

Golden Valley

CITYNEWS

Rental License Required By End Of The Year

If you're a homeowner renting out a property or planning to, it's time to get a license. A new City ordinance requires all homeowners to be licensed for renting by the end of 2008. The licensing process takes about 30 days. Once you've turned in the application with the fee, an inspector will evaluate your home both inside and out. If it passes inspection, you're good to go. If not, you'll be given a designated period to fix any problems.

License Applications

For an application, call inspector Josh Kunde at 763-593-8074, or download one at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/permits/renting.htm.

The new ordinance, passed by the Golden Valley City Council in late 2007, should help cut down on the number of housing violations in the city, says Property Maintenance Inspector Josh Kunde. Home rental properties generated about 60 percent of property maintenance violations last year.

Properties in violation are also safety concerns. The ordinance "will help ensure every tenant is living in a safe home," says Kunde.

After an initial inspection, rented homes would be inspected fully about once every three years, assuming there are no complaints, says Kunde. Licenses must be renewed annually. Failure to get a rental license by 2008 may lead to misdemeanor charges. Homeowners are asked to apply for licenses as early as possible.

This is the first Golden Valley ordinance of its kind directed at single-family homes. Until now, the City kept no record of which single-family homes were rented out and which were not, says Kunde. The ordinance may be viewed at Golden Valley City Hall. If you have questions, contact Kunde at 763-593-8074.

Golden Valley Days Around The Corner



Fri, May 16, 6–10 pm
Brookview Park Pavilion

Sat, May 17, 10 am–10 pm
City Hall Campus

Celebrate Golden Valley and its creative community spirit by joining friends and neighbors for the fifth annual Golden Valley Days.

Day one of this arts and music festival features a community picnic and kids concert, a Battle of the Bands, and fireworks. The festival picks up Saturday with a parade and local and regional music group performances. Enjoy artists' exhibits, food vendors, and kids games from 10 am to 7 pm. Other events may be added, so check the Valley Days Web site for updates.

Golden Valley Days is presented by the Golden Valley Community Events Fund, a non-profit community foundation organized by city residents. For more information or to volunteer, call 612-710-0995 or 612-377-3043, or visit the Web site.

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Recreational Fires Need Permit

If you're one of the many homeowners who enjoys an occasional backyard bonfire, make sure you're familiar with local ordinances before lighting up. The City of Golden Valley requires a permit for recreational fires. In addition, all recreational fires must:

- remain within an approved outdoor fireplace that is at- or below-grade and ringed with brick, rock, or other non-combustible material
- not exceed three feet in height as measured from the base of the fire and cannot be lit if wind exceeds 10 MPH
- be constantly attended by a responsible person 18 or older until extinguished
- not be used to burn yard waste, construction materials, or common household trash
- remain a safe distance from any structure or combustible material

Recreational Fire Permits are free and expire annually Dec 31. They can be obtained from the Fire Department at 763-593-8041 or online at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/permits/recfirepermit.htm.



Cable TV Providers: Why Only One In GV?

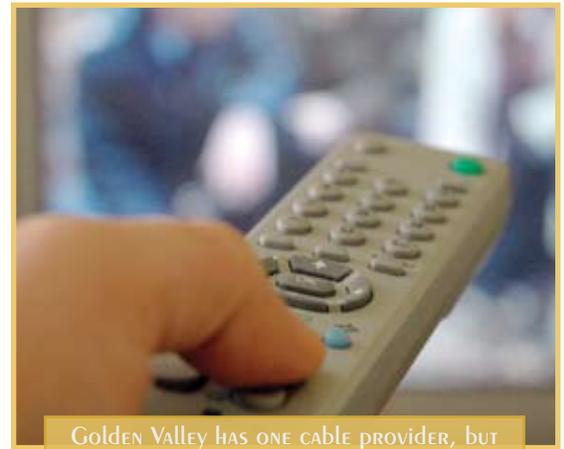
There's no simple answer to why Golden Valley has just one cable provider. Cable franchising here is not exclusive, and more options may be available in the future. It all comes down to what's practical. A brief overview of local cable franchising may help citizens to better understand.

THE EARLY YEARS

In the 1980s, Golden Valley and eight other cities formed the Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission to jointly franchise for cable services. Cities have the right to confer authority to operate (franchise) cable services because these services use municipal right-of-ways, which also provide for roads and utilities.

When deciding which company got the original cable franchise, the Commission considered basic principles and requirements. The cable provider in question had to:

- serve the full franchise area in a reasonable period of time, rather than cherry-pick areas where homes are easily served
- use the right-of-way in a responsible manner, cooperating with the City and other utilities to be respectful of this resource provided for common use, and restoring residents' yards and property as needed
- use franchise fees and PEG (Public, Educational, and Governmental access) fees to support programming for public access and public channels that promote the community well-being by keeping citizens abreast of local issues



GOLDEN VALLEY HAS ONE CABLE PROVIDER, BUT MORE OPTIONS COULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE FUTURE.

The Commission reviewed many company proposals and made a decision based on what best served the community. The original franchise was granted to Storer Cable. Since then it has changed owners 11 times and is now owned by Comcast. At each transfer the Cable Commission has reviewed the new providers to assure that community concerns are addressed.

TODAY'S PICTURE

Comcast is currently the sole cable provider for Golden Valley residents, but another company could step in as the market dictates. So why hasn't this happened? The cost of building a competitive system is extremely high, and potential investors are not willing to risk that cost with such little hope of making a solid return on their investment, as subscribers would be split amongst the providers. In other words, the city doesn't limit the market. The market limits itself. According to Greg Moore, executive director of the Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission, in recent years two companies have initiated the process, but neither followed through.

It has never been the Commission's goal to limit the number of franchises. Future interest may come from telephone companies that already serve the area, as they have existing facilities. In the meantime, satellite cable service is the only competitor to Comcast for video services.

If you have additional questions about cable service in Golden Valley, contact Greg Moore (763-533-8196) or Jeanne Andre, assistant City manager (763-593-8014).

Discuss Property Valuation At Open Book Meeting

Golden Valley property owners who want to review and correct their final 2008 valuations with assessors may attend the Open Book Meeting April 22, from 4–6:30 pm, at Golden Valley City Hall. If you plan to attend, Hennepin County assessors ask that you call ahead so they can have your information ready for the review.

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



Views Of The Valley Seeks Winning Photos

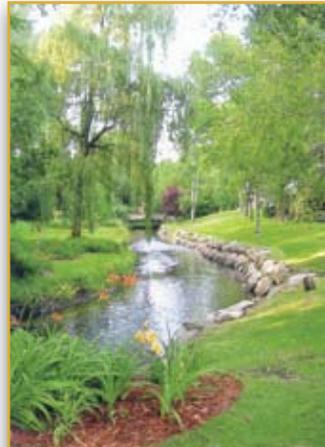
Framing the beauty of Golden Valley with a single shot takes a special photographic talent, a talent you can share and celebrate through the 2008 *Views of the Valley* photo contest. Snapshots of heartwarming moments of community spirit, portraits of everyday life seen from a fresh perspective, and freeze frames of nature areas, parks, and public spaces—it's all in front of your eyes. You just need to capture it.

The 16th annual contest aims to promote Golden Valley and civic pride in a fun, entertaining, and educational way. A panel of judges evaluates each entry on subject matter, composition, clarity, lighting, depth of field, artistry/drama, degree of difficulty, technical excellence, and overall impact. Creative photo titles also earn points.

Photographers and critics alike can participate in the contest by voting for their favorite photo in the "People's Choice" award category. View the photo entries online or at City Hall, and vote at either venue. Watch for more "People's Choice" voting details in the May/June issue of *CityNews*.

To enter, read the rules (see box below) and submit your favorite photos. The entry form on this page can be photocopied. To see past winners or to download an entry form, check out www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/PhotoContest/. Photo entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and will not be returned.

Deadline is June 6, 2008, at 4:30 pm. Mail or drop off completed entries to Photo Contest, City of Golden Valley, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427. City employees and their families are not eligible to enter. If you have questions or need more entry forms, call 763-593-8004.



2007 Overall Grand Prize Winner—
The Beauty of Bassett Creek
by JANICE LAULAINEN

Contest Awards

OVERALL GRAND PRIZE
Winner receives additional \$50.

FIRST PLACE PRIZE
Winners in each of the three categories receive \$100, publication of photo on City Web site and in *CityNews*, and a certificate of appreciation presented at a City Council meeting.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Publication on the City Web site and in *CityNews*, \$25, and a certificate of appreciation presented at a City Council meeting.

All photo entries will be displayed at City Hall and on the City Web site. From June 11–25, Golden Valley residents may vote for the "People's Choice" award at City Hall during business hours (8 am–4:30 pm, Monday–Friday) or online at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/PhotoContest/. Winners will be notified by July 7.

Contest Rules

- 📷 You must be a Golden Valley resident.
- 📷 Submit each photo in one of three categories:
 - Natural Golden Valley (landscapes, flora, fauna, etc)
 - Golden Valley Lifestyle (cityscapes, buildings, people, activities, etc)
 - Enhanced (photos significantly altered by editing software, lenses, etc). On the entry form, explain what alterations were made to each enhanced photo.
- 📷 Submit up to three color or black-and-white photos.
 - All photos must be trimmed to 5x7.
 - Do not submit slides, photocopies, or prints that are not on photo-quality paper.
 - Digital files must be accompanied by a print on photo-quality paper.
 - Do not mat or frame photos.
 - Include complete entry information for each photo (see form). Be sure to indicate the category.
- 📷 All entries submitted must be your own work.
- 📷 All decisions will be final, and judges reserve the right not to award in any category.
- 📷 The City of Golden Valley will not be responsible for lost entries.
- 📷 The contest organizers reserve the right to re-categorize or disqualify any entries.
- 📷 If there are identifiable people in the photo and it was taken in a non-public space, it is the responsibility of the photographer to obtain permission to use the photo.
- 📷 **Deadline is June 6, 2008, 4:30 pm.**



ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Age (if under 18) _____

Category

Natural Golden Valley

Golden Valley Lifestyle

Enhanced*

Title of Photo _____

*Enhancement Explanation _____

I agree to let the City of Golden Valley publish my photo(s) in City publications with proper credit.

Signature _____

All photo entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and will not be returned.

DON'T JUST THROW IT AWAY

Use the following resources to keep unwanted items out of area landfills.

RECYCLING CENTERS

The Hennepin County Transfer Stations accept many electronics and some household hazardous waste at no charge. For details, look for the environment link at www.co.hennepin.mn.us, or call 612-348-3777, Monday–Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm.

- Hennepin County Recycling Center and Transfer Station (8100 Jefferson Hwy, Brooklyn Park), 612-348-3777
- South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center (1400 W 96th St, Bloomington), 612-348-3777

A-Z Guide

Hennepin County Environmental Services also has an "A–Z How-To-Get-Rid-Of-It Guide" for households. ♪

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, May 31
Fourth of July	Sat, July 5
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 6
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 29
Christmas	Sat, Dec 27
New Year's '09	Sat, Jan 3

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.

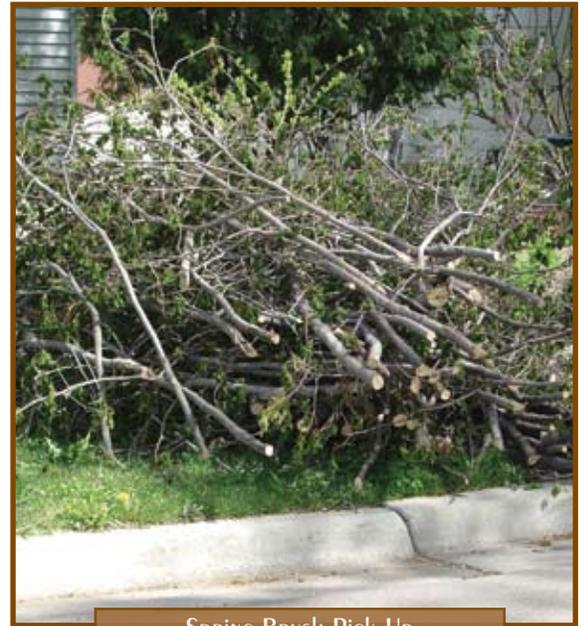
Coming To A Curb Near You: Spring Brush Pick-Up

Spring is here, which means Golden Valley's annual residential *Spring Brush Pick-Up* is just around the corner. The pick-up, running from April 28 to May 16, gives you the opportunity to place tree limbs and brush at your curb for collection and disposal.

Program Guidelines

Please observe the following guidelines when preparing your brush for pick-up:

- Tree limbs and brush must be four inches in diameter or less and approximately six feet long or less.
- Stack brush so the larger ends face the street (do NOT tie limbs together).
- Condense brush to **one pile** per household. Trucks will stop only **once** at each property, so if there is more than one pile, only one will be picked up.
- Do not use plastic bags.
- Place brush and limbs on the boulevard completely clear of sidewalks, mailboxes, streetlights and sign poles, landscaping and fences, overhead tree branches, and power lines. If piles don't fit between the curb and sidewalk, place them on the boulevard behind the sidewalk. The contractor uses trucks with automated loading arms to pick up the brush piles. If your brush is stacked near a restricted area or tossed in a pile rather than stacked, it will be left behind.
- No leaves, grass clippings, stumps, soil, roots, limbs exceeding the size limits, building lumber, landscape timbers, or bags of garbage will be picked up. If any of these items are mixed in the brush stacks, the entire stack will be left behind. The contractor will not sort through brush stacks for acceptable material.



Spring Brush Pick-Up

Pick-Up Schedule

The City will be divided into three sections (see below), with a week designated for pick-up in each. Brush must be placed on the curb by 8 am Monday the week of pick-up and must remain there until picked up. If there is a lot of brush, pick-up may take longer than a week.

Section 1—Area north of Hwy 55 and east of Douglas Dr—**week of April 28**

Section 2—Area north of Hwy 55 and west of Douglas Dr—**week of May 5**

Section 3—Area south of Hwy 55—**week of May 12**

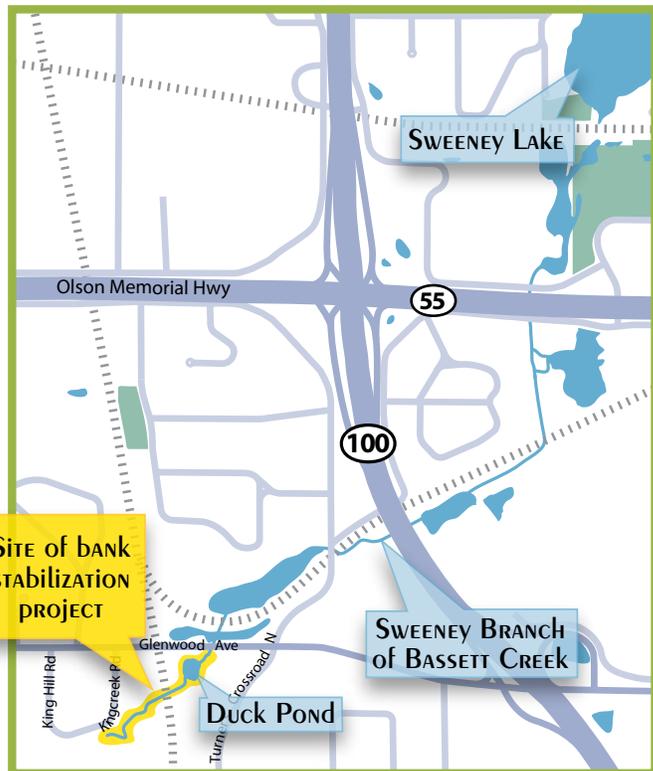
The Spring Curbside Brush Pick-Up is a component of the Golden Valley recycling program. If you have questions about the residential brush pick-up program, call 763-593-8030.

To dispose of brush or tree waste not collected in this pick-up, contact your garbage hauler or choose a contractor from the *Yellow Pages*. For more information, check the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/SpringBrushPickUp.htm) or call 763-593-8030. ♪

Stream, Pond Stabilization Project Under Way

To protect Sweeney Lake water quality, the Bassett Creek Water Management Commission green-lighted a stream bank stabilization project that will minimize or control creek erosion and reverse its effects on an adjacent pond.

The project focuses on what's called the Sweeney branch of Bassett Creek. Located on the south side of Glenwood Ave near King Creek Rd, this project covers a 600-foot stretch of creek that flows into Duck Pond. The banks along this stretch had



eroded, causing cave-ins and downstream sediment build-up, says Al Lundstrom, environmental coordinator.

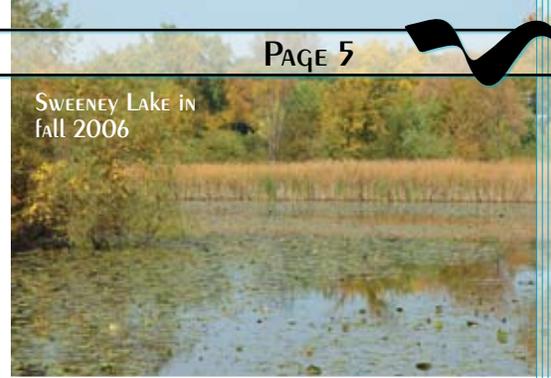
Over time, the erosion turned Duck Pond into what is essentially a mud pit that, in turn, pollutes Sweeney Lake. That's why, in addition to stabilizing the nearby creek banks, crews will also dredge the pond to restore it to its original depth.

While dredging the pond is a fairly straightforward matter, stabilization of the creek banks requires several steps. First, crews have to remove trees along the creek in order to re-grade the bank. The bank used to be more

like a wall, running at a 90-degree angle with the creek, leading to undercutting and cave-ins. After the project, the bank will have a more gradual slope.

The next step involves bank stabilization using a heavy layer of field stone, and the final step focuses on creating a "buffer zone" along the creek. The buffer zone will be a 15-foot wide area on both sides of the creek that stabilizes the soils and filters pollutants with the help of native plants and grasses. Despite all these changes, crews will make sure the stream maintains its original bends and natural flow, says Lundstrom.

The project started in February and should be completed in late April. It's part of Golden Valley's concerted effort to improve surface water quality throughout the Bassett Creek watershed (see sidebar for further details). Questions? Contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.



SWEENEY LAKE IN fall 2006

Improving GV Water Quality A Concerted Effort

Golden Valley's Sweeney Lake was placed on the 2004 list of "impaired waters" as determined by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the federal Clean Water Act.

Impaired waters are streams, rivers, and lakes that currently do not meet their designated use and associated water quality standards. Sweeney made the list because of excess nutrients (phosphorus), which can come from dead vegetation and fertilizer.

Phosphorus promotes algae and surface vegetation that not only makes a lake murky, but also blocks sunlight from reaching plants on the lake bottom, plants that provide food for ducks, fish, and other marine life. As these plants decompose, they use up water oxygen, making it harder for aquatic life to survive.

The Bassett Creek Sweeney Branch stabilization project (see main story) is one of several approaches the City is taking to improve area water quality.

This project alone highlights several Best Management Practices (BMPs) used in keeping pollutants out of area lakes, including the dredging of ponds in the stream by removing sediment, planting native vegetation along the stream to filter pollutants, and stabilizing the bank to prevent erosion.

With the use of these BMPs and other practices, and with the help of the community, Sweeney Lake and other area water bodies should show significant improvements, says Al Lundstrom, environmental coordinator.

"Every effort counts toward keeping area waterways clean, healthy, and beautiful," he says.

Recreation OPPORTUNITIES

A complete list of recreation opportunities is available in the Spring/Summer Recreation Activities Brochure or online (see below).

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Kids' Club—Ages 3–5. Mon/Wed, Apr 14–May 21 or Tue/Thu, Apr 15–May 22, 9:30–11 am, Brookview, \$36.

Music, Mom/Dad & Me—Ages 2–3 with adult. Tue, Apr 8–May 13, 9:30–10:15 am, Brookview, \$44/resident, \$49/non-resident.

American Red Cross Babysitting—Ages 11–15. Sat, Apr 12, 19, or 26, 8 am–4:30 pm, Brookview, \$65.

SPRING YOUTH TENNIS CAMPS

Ages 4–7: Sat, May 3–Jun 7, 9–11 am, \$100. Ages 8–16: Apr 29–Jun 7, Tue/Thu (4–6 pm) & Sat (11 am–1 pm), Brookview Tennis Courts. \$100–1 day/week (5 classes), \$150–2 days/week (10 classes), \$225–3 days/week (15 classes). For summer tennis camp and tennis instruction dates, see the City Web site or the Spring/Summer Recreation Activities Brochure.

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Nutrition: A Way of Life—Mon, Apr 28, 6:30–7:30 pm, Brookview, \$18.

Self-Hypnosis for Chronic Pain—Mon, May 5, 6:30–7:30 pm, Brookview, \$18.

Line Dancing—Wed, Apr 23–May 28, 6:30–8 pm, Brookview, \$48.

Digital Photo Organization—Tue, Apr 29, 6:30–9:30 pm, Brookview, \$15.

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

Youth Rec Programs A Boon For Golden Valley

There's no doubt Golden Valley's youth recreation programs have been a hit among parents and children. To some, the programs are what make this a stand-out community.

"It really attracts a wide variety of kids, and that's critical for our safety and for the community," says Wendy Rubinyi, a mother of four kids who have been involved in the programs for more than a decade. "If kids are occupied, and get to know one another, they don't get into as much trouble."

Rubinyi, who has volunteered for the recreation programs as a tie-dye trainer, says the quality of life for her and her kids has been significantly enhanced because of Golden Valley's recreation programs.

"The thing that makes our community special is our park and rec program," Rubinyi says.

The recreation programs give kids from different schools and different backgrounds, kids who might not otherwise hang out, a chance to get to know each other in a community setting, which helps create and reinforce relationships across neighborhoods, says Brian Erickson, recreation supervisor.

Also, because of the relatively low cost to participate in City recreation programs, it leaves no one out, he adds.

"Some of it even introduces kids to activities they might never have participated in," Erickson says. "They're fun-based activities, rather than competitive-based. So it's a comfortable setting. You don't have to be a soccer all-star to have fun in soccer camp."

A few upcoming spring activities include the Bike Rodeo (see page 10 sidebar), Eco-Friendly Jewelry Making, Explorers Hiking and Biking Club, and Ultimate Frisbee Camp. The Ultimate Frisbee Camp will be run by Rubinyi's oldest son, Steven, who has been involved in Golden Valley's park and recreation programs since preschool and now works for the department.

"We select programs for different reasons," Erickson says. "We look at trends and listen to participants on their likes and dislikes."

A good sign of any well-received program is repeat customers.

"Kids come back year after year," Erickson says. "Parents who participated as kids bring their own kids back."

For more on upcoming recreation programs and for contact information, see Recreation Opportunities sidebar, at left. 



Fridays, June 20 and July 11
12:30–2:15 pm at Scheid Park

Have some wet and wild fun this summer. This free event features three water slides on the big hill at Scheid Park, plus a DJ. For ages 6–14.





Election Judges Make ELECTIONS Possible

Each election day, election judges administer voting procedures in more than 4,000 polling places across Minnesota to ensure a fair and accessible election for all eligible voters. This year the City of Golden Valley needs election judges to serve on Primary Election Day (September 9, 2008) and General Election Day (November 4, 2008).

DUTIES

At each polling place, multiple election judges work together to ensure all qualified voters are permitted to vote. They check voters in, explain voting procedures and use of voting equipment, distribute ballots, register new voters, and offer assistance as needed. At the end of election day, judges close the polling places and verify and certify results by precinct. Election judges may be asked to serve in the precinct where they live or elsewhere in the city.

"It's the little bit I can do to help keep the elections honest and fair," says Barb Juliar, a Golden Valley election judge for more than 30 years. She also enjoys seeing friends and neighbors, and she especially likes having a front-row seat for elections. "We always know before anyone else how a precinct votes."

The City of Golden Valley asks that election judges be available to work all day, from 6 am until all the ballots are counted (approximately 10:30 pm). The City provides training and pays election judges \$10.74/hour. State law permits employees to take time off from work without loss of pay to serve as election judges.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

To be an election judge, you:

- must be eligible to vote in Minnesota
- must be able to read, write, and speak English
- cannot be a spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any election judge serving in the same precinct
- cannot be a candidate or the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any candidate on the ballot in that precinct

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Desired qualifications include:

- ability to communicate clearly with voters
- comfort with assisting and serving a diverse population
- ability to remain impartial and not exert influence over voters
- physical and emotional stamina
- attention to detail
- general math skills
- fluency in a second language

HOW TO BECOME AN ELECTION JUDGE

If you're interested in serving as an election judge, contact Edie Ernst at 763-593-8017. You can also stop by City Hall and pick up an application packet, or you can apply online at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/electionjudges.htm.

Election Judges Needed For:

Primary Election Day
September 9, 2008

General Election Day
November 4, 2008



SENIOR *Stuff*

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Getting You Through the Medicare & Medigap Maze— April 8 and May 13 at 9, 10, or 11 am. Free.

Happy Feet Foot Care Clinic—April 15. \$30 due at time of service. Call 763-560-5136 to schedule.

Spring Sing—Sat, April 19, 2 pm. Calvary Lutheran Church. Free.

Bowling Tournament—Tue, May 13, 12:30 pm. TexaTonka Lanes. \$4 at door. Register by May 9.

CLASSES

Defensive Driving 8-hour First-Time Course—Tue, May 6 and May 13, 6–10 pm. \$17/person. Register in advance with Minnesota Safety Council.

Defensive Driving 4-hour Refresher Course—Thur, April 10 or May 8, 9 am–1 pm. \$16. Register in advance with Minnesota Safety Council.

Intermediate Bridge—Fri, April 4–May 23, 9–10:30 am. \$28.

Oil Painting—Mon, March 17–April 21, 9:30–11:30 am. \$37.

Check Up For The Neck Up—Develop nourishing and empowering thoughts that can lead to a satisfying and confident life. Fri, April 18 and April 25, 1–3 pm. Register by April 11.

COFFEE TALK

April 23, 9:45 am: "Today's News Media: Who Can We Trust?" \$2 at the door. Register by April 21.

UPCOMING TRIPS (REGISTER EARLY)

- April 18: Meandering with Mary, \$5.50 (register by April 11)
- May 16: Follow the Eagles, \$54 (register by April 28)
- June 10: Magic Gardens/Gone Fishin', \$55 (register by May 23).

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



The Golden Valley Commons development provided a focal point for the city. Left: NE corner of Hwy 55 & Winnetka, circa 1988.



Civic Planning: Making Way For Change

Effective civic planning relies on the ability to anticipate change—how to prepare for it, what to expect from it, how to use it.

Golden Valley, caught between downtown Minneapolis and the outer-ring suburbs, is a gateway city on a fault line of demographic and societal changes. And City planners use this information to prepare for the future in a half-dozen areas: water systems, land use, housing, parks and open spaces, environment, and transportation. The result is the City's Comprehensive Plan (see sidebar), which guides growth and development in the community.

This article outlines a few societal and demographic issues that are driving future change.



Left: I-394 at Turner's Crossroad, circa 1985. Right: An example of mixed-use development that scored the highest in the I-394 Visual Preference Survey.

Increased Concern for the Environment

Consider the I-394 corridor. What was 30 years ago a four-lane road with stoplights is now a major freeway offering one of the most direct routes for commuters going in and out of Minneapolis. The I-394 business district is usually the first thing people see of Golden Valley. In the 1970s and '80s, the district was built with old societal values in mind. Many buildings, including Menards, the Florida West office/warehouse, and Burger King, were built on wetlands and required pilings and soil remediation, something that would require mitigation and not be encouraged today.

So when looking at possible redevelopment along I-394, planners must consider society's change in values. The City plans to limit the environmental impact of any I-394 redevelopment as well as improve the structure of the development to better suit the land.

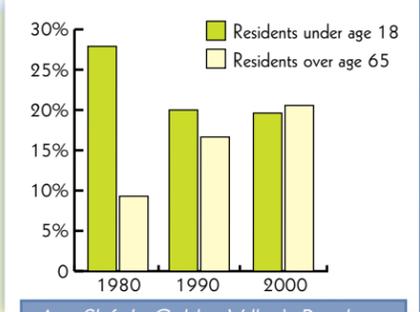
The future I-394 corridor is going to feature interconnected mixed-use development designed to replace the current hodgepodge of industrial, commercial, office, and institutional uses. Office buildings will be next to parks and trails; residential housing will mingle with ponds and open spaces. Maintaining open space and improving water quality are planning goals that reflect the changing needs and values of the community and the metro area as a whole.

Increased Transportation Costs

Now consider the effect of steadily increasing gas prices, which has sparked a change in how the public views transportation options. Over the last 20 years, the public has developed a strong desire for more active living options—more sidewalks, bike paths, parks, and better connectivity. This desire encouraged development of the Three Rivers Trail that stretches from east to west through the center of the city. It also got City planners to look at redeveloping Douglas Drive to make it more pedestrian friendly.

Ageing Population

Think about the City's numbers involving age and population, and how that will affect future housing needs. Between 1980 and 2000, the number of residents under age 18 dropped 8 percent, while the number of residents above 65 and 85 years old more than doubled. This means there probably will be an increase in the number of people at or above retirement age living by themselves or with just one other person. Because of this, planners anticipate a need for more condominiums, retirement homes, and assisted living apartments. To not plan for more facilities of that type could create fewer options five or 10 years from now for hundreds of Golden Valley residents.



Increased Need For City-To-City Cooperation

Larger trends outside the community also affect planning. Surrounding populations are increasing while metropolitan resources diminish. This creates a stronger need for city-to-city cooperation. Conserving water resources, for example, means developing more efficient shared water uses with neighboring municipalities. The need for cooperation is one reason Metropolitan cities develop comprehensive plans—to make sure everyone is on the same page. It's easier for cities to anticipate and prepare for changes if they team up to tackle the bigger issues.

"Many trends arise in the middle of planning, and you have to make changes for them," says Planning Director Mark Grimes. "You have to make sure all your plans are flexible."

In the end, parts of Golden Valley are hardly recognizable from what they looked like in the 1970s, and you can bet on a similar transformation over the next 30 years. Demographic change and shifts in societal trends will be analyzed and reanalyzed. Precedents will be studied, surveys taken, and while it's never possible to predict the future perfectly, with enough effort, City planners can tip the odds in the community's favor.

"We're not going to stagnate," says City Planner Joe Hogeboom. "We're always going to be a vibrant, changing community."

Comprehensive Plan 2008—2018

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. The driving force in Golden Valley's Comprehensive Plan update is Envision's central idea of building a community that creatively connects people and places. Demographic and societal trends also have a major role.

Draft chapters of Golden Valley's updated Comprehensive Plan 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.

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.metrocouncil.org/services/assistance.htm.



GVPD University Kicks Off In April

Any police chief will tell you one of the top forms of crime prevention is education. The more informed citizens are about protecting themselves and spotting potential criminal activity, the safer the city.

In light of that, the Golden Valley Police Department is developing GVPD University (GVPDU), a safety education series for citizens. The first class, "Drugs and Gangs 101," will be held April 23 (see below). Experts from the Northwest Metro Drug Task Force and the Metro Gang Task Force will provide information about the frequency of drug use and gang activity in Golden Valley, how to identify drug-use symptoms, how to talk to kids about drug use, and what to do when you see gang-related crimes.



"The class will be aimed at parents, but it's open to anyone who's concerned about these issues," says Joanne Paul, crime prevention specialist. The next class, to be held on May 19, will cover Internet crimes against children.

The classes are open to anyone, though some courses are more adult-oriented than others. Paul says she hopes to eventually hold one class per month, with children's classes held during the summer. Classes will cover specific topics in more depth than previous GVPD educational efforts.

"I truly believe the more people know about these things, the less scared they are, and the better they are at preventing it from happening," says Paul.

Golden Valley Police Chief Stacy Altonen says community engagement is the top priority for the Golden Valley Police Department. "We are a professional, progressive organization full of talented employees," she says, "and we can be even more effective and successful if we engage the community in public safety plans and have a regular dialogue with residents and business owners."

The first class has a 50-seat capacity. RSVP by calling the GVPD at 763-593-8079 or with an email to police@ci.golden-valley.mn.us. Include your name, address, and phone number, and write "GVPDU Registration" in the subject line. Seating is first-come, first-served, but there's no deadline to sign up.

GVPDU Courses

Drugs and Gangs 101.....April 23, 7-9 pm
Aimed at parents, but open to anyone concerned about these issues. Presented by the Northwest Metro Drug Task Force and Metro Gang Task Force.

Internet Crimes Against Children.....May 19, 7-8:30 pm
Educates parents about the dangers of predators on the Internet. Presented by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Location: Golden Valley Police Department Training Room, 7800 Golden Valley Road

Tuition: Free



Bike Rodeo Is May 7

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7
6-8 pm
 Crystal Community Center
 4800 Douglas Drive

Enjoy special treats and register to win prizes. Highlights include:

- free bike safety checks
- bike skills tests
- demo on bike helmet fitting
- complimentary refreshments
- music
- appearances by McGruff and Sparky

The Bike Rodeo will be held rain or shine.

This annual event is sponsored by the Cities of Golden Valley, New Hope, and Crystal, and Golden Valley VFW Post 7051.

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



Be A Volunteer Firefighter

Joining Golden Valley's volunteer fire department is a real skills-driven commitment that will leave you prepared to face any number of unique challenges, both as a firefighter and a citizen.

The Golden Valley Fire Department takes training very seriously, says Stephen Baker, fire education specialist. First-year firefighters attend two to three nights of training per week, for 225 hours of training in the first six months. They'll come away with new or refined skills in search and rescue, CPR, hazmat management, traumatic stabilization, shock management, critical thinking under pressure, emergency vehicle driving, and of course, fire fighting.

"In every aspect of the training, there are things they can take from it and use in their lives," Baker says.

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

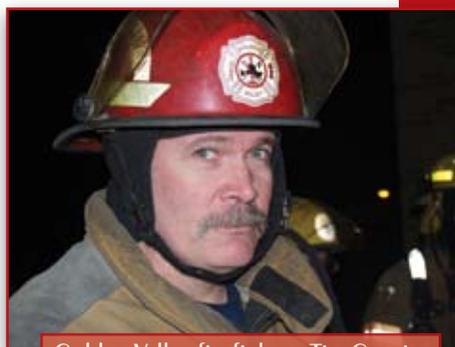
tradition of community service by becoming paid, on-call firefighters. There are two ways to serve. If you live within six minutes of a Golden Valley fire station, apply to become a night-time/weekend responder. If you live in another community but work in Golden Valley, check out Corporate Call, a collaboration 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.

"There's no doubt first-year firefighter training requires a major time commitment," says Baker, "but the dividends will change your life for the better and ensure the safety of Golden Valley is in the hands of professionals."

SALARY, BENEFITS, AND REWARDS

GVFD firefighters receive an hourly wage along with a pension plan and disability benefits. They also get satisfaction from helping others as well as increased self-confidence, experience, responsibility, social connections, fun and friends, and the chance to be a positive community role model.



GOLDEN VALLEY FIREFIGHTER TIM GERRITS

FIREFIGHTER PROFILES

For Ben Vogel, joining the Golden Valley Fire Department was more than just a smart decision.

"I'd easily put it in the top five decisions I've made in my life," he says.

Joining the department as a volunteer was something Vogel wanted to do since he moved to Golden Valley 10 years ago. But he kept putting it off for one reason or another, until he realized there was never going to be a "perfect" time.

So last year he signed up and is working on completing his initial training.

"In the first six months, the training is pretty significant," says Vogel. "But you end up fully prepared, and very well informed of how you can make a contribution to the fire department. For me, too, it's a great confidence builder."

He says he feels good when he gets to help out at a scene, and he learns a lot by working with the more experienced firefighters.

Tim Gerrits, after nearly 20 years on the job, is one of those experienced firefighters. He shares the same views as Vogel.

"It isn't just putting water on fire," he says. "You learn how to pump, drive trucks, educate. You learn hazmat management, first response. There's just so much more to it than fighting fire."

There's also a lot of camaraderie, he says. Being a part of the volunteer team has helped foster many long-term friendships.

"It's just been a very rewarding experience," Gerrits says. "No regrets."

Both Vogel and Gerrits recommend signing up.

"If you're willing to make the time commitment and have the backing of your family, from my perspective, it would be one of the best decisions of your life," Vogel says.



BEN VOGEL

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

INFORMATION MEETINGS

Informational meetings for new firefighters will be held in June and August. Watch the next *CityNews* for dates, or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/firedept.htm or call 763-593-8054.

Lawn Ordinance Sets Clear Cut Rules



Golden Valley's lawn maintenance ordinance bans noxious weeds and requires turf lawns to be maintained at eight inches or less. If a property is found to be in violation of the ordinance, the City mails a letter to the property owner. The property owner then has seven days to comply before the City mows the vegetation at the property owner's expense.

The complete lawn maintenance ordinance is available at City Hall and the Golden Valley Library.

Residents who want to vary their landscape by cultivating native plants can apply for a "Native Vegetation Permit." For more information, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.

For questions or to report a tall weed or lawn maintenance violation, call the City's lawn maintenance hotline at 763-593-3966.

Street Sweeping: Do Your Part, Keep Debris Away

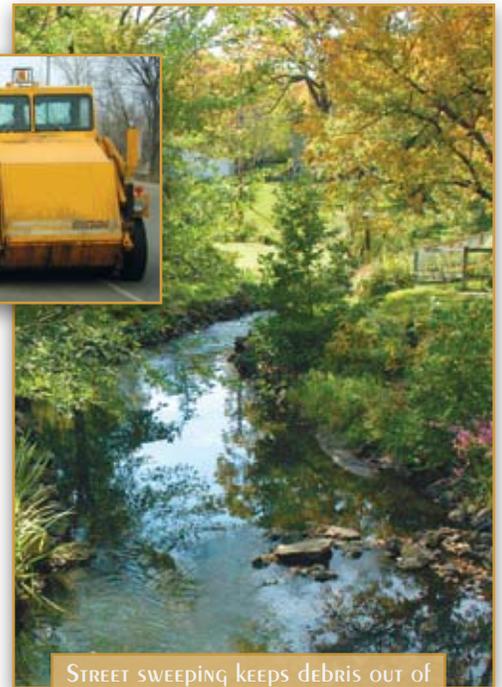
Looking over the muddy mess of spring, your first instinct may be to rake all that gunk on your yard directly into the street for the sweepers to worry about. Fight that instinct.

Not only is debris in streets an eyesore, it also disrupts the City's street sweeping and pollutes surface water. Debris picks up and carries pollutants (soil, pet waste, oil, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and litter) into the storm water system and area surface waters, such as Bassett Creek. City programs like the *Spring Brush Pick-Up* (see page 4) and *Fall Leaf Drop-Off* help ensure yard waste does not end up, intentionally or inadvertently, in the street.

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

If the weather and residents cooperate, bulk and curb-to-curb sweeping is done by early May (streets are swept again in the summer and fall—see schedule below).

For more information about street maintenance, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030. 



STREET SWEEPING keeps debris out of LOCAL WATERWAYS.

street sweeping SCHEDULE

SPRING

Sweep curb-to-curb in mid-March/April.

SUMMER

Sweep all gutters in June; clean low collection areas and sweep as needed in July, August, and September.

FALL

Sweep curb-to-curb in October and November (wait for as many leaves to fall as possible).

Golden Valley is divided into four sections for street sweeping. This allows crews to rotate sections each year so no area is always first or last. This year, Section III leads off the rotation, followed by Sections II, I, and IV.

Section I boundaries: Winnetka Ave, north City limit, south City limit, west City limit

Section II boundaries: Winnetka Ave, north City limit, Hwy 100, Hwy 55

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

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

City Two-Thirds Through PMP

After a public hearing at its Feb 19, 2008 meeting, the Golden Valley City Council approved the 2008–09 Pavement Management Program (PMP), which will reconstruct approximately eight miles of local streets in northeastern Golden Valley. To date, the City has rehabilitated two-thirds of its streets—just one example of the City’s commitment to reinvesting in infrastructure to maintain a quality community.

Golden Valley’s PMP is a comprehensive, systematic way for the City to evaluate its street system and follow through with long-term, cost-effective maintenance and rehabilitation. All City streets not constructed to current standards (including concrete curb and gutter) will be reconstructed or rehabilitated at some time during the life of the PMP. Priority is given to streets, or groupings of streets, that have the highest need. The City also evaluates the condition of its aging water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer utilities, scheduling repair or replacement as needed as part of the PMP.

Streets are prioritized for maintenance and rehabilitation based on engineering information regarding pavement age and condition, soil and drainage conditions, traffic volumes, and more. Some streets have pavements that have failed entirely, and maintaining them with standard procedures (patching, crack sealing, and seal coating) is very expensive and ineffective at improving their quality. Major rehabilitation, such as reconstruction, is usually the most cost-effective solution. Major rehabilitation is then followed by maintenance measures, such as crack sealing and seal coating, to prolong the pavement life.

Before Golden Valley’s PMP was formalized with a financing plan in 1995, 22 miles of City streets had been either built or rehabilitated to meet City engineering standards. Between 1995 and 2007, the City rehabilitated 70 miles of streets, leaving 28 miles yet to be fixed. The City estimates that the majority of streets will be up to standard by 2014.

The 2008 PMP will include Culver Rd and all streets north, as well as the 2800 block of Scott Ave and the 5300 block of Dawnview Terrace. The condition of these streets is generally poor, and they require significant maintenance. The \$7.5 million project will begin in spring and wrap up in fall.

For more information about Golden Valley’s PMP, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.

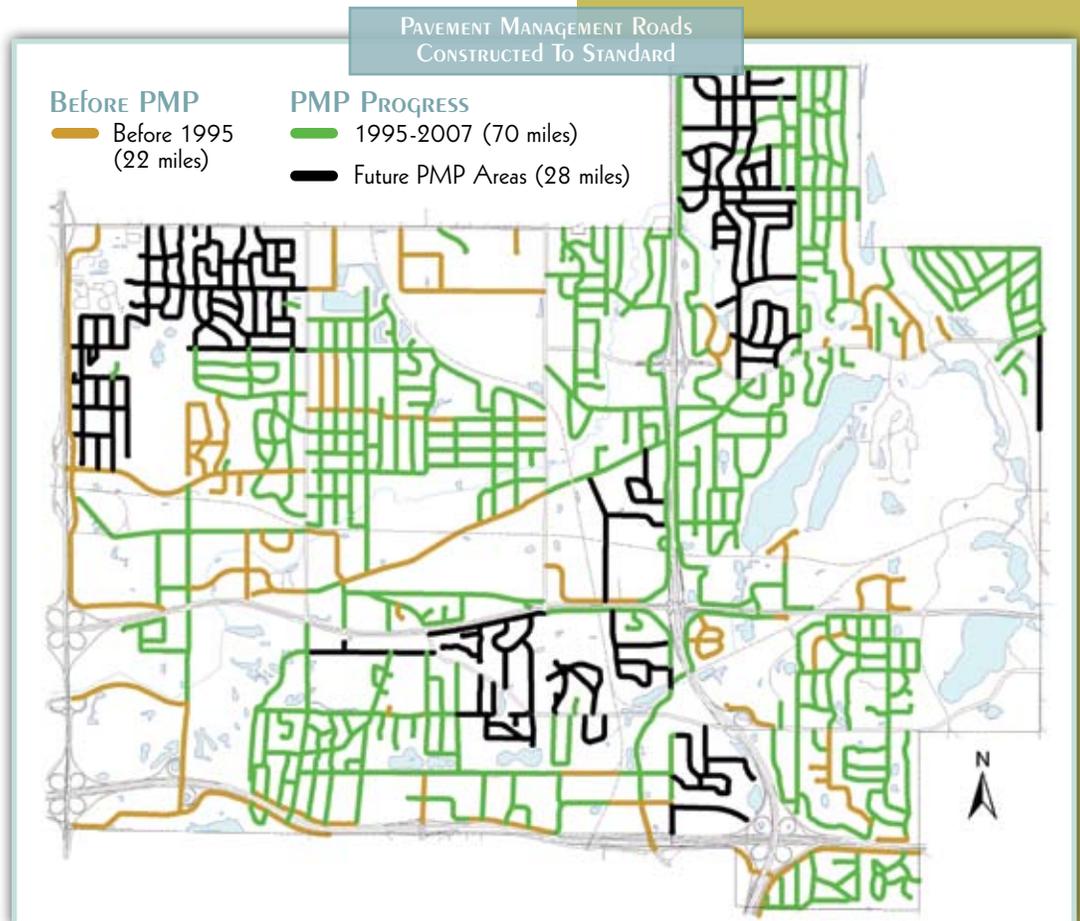
2008 PMP Streets

- Culver Rd & all streets north
- 2800 block of Scott Ave
- 5300 block of Dawnview Terrace

City Supports Kyoto Protocol

In January, the Golden Valley City Council signed the US Conference of Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement, joining more than 600 US cities that are committed to finding ways to reduce global warming pollution. This agreement is the only climate protection agreement of its kind among US elected officials.

Supporting cities pledge to strive to meet or beat Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban forest restoration projects to public information campaigns. They also commit to urge state and federal governments to enact policies and programs to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, and to urge Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system.



Lights, Sirens? Don't Panic, Let Them Through!

When an emergency vehicle is responding to a call for help, seconds can make all the difference. Cooperation from drivers to yield the right of way is critical.

State law requires motorists to yield the right of way to emergency vehicles traveling with lights and sirens on. All vehicles on the road must immediately

pull over to the right hand curb, stop, and wait until the emergency vehicle has passed. On a one-way street, pull over to the nearest curb and stop. On a two-way street, drivers in both directions should pull over to create an open lane down the middle of the road for emergency vehicles to use. After the emergency vehicle has passed, make sure no other emergency vehicles are coming before safely re-entering the traffic lane.

Intersections are sometimes more complicated. Pull over to get out of the way, or, if you cannot pull over to clear the way, safely move through the intersection first and then pull over. If you are already waiting in a left turn lane, you may be able to stay stopped in that location because drivers in the through lanes will create an open lane when they pull over.

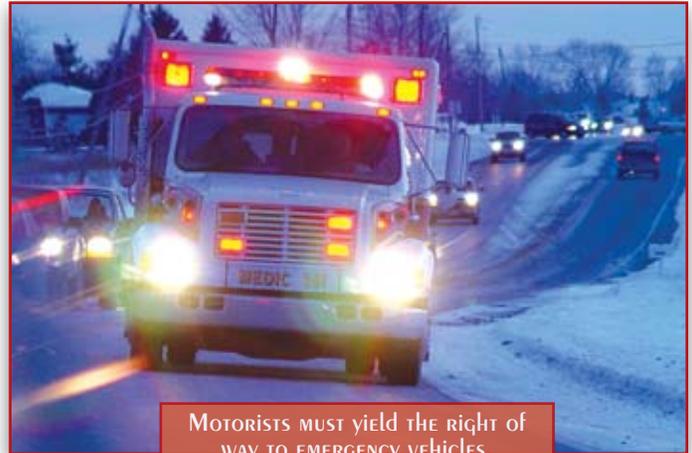
Traffic signals and emergency vehicles in Golden Valley are equipped with emergency vehicle preemption (EVP), which means signals respond to emergency vehicles by preempting the normal signal cycle to provide a green light for the emergency vehicle. To let all drivers know the signal may change, a special EVP light illuminates (see photo).

If you see a steady (not flashing) white light, an emergency vehicle has requested a green light for the road you are traveling (it could be coming from behind you or may be coming toward you from the opposite direction). A flashing EVP light means the emergency vehicle is approaching the intersection from the crossing roadway.

What if an emergency or police vehicle is stopped on the side of the road? If there are two or more lanes in the same direction, safely switch lanes so there is a full vacant lane between you and the emergency vehicle. If you cannot safely switch lanes, slow down while safely passing by the emergency

vehicle. On a two-lane two-way street, move to the left as far as safely possible and slow down when passing. Providing a safety space for emergency workers not only prevents you from getting in a crash, it also allows emergency workers to perform their tasks in a safer environment.

Emergency vehicle drivers are well-trained to help us in times of need. If we follow these guidelines, use our turn signals to indicate our intentions, and make eye contact with emergency vehicle drivers when possible, then they will be able to most effectively do their jobs—for all of us.



MOTORISTS MUST YIELD THE RIGHT OF WAY TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES.



EVP SYSTEMS LET DRIVERS KNOW WHEN EMERGENCY VEHICLES ARE APPROACHING AN INTERSECTION.

On-Street Parking Rules

Spring is just around the corner, and with it comes increased outdoor activity throughout the community. To keep everyone safe on local streets and sidewalks, it's important to know, understand, and follow Golden Valley's on-street parking rules.

Remember, parking is not allowed:

- on a public sidewalk
- in front of a public or private driveway
- within 10 feet of a fire hydrant
- on a crosswalk or within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection
- within 30 feet on the approach to an intersection with a flashing beacon, stop sign, or traffic signal
- within 50 feet of a railroad crossing
- on any bridge, unless otherwise signed
- abreast an already parked car (double parking)

Many streets in Golden Valley are narrow, so park close to the curb. The tires of your car should be about a foot from the curb to keep the driving lane passable for other vehicles.

Also, many Golden Valley streets don't have sidewalks, so drivers are sharing the streets with pedestrians and bicycles. Proper parking gives everyone more room to maneuver.

Keep these restrictions in mind and Golden Valley's streets will be safer and remain accessible for all users.



Follow Codes For Window And Door Replacements

As spring rolls in, plans for housing projects begin to bloom. According to the City Inspections Department, 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, then visit the Inspections Department in City Hall for your permit.

Windows



Most windows are replaced in the same sized opening. If the opening is enlarged, a framing inspection is required.

For fire safety reasons, there are special requirements for replacing windows in a bedroom or basement. If you change the existing framing, State Code requires egress windows in these areas to have a minimum clearance 20 inches wide and 24 inches high, with a total minimum clear area of 5.7 square feet, or 5 square feet if within 44 inches to grade (up and down). 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 safety glass. These include:

- windows within two feet of a door
- windows more than nine square feet that are 18 inches or less above the floor or other walking surfaces and within three feet of a walking surface and with top edge more than 36 inches above the floor
- windows in tub/shower areas.

Always check with Inspections if you think your project may require safety glass.

DOORS



Replacement of exterior doors and the door between the residence and the garage requires a permit. No permit is required for screen door replacement. As with windows, most doors are replaced in the same size opening, but if the opening is enlarged, a framing inspection is required.

There are special requirements for doors between the garage and the residence. Openings from a garage directly into a room used for sleeping purposes are not permitted. The door between the garage and residence must be a solid door or honeycomb steel door no less than 1³/₈ inches thick, or a 20-minute fire-rated door. Glass is not allowed in the door between the residence and the garage, unless it is part of a listed fire-rated assembly. A final inspection is required on all doors which require a permit.

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.

Garage Sale Signs: Ugly And Dangerous

Illegal sign season is upon us—garage sale signs blocking fire hydrants, realtor signs in medians, announcements cluttering phone poles, advertisements obstructing sight lines at intersections. Golden Valley Community Standards and Building Inspector Roger McCabe estimates he takes down roughly 30 illegal signs in any given week during the spring.



Most of the time, says McCabe, people don't know they're breaking the law, so they get angry at the removal of their signs without realizing the problems those signs could create. Often people neglect to remove their signs at all, leading to pile-ups of outdated announcements.

McCabe mainly removes illegal signs because they're safety hazards. Signs too close to the road distract drivers, or might even blow into the road itself. A sign obstructing a view around a corner could cause an accident. Firefighters might have trouble finding a hydrant because someone used it to prop up a cardboard advertisement for a neighborhood sale. It's dangerous, and it could cost up to \$500 in fines for a resident choosing not to abide by the City ordinance.

The ordinance (Chapter 4.2) establishes proper and improper uses for signs. For example, a resident is not allowed to put up a garage sale sign for more than eight days a year, and the sign can't be up sooner than one day before the sale. It can't be greater than six feet in area, higher than three feet, or placed on any government or private property without permission. The sign also needs to be set back a minimum of 15 feet from a curb or sidewalk.

For more guidelines on proper sign postage, visit www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us, click on "Your Home," and then click on "Signs."

And The T-Shirt Design Winner Is...



Each year the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) provides *Run the Valley* (see story at right) participants with a T-shirt to commemorate the event. The design is changed annually and the process is open to the community. This year's winner is Golden Valley resident Dan Jacobson.

For winning, Jacobson was awarded 10 T-shirts printed with the design. GVHSF retains sole ownership of the winning design. For more information on the *Run the Valley* T-shirt design contest, including past winners, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley.htm.

Run The Valley Apr 5

Help the community keep up its pace. Join friends and family April 5 for the 14th annual *Run the Valley* fundraising event, sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation. The 10K race and 5K run and walk raises funds for organizations that benefit the community. The certified course runs through residential Golden Valley—water stops and post-race complimentary snacks are provided. Participants will also receive a long-sleeve T-shirt.

WHEN: Saturday, April 5, 8:30 am for 5K run and walk and 8:40 am for the 10K run

WHERE: Start and finish near the Davis Community Center parking lot at Meadowbrook Elementary (one block west of Hwy 100 at the intersection of Glenwood and Xenia Aves)

HOW TO REGISTER: Online at www.active.com through April 1. Before April 3, in person or by mail with check, cash, or Visa/MasterCard to 200 Brookview Parkway, 55426; by phone (763-512-2345); or by fax (763-512-2344). In person, April 3 from 8 am—7 pm and April 4 from 8:15 am—4 pm at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway. On race day, from 7:15—8 am at Davis Community Center.

COST: Entry fee is \$25 through 4 pm April 4 and \$35 on race day.

For more information, visit www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley.htm, or call Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345.



City
of

Golden Valley

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

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