

MAY JUNE
2007

Golden Valley

CityNEWS



Use **WATER** Wisely

Last year's drought and spotty rainfall this season are good reminders to do what you can when it comes to conserving water.

Because the City of Golden Valley purchases its water from Minneapolis, and Minneapolis gets its water from the Mississippi river, the amount of water available to Golden Valley depends on river levels, and river levels depend on rainfall. This includes rainfall around Lake Itasca and the entire Mississippi River watershed as well as here.

Typically, water use increases each summer, which can put a strain on availability, on the environment, and on your pocketbook. Using less water is part of being a responsible steward of our natural resources, so the following are a few water conservation tips for the summer:

- 💧 If you have a lawn, chances are this is your biggest use of water in the summer. Adjust sprinklers so only the lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street. Try to water every third day at most, and avoid watering on windy days, at peak hours of sunlight, or after a heavy rain. Watering at peak hours, or on windy days means much of the water will evaporate before it ever hits the lawn. Avoid watering during the peak water consumption hours of 4 to 9 pm.
- 💧 Raise your lawn mower blade to at least three inches high. Closely cut grass makes the roots work harder, requiring more water.
- 💧 When washing the car, use soap and water from a bucket. Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle for the final rinse. Sweep your driveway instead of hosing it down.

Inside your house, bathroom facilities claim nearly 75 percent of the water used. Make sure fixtures are leak-free and in good repair. Even small leaks can lead to a large loss of water (and money) over time. Check faucets and toilets regularly, repair leaks, and replace worn-out parts.

For information about how to monitor your water use, see page 2. For more information about Golden Valley's water system, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/watersystem.htm or contact the Public Works Department, Utilities Division, at 763-593-8075.

CONCERTS *in the Park*

Enjoy free concerts in Brookview Park with family, friends, and neighbors most Monday evenings (*note different day) beginning at 7 pm at the large picnic shelter. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and pack a picnic, or purchase food and beverages from the Brookview Golf Grill. Concerts will take place inside the picnic shelter during light rain and will be cancelled in the event of severe weather.

2007 Concert Schedule

- June 11—Golden Valley Orchestra
- June 18—Stompin' Dixie
- *June 21—Robbinsdale City Band
- June 25—Ticket to Brasil
- July 9—Celebration Brass
- July 16—Gypsy Mania Quartet
- July 23—Calhoun Brass
- July 30—Banjo Bandits
- *July 31—The Flyers (11:15 am)
- August 6—Sentimental Swing
- August 13—Jolly Czechs

For more information, contact
763-512-2345.

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BORDER PROJECT Update

A proposed 48.6 acre redevelopment by Duke Realty on the border of St Louis Park and Golden Valley is one step closer to reality. The St Louis Park City Council recently adopted a final Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR), meaning planning can begin.

An AUAR, required by law, weighs the potential impact of large developments on traffic flow, sewer system capacity, environmental factors, and more. It studies alternatives for development size and various land use options. This AUAR considered scenarios with various office, retail, and housing combinations. Both cities worked to ensure the report explored all practical mitigation options. All interested parties were invited to comment on the AUAR. Comments were compiled and addressed, and all responses were included in the final document, published at <http://www.stlouispark.org/pdf/FINALAUAR0307.pdf>.

Some concerns include:

- transit options near the development
- impact on congestion at intersections near I-394 and Highway 100
- sanitary sewer capacity issues
- impact on development of adjoining areas
- consideration of sustainable storm water mitigation options, such as green roofs
- consideration of pedestrian links that will help support transit to mitigate traffic or provide for reasonable operation of the existing park-and-ride facility

Based on comments received, Duke Realty is now proposing a development with 350,000 square feet of retail space and 1.1 million square feet of office space. Environmental impacts will be addressed during the planning approval process. Roughly 12 percent of the development would be within Golden Valley city limits, putting most of the project responsibility on St Louis Park.

For more information on the project's status, contact Mark Grimes, Golden Valley director of planning and development, at 763-593-8095.

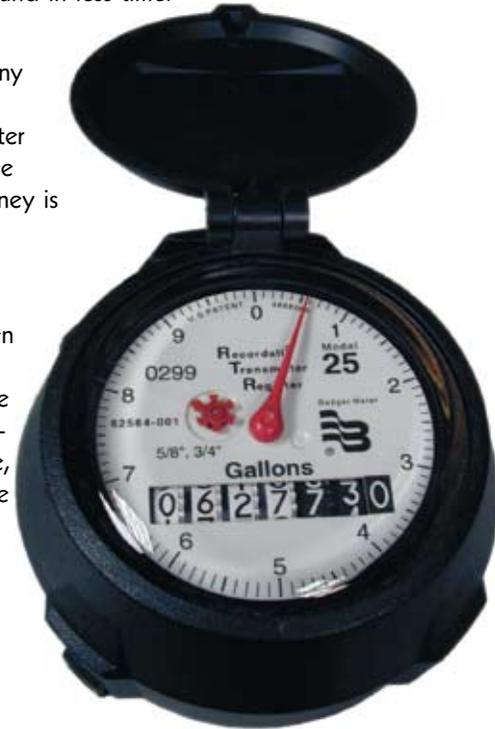
Learn Your WATER Meter And Save \$\$

Over the years, as water costs have increased and concerns about conservation have grown, the City of Golden Valley has continually upgraded its facilities to increase efficiency and keep costs in check. Between 2002 and 2005, Public Works staff replaced every residential water meter in the city with new meters featuring efficient radio-read technology (all commercial water meters had been replaced previously). The new meters allow for more accurate water consumption readings and save costs by allowing one meter reader to cover more ground in less time.

Citizens can help conserve water, and save money, by learning to read their meters. Many residents call the City concerned about their water bill because they "hardly used any water at all." Truth is, a drop of water adds up (see gauge below), and the only way to save money is to conserve (see page 1 for a few tips).

READING THE METER

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



CHECKING FOR LEAKS

The small red wheel near the center of the meter spins when water is being used. If it spins when no water is being used, it has detected a continual leak somewhere in the residence that is wasting water. If the leak is intermittent, it will not make the small red dial spin, so don't rely solely on this dial to detect leaks.

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

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

LEAK GAUGE

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

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

psi = pounds per square inch

Run The Valley Raises \$11,080 For GVHSF

The 13th annual *Run the Valley* 5–10K Run and 5K Walk drew 420 runners and walkers April 14 to compete for medals and raise funds for the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation.

The event raised \$11,080 for the GVHSF, which allocates the funds to local human service organizations that benefit the community.

In the 10K, the top three male finishers were Phillip Zimmerman, Minneapolis (37:27); Nick Pocius, Maple Grove (37:57); and Robert Gamboa, St Louis Park (39:23). The top three female finishers were Kelly Van Guilder, Webster, WI (39:37); Ann Harrington, Brooklyn Park (44:02); and Kate Adams, Rice, MN (46:08).

In the 5K, the top three male finishers were David Kleingarn, Minneapolis (18:55); Jonathan Johnson, Minneapolis (19:02); and Michael Tate, River Falls, WI (19:30). The top three female finishers were Kate Tavakley, Burnsville (21:09); Bree McLuen, Minneapolis (24:07); and Veronica Jones, Maple Grove (24:29).

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

Since 1992, the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) has worked to support organizations that serve Golden Valley residents. Each year, this board of citizen volunteers reviews funding requests and allocates funds raised by the Foundation through various annual fund-raisers, such as *Run the Valley*, September's *Golden Valley Golf Classic*, and November's *Taste of Golden Valley*. The Foundation also receives 10% of the pull tab monies collected in the City.

For 2007, the GVHSF allocated \$48,000 to nine local human service organizations: Northwest YMCA Detached Work Program (\$13,000), Home Free Domestic Assault Intervention Project (\$10,500), Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (\$5,000), PRISM Food Shelf (\$5,000), Suburban Northwest Dinner at Your Door (\$5,000), Senior Community Services Home Program (\$3,000), Crisis Connection (\$2,500), Senior Community Service Outreach Program (\$2,000), and North Hennepin Mediation Program (\$2,000).

Corporate sponsors for this year's *Run the Valley* were BNC Bank, Byerly's, Channel 12, Einstein Bagels, Great Glacier Water, Liberty Carton, Lupient Enterprises, Nestle Water, Old Fashion Donut Shoppe, Perkins Family Restaurant, Rotary Club of GV, Valley Pastries, Wells Fargo, and Yoplait USA. Sponsors supplied T-shirts, food, and water for the event.

Next year's race is scheduled for April 2008. 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.



CITY TO HEAR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN

Every year the City of Golden Valley is required to obtain a permit for managing storm water that comes from overland flow—water that does not originate from a single pipe—and to reduce pollution. The process is called the Phase II National Pollution and Discharge Elimination System, and it requires significant planning by the City, including a public hearing with the City Council (this year set for June 19).

All communities with more than 10,000 people are federally mandated to get the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit. They must file a report with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) by June 30, and the MPCA then reviews how the City will regulate and improve storm water discharges.

Golden Valley uses its Comprehensive Surface Water Management Plan, adopted in 1999, as a guide for managing surface water resources. The permit process requires the City to address and implement six Minimum Control Measures: public education about water resources, public involvement, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site runoff control, post construction runoff control, and pollution prevention.

The June 19 City Council hearing will give the public a chance to share comments on the plan. All written comments should be received no later than 4:30 pm the day of the meeting. Forward comments to: City of Golden Valley, Attn: Al Lundstrom, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427.

For more information, contact Lundstrom at 763-593-8046.

It's UGH Time

Hennepin County and the City of St Louis Park are once again teaming up to give residents a chance to get rid of UGH—"Unwanted Garden and Household" chemicals and waste—at a free, annual household hazardous waste collection:

Thursday, June 7–Saturday, June 9
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*, and 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. 

Household Hazardous Waste, E-Waste Piling Up

Your home is secure, warm, a refuge, so it may be difficult to imagine it might also be a haven for hazardous waste. 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, generating 1.6 million tons of HHW nationwide every year.

This makes recycling and proper disposal vital to human and environmental health. And getting rid of electronics (E-waste), is no exception. According to the EPA, the United States generated 2.63 million tons of electronic waste in 2005.



It is illegal to dump monitors in the trash in Minnesota.

Photo by Robert Schulz

WHAT IS HHW, E-WASTE?

Any household product that contains corrosive, ignitable, reactive, or toxic ingredients is considered hazardous waste. HHW is contained in many common household products, but it's 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). E-waste items, such as TVs, computers, and VCRs, often contain

several pounds of lead and smaller amounts of mercury, cadmium, and other substances. If you have doubts about a product, check it out by calling Hennepin County at 612-348-3777.

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 2
Fourth of July	Sat, July 7
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 8
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 24
Christmas	Sat, Dec 29
New Year's '08	Sat, Jan 5

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.

Recycling HHW AND E-WASTE

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. Last year Minnesota lawmakers made it illegal to dump old TVs and monitors into the trash. Fortunately, Hennepin County has two permanent drop-off sites and collaborates with local municipalities to provide annual HHW drop-off events (see sidebar for more details). Also, Sam's Club will be accepting E-waste drop offs at its St Louis Park location June 1-2. Anything with a CRT or circuit board will be accepted. You do not have to be a Sam's club member.

If you have specific recycling questions, call the City at 763-593-8030. 

Nature Area Will Provide Visual Feast

Golden Valley residents and west metro motorists will catch some eye candy this summer when driving in the vicinity of Hwys 55 and 169, and the herbaceous hotties on parade will all look their bloomin' best. Thanks to a collaborative effort by the City of Golden Valley and General Mills, the new General Mills Nature Area (at the southeast corner of the Hwy 55/169 interchange) will display an array of colorful native plants. It will also protect the 19 acres from future development and preserve it forever for passive enjoyment by locals and the greater community.

In July, the City will formally dedicate the General Mills Nature Area (see box for details) with a ceremony that will trumpet the enhanced nature preserve's amenities and its benefits to the community. It will also celebrate the City's long-term partnership with General Mills, which donated the land to the City to create the nature preserve.

Public/Private Cooperation

The General Mills Nature Area is the result of some out-of-the-box thinking by City officials and General Mills executives faced with a challenging project: improve the intersection at Hwy 55, Boone Ave, and General Mills Blvd to accommodate traffic from around 1,700 additional employees at General Mill's expanded corporate headquarters, protect the intersection from flooding in certain conditions, and restore wetlands disturbed by the project.

To make the project work, General Mills donated land it bought in the 1950s for future office development. The City developed the area for floodplain storage and wetland mitigation, and a permanent conservation easement through the Minnesota Land Trust (see sidebar) preserves it as a nature area.

Currently, more than 50 different native species are working to make permanent homes in three distinct habitats: shallow marsh, wet meadow, and floodplain forest. Some of these plants include native big bluestem and Indian grasses, soft-stem bulrushes, and native red maple and black spruce trees. Strategically placed interpretive signs (see photo) help visitors identify what they are viewing.

Visitors can access the Nature Area from Betty Crocker Dr and the frontage road south of Hwy 55. A half-mile blacktop trail loops around the wetland and links to other area trails.

For more information about the General Mills Nature Area, contact City Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046. If you have questions about the dedication ceremony, contact City Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler at 763-593-8004. 



THE NATURE AREA IN SEPTEMBER 2006. BY THE GRAND OPENING, MANY OF THE PLANTS WILL HAVE BLOOMED.

MN LAND TRUST Helps PRESERVE NATURE

Golden Valley's General Mills Nature Area (see story at left) will be forever protected from development, thanks to help from the Minnesota Land Trust. According to the Minnesota Land Trust Web site, this private, nonprofit organization "preserves the natural and scenic heritage of our state by permanently protecting the lands and waters that define our communities and enrich our quality of life."

To do this, the Land Trust establishes and monitors permanent conservation easements, which are legal agreements that allow landowners to voluntarily limit the development potential and use of their land. Landowners retain ownership, but the easement runs in perpetuity, which means the land is protected no matter who may own it in the future. The Land Trust Web site says no other organization in Minnesota uses conservation easements as extensively to protect land.

Since it completed its first easement in 1993, the Land Trust has completed 327 projects protecting 28,631 acres (more than 44 square miles and almost 104 miles of shoreline) throughout Minnesota.

For more information, visit the Land Trust Web site at www.mnland.org. 

Dedication Ceremony
**GENERAL MILLS
 NATURE AREA**
 WEDNESDAY, JULY 11
 NOON

NATURE AREA ENTRY BRIDGE
 (just east of Hwy 169 and north of Betty Crocker Dr)

The public is invited to attend.

Recreation OPPORTUNITIES

Find details on the following recreation opportunities in the Spring/Summer Recreation Activities Brochure or the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

Youth Activities

Cheer America • Little Critters T-Ball • Tae Kwon Do • Jump Rope • Pens, Pencils, Markers, and More • Summer Survivor • Chess Club • Chess-O-Rama • Lacrosse for Boys and Girls • Skateboarding Camp • Playgrounds • Playground Field Trips • Pitch By Coach • Soccer Skills Camp • Kick Ball • Balloon Workshop • Magic and More • Jewelry Making • Explorers Hiking and Biking Club • Ball Games • Drama Club • Fishing Club • Flag Football • Basketball Skills Camp • Park Baseball • Slow-pitch Softball • Football Camp • Ultimate Frisbee Camp • Bike Rangers • Sand Volleyball • Skyhawks Camps: Mini-Hawk Camp, SNAG Golf Camp, Cheerleading Camp, Basketball Camp, Soccer Camp, Flag Football Camp • Tennis Camps • Golf Lessons

Adult Activities

Yoga and Pilates • Tuning Forks—What Are They? • Hoop It Up With Heavy Hoops • Cardio Kickboxing • Tae Kwon Do • Sleep at Home Scrapbooking Retreat • Knit a Sweater or Whatever • Swing and Social Ballroom Dance

DAVIS COMMUNITY CENTER

Over 40 Basketball • Open Basketball • Co-Rec Volleyball

Register in person, by mail, phone, 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

Local Playgrounds Are Home To Summer Fun



Medley Park



Gearty Park



Scheid Park

Upcoming sum-

mer vacation means schools of kids will soon

be looking for ways to fill their long, hot days. Golden Valley's Park and Recreation Department has many options to keep kids occupied and out of the house (see left sidebar), including its free Summer Playground Programs, its arts and crafts projects, and its special events (see boxes).

Morning and Afternoon Playground includes a variety of games, arts, hiking, and biking for older kids and are both fun and constructive. Staffed by energetic Park and Recreation employees, each program features games such as Capture the Flag, Ships Across the Ocean, dodgeball, and softball, as well as crafts such as tie-dye, making grass hair planters and sand monsters, story time, and puppet shows.

To see what's in store each week, choose a park and stop by opening day to pick up a schedule. Parents should know that because the playgrounds are open, children can come and go as they please. This means the kids involved have to be relatively independent.

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

Playground Programs

Supervised drop-off playground programs for children ages 6–14.

Morning Playground

June 11–July 26, Mon–Thu

(no July 4 or 5 dates)

9:30–11:30 am

South Tyrol Park

Afternoon Playground

June 11–July 26, Mon–Thu

(no July 4 or 5 dates)

1–4:30 pm

Gearty, Hampshire, Lakeview, Lions, Medley, Scheid, and Wesley Parks

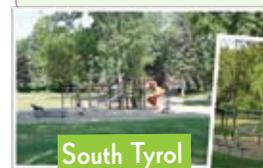
Playground Arts & Crafts

June 13–July 25

(no July 4 date)

2 pm

Cost: \$2 per project, \$10 for all
A different craft project will be offered weekly at the seven regional parks. Flyers at the park shelter buildings list all the projects.



South Tyrol
Park



Lakeview Park

Special Events

Picnic in the Park

June 31

11:15 am–noon

Brookview Park

featuring "The Flyers"

Penny Carnival

July 27

12:30–2:30 pm

Brookview Park

Water Days (ages 6–14)

June 22 & July 13

1:15–3 pm

Scheid Park

Getting To Know You:

Active Seniors Boost Neighborly Connections

Hilvie Ostrow and Betty Crews have each lived in Golden Valley's Cortlawn neighborhood for more than 40 years. Over that time they've seen a concerning change in their community, a trend that's been slow to evolve but evident in contrast to how things were two or three decades ago.

Neighbors just don't talk to each other like they used to.

"Everybody seems to stay in their houses so much these days," Crews said. "They don't come out except to cut the grass."

Ostrow remembers a time when neighbors would regularly participate in activities together, like a neighborhood dance club. "It was a uniting kind of thing," she said. As it is now, she added, many neighbors don't even know each others' names.

So last year Ostrow and Crews set out to try to reverse the trend. They started attending Golden Valley Bridge Builders meetings, part of the City's *Envision* Connection Project (see box below), where they volunteered to arrange a neighborhood potluck for National Night Out (see sidebar on page 10).

First they named themselves "The Cortlawn Capers." Then they planned and organized a get-together that brought about 45 neighbors out of their houses for some good old-fashioned socializing. After the potluck, Crews and Ostrow had everyone stand in a circle and share their names and point to which house they lived in.

"It helped a lot," Crews said. "Now when you go to the grocery store, you might see one of your neighbors and you'll know who they are."

Crews and Ostrow are no strangers to community engagement. Crews is a board member and volunteer with the Golden Valley Historical Society and is active with her church. Ostrow plays piano at nursing homes, is a member of Golden Valley's Families Sharing the Dream Sub-Committee (which helps plan events for Black History Month), and is thinking of reapplying to join the Golden Valley Human Rights Commission, which she served on for a year. Civic involvement runs in her family. Her son, Paul Ostrow, is a Minneapolis City Council member.

As for The Cortlawn Capers, Crews and Ostrow would like to do more for their neighborhood. Crews wants to start a quarterly neighborhood newsletter and perhaps organize other social gatherings. Both women said they will definitely organize another potluck for this summer's National Night Out. They added they would also like to see more people make similar social connections in other neighborhoods, even if it's just walking across the street to say hello. 



HILVIE OSTROW (left) AND BETTY CREWS

BRIDGE BUILDERS

Looking for a way to connect with others in the community? Want to get involved but don't know where to start? Do you have ideas that might inspire?

Bridge Builders taps into the desire we all have to contribute to the greater good. It's a way for individuals and groups to match up with like-minded folks who want to make things happen in the spirit of *Envision Golden Valley*.

For more information or to get involved, call Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014.

SENIOR Stuff

Unless noted otherwise, most activities are at Brookview Community Center and require advance registration.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Cook Out at Brookview—June 21, noon. \$4 for members/\$5 for non-members. Register by June 18.

Patriotic Pizazz Party—July 13, 1:30–3 pm, Crystal Community Center, \$5. Register with GV Seniors by July 6.

SPEAKERS

Stimulate your mind with these events:

- **"Be Smart This Summer"**—June 7. Learn ways to enjoy the outdoors for a smarter, healthier you.
- **"An Act of Love"**—June 21, 10–11 am. Financially prepare your survivors for life without you.
- **"Keeping Your Brain Healthy is Easier Than You Think"**—June 27, 9:45 am. Learn some easy ways to work your brain to keep it active and healthy. \$2 payable at door. Register by June 25.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING
June 27, 11–11:30 am. Free.

UPCOMING TRIPS (REGISTER EARLY)
June 13: Mill Pond Market, 7:30 am–5 pm, \$49/person (includes food and bus). Register by May 21.

June 22: "Meandering With Mary" in Stillwater, 9:15 am - 2:45 pm, \$5.50 (includes transportation and escort). Register by June 15.

July 31: Lunch Cruise and Minnesota Centennial Showboat, 11 am–5:30 pm, \$67. Register by June 25.

Seniors Program: Send a \$5 donation to the Senior Program and receive six issues of the senior newsletter by mail.

Golden Valley Seniors Program
Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Parkway
Golden Valley, MN 55426
763-512-2339
8 am–5 pm, Monday–Friday

What's Underground? A Web Of Lines

Understanding The System: Hundreds of Miles Of Pipes Pumping, Draining, Cleaning, Connecting



Beneath your street lies a spaghetti tangle of utility pipes, cable cords, electrical wires, gas lines, fiber optic, and ground wires. And beneath that, as you go down foot by foot through Golden Valley's thick, clay dirt, lies the City utility system—more than 120 miles each of water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer pipe.

As we go about our daily lives, this complex web of underground piping quietly serves every property in the City. It brings in fresh water, takes away sewage, and channels storm water

run-off away from streets and buildings. And because it's underground, it often goes unnoticed, until, that is, there is a problem.

Managing this system is a full-time job for City Public Works staff. It requires a continuous process of maintenance, repair, and updating that, if neglected, could mean a lot of money and headaches for citizens now and in the future, says Bert Tracy, utilities maintenance supervisor.

Fortunately, Golden Valley is aggressive about maintaining, repairing, and updating its utilities and other infrastructure (see story on page 13). Each year the City evaluates the condition of utility pipes in its current Pavement Management Program (street

reconstruction) areas and repairs and replaces pipe as needed.

Many of these pipes are going on 50 years old, says Tracy. Then there's the impact of Golden Valley's frost susceptible, corrosive clay soils that tend to shift when the ground freezes, causing water main breaks (see *Water System* below). Thus, utility system upkeep is a never-ending process.

The outlines below explain the basics of the City's water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer systems. They also explain the City's utilities maintenance programs and property owner responsibilities for upkeep and repair.

Water System

The Joint Water Commission (JWC) cities of Golden Valley, Crystal, and New Hope purchase water from the City of Minneapolis, which draws its water supply from the Mississippi River. After treatment and purification, the water is pumped to its customers throughout the metro area.

The JWC maintains two pump stations, three water towers, two reservoirs, and all pipes larger than 14 inches. Each City maintains its own distribution system and utility billing and meter reading functions. Golden Valley's water pipes are buried about eight feet below the street. The bulk of the pipes were installed in the early 1960s, when cast iron was considered the best material. Unfortunately, cast iron is brittle and snaps with soil movement, resulting in water main breaks, and Golden Valley's clay soil contributes to a higher number of breaks (and repair costs). For example, in 2002, Golden Valley repaired 21 breaks in 120 miles of pipe (New Hope repaired 16 in 60 miles of pipe, and Crystal repaired four in 100 miles of pipe). The average cost per repair often exceeds \$4,500. Golden Valley is working to replace old cast iron pipes with a more pliant ductile iron. In 2002, Golden Valley replaced nearly three miles of water main during street reconstruction.

While the City maintains the water mains, property owners are responsible for maintaining and repairing water pipes or services from their buildings to the curb stop at the right-of-way line.



Sanitary Sewer System

Anything that goes down an indoor drain in your home or building enters the sanitary sewer system. Golden Valley's sanitary sewer system is buried 5 to 50 feet underground, making repairs and maintenance a challenge. These pipes carry wastewater from homes and businesses to the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant, which treats wastewater for the seven county metropolitan area.

Golden Valley's sanitary sewer system consists of gravity pipes, lift station discharge pipes, and lift stations. Much of it was constructed after 1950, and by 2020, significant portions will be 70 years old. Each year the City cleans about 40 miles of sanitary sewer, completely cleaning the entire public system every three years. This process includes televising the sewer pipes to detect defects and potential problems.



Many sewer problems can be avoided through regular maintenance, and property owners are responsible for cleaning, maintaining, and repairing their sewer service (from their homes or businesses to the sewer main), including the connection at the main. Property owners are also responsible for making sure sump pumps, foundation drains, and roof gutter downspouts are not connected to the sanitary sewer system. To monitor this, the City mandates a sanitary sewer inspection before a home goes up for sale. For more information, visit the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us.



Storm Sewer System

Storm sewer pipes carry rainfall runoff and other clear water, but not sewage. The runoff is carried in underground pipes or open ditches and flows untreated into streams, ponds, or other water bodies. The drains to this system may be found in curbs and low-lying outdoor areas. Golden Valley's storm sewer pipes are anywhere from 3 to 15 feet underground, and its 90 miles of storm sewer system includes around 1,000 catch basins (storm drains).

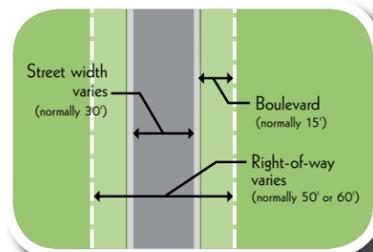


As part of its storm sewer maintenance program, the City cleans ponds, storm water pipes, drains (gutters), and outlets, sump catch basins, environmental manholes (which catch sediment while allowing storm water to flow through), and sweeps streets. Pond treatment and rear yard drainage programs require property owners to petition the City to implement projects.

Property owners can help by maintaining healthy lawns and not leaving debris or possible pollutants on lawns, driveways, or streets. If the gutter in front of your property becomes clogged with leaves or debris, clear it out. Such efforts can prevent a significant amount of run-off from entering the storm sewer system and ending up in Bassett Creek, Sweeney Lake, or the Mississippi River.

Right-of-Way

The City owns a portion of the land between the street and people's homes (generally 15 feet out from the curb). This right-of-way, including the boulevard, is considered public land specifically dedicated for public purposes, such as street and utility work. The city uses the boulevard to maintain and construct roadways, sidewalks, water and sewer pipes, gas lines, phone cables, and other utilities, and to store snow. Routine maintenance of property on the right-of-way, however, is the responsibility of the owner of the corresponding residential or business property.



What To Do About Sewer Back Ups

Because of the City's regular maintenance program, only a small percentage of sewer backups in Golden Valley are caused by problems in City sewer lines (such as tree roots growing into the sewer). The City of Golden Valley is not responsible or liable for a sewer blockage unless there is a clear demonstration of negligence on its part. However, it's important to call the City whenever a sewer backup occurs (763-593-8079). Public Works personnel will respond 24 hours a day to make sure the City sewer line is clear.

In many cases, sewer backups are caused by a build-up of grease and soap residue in your sewer line. Catastrophic events, such as weather problems or electricity loss, are other possible causes. To find a company that will locate and clear your sewer blockage, look in the *Yellow Pages* under "Sewer Cleaning."

Call Before You Dig: 651-454-0002

Protect yourself and your property against damage and liability by finding out where underground utility lines might be buried before you dig. Anyone digging in Minnesota must call before digging. The person who is doing the work is responsible for calling Gopher State One Call (GSOC) at 800-252-1166 or 651-454-0002 (this is a free service). If you contract with a professional excavator, then the contractor is responsible for calling GSOC. The digger will need to provide information about the work site.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CELEBRATES SAFETY

Neighborhoods throughout Golden Valley are invited to join forces with communities across the nation for the 24th annual National Night Out (NNO) Tuesday, August 7, 2007.



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 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.

NNO planning kits 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.

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

New Police Chief Starts By Taking Input

Golden Valley's new police chief has some old ties to the community. Stacy Altonen lived here until she was five years old, her father was a police officer here for several years, and she still carries the service revolver the Golden Valley Police Department gave him as a farewell gift in 1970. He gave it to her nearly 20 years ago when she started her law enforcement career in Minneapolis. So, in a way, Altonen brought it back "home" when she started here April 16.

And Golden Valley is exactly where Altonen wants to be. After years of steadily moving up the ranks in Minneapolis, Altonen wanted a police administration position where she could "still perform functions that helped cops do their jobs." She was drawn to Golden Valley's reputation as a top-notch suburb and what she believed was a good fit for her skills and abilities. "I felt I could make more of a difference to more people in a smaller city like Golden Valley, and that really appealed to me," she says. "The Golden Valley Police Department has a great reputation in law enforcement. The chief's job, particularly in law enforcement circles, is viewed as a prize."

After earning an AA degree in law enforcement from North Hennepin Community College, Altonen passed the Police Skills Program and went to work as a patrol officer in Minneapolis' fifth precinct. Six years later she moved on to spend a year each as a training unit patrol officer, a fourth precinct property crimes sergeant, a patrol sergeant in the north side precinct, a field training program sergeant, and a second precinct middle shift lieutenant. She also spent several years as a training unit lieutenant and a brief assignment as a narcotics unit lieutenant. In 2001, Altonen was named captain of the special investigations division. From 2003 to 2004 she was inspector of the second precinct, and in 2004 she was named captain of the administrative services division. Along the way she earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Metro State University and a master's in public safety administration from St Thomas University. She also attended the School of Police Staff and Command (SPSC) at Northwestern University.

As Altonen settles in, her first plan is to get input from the staff and the community. "After that, we can develop some goals and performance measures to provide direction for the department and a gauge for the community to measure our effectiveness."

She also wants to explore the value of individual neighborhood policing plans, which she believes provide opportunity for both staff and neighborhoods to give input about what they know is happening. "It gives direction for everyone and lets them know what's going on," she says. "It puts a plan and some faces on both ends."

Such efforts represent two of the things Altonen finds most interesting and rewarding about police work—working with staff ("who are all very professional and motivated and want to do a good job") and working with people in the community ("so they feel like they have a stake in their own neighborhood").

"Criminals have become bolder in their actions, and society's response needs to be holistic despite limited resources," says Altonen. "It is imperative for law enforcement agencies to partner with the community to close the gaps, and in our case, maintain the high quality of life in Golden Valley."

Chief Altonen can be reached at 763-593-8059 or saltonen@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.



POLICE CHIEF STACY ALTONEN
BEGAN AT GOLDEN VALLEY IN APRIL

The GVFD Needs You

The Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) is seeking men and women to join its 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:

- firefighters in training (\$8.48/hr)
- apprentice firefighter (\$11.27/hr)
- firefighter (\$13.38/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 763-593-8054.



STREET DANCE

Saturday, June 23, 2007
3 pm–midnight

Chester Bird American Legion
Hwy 100 & Glenwood Ave

- Fire trucks, face painting, and fire truck slide
- Hotdogs, brats, roasted corn-on-the-cob, chips, popcorn, snow cones, pop
- 6–8 pm: *DelCounts*
- 9 pm–close: *Doug and The Mooners*

Sponsored by the Golden Valley Fire Relief Association. For more information, contact the Golden Valley Fire Department at 763-593-3977.

Fire and Police Open House

Wednesday, June 20
6-8 pm

Fire Station 1 and Police Department
 7800 Golden Valley Rd

Fire Station 2
 400 Turners Crossroad

Fire Station 3
 3700 Golden Valley Rd

Featuring Fire and Police Station tours, fire truck rides, McGruff the Crime Dog, Sparky the Fire Dog, free T-shirts*, police squad car, Old Number One fire truck, live fire demo, Squirt House, Fatal Vision display, blood pressure checks by North Memorial, door prizes, and more.

**while supplies last*

Support Your Fire Relief Association

The Golden Valley Fire Relief Association, a private, non-profit organization run by members of the Fire Department, is vital to the City's fire prevention and education efforts. Its general fund provides financial support and personnel for a wide range of annual community programs, including Safety Camp, Junior Safety Camp, the Fire Department Open House, the Street Dance, Bike Rodeo, Alarmed and Alert: A Residential Fire Safety Initiative, and Senior Safety Fair.



The future success of these programs depends on community involvement. Contributions are the Fire Relief Association's only form of revenue. Support local fire prevention and education efforts with a tax deductible donation to the Fire Relief Association.

For more information, contact Fire Education Specialist/Training Coordinator Sarah Larson at slarson@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

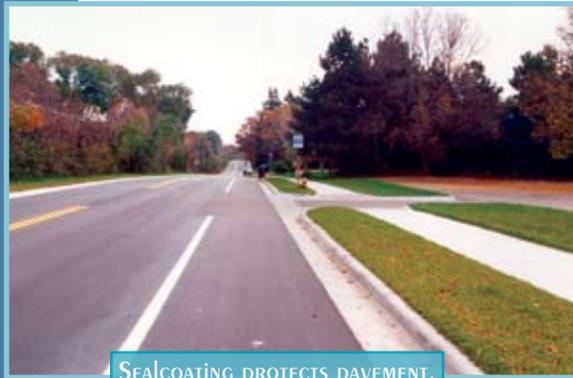
2007 SEALCOAT STREETS

- **Laurel Ave** (Pennsylvania Ave to Turners Crossroad)
- **Golden Hills Dr** (I-394 Frontage Rd to Canadian Pacific RR)
- **Colorado Ave** (Laurel Ave to Golden Hills Dr)
- **Turners Crossroad** (Circle Down to Turnpike Rd)
- **Douglas Ave** (I-394 Frontage Rd to June Ave)
- **Princeton Ave S** (Douglas Ave to I-394 Frontage Rd)
- **Ottawa Ave S** (Douglas Ave to I-394 Frontage Rd)
- **Natchez Ave S** (Douglas Ave to I-394 Frontage Rd)
- **Fairlawn Way** (Douglas Ave to I-394 Frontage Rd)
- **Avondale Rd** (Fairlawn Way to Douglas Ave)
- **June Ave S** (I-394 Frontage Rd to Douglas Ave)
- **Sussex Rd** (Avondale Rd to June Ave S)
- **Tyrol Crest** (June Ave S to Cul-de-sac)
- **Tyrol Trail S** (I-394 Frontage Rd to France Ave)
- **Alpine Pass** (Tyrol Trail to Tyrol Trail)
- **Brenner Pass** (Tyrol Trail to Tyrol Trail)
- **Kalturn Lane** (Tyrol Trail to Cul-de-sac)
- **Highway 100 Frontage W** (Westbrook Rd to Zane Ave)
- **Highway 100 Frontage E** (St Croix Ave to Schaper Rd)
- **Highway 100 Frontage E** (Scott Ave to Unity Ave)
- **Unity Ave** (Hwy 100 Frontage Rd E to Greenview Lane)
- **Greenview Lane** (Unity Ave to Toledo Ave)
- **Minnaqua Ave** (Unity Ave to Toledo Ave)
- **Golden Valley Government Center Parking Lot**

Sealcoating Keeps City Streets In Shape

It's a matter of foresight. Homeowners re-shingle their roofs to protect and prolong 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 start 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.

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,



SEALCOATING PROTECTS PAVEMENT.

which means a single application of liquid asphalt is sprayed on the existing surface, followed immediately by a single layer of aggregate (small pieces of rock). This type of treatment is excellent for wear and waterproofing, and it also improves skid resistance. The City hires a contractor to do the actual sealcoating, while City crews perform all preparatory work and sweeping. The contract calls for the project to be done sometime between the beginning of July and the middle 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 PASSPORT SERVICES

Did you know the City of Golden Valley offers a passport service? Come in with proof of citizenship (birth certificate, naturalization papers, etc), a drivers license, and two checks—one payable to the US Department of State, and one to the City of Golden Valley. A passport photo service is available at City Hall. The passport will be sent within 6-8 weeks. Fees vary.

Vehicle Licensing and Registration • Title Transfers • Passports

LOCATION AND HOURS

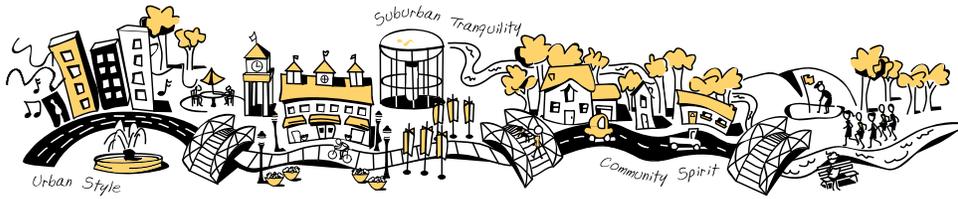
Located in Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Rd (one block north of the Highway 55/Winnetka Ave intersection and east on Golden Valley Road).

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

763-593-8101



Why Do You Live Here?



Golden Valley is your home, so take a good look around. Start with your own property, then move outward. Think about the physical comforts of home (kitchens, bathrooms) and the condition of neighborhood necessities (streets) and amenities (trees, parks, etc.). Now ask: "Is it up to snuff? Am I doing my part to help achieve the desired results?"

No matter how long you've lived here, Golden Valley has always been growing, changing, and aging. Keeping the City well-maintained and vital for future generations is one of the City Council's top priorities. City infrastructure—streets, water and sewer pipes, parks, public buildings—represents a significant community investment. After all, the value of private property relates directly to what surrounds it. So when the City reinvests in aging infrastructure, it's investing in citizens and the future of the community.

THE MAINTENANCE CYCLE

Anyone who owns property knows the maintenance cycle. If you want your car to last and work properly, you change the oil and do regular maintenance. Every so often you spring for some new tires or a major repair. Same with your house, only on a bigger scale. You clean it, caulk it, paint it, weatherproof it. After a while it needs a new roof, or furnace, or appliances. The goal, besides having a nice place to live, is to maintain value and protect your investment.

Cities have similar issues. Utility pipes and equipment are regularly cleaned and repaired, and at a certain point they must be replaced (see pages 2, 8, and 9). Streets undergo regular maintenance (see page 12) but also need to be reconstructed at some point. As park facilities and municipal buildings age, they need updating. Sometimes state and federal regulations (eg, Americans With Disabilities Act, water quality requirements, etc) and technology require the City to significantly overhaul facilities or install more infrastructure (storm water pipes, filtering ponds). And sometimes, governing bodies (like the Metropolitan Council) require cities to more closely regulate how their citizens use regional resources (eg, the impact of inflow and infiltration on the sanitary sewer system).

REINVESTING IN COMMUNITY

The blueprint that guides most of this activity is the City's Comprehensive Plan (see sidebar). From this blueprint, the City develops programs that protect taxpayers' investment. Some Golden Valley examples include:

- **Pavement Management Program (PMP):** Reconstructs a specific number of City streets each year, until every street is rebuilt to current engineering standards. Includes repair and replacement of water, sewer, and storm sewer pipes as needed.
- **Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Inspections:** Inspects private property for illegal sump pump, foundation drain, and roof drain connections that overload the City's sanitary sewer system. Requires property owners to correct problems.
- **Residential Property Maintenance Code (RPMC):** Requires residential property to be maintained to common sense standards for the good of the entire community.
- **Municipal Buildings and Parks Improvement Plans:** Repairs and reconstructs City buildings and parks to meet standards for health, safety, and community enjoyment.
- **Forestry Program:** Monitors and maintains the health of the community forest.

Keeping an aging, first-ring suburb a first-class place to call home is the responsibility of all residents and businesses. Watch future issues of CityNews for more information about Golden Valley's efforts to reinvest in itself. If you have questions, contact City Manager Tom Burt at 763-593-8002.

2008 Comp Plan ON SCHEDULE

City staff, volunteer commissioners, and City consultants have been working for the past year to develop a final draft of Golden Valley's 2008 Comprehensive Plan, a report outlining the City's goals and visions for the next decade. The goal is to have a draft ready for community review by fall and a final draft finished by the end of winter 2008. The updated Comp Plan will highlight maintenance and improvement plans regarding land use, says Mark Grimes, director of planning and development.

"With a fully developed city such as Golden Valley, there will not be significant land use changes," says Grimes. "However, there are certain corridors in the City, like I-394, where the plan may call for a mix of uses, such as retail with housing above. This is a change from standard development patterns that separate uses."

The plan will outline ways Golden Valley can redevelop its land more efficiently and in a more environmentally friendly manner. It will examine the need for future changes to the sanitary sewer, transportation, and storm water management systems to accommodate redevelopment. In addition, it will study housing and park needs.

Over the next year, the City will hold public meetings and open houses on all aspects of the Comp Plan to gain community insight before drafting the final report. A draft of the plan elements will also be sent to surrounding governmental units and school districts for a six-month review and comment period.

For more information, contact Mark Grimes at 763-593-8095, or visit the Metropolitan Council's information page at www.metrocouncil.org/services/assistance.htm.

WHAT IS A BUSINESS DISTRICT?

In Golden Valley, biking on a sidewalk is legal as long as the sidewalk is not within a business district.

According to state law, a business district is an area alongside a roadway where half or more of the space for 300 feet or more is occupied by buildings used by businesses. Several areas in Golden Valley qualify, including the streets in downtown at Golden Valley Rd and Winnetka Ave, the area near Byerly's on Duluth St, the Golden Hills area (near the Colonnade and Allianz), and areas along Douglas Dr, to name a few.

Remember, bikes on sidewalks have the same rights as pedestrians, but they also must yield to pedestrians. Bikes on streets are considered vehicles and must obey traffic laws. See the article at the right for more information. 🐾



Basic Bike Safety

- Always wear a helmet.
- Check your brakes before riding.
- Obey the same traffic rules as all motorists, including all traffic signs and signals.
- Ride single file.
- Don't assume motorists can see you.
- Use appropriate hand signals when turning and stopping. Look behind before turning across traffic lanes.
- Stop before entering a public road, scan for traffic, and signal before proceeding onto the roadway.
- Ride on the right side of the road, close to the curb, leaving enough room to maneuver around debris and other obstacles.
- Call out when you're preparing to pass (ie, "On your left!") or stopping suddenly ("Stopping!").
- Avoid loose clothing or long coats that can catch in pedals, chains, or wheels.
- Pedestrians always have the right of way.

Courtesy of the Minnesota Safety Council

Bicycles On Sidewalks

Where To Ride And Not To Ride 

When riding along a busy street, bikers face a dilemma—compete with traffic and ride in the street or possibly break the law and ride on the sidewalk.

Contrary to popular belief, it's legal to ride a bicycle on most sidewalks. The exception is riding on sidewalks within a business district (see sidebar), which state law prohibits. However, local authorities have a right to allow bikes on sidewalks in a business district as well as prohibit bicycles from any other sidewalk. In Golden Valley, state law prevails and the City has made no exceptions. A bike rider on a sidewalk outside a business district assumes the same rights and duties as a pedestrian, including the right-of-way in a street crosswalk. But a biker in the street is considered a vehicle and must comply with traffic laws.

Experienced bike riders, who ride faster and farther than casual bikers, generally opt for the street so they can flow with traffic past driveways and side streets. This is perfectly legal as long as they obey traffic laws. Young, inexperienced bike riders generally choose the sidewalk (or their parents choose it for them). Bikers using sidewalks must remember to yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian. This is both common sense and state law. A bicycle can inflict injury to a person just as seriously as a motor vehicle.



How To Decide Between The Street And The Sidewalk

If you're thinking of biking on the sidewalk in Golden Valley, consider the following:

- Is it a business district?
- Are there a number of pedestrians you will have to avoid?
- Is there room for you to pass a pedestrian or other bike rider?
- Are there frequent signs, street furniture, pavement hazards, overhanging tree limbs, or shrubs to avoid?
- Will you be traveling at higher speeds past pedestrians?

Before you choose to ride in the street, consider:

- Is there a shoulder or area near the curb free from motor vehicle use?
- If in a lane of traffic, is the volume low enough so you are easily seen and avoided?
- Do you have to weave around parked vehicles and into a traffic lane?

Regardless of your choice or your rights by law, you need to use common sense and watch out for those who don't use it. If you're driving, be respectful to bikers in the street and share the road. They often have good reason to be in the street rather than riding on a sidewalk. 🐾

Siding, Windows Are Top Summer Projects

With spring underway, housing projects are in bloom. According to the City Inspections Department, siding, window, and door replacements are among the top warm weather projects. Once you know what you're going to do, get estimates for materials and labor (needed to get a permit—see sidebar), then visit the Inspections Department in City Hall for your permit.

Siding

Whether you choose steel, aluminum, vinyl, or stucco, all siding projects need a permit (before work begins) and a final inspection. Stucco also requires a lath inspection before a final inspection. The 2000 International Residential Code requires a weather resistant barrier, either house wrap or felt paper, beneath the siding.

If you dress your house in vinyl, The Vinyl Siding Institute offers important guidelines (available at www.vinylsiding.org/install/tools.html) that are highly recommended by the Inspections Department.

Windows

Most windows are replaced in the same size opening; however, if the opening is enlarged, then a framing inspection is required.

There are special requirements (for fire safety reasons) for replacing windows in a bedroom or basement. If you change the existing framing, the following rules apply. State Code requires egress windows in these areas to have a minimum clearance that's 20 inches wide and 24 inches high, with a total minimum clear area of 5.7 square feet. The finished sill height cannot be more than 44 inches above the finished floor. If the window is below grade (eg, a basement window), a window well must be installed that is at least 36 inches wide and gives access to a minimum of nine square feet. A minimum six-inch drop from the window sill to the ground is also required, as is a ladder if the well is more than 44 inches deep.

Some areas require windows with tempered (safety) glass. These include windows within two feet of a door, windows more than nine square feet and 18 inches or less above the floor or other walking surfaces, and windows in tub/shower areas. Always check with Inspections if you think your project may require safety glass.

A final inspection is required after windows are installed. The building inspector must have access to the home for the final inspection.

For more information about home improvement requirements, permits, and inspections, call the Golden Valley Inspections Department at 763-593-8090 or visit the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/permits/residential.htm.



If you change the existing framing to a window, an inspection is required.

Inspections FYI

For safety reasons, it's important to keep your smoke detectors up to code. Inspectors will check for compliance when they're in your home.

DON'T FORGET THE PERMITS

Permits ensure construction in Golden Valley meets local, state, and federal building standards and codes. But before the City can issue a building permit, you must submit project plans and a building permit application (requirements can vary for specific projects).

COMMON PERMIT TYPES

Electrical Permits are required, but not issued, by the City of Golden Valley. For questions on electrical inspections or permits, contact the state electrical inspector at 763-241-2102. Applications are available at City Hall.

Grading, Drainage, and Erosion Control Permits are required for any activity that involves disturbing land by removing more than 10,000 square feet of soil or vegetation.

Mechanical Permits cover installation, repair, or remodeling of fireplaces, heating systems, and air conditioners.

Right-of-Way (ROW) Permits are required for work such as driveways and right-of-way work.

Plumbing Permits cover installation or replacement of plumbing for toilets, bathtubs, sinks, floor drains, water heaters, showers, garbage disposals, backflow preventers for underground sprinkler systems, and dishwashers. Permits are also required if you hire a plumber to make connections to the City's sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water main, or any repairs to your sanitary service.

Questions? Call Inspections at 763-593-8090.

Outdoor Maintenance Inspections BEGIN THIS SPRING

After months of planning, City officials will begin their first round of outdoor property maintenance inspections this spring. Inspectors will evaluate the City one portion at a time, and residents will receive a notification letter roughly a month before an inspector visits their area. At each house, the inspector will leave a checklist of items that need repair, along with a follow-up inspection date. The notification letters should give residents a reasonable amount of time to make sure their property is in good condition.

If you have questions, call Inspections at 763-593-8090.



PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Deliver complete entries by June 6, 2007 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 6

Love photographing Golden Valley? Enter the 15th annual *Views of the Valley* photo contest. All winning entries are published in *CityNews* and the City Web site and reproduced for permanent display in City Hall. First prize winners in each category receive \$100; grand prize is an additional \$50. Deadline for entry is June 6, at 4:30 pm. Mail or drop off completed entries. City employees and their families are not eligible to enter.

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. If you have questions or need more entry forms, call 763-593-8004.



763-593-8000 TTY: 763-593-3968

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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