

Golden Valley

CityNEWS

2007 Election Results

Loomis, Freiberg, Shaffer Elected To Council

The Nov 6 City election returned three incumbents to the City Council—Mayor Linda Loomis and Council members Mike Freiberg and Bob Shaffer. Loomis topped a field of three mayoral candidates to return for a third term, defeating Jeffrey Beck and Joanie Stockman Clausen. Freiberg and Shaffer topped a field of six candidates to return for second terms, defeating Bill Anderl, John Giese, Bradley Kadue, and Christopher Miller (see election results at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

Shaffer has lived in Golden Valley for 18 years and has served on the City Council since 2004. He is president of The Foundation Architects, and he holds a degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Freiberg, a life-long resident of Golden Valley, has served on the City Council since 2004. He is a staff attorney with the Tobacco Law Center. He has a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and a law degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St Paul.

Loomis has lived in Golden Valley since 1956 and has served as Mayor since 2001. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and is a part-time playground paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Elementary School.

The newly elected Council members will be sworn into office when the City Council reconvenes Jan 8, 2008.

Why CARE About City Planning?

Livable cities are the result of careful planning, of which Golden Valley has a long history, having adopted its first official land use plan in 1959. Since then, its Comprehensive Plan has become an all-encompassing tool that guides growth and redevelopment in Golden Valley.

Comprehensive plans also ensure orderly growth and coordination with regional systems for transportation, surface water, sanitary sewers, and water supply. That's why every metro area city is required to have one.

Read more on pages 8-9

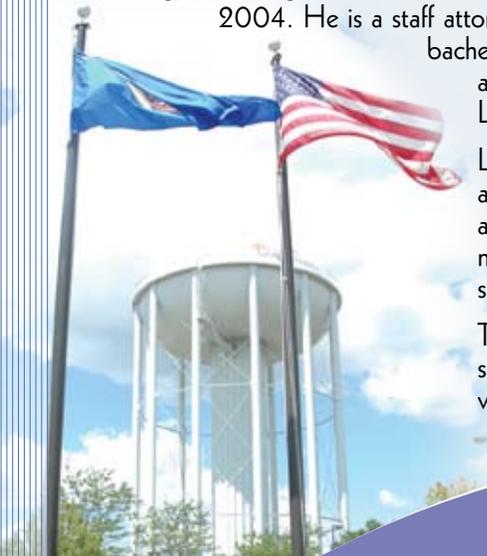
As Golden Valley updates its Comprehensive Plan for 2008–2018, the City Council, Commissioners, and staff are working together to ensure it will meet the needs of current and future residents while complementing overall development patterns of the region. Public input and understanding are essential.

The article on pages 8–9 outlines Golden Valley's Comprehensive Plan and the public input process. If you have questions, comments, or concerns, contact the Planning and Development Department at 763-593-8095 or planning@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 6

- Check Your TNT Notice|2
- 3|City INCREASES Utility FEES
- EARTH BENEFITS FROM Thoughtful Gift CHOICES|4
- 5|City USES Chemicals CAUTIOUSLY, CONSERVATIVELY
- CREWS PREP FOR SkATING SEASON, HOPE FOR Cold|6
- 7|Neighbors Help City CLEAN UP STORM DeBRIS
- 8-9|THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: A BLUEPRINT FOR Golden Valley's FUTURE
- WARMING UP THE CAR INVITES THIEVES|10
- 11|MAKE "SAFETY FIRST" YOUR Holiday MANTRA
- WHEN JACK FROST NIPS, THE City BITES BACK|12
- 13|City COMPLETES 2007 PROJECTS, PLANS FOR 2008
- CITY CONSIDERS LICENSING RENTED HOMES|14
- 15|FIRST ROUND OF INSPECTIONS CURBS COMPLAINTS



Run The Valley T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) is seeking colorful, eye-catching, and unique graphic design entries for its annual *Run The Valley* 5K/10K Walk/Run T-shirt contest. (Each race participant receives a T-shirt.)



There is no particular message to convey. The designer may choose content; however, the City of Golden Valley logo or the name "Golden Valley Human Services Foundation" must

appear somewhere within the design. There are no size requirements. The GVHSF reserves the right to add these features to the design if not included. The use of humor is not required but perfectly acceptable.

The T-shirts will be white, all cotton, long sleeve. Printing will be three-color silk-screen (two colors are acceptable if the design is better suited to this format). There are no color requirements for the Golden Valley logo or Golden Valley Human Services Foundation lettering. Submit design in camera-ready format for use by the printer (color separations preferred). The GVHSF will handle all printing. The designer may proof the printing, if desired.

The winning design is selected arbitrarily (no ranking system is used) by consensus of GVHSF members and possibly City staff. The selected printing company will be asked for input regarding the mechanics in printing particular designs. The winning designer (or designers, if co-designed) will be awarded 10 T-shirts after printing and be acknowledged in Golden Valley *CityNews* and the *Sun-Post* newspaper. GVHSF shall have sole ownership of the winning design and permission to reuse it when so desired.

The **deadline for entries is Feb 1, 2008**. Drop them off at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway, Golden Valley, MN 55426.

Check Your TNT Statement

Each November, Hennepin County mails all property owners a Truth In Taxation (TNT) statement, which outlines their proposed property tax for the upcoming year. When you get your statement, it's important to carefully look it over to understand the changes that could possibly occur in the coming year. In particular, check the portions of your TNT related to the City of Golden Valley, including the flyer that was mailed with it. If you have questions, contact the City at 763-593-8010.

2. Your property's market value, which was set in April 2007 and cannot be changed for taxes payable in 2008 (Hennepin County mails new market values in spring 2008)

1. Your property classification—eg, homestead, non-homestead, etc—(check that it's correct)

3. Total tax increase from 2007 for all taxing jurisdictions

4. City portion of your property tax for 2008 (this proposed amount is the only amount the City controls)

5. Date and location of the City of Golden Valley's Truth In Taxation hearing

6. City of Golden Valley contact information, in case you have questions

Table Data:

2006 TAXABLE MARKET VALUE FOR 2007 TAXES:	2007 TAXABLE MARKET VALUE FOR 2008 TAXES:	Property ID NO:
.274,000	282,000	32-118-21 23 0188
		7800 GOLDEN VALLEY RD

Proposed 2008 Property Tax	Percent of Change
\$3,419.71	5.2%

Address for Correspondence	Amount	Budget Hearing Dates Times and Locations
Hennepin County A2400 Government Center Minneapolis MN 55487 612-348-3011	\$1,977.07	Dec. 4, 2007 5:30 PM Commissioner Board Room A2400 Government Center Minneapolis MN 55487
City of GOLDEN VALLEY City Hall 7800 Golden Valley Road Golden Valley MN 55427 763-593-8010	\$1,087.00	Dec. 3, 2007 4:30 PM City Hall 7800 Golden Valley Road Golden Valley MN 55427
STATE GENERAL TAX		No meeting required
School District 270		Dec. 11, 2007 6:30 PM
Voter Approved Levy: \$673.84	\$653.41	School Dist Conference Center
Other Local Levies: \$228.85	\$261.56	Eisenhower Community Center
School District Total \$902.69	\$915.35	1001 Highway 7
Eisenhower Community Center 1001 Highway 7 Hopkins MN 55305 95-388-4001		
Metro Special Taxing Dist.		
Metropolis 39-2000	\$69.42	No meeting required
St Paul MN 451-402-1111		
Other Special Taxing Dist.		
Fiscal Dist. 1135.17		No meeting required
Tax Incentive		No meeting required
Solid Waste Mgmt Fee: \$41.00	\$44.64	Not applicable

SAMPLE TRUTH IN TAXATION STATEMENT

City Increases Utility Fees

City water and sanitary sewer rates will increase in 2008 to cover increased costs to provide services and maintain and repair the municipal water and sewer system. The City will also move toward a consumption-based rate for sanitary sewer discharge, meaning residents will pay based on how much wastewater they put into the system.

Water Rates

Water rates will increase 2.9%, from \$3.72 to \$3.83 per 1,000 gallons. This reflects the increased amount the Golden Valley-Crystal-New Hope Joint Water Commission (JWC) will pay to buy water from the City of Minneapolis. It will also cover costs for maintenance, construction, and repair of water lines. In 2008, the JWC and the City of Minneapolis will establish water rates for the next five years.

Sanitary Sewer Rates

Sanitary sewer rates will increase 5.9%, which reflects the increased amount the City pays Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) to treat its wastewater as well as costs to maintain and construct municipal sanitary sewer pipes.

The City currently charges all residents a flat rate for sanitary sewer service, which is not based on consumption and does not match the way the MCES bills the City. All wastewater is carried through pipes on residential property into the municipal sanitary sewer pipe, which connects to a regional sewer interceptor into the wastewater treatment plant in St Paul. Because of that, the new consumption-based rates will be tied to water usage.

Most residential units have one water meter to account for all household water consumption (see sidebar). The City will base sanitary sewer rates on winter water consumption. Winter consumption is used because residential units do not water lawns or gardens in the winter, and water used outdoors does not flow into the wastewater system.

Starting with the April quarterly utility bill, the new sanitary sewer rate will be based on water consumption used in January, February, and March 2008. It will begin with two rates for residential units: \$56.10 for those that use less than 20,000 gallons of water and \$62 for those that 20,000 use gallons or more.

If you have questions about the utility increases or the consumption-based sanitary sewer rate, contact Finance Director



How To Monitor Consumption

By learning to read your water meter, you can track your water consumption and avoid surprises on your utility bill. The handy chart at the bottom of this page will help.

Your water meter (see photo) has seven number slots on the number wheel, but the first one from the right does not move. Once the meter's red needle makes a complete revolution, the second number slot registers one, indicating the use of 10 gallons of water (the smallest increment of measure on the meter). The third slot measures water in increments of 100 gallons. Both the 10 and 100 number slots are black with white numbers. The remaining number slots are white with black numbers (these will correspond to the meter reading indicated on your utility bill). The fourth measures water use in increments of 1,000 gallons, the fifth measures 10,000 gallons, the sixth measures 100,000 gallons, and so on. To get total consumption, subtract the previous read from the current read.

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

WATER USAGE CHART	
January	
February	
March	
bill due April 28	
April	
May	
June	
bill due July 28	
July	
August	
September	
bill due October 28	
October	
November	
December	
bill due January 28	

WATER USAGE CHART	
February	
March	
April	
bill due May 28	
May	
June	
July	
bill due August 28	
August	
September	
October	
bill due November 28	
November	
December	
January	
bill due February 28	

WATER USAGE CHART	
March	
April	
May	
bill due June 28	
June	
July	
August	
bill due September 28	
September	
October	
November	
bill due December 28	
December	
January	
February	
bill due March 28	

Monitoring Your Water Consumption

Cut out the chart at right that applies to your billing cycles and start keeping track of how much water your household uses each month.



GREEN Gift Guide

Green gifts are useful and sustainable. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

For The Home

- House plant or gift card to a nursery
- Quilt or comforter
- Water-saving shower head
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Programmable thermostat
- Ceiling fan
- Reusable food storage containers
- Gift basket filled with non-toxic household cleaners
- Compost bin
- Bird feeder and seed
- Solar-powered gadgets

Practical And Useful

- Savings bonds or education IRAs
- Bus passes
- Co-op membership

For A Good Time

- Passes to National or State parks
- Ski pass to local ski hill
- Tickets to arts or sporting events
- Gift cards to restaurants or spas
- Gift cards for travel
- Gift cards that support a hobby (craft shop, photography class, kayak rental, etc)
- Books

To Help Out

- Camp fees for a kid in need
- Endangered animal adoptions
- Donations to a favored charity

Earth Benefits From Thoughtful Gift Choices

Being a thoughtful gift giver not only gives you a better reputation (and happier recipients), it also helps the environment.

Waiting until the last minute to do your holiday shopping can lead to rushed, poorly selected gifts that go to waste. So take time to make sure the receiver will actually use and enjoy your gift. If it's being used, it's not being wasted.

And it helps to get something consumable—a box of teas, an arrangement of coffees, a good bottle of wine (with a reminder to recycle the bottle). If the gift is consumable, organic, and recyclable, it reduces waste and relieves the recipient of guilt and clutter. Paying for concert tickets, play tickets, or memberships has similar benefits.

If you want your gift to have a more personal impact, make it yourself using material you already own—a scrapbook, a sweater, a hat, or jewelry. Get creative. Is the recipient a writer? Make a bracelet out of old typewriter keys. Got artistic skills? Make a painting, or write a song. Do you cook? Deliver a homemade meal, or assemble a book of your favorite recipes.



Gift wrap is NOT recyclable—CONSIDER USING RECYCLED PAPER OR NEWSPAPER TO WRAP YOUR GIFTS.

These gifts can be a lot more meaningful than something purchased at a store, plus they produce zero waste.

If you're not the crafty type but still want to avoid store-bought gifts, offer services. If the recipient has a child, offer free baby-sitting. If the recipient has a big driveway and a bad back, give a set of "coupons" that can be cashed in for your shoveling services. In terms of practicality, these zero-waste gifts are hard to beat.

And if you're giving to people who are also environmentally conscious, you can be a thoughtful gift giver by giving green, literally. Order a gift of a tree or shrubbery, have a tree planted in their honor, or make donations in their name to an environmental protection group or program. See sidebar for other ideas.

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, we throw away 25% more trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's than any other time of the year. So give a gift to the environment, and be a thoughtful giver.

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
Christmas	Sat, Dec 29
New Year's '08	Sat, Jan 5
Memorial Day '08	Sat, May 31
July 4 '08	Sat, July 5
Labor Day '08	Sat, Sept 6
Thanksgiving '08	Sat, Nov 22

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.

City Uses Chemicals Cautiously, Conservatively

Though chemicals are necessary for the proper maintenance of parks and golf courses, for the sake of the environment, their use in Golden Valley is not taken lightly.

City workers who apply herbicides and fertilizers must be certified in proper chemical use by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and they are required to renew the certification every two years, says Ron Hammer, park maintenance supervisor.

Herbicides and fertilizers, just like household cleaners, are safe if used properly, Hammer says. But as a general guideline Golden Valley crews use chemicals as minimally as possible, spraying only when it's absolutely needed, he adds.

For example, the City does not spray for aesthetic reasons. It is done when the threshold of quality turf and safety to park users is compromised, especially in athletic fields.

When chemicals are applied, crews take several precautions. Maintenance workers post signs before spraying. They spray parks at hours of low usage, and they

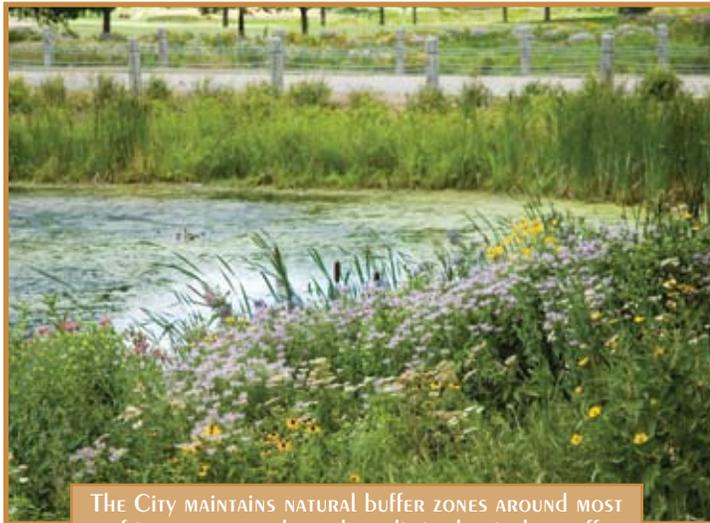
never spray on windy days or when inclement weather is predicted. They also use the safest forms of herbicides, Hammer says. After spraying, workers triple rinse their equipment with clean water and spray the residue back out over a large grass surface.

One of the worst things someone can do after spraying, Hammer says, is rinse the container and dump it out on an impervious surface, like a driveway, allowing the chemical to run into nearby storm sewers, which lead to streams and lakes.

In a general effort to keep pollutants from draining into the surface water system, Golden Valley has taken a leading approach in maintaining buffer zones, says Al Lundstrom, environmental coordinator. And the cost of maintaining these zones is equal to or less than the cost of mowing them. Buffer zones are stretches of native plant growth at least 15 feet wide that border ponds and streams to filter out pollutants and prevent erosion.

Golf course crews are also cautious about chemical runoff. At the City's Brookview Golf Course, crews recently switched from granular fertilizers and herbicides to liquid chemicals that are more readily absorbed by weeds, making them less likely to wash away, says Greg Spencer, golf course maintenance supervisor. Crews also use state-of-the-art equipment that measures the amount of chemical sprayed, notifying the maintenance worker when to move on to another patch.

Lundstrom says the City will continue to research and improve its best management practices for park and golf course maintenance and will always be conservative in its use of chemicals, putting residents' safety first. 



THE CITY MAINTAINS NATURAL BUFFER ZONES AROUND MOST OF ITS STREAMS AND PONDS TO LIMIT CHEMICAL RUNOFF.

BEST PRACTICES FOR USING LAWN CHEMICALS

Before spraying your lawn with herbicides or fertilizer, be sure you're doing it properly. Park Maintenance Supervisor Ron Hammer and Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom offer a few tips for using lawn chemicals responsibly:

1. FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS

Following the instructions listed on the bottle is the best way to keep safe. If the directions say one ounce of chemical per one gallon of water, don't use two ounces thinking you'll get done twice as fast. It doesn't work that way, Hammer says. You'll only risk the health of those around you as well as the health of your lawn.

2. USE THE RIGHT CHEMICAL FOR THE SPECIFIC WEED

Research which herbicide works best for the type of plant you're dealing with. Use the wrong chemical and you'll end up using more than you have to, a practice that's hard on the environment and bad for your pocket book.

3. SPOT SPRAY

Rather than hosing down your entire yard, take a handheld water bottle and spray only those plants you want eradicated. This significantly cuts down the amount of chemical runoff while still keeping your lawn weed-free.

4. DO NOT SPRAY ON OR NEAR IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

Treat your sidewalk and driveway as if they were a shoreline. What runs off of them ends up in the lakes. Spray all chemicals on their intended target.

5. RINSE PROPERLY

Do not dump remaining chemicals on a single spot on your lawn. They'll only drain into the storm sewer. Instead, dilute the chemicals by filling the container with water and spraying it back out over a large area. Do this three times to ensure a proper rinse with no runoff.

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

Recreation Opportunities

Find details on the following recreation opportunities in the Fall and Winter Recreation Activities Brochures or the City Web site.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Light Science by Science Explorers—Investigate the world of light (ages 3½–6). Friday, Dec 7 & 14, 9:45–11:15 am, Brookview, \$26.

Supper with Santa—Pizza, a fun-filled holiday show, and a visit from Santa Claus! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dec 7, 6–7:30 pm, Brookview. Must register in advance.

Mailbox to the North Pole—Use Brookview's special Direct-to-the-North Pole mailbox through Dec 14. Santa requests that each letter include a full name and address so he can reply.

Youth Basketball—Boys and girls grades 2–6. Runs Jan through mid-March. Register by Dec 14.

Mites Basketball—Boys and girls grades K-1. A skills program on Saturday mornings. Runs Jan 26–March 15.

DAVIS COMMUNITY CENTER

Holiday Youth Gym—Winter break gym activities. Session 1: Dec 26–28, 9 am–noon. Session 2: Dec 26–28, 1–4 pm. Session 3: Jan 2–4, 9am–noon. Session 4: Jan 2–4, 1–4 pm. Pre-registration is necessary. Limited to 30 participants/session. \$15/child/session.

Open Gyms—Shoot Some Buckets (age 7+ with adult): Sun, 1 pm; Family Gym Time: Sat, 10 am & Sun 1 pm; Over 40 Basketball: Mon, 8 pm; Volleyball: Tue & Thu, 8 pm, & Sun, 3 pm; Adult Basketball: Wed, 8 pm & Sat, 8 am

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

Crews Prep For Skating Season, Hope For Cold

It's nearly time to dust off those old "blades of glory" and get back on the ice. Whether you're a hockey player, figure skater, or just out for a good time, look no further than Golden Valley's skating rinks. This year City crews are hoping for the cold snap that has eluded them in recent years (see box).

The City has 16 recreational ice rinks. Building and maintaining them depends on many variables. To start making ice, crews need temperatures to be around 0° to -10°F for a week or so and frozen ground about four inches deep. Then crews can establish a six-inch ice base, which will help rinks survive most warm snaps. The final step is to build a smooth "finish surface" on the ice.

Depending on weather conditions, crews clean and resurface the rinks Monday through Friday and clean Saturday mornings.

During extreme cold or warm weather, rinks and shelter buildings may be closed. Check by calling 763-512-2350 before dropping children off. "Closed" signs are also posted on park shelter doors. If you have concerns or questions about ice conditions or rink maintenance, call Park Maintenance at 763-593-8045.

Mother Nature's WARM RECEPTION

Opportunities to make ice have decreased over the last five years, and City maintenance crews have certainly noticed a warming trend, says Ron Hammer, park maintenance supervisor.

Crews like to get rinks open by mid-December, but last year rinks didn't open until mid-January. Seven of the 16 rinks never opened, and the remaining rinks closed earlier than normal. Making base ice requires a lengthy stretch of below-freezing days. In 2005, the longest such stretch lasted about a week. In 2006, it was closer to half that, Hammer says. If rinks don't have complete ice coverage, they can be unsafe for skaters.

"We considered cancelling the entire season last year," Hammer says, adding that in his 35 years on the job, he had never seen such a poor skating season. "It's unusual even to have one rink closed, much less seven."

Schedule

Rinks open Dec 15 and close Feb 20 (weather permitting).

Monday–Friday: 4–9 pm

Saturday: 10 am–9 pm

Sunday: 1–9 pm

Holidays

Christmas Eve: 10 am–4 pm

Christmas Day: closed

New Year's Eve: 10 am–7 pm

New Year's Eve Skating Special: Scheid Park will remain open until 10 pm for families to enjoy winter fun activities. Hot chocolate will be provided.

Martin Luther King Day: 10 am–9 pm

Presidents' Day: 10 am–9 pm

Other school holidays: noon–9 pm

Locations

Golden Valley's Park and Recreation Department (763-512-2345) maintains skating areas at the following parks:

Gearty	3101 Regent Ave N	H GS W
Hampshire	1601 Louisiana	H GS W
Lakeview	9300 Olympia	GS W
Lions	7200 Harold Ave	H GS W
Medley	2355 Ensign Ave	H GS W
Scheid	1965 Toledo	H GS W
Wesley	8305 Wesley	H GS W
North Tyrol	4300 Sunset Ridge	S
South Tyrol	Tyrol & Ortley Pass	S
Yosemite	Woodstock & Yosemite	S

H=Hockey rink W=Supervised warming shelter
GS=General skating rink S=Secondary skating area

Neighbors Help City Clean Up Storm Debris

With hundreds of trees down around town as a result of a Sept 20 storm, Golden Valley was facing a big cleanup job. As the City scrambled to organize a curbside brush pickup as a service to residents, the Public Works staff turned to its mutual aid partners for help. Eight Cities and Hennepin County answered the call, sending personnel and equipment to help Golden Valley and its residents more easily dispose of the storm debris.

"Although residents are generally responsible for managing their own trees, when there is an unusually large amount of storm debris, the City often steps in to help," said Mayor Linda Loomis. "That's how Golden Valley's spring brush pick-up got its start."

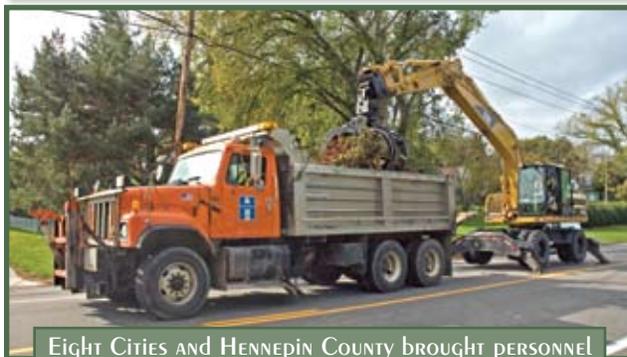
Every spring, the City of Golden Valley sponsors a city-wide curbside brush pickup as a service to residents. The program began after a late-winter storm in 1990, and the City continues the pickup annually as a way to help manage the community forest.

The Sept 20 storm left trees down on houses and garages, on cars, and in the streets. Many residents had significant damage to trees in their yards, and many trees on public property were also damaged.

The City instructed residents to get their logs and brush to the curb and stack them for pickup. City crews, with assistance from the mutual aid Cities, began picking up brush in neighborhoods Sept 26. The nine mutual aid organizations brought personnel and equipment ranging from 360 log loaders to tandem axle dump trucks, enabling Golden Valley to efficiently and cost-effectively haul more than 8,892 cubic yards of debris to Midwest Renewable Energy in St Louis Park. After receiving help through Oct 19, Golden Valley Public Works crews completed the brush pickup by Oct 24.

At its Oct 16 meeting, the Golden Valley City Council formally recognized the following Public Works mutual aid partners for their assistance: Hennepin County, and the Cities of Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Minnetonka, New Hope, North St Paul, Plymouth, and St Louis Park.

If you have questions about the emergency cleanup effort, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030.



EIGHT CITIES AND HENNEPIN COUNTY BROUGHT PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO HELP GOLDEN VALLEY CLEAN UP.

SENIOR *Stuff*

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Holiday Tea—Dec 12, noon–2:30 pm. Music by Dick Lowey. Register by Dec 5. \$6.

Yulefest With The Golden Valley Orchestra—Dec 17, 7:30 pm, with refreshments at 7. Donations accepted.

Mary Wanderer's Travel Show—Jan 28, 1–2:30 pm. Pie and coffee. \$4.

CLASSES

Defensive Driving 4-hour Refresher Course—Dec 13 and Jan 10, 9 am–1 pm. Register with Minnesota Safety Council at 651-291-9150. \$16.

Intermediate Bridge—Fridays, Jan 10 through Feb 29, 9–10:30 am or 10:30 am–noon. \$28.

HEALTH

Getting Though the Medicare and Medigap Maze—Dec 11 and Jan 8, 9, 10, or 11 am. Receive personal help sorting health insurance and Medicare forms and obtain information about Medicare supplemental, long-term care, and Medicare Part D. Call 763-512-2339 to schedule an appointment.

Happy Feet Foot Care Clinic—Jan 15, Feb 19. Licensed nurses work on corns, calluses, and thick, curled, or non-advanced ingrown toenails. Foot soak and massage provided with each visit. Call 763-560-5136 to schedule a half-hour appointment. Fee: \$30 payable to Happy Feet due at visit.

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



Comprehensive Plan 2008: A Blueprint For Golden Valley's Future

IN A CITY, every pipe, every road, every neighborhood, every service requires years of forethought and research. That's why a good comprehensive plan is important. It helps a city function smoothly and provides a blueprint for the future. The better the plan, the better your quality of life.

With the Twin Cities metro area expected to grow by one million people in the next 22 years, developing a proper blueprint will get even more complex. Cities will increasingly have to cooperate to meet the rising demands and improve urban connections. Comprehensive plans help ensure everyone is on the same page.

Cities in the seven-county metro area began developing comprehensive plans in 1976, when the Metropolitan Land Planning Act went into law. They are required to update their comprehensive plans every 10 years, with the next update due in 2008.

Work on Golden Valley's 2008–2018 Comprehensive Plan began in 2003 with *Envision Golden Valley*, which asked hundreds of residents about their hopes and ideas for the future of the community. City staff, commissioners, and professional consultants are using results from the final *Envision* report to help guide the Comprehensive Plan update. Drafts of updated chapters will be posted on the City Web site in 2008 for public review and comment, and the final version will be completed and submitted to the Metropolitan Council by the end of 2008.

The driving force in Golden Valley's Comprehensive Plan update is *Envision Golden Valley's* central idea of building a community that creatively connects people and places. Examples include encouraging new types of development along I-394, identifying locations for new housing options, considering environmental factors in designing and redeveloping streets and open spaces, and maintaining current cooperative programs with other cities and agencies.

Another goal is to promote active living by design. As such, Golden Valley looks to boost urban connections by helping plan alternative transportation methods that give people opportunities to exercise through day-to-day errands. Examples include construction of the Luce Line Trail, examination of a potential Douglas Dr redesign, and cooperation with St Louis Park to improve non-motorized connections between the two cities and to the Cedar Lake and Wirth Park trails.

If you have questions, contact the Planning Department at 763-593-8095 or planning@ci.golden-valley.mn.us. For general information about comprehensive plans, visit the Metropolitan Council's information page at www.metro-council.org/services/assistance.htm.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OVERVIEW

Golden Valley's Comprehensive Plan has eight key chapters that together guide overall growth and development in the city: Land Use, Housing, Parks and Open Space, Surface Water, Wastewater, Transportation, Water Systems, and Special Planning Districts. The Plan also includes chapters on community background and implementation.



HOUSING

The Housing Chapter will address changing needs and desires in the housing market. For example, as more people begin to retire, the demand increases for condos and townhouses. The plan identifies corridors where higher density housing could be built with minimal impact on single-family residential neighborhoods.

LAND USE

Fully developed cities like Golden Valley will not likely experience significant land use changes; however, there are certain areas, like the I-394 corridor, where the Land Use Chapter may call for a mix of uses, such as retail with housing above. It will also outline ways Golden Valley can redevelop its land in a more efficient and environmentally friendly manner. The Land Use Chapter divides the City into 12 main land use classifications. It also identifies long-term goals for the City, such as providing high quality jobs, constructing high quality development, and upholding its commitment to environmental stewardship.



Your Feedback

Go to ci.golden-valley.mn.us/zoning/complan.htm to review and comment on draft chapters of the Comprehensive Plan. In early spring, the City will host an open house to give citizens a chance to review and comment on all aspects of the Plan (check future *CityNews* and the Web site for specifics).

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Chapter addresses the impact of the regional transportation system on the community and the need to sustain Golden Valley's strong network of streets, trails, and sidewalks and make safety improvements. This includes looking at ways to promote alternate transportation as well as maintaining the City's Pavement Management Program (see page 13).



PARKS & OPEN SPACES

One of Golden Valley's primary goals is to maintain the quality of open space already in the city, including Brookview Golf Course, and encourage more open space use by enhancing Golden Valley's trail system and easing residents' ability to bike or walk from one open space or park to another. This ties into the City's goals to promote healthy lifestyles through active living by design. In addition to the general plan for parks, the City is creating a more detailed plan that will inventory programs, services, and possible improvements at individual parks.



SURFACE WATER

The Surface Water Chapter outlines the City's plan to minimize flooding and maximize water quality. Methods of improving water quality are rain gardens, green roofs, leaf clean-up efforts, fertilizer bans, erosion control, etc (see page 5).



WASTEWATER

The Wastewater Plan serves to guide growth and maintenance of the City's sanitary sewer system. The Wastewater Plan will uphold the City's current system maintenance policies and make sure new development does not exceed the sanitary sewer system's capacity. It will also address the issue of inflow and infiltration (I/I), or the excess flow of clear water into the City's sanitary sewer system.

WATER SYSTEMS

The Metropolitan Council requires cities to create a water supply plan as part of their comprehensive plans. In particular, the Met Council is encouraging cities to work cooperatively to share and distribute water resources and develop solid capital improvement plans. Golden Valley's involvement with the Joint Water Commission (a cooperation among Golden Valley, Crystal, and New Hope) is one example.

SPECIAL PLANNING DISTRICTS

In fully developed cities, some areas require special attention because indicators suggest they are susceptible to change due to location, changes in traffic patterns, or buildings that are obsolete in current markets. In 2007, the City completed an I-394 corridor study, which envisions mixed-use zoning to replace the current largely industrial zoning.



Vehicle Theft Prevention Tips

It is completely up to you to take steps to prevent your vehicle from being stolen.

- Never leave your car running unattended, even if it's locked.
- Close all windows, lock the doors, and take your keys. Don't even think about hiding your keys somewhere in the car.
- Don't leave valuables or identifying information in the car.
- Don't leave remote garage door openers in vehicles parked outside your home. This is an easy way for burglars to gain access to your home. (And remember to lock the door leading from the attached garage into the house!)
- Park in well-lighted areas.
- Invest in a car alarm or other theft deterrent.

Remember, if you leave your car unlocked with keys and/or valuables in sight, your chance of becoming a victim is one in 30. If you lock your car, take your keys, and conceal valuables, your chance of becoming a victim is one in 1,000. If you lock your car, take your keys, conceal valuables, and use a visible anti-theft device, your chance of becoming a victim is one in 30,000.

10 Most Stolen Vehicles In Minnesota (2005)

	Year	Make	Model
1	1995	Honda	Civic
2	1991	Toyota	Camry
3	1989	Oldsmobile	Cutlass
4	1994	Honda	Accord
5	1996	Chevrolet	Blazer
6	1992	Buick	Century
7	1993	Saturn	SL
8	1992	Dodge	Caravan
9	1996	Ford	Explorer
10	1994	Chevrolet	Full-Size C/K 1500 Pickup

Source: National Insurance Crime Bureau

Warming Up The Car Invites Thieves

"Warming up the car" has long been a winter tradition in many parts of Minnesota. It is also the equivalent of putting a big sign on your car that says "take me, I'm yours." Crime prevention experts caution to never leave your vehicle running unless you're in it. Not even for a minute. Not even in your driveway.

"An unattended, running car is an invitation to a car thief," says Crime Prevention Specialist Joanne Paul. "In the US, a vehicle is stolen approximately every 30 seconds. That means during the two minutes you leave your running car unattended, four cars were stolen—one could be yours."

That's why some cities, like Minneapolis, have ordinances making it illegal to leave keys in the ignition of an unattended vehicle. If a vehicle is reported stolen and the keys were in it, the driver will get a ticket. Police also issue tickets to vehicles left running with no driver present.

CRIME TRENDS

According to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the number of auto thefts in Minnesota decreased 21% from 1996 to 2005. Several areas saw significant decreases during that time (60.8% in Burnsville, 57.1% in Bloomington, 47.7% in Duluth), while other areas saw increases (48.8% in Maplewood, 31.7% in Brooklyn Park, 35% in Washington County). What hasn't changed is that many vehicles are stolen because they are left unattended with the keys in them.

Other trends in vehicle theft include increased thefts from sales lots (entire cars and parts of cars), increased theft of luxury vehicles, use of vehicle to transport goods stolen from the home where the vehicle was parked, use of fraud to purchase vehicles from private parties, use of stolen vehicles as a means to buy drugs, and use of information found in stolen vehicles to steal identities.

DETERRING THEFT

Car thieves thrive on easy targets. Although they often prefer to steal certain makes and models (see box), they usually go for the vehicle they can get quickly and without a lot of effort. You can reduce your likelihood of being a target by following a few simple rules (see sidebar).

"Earlier this year, the GVPD implemented a policy restricting the circumstances in which squad cars can be left idling while unoccupied," says Police Chief Stacy Altonen. "This was done to be both fiscally and environmentally responsible, but also because an idling squad car can be stolen just as easily as a personal vehicle."

If you have questions about vehicle theft trends in Golden Valley, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Joanne Paul at 763-593-8058. You can also click to the crime maps on the City Web site to see quarterly updates of where crime has occurred in the community.



LEAVING A CAR RUNNING UNATTENDED IS LIKE PUTTING A SIGN ON IT THAT SAYS "TAKE ME."



Make "Safety First" Your Holiday Mantra

Each year, around 12,500 people show up in emergency rooms with injuries related to holiday decorations, reports the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Whether they fall off the roof while stringing lights or are injured in fires started by candles (11,600 per year) and Christmas trees (300 per year), the numbers are significant enough to warrant extra care and attention during the holiday season. The CPSC and the Golden Valley Fire Department offer the following tips.



Trees

Live trees and other greens need to be fresh. Needles that are brown or break present a greater fire risk. Put tree in a solid, non-tipping stand, and keep it watered at all times. Artificial trees should be labeled "fire resistant." Electrical decorations, including lights, should not be used on trees with metallic needles, branch coverings, or leaves. Both fresh and artificial trees need to be at least three feet from heat sources and should not block doorways or other exits.

Fireplaces

Keep all decorations clear of the fireplace area, and do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. They ignite suddenly and may result in a flash fire.

Candles

Be especially careful when burning candles, and keep them away from decorations or other combustible materials. NEVER leave burning candles unattended.

Lights

Electrical decorations, including lights, need a UL label to prove they have been tested for safety. Purchase lights with a green UL label for indoor use and lights with a red UL label for both indoor and outdoor use, and follow the manufacturers instructions carefully. Also:

- check for bare, frayed, or loose wires, cracked sockets, and loose connections, which can cause serious electrical shocks or fire
- follow manufacturer's suggestions regarding the maximum number of light strings that can be connected together
- use extension cords and bulbs specifically designed for the light strings, and use waterproof tape to wrap connected plugs outdoors
- use only approved holiday light hangers to hold lights in place; never pierce the light string
- do not overload extension cords or outlets, and turn off electrical decorations before going to bed or leaving the house



Cooking

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States. Never leave food cooking unattended. Keep kids away, and be careful that loose clothing doesn't come close to the burner.



In General

When decorating, make sure ladders are sturdy and on stable ground and that your shoes and the steps are not slippery. Have another person provide support and hand up items. Keep kids and pets away from electrical decorations (or any heat source, including candles). No matter how advanced you know your child is, make sure toys are age appropriate. When attending parties, designate a sober driver, and always, always, wear your safety belt when in a vehicle.

For more information about holiday safety, contact the Golden Valley Fire Department at 763-593-3977.

CO DETECTORS SAVE LIVES



Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless gas that can build up in homes with malfunctioning furnaces, fireplaces, wood burning stoves, or water heaters. In the United States, about 500 people die each year from CO poisoning, and another 10,000 need medical attention.

Minnesota law requires that CO detectors be installed within 10 feet of each bedroom in all Minnesota homes. All new homes and apartments built after Jan 1, 2007 must meet this standard. Owners of existing homes must comply by August 2008; owners of existing apartments must comply by August 2009. Safety advocates say the law, enacted in June 2006, could save 100 lives a year in Minnesota.

Most CO detectors cost between \$20 and \$40. For more information about CO detectors, contact Fire Education Specialist Stephen Baker at 763-593-3977.

Adopt Your Neighborhood Fire Hydrant

Looking for a convenient way to be active in the well-being of your community? Consider grabbing a shovel.

The Golden Valley Fire Department is seeking help to keep the fire hydrants in your neighborhood clear of snow. A six-foot clear space around the circumference of the hydrant will help reduce the time it takes firefighters to hook up hoses if a fire occurs in your neighborhood. The best time to shovel out a hydrant is after the streets are plowed, before snow accumulates and freezes.



WINTER PARKING & OTHER SNOWY ORDINANCES

Parking On Public Streets

Parking is not allowed on public streets after a snowfall of at least two inches and until the street has been plowed to the curb line.

After a snowfall of at least two inches, vehicles in violation are cited by patrolling police. Vehicles found to be obstructing traffic or snow plows, and those still in violation after 24 hours, may be towed. This winter, stay informed of weather forecasts and move your vehicle from the streets whenever snow is in the forecast.

Plow Damage

The City is not liable for damages to obstacles in the road right-of-way (irrigation heads, landscaping, etc). These obstacles should either be removed from the right-of-way or marked clearly so plow drivers can avoid them. Mailboxes are repaired or replaced only if the plow makes direct contact. Sod damage can be reported to Public Works at 763-593-8030. Damages to sod are repaired each spring with black dirt and seed or sod.

Snow Removal From Private Property

Removal of snow and ice from private property to a roadway, across a roadway, or onto a sidewalk or adjacent property is prohibited by City ordinance. Infractions are misdemeanors, subject to fines and prosecution. Snow removed from your driveway or parking lot (whether you do it or hire someone to do it) must be kept off roadways, sidewalks, and adjacent property. If you or your plowing contractor have questions regarding this issue, contact Bert Tracy, Public Works maintenance manager, at 763-593-3981. 

When Jack Frost Nips, The City Bites Back

Minnesota is a Snowbelt state, which means it gets more than its fair share of winter storms. It also means Minnesota cities must plan for and deal with the results of those storms, especially because cities need dependable transit if they are to function smoothly. Golden Valley's Public Works Department knows winter can be unpredictable and needs your help to keep streets safe when the big equipment is dispatched to handle whatever the season brings.

Plowing

Golden Valley's Public Works Street Maintenance crew is prepared to handle the City's 120 miles of city streets and 31 miles of sidewalk every time it snows. After snow accumulates to two inches or more and stops falling, the plows head out. To keep traffic moving, crews first focus on main arterial routes and through streets that connect neighborhoods to State and County roads. Plowing stops if strong winds and drifting cause unsafe conditions; it resumes when conditions improve.

Sanding

Depending on existing weather conditions, sanding crews use a variation of salt/sand-salt mixture on icy areas. Priority areas are treated first, and all other areas are done when time permits. Priority areas include:

- intersections of City streets and County and State roads, school and pedestrian crossings, bridge decks, and all arterial street stop sign intersections
- street intersections having higher than average traffic volumes, and streets with hills and curves
- all other stop signs and areas deemed hazardous by City crews or police officials

How You Can Help

Residents can help plow operators by:

- reducing speed and keeping a minimum distance of 50 feet from trucks plowing and spreading sand (frequent backing is necessary, and rear visibility is very limited)
- never driving into a snow cloud or passing vehicles while they're plowing
- staying away from the end of a driveway when a snowplow is approaching
- keeping sleds and toys away from the street when they're not being used
- not building snow forts in the snow piles on the boulevard
- keeping garbage cans and recycle bins in the driveway and off roadways and sidewalks if it snows on collection days

If you have questions about snow plowing or winter safety, call Public Works Street Maintenance Supervisor Lyle Johnson at 763-593-8082, or go to www.ci.goldenvalley.mn.us/streets/winterstreets.htm. 

Cooperative SNOW Tips

Efficient, effective snow removal requires cooperation from the public:

- Listen to weather forecasts so you're not in transit when a storm hits. The resulting traffic jams make plowing difficult. Plan ahead and choose alternate routes when necessary.
- Remember, speed limits are set for ideal driving conditions. In congested city traffic, careless drivers increase hazards for everyone, especially during inclement weather.
- Don't put snow from private property onto City streets or sidewalks, and remind private contractors to follow suit.
- Keep garbage and recycling containers off roadways and sidewalks.
- Slow down for a day or so after a snow or ice event. After all, it is winter in Minnesota and we all have to deal with it.

City Completes 2007 Projects, Plans For 2008

This fall the City of Golden Valley completed two street reconstruction projects—a portion of Golden Valley Rd between Douglas Dr and Hwy 100, and 2.7 miles of local streets in the 2007 Pavement Management Program (PMP). Preparations continue for the 2008 PMP.

In September, Shafer Contracting finished the Golden Valley Rd project, which reconstructed the street to City standards, including concrete curb and gutter.

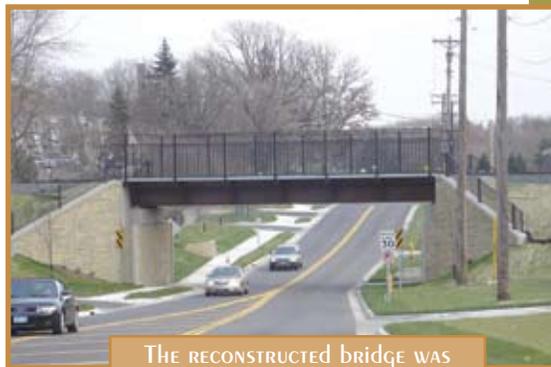
The project also demolished and reconstructed the 80-year-old Canadian Pacific railroad bridge over Golden Valley Rd just east of Douglas Dr, which had long been a public safety hazard because of its low vertical clearance. A portion of the bridge construction was funded through a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund.

In late October, Northwest Asphalt Inc, the City's contractor for the PMP project, finished reconstructing streets in two primary locations in northeastern Golden Valley: north of Golden Valley Rd and east of Noble Ave, and both sides of Golden Valley Rd between Wirth Parkway and Xerxes Ave N.

Streets were completely reconstructed to City standards, including concrete curb and gutter. The project also included replacing culverts conveying Bassett Creek at Dresden Lane and Bassett Creek Dr, limited water main replacement in two locations, rehabilitation of sanitary sewer mains, lateral storm sewer extensions to facilitate drainage, and the overlay of several streets.



THE 80-YEAR-OLD RAILROAD BRIDGE OVER GOLDEN VALLEY RD JUST EAST OF DOUGLAS DR WAS DEMOLISHED THIS SUMMER.



THE RECONSTRUCTED BRIDGE WAS COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER.

COMING UP IN 2008-2009

For 2008–2009, the PMP stays in northern Golden Valley to reconstruct approximately 8 miles of local streets in an area bounded by Lowry Ave, Hwy 100, Golden Valley Rd, and Noble Ave. The condition of these streets is generally poor, and they require significant maintenance.

In 2008, the City plans to reconstruct Culver Rd and all streets north, as well as the 2800 block of Scott Ave and the 5300 block of Dawnview Terrace. In 2009, the City plans to reconstruct all streets south of Culver Rd, with the exception of the streets west of Bassett Creek that have already been reconstructed to City standards.

Staff has begun the preliminary work required for project development (surveying, soil borings, neighborhood participation, preliminary design). The public hearing for the 2008–09 PMP is set for February 2008, with construction projected to begin in spring. For more information about Golden Valley's PMP, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.

HRC SEEKS NOMINEES FOR HOBBS AWARD

The Golden Valley Human Rights Commission (HRC) is accepting nominations for the **Bill Hobbs Human Rights Award**. The award recognizes community members who work to build an environment that promotes fair and equal treatment for everyone.

To be eligible, nominees must:

- live, work, or conduct business in Golden Valley during the nomination year
- have had a positive impact or clearly improved understanding or cooperation in the areas of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or familial status
- provide service that is either voluntary or above-and-beyond a paid employee's usual job responsibilities

Current members of the Golden Valley HRC are not eligible.

Nominations may be submitted by an individual or an organization (ie, a club, social agency, unit of government, religious denomination, school, or business).

To nominate someone for the Bill Hobbs Human Rights Award, please print out a nomination form from www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us or call Golden Valley City Hall at 763-593-8000.

Nomination forms must be returned by Feb 22, 2008 to the Golden Valley Human Rights Commission, Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427-4588.

Questions? Contact Marion Helland at marionhelland@comcast.net.



GIVE THE GIFT OF Golden Valley Gear

Celebrate your community spirit with Golden Valley Gear—city-themed mugs and T-shirts that promote Golden Valley.

Proceeds will benefit the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation as well as the proposed performance area at Brookview Park.

Mugs are available at the Motor Vehicle Licensing Department just inside the entrance to City Hall, at the General Services desk on the second floor of City Hall, and at Brookview Community Center. T-shirts are available at General Services and Brookview.



City Mugs

(yellow or lavender)

\$9

Golden Valley T-Shirts

(white or yellow)

\$14 Adult (Sizes S-XXL. Add \$1 for XXL.)

\$12 Youth (Sizes M-L)



Golden Valley Baseball Tees

(white with black sleeves)

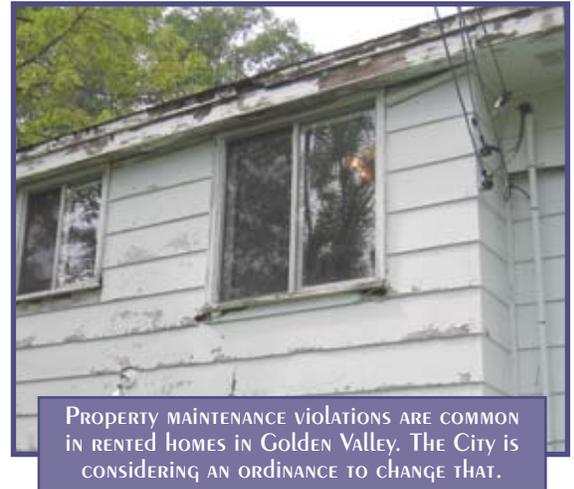
\$16 (Sizes S-XXL. Add \$1 for XXL.)

\$14 Youth (Sizes M-L)

City Considers Licensing Rented Homes

As the City of Golden Valley completed its first round of outdoor property maintenance inspections this summer (see article on page 15), inspectors noticed a significant trend. A disproportionate amount of housing maintenance violations occur in homes being rented out, says Josh Kunde, Golden Valley's property maintenance inspector.

In response, the City Council began considering an ordinance amendment in November requiring homeowners to get a rental license before renting. Homes rented out would be subject to interior inspections as well as exterior inspections (which are done for every home). This is an extension of the Residential Property Maintenance Code (RPMC) and is the first ordinance of its kind in Golden Valley for all rented property, Kunde says. Until now, the City kept no record of which single-family homes were rented out and which were not.



PROPERTY MAINTENANCE VIOLATIONS ARE COMMON IN RENTED HOMES IN GOLDEN VALLEY. THE CITY IS CONSIDERING AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THAT.

If passed, the new ordinance would go into effect in early 2008 and will apply both to homeowners who are already renting out a house as well as homeowners planning to. License fees and inspection frequency have yet to be established, says Mark Kuhnly, the City's chief of fire and inspections.

"There's no mystery to why rented homes have more violations," says Kuhnly. "Homeowners take better care of houses they actually live in. We'd like to see all property owners maintain and keep reinvesting in their properties, whether they live in there or not."

Requiring a rental license and an interior inspection is a way to remind homeowners of their responsibility, Kunde says. Licenses are already required for multi-dwelling buildings and apartments.

The rental license amendment is an extension of City Ordinance 4.60 and may be viewed anytime at Golden Valley City Hall. If you have questions about the ordinance being considered, contact Kunde at 763-593-8074.

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

First Round Of Inspections Curbs Complaints

Almost a year since the Golden Valley City Council passed the Residential Property Maintenance Code (RPMC) Jan 2, nearly a quarter of Golden Valley homes have been inspected, with more than 300 violations found.

But people aren't complaining, says Josh Kunde, a City property maintenance inspector. In fact, Kunde has received thank you letters and calls of gratitude from the neighbors of those in violation. Unkempt homes often make neighborly relations go sour. On top of being eyesores, they can bring down the value of all the homes around them. The City believes an active approach to maintenance standards will help ensure health, safety, public welfare, and the greater good of the community.

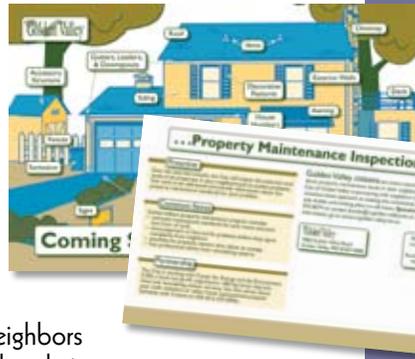
The first of its kind for Golden Valley, the RPMC was developed based on citizen input gathered through *Envision Golden Valley*, public surveys, meetings, and online feedback. It applies to multiple-dwelling properties and one- and two-family homes, stressing a common-sense approach to maintenance: If something looks like it needs fixing, repair it or replace it. A quarterly checkup and some basic tools are all it takes to keep a home in good repair, neighbors happy, and property values stable. And help is available for those who need it (see sidebar).

In the past, the City approached property maintenance issues on a complaint basis, receiving an average of 40 complaints per month. With the new code in place, inspectors hope to encourage people to find and fix maintenance concerns well before they lead to complaints. Since the first round of inspections in June, the number of monthly complaints has dropped to around 25, Kunde says.

Litter and garbage, including bags of leaves left to pile up, were the source of most violations. Kunde, who walks from house to house with a checklist of inspection items, wrote up 45 litter/garbage violations in less than five months. The chart at right details other common violations.

Most people don't argue about a write-up, Kunde says. They're usually aware something needs to be done but just haven't been motivated. When Kunde writes up a violation, he gives a specified period to fix the problem. The fee for not complying starts at \$100 and moves up to \$500 after the third noncompliance. A homeowner cited a fourth time receives a misdemeanor charge.

Questions? Contact Property Maintenance Inspector Josh Kunde at 763-593-8074.



City Offers Help THROUGH CEE

Need to make home improvements but aren't sure where to start? Or are you interested in remodeling but would like advice before diving into a project?

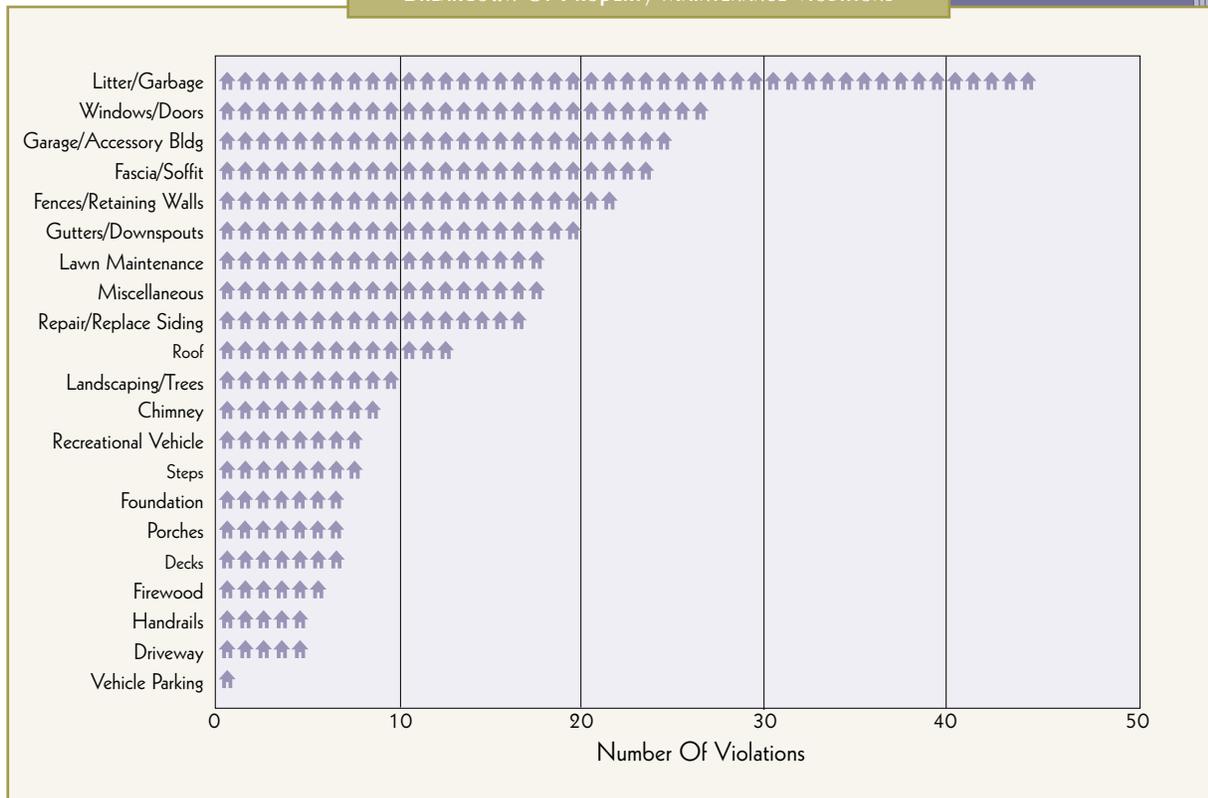
Call the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) and have a professional remodeling advisor come to your home for inspection, advice, and unbiased opinions. The City of Golden Valley contracted with the non-profit CEE in January 2007 to help all property owners looking to do home improvements.

The goal of CEE is to assist homeowners through the home improvement and remodeling process by offering advisor services and low-cost, affordable financing. CEE officials will even help homeowners list priorities for future improvement projects.

Golden Valley residents who want help planning their home improvement project can call the CEE at 612-335-5856. The first visit with a remodeling advisor is free.



BREAKDOWN OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE VIOLATIONS





Join Police In Gift Drive

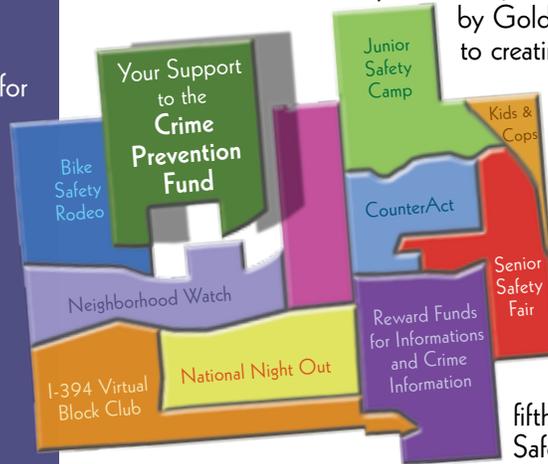
Once again the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) offers the community a unique approach to the Toys for Tots donation effort.

For the 13th consecutive year, the GVPD will lead regional law enforcement agencies in a toy drive that culminates in a loud, colorful parade. On the last collection day, police from as many as 20 departments load their cruisers with donated gifts and meet at the GVPD. Then, lights blazing, they caravan to the KARE 11 Toys for Tots drop-off site. In past years the effort garnered thousands of toys.

Between Dec 3 and 20 (at 3 pm), bring new, unwrapped toys to the GVPD at 7800 Golden Valley Road (open 24 hours a day). Don't forget gifts for older kids and teens. For more information, contact Sergeant Steve Johnson at 763-512-2505.

Support Crime Prevention

The Golden Valley Police Department sees crime prevention as a puzzle and its community partnerships as puzzle pieces that help keep crime low in Golden Valley. By providing essential financial support for a variety of crime prevention and safety programs, the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund makes those puzzle pieces stronger and more distinct. Run by volunteers, this private, nonprofit organization is supported by Golden Valley businesses and residents dedicated to creating and maintaining strong community involvement.



Golden Valley's crime prevention programs include the youth-oriented Safety Camp (a safety education program for second-, third-, and fourth-graders), Junior Safety Camp (day-long safety education for 4-, 5-, and 6-year-olds), CounterACT (a drug and violence prevention program for fifth-graders), and Law, Crime, and Safety (a safety and citizenship curriculum for fifth-graders). Other programs include the Senior Safety Fair, National Night Out, Neighborhood Watch, CyberWatch, Community Crime Prevention Updates, and the I-394 Virtual Block Club. The Crime Prevention Fund also provides rewards for information in serious criminal cases.

Contributions are the Crime Prevention Fund's only source of revenue. Look at the puzzle and consider how your tax deductible contribution can help our programs be stronger and more vibrant. For more information, call 763-593-8054 or email cpfund@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us

www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us



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

COUNCIL MEMBERS

MIKE FREIBERG | PAULA PENTEL | DeDe SCANLON | BOB SHAFFER
MAYOR | LINDA R. LOOMIS

MAYOR/COUNCIL MSG LINE | 763-593-8001

CITY MANAGER | THOMAS BURT

EDITOR | CHERYL WEILER

ASSISTANT EDITOR | BEN SANDELL

GRAPHIC DESIGNER | KRISTI BUCHER



This document is available in alternate formats upon a 72-hour request. Please call 763-593-8006 (TTY: 763-593-3968) to make a request. Examples of alternate formats may include large print, electronic, Braille, audiocassette, etc.



City of Golden Valley
7800 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55427

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1659
Mpls, MN