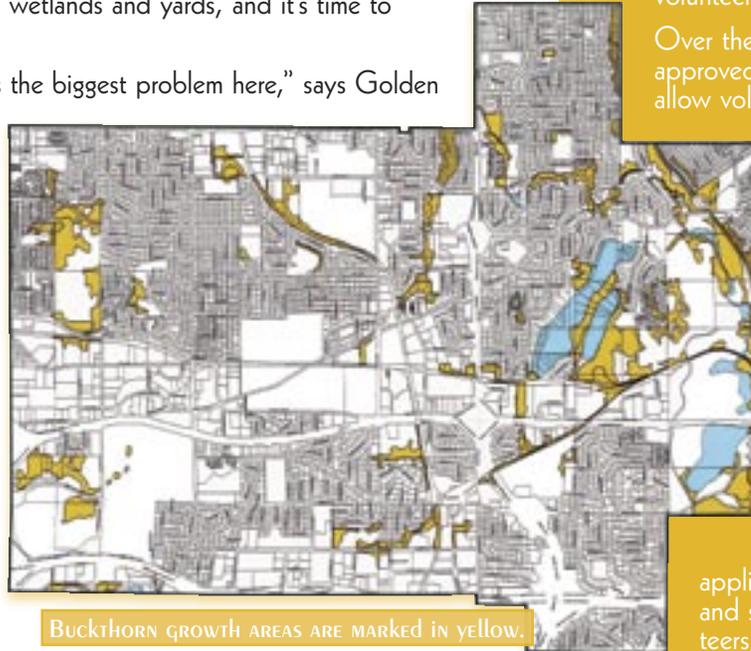
To combat buckthorn and other invasive plants in the community, the Golden Valley City Council directed staff to develop a program that includes resident volunteers.

Over the past year, the Council approved ordinance changes to allow volunteers to work on public land (upon approval by the Public Works Department) and allotted funding for supplies, brush removal, insurance, etc. City staff then assembled a kit, including tools such as weed wrenches, to help volunteers who want to work in city natural areas.

The program is available annually on a first come, first served basis. The application folder includes forms and sign-up sheets for volunteers, education on buckthorn identification (with photos), and helpful suggestions for removal

and use of tools. City staff is already partnering with volunteers from the South Rice Lake Association to remove buckthorn in that area. Residents are encouraged to contact the City for an application folder. When funding for 2005 is exhausted, interested residents will be put on a waiting list for 2006.

For more information about buckthorn or other invasive plants, contact Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046.



## RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Watch for loads of great activities in the Fall Recreation Activities Brochure coming out the last week of August.

### BROOKVIEW PARK

**Penny Carnival** (all ages)—July 29, 12:30–2:30 pm, bring pennies

**Picnic In The Park** (ages 3 and up)—Aug 3, 11:15 am–noon, free

**PeeWee Tennis Lessons** (ages 5–7)—many times available in July and Aug, \$22

**Youth & Adult Tennis Lessons** (ages 7 and up)—many times available in July and Aug, check for fees

**Concerts In The Park** (large picnic shelter, 7 pm)—July 18: **Calhoun**, July 25: **Bavarian Musikmeisters**, Aug 1: **Booley Band**, Aug 8: **Beacon Hill Brass**, Aug 15: **Tune Into Kids**

### BROOKVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

**Super Heroes of Science** (grades 1–4)—Aug 15–18, 12:45–3:15 pm, \$87

**Magic & Balloon Workshop** (ages 8 and up)—Aug 9–10, 1–3 pm, \$20

**Airplane Annie Show** (all ages)—Aug 24, 1:30 pm, free

### DAVIS COMMUNITY CENTER

**Teen Open Gym** (ages 13–18)—Mon through Aug 15, 6–8 pm; \$1 at door

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

### FALL ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES

Co-Rec and Men's, Mon–Thurs, Schaper Park. Call now for registration packets.

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

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

# Fall Soccer Offers Fitness And Fun For All Ages

We've all been put on notice, informed by the media, and guilted into hanging our heads—Americans don't exercise enough. Still, just to be clear, current recommendations state that children and adults should get at least 30 minutes daily of moderately intense physical activity to be healthy and prevent chronic diseases (some studies recommend a full hour for children).

Now that we understand exercise is vital to a long, healthy life, why not focus on a fun way to get it? While any and all exercise promotes good health, soccer offers both a body and mind workout for people of any age. Boston's City Kicks Soccer Organization put together the following list of benefits:

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



## SOCCER IN THE VALLEY

If you're looking for a way to run like wild horses in the temperate fall weather before winter sets in, you need not go any further than Golden Valley. Golden Valley Parks and Recreation offers inclusive play at all soccer skill levels for juniors (grades K and 1), youth (grades 2–6, and 7–8), and adults.

This fall, most youth games run from Saturday, September 10 through October. Practices generally begin a couple weeks before the first game. The registration deadline is Friday, August 5, and registration is accepted online, in person, by mail, over the phone, or by fax (see sidebar for details). The fee is \$28 and the T-shirts are \$12.

Park and Rec soccer is open to all who want to play, but kids ages nine to 19 who have mastered soccer basics and want a more competitive atmosphere might want to check out the Phoenix Soccer Association. During the spring and summer, Phoenix offers both in-house and traveling leagues, which kids try out for to show their dribbling, passing, and header skills.

Golden Valley adults formed 16 co-rec teams last year, and this year even more are expected. If you're interested in playing Friday and Sunday games in Lions Park from September through October, better hurry. The registration deadline is August 5.

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

# I-394 Corridor Study: Preparing For The Future

In the early days of America, land was plentiful and there were few regulations regarding how it could be used. As the nation grew, it became obvious that some control was needed. Zoning laws (see article on page 2) were enacted to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community. Today, governing bodies routinely review zoning laws in the face of constant growth and change. That's why the City of Golden Valley is studying the I-394 Corridor along its southern border.

Because of its central location in the metro area along a major interstate highway and its proximity to downtown Minneapolis, land in the I-394 Corridor is in demand for a number of uses. With an eye toward potential future development pressures, the City Council hopes to evaluate current land uses in the area and determine how to focus future development to best meet the needs and desires of the community.

## PAST ZONING IN THE CORRIDOR

When zoning laws were making their first appearance in the 1930s, little development occurred in the area because of difficulties with the high water table. But when development started to boom after WWII, the community already knew what it didn't want, rejecting proposals to build an airport, a drive-in theatre, and a sports stadium in the area. In 1958, General Mills opened its world headquarters along the western end of the Corridor. Liberty Carton opened its facility in 1965, and in 1970 Chrysler City (now Menards) was built as the largest indoor car dealership in the United States.

The eastern end of the Corridor was home to an asphalt plant and a variety of mixed uses until the City established it as the Golden Hills Redevelopment Area in the mid-1980s. Around the time I-394 construction began in 1987, redevelopment was already under way in the Golden Hills area, resulting in the Colonnade, Golden Hills Business Park, Golden Hills Office Center, Holiday Inn Express, and the North American headquarters for Allianz/Life USA.

## PLANNING AHEAD

The I-394 Corridor Study planning process will have a significant impact on how that area looks and feels in the future, and there are ample opportunities for public input. Surveys of area residents and businesses are under way, and citizens can sign up for email updates or participate in a discussion list on the process through *GV DirectConnect* (see page 1). The City will publish regular updates in the City newsletter and Web site, and the Web site will also log all community input, questions, and answers. In addition, a Visual Preference Survey will assess community preferences about building, landscapes, and streetscapes. It is available at City Hall and online ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/zoning/394corridor/public-input.html](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/zoning/394corridor/public-input.html)) through July.

If you're interested in the community vision for development that resulted from *Envision Golden Valley*, visit the City Web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/Envision.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/Envision.htm). A related *Envision* article is also available on page 16. If you have questions about the I-394 Corridor Study, contact Planning and Zoning Director Mark Grimes at 763-593-8097.

THE GOLDEN HILLS OFFICE CENTER (RIGHT) WAS BUILT IN THE I-394 CORRIDOR IN THE 1990s.



## SENIOR STUFF

Register in advance for these educational seminars and special events. All programs at Brookview Community Center unless otherwise noted.

**Free Financial Talks**—Outing to Wells Fargo in Minneapolis, July 21, 10 am

**Blood Pressure Screenings**—July 27, 11 am–12 pm, free

**Continental Breakfast**—"JFK Assassination: The Mystery And Legend," July 27, 9:30 am

**Health Insurance Help**—Aug 9, 9–11 am, (call for appointment)

**Defensive Driving**—Four-hour refresher, Aug 18, 9 am–1 pm.

**Bingo Bonanza Supper**—Aug 29, 6:30 pm

**Upcoming Trips (register early)**—Aug 19: Chart House & Dominic Castino Show; Sept 9: Winona Heritage; Sept 22–23: Hoover's Hometown (deposit due Aug 8); Nov 2–6: Branson, MO (deposit due Sept 9)

**Special Interest Groups**—Bowling, Bridge, Dominoes, "500" Cards, Cribbage, Stitch & Chat, Golden Tones Chorus, Golf, Investment, Pedal Pushers, Walking Group, Brunch Bunch, Treasure Seekers, Nature of Things, Seniors In Mind, Forum & the Fork, Tuesday Explorers, Friday Luncheon Series

**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.

**Annual Membership Dues**—Please pay your \$5 dues for 2005 and support your Seniors Program!

For more information, to receive the Seniors 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

# 2005 Views of the Valley Winners Add To Community Gallery

Golden Valley's 12<sup>th</sup> annual *Views of the Valley* photo contest drew 57 entries from residents who tried to capture on film or digitally their version of the city's beauty, uniqueness, and quality of life. The Natural Golden Valley category brought in photos of landscapes, flora, fauna, etc. The Golden Valley Lifestyle category featured photos of cityscapes, buildings, people, and activities. Regretfully, the Enhanced category (photos significantly altered by editing software, lenses, etc) didn't receive any entries this year. Finally, to satisfy the art critic in all of us, a People's Choice award is presented to the photo voted most popular by citizens who viewed the entries online and at City Hall.

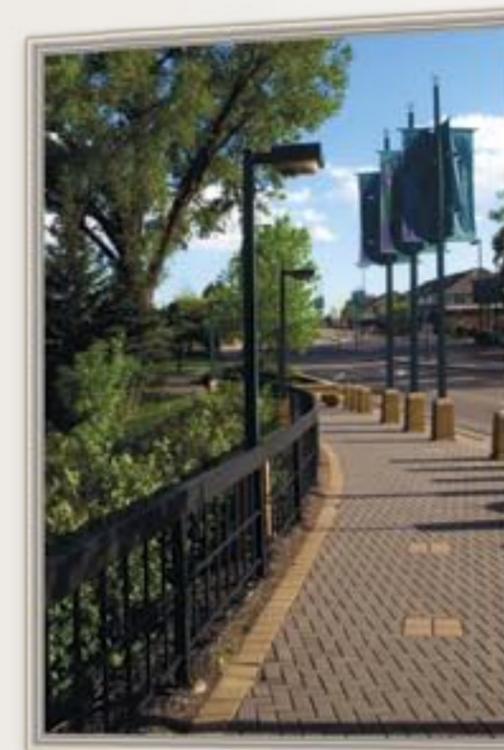
Keeping the contest standards in mind as well as the basics of good photography, four judges chose the three winners shown. "Golden Skies In The Valley," by Gary Walter, won the overall grand prize as well as first prize in Natural Golden Valley, and "Autumn Reflections," by Candice Erickson, won second prize in Natural Golden Valley. In the Golden Valley Lifestyle category, "Evening Stroll," by Rich Smith, won first prize and "A Tribute To Theodore Wirth," by Janice Laulainen, won second prize. This year the people chose "Wait Your Turn," by Janice Laulainen, as their favorite photo. All winners receive a cash prize, certificates of recognition, and publication of their photos in various Golden Valley public information pieces.

Views of the Valley aims to promote Golden Valley and civic pride. Judges for 2005 were Shawn Wallace of Evolutionary Illustration and Design Studios, Ann Gallagher of Cable 12 TV, Sarah Larson of the Golden Valley Fire Department (and a former professional photographer), and Richard Gunderson, last year's *Views of the Valley* grand prize winner. Next year's contest deadline will be June 7, 2006.

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



Grand Prize Winner & 1st Place Natural  
"Golden Skies In The Valley"  
by Gary Walter



1st Place Lifestyles  
"Evening Stroll"  
by Rich Smith



2nd Place Natural  
"Autumn Reflections"  
by Candice Erickson



2nd Place Lifestyles  
"Tribute to Theodore Wirth"  
by Janice Laulainen



People's Choice  
"Wait Your Turn!"  
by Janice Laulainen



# Police Train Officers To Spot DUI

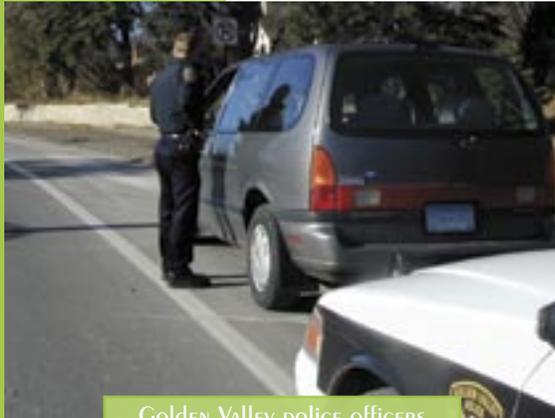
Two Golden Valley employees recently volunteered to drink to intoxication as part of an effort to train Golden Valley police officers about the effects of alcohol.

While the volunteers didn't drive, such training is crucial to officers who usually first encounter a DUI suspect on the road. Officers need just cause to pull a driver over, says Sergeant Steve Johnson, such as driving too fast or too slow, weaving over lines, and "anything that depicts abnormal reaction time."

This is where the training comes in. "We use a variety of methods to judge a person's ability to drive. First, there's the smell of alcohol, and red or watery eyes." Officers also look at person's reaction time as well as their demeanor.

On the scene, the driver may be asked to do a number of tests, including a walk and turn, standing on one leg, reciting the alphabet, counting backwards, and more. If the officer suspects the driver is over the BAC level (see article at right) and a danger on the road, he or she can be taken in for a certified Breathalyzer test.

The stakes are high in the fight against drunk driving, and hands-on training in a controlled setting keeps Golden Valley police officers at the top of their game.



Golden Valley police officers work to keep the community safe.

# Boozers Beware: DUI Limit Drops August 1

As of August 1, Minnesota will join the other 49 states that have lowered their blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit for impaired driving to .08 in an effort to decrease alcohol-related crashes. The message throughout Minnesota and the country is clear: If you drink, don't drive (see sidebar). This simple choice saves both lives and money.

## Saving Lives

According to Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD), an estimated 17,419 people died in alcohol-related traffic crashes in 2002—an average of one every 30 minutes, or 41 percent of 42,815 total traffic fatalities. Here in Minnesota, more than 30,000 people are arrested each year for driving under the influence (DUI), and MADD's research reports that in 2003, 267 people were killed by drunk drivers.

All of these lives could have been saved. The Minnesota Department of Traffic Safety estimates at least 70 lives (14 each year) would have been saved in the last five years if Minnesota had implemented the .08 BAC earlier.

## Saving Money

Minnesota's Department of Public Safety estimates that alcohol is a factor in 26% of crashes in the state, costing the public an estimated \$1.8 billion in 2000. Research suggests that lowering the BAC to .08 will reduce alcohol-related fatalities by 7% and save each licensed driver in the state about \$45.

This isn't the only money lost to drunk driving. Although a national .08 law proposed by President Clinton has not yet passed, Congress' 2000 Transportation Appropriation Bill penalizes states that failed to enact the .08 BAC by 2004. Those states lost 2% of certain highway construction funds, a reduction that increases by 2% each year until it tops out at 8% in 2007.

In 2004, Minnesota and Colorado lost incentive highway improvement grants totaling \$47.8 million, which were awarded to 47 other states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In fact, since Minnesota didn't pass a .08 law effective before October 2003, the Department of Transportation has withheld \$9.45 million in federal highway construction funds from Minnesota alone. If Minnesota hadn't enacted the .08 BAC, more than \$100 million would be lost by 2007.

Now that Minnesota has lowered the BAC to .08 before September 1 2005, the withheld funds are recoverable. Further, Minnesota won't lose any more funds in coming years.

For more information on DUIs, visit the Minnesota Department of Public Safety at [www.dps.state.mn.us](http://www.dps.state.mn.us), or contact Golden Valley Crime Prevention Specialist Joanne Paul at 763-593-8058.

Towing Charge	\$100
Impound Lot Storage	\$15/day
Driver's License Reinstatement	\$260
New Driver's License	\$18.50
Mandatory Alcohol Assessment	\$125
Maximum Fine (First Offense)	\$1,000
Three Years Car Insurance	\$14,500
Attorney's Fees	\$2,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,218.50</b>

COST OF 1ST DUI

Source: MN Department of Public Safety



# GVFD Asks "What Is Your Perfect Day?"

If you're like any of Golden Valley's current firefighters, chances are you'd answer this question something like legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden did: "Doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you."

Maybe you share other traits with Golden Valley firefighters. Such as self-confidence strong enough to enter a dangerous situation. The ability to work as a member of a team. A strong desire to learn and a will to practice, and the ability to take those skills and apply them to each new circumstance you encounter.

If any of these traits sound like you, or someone you want to be, and you live within six minutes of a Golden Valley fire station, you can apply to become a firefighter. Even if you live in another community but work in Golden Valley, Corporate Call, a collaboration with local businesses to recruit daytime responders (available Monday–Friday, 6 am–6 pm), may be another option for you.

As a Golden Valley firefighter, you would join a tradition more than 60 years old of so-called ordinary people answering the call to protect our community. Your potential teammates on the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) have much to say about what they consider a perfect day as a Golden Valley firefighter.

"My perfect day as a Golden Valley firefighter is going to a call, taking care of the situation, and getting back home safely," says Golden Valley resident Tim Gerrits, manager of the prototype and short-run department at Bermo, Inc. He's a 17-year member of the GVFD and is currently a captain.

Andy Hutson began as a Golden Valley firefighter two years ago through the Corporate Call program at General Mills, where he works as a desktop support specialist. His perfect day as a firefighter is "the opportunity to make a difference in the community."

Terri Kiblin, a Brooklyn Park resident and Tennant Corporation employee, has been a Golden Valley Corporate Call firefighter for nearly three years. Her perfect day is "when I go to a call and arrive at a situation—a house or car accident—knowing I can leave that place with the residents feeling good and confident that we've taken care of the problem."

Jason Hoffrogge echoes the sentiments of his teammates. "My perfect day as a firefighter would be to put in a lot of work with my co-firefighters, in a way that we know we're really helping someone in the community, in a way that other people can't."

Gregg Prest, firefighter and president of the Golden Valley Fire Relief Association, has his own take on a great day. "The perfect day as a firefighter is climbing into the cab of the truck and driving down the road with the sirens blaring and the lights flashing."

As Golden Valley Fire Chief Mark Kuhnly says, "paid, on-call firefighters come in all shapes, sizes, and ages," and yes, even with their own unique definition of the perfect day. Perhaps becoming a firefighter will help you find your perfect day.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Golden Valley's paid on-call fire department, attend an informational meeting Friday, August 15, 2005, at either 9 am or 7 pm. Information is also available at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us), or by calling 763-593-8055.



# THE RIGHT STUFF

To be a paid, on-call firefighter, you must:

- be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent
- have a valid Minnesota Class D driver's license (with a good driving record)
- have a positive, constructive image and attitude
- live or work within six minutes of a fire station and have dependable transportation
- be in good health and pass physical and psychological exams, a physical abilities test, a background investigation, and a written exam
- complete an oral interview
- complete a probation period
- complete basic recruit training and requirements for first responder training
- wear a pager while on call and be available for a reasonable number of fire calls, drills, and meetings
- be available for work detail once every two months
- be able to make decisions regarding the safety of other firefighters and yourself
- work as a team member under extremely stressful conditions

## REWARDS

- increased self-confidence, experience, responsibility, social connections and events, fun and friends, and a chance to be a positive community role model

## SALARY & BENEFITS

- pension plan
- disability benefits
- hourly salary
  - probationary firefighter (\$7.95/hr)
  - apprentice firefighter (\$10.57/hr)
  - firefighter (\$12.55/hr)

# Engineering Designs Intentional Communities

## CITY BENEFITS FROM LONG-TERM EXPERTISE

Three Golden Valley engineering technicians have 110 years of City service between them, and they credit their longevity to the ever-changing challenges and variety of their work.

Ron Christenson (above center) was fresh out of Dunwoody Institute when he started on the City's survey crew in 1968. Dunwoody alum Paul Olson (right), also a 37-year veteran, came to the City from an engineering firm. And Ron Nims (left), the rookie of the bunch with a mere 36 years of service, liked his summer job with the City so much that he left his U of M dentistry program to work for Golden Valley full time.

"It sounds corny, but I always wanted to do some sort of public service, and that's probably what kept me here," says Olson, who enjoys the mix of indoor and outdoor work. Nims likes taking a project from design to construction, something that involves both intellectual and physical work. Christenson has immense pride in staff accomplishments and a soft spot for "all the good people" he's worked with.

Over the years, they weathered challenges ranging from new technology to changing professional procedures.

"In the '60s and '70s our calculators had cranks," recalls Nims. "We'd sit in the survey truck doing long calculations to stake out curb. The functions were on a paper table. It was slightly better than an abacus. But it was cool. When we got the first calculator that could do trigonometry functions, we thought we were in seventh heaven."

There have also been rewards. "I'm most proud of the way the community has turned out," says Christenson. "It's developed more into a city. You've got the curb and gutter, the beautiful parks, the Winnetka streetscape—these little things make the community."

Communities don't happen by accident. Everything from parks and trails, attractive neighborhoods, and functional streets to clean drinking water, effective sewer systems, and flood control is planned and designed by a city engineering department. This infrastructure is the backbone of a community, and everyone's quality of life is affected by how well it works. Over the years, the Engineering Division of Golden Valley's Public Works Department has embraced this challenge, providing a basis for the growing first-ring suburb of yesterday to become the stable, mature, liveable community it is today.

During that time, many aspects of the profession changed.

"When Golden Valley was developing, things were more standardized," explains Project Coordinator Ron Nims. "All streets were 30 feet wide. You were starting with bare land. Now we look to see if standards should be modified, and we consider things, such as tree impacts, that we never did back then."

The Engineering Division includes a city engineer, six engineering technicians, and three interns who collectively design City projects. They collect survey data, develop plans, verify if the project is built according to plans, and modify plans to reflect changes. Once the project is completed, the staff maintains data about the infrastructure, which is information other City employees rely on when handling physical issues in the community, such as water main breaks, utility installation, or new development.

That's especially important in a fully developed community, says Engineering Technician Ron Christenson, who has seen Golden Valley go from the housing boom of the late 1960s to the current townhouse/condo trend with more homes built in smaller areas.

Perhaps the biggest change has been the advent of technology. "Design work is the same, but the execution has changed," says Engineering Technician Paul Olson. "Plans used to be hand-drawn, and outdoor work was more labor intensive. Now all data is collected electronically and downloaded to computers, and our design software uses the data to help us create plans that are much more accurate."

The Engineering Department also manages the City's Pavement Management Program (PMP), an initiative to rehabilitate City streets to current engineering standards by 2014, and a major investment in the community's aging infrastructure. PMP planning stages rely heavily on citizen participation, another relatively new aspect of engineering.

In the end, the biggest kick is the satisfaction staff gets from seeing the results of their work. "You can go to any corner of the city and see the changes," says Olson.

For more information on the City's Engineering Department, contact City Engineer Jeff Oliver at 763-593-8030.

"This outstanding group combines technical skill with a lot of care for the community. The results are evident in their work."

*Jeannine Clancy,  
Public Works  
Director*



ENGINEERING CREW (FRONT, L TO R): JOE PAUMEN, JEFF OLIVER, RON NIMS, ERIC ECKMAN. (BACK, L TO R): BRIAN DAHLBERG, PAUL OLSON, SARAH SHOCK, PJ DISCH, RON CHRISTENSON

# Tree Diseases Devastate Community

Imagine the Parthenon or any ancient Greek or Roman temple without the mammoth pillars that add stature and personality. Now, picture Golden Valley without the grand, old elms and oaks that have graced its treescape for decades. Both images leave a feeling of loss and ruin.

Because of the Dutch elm disease (DED) epidemic surging through Minnesota, particularly urban areas where elms grow close together, Golden Valley lost 1,600 elms in 2004. As many or more losses are expected in 2005. Oak wilt losses aren't nearly as high, but the disease is affecting the community forest.



The loss of a tree affects people on different levels, in particular, the landscape loss with the attending memories and the cost involved in removal. At this point, however, the only way to deal with the crisis is to understand the problem, work together, and keep cool heads.

## SLOWING AND PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF DED

Both Dutch elm and oak wilt diseases are caused by fungi carried by an insect.

Once the fungus takes hold, it grows rapidly in the entire tree, and the tree wilts and dies. The diseased tree then becomes a breeding site for more insects, which will continue to spread the disease to neighboring trees throughout the city.

To prevent the spread of DED and oak wilt, it's vital

that residents work with the City. If you notice an elm or oak that is wilting in one or more branches in the upper part of the tree, notify the City (see below). Someone will come out as soon as possible to evaluate the tree. The City is responsible for removing diseased trees from public property, but diseased trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owner. State and City regulations require diseased trees to be cut down and all portions properly disposed of within 20 days of disease confirmation and notification.



IN 2004, DUTCH ELM DISEASE CLAIMED 1,600 GOLDEN VALLEY ELMS.

## HIRING A TREE REMOVAL CONTRACTOR

As with any job that needs a contractor, get several estimates and choose one that is licensed and insured. Avoid door knockers and instead try to deal with a business with a permanent address that will be around to deal with any liability issues that can occur. More information on hiring tree removal contractors is available from the University of Minnesota Forestry Extension Service (612-624-3020).

For more information on DED, oak wilt, or City policy on diseased trees, check the City Web site or call Assistant City Forester Tim Teynor, at 763-593-3976.

## A Note On Elm Wood

All recent elm tree trimmings, whether the tree was healthy or diseased, provide excellent breeding material for the beetles that spread DED. Any firewood or branches obtained from trimming or storm damage should be checked for green elm wood. Because wood cannot be safely stored, all elm wood with bark must be destroyed (burned), debarked, or removed by April 1.



## GV'S GREEN MEN CARE FOR TREES

In good times and in bad, Golden Valley's natural urban landscape is in good hands. Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom (pictured at left) and Assistant City Forester Tim Teynor (right) both have a passion for their work, which involves caring for the individual trees and plants that contribute to the quality of life in the Valley.

Lundstrom came to Golden Valley 15 years ago with a degree in urban forestry. He started as the city forester, and today he also handles surface water resources, recycling, and some projects, such as the native plantings around storm water ponds.

"I like both the north woods and the big city," he explains, "and I was very interested in making trees work in the urban landscape."

Tim Teynor began at Golden Valley about five years ago with a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's in horticulture. As assistant city forester, he's out in the community every day through the warmer months, evaluating the health of the urban forest.

"This year fewer trees may be lost in Golden Valley, but the older, bigger trees are succumbing," says Teynor. "There was an elderly man with a 37-inch [diameter] tree that had to be removed. Now he doesn't have shade. The loss can be very hard."

The hardest part is the emotional aspect, adds Lundstrom. "We are telling residents they have to remove a tree that is part of their landscape, and at the same time telling them it will cost them money they may not have been prepared to spend. The situation is not fun for anyone."

Difficult as current times may be, Lundstrom and Teynor know their work will keep the urban forest healthy in the long run. That's the main goal. That's why they're in the game.

## KEEP A SAFE Lid ON GV STOP SIGNS

Golden Valley has stop signs installed at numerous intersections throughout the city. Without any stop signs, traffic would be chaotic. But, while some "all-way" stops are consistent with federal and state guidelines (see article at right), some older signs were installed in response to community pressure.

"We need to be careful about installing stop signs," says City Engineer Jeff Oliver. "People think a stop sign will slow cars down and make the street safer for kids, but this isn't necessarily the case."

"We want every intersection to be as safe as possible," Oliver continues, which is why he wants residents who request stop signs at particular intersections to understand that signs don't necessarily fix the issues the resident wants addressed.

The City continues to receive complaints of stop sign violations, primarily at all-way stops. Observations of the intersections in question show patterns consistent with national studies (see article at right). The fact is, "the vast majority of our local neighborhood street interactions should not have stop signs," says Oliver, who fields requests for more stop signs.

To gain a better local understanding of the stop sign issue, Oliver, other City staff, and consulting engineers have observed stop signs throughout the city over the past year. Subsequent discussions with "neighbors" of stop signs included both positive comments about the signs as well as complaints of violations and over-accelerations. Citizens often complain about noise from accelerating trucks, motorcycles, and other vehicles and even air pollution (fumes).

At this time, no action is intended for stop signs already in place. Watch here and the City Web site for updates on the stop sign issue. If you have questions about current stop signs in Golden Valley, contact City Engineer Jeff Oliver at 763-593-8030. 

## Stop Signs: Not As Simple As They Look

When used at the right place and under the right conditions, a stop sign is one of the most valuable and effective traffic control devices. In fact, they seem to be such a simple method of controlling traffic that citizens often request them for locations near their home. But studies have shown improperly used stop signs will not solve the concerns and may create worse conditions.

Whether the concern is traffic volume, speed, or safety, Cities must follow specific guidelines for stop sign installation to avoid the hazardous conditions that can occur when they are not used correctly.

### Traffic Volume

Stop signs may divert a small amount of traffic; however, most of the traffic is there by choice, and installing a stop sign will not cause the traffic to reroute itself. The possible small amount of diverted traffic may simply choose a nearby residential street for the trip.

### Traffic Speed

Stop signs do not reduce traffic speeds except for immediately adjacent to the signs. Studies of stop signs installed to control speeds show speeds actually increase away from the stop sign. Motorists tend to over-accelerate when leaving a stop they feel was unnecessary (whether it be a stop sign, congestion, or a long red light). Some even try to make up what they perceive as lost time.

### Safety

The purpose of a stop sign is to assign right-of-way at an intersection. If traffic is heavy and control is needed, stop signs can be safety devices. At other locations they may be subject to frequent violations, and crash rates may actually increase. If pedestrians or motorists rely on the other motorist stopping, but the other motorist has seldom encountered a reason to fully stop, crashes can result. Thus, a stop sign used in the wrong location can be a hazard.

A national study showed that when not required to stop because of cross traffic, 5% to 20% of all drivers will come to a complete stop, 40% to 60% will come to a rolling stop (below 5 mph), and 20% to 40% will pass through at a higher speed.

### LOCATION GUIDELINES

Federal and state sign manuals have guidelines and warrants for stop sign installation based on studies and experience. These guidelines include assignment of right-of-way to major roads at intersections (Winnetka Ave, Douglas Dr) or when volumes on all approaches reach certain levels. Installing a stop sign at a location that fails to meet the guidelines creates safety and legal concerns. Questions? Contact City Engineer Jeff Oliver at 763-593-8030. 



# Plan To Make And Review Plans During Home Fix-Ups

Warm weather, swooping birds, and graduations signal the start of summer. For Golden Valley's Inspections Department, it's also the kick-off to the home improvement season, and there are several requirements the City wants you to know about.

You may have had home improvement ideas in your head for months, even years, but those ideas need to be put down on paper, reviewed by the City, and approved before work can commence. The reason is simple, and Golden Valley Building Official Gary Johnson says it well: "It's a lot easier to tell someone to erase a line than it is to tell them to rebuild it."

Since every home improvement is unique, this article won't address specifics. Instead it will cover the one large distinction in home improvement projects—those that change the house's footprint and those that don't.

## ENLARGING THE HOUSE FOOTPRINT

A house footprint is the actual space that a house takes up on the ground. If a project makes a house's footprint larger (addition, porch, deck, etc), the owner has two options (one of which must accompany the improvement plan before the City can issue a building permit): either locate the property corner stakes or provide an as-built survey. This survey identifies property boundaries and the structures on it, and it's used to ensure that people build on their own property and to enforce zoning codes (see zoning article on page 2).

If you know or suspect you need a survey, check with Inspections (763-593-8090) first to see if there is an as-built survey on file. Johnson estimates about a third of the houses in Golden Valley have a survey on file with the City. Without a survey on file, homeowners have two more options: locate the corner property stakes themselves or hire a licensed surveyor to do it and provide a certified survey. Either way, residents will need to make an appointment for an inspector to verify setbacks for the project before a permit can be issued.

## WHEN THE FOOTPRINT'S UNCHANGED

While improvements that don't change a house's footprint escape the as-built survey requirement, many home improvement projects still require a project plan and a plan review before a building permit can be issued. See box at right for more information on building permits.

Work that requires a project plan and review includes, but is not limited to, construction/remodeling valued at \$500 or more, sheds larger than 120 square feet, in-ground swimming pools and above-ground swimming pools with more than 5,000 gallon capacity, underground sprinkler systems in the City right-of way (ROW), driveways (in ROW), curb cuts, or boulevard work, and all grading and excavation.

When in doubt about the plan or permit requirements for your project, first visit the City Web site ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/yourhome/improve.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/yourhome/improve.htm)). If all your questions aren't answered, give Inspections a call (763-593-8090). The experienced staff will be happy to answer any questions you have about City requirements and provide advice to make your project as smooth as possible. 

## Good FENCES, Good NEIGHBORS

The Golden Valley City Council recently updated the City's fence ordinance. Here are some highlights:

- Property lines must be properly determined before fence installation, and all berms, screening, and fences (including footings) must be entirely on the fence owner's property.
- The fence's finished side (without primary structural supports) must face outward from the property.
- Fences must be kept in good repair or risk being removed by the City at the property owner's expense.
- In residential areas, front yard fences can't be more than four feet high and side and rear yard fences can't be more than six feet high. Fences in all other zoning districts are limited to eight feet in height.

For more information on fences, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/yourhome/fences.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/yourhome/fences.htm). The complete City Code is available on the City Web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/index.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/index.htm).

## Building PERMITS

Building permits are required for any new building, remodeling, repairs, or additions done on houses, garages, pools, sheds, decks, or porches, re-siding, re-roofing, or work done on drain tiles. Some projects require permits for tree preservation or grading, drainage, and erosion control that must be obtained before the City will issue a building permit.

To get a building permit, the City's Inspections Department requires several documents:

### NEW CONSTRUCTION OR AddITIONS

- two sets of plans showing window sizes, room sizes, ceiling heights, doors, exits, and stairways (minimum scale: 1/4 inch = 1 foot)
- one surveyor's certificate signed by a Minnesota licensed surveyor (building must be shown on survey)
- exterior envelope energy calculations (forms available from Inspections Department)
- roof truss design signed by a Minnesota engineer or size, grade, and species of lumber if hand-framed
- soil test results

### REMODELING, ALTERATIONS, OR REPAIRS

- two sets of plans showing window sizes, room sizes, ceiling heights, doors, exits, and stairways (minimum scale: 1/4 inch = 1 foot)

# LET *ENVISION* Hook You Up

"Golden Valley resident seeks same to share long bike rides, walks, and ideas about local trail systems."

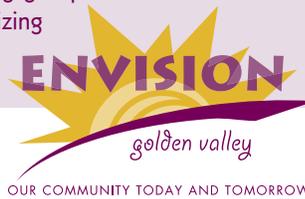
In today's busy world, it's not always easy to connect with people in the community who share similar interests and goals. But what if it could be?

The *Envision* Connection Project (see article at right) aims to forge new relationships between people and groups in Golden Valley that will benefit the community at large.

You can help. Take the Connection survey at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/EnvisionGVConnectionProject.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/EnvisionGVConnectionProject.htm) and share information about your interests, group, or project. Questions? Call 763-593-8014.

## Connection PRINCIPLES

- help citizens do things for themselves that benefit the larger community
- encourage participation by individuals and groups
- emphasize citizen-conceived and -run initiatives
- create conditions that encourage people to try out new ideas
- use existing groups and structures for self-organizing



# Connection Project Seeks To Link Community

Where is everyone? As communities look for ways to be vital and healthy in the future, the challenge will be bringing people together. This requires a framework that supports community connectedness and builds relationships. A framework that involves citizens in the activities they are passionate about. A framework like the *Envision* Connection Project.

The *Envision* Connection Project is intended to inspire citizens and empower creative participation in building a better Golden Valley. It grew out of *Envision Golden Valley*, a city-wide process that gathered thousands of ideas and opinions from citizens about the kind of community they wanted Golden Valley to be. The Connection Project offers a way for people to get involved by finding other individuals or groups in the community that share their interests.

Start with the Connection survey (see sidebar), or check out the Connection Project blog at <http://envisiiongv.blogspot.com>. For more information about the *Envision* Connection Project, call Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014. Detailed information about *Envision Golden Valley* is available at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

[www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us)

[www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us)



763-593-8000

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