

Golden Valley 2006

CityNEWS

Community Involvement Starts At Home

Community. The word evokes a sense of nostalgia—of small towns in times past where everyone knew your name. Judging by the results of *Envision Golden Valley*, the concept is still important today. *Envision* volunteers selected community engagement as one of six categories for citizen brainstorming, and the final *Envision* Report identifies hundreds of ways modern day Golden Valleyans want to be involved (see report at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/Envision.htm).

To keep citizens involved in moving the vision forward, *Envision* volunteers worked with the City Council to start the *Envision* Connection Project, whose members met over the past year to study how to:

- help citizens do things for themselves that benefit the larger community
- emphasize citizen-conceived and -run initiatives, with the City as facilitator if needed
- create conditions that encourage people to try out new ideas within realistic legal and financial constraints
- think big and start small, and favor projects that focus or connect existing community energy rather than diluting it or diverting in new directions



The Connection Project Board came up with some new methods to engage citizens and advance the community vision (see page 7), but there are also many other ways for people to become involved in their community.

City Boards and Commissions

Each year the City Council seeks citizens interested in becoming more active in their city

(COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)



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

Friday, May 19
6-10 pm
Brookview Park Pavilion

Saturday, May 20
10 am-10 pm
City Hall Campus

Friday's Golden Valley Chamber Orchestra concert is followed by fireworks. Food (by Brookview Grill) will be available for purchase at the park.

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. A street dance featuring High & Mighty starts at 7 pm.

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

For more information or to volunteer, 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 photo entries will be displayed at City Hall and on the City Web site. From June 12–23, 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/. Winners will be notified by July 6. 



2005 OVERALL GRAND PRIZE WINNER—
GOLDEN SKIES IN THE VALLEY by GARY WALTER

Zoom In On Views Of The Valley Photo Contest

For the past 13 years, enthusiastic Golden Valley residents have pointed cameras at community nature areas, parks, public spaces, and community spirit for the *Views of the Valley* Photo Contest. You can join them too by zooming in on the 2006 contest.

The contest shoots to promote Golden Valley and civic pride in a fun, entertaining, and educational way. Entries are judged on subject matter, composition, clarity, lighting, depth of field, artistry/drama, degree of difficulty, technical excellence, and overall impact. Creative photo titles earn points too. Photo entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and will not be returned.

Photographers and critics alike can both participate in the contest by voting for their favorite photo in the “People’s Choice” award category. View the photo entries online or at City Hall, and 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/.

Deadline is June 7, 2006, at 4:30 pm. 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. 

2006

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 entries.
- 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 7, 2006, 4:30 pm.**

Avoid The Property Maintenance Top 10

City staff takes about 40 property maintenance complaints each month, and due to the age of Golden Valley's housing stock, that number is expected to escalate. In February 2005, the City Council adopted the Multiple Dwelling Maintenance Code to proactively address issues with housing of three or more units in the community. Currently the Council is looking to do the same for single-family homes and duplexes.

The goals of a City property maintenance code are to:

- encourage community pride
- ensure Golden Valley housing stock stays in good condition
- reduce property maintenance complaints to the City
- address and enforce property maintenance issues before they become complaints

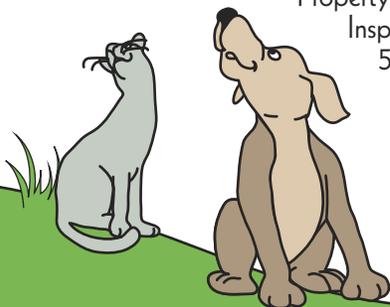
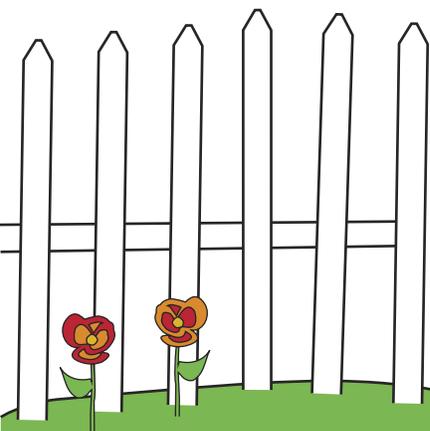


Residents can be proactive and responsible for their properties. Below is a list of the City's top 10 property maintenance complaints and how to avoid them.

1. **Roofs** and flashing must be sound and tight without defects that admit water. Roof drainage must be adequate enough to prevent dampness and deterioration.
2. **Gutters and downspouts** must be in good repair and free from obstructions. Roof water can not be discharged in any manner that creates a nuisance.
3. All **chimneys**, cooling towers, smoke stacks, and similar appurtenances must be structurally safe and sound. All exposed metal must be protected from the elements against rust.
4. **Windows, doors, and garage doors** must be intact and in good repair. Panes and all frames must be free from holes, cracks, peeling paint, and rotting.
5. **Exterior walls** (siding, paint, brick) must be free from peeling, holes, breaks, loose or rotting boards or timbers, falling or loose stucco or brick, and any other condition of damage or defect. Walls must be weatherproof.
6. The **foundation** must support the structure at all points, have no sign of deterioration or defect (such as open cracks or breaks), and not admit rodents or dampness.
7. **Exterior porches and decks** must be in sound condition and good repair with no signs of rotting, warping wood, or any other defects.
8. **Stairs** must be maintained in good repair, free from open cracks, holes, and crumbling materials, and not admit rodents or dampness. Railings and guardrails must be firmly fastened and maintained in good repair.
9. **Driveways and walkway areas** must be maintained in good repair, free from crumbling material, open cracks, and excessive weed growth.
10. **Fences** must be maintained as designed, free from missing or broken boards, decayed or rotted wood, and rust or corrosion.



Watch the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) and upcoming issues of *CityNews* for more information on Property Maintenance Standards. If you need specific information now, contact the City Property Maintenance Inspector at 763-593-8074.



CHECK YOUR PROPERTY VALUATION NOTICE

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 one tool used to calculate the following year's tax on the property.

Please review your property tax valuation notice closely. It gives you information like homestead status, classification of property, two years' estimated market value, two years' limited market value, and two years' taxable market value.

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 office hours at City Hall.

This year an Open Book Meeting will be held so property owners and the assessors can handle valuation and classification issues on a one-on-one basis.

The Open Book Meeting will be at Golden Valley City Hall April 25, 2006, from 4-7 pm. Hennepin County assessors would like you to call ahead so they can have your information ready for the review.

For more information about property valuation or the Open Book Meeting, contact the Hennepin County assessor at 763-593-8025.

If you need more information about your property, please check out the Hennepin County Web site at www2.co.hennepin.mn.us/pins/. It includes a variety of information about your property, including last year's property tax statement.



RECYCLING CENTER RE-OPENS

After undergoing a 7,500-square-foot expansion last year, the Hennepin County Recycling Center and Transfer Station (8100 Jefferson Highway, Brooklyn Park) has re-opened and is ready to accept many household hazardous wastes and problem materials free of charge.

Residents should be aware that all materials are now accepted, the Free Product Center is open but not stocked yet, and facility tours begin this summer. Hours are:

- Tues, Thurs, Fri: 10 am–6 pm
- Wed: 10 am–8 pm
- Sat: 8 am–5 pm
- Sun, Mon, and holidays: closed

To be assured service, arrive a half an hour before closing.

Questions? Call 612-348-3777 Mon–Fri, 8 am–4:30 pm, or visit www.hennepin.us (keyword search: Brooklyn Park Facility).

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
Memorial Day	Sat, June 3
Fourth of July	Sat, July 8
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 9
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 25
Christmas	Sat, Dec 30
New Year's	Sat, Jan 6

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.

Spring Brush Pick-Up Begins May 1

Attention homeowners! Beginning May 1 and continuing through May 19 (see schedule below), Golden Valley's popular annual Spring Brush Pick-Up gives you the opportunity to place tree limbs and brush at your curb 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 brush 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.
- Place brush and limbs on the boulevard 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, soil, 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.



DO NOT PUT YOUR BRUSH IN THE STREET.

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 west of Douglas Dr—**week of May 1**

Section 2—Entire area south of Hwy 55—**week of May 8**

Section 3—Entire area north of Hwy 55 and east of Douglas Dr—**week of May 15**

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.

Repelling Deer: Reasons And Tips

According to aerial surveys by the Three Rivers Park District (on behalf of the City of Golden Valley), the number of deer in Golden Valley has more than doubled in the last decade. This increase in numbers can add to traffic hazards, damage to gardens and ornamental vegetation (particularly vegetables and young trees), the potential risk of Lyme and other transmittable diseases, and damage to area ecosystems, some of which is irreparable.

Deer can also create community conflict between those who love deer and those who want them gone. In between are those who recognize, as the Humane Society of the United States recommends, that we must create a balance between human and deer populations.



DEER CAN CREATE COMMUNITY CONFLICT BETWEEN THOSE WHO LOVE THEM AND THOSE WHO WANT THEM GONE.

SEEKING A COMPROMISE

Currently, three basic methods are used to dissuade deer visits and strive for harmony between humans and deer: fencing or other physical barriers, chemical repellents, and resistant plants.

PHYSICAL BARRIERS

Deer-proof fencing is the most permanent method to keep deer out. Fence designs range from high-tensile strand wiring and mesh-woven wire to chain link (electric fencing is NOT allowed in Golden Valley). The most effective fence type depends on the specific needs of the property.

Plastic sleeves or wrapping have successfully protected young trees from deer. Most garden centers also carry two-inch wooden stakes that are four to five feet high which usually deter deer when placed around a tree.

Very small trees can be caged for protection until the lowest branches of the trees are higher than the deer can reach.

REPELLENTS

Contact repellents cause plants to taste bad; area repellents cause plants to smell bad. A Connecticut study found repellents more effective on less preferred plants (see below) and determined the effectiveness of several products, including:

- Big Game Repellent (Deer Away), made from rotten egg solids (46% effective)
- Hinder, from ammonium soaps of higher fatty acids (43% effective)
- Thiram, a bitter fungicide commonly used in repellents (43% effective)
- Mesh bags of unwashed human hair, collected from hair styling shops (34% effective)
- Magic Circle, bone tar oil soaked into burlap pieces (18% effective)
- Miller Hot Sauce, containing capsicum (15% effective)

DEER-RESISTANT PLANTS

Deer will eat any plant if food is scarce, but many native plants have evolved to deter or survive deer browsing. For information on specific plants on the deer's "least liked" list, visit the University of Minnesota Extension Service at www.extension.umn.edu/projects/yardandgarden/ygbriefs/h462deer-coping.html.

CITY PROHIBITS DEER FEEDING

In the interest of public health and safety (see article at left), it is against City ordinance to intentionally feed deer in Golden Valley. According to Section 10.34 of the City Code, this includes providing "salt licks and/or one half cubic foot or more of grain, fruit, vegetables, nuts, hay or other edible material either on the ground or at a height of less than five feet above the ground, in a manner that attracts deer." Living food sources, such as trees and other vegetation, are not considered deer feeding.

The ordinance does not apply to the employees or agents of the City, County, State, or Federal government or veterinarians who, in the course of their official duties, have deer in their custody or under their management. For more information about this ordinance, call the City at 763-593-8079.

Deer Task Force

A new City Council Task Force will begin meeting soon to study deer-related issues in Golden Valley, gather community input, and report results. Its primary goals include:

- making recommendations for acceptable numbers of deer and control options, if deemed necessary
- reviewing aerial deer surveys and deer vehicle accidents
- coordinating with the Department of Natural Resources and discussing potential joint efforts with neighboring communities
- reviewing educational materials

The Task Force will be comprised of members from the Environmental and Open Space and Recreation Commissions and four residents representing geographic areas of the community. Golden Valley's Director of Parks and Recreation and the Environmental Coordinator staff the meetings.

The Task Force will report its findings and recommendations to the City Council toward the end 2006. Watch future issues of *CityNews* and the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) for updates.

DEER FEEDING FACT
While feeding deer may seem humane, particularly in winter, it has two negative effects: it attracts more deer, and it reduces the deer's natural fear of humans. Both exacerbate the problems associated with increased numbers of deer.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Below are just a few programs offered by Golden Valley Park and Recreation. Check out complete listings in the Spring/Summer Recreation Activities Brochure (mailed to all homes in early March) or on the City Web site (see story at right).

BROOKVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

YOUTH ACTIVITIES—Kid's Club (ages 3–5), Mon/Wed or Tue/Thu • Music, Mom/Dad & Me (ages 2–3), Tue • Kid Smart (ages 5–12), Sat, May 6 • Drama Club (ages 8–14), Fri • Babysitting Course (ages 11–15) Sat, May 20 • Private Piano Lessons, Tue or Wed • Private Woodwinds, Mon

Adult Activities—Yoga & Pilates, Tue • Pilates, Mon • Beginning Belly Dancing, Thu • Intermediate Belly Dancing, Sat • Power Sort & Organize, Tue, Apr 11; Mon, Apr 24 • Simple Scrapbooking, Wed, Apr 26 • Women's Self Defense, Sat, May 6 • Personality/Behavior, Wed, May 10 • Scrapbooking, Wed, May 10 • Design Considerations for Outdoor Spaces, Tue, Apr 4 • Intro to Knitting, Tue • Adult Trip—Historic Summit Ave, Sat, Apr 22

DAVIS COMMUNITY CENTER

YOUTH ACTIVITIES—Indoor Nerf Soccer (ages 6–7), Thu • Hoopstars Basketball (grades K–1), Tue • Spring Break Youth Open Gym (ages 5–12) Mon–Fri, Apr 10–14, 9 am–4 pm • Family Gym Time, (all ages with adult), Sun, 1–3 pm • Shoot Some Buckets (ages 7+), Fri, 6–8 pm; Sun, 3–5 pm

Adult Activities—Pilates, Mon • Co-Rec Open Volleyball, Tue, 8–10 pm; Thu, 8–10 pm • Adult Open Basketball, Wed, 8–10 pm; Sat, 8–10 am • Over 40 Open Basketball, Mon, 8–10 pm

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

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

Take The Fast Lane To Fun With **GV RecConnect**

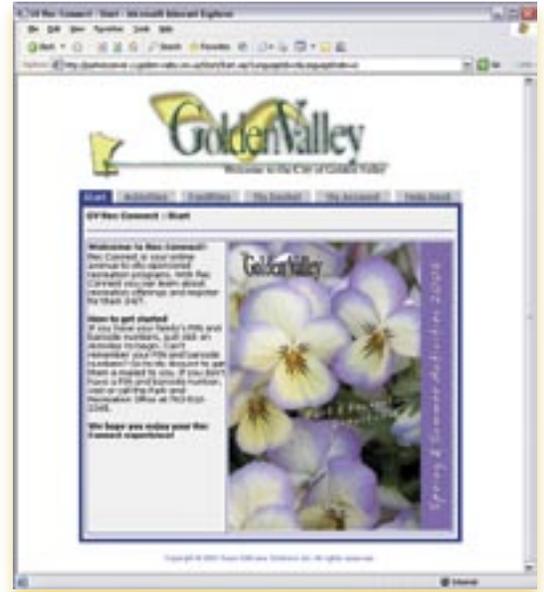
GV RecConnect, the Golden Valley Park and Recreation Department's online registration system, provides residents with fast, ready, 24/7 access to the City's extensive array of park and recreation programs.

Before going online, you'll need your family ID and PIN numbers (if you don't have these numbers, call the Park and Recreation Department at 763-512-2345) and your MasterCard or Visa credit card information.

To start the online registration process, go to the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/econnect/, click on **GV RecConnect** (bookmark this page for future use), and follow the instructions.

The fastest way to register is to use the activity code numbers listed in the Recreation Brochure or on the City Web site under "Park and Recreation Programs." Three times a year (Spring/Summer, Fall, and Winter), the City publishes an activities brochure that lists all of its recreational programs for that season. Seasonal selections are also posted online.

Browse the activities and make selections. **GV RecConnect** accepts registrations up to the first day of the activity or until it is full. The few activities not available for online registration are noted on the Web site.



AMPLE ONLINE OFFERINGS

Most programs are available for online registration. Those that aren't most often require a resident/non-resident fee, a lesson time, pick-up location, or that the child be a certain age (full birthdates for children must be in the system). If the system shows the child is not the proper age as of the registration date, even if he or she will be the proper age by the time the class starts, registration will be refused. Punch passes are not available for purchase on-line either.

Reasons To Use GV RecConnect

- * Saves time and money (no waiting in line or paying for postage/gas)
- * 24/7 registration
- * View class availability
- * Safe, secure site

SAFETY AND SECURITY GUARANTEED

GV RecConnect uses industry-standard Secured Socket Layer (SSL) security for information exchange, including credit card transactions. The site also uses a Verisign secure certificate to protect credit card transactions and personal data.

For more information about City Park and Recreation programs or online registration, call the Golden Valley Park and Recreation Department at 763-512-2345. Or better yet, visit online today at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/econnect/ to register for current Spring/Summer programs. 

Community Involvement

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

government by volunteering to serve on one of Golden Valley's Advisory Boards and Commissions.

Advisory Boards and Commissions recommend policy to the City Council and advise the Council on a variety of diverse issues. You must be a resident of Golden Valley to apply. Detailed information and applications are available on the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/boards.htm) or by calling 763-593-3991.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Golden Valley is an active community with a variety of events taking place throughout the year, and event organizers are always looking for volunteers. *Run the Valley* (see page 16) is a popular annual race/walk presented by the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) to raise funds for local human service organizations. To get involved, contact Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010 or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley.htm. The Golden Valley Human Rights Commission (HRC) schedules an annual *Families Sharing the Dream* event to promote diversity education. Contact Pat Butler at 763-593-8002.

The *Golden Valley Days* art and music festival (see sidebar on page 1) is presented by the Golden Valley Community Events Fund (GVCEF), a non-profit community foundation organized by an all-volunteer board of residents with financial support from local businesses. For more information or to get involved, contact Luke Weisberg (612-201-9130) or go to www.GoldenValleyFund.org.

ON YOUR OWN

In January the Connection Project Board presented its recommendations to the City Council, which approved the implementation of a new approach to citizen engagement.

Bridge Builders is a way for individuals or groups to connect with others in the community by sharing their own passion. It could involve mobilizing a neighborhood to engage in community works, or focus on biking, gardening, music, or (fill in your passion). Envision Golden Valley demonstrated that there are a multitude of talented and active community members who want to engage, and this is a way to tap into that energy to further the community vision.

Bridge Builders will work with the Board and other volunteers to become knowledgeable about Golden Valley and act as a Bridge—a resource who can be a reference, a liaison, and a connecting point for others who want to become involved. Bridge Builders' activities would be based on their individual interests and desired level of participation. Formal activities will include:

- a one-day training with other bridge builders, with quarterly updates thereafter
- organizing efforts around your passion with support of the Connection Project, including communications tools to help you link with like-minded people

To learn more, plan to attend an information meeting Thursday, April 20, 7 pm, at Meadowbrook School cafeteria or call Jeanne Andre (763-593-8014) daytime or Board Member Helene Johnson (763-546-1833) evenings.

Envision Connection Project
Bridge Builders Information Meeting
 Thursday, April 20, 7 pm
 Meadowbrook School cafeteria

SENIOR STUFF

Support your Seniors Program by paying your \$5 annual dues. Newsletters are mailed to members only. Non-members can pick them up at Brookview.

All activities are at Brookview Community Center and require advance registration unless otherwise noted.

Coffee Talk—April 26—"It's News To Me", Sue Webber, 9:30–11 am, \$2 at door

Wellness and You—May 4: "Something to Smile About," by Valley Dental Group," 1:30 pm, Dover Hills Midrise

Nutrition and You—May 9: "Healthy Menu Ideas, Food Preparation, and Shopping Tips to Keep Your Body in Balance With Diabetes," 10:30–11:30 am, \$1 at door

Pedal Pushers Kick-Off—May 9, 10 am. Help plan the 2006 bicycle group season and see slides of a bike ride through southern France. Includes refreshments. Donations accepted.

Defensive Driving—Four-hour refresher: May 13, 9 am–1 pm, \$16

Senior Golf League Kick-Off—May 18, 9 am. Golf historian Tom Cook (owner of Pat Ryan Golf) and Brookview Golf Manager Kris Tovson show how clubs, equipment, and the game evolved over the years and display golf memorabilia from the past century.

Upcoming Trips (register early)—April 25: Art of Russian Culture, May 12: St Paul historic homes, May 23–26: Spring Blossoms In Door County, June 7: New Ulm

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

For more information 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

Photo by Richard Gunderson, Views of the Valley 2004



Swing Into The Future: City To Study Park and Rec Facilities

They exist in nearly every community across the country, oases of green tailor-made for escape, relaxation, and fun. They are the scenes of picnics, family gatherings, and impromptu play dates. Tennis matches, pick-up basketball games, and baseball or soccer games. The hastily dropped bicycle as a child runs impetuously for the swings. And it's no coincidence that the term "a walk in the park" refers to something easy and enjoyable. Yup, parks are as much a part of Americana as Old Glory and apple pie.

Planning Ahead

Parks embody the American tradition of preserving public lands for all. They've been a vital part of Golden Valley since 1948, when the City acquired 26 acres of land and launched its park and recreation system. Throughout the following years, the City expanded, improved, and maintained that system, and citizens enjoyed a high level of park and recreation services. With a revised Comprehensive Plan (see box on page 9) due in 2008, the City Council is focusing this year on developing a vision for Golden Valley's park and recreation facilities. That means studying what's there now and getting community input to prioritize needs and desires in balance with current and projected resources.

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association, parks increase property values, raise the tax base, increase local and regional revenue, and make communities livable and desirable.

Because long-term planning requires an understanding of all the elements involved, the City and its residents must consider the following major issues as they plan for the future of Golden Valley's park and recreation system.

Changing Demographics and Use of Aging Facilities Golden Valley's demographics have changed in the past 40 or 50 years, and the parks have changed as well. The question is, do today's facilities meet the needs of today's community, and what will meet future needs?

A look at a few Golden Valley amenities gives an overview of the issues. Brookview Community Center has served the community well for many years.

Currently it requires a new roof and other maintenance. However, since it's often inadequate for meetings, clubs, and popular programs, such as yoga and pilates, does sprucing up suffice or should the City consider replacing the entire facility? And what of Golden Valley's many tennis courts? Courts must be maintained whether they are used or not. Perhaps baseball, lacrosse, soccer, or skateboarding needs should take precedence. Facilities that see heavy use, such as soccer fields and ice hockey rinks, require increased maintenance. How will those needs be met in times of increasingly limited resources?

Limited Land and Increasing Environmental Awareness and Mandates Parks provide vital green space and preserve wildlife habitat, but in fully developed communities like Golden Valley, land for new facilities is at a premium. Factor in requirements for adequate parking, accessibility issues, and environmental standards, and costs increase considerably. How can the City expand or change facilities to meet future needs in light of these challenges?

Expansion and Finite Resources Most City capital improvement projects include plans and financing for sustainability. But sometimes expansion of public facilities is enabled by

private donations, and few such donations are accompanied by endowments for perpetual maintenance. So the City gets a new park facility, but it also shoulders the cost of additional maintenance without increased financial resources. How can the City plan to deal with potential future windfalls and their associated costs?

Expansion aside, the City must continually balance other needs, such as maintaining and improving aging infrastructure (streets, utilities, etc), with requests for new services. How can the City best maintain its high standards for livability and provide improved services when funding sources are shrinking?

Cooperative Agreements and Non-City Facilities

No discussion would be complete without considering the many successful collaborative programs the City has developed with other organizations to provide high-quality recreation opportunities to its residents. There are trails and ball fields (see *Non-City Owned Facilities* below), the Davis Community Center gymnasium at Meadowbrook School, the 3rd Lair Skate Park partnership, and the golf/pool exchange program with the City of St Louis Park, to name a few. Should the City pursue more of these partnerships? If so, what kinds? What would it cost the City in

terms of maintenance or staff time?

The Cost of Doing Nothing Equally important is considering the cost of doing nothing. What would be the true cost of reducing maintenance, continuously delaying improvements to facilities, or failing to plan for future needs? What level of service does the community really want when it comes to its park and recreation system?

It Takes All To Play

One way to find out is to ask. The City is preparing a public input process with the goal of involving as many citizens as possible in planning for the future of its park and recreation facilities. A City-wide phone survey later this year will include several focused questions, and other citizen engagement activities will be aimed at various sectors of the community. The City Council has also asked the Open Space And Recreation Commission (OSRC) to hold some open forums at area parks to garner public input and to survey area youth organizations about facilities and future needs.

Watch future issues of *CityNews* and the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) for details about citizen participation activities regarding the park and recreation facilities planning process. If you have questions, contact the Park and Recreation Department at 763-512-2345.

Comprehensive Plan

Every metro City has a Comprehensive Plan to provide a blueprint for long-term land use, with chapters on Land Use, Transportation, Waste Water, Water Supply, Storm Water Management, Housing, and Park and Recreation. State law requires Cities to revise these plans every 10 years for adoption by their City Councils. Copies can be viewed at City Hall and at the Golden Valley Library.

City Parks & Nature Areas

Golden Valley has more than 1,035 acres (about 15% of total land) dedicated to parks and open space. The City maintains this space as either neighborhood parks, community parks, or nature areas.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are intended to serve those who live nearby. Most include trails, a playground, and a hard surface playing area.

Glenview Terrace (Zenith and Manor Dr): 5 acres;
Golden Oaks (Valders and Plymouth): 2 acres;

Natchez (Natchez Ave N and Loring Ln): 6 acres; **North Tyrol** (Ravine Tr and Sunset Ridge): 9 acres; **St Croix** (St Croix Ave between Brunswick Ave N and Hwy 100): 1 acre; **Seeman** (Florida Ave and Phoenix St): 4.7 acres; **South Tyrol** (Alpine Pass and Kaltern Ln): 2.9 acres; **Stockman** (Adell and Major): 1.3 acres; **Wildwood** (Duluth and Pennsylvania): 5 acres; **Yosemite** (Woodstock Ave and Yosemite Ave N): 1.2 acres

Community Parks

Community parks serve a larger area. They are often, but not always, larger than neighborhood parks and usually include trails, a playground, shelters with rest rooms, grills, ball fields, and one or more hard surface playing areas (basketball, tennis, etc). Some have soccer fields and skating rinks.

Brookview (Winnetka and Brookview Pkwy): 33 acres; **Gearty** (Lowry Terr and Regent Ave N): 4.7 acres; **Hampshire** (Olympia and Louisiana): 11 acres; **Lakeview** (Olympia and Hillsboro): 5 acres; **Lions** (Harold and Louisiana): 20 acres; **Medley** (Ensign and 23rd Ave): 11 acres; **Schaper** (Schaper Rd and Ottawa Ave N): 14 acres; **Scheid** (Duluth and Toledo): 11.5 acres; **Wesley** (north and south of Plymouth at Wesley and Orkla): 19 acres

Special Use

Honeywell Little League Field (Sandburg Rd): 11 acres; **Sweeney Lake** (Hidden Lakes Pkwy): dock, small canoe launch

Nature Areas

The City of Golden Valley maintains 46.97 miles of trails and sidewalks. All are on City property except the trails at the James Ford Bell Research Center.

Bassett Creek (2130 Zane Ave): 7.6 acres; **Briarwood Bird Sanctuary** (2500 Unity): 19 acres; **General Mills Nature Area** (General Mills Blvd to Betty Crocker Dr): 29 acres; **Laurel Ave Greenbelt** (Laurel Ave between Pennsylvania and Colorado Aves): 34.5 acres; **Mary Hills** (Golden Valley Rd and Bonnie Lane): 14.2 acres; **Pennsylvania Woods** (23rd and Rhode Island): 22.6 acres; **Rice Lake** (4120 Bassett Creek Dr): 9.3 acres; **Western Ave Marsh** (Western and Winnetka): 21 acres

Non-City Owned Facilities

Through collaborative agreements, the following facilities are not owned by the City but are maintained by the City for public use.

James Ford Bell Research Center Trail (Duluth St west of Aquila): 57 acres and three miles of trails; **Perpich Arts High School Soccer Field** (6125 Olson Memorial Hwy): 1.5 acres; **Sandburg Ball Fields** (2400 Sandburg Ln): 20 acres



Photo by Ellen G. Anderson, Views of the Valley 1994

Poop Problem Picks Up In WARM WEATHER

While pet poop by any name would smell the same, there aren't nearly as many names for the substance as there are unwanted piles in public areas.

Judging by the phone calls to City Hall, Golden Valley residents are not only seeing poop but stepping in it as well—in City parks, on sidewalks, and especially on walking trails.

Golden Valley City ordinance requires pet owners to pick up each and every package their pet puts out and dispose of it properly. So the responsibility for this problem is not lost in the muck, here's the official scoop:

"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)."

Cleaning up after your pet is just plain good community relations. 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. If you have questions about City pet ordinances, contact the Police Department at 763-593-8079.

Photo by Lisa Powerud, Views of the Valley 2005



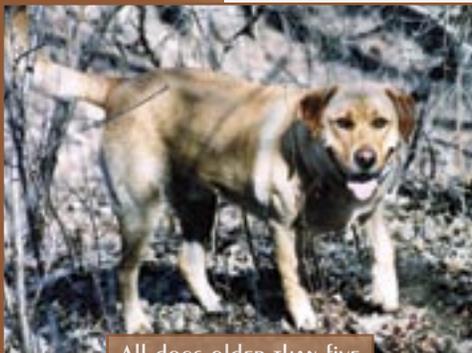
IN public, dogs MUST BE RESTRAINED BY A LEASH NO LONGER THAN SIX FEET.

Photo by Mary Lou Adams Meyer, Views of the Valley 2001



CITY ORDINANCE ALLOWS UP TO THREE CATS AND THREE DOGS PER RESIDENCE.

Photo by Sandra Pofel, Views of the Valley 2005



ALL dogs older than FIVE MONTHS MUST BE LICENSED.

Make Your Pet A Good Neighbor, Too

According to a 2003-04 national survey by the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, Americans own about 65 million dogs and about 77.6 million cats. In Golden Valley alone, residents licensed 595 dogs in 2005. With this population, it is understandable that people could develop issues about their non-human neighbors.

Golden Valley's animal ordinance is intended to provide residents with information to help them be good neighbors in regard to pet ownership behaviors. See the sidebar for information about cleaning up after pets

Types of PETS Allowed

A pet in Golden Valley is defined as a dog, cat, gerbil, hamster, or caged household bird. All other animals are prohibited.

NUMBER of PETS Allowed

Residents are prohibited from keeping more than three dogs and three cats in one residence. However, residents may keep one litter of pups or kittens in excess of that number until the animals are 90 days old.

LICENSING

All dogs older than five months must be licensed, and the license tag must be secured to the dog's collar. Licenses may be obtained from the Police Department and must be renewed by the end of each year. Owners must present proof of rabies vaccination.

LEASHING

Dogs off the owner's property must be restrained by a leash no longer than six feet. Dogs restrained by an owner's voice commands as effectively as a leash are exempt from the leash rule, but all dogs must be leashed at all times in public parks.

BARKING DOGS

Noise accounts for one of the biggest issues people have with pets. It is unlawful for anyone to keep dogs or cats that bark, howl, and/or meow excessively or continuously. This includes any noise by a dog or cat that can be heard outside where the animal is kept, occurring repeatedly over at least a five-minute period, with a 30-second or less lapse of time between each noise.

PETS RUNNING AT LARGE

Dogs or cats not on the owner's property or under the owner's control are considered at large and can be picked up by public safety officials.

For more information on Golden Valley's pet ordinance, visit the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/yourhome/pets.htm. To license a canine friend, contact the Police Department at 763-593-8079.

Pet-Wise Tip

If you have issues with the behavior of someone's pet, don't take it out on the pet. The best solution is to approach the owner. If you are uncomfortable with that, you can call the Golden Valley Police Department for assistance.

Value Your Life: Don't Underestimate Fire

Minnesota's January may have been mild in terms of temperatures, but it was harsh in terms of fire fatalities. According to statistics released by the State Fire Marshal, Minnesota had 11 fire fatalities by February 1, 2006, a number that wasn't reached in 2005 until June 30. Across the state, fire has taken lives in Maplewood, Inver Grove Heights, St Cloud, Pequot Lakes, Jordan, Burnsville, and St Paul.

The cause of most of these fires is yet unknown, but State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl says the numbers reveal that the public isn't taking fire prevention seriously enough. "Almost every fire death is preventable. All this grief and loss can be avoided with knowledge and planning, but people have to believe it can happen to them."

For years, the Golden Valley Fire Department has promoted fire prevention as the best course of action against fire injury and death. And smoke alarms can make the difference between survival and death (see box below). The key is not to underestimate fire or its potential. The State Fire Marshal's Web site (www.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal/fmarshal.html) lists key fire facts everyone should be aware of.

FIRE IS FAST—In less than 30 seconds a small flame can become a major fire. In minutes, thick smoke can fill a house, and the house can be engulfed in flames. Most residential fires occur when people are asleep.

FIRE IS HOT—Heat is more threatening than flames. A fire's heat alone can kill. Room temperatures in a fire can be 600 degrees at eye level.

FIRE IS DARK—Fire isn't bright, it's pitch black. Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness.

FIRE IS DEADLY—Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. Fire uses up the oxygen you need and produces poisonous gases that kill.

PREVENTING FIRES AT HOME

"In Golden Valley, 2006 has started out as one of the worst fire years in a decade," says Fire Education Specialist Sarah Larson. She hopes that understanding the danger involved will motivate residents to take more proactive steps toward fire prevention. Here are some basic fire prevention tips.

- 🔥 Don't smoke in bed.
- 🔥 Don't let children play with matches or lighters.
- 🔥 Don't use extension cords or overload circuits. Use power strips with surge protectors instead.
- 🔥 Don't replace faulty home electrical wiring unless you are qualified. Hire professionals.
- 🔥 Don't store flammable liquids in your home. If you must store them, store them outside in an approved container.
- 🔥 Don't clutter your home with combustible materials, especially around your hot water heater and furnace.
- 🔥 Always have the lid out to cover the pan if a fire should start.
- 🔥 Keep your exhaust system for your stove free from grease build-up.
- 🔥 Always use a fire screen at your fireplace and have chimneys cleaned and inspected once a year for cracks, crumbling bricks, and any obstructions.

"Remember, one of the most important things to do is call 911 as soon as you have any indication there might be a fire," adds Larson.

For more tips, visit the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/firedeptresidentialafety.htm. If you have questions, contact Fire Education Specialist Sarah Larson at 763-593-3977. 🌿

Bike Rodeo Is May 3

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



WEDNESDAY, MAY 3
6–8 PM
New Hope City Hall
4401 Xylon Ave N

Enjoy special treats and register to win 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, Erik's Bike Shop, and McDonald's of Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, and New Hope.

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

Smoke ALARMS

- 🔊 Buy and install smoke alarms to alert you to a fire in time for you to escape.
- 🔊 Place smoke alarms in central locations on every level of your home, in every bedroom, and in the hall outside your bedrooms.
- 🔊 Don't place a smoke alarm too close to the kitchen. Cooking can trigger a false alarm.
- 🔊 Change batteries in your smoke alarms when you change your clocks in spring and fall.
- 🔊 Do not paint your smoke alarm (it renders it useless).
- 🔊 Vacuum your smoke alarms once a month to keep them clear of dust and cobwebs and to ensure their sensitivity.

CITY CODE REQUIRES LAWN MAINTENANCE

Golden Valley's lawn maintenance ordinance bans noxious weeds and requires turf lawns to be maintained at eight-inches or less. Last March the City Council updated the lawn maintenance section of the City Code 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 City sends letters via regular US mail to notify those in violation of the lawn maintenance 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." For more information, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.

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).

Clean Streets Are A Collaborative Effort

As winter fades and snow melts, many folks take a look at what the newly barren ground reveals. Since this is often not all that attractive, minds tend to turn toward cleaning up the soggy leaves, broken or pruned branches, and other yard waste. City street crews face a number of duties, including spring street sweeping to round up the sand and salt dumped on the street over the winter.

Weather permitting, street sweeping usually begins around mid-March, with priority given to "bulk sweeping" major intersections, hilly areas, and high traffic roads, where large amounts of sand and salt were distributed over the winter. Crews also focus on areas near Bassett Creek, lakes, and ponds to minimize the amount of sand entering these outlets. After this is completed, crews move into neighborhoods.

If the weather and residents cooperate, bulk and curb-to-curb sweeping is done by May 1 (streets are swept again in the summer and fall—see schedule below). While no one yet controls the weather, residents can do their part in the street cleaning effort by keeping yard waste out of the streets.



STREET SWEEPING BENEFITS LOCAL WATERWAYS.

KEEP YARD WASTE OUT OF STREETS

City programs like the *Spring Brush Pick-Up* (see page 4) provide good service and ensure that yard waste does not end up, intentionally or inadvertently, in the street. Not only does yard waste slow down City efforts to sweep streets of sand and salt, it can be harmful to area surface waters. Besides being unsightly, debris in City streets picks up and carries pollutants (soil, pet waste, oil, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and litter) into the storm water system and area surface waters, such as Bassett Creek.

For more information about street maintenance, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030. For details about the annual Spring Brush Pick-up, see page 4.

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 I leads off the rotation, followed by Sections IV, III, and II.

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

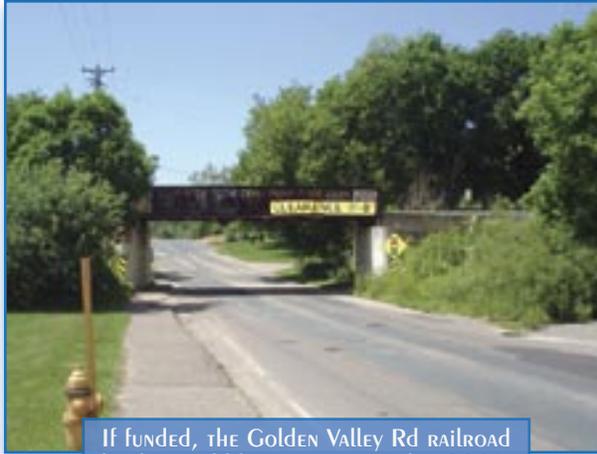
Section III boundaries: Hwy 100, north City limit, east City limit, Hwy 55

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

City Seeks State Funding For Bridge Replacement

The City of Golden Valley is working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to obtain state funding to replace the Canadian Pacific Railroad bridge at Golden Valley Rd between Douglas Dr and Hwy 100. If the legislature approves the Transportation Bonding Bill at a level commensurate with the needs documented by the MnDOT Office of State Aid, projects such as the Golden Valley Rd bridge could be funded and built during the 2006 construction season.

The 80-year-old Golden Valley Rd bridge has long been a public safety hazard. Because of its low vertical clearance it is frequently hit by trucks, and MnDOT inspectors have given it a structural deficiency rating of zero on a scale of zero to 100 (with zero representing the most deficient). In 2005, the City Council asked to place the project on the Governor's 2005 Capital Budget—Local Bridge Replacement Grants.



If funded, the Golden Valley Rd railroad bridge could be reconstructed in 2006.

Construction plans for the bridge have been prepared by the City of Golden Valley and approved by the MnDOT Office of Municipal State Aid, and the project ranks high on a list of eligible MnDOT projects. The project was eligible for funding in 2005, but program needs outweighed the legislature's funding allocation.

Bonding Bill funding at \$25 million would most likely cover the project; however, MnDOT has acknowledged \$100 million in funding needs for other pressing projects, some of which are in Hennepin County. Watch for updates in future editions of *CityNews*.

If you have questions about this project, contact Golden Valley Public Works Director Jeannine Clancy at 763-593-8030 or Public Works Project Coordinator Ron Nims at 763-593-8032.

SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

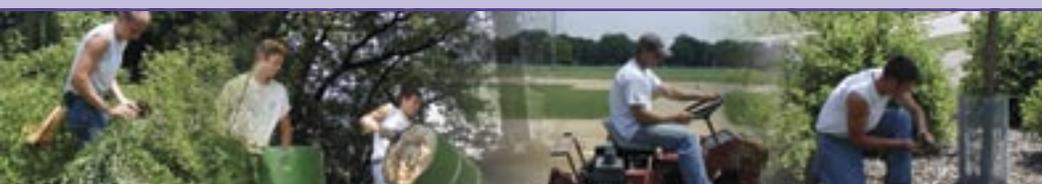
NEEDED

The City of Golden Valley is hiring seasonal employees in the following areas:

- Public Works Maintenance (Streets, Parks, Utilities)
- Golf Maintenance

Some positions become available around mid-April with some lasting through mid-October. Most positions are needed from mid-May through the end of August.

For more information and application forms, go to the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/employment.htm or call 763-593-8002.



2006 PMP SET TO START

Golden Valley's 2006 Pavement Management Program (PMP) project consists of approximately 5.1 miles of local streets in the area west of Sweeney Lake, east of Hwy 100, south of Duluth St, and north of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. At its February 21, 2006 meeting, the City Council authorized construction of the 2006 PMP and directed staff to prepare final plans and specifications.

Streets in the project area will be completely reconstructed to City standards, including concrete curb and gutter. In addition, the sanitary sewer system within the project area needs a significant number of repairs. These repairs will help limit the amount of ground water infiltrating the sewer system and minimize the need to excavate the new streets for future repairs.

A significant amount of storm sewer will also be constructed within the project area. This includes pipe extension to provide adequate drainage following rain and during snow melt, and measures to help protect the water quality in Sweeney Lake. A series of "environmental manholes" will help remove trash and sediment, as well as the pollutants that attach to the sediment, from storm water flow before it reaches the lake. It is a lot easier to take these materials out of a manhole on the street than out of the lake.

Another part of the project involves constructing a sidewalk on the north side of Golden Valley Rd from Regent Ave to Lilac Dr (east frontage road) and on the one-block portion of Regent Ave south of Duluth St. This sidewalk will provide safer access to Scheid Park and will connect to the Three Rivers Park District Regional Trail (scheduled for future construction along the railroad tracks south of the project).

The 2006 PMP project is scheduled to be under construction in late April or early May, with completion of work anticipated by fall. If you have questions about the 2006 PMP, contact City Engineer Jeff Oliver at 763-593-8030.

WRENCH OUT BUCKTHORN

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), buckthorn is bad. It out-competes native plants, degrades wildlife habitat, threatens the forests, wetlands, prairies, and other natural habitats, contributes to erosion, serves as host to other pests, and lacks "natural controls" like insects or disease to curb its growth.

In Golden Valley and across the metro region, residents and cities are coming together to fight buckthorn. Along with mulching to suppress growth, stump-cutting older buckthorn, hand-pulling small infestations, and spraying, residents may want to consider using buckthorn removal wrenches.

Buckthorn wrenches work well:

- when buckthorn plants are 2½ inches in diameter or less
- in areas where leaving stumps may cause a hazard
- where the use of chemicals may be an issue

Wrenches are not recommended if:

- the soil is too hard
- the tap root is imbedded in bedrock
- the roots are tangled with those of a neighboring plant
- buckthorn is on a hillside or near shorelines where erosion may be an issue
- there is a large area of buckthorn to be removed

If you determine a buckthorn wrench will do the job, the City has several to loan out. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis and is dependent on the City's need for the tools. A deposit is required. For more information, call the Assistant City Forester at 763-593-3976.

Wrenches can also be rented at area hardware stores or rental centers.

Loaned, owned, or rented, be sure to follow the manufacturers instructions for safe use and care.

For more information on buckthorn, visit the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/Buckthorn.htm.

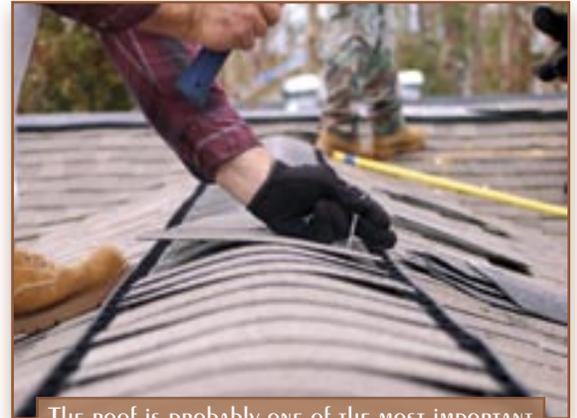
Review Roof Replacement Options And Requirements

The roof is probably one of the most important weatherproofing elements in your home. If your roof is 20 years old or older, has cracks, curled or cupped shingles, worn mineral coatings, exposed nails, previous patches, holes, exposed underlayment or sheathing, or if it leaks (and not simply from the flashing), chances are you may need a new one.

TWO APPROACHES TO ROOF REPLACEMENT

Generally speaking, there are two different types of roof replacement—total and partial. Here's an abbreviated explanation of both.

- A **tear-off roof replacement** occurs when existing shingles, underlayment, and flashing are completely removed and a new roof is installed.
- An **overlay roof replacement** occurs when a second layer of asphalt shingles is placed on top of the existing shingles (for a total of no more than two layers of shingles). If the existing roof surface is warped, curled, or badly weathered so it cannot provide a level surface or if the roof structure cannot support the additional load, the existing roofing must be removed. Some shingle manufacturers may not allow an overlay.



THE ROOF IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WEATHERPROOFING ELEMENTS IN YOUR HOME.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

ICE PROTECTION—All roofs require an ice protection membrane that has at least two layers of 15# felt underlayment cemented together or a self-adhering polymer modified bitumen sheet. This membrane is known by a variety of generic and trade names, such as ice protection underlayment, self-adhered membrane, self-adhering modified bitumen sheet material, WeatherLock®, Ice & Water Shield®, etc. Ice protection membrane, or its code approved equivalent, must be installed according to manufacturer's instructions.

EXHAUST FANS—Exhaust vents must be installed the same as other attic vents and vent pipe flashings. Take care to ensure that kitchen and bathroom exhaust fan ducts are connected to the appropriate dampered exhaust roof cap with no openings into the attic that would allow exhaust air back into the attic space.

When re-roofing around furnace flues, be careful not to dislodge the joints of the flue pipe within the attic or interior chases this pipe might pass through. If in doubt, consult a licensed heating contractor.

ROOF AND SOFFIT VENTS—Additional roof and soffit vents must be installed if necessary. For details, consult the City's Residential Roofing Information Sheet (see below).

For more information on roof replacement, contact Golden Valley Inspections at 763-593-8090 or pick up the Residential Roofing Information Sheet available at City Hall (7800 Golden Valley Rd) or online at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/yourhome/improve.htm.

Inspections Musts

Post the inspection report card on the job site until the final inspection is completed.

Notify Inspections when the ice protection membrane is ready for inspection.

Schedule a final inspection at least 24 hours in advance (please have your permit number available).

Help Control Speeding On Residential Streets

“What can I do about speeding traffic on my street?”

This complaint is heard several times a year from residents in Golden Valley, and it is usually followed by a request for the City to lower speed limits, put up signs, or increase enforcement in the neighborhood. Everyone wants their neighborhood to be safe, but in reality, what should residents expect regarding traffic speeds on residential streets?

SPEED LIMITS

Minnesota state law establishes a 30-mile-per-hour (mph) maximum speed limit on streets in urban districts. Virtually all streets in Golden Valley qualify as an urban district. Speed limits other than 30 mph in urban areas are set by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), not cities. Cities have very limited authority (for example, in school zones) to reduce speed limits.

Studies have repeatedly shown there is little change in actual speeds after a lower speed limit is posted. If speeding is a legitimate concern on the street, lowering the speed limit generally will not reduce speeds or crash frequency. An unrealistically low posted speed limit can actually create a higher speed variance between motorists.

TRAFFIC CALMING

The speed motorists choose to drive is influenced by the environment around the roadway more than by the posted speed limits. Many cities use a combination of speed limit signs and traffic calming techniques to control traffic. Traffic calming incorporates design elements that change the feel of a roadway and cause motorists to slow down. Examples include narrower roadways, concrete or landscaped medians, and strategically placed vegetation. It is essential that properly designed and installed traffic calming devices be placed in the right locations if they are to have any positive impact on reducing vehicle speeds.

The City of Golden Valley has used traffic calming to help control traffic speed in a number of areas, including Xenia Ave between Laurel Ave and Golden Valley Rd, Laurel Ave between Pennsylvania Ave and Winnetka Ave S, and Winnetka Ave S between the I-394 frontage road and Hwy 55.

ENFORCEMENT

Many motorists will drive at safe and reasonable speeds, varying their speed little even if speed limit signs are not posted. On residential streets, traffic often appears to be traveling faster than it actually is. Sometimes one or two vehicles traveling at a higher speed will trigger the complaint. In these cases, reporting the identity or license plate number of the offending vehicle to the police department may alter the driver's speed awareness.

In residential areas where speed has been identified as a problem, the Golden Valley Police Department will deploy a speed trailer to educate motorists and raise awareness. The speed trailer displays the speed of approaching vehicles. When the speed trailer has been removed, police officers follow up with targeted enforcement efforts.

For more information about speed limits, contact the City of Golden Valley (763-593-8030) for a copy of its speed limit brochure. If you have concerns about speeds on state highways, contact the MnDOT District Office in Roseville at 651-582-1000. For concerns on other streets, contact the Golden Valley Public Works Department at 763-593-8030. 

MINNESOTA JOINS SPEED INITIATIVE

When it comes to following the speed limit on state or interstate highways, most motorists believe there is significant tolerance before they would get a ticket. For example, many Minnesota interstate highways and freeways are posted at 65

or 70 miles per hour (mph) in rural areas, but urban areas are posted at 55 mph. Violations of the 55 mph limit are frequent.

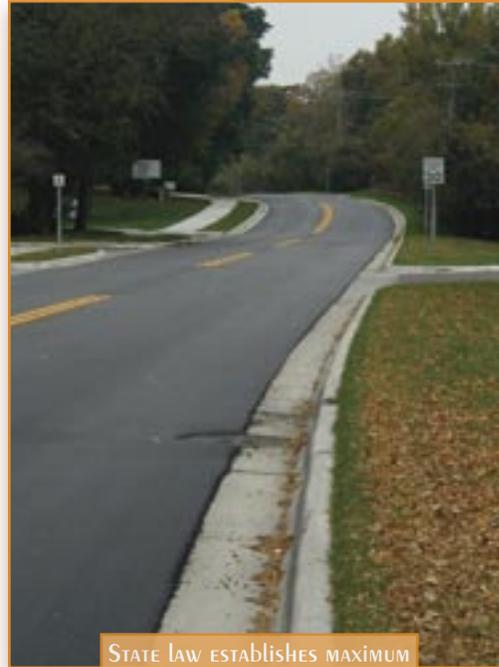
Recently, the Minnesota Departments of Public Safety and Transportation announced a joint program to attempt to better control the speeds of motorists on state highways. Under this new initiative,

speed limits on a number of roadways, such as Hwy 100 through Golden Valley, were raised to 60 mph. The catch is that police departments will give very little tolerance to motorists who exceed the 60 mph speed limit.

These efforts are oriented toward reducing the speed variation between motorists traveling the same roadway. Studies have shown that when all vehicles are traveling at a similar speed, there is a significant reduction in crashes. Observations on some of the roadways with the new 60 mph limit have shown less variation in the speeds of motorists.

If the level of enforcement efforts continue to impact violators and reduce their speeds, the result should be safer, more uniform speed among motorists on Minnesota streets and highways.

For more information about Minnesota's speed initiative, contact the Golden Valley Police Department at 763-593-8079. 



STATE LAW ESTABLISHES MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS ON URBAN STREETS.

GVHSF SELECTS 2006 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 Dan Jacobson, a Golden Valley resident.

Jacobson, a industrial/product designer, said the design was a family process that included his wife and two sons. For winning, Jacobson was awarded 10 T-shirts printed with the 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.



April 8 Run The Valley Benefits Community

Stretch out those legs, get ready to pace yourself, and sign up today for the twelfth annual Run the Valley, sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF). The 5K and 10K race and 5K walk is set for Saturday, April 8. Start and finish will be near the Meadowbrook Elementary (5430 Glenwood Ave) parking lot, located one block west of Hwy 100 and Glenwood at Xenia Ave.

Entry fees are \$25 through April 5 and \$30 on race day (no refunds are issued). Register online at www.active.com; in person or by mail before April 5 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.

The GVHSF distributes 100% of funds raised to causes directly benefiting the community, including Community Mediation Services, Crisis Connection, Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Home Free Domestic Assault Intervention Project, Northwest YMCA Youth Outreach Program, Northwest Suburban Dinner at Your Door, PRISM, and Senior Community Home and Outreach Services. Corporate sponsors are BNC National Bank, Liberty Carton, Lupient Foundation, and Wells Fargo.

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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