

Golden Valley

CITYNEWS

City Seeks Input About Property Maintenance

Over the past year, *CityNews* has run articles informing residents about property maintenance standards—preventive requirements that help communities maintain their housing stock. Such standards are becoming increasingly important in mature communities like Golden Valley, where a significant percentage of homes are showing signs of age. By staying on top of maintenance issues, residents can preserve and enhance their investment in their property, which benefits them personally and the community as a whole.

Property maintenance issues are high on the list of City Council goals for the community, and last year the Council adopted a property maintenance code for multiple-dwelling units. The City Council is now considering a property maintenance code for single- and two-family homes.

This summer, the City will host three information meetings (see box at right) to get resident input on creating exterior property maintenance standards

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Property Maintenance INFORMATION MEETINGS

Monday June 5

4–7 pm

Meadowbrook Elementary School Gymnasium
5430 Glenwood Ave

Monday June 12

4–7 pm

Brookview Community Center Willow Room
200 Brookview Parkway

Saturday June 17

9–11 am

City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Road

CONCERTS IN THE PARK



Beat the heat this summer with family, friends, and neighbors at Brookview Park's large picnic shelter for free Monday evening concerts. Concerts start at 7 pm and last 60 to 90 minutes. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket and picnic supper, or purchase food and beverages from the Brookview Grill. Concerts will be moved to Brookview Community Center if it rains.

2006 CONCERT SCHEDULE

June 12—Golden Valley Orchestra

June 19—Medicine Show

June 26—Stompin' Dixie

July 10—Celebration Brass

July 17—Gypsy Mania Quartet

July 24—Bavarian Musikmeisters

July 31—Greenwood Tree

August 1—The Flyers (11:15 am–noon)

August 7—Tune Into Kids

August 14—Beacon Hill Brass

For more information on any City recreation program, contact Golden Valley Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345.

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PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

for single-and two-family homes. Input received at these meetings will help the Council in its upcoming deliberation on a residential property maintenance code. These meetings will also provide residents an opportunity to learn about the state of the community's housing stock and receive information on current rehabilitation resources available to Golden Valley residents.

Adopting A Code

Cities find that property maintenance codes help protect residents from potentially hazardous conditions and help maintain the vitality and integrity of the community's housing stock. For example, when a City adopts maintenance standards for exterior walls, roofs, gutters, decks, doors, and windows, property owners are required to keep these items in a good state of repair. If violations are not corrected in a reasonable time, the City may issue citations.

ENFORCEMENT

Property maintenance codes are enforced through proactive inspections.

When a City inspector determines a property is out of compliance according to the City ordinance, he or she will issue a correction order to the responsible party of that property. The compliance order will state a reasonable amount of time for corrections to be made. Non-compliance will result in a fine assessed through an administrative citation (fines will not exceed the maximum penalty for misdemeanor violation by state law).

QUESTIONS

If you have questions about the City's multiple-dwelling property maintenance code, contact Property Maintenance Inspector Angela Obert at 763-593-8074. If you have questions about the City's proposed property maintenance code for one- and two-family homes, contact Chief of Fire and Inspections Mark Kuhnly at 763-593-8080. 

Golden Valley Named A "Governor's Fit City"

Golden Valley's commitment to its parks, trails (see pages 8-9), and recreation programs has earned it the designation of a "Governor's Fit City," part of a state-wide initiative by Governor Tim Pawlenty to encourage fitness. A "Fit City" provides opportunities for physical activity to people who live, work, and play in the community. This goal is to support and encourage residents to be more physically active and improve the overall health of the community.

Cities achieving a Governor's Fit City designation had to meet several Minnesota Department of Health criteria, such as having a City Council-adopted resolution affirming activity-friendly commitments, having inviting places to walk, sponsoring at least one fitness activity, and developing recreation areas that encourage fitness.

"We're proud Golden Valley was considered a good candidate for the Fit City designation," says Park and Recreation Director Rick Jacobson. "We try to do a great job meeting all of the criteria, and we're continually working to improve." This work includes:

- maintaining and developing walkable routes, recreation areas, parks, playgrounds, and play fields
- maintaining and developing indoor facilities available for cold season activity that are open and accessible to all ages
- partnering with community-wide organizations dedicated to activities that support physical activity
- promoting or sponsoring events or activities

Photo by Lisa Poverud, Views of the Valley 2005



"Fit Cities" HAVE INVITING PLACES TO WALK.

"We hope to help build community through people, parks, and programs," adds Jacobson, "and these are things our residents said were important during the *Envision* Golden Valley process."

The governor declared 2005 "The Year of Fitness" in Minnesota and created the "Governor's Fitness Challenge," which allows citizens to track their fitness progress online at www.beactiveminnesota.org. More information about the Governor's Fit City program can be found at www.health.state.mn.us/fitcity/. For more information about Golden Valley's recreation facilities and programs, contact the

Park and Recreation Department at 763-512-2345. 

DEER TASK FORCE INFORMATION MEETING

The Golden Valley Deer Task Force is seeking input from Golden Valley residents and businesses regarding deer management in Golden Valley. An information meeting is scheduled for **July 13, 2006, 7 pm, at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway.**

At the meeting, the Deer Task Force will define its charge, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will present the state-wide perspective of how other communities are handling deer populations, and Deer Task Force members will outline the issues and resolutions of neighboring communities. The presentations will be followed by a time for comments from residents/businesses.

The Golden Valley Deer Task Force was appointed by the City Council to study deer-related issues in Golden Valley, gather community input, and report results. It will report its findings to the City Council toward the end of 2006. 

Run The Valley Raises \$13,953 For GVHSF

The 12th annual *Run the Valley* 5–10K Run and 5K Walk drew 541 runners and walkers to Meadowbrook School April 8 to compete for medals and raise funds for the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF).

The event raised a record-breaking \$13,953 for the GVHSF, which allocates the funds to local human service organizations such as 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 for this year's event were Liberty Carton, Lupient Foundation, BNC National Bank, and Wells Fargo Golden Valley. Other sponsors included Bremer Bank, Byerly's, Cable 12, Einstein Bagels, Golden Valley Country Club, Golden Valley Rotary, Perkins, Premium Waters, Super America Golden Valley, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait.

In the 10K, the top three male finishers were Micah Grafenstein-K, Minneapolis (37:03); Rudy Regalado, Rosemount, (38:03); and Chris Humbert, Mound (38:06). The top three female finishers were Kate Tavakley, Burnsville (42:49); Kim Rudd, Plymouth (43:29); and Lynn Keller, Ortonville (47:28).

In the 5K, the top three male finishers were Rick Taplin, Dayton (17:07); Kirt Goetzke, Plymouth (18:15); and Michael Kelly (18:25). The top three female finishers were Charlene Einarson, Minneapolis (19:03); Kalin McCormick, Minneapolis (22:22); and Stacy Hanson, Hudson, WI (23:11).

All participants received Golden Valley T-shirts, and medallions were awarded to the top three finishers in each age group. The Foundation thanks all who participated and volunteered.

Next year's race is scheduled for April 2007. For more information, check the City Web site for updates (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley.htm) or contact Jeanne Fackler at 763-512-2340.



Winning 2006
T-shirt design by
Dan Jacobson

Run the Valley
April 8th 2006

CITY MEETS WATER QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

For years the City of Golden Valley has published information to educate the public about storm water as mandated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). In 2000, Golden Valley implemented a comprehensive Surface Water Management Plan.

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

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

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

Another requirement is an annual public hearing to consider the SWPPP. The 2006 public hearing will be held June 6, 7 pm, at Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road.

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

election TASK FORCE

The Golden Valley City Council established a nine-member Election Task Force in March, 2006 to look at the City election process (most of which is set by State Statute) as it pertains to even/odd year elections, length of mayoral office term, Council salaries, code of ethics for candidates, and other topics. Task Force members are Anne Borgen, Jeff Cater, Gary Cohen, Jackie Dietz, Lynn Gitelis, Cindy Reichert, Jorge Saavedra, Khamben Sanavongsay, and Marshall Tanick. They meet at 6:30 pm on the fourth Monday of the month; updates and agendas are on the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/taskforces/ElectionTaskForce.htm. The Task Force will present its recommendations to the City Council by November 2006.

If you have questions or comments about the Election Task Force, contact City Clerk Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010 or svirnig@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

It's UGH TIME

Once again, Hennepin County and the City of St Louis Park have collaborated so residents can get rid of the UGH—"Unwanted Garden and Household" chemicals and waste—at a free, annual household hazardous waste collection:

Thursday, June 8—Saturday, June 10
9 am—4 pm

Louisiana Oaks Park South Parking Lot
3500 Louisiana Ave, St Louis Park
(Hwy 7 to Louisiana Ave, north on Louisiana to Walker St, west on Walker)

ACCEPTED MATERIALS*

- auto wastes (batteries, starter fluid, etc)
- cleaning solvents, adhesives, aerosols
- consumer electronics (TVs, radios, etc)
- corrosives, drain cleaners
- driveway sealers
- flammable liquids
- fluorescent and HID lamps
- fuels (gasoline, kerosene, diesel)
- household batteries
- paints, paint thinners and solvents
- pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, etc)
- photographic and hobby chemicals
- pool chemicals
- rechargeable appliances
- wood preservatives

*Not a complete list. Call 612-348-3777 for more information.

NOT ACCEPTED

- any waste from businesses
- appliances*
- asbestos and construction debris
- compressed gas cylinders and tanks
- explosives
- garbage
- medical or infectious wastes
- motor oil and oil filters*
- radioactive waste (eg, smoke detectors)
- tires*
- yard waste

*Accepted at permanent drop-off sites.

Hennepin County's two permanent household hazardous waste drop-off sites (8100 Jefferson Hwy, Brooklyn Park and 1400 W 96th St, Bloomington) accept UGH year-round. For more information, call Hennepin County's 24-Hour Info-Line at 612-348-6500.

Evaluate Your Household Hazardous Waste Use

Windows are open. Fresh air is blowing in. But is your home environmentally sound? The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates the average American home contains as much as 100 pounds of household hazardous waste (HHW) stored in basements, garages, and closets, which generates 1.6 million tons of HHW nationwide every year. While some HHW may be necessary and reduction of use and reuse are the top two preferred approaches to HHW, recycling and proper disposal are vital to maintain human and environmental health.

WHAT IS HHW?

Any household product that contains corrosive, ignitable, reactive, or toxic ingredients is considered hazardous waste. Because HHW is contained in many common household products, it is recommended that consumers read labels. But HHW is not always neatly labeled. Items such as batteries, mercury thermostats and thermometers, and fluorescent light bulbs also contain hazardous materials (see sidebar for more items). If you have doubts about a product, check it out by calling Hennepin County at 612-348-3777.

RECYCLING HHW

Disposing of any HHW down a drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or in the trash poses a serious threat to the environment and, ultimately, human health. Fortunately, Hennepin County has two permanent drop-off sites and collaborates with local municipalities to provide annual HHW drop-off events (see sidebar for details).

ALTERNATIVES TO HHW

If you'd rather avoid HHW as much as possible, here's an EPA list of suggested alternatives to common products considered HHW:

- drain cleaner = use a plunger or plumber's snake
- oven cleaner = use steel wool and baking soda as soon as oven cools after a spill; for tough stains, add salt (not for self- or continuous-cleaning ovens)
- glass cleaner = one tablespoon vinegar or lemon juice in one quart water
- toilet bowl cleaner = use a toilet brush and baking soda or vinegar
- furniture polish = one teaspoon lemon juice in one pint mineral or vegetable oil
- rug deodorizer = sprinkle with baking soda and vacuum
- plant sprays = wipe leaves with mild soap and water; rinse
- mothballs = use cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mint, or white peppercorns
- flea and tick products = put brewer's yeast or garlic in pet food; sprinkle fennel, rue, rosemary, or eucalyptus seeds or leaves around animal sleeping areas

Golden Valley Recycles



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

Holiday Schedule

<u>Holiday Week</u>	<u>Pick-Up Date</u>
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.



Invading, Tree-Loving Pests Create A Buzz

Two non-native pests are threatening Minnesota's trees—the gypsy moth, which arrived a few years ago, and the emerald ash borer (EAB), which has traveled from the east coast into Michigan and continues eastward. The City of Golden Valley is reviewing its Shade Tree Disease and Pest Ordinance so it can respond effectively to these possible threats, but residents can also play defense by knowing how to identify the pests and what to do if they spot any.

Gypsy Moth

Gypsy moths, from the butterfly and moth family, are considered by many experts to be the single most destructive pest of trees and shrubs. They were discovered in Golden Valley, St Louis Park, and Minneapolis in fall 2001. No more have been found since the Minnesota Department of Agriculture treated 1,850 acres in May 2002. In northeastern states, the caterpillars have defoliated and destroyed whole forests, lowered property values, and absorbed huge investments by governments for control.

Containing these invaders is not easy. Immobile but fertile female moths deposit eggs everywhere, including vehicles, camping equipment, etc. These tan egg masses spend most of the year waiting for a ride from unknowing creatures, including humans. When the eggs become larva (caterpillars) in May, they do major damage feeding day and night for about six weeks. Watch for their bright yellow heads and brown bodies lined with pairs of five blue and six red spots along the back. The adult male moth is medium-sized with brown wings and, unlike many moths, flies during the day. The female is generally white and does not move.

If you see gypsy moths in any life stage, report them immediately to 651-201-MOTH or 1-888-545-MOTH.

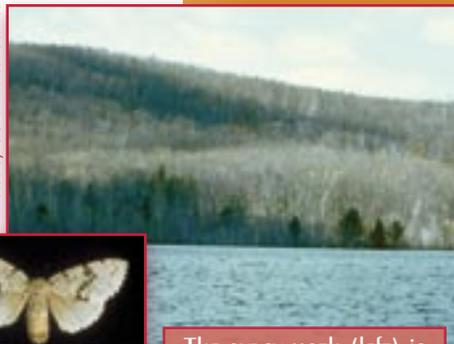
EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)

EABs were discovered in Michigan in 2002 and Ohio in 2003. While native borers kill trees already weakened for various reasons, EABs from Asia kill healthy ash trees. So far, EABs have not been found in Minnesota, but ash is a common hardwood tree here, and EABs could do major damage to the forests and the economic welfare of the state.

State and federal agencies have teamed to coordinate identification and control efforts, but adult EABs are so small that their bronze or golden-green bodies and metallic, emerald wings are hard to spot, even when there's a lot of them. Because it's difficult to detect EABs in newly infested trees, the best way to spot them is to look for tell-tale signs. Woodpeckers may be the first indicator of infestation, since EAB pre-pupal larvae are a preferred snack. After about a year of infestation, look for D-shaped holes left by emerging adults and the bark splitting vertically above areas where the larvae fed. Distinct larvae tunnels will be readily visible beneath the bark of infested trees. These tunnels, excavated by feeding larvae, interrupt the transport of nutrients and water within the tree during the summer, causing the foliage to wilt and the tree canopy to become increasingly thin and sparse as branches die. Many trees appear to lose about 30% to 50% of the canopy after two years of infestation, and trees often die after three to four years of infestation.

If you suspect an EAB infestation, call the Minnesota Department of Agriculture immediately at 651-296-6684. For more information about invasive pests, visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Web site at www.mda.state.mn.us/misac/profiles.htm.

Photos by USDA Forest Service



The gypsy moth (left) is responsible for defoliating ENTIRE FORESTS (ABOVE).



Photos by David Cappaert, Michigan State University



THE EMERALD ASH BORER (left) LEAVES TELL-TALE TUNNELS ON INFESTED TREES (ABOVE).



CELEBRATE Public Works

National Public Works Week (NPWW) is celebrated the third week of May every year to recognize the important work done by public works employees across the United States. This year's theme is "Public Works: The Heart of Every Community," and it captures the essence of why public

works is important in day-to-day life.

Golden Valley's Public Works Department manages and maintains the infrastructure that keeps the community alive, including the

water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer system; street and sidewalk system; parks and trail system; and forestry and environmental programs. Because of this group of dedicated professionals, you have safe, clean water and can flush away waste, and you can drive, walk, or bike through an attractive, wooded community to various destinations, including parks and ball fields.

HONOR AWARD

The City's Public Works Department also plans and engineers improvements to community infrastructure. One of Golden Valley's recent projects, the improvements to the Hwy 55 and General Mills Blvd/Boone Ave intersection, received honors in the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) 2006 Engineering Excellence

Awards. The awards were presented in January to recognize engineering achievements that demonstrate the highest degree of merit and ingenuity. Golden Valley's project resolved street grade, flooding, safety, and pedestrian issues.

For more information about Golden Valley Public Works, call 763-593-8030.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Golden Valley's Park and Recreation Department has been busy simmering up some hot summer fun for Golden Valley residents. Tikes, kids, and adults are sure to find something in this list of activities, all starting soon. For details, visit the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) or check the Spring/Summer Park and Recreation brochure.

PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Camp Caterpillar • Catch, Kick & Throw • Kid's Korner • Little Tikes • Music, Mom/Dad & Me • Planets & Stories • Pre-school Mini Music Camp

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

American Red Cross Babysitting • Basketball Skills Camp • Bike Rangers • Card Games • Cheerleading Academy • Chess Club • Drama Club • Explorers Hiking & Biking Club • Flag Football • Football Camp • Future Stars Tennis Day Camp • Guitar Lessons • Jewelry Making • Jump Rope • Junior Golf League • Junior Group Golf Lessons • Kick Ball • Little Critters • Mini Hawk Camp • Park Baseball • PeeWee Tennis Lessons • Pens, Pencils, Markers, & More • Pitch by Coach • Pitch by Coach (evening) • Playground Arts & Crafts • Roller Hockey Instructional League • Safety Camp • Sand Volleyball • Simple Scrapbooking • Skateboarding Camp • Skyhawk SNAG Golf Camp • Slowpitch Softball • Soccer Skills Camp • Summer Survivor • T-ball • T-ball (evening) • Youth Tennis Lessons

Adult Activities

Fusion Exercises • Power Sort & Organize • What are Flower Essences? • Yoga & Pilates

Register for activities 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

Concerts Connect GV Residents Through Music

Some say music is a universal language and some say parks are the heart of a community. Put the two together and you have Golden Valley's own Summer Concerts in the Park series, an entertaining way to connect with other Golden Valley residents and get a beat on the community.

A GOLDEN VALLEY EXPERIENCE

These free concerts are held 7 pm Mondays, June through August, at the large picnic shelter in Brookview Park. Musicians perform for an hour from the south end of the shelter facing the pond. Concert goers can bring lawn chairs or a blanket, a picnic supper or snack, or pick something up from the nearby Brookview Grill, then relax and enjoy Brookview's lovely scenery while listening to great music. If weather conditions are poor, concerts move to the Brookview Community Center.

To keep the event fresh, a variety of music is offered each season. Tradition has the Golden Valley Orchestra kick off the series to conclude its regular season. After that, the series offers an eclectic mix of jazz, brass, bluegrass, ethnic, Dixie, new age/world beat, and children's groups (see page 1 for concert schedule). All groups are from the Twin Cities area, and several include Golden Valley residents.



GOLDEN VALLEY RESIDENT LYNN DEICHERT (ON TRUMPET) AND STOMPIN' DIXIE

THE GOLDEN VALLEY MUSICIANS

Some of the bands have members who are part of the community. Stompin' Dixie, Celebration Brass, Gypsy Mania Quartet, and Beacon Hill Brass all have Golden Valley ties, and at least one sees a connection between community, music, and a rockin' good time.

"Live music creates a community experience in Golden Valley," says Glen Helgeson, a 15-year Golden Valley resident and guitarist for the Gypsy

Mania Quartet. "Of all the gigs we do between this and my other band, this is one of my favorites. The audience is very receptive. The location may not be as conducive as it could be to live music, but the audience makes it all worthwhile."

A NEW STAGE?

The idea of a new Brookview Park performance area has captured the imaginations of others in the community, and the Golden Valley Federated Women's Club and the Golden Valley Rotary have been studying possibilities. Because of tight budgets, the City Council has challenged this ad hoc task force to bring forth design concepts and funding proposals that require no funding from the City. For more information on this project, and perhaps yet another way to connect with fellow Golden Valley residents, contact Don Anderson, Golden Valley Rotary (763-588-8578), or Diane Nimmer, Golden Valley Federated Women's Club (763-529-7662).

For more information on the Concerts in the Park series, contact Golden Valley Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345.

Photo courtesy of Gypsy Mania Quartet



HELGESON (THIRD FROM LEFT) AND GYPSY MANIA QUARTET

Five Cities Ride Program Gives Seniors A Lift

If you're 60 years old or older and need a ride to City-sponsored senior clubs, activities, or dining, or to shopping centers or grocery stores in Brooklyn Center, Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope, or Robbinsdale, the Five Cities Senior Transportation Program is just the ticket. Golden Valley resident Mary Pagent heard about the program from Arlene Webber, another senior in her building who has been using the service for three years.

"I don't know what we would do without the program," says Pagent, who recently started using it for rides to the grocery store. "People should know they don't have to sit at home waiting for family to give them a ride."

A LITTLE DETOUR

The Five Cities Program was started in 1985 for seniors in apartments who wanted to attend City-sponsored activities but had no way to get there. It expanded to provide rides to grocery stores, Target, Wal-Mart, social outings, and community events. City-sponsored recreation programs are also part of the route. For information about rides to medical or dental appointments, see box below.

REACH YOUR DESTINATION

To request a bi-monthly schedule listing days, destinations, and routes, call the staff and volunteers at the Five Cities office (763-531-1259, Monday–Friday, 8 am–3 pm). Dates and times for rides to and from grocery stores and shopping centers are plainly listed. For rides to other activities, check the Senior newsletter or the seasonal Golden Valley Park and Recreation brochure, select the activities you wish to attend, then locate your activity on the Five Cities schedule. Regardless of your destination, call the Five Cities office at least 24 hours in advance to make a reservation.

On ride day, be ready for the bus at the scheduled time. If you want assistance boarding or exiting the bus, ask the driver to help you. You may need to allow riders who do not want assistance to board or exit the bus before you receive help. For your safety, request the lift if you are unable to negotiate the steps.

Five City vehicles can transport 28 people and are equipped with lifts for persons in wheelchairs or those who have difficulty negotiating steps. The suggested donation per round trip is \$3 cash or \$2.50 with a punch pass. Punch passes are available in \$10 or \$20 amounts from the Five Cities drivers.

FUNDING AND SPONSORSHIP

The Five Cities Program is funded by the Cities of Brooklyn Center, Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope, and Robbinsdale through a joint powers agreement and by rider donations, the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, Inc, as part of the Older American's Act Program, and the Robbinsdale Lions Club.

For information on the Five Cities Senior Transportation Program, call Program Coordinator Rita DeBruyn at 763-531-1274. 

Staff photo



"Five Cities is a great service," says Arlene Webber. "It allows us to remain independent."

Medical and Dental Rides

If you need a ride to a medical or dental appointment, contact PRISM Express Transportation at 763-529-1252.

SENIOR STUFF

All activities are held at Brookview Community Center and require advance registration unless otherwise noted. To register, call the Golden Valley Senior Program office at 763-512-2339.

Coffee Talk

Join us every fourth **Wednesday, 9:30–11 am**, for juice, sweet rolls, donuts, informative programs, and coffee. Register by the Monday before; \$2 at the door.

WELLNESS & YOU

It's a fact! People are living longer and healthier. Get information each month for a happy, healthier you. **June 1, 1:30–3 pm**: "Walking—It's Good For You!" Donation for refreshments.

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

June 28, 11–11:30 am. By Ambassador Good Samaritan Home Care.

COFFEE AND DONUTS MORNING

June 14, 10 am. This social sponsored by the Golden Valley Senior Advisory Committee is a great way to meet the Committee members. Register by June 8. Members free; non-members \$1.

COOK OUT AT BROOKVIEW

Thursday, July 20, noon. Senior staff is serving up hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chips, baked beans, lemonade, and dessert. Register by July 14. Members \$4; non-members \$5.

UPCOMING TRIPS (register early)

July 25: Taylors Falls River Cruise—\$42 (includes cruise, lunch, tax, gratuity, coach bus, and escort). Payment due July 10.

August 8–11: Folklorama and Winnipeg, Manitoba—Enjoy the largest and longest-running multicultural event of its kind in the world, featuring food, performances, and tours. \$795/person double, \$955 single. \$100 deposit due June 16; final payment due June 30.

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 Steve Joraesen, Views of the Valley 2005



How do we love our trails and pedestrian amenities? Let us count the ways.

Golden Valley residents value being connected. Envision Golden Valley, the City's visioning process, summarized the

community's feelings about this in two core ideals: "creatively connecting people and places" and "inspiring care for community." While trails and sidewalks are physical tools that enable community connections, it's about more than just getting from place to place. It's about bringing people together, providing recreational opportunities and alternatives to travel by vehicle, getting in touch with nature in the midst of a metropolitan area, and healthier living.

Studies show trails are a quality of life issue for residents in Minnesota and across the country. In a 2002 survey by the National Association of Home Builders and the National Association of Realtors, 2,000 recent home buyers were asked to rank a list of 18 community amenities as "important" or "very important." Walking, jogging, or biking trails was chosen by 36%, ranking only second to highway access (44%). Sidewalks (28%), parks (26%), and playgrounds (21%) ranked next in importance.

Trails and sidewalks also have economic impacts on a community. According to the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota, 87% of Minnesota home buyers believe trails either increased the value of their homes or had no impact. Nationwide, 70% of realtors use trails as a selling feature, and 80.5% say nearby trails make it easier to sell homes.

Golden Valley's Story

The City of Golden Valley has long recognized that an accessible public off-street sidewalk and trail system is the most effective way to provide a

safe environment for pedestrians. Of the City's 52 miles of sidewalks and trails, many are located parallel to streets that carry higher volumes of pedestrian and/or vehicle traffic, with emphasis on areas such as schools, parks, churches, businesses, and other public places. Others are in parks and nature areas.

The sidewalks are generally concrete, and primary users are pedestrians. Paved trails are typically asphalt and may also be located in parks, nature areas, or other public open spaces (unpaved trails may be surfaced with gravel, rock, wood chips, or similar materials). Primary users include pedestrians, bicyclists, or other wheeled users. As a service to its citizens, Golden Valley maintains its sidewalks and trails at a high level (see "Maintaining The Connections" below).

Construction Standards

Golden Valley constructs its sidewalks and trails according to standards set forth by the City, the Minnesota

Department of Transportation, the Minnesota Human Rights Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

Along public streets, the City prefers to construct walkways one foot from the street right-of-way line (outside edge of walkway) with a four-foot turf boulevard. Sidewalks are constructed when concrete curb

and gutter is present unless the facility is classified as a trail, in which case an asphalt path is constructed.

Standard concrete sidewalks are six feet wide when separated from the street by a four-foot turf boulevard. When a four-foot boulevard cannot be provided, concrete sidewalks are placed at the back of curb and are eight feet wide, minimum. When there's no concrete curb and gutter or no four-

Photo by Mrs. John Olinger, Views of the Valley 1996



Trails And Sidewalks Connect Golden Valley

Photo by Ellen G. Anderson, Views of the Valley 2004



foot boulevard, asphalt trails are constructed.

In parks, nature areas, and other public open spaces, the City's goal is to construct trails a minimum of eight feet wide with asphalt surfacing. Trails in nature areas may be surfaced with alternative materials based on expected use and consistent with state and federal law.

Trails are paved based on the need for year-round use or access for all users. Trails that provide access to the existing system and to parks, nature areas, and other public open spaces are paved before other trails.

Because strict application of these construction standards may result in significant impacts to adjoining properties, the City Council may make exceptions in cases where impacts can be minimized or avoided altogether by varying from the standards.

Installation Priorities

In implementing trail and sidewalk plans within the community, the City cooperates with outside agencies such as Hennepin County Public Works, the Three Rivers Park District, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, school districts, neighboring cities and others.

Citizens may request a sidewalk or trail by petitioning the City Council. Requests are then considered by appropriate commissions and committees, including the City's Sidewalk and Trail Advisory Committee, which reviews all sidewalk petitions and makes recommendations regarding the location and construction priority of sidewalks and trails within the city. The committee meets as needed and consists of two members of the Planning Commission, two members of the Open Space and Recreation Commission, one representative of the Environmental Commission, and a staff liaison from the City's Public Works Department.

photo by Ida Isaacs, Views of the Valley 1993



Financing

When development or redevelopment occurs adjacent to sidewalks or trails included on the City's sidewalk plan, the developer is responsible for constructing the sidewalk or trail according to the City standards.

If a sidewalk or trail is identified within the boundaries of a public street construction or reconstruction project, it will be built as part of that project. Sometimes street improvement projects provide new opportunities for enhancing the City's trail system. For example, one goal of the project to improve the Hwy 55/General Mills Blvd/Boone Ave intersection was flood control. To help facilitate that, General Mills donated 19 acres of land to the City to develop for floodplain storage, wetland mitigation, and use as a passive nature area. This summer, the community can begin enjoying the half-mile trail in the new General Mills Nature Area (southeast corner of Hwys 55 and 169). Watch for information in September about an upcoming public dedication ceremony.

Golden Valley's Capital Improvement Plan may include annual financing to construct sidewalks and trails identified on the sidewalk plan but not within the boundaries of a public improvement project.

Future Plans

The City of Golden Valley has long-range plans for maintaining existing sidewalks and trails and building new ones. Although such plans are always subject to revision, depending on staffing and funding, the plan outlines proposed trails and sidewalks at three priority levels. It also outlines proposed trails through the community to be built in cooperation with outside agencies. For more information about this plan, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030.

Maintaining the Connections

The City of Golden Valley maintains several of its public walkways year-round, a responsibility that lies with adjacent homeowner in many other cities.

To maintain sidewalks or trails in a snow event, the City has prioritized them according to use. Priority 1 sidewalks generally are adjacent to County roads (Winnetka Ave, Douglas Dr, Medicine Lake Rd, Duluth St, Glenwood Ave, or Golden Valley Rd) or are on the City's system of collector streets. These roadways usually carry higher traffic volumes than

local residential streets, are transit routes, and provide for critical pedestrian points of interest such as schools, parks, and places of employment. Priority 2 trails and sidewalks are adjacent to streets that carry less vehicular and pedestrian traffic than Priority 1, and Priority 3 trails generally provide access to a recreational venue.

The City's first priority is snow and ice control on public streets and parking lots associated with City buildings. Priority 1 and 2 sidewalks and trails are typically plowed within 24 hours after a snowfall of two inches or more. If

there is excessive snow accumulation, a severe storm, or issues with equipment or staffing, the City may plow only Priority 1 sidewalks and trails. Priority 3 trails are plowed only after Priority 1 and 2 trails are cleared, which may be 48 to 72 hours after a snowfall of two inches or more. These trails may not be plowed if there are consecutive snowfalls or if equipment or staffing issues do not allow for plowing.

Although the City maintains sidewalks and trails, its equipment is often unable to clear snow to the bare

pavement. Residents can help by clearing off the rest of the snow. It's also important to maintain access to public walkways by not depositing snow from driveways or private property and by keeping them clear of obstructions such as garbage cans and recycling containers.

If you have questions about the City's sidewalk and trail maintenance plan, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.



NATIONAL Night Out Is Aug 1

Neighborhoods throughout Golden Valley are invited to join forces with communities across the nation for the 23rd annual National Night Out (NNO) Tuesday, August 1, 2006.

NNO is designed to:

- heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts
- strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships
- send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

While one night is not an answer to crime, drugs, and violence, NNO represents the kind of spirit, energy, and determination that is helping make many neighborhoods safer throughout the year. It is a night to celebrate safety and crime prevention successes, and to expand and strengthen programs for the next 364 days.

In the past, Golden Valley neighborhoods have come together for potluck dinners, ice cream socials, lemonade parties, barbecues, bike parades, swimming pool parties, etc. Use your imagination and plan something fun! This year the GVPD and Crime Prevention Fund will provide raffle kits to neighborhoods that register their NNO celebration, so kids and adults can enter the citywide raffle for \$1,200 worth of great prizes.

An NNO planning kit will be mailed to block captains in June and are available on the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/nationalnightout.htm. Check there also to learn about the new NNO poster contest.

For more information, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 763-593-8058 or jpaul@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

GVPD To Enhance Neighborhood Watch

Starting this fall, the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) will begin enhancing the City's Neighborhood Watch program to help expedite the City Council's *Envision*-related goals of encouraging community connections. The updated Neighborhood Watch will involve more residents and increase meeting frequency and participation rates without increasing staff resources.

Golden Valley's Neighborhood Watch program is made up of 11 geographical zones designated by the GVPD (see crime maps at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/crimemaps/) and 153 active Neighborhood Watch groups formed by citizens. Currently the GVPD meets with each Neighborhood Watch group every other year, which translates to roughly 80 meetings a year for the GVPD's Crime Prevention Unit.

To expand the program and involve more residents, the GVPD will begin hosting annual meetings by zone. It will also continue to hold individual meetings with newly formed Neighborhood Watch groups and groups that wish to meet on their own in addition to the annual meeting. The GVPD will organize these meetings and notify participants by mail about two months in advance and again a few weeks before the meeting date. The GVPD will do its best to hold the meetings at a central location for each zone.

Block captains will still be responsible for keeping up-to-date block maps, distributing meeting information, and organizing National Night Out and any other social gatherings.

Fire & Police Open House

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
6-8 pm**

**Fire Station 1 and Police Department
7800 Golden Valley Rd**

Fire Truck Rides, Life Safety Trailer, Squirt House, Fire and Police Station Tours, Squad Car, Fatal Vision Display, Blood Pressure Checks by North Memorial, McGruff the Crime Dog, Door Prizes, and Free T-Shirts*

(Hot dogs, soda, and treats for sale by the Golden Valley Police Association)

**Fire Station 2
400 Turners Crossroad**

Old Number One, Fire Truck Rides, Squirt House, Squad Car, McGruff the Crime Dog, Door Prizes, and Free T-Shirts*

**Fire Station 3
3700 Golden Valley Rd**

Sparky the Fire Dog, Fire Truck Rides, Squirt House, Squad Car, Live Fire Demo, McGruff the Crime Dog, Door Prizes, and Free T-Shirts*

**while supplies last*

For more information, call Golden Valley Public Safety at 763-593-8079.

The GVPD believes the enhanced Neighborhood Watch will increase its face-to-face contact with participants, encourage better communication, and allow for more neighborhoods to participate. It will also provide an opportunity for residents to get to know people who may live a few blocks away but are still in their area. The change may be refreshing for groups that have been involved since the inception of Neighborhood Watch in the mid-1980s and for groups that find it difficult to schedule their meetings.

The GVPD will mail more detailed information about program changes to current Neighborhood Watch participants. If you do not receive the information, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit.

If you have questions, or if you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch group in your area, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 763-593-8058 or jpaul@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

City Seeks Firefighters

For more than 60 years, the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) has provided the community with a high level of fire service. The GVFD is currently seeking men and women to join this long tradition of community service by becoming paid, on-call firefighters.

There are two ways to serve. If you live within six minutes of a Golden Valley fire station, apply to become a night-time/weekend responder. If you live in another community but work in Golden Valley, check out Corporate Call, a collaboration with local businesses to recruit daytime responders (available Monday–Friday, 6 am–6 pm).

The GVFD has three fire stations, 50 paid, on-call firefighters, and a full-time fire chief, deputy fire marshal, and public education specialist/training coordinator. The Department responds to about 750 runs per year, including all types of fires, emergencies, auto accidents, medicals, and mutual aid calls to other communities.

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, a probation period, 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

SALARY, BENEFITS, AND REWARDS

Along with a pension plan and disability benefits, GVFD firefighters receive the following hourly wage:

- probationary firefighter (\$8.19/hr)
- apprentice firefighter (\$10.89/hr)
- firefighter (\$12.93/hr)

Besides the satisfaction they get from helping others, firefighters also reap other benefits from the job, including increased self-confidence, experience, responsibility, social connections and events, fun and friends, and the chance to be a positive community role model.

INFORMATION MEETINGS

To learn more about Golden Valley's paid on-call fire department, attend an informational meeting June 26 at 6:30 pm or August 14 at 9:30 am and 6:30 pm. For more information, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us, or call 763-593-3977.



Fire Relief STREET DANCE

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2006
3 pm–midnight

Chester Bird American Legion
Hwy 100 & Glenwood Ave

- Fire trucks, kiddie activities, face painting, and moonwalk
- Hotdogs, brats, roasted corn-on-the-cob, chips, popcorn, snow cones, mini doughnuts, pop
- 6–8:30 pm: *Delcounts*
- 8:30 pm–closing: *Doug and The Mooners*

Sponsored by the Golden Valley Fire Relief Association to celebrate its bond with the community. For more information, contact the Golden Valley Fire Department at 763-593-8055.

BE SAFE AROUND FIREWORKS

Fireworks may be beautiful and fascinating, but they are also dangerous. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 9,600 people were treated for fireworks-related injuries in 2004.

To be safer, please follow these tips:

- Only buy what you plan to use. Do not store fireworks.
- Read, understand, and follow all warnings and instructions on each device.
- Keep a bucket of water handy in case of a malfunction or fire.
- Use fireworks with close adult supervision. Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Only ignite fireworks outdoors, away from other people, animals, buildings, storage tanks, brush, and combustible materials.
- Keep fireworks dry; do not use them when dried after becoming wet.
- Do not carry fireworks in your pocket or on your person.
- Never light fireworks inside a container, such as a bottle or can. Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Never throw fireworks or aim them at another person, animal, or building.
 - Light only one firework device at a time, then move away quickly.
 - Never relight malfunctioning fireworks.

Complete fireworks safety guidelines and a list of legal fireworks are available at www.fire.state.mn.us/FireworksInfo.html. You can also call the State Fire Marshal Division at 651-215-0500.



2006 SEALCOAT STREETS

Sumter Ave (Faribault St to Winnetka Hts Dr)

Rhode Island Ave (Faribault to Plymouth Ave)

Rhode Island Ave (Knoll St to Winnetka Hts Dr)

Quebec Ave (Faribault to creek)

Quebec Ave (creek to Winnetka Hts Dr)

Faribault St (Winnetka Ave to Pennsylvania Ave)

Phoenix St (Winnetka to Quebec)

Phoenix St (Hampshire Ave to Douglas Dr)

Plymouth Ave (Orkla Dr to Winnetka)

Plymouth Ave (Winnetka to Florida Ave)

Knoll St (Winnetka to Oregon Ave)

Knoll St (Louisiana Ave to Douglas)

Winsdale St (Winnetka to Pennsylvania)

Winsdale St (Louisiana Ave to Douglas)

Duluth St (Winnetka to Quebec)

Winnetka Hts (Winnetka to Kelly Dr)

Kelly Dr (Plymouth Ave to cul-de-sac)

Kelly Cir (Kelly Dr to cul-de-sac)

Pennsylvania Ave (Plymouth to Golden Valley Rd)

Oregon Ave (Plymouth to S cul-de-sac)

Maryland Ave (Plymouth to Olympia St)

Olympia Ave (Winnetka to Douglas Dr)

Edgewood Cir (Plymouth Ave to cul-de-sac)

Hampshire Ave (Hampshire Pl to Golden Valley Rd)

Hampshire Pl (Hampshire Ave to Douglas)

Hampshire Ln (Hampshire Ave to Duluth St)

Florida Ave (Hampshire Pl to Golden Valley Rd)

Louisiana Ave (Plymouth to Olympia)

Louisiana Ave (Golden Valley Rd to Hampshire Ln)

Jersey Ave (Plymouth to Olympia)

Idaho Ave (Golden Valley Rd to Hampshire Ave)

Golden Valley Rd (Douglas to Rhode Island Ave)

City Hall Parking Lot

Sealcoating Helps Extend Street Life

Homeowners re-shingle their roofs to protect and prolong the life of the structure beneath it, and if they're smart, they don't wait until the roof starts leaking. Cities sealcoat their streets to protect and prolong the skin of an asphalt street, and smart cities don't wait until the streets are starting to break down. This summer, several Golden Valley streets (see column at left) will be sealcoated as part of the City's ongoing street maintenance program.

Staff photo



SEALCOATING PROTECTS PAVEMENT.

Sealcoating is one of the most common methods of preventive street maintenance. It's a surface treatment that seals and protects existing pavement and adds new life but does not add significant structural strength. Golden Valley uses a single surface treatment, which means a single application of liquid asphalt is sprayed on the existing bituminous surface, followed immediately by a single layer of aggregate (small pieces of rock) of as uniform a size as practical. The treatment is about 1/4 of an inch thick—the maximum size aggregate particles used. This type of treatment provides for excellent wear and waterproofing and also improves skid resistance. The City hires a contractor to perform this maintenance activity, while City crews perform all preparatory work and sweeping. The contract calls for this work to take place sometime between the end of June and first part of August.

Here are a few things to expect during the sealcoating process:

- Streets will be well marked with signs and cones. Use alternate routes if possible.
- Drive slowly over the rock; don't spin your tires.
- Excess rocks will become bumpy and will be swept as soon as the new surface is ready to be exposed.
- Roads will be swept as necessary throughout the summer and early fall. It may take three or four times before all the excess rock is picked up.

Don't forget: drive slowly and be patient. Crews doing the road work appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions about work on a particular street, call Public Works Street Maintenance at 763-593-8082. If you have questions about the street maintenance program, call the Public Works Maintenance Manager at 763-593-3981.

Motor Vehicle LICENSING SERVICES

The City of Golden Valley has a full-service Motor Vehicle Deputy Registrar Department right in City Hall that can handle your licensing needs.

Vehicle Licensing and Registration • Title Transfers • Passports

LOCATION AND HOURS

Located in Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Rd (one block north of the Highway 55/Winnetka Ave intersection and east on Golden Valley Road).

Open each weekday from 8 am to 5 pm and Tuesdays until 6 pm.

763-593-8101

Street Smarts: Defining The Yellow Lines

Motorists are sometimes confused by the meaning of various pavement markings used on streets and highways, especially the yellow lines. Here are a few tips to help clarify things.

Illustrations by Ron Christenson

Solid yellow lines separate traffic traveling in opposite directions. They are also used on the left edge of divided roadways and one-way streets. In both cases, motorists must drive to the right of the yellow line. Passing or driving left of a solid yellow line is prohibited.

Double yellow lines prohibit passing in both directions.

Dashed yellow lines mean it's permissible to pass slower moving vehicles when safe to do so. Two dashed yellow lines on either side of a lane delineates a reversible lane. Such lanes are also marked by overhead arrows and signs, with the red X or green down arrow assigning direction of flow to the lane.

Combined dashed and solid yellow lines prohibit passing from the side of the solid line; however, motorists may cross the solid yellow line to make a left turn, either from the road or a cross street.

Two-way left turn lanes are marked by a solid yellow line on the outside and a dashed yellow line on both inside edges of the left turn lane. The solid yellow line prohibits passing from the through lane, and the dashed yellow line indicates that left turns from the center lane are allowed in both directions. Thus, the two-way left turn lane can be used to decelerate in preparation for a left turn but may not be used to pass another vehicle.

Some motorists violate the laws of the two-way left turn lane by using it as an acceleration lane after making a left turn onto the street. After turning they stay in the two-way left turn lane, driving left of a solid yellow line, which results in a potentially hazardous mix of turning, accelerating, and decelerating vehicles.

Truck-climbing lanes on two-lane highways have two lanes going up the hill and one lane going down. The single lane is separated by a dashed and solid yellow line together. This permits traffic in the single downhill lane to pass slower downhill vehicles when it is safe to do so. Some truck-climbing lanes have a double yellow line next to a single lane, meaning passing is prohibited.

If you have questions about pavement markings on streets, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030.



PAVEMENT MARKINGS CREATE UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS FOR DRIVERS.

METRO TRANSIT TO RESTRUCTURE BUS ROUTES

Metro Transit is working to update bus routes in Golden Valley and surrounding communities based on recent growth and, without spending more money, make transit service more effective.

The Northwest Metro Transit Study covers an area from the Mississippi River on the east to the western boundary of Plymouth and Maple Grove, and from Champlin to Highway 55. City Council member DeDe Scanlon represents Golden Valley on a task force for the project.

Planners are putting final touches on a concept plan, which will be available for public review in late May and early June. Transit customers and residents can offer comments about the proposal at several open houses and an official public hearing. Details on hearing dates and locations will be available on buses, at www.metrotransit.org, and in local newspapers in mid-May. Metro Transit anticipates

implementing route and schedule changes in 2007.

Changes will affect the following Golden Valley bus routes:

19, 755, 756 and 758. It will also bring changes to these northwest-metro routes: 5, 7, 14, 22, 29, 32, 715, 716, 717, 721, 722, 723, 724, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 766 and 801.

For details, visit www.metrotransit.org/improvingTransit/northwestRestructuring.asp. If you have suggestions for the Northwest Metro Transit Study, call Metro Transit Customer Relations at 612-373-3333.



Photo courtesy Metro Transit

TOWARD SAFER STREETS

Good traffic safety engineering means creating uniform expectations for drivers in similar situations, no matter where they are encountered. When drivers see and interpret traffic control devices and know how to react each time, it creates a safer roadway environment.

This is why it's important that traffic signs, street markings, and curb painting be left to those who specialize in their installation. In Golden Valley, only City, County or State crews can install signs or paint streets and curbs. Public Works officials know and understand the situations where these items should be, and they install them consistently throughout the community based on statewide standards.

Even though you may feel that painting the street or installing a traffic sign on your own may make your street safer, you may actually be creating a hazard for everyone. Requests for traffic control are reviewed by the City's Neighborhood Traffic Control Committee to make sure the streets are as safe as they can be. For more information, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.

Bike HELMETS NEED PROPER Fit

Bicycle helmets are not hats. To protect you in a crash, your helmet must fit comfortably and securely. The following tips will help you get a proper fit.

Adjust THE FITTING PADS

Most helmets come with extra foam pads inside to customize the fit. Adjust these fitting pads so they touch your head evenly all the way around. If you have a "one size fits all" model with a fitting ring, adjust the fit by tightening the ring, if needed.

Adjust THE STRAPS

With the helmet level on your head, adjust the rear (nape) straps and the front straps to locate the Y fitting where the straps come together just under your ear. You may have to slide the straps across the top of the helmet to get them even on both sides. Next, adjust the chin strap so it is comfortably snug. Then adjust the rear stabilizer if the helmet has one.

TEST THE FIT

Test the fit by shaking your head vigorously. Push up and back under the front edge of the helmet. If the helmet moves more than an inch or so and exposes your bare forehead, tighten the strap in front of your ear. Tighten the nape strap if the helmet bumps on your glasses or if you can pull up on the back edge and move the helmet more than an inch. Keep working with the straps and pads until your helmet is level, comfortable, and feels solid on your head. Most bike shops that sell helmets will help you fit the helmet before you leave the store.

Staff photo



Bike safety is TAUGHT AT GOLDEN VALLEY'S ANNUAL SAFETY CAMPS.

Get Informed To Keep Your Bike On Track

Whether your bicycle is a rugged off-road type with a heavy frame, knobby tires, and a suspension system or an old fashioned low-rider with a banana seat, you don't want anyone else to take it. So here's some advice from the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) to keep you bike where it belongs, getting you from place to place.



MINNEAPOLIS RANKS 9TH IN US FOR BIKE THEFT (KRYPTONITE).

THEFT PREVENTION Tips

- Try to keep your bike in a secure area in your house or garage (and close and lock the garage).
- Always lock your bike, even if you're leaving it for less than a minute. Never leave a bike unlocked and unattended at the park or even in the front yard. It only takes a few seconds to steal an unlocked bike.
- Lock your bike to something fixed and substantial. Avoid small trees, aluminum or wood posts, or chain link fences, which can be easily broken or cut. When locking to a signpost or similar object, make sure the pole cannot be pulled from the ground and that the locked bike cannot be lifted over the top and removed.
- To prevent your padlock from being smashed open, don't position it against walls, the ground, or other solid surfaces.
- Place chains, cables or U-locks through the frame and both wheels. Remove the front wheel if necessary. Never lock a wheel without locking the frame as well.
- Park your bike in well-lighted, well-traveled areas where it can be easily seen.

KNOW THE SERIAL NUMBER

Sometimes bikes get stolen, even when preventive steps are taken. To increase the chances of getting yours back, record the serial number. Every bicycle has a unique one. On newer bikes, the number is usually inside the rear dropout (where the rear wheel attaches) or on the bottom bracket shell (between the pedals on the frame).

Use the form below to record your bicycle's serial number and other important information, then keep it in a safe place where it won't be lost or thrown away. If your bike is stolen, get out the form and call 911 to report the theft. The information you provide allows the police to enter your bike's information into a national database so it can be returned to you when it is recovered.

If you have other questions about preventing bicycle theft, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 763-593-8058.

PERSONAL Bike TRACKER

Your Name: _____

Bicycle Brand Name: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____ Serial Number _____

Frame Size: _____ # of Gears: _____ Colors: _____

Type of Bicycle (circle one): Mountain Road Recumbent Tandem Cruiser 3-Speed BMX Cargo Other: _____

Additional Marks/Characteristics: _____

Outdoor Living May Be In The Deck

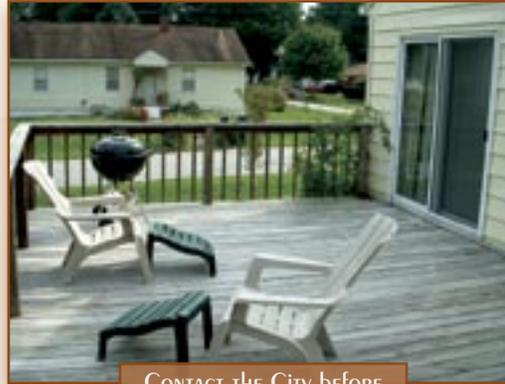
Who can't see themselves sitting on their own deck under a blue sky dotted with a few puffy clouds while not-too-loud birds chatter in the distance. Those who have a deck may already be living the dream, but for those who want to build a deck, there are several things to consider before you get the glory.

THE VISION

When dreaming up your own vision of a deck, consider how you want to use it. Do you see family and a few close friends lounging on deck chairs, or is the deck covered with everyone you know? How much privacy do you want? Are you imagining a jacuzzi, a table and chairs hooded by an umbrella, a seated bar with a tiki roof, or a yoga platform surrounded by stones? Don't be afraid to dream.

THE REALITY

Once you have your vision, it's time to align it with reality. Unless you live on a huge lot, location choices may be limited. In fact, the location is likely fairly obvious, which may require some additional planning. For example, if it's in full sun or the direction of prevailing winds, you may need a sun and/or wind block. Regardless of the location, you must meet setback requirements (distance from the property line).



CONTACT THE CITY BEFORE STARTING YOUR DECK PROJECT.

MEETING SETBACK REQUIREMENTS

First visit the City's **Inspections Department** to review your street file for information on variances and soil corrections and to verify permits and inspections for the original deck (if you are replacing an old one). If you find that your existing structure and/or the proposed deck do not meet setback requirements, stop by the **Planning Department** on the second floor to apply for a variance. All decks and platforms must meet setback requirements, but decks attached to the home, or decks 30 or more inches above grade, also require building permits.

GETTING A BUILDING PERMIT

After you determine location specifications, begin the **building permit** process with the Inspections Department by submitting an as-built survey, a site plan showing setbacks, and two complete sets of construction drawings. For a complete list of building permit requirements, call Inspections at 763-593-8090 and ask for a "**Decks Information Sheet**" (see sidebar for code requirement highlights).

GETTING INSPECTIONS

With building permit in hand, construction can commence. **Inspections** are required at various times throughout construction to ensure that building codes are met, and you must meet three inspection requirements:

1. Post the inspection report card (protect it from weather) on the job site until the final inspection is completed.
2. Notify the City Inspections Department when each phase of the deck is ready for inspection.
3. Schedule the final inspection at least 24 hours in advance.

If you combine a clear vision, a good plan, and safe construction with all necessary permits and inspections in place, you, too, can be living the deck dream.

DECKS MUST Follow Code

All deck construction must adhere to the City's building code. Here are a few highlights:

- Frost footings must be at least 42 inches deep and on undisturbed soil.
- Buried posts must be surrounded with granular fill for drainage.
- Decks 30 inches or more above grade require a minimum 36-inch high guardrail. Open guardrails shall have intermediate rails so that a four-inch-diameter sphere cannot pass through.
- Stairways must be at least 36 inches wide with an eight-inch maximum rise and a nine-inch minimum run. A four-inch-diameter sphere cannot pass through riser. Handrails and frost footings shall be provided for all stairs having four or more risers. Stair and landing illumination is required.
- Handrails must be graspable and placed not less than 34 inches or more than 38 inches above the nosing of treads.
- All materials used for posts, joists, beams, and decking must be approved treated wood or approved wood of natural resistance to decay, such as cedar, redwood, or composite decking material.

Call BEFORE You Dig

At least two full business days before you start digging deck footings (or do any digging), call Gopher State One Call at 651-454-0002 or 800-252-1156 (www.gopherstateonecall.org) to locate and mark all the utilities on your property.



- Not all composite decking materials are approved for use in Minnesota. Check with the Inspections Department for verification.
- All fasteners shall be of approved materials and grades.

For complete information, call the Golden Valley Inspections Department at 763-593-8090 to request a "**Decks Information Sheet**."

PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Deliver complete entries by June 7, 2006 to:

Photo Contest—City of Golden Valley
7800 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55427

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.

Views of the Valley Deadline Is June 7

Got photos taken in Golden Valley? Enter the 14th annual *Views of the Valley* photo contest. Or, vote for your favorite photo in the "People's Choice" award category by visiting the City Web site or City Hall June 14–25. All winning entries are published in *CityNews* and the City Web site and reproduced for permanent display in City Hall. Grand prize is \$100. Questions? Call 763-593-8004.



photo by Peter Gustafson

RULES

- Golden Valley residents can submit photos in three categories: **Natural Golden Valley** (landscapes, flora, fauna, etc); **Golden Valley Lifestyle** (cityscapes, buildings, people, activities, etc); and **Enhanced** (photos significantly altered by editing software, lenses, etc). On the entry form, explain what alterations were made.
- Submit up to three 5x7 color or black-and-white photo finish prints (no slides, photocopies, or prints not on photo-quality paper; digital files must be accompanied by a 5x7 print on photo-quality paper). Do not mat or frame photos.
- Include complete entry information for each photo (see form at left). All entries submitted must be your own work. All decisions are final, and judges reserve the right not to award in any category. Contest organizers reserve the right to re-categorize or disqualify any entrant.

The City of Golden Valley is not responsible for lost entries. The photographer is responsible for obtaining approval from identifiable people in a photo taken in a non-public space.

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

City of
Golden Valley

763-593-8000

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