

Golden Valley

CITYNEWS



State Budget Shortfall Affects City

The City of Golden Valley may need to reexamine its budget in 2009 after state officials take action to deal with a projected \$5 billion budget deficit. State officials could hold back millions of dollars in state aid to counties, schools, and cities. In December, Gov Tim Pawlenty ordered an unallotment of Local Government Aid and Market Value Homestead Credit payments to cities and counties as one measure to balance the state's current-year budget.

As the state government struggles with budget deficits, it is passing along the cost of mandated services to local units of government. At the same time, residents are struggling with effects of the recession and are turning to government-funded programs.

In 2008, the Golden Valley City Council approved a City tax levy of \$16,124,650 for 2009. The median home (valued at \$275,000) will see an increase of \$48 per year in property taxes.

About 71 percent of the City's annual budget is supported by property taxes; the remainder of the funds comes from fees for services and other sources. The City's 2009 general fund expenditures increased 2.74 percent.

The City of Golden Valley does not receive Local Government Aid, but it levies \$11,871,685 for general fund operations. This amount includes the Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC), which Hennepin County collects from its cities and remits to the state. The state usually reimburses the MVHC to cities in October and December.

Golden Valley did not receive the second half payment of its MVHC payment for 2008. This amount for the City was \$164,142. The governor has also forewarned cities that 2009 MVHC payments may not be made in their entirety.

(Budget Shortfall cont. on page 2)

State of the City Is March 20

The Golden Valley City Council will present its 2009 State of the City Community Update Tuesday, Mar 17, at 6:30 pm and Friday, Mar 20, at 7:30 am in the City Hall Council Chambers. All members of the community are invited to attend. The video report will then be replayed several times a day on *GV 16*, the City's government access cable channel.

The annual State of the City reports the City's accomplishments of the past year and previews goals for the coming year. This is the sixth year the report will be presented in a video format.

This year's State of the City will focus on financial wellness and planning for the future. It will highlight recent and upcoming projects in development, transportation, community engagement, environment, recreation, and government, with a specific focus on the importance of keeping an aging first-ring suburb vital and appealing.

For more information, contact Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler at 763-593-8004.

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Budget Shortfall

(Cont. from page 1)

For Golden Valley, this amount is estimated at \$350,000. The actual dollar amount will not be known until the Department of Revenue releases that information in February 2009.



The Golden Valley City Council will start discussing the shortfall of the MVHC reimbursement at a workshop in February. It will also discuss the 2010 budget and financial concerns of the City's future. When the economy is dismal, city services are more in demand, and state and federal unfunded mandates increase.

Even in tough economic times and constricted resources, Golden Valley strives to provide quality services. The City continues to maintain about 1,080 acres of parks and wetlands, more than 120 miles each of streets, water lines, sanitary sewer and storm sewer, police and fire departments, a widely connected trail system, an Aa1 credit rating, and many programs that help residents in their day-to-day lives.

Questions? Contact Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010 or svirnig@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

STEPS TO APPEAL

If you disagree with the City's value assessment of your property, follow these steps for appeal (as established by Hennepin County):

Step 1: Talk to your assessor. Call the number listed on the valuation notice and discuss your concerns and sales information. Or, if you can't resolve the problem, move to step two.

Step 2: Attend the Board of Appeal and Equalization (Open Book style) meeting, which meets April 28, 4–6 pm, at City Hall. Appeal in person, by letter, or by designated representative. Tell the assessor ahead of time you will be attending the meeting so they can bring the appropriate information. If the problem is not resolved, move to step three.

Step 3: Attend the County Board of Appeal and Equalization, which meets in June. Appeal in person, by letter, or by designated representative.

City Outlines Property Valuation Process

With the start of the new year comes another round of property valuations for the City of Golden Valley.

The City's approach to establishing property values is no simple matter. It requires careful valuation of every house and a scientific knowledge of the overall housing market year by year.

There are four major steps to establishing accurate assessments:

1. About every fifth year an appraiser views your property, inside and out.
2. The appraiser gathers information on property characteristics that affect market value, such as size, age, quality, and accessory structures.
3. An assessor analyzes actual sales of property in the city, reviewing last year's open market sales to determine what similar properties would likely sell for.
4. The property characteristics are entered into a computer appraisal system, and information is updated to reflect market trends and the value of each property.

The City of Golden Valley contracts with professionals from Hennepin County to appraise the market value of your home.

The market value estimated by the assessor should be very close to the amount the property would sell for if placed on the open market. (State law defines the market value of a house as "the usual selling price at the time of assessment.") The value and classification of real estate must be established by Jan 2 every year.

The Jan 2 assessment establishes the basis for the following year's property tax. For example, the value and classification on Jan 2, 2008, is used to calculate the tax payable in 2009.

Hennepin County mails property valuation notices in late February or early March. You may appeal if you disagree about the assessed value of your home (see box at left). The County mails Truth in Taxation notices in November and property tax statements in March (see box at right).

For more information, contact the Hennepin County Assessor's Office at 612-348-3046, or visit the Hennepin County Web site at www.co.hennepin.mn.us, click on the "Environment, Property, and Transportation" link, then click on the "Property" link.

FROM ASSESSMENT TO TAXATION

A Three-Part Process,
Two-Year Cycle:

YEAR ONE



Hennepin County assesses property values as of Jan 2 and mails valuation notices in late February or early March.



Truth in Taxation notices are then compiled and mailed in November.

YEAR TWO



In March, the County mails Property Tax Statements based on the prior year's assessments.

See future issues of *CityNews* for articles detailing Truth in Taxation and property tax calculations.

Take It To The Streets For This Year's *Run The Valley*

In this time of economic woes, everyone can help the community keep up its pace.

Plan now to join friends and neighbors April 4 for one of Golden Valley's most popular events, the annual *Run the Valley*, sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation.

This 10K race and 5K run and walk, now in its 16th year, raises funds for organizations that benefit the community (see sidebar). In 2008, the event drew more than 560 participants and raised \$14,348.

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.

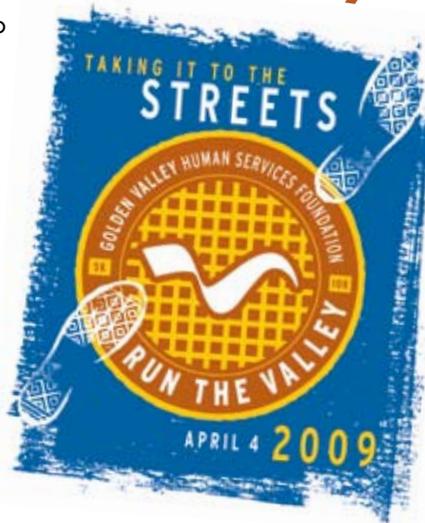
When: Saturday, April 4, 8:30 am for 5K run, 8:40 am for the 5K walk, and 8:45 am for the 10K run

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. By April 2, 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 2 from 8 am–7 pm and April 3 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 \$20 before March 1, \$25 March 1–April 2, 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.



T-shirt Design CONTEST WINNER

Each year the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation looks for colorful, eye-catching, and original graphic design entries for the annual *Run The Valley* 5K/10K Walk/Run T-shirt design contest. Every *Run the Valley* participant gets a T-shirt to commemorate the event. The design is changed annually and the process is open to the community.

This year's T-shirt design contest winner is Golden Valley resident Bill Collins (see design above).

The winning design is selected by consensus of GVHSF members. The winning designer(s) are awarded 10 T-shirts and acknowledged in *Golden Valley CityNews* and the *Sun-Post* newspaper. GVHSF will have sole ownership of the winning design and the right to reuse it when desired.

If you're already thinking about next year's contest, you can find guidelines on the City Web site.



Community Benefits From GVHSF

Since 1992, the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) has worked to support organizations that serve Golden Valley residents. Each year, this board of citizen volunteers reviews funding requests and allocates funds raised by the Foundation through various annual fundraisers, such as April's *Run the Valley*, September's *Golden Valley Golf Classic* and November's *Taste of Golden Valley*. Since the GVHSF's inception, \$974,500 has been allocated to agencies. With the 2009 allocations, the total is \$1,016,500.



For 2009, the GVHSF allocated \$42,000 to nine local human service organizations: Community Mediation Program (\$2,500), Crisis Connection ((\$3,000), Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (\$10,000), Home Free (\$2,500), Suburban Northwest Dinner at Your Door (\$5,000), Senior Community Services HOME Program (\$6,000), Senior Community Services Outreach (\$3,000), The Bridge for Youth (\$5,000), and Tree House (\$5,000).

To qualify for funding, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The services must not be duplicated by a level of government.
- The service provided is for Golden Valley residents at a time of crisis.
- The service must include cooperation or collaboration between organizations.
- Foundation funding should be a "last resort" source for funding the services.
- The organization should use the funds granted by the Foundation to serve Golden Valley citizens.
- Funding shall be granted to human service organizations and not to an individual or individuals.
- Funding will not be granted to any organization licensed in the City of Golden Valley for lawful gambling operations.

For more information about GVHSF activities and events, or to join the list of contributors and volunteers, please call 763-512-2345.

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. See it at www.co.hennepin.mn.us.

Golden Valley Recycles

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

Holiday Schedule

<u>Holiday Week</u>	<u>Pick-Up Date</u>
Memorial Day	Sat, May 30
July 4	Fri, July 3
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 5
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 28
Christmas	Sat, Dec 26
New Year's '10	Sat, Jan 2

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.

What Is “Going Green?”

The current buzz phrase “going green” is used a lot lately. But what does it mean? Is there a definitive point where something or someone switches over from not being “green” to being “green”? Is it the purchase of a new energy-efficient air conditioner or hybrid car? Is it an effort to plant more trees and recycle paper? Or is it something else?

Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom doesn't have an answer, but what he does know is that “going green” is a constantly changing benchmark. It's about taking steps, day by day, year by year, and transitioning toward a lifestyle that reduces your carbon footprint. In other words, if your carbon footprint is smaller this month than last month, and smaller still next month than this month, you're “going green.”

Set A Goal

How do you start? Set a goal, Lundstrom says, and work to achieve it. Don't neglect the little things. You can make great strides toward going green simply by paying closer attention to details. When cleaning your home, use softer chemicals. Toss the pop can in the recycling bin. Walk to the store down the street instead of drive. Change your light bulbs to florescent or get motion sensor lights that turn off on their own. About 32 percent of global warming emissions are caused by electricity consumption.

A simple way to estimate reductions in carbon emissions is to measure your current electricity consumption and strive to lower your energy usage. Utilities such as Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy provide a number of tips for reducing energy consumption. Check their Web sites at www.xcelenergy.com and www.centerpointenergy.com. See page 13 for information about home energy audits.

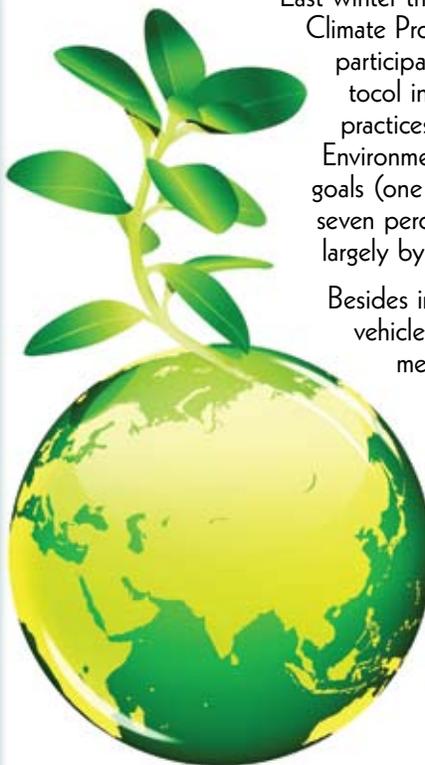
As a personal example, Lundstrom says he will no longer buy an appliance that doesn't have the “Energy Star” energy efficient certification on it. Such products may cost a little bit more up front, but they save money in the long run, and they're better for the environment. The little things add up, he says, and they add up quickly.

Go Green With Golden Valley

Last winter the City of Golden Valley signed the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement (MCPA), which encourages participants to work toward meeting the 2005 Kyoto Protocol initiatives as well as educate the public about green practices. Since then, the City has been working with its Environmental Commission to comply with the MCPA's goals (one is to reduce global warming pollution levels to seven percent below 1990 levels by 2012). It's doing that largely by paying attention to the little things.

Besides implementing a vehicle idling policy for municipal vehicles, the City is making changes as building improvements are made. Examples include installing energy efficient lighting when possible, improving insulation during roof replacement projects, installing energy efficient air conditioning units when replacement is necessary, and installing an energy efficient tankless hot water system in the utility maintenance shop. All are changes that will save the City money in energy costs, Lundstrom says.

It's all about taking it one step at a time, detail by detail, whether it's a business, a city, or a single resident's lifestyle. There's lots of money to be saved by making the effort to “go green,” and the environment will thank you.



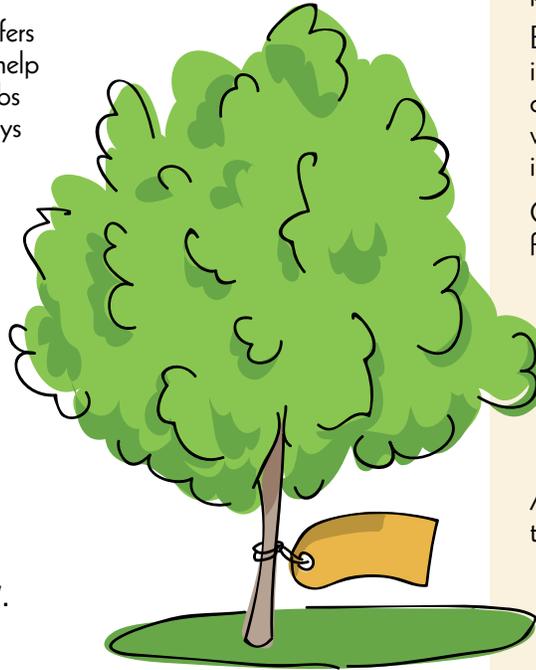


Orders Being Accepted For Tree And Shrub Sale

In an annual effort to help residents improve their surroundings, each spring the City of Plymouth offers selected trees and shrubs for purchase at low prices. This year Golden Valley residents can take part in the program.

Plymouth's spring tree and shrub sale, which offers inexpensive, easy-to-transport options, should help Golden Valley residents replace trees and shrubs damaged in the storms of the last two years, says Al Lundstrom, Golden Valley environmental coordinator. It's also a way to reforest the community left a little barer from elm tree removals and buckthorn eradication.

The program sells bare-root plants, meaning the plants do not come with soil on the roots. See the sidebar for some basic tips on how to plant and care for bare-root trees and shrubs. Golden Valley Assistant Forester Tim Teynor (see contact information below) is also available as a resource.



HOW TO ORDER

The plants are available to order until **April 17**. Shade trees start at \$15, and all shrubs range from \$7 to \$10. Golden Valley residents pay and additional \$5 non-Plymouth-resident fee per order.

Order forms can be found online at www.ci.plymouth.mn.us. Click on "Services," then "Environmental," then "Trees and Gardens," and then "Bare Root Tree and Shrub Sale." Or, request a form from Golden Valley City Hall. Plants will be available for pick-up May 9 at the Plymouth Public Works facility (14900 23rd Ave N) from 8 am to noon.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE

Several varieties of trees and shrubs are available, from the majestic oak and maple, to the eye-catching Blue Muffin Viburnum, to the wildlife enhancing dogwood and chokeberry (see complete list to the left). MnDOT offers an online tool that can help you decide which kind of plant to get based on site characteristics: <http://dotapp7.dot.state.mn.us/plant/>.

Lundstrom stressed that while Golden Valley residents will pick up their ordered trees from Plymouth, people should contact Golden Valley staff with any questions they have about the program.

OTHER QUESTIONS

For more information, check the Golden Valley Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us or contact Teynor at 763-593-3976 or tteynor@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

PLANTING Bare-Root Trees

There are several advantages to bare-root trees. They're cheaper, easier to transport, and provide a strong, visible root system that helps you to plant the tree at the proper depth.

But it's best to plant bare-root trees immediately to keep the fragile roots from drying out. If you can't plant because of weather or soil conditions, store the trees in a cool place and keep the roots moist.

Cornell University offers the following tips for planting bare-root trees:

1. Remove all string and nursery plastic flags (if present). Leave only the aluminum marking tag, and make sure it is attached loosely to prevent girdling.
2. Prune only dead or broken branches. At this stage the tree needs all the potential leaves it can get for good establishment.
3. Dig the planting hole wide and shallow. Do not loosen the soil underneath the root system. Instead, create loose soil horizontally for the spreading roots. Make the hole 2-3 times wider than the root spread in all directions.
4. Remove turf surrounding the tree.
5. Plant the tree so that the beginning of the root spread is visible at soil level. Do not plant the tree too deep.

Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom also recommends leaving a mound at the base of the hole to provide support for the root system.



BARE ROOT TREES COME WITHOUT A CONTAINER OR BURLAP AND ARE BEST PLANTED IMMEDIATELY.

Shrub Varieties:

American hazelnut	Pagoda dogwood
Autumn Magic chokeberry	Wedgewood Blue lilac
Bailey compact Am. cranberrybush	White snowberry
Blue Muffin Viburnum	Summer Wine Ninebark
Buds Yellow dogwood	

Trees:

Amur Maackia	Quaking Aspen
Fall Fiesta sugar maple	Royal Raindrops crabapple
Hackberry	White oak
Paper birch	

Recreation OPPORTUNITIES

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Preschool Playtime (ages 1–5 with an adult)—Fri, 9:30–11 am, through Apr 3, Brookview Community Center. \$3/time/child or \$25/Res, \$28/Non-Res 10-time punch pass.

Kids' Club (ages 3–5)—Mon and Wed, Feb 23–Apr 1, 9:30–11 am, Brookview Community Center, \$38.

Art Making (ages 3–6)—“Spring Into Art:” Wed, Mar 11, 6:30–7:30 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$16.

Art Skool (ages 3–6)—“Animal World:” Fri, Mar 13 and 20, 11:45 am–12:45 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$30.

Science Explorers (ages 4–6)—“Magical Magnets:” Sat, Mar 14, 9:30–11 am, Crystal Community Center, \$12/Res \$17/Non-Res.

Art Expo: Amazing Pets (ages 6–12)—Thu, Mar 26, 6:30–8 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$18.

Indoor Nerf Soccer (ages 5–7)—Thu, Apr 16–May 21, 6 or 7 pm (depending on game schedule), Davis Community Center, \$25.

Adult PROGRAMS

Hoop It Up—Wed, Apr 1, 6–7:30 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$15.

Yoga & Pilates—Tue, Feb 24–Mar 31, 5:30–6:40 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$54.

Power Yoga & Pilates—Tue, Feb 24–Mar 31, 6:45–8:15 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$66.

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

Don't Forget The Value of Park And Rec Programs

In this time of economic hardships, the City of Golden Valley is making an effort to maintain park and recreation services and offer programs that are affordable for everyone.

“We’re trying as hard as we can to keep the fees down and still provide the quality,” says Sue Cook, Golden Valley recreation supervisor. It’s important, she says. “The programs we offer for all ages release stress and tension, and they help boost community connectedness, self confidence, social skills, and overall quality of life.”

So whether you want to learn a new skill or play sports with neighbors you haven’t gotten to know yet, whether you’re a beginner or an expert, Golden Valley Park and Rec has something for everyone, and the programs are right in your backyard.

Three times a year (early March for spring and summer activities, late August for winter activities), the City mails all postal customers in the community a brochure detailing the recreation activities it offers. If you don’t receive one, call 763-512-2345 to have one mailed to you, or visit www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us to peruse activities online (electronic registration is available). There is still time to sign up for some winter programs.

The Preschool Playtime program is the newest service offered by Park and Rec. It started in mid-January and was created after community members expressed a desire for someplace they could take their children in the winter—a place where they could mingle with neighbors as their kids made new friends.

“That’s a perfect example of how City Park and Rec programs bring people together in the community,” says Brian Erickson, recreation supervisor. The Preschool Playtime program is held every Friday from 9:30 to 11 am at Brookview Community Center. It costs \$3 per time, per child, or buy a 10-time punch pass for \$25 (\$28 for non-residents).

When you have these programs, these services that are so affordable and so close, why not take advantage of them? Erickson says.

“But beyond the programs, don’t forget the open spaces and parks, the places to reflect, places to play—structured and unstructured—and the skating rinks, ball fields, and year-round services the City provides,” he says.

See the sidebar for a mere sampling of some of the recreation programs currently offered. For more information on Park and Rec programs, call 763-512-2345 (TDD 763-593-3998).



FOR ABOUT THE PRICE OF A TANK OF GAS, YOU CAN SIGN YOUR CHILD UP FOR HOURS OF SOCCER FUN IN THE FALL.



FOR THE COST OF A LATTE, PARK AND REC OFFERS A MORNING OF INDOOR play WITH YOUR PRESCHOOLER.

Being Neighborly Benefits Everybody

Golden Valley Property Maintenance Specialist Josh Kunde has seen his share of neighborly quibbles. As the one responsible for addressing complaints about possible maintenance violations, he says he's a bit disappointed at how some neighbors just won't communicate with one another. If neighbors talked a little more, or even helped each other out from time to time, things would be better for everyone, he says.

"Very often we're called to resolve issues that are not addressed in City ordinances," says Kunde, who is also a Golden Valley firefighter. "For example, people will complain to us about a neighbor's property before they'll discuss it with their neighbor. It's possible both parties could resolve the problem more diplomatically on their own without involving the authorities. It could even result in a stronger neighborly bond."

The Golden Valley Fire and Police Departments believe the community is safer and stronger when neighbors work together for the benefit of all. Who knows, maybe there's a good reason why your neighbor hasn't fixed a problem. Maybe disability or age is a factor. In that case, why not offer to help? It's a practice many firefighters and police officers follow in their own neighborhoods.

Kunde once had a neighbor who was too old to clear the snow off his driveway. So he offered to do it for him and, in return, the man gave Kunde his snowblower. Last summer, when Firefighter Brian Schiebe connected a youth looking to make some extra money with an elderly neighbor who needed help mowing his lawn, he helped both parties reach their goals and helped bridge two generations.

"Both are examples of how being neighborly benefits everybody," says Kunde.

With carbon monoxide build-ups, icy sidewalks, snowy driveways, and sub-zero temperatures, winter is an especially important time to look out for one another. Fire Education Specialist Stephen Baker suggests even just visiting your neighbors more often, have a cup of coffee, have a conversation.

"Make sure they're doing OK," he says. "Check if their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors have fresh batteries, see if their doors and windows are cold-weather proof. Don't wait for them to call for help. Keep an eye out for them."

The bottom line, Kunde adds, is to just keep up relations. Don't be afraid of your neighbors. Be friendly. Or at least try to be. Not only will this cut down on the number of complaints and grievances that turn into tax-payer burdens, it will also go a long way to making sure your neighborhood is safe, well-maintained, and quibble-free.

If residents can't work out their differences, the City encourages mediation, especially regarding issues that aren't addressed in City ordinances. Community Mediation Services, Inc provides mediation services to residents, businesses, schools, and organizations in north and west Hennepin County. For more information, go to www.community-mediations.org or call 763-561-0033. 



KEEPING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MAINTAINED IS EASIER AS A JOINT EFFORT.

SENIOR *Stuff*

Unless noted otherwise, most activities are at Brookview Community Center and require advance registration with the Seniors Program office (see below).

Help with MEDICARE

Answers to your Medicare insurance questions. Feb 10, March 9, April 14, 9–11 am. Free. Call for appointment.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

- **4-Hour Refresher Course**—Feb 12 and March 12, 9 am–1 pm, \$17
- **8-Hour Course**—April 14 and 21, 6–10 pm, \$18

Register by sending a check to Minnesota Safety Council, 474 Concordia Ave, St Paul, MN, 55103.

TAX ASSISTANCE 2009

Free help by trained volunteers for seniors with uncomplicated income taxes. First-come, first-served. Feb 19 and March 5, 19, and 26, 9–11:30 am.

MONEY MATTERS

- Feb 19: "Fixed Income Strategy"
- March 19: "Planning Ahead for Incapacity"

Both 10–11 am.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Feb 25 and March 25, 11–11:30 am.

COFFEE TALK

- Feb 25: "Our Changing Community"
- March 25: "Native American Folklore & Natural Remedies"

Both at 9:45 am, \$2 payable at door. Please register at least one day in advance.

LIVING WISE AND WELL

March 5, 1 pm: "Sleep Apnea," Calvary Cooperative, 7600 Golden Valley Rd.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DONATION

Support your senior program and receive the newsletter by mail. \$5.

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

REMODELING

Before You Start, Remember: Prioritize, Plan, And Get Your **Permit**

Before the snow thaws and remodeling season begins, take some time to think about how you can make your upcoming projects run as smoothly as possible. Early planning will save you from many headaches this spring.

Prioritize, Prioritize, Prioritize

"Figure out what you want to get done, and what you need to get done," says Josh Kunde, City property maintenance inspector. "Do what you need to get done first."

In other words, if your roof is sagging, don't spend your money on remodeling the kitchen. A new kitchen may be nice, but it's worthless if the cupboards and floor are destroyed by a leaky roof, Kunde says. "Every season you allow something to be in disrepair, it costs you more money and time to repair it later on."

The first projects to tackle should be any areas of your home in violation of city code.

"I saw a home where the family spent all this money on a new entertainment room when the outside of their house hadn't been painted for 15 years," Kunde says. So, he adds, when you have a contractor come over to plan a remodeling project, ask if any other project in or around your home might be more prudent. Also, use common sense.

Get Your Permit

Once you find a contractor and determine your priorities, the next step is to get a permit. A permit ensures you do the project correctly and to code (see box below). If you don't get a permit, you're not only breaking the law, you're risking the need to tear down the entire project and start from scratch. That costs a lot of time and a lot of money.

The steps for getting a building permit depend on the project. But it's safe to say the more organized you are, the easier it will all be, says Golden Valley Building Official Gary Johnson.

"People need to do their homework," Johnson explains. "They need to understand that there's a process they need to go through before they can get started on their project. This includes everything from design, to getting permits, to construction. They also need to understand this will all take time."

The flow chart outlines the necessary steps for getting a building permit for interior projects and roofing as well as for new construction and additions.

Why Enforce Building Codes?

Getting permits and following building codes is crucial to the safety and convenience of you and anybody in your home today or the future.

The purpose of the code is to establish "minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare of the community through structural strength, stability, sanitation, adequate light, ventilation, and energy conservation."

When it comes to building codes, consistency of enforcement is key. Uniform standards and measurements create a solid precedent for new

construction and renovation. If every house and building had a different set of standards, not only would construction workers have to reinvent the wheel for each project, but the level of safety would vary haphazardly from house to house. Furthermore, poor construction, remodeling, or maintenance affects anyone who moves into the home after you. New residents should be able to trust that whatever you did to your home won't affect them negatively or leave them with unpleasant surprises.

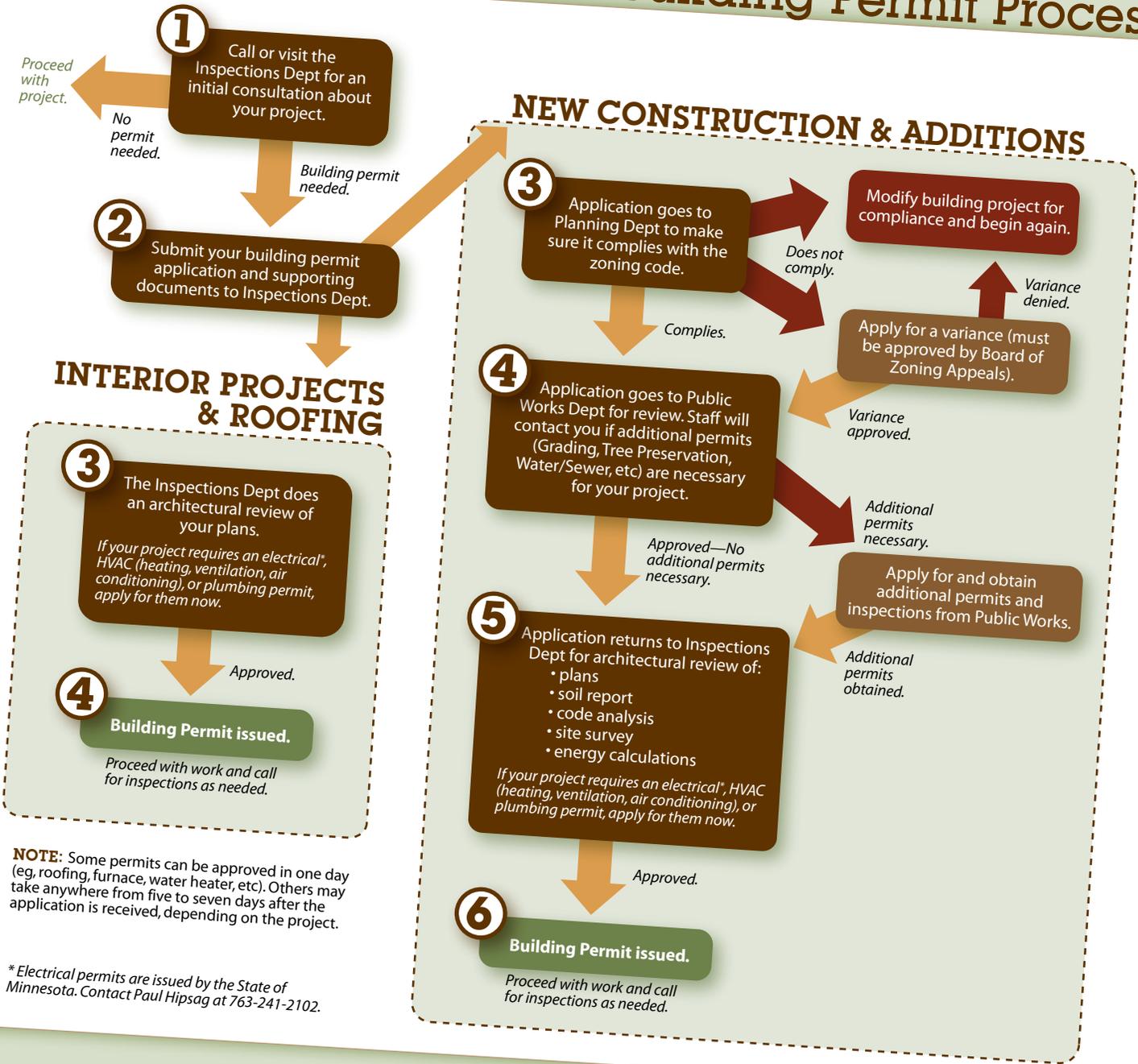
"A lot of people don't understand why it should be up to the City to enforce the

code," says Josh Kunde, City property maintenance inspector. "It's for everybody benefit. If the codes aren't enforced by City inspectors, consistency goes out the window and property values fall."

But, he added, he's pleased with the level of responsibility Golden Valley residents have displayed in this respect. For the most part, City residents maintain their homes well.

For more information, contact the Inspections Department at 763-593-8090, or visit www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/ and click "Your Home."

Residential Building Permit Process



NOTE: Some permits can be approved in one day (eg, roofing, furnace, water heater, etc). Others may take anywhere from five to seven days after the application is received, depending on the project.

*Electrical permits are issued by the State of Minnesota. Contact Paul Hipsag at 763-241-2102.

Plan Ahead And Get Advice

For new construction or additions to existing property, owners (or their contractor) need to first visit the City Planning Department to make sure projects meet the requirements of the City's zoning code. Next, City staff determines if the project needs additional permits or inspections for water, sewer, grading and erosion control, etc. Then the Inspections Department needs to review a complete set of construction drawings to ensure the project meets requirements of the building code.

Finally, Johnson says, it's important to pick the right materials for your project. Do the research and don't rush your decisions.

"Selection of building materials that require less maintenance long term will minimize the amount of work required

later," he adds.

Just remember the "three Ps": prioritize, plan, and permit. Don't hesitate to call the Inspections Department for advice, or use the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) Financial Resources' free inspection program, a cooperative effort between CEE and Golden Valley (see sidebar on page 15). And visit the Remodeling Fair March 1 (see story on page 16) for expert advice in a wide range of areas.

"A thorough job at the beginning of the project will cut down on problems along the way," Johnson says.

For more information, contact the Inspections Department at 763-593-8090, or visit www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/ and click on "Your Home."

Safety Seminar Created For Adults Of All Ages

Join the Golden Valley Police and Fire Departments March 3 for the Masters Safety Seminar, an evening class offering life safety tips for those entering their golden years and their children (see ad below right).

Participants will learn valuable information about the safety issues that most often affect adults. These include the best ways to avoid identity theft and fraud as well as tips on medical safety, heart and stroke identification, fire prevention, and fall prevention.

You'll also get a free safety kit, which includes a carbon monoxide detector.

Organized by Fire Education Specialist Stephen Baker and Crime Prevention Specialist Joanne Paul, the three-hour seminar will feature guest speakers who are experts in specific safety areas. The seminar's goal is to get people at or near retirement age to make safety concerns a priority to prevent accidents, rather than fall victim to them.

"Accidents tend to increase at retirement age," Baker says. "What is small at age 25 can be life threatening at 65."

"We're trying to get younger people to come as well, because these issues apply to everyone. We're only asking for three hours of their time, and it's free."

While most adults have good knowledge of proper safety practices around the home, they'll still gain a lot of helpful tips, Baker says.

"You will learn at least one thing that will make your life better," he adds. "Bring a friend, enjoy the refreshments, and have some fun with it."

Questions? Contact Baker at 763-593-3977. 🐾

WatchBlog Launches

The *Neighborhood Watchdog* will soon become the *WatchBlog*, as it goes digital to meet Golden Valley Police Department goals to communicate with more residents more frequently. The new digital format is also better for the environment and will save the City money, says Crime Prevention Specialist Joanne Paul.

The printed *Neighborhood Watchdog* was mailed quarterly to about 3,500 people. Paul says she hopes the new format will be updated about once a month and reach considerably more residents.

"By going online, the public will be able to get information in a timelier manner," says Paul. "And it will be available to a wider range of people. The more that people are informed, the better they are at preventing crime from happening."

Paul also aims to provide more information in the *WatchBlog*, including up-to-date crime reports, crime trends, and interactive crime maps, something a quarterly print newsletter couldn't provide because of space constrictions and publication schedules.

The newsletter will launch in February on Golden Valley's City Web site at <http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/>.

To subscribe to the Police Department's e-mail list, which will notify you anytime there are updates to the *WatchBlog*, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/index.htm, click on the "GV eConnect" link, then click on the "DirectConnect" button.

For more information, contact Joanne Paul at 763-593-8058. 🐾



THE PRINTED *Watchdog* IS BEING REPLACED BY A DIGITAL VERSION.



Masters Safety Seminar

a free education session for grown-ups who want to be safety savvy

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

6 – 9 pm

Golden Valley Public Safety Building
7800 Golden Valley Rd

Learn about...

- Crime Prevention Basics
- Fire Prevention and Safety
- Avoiding Identity Theft and Frauds
- Emergency Medical Concerns
- Resources For Golden-Agers
- More...

Includes dinner,
complimentary gift pack,
and other giveaways.

RSVP today!

Space is limited.

RSVP by calling the GVPD at 763-593-8079, or with an e-mail to police@ci.golden-valley.mn.us. Include your name, address, and phone number, and write "Masters Safety Seminar Registration" in the subject line.



Remodeling Fire Hazards Are Easily Avoided

If you want to avoid house fires caused by botched remodeling projects (bad wiring, poor insulation, faulty material) the best thing you can do is get a permit.

GET A PERMIT

"Permits are protection," says Stephen Baker, City of Golden Valley fire education specialist. "Mistakes in remodeling can be devastating. And permits are designed to minimize mistakes."

If you're not doing the remodeling yourself, he adds, make sure you get the right person for the job. Are they licensed? Do they have references? Do they know they need a permit?

One of the main reasons to get a permit or a professional contractor is to guarantee the health and safety of you and your family (see story on pages 8–9). Permits require that projects be built to code and that you and the contractors follow guidelines written for your own protection. Avoiding permits will only hurt you in the long run.

ADDITIONAL STEPS TO AVOID FIRES

So once you get a permit, what then? Golden Valley Property Maintenance Specialist Josh Kunde says a major cause of fires related to remodeling, or even just cleaning, is improper disposal of waste materials.

A lot of people don't know it, but rags used for wood staining, if left in a pile in the garage, can spontaneously combust, explains Kunde. As the mixture of chemicals lie there and stew, they can create a chemical reaction that will cost you dearly.

So, Kunde suggests, make sure you don't leave old remodeling or cleaning materials lying around. Dispose of them through the proper methods. For old rags, hang them outside and let them air out. Never pile them up, and keep them away from wood. If you're disposing of ashes from your fire place, use a metal wheelbarrow to transport them to an outdoor fire pit.

And if you're remodeling in the winter, and you're using temporary heat, like a space heater, make sure it's nowhere near any combustible material like construction wood or insulation. Also, make sure there's proper ventilation so it's not a carbon monoxide hazard.

The last thing to keep in mind when remodeling a home, Kunde says, is that you are required by law to update your fire and carbon monoxide alarms. In fact, you should have an alarm within 10 feet of every bedroom.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about remodeling, maintenance, and waste disposal, go to <http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/> and click on "Your Home," or contact Josh Kunde at 763-593-8074. 



DON'T LET A BEAUTIFUL REMODELING PROJECT GO UP IN FLAMES.



Police And Fire Depts Outline 2009 Events

Each year, the Golden Valley Police and Fire Departments offer a variety of community programs and events that focus on safety or are simply fun. Watch future editions of *CityNews* for more information.

- **Police and Fire Open House**
Wednesday, June 17, 6–8 pm
- **Fire Relief Association Street Dance**
Saturday, June 20, 5 pm–midnight
- **Junior Safety Camp**
Tuesday, June 30
- **Safety Camp**
Wednesday, July 1
- **MN Night To Unite**
Tuesday, Aug 4 

Rental Licensing: A Necessary Program

When Golden Valley began its property maintenance inspections program, inspectors noticed a disproportionate amount of housing maintenance violations occurred in homes being rented out.

In 2007, the City began requiring all landlords to apply for a rental license. It was the first ordinance of its kind in Golden Valley for single family rented property, says Golden Valley Property Maintenance Inspector Josh Kunde. Until then, the City kept no record of which single-family homes were rented out and which were not.

With the ordinance in place, property in Golden Valley is looking better than ever, Kunde says. Not only are these homes being better maintained, but City inspectors now know who to contact when they see a violation at a rented property, which expedites the repair process. It also helps police by giving them a better idea of who to deal with when there's a crime at a rented home.

"We've had great compliance," Kunde says. For more information about the ordinance, contact Kunde at 763-593-8074. 

I/I INSPECTIONS STATS

Golden Valley has approximately 8,000 commercial, industrial, and residential sewer services. As of Dec 1, 2008, approximately 23 percent of the sanitary sewer services were inspected for compliance with the City's Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) ordinance. Sixteen percent of the sewer services were compliant or underwent corrections needed to become compliant.

I/I GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) offers a limited number of grants to residents who repair their sanitary sewer services to help reduce I/I into the metropolitan sewer system.

Residents are eligible for the lesser of \$2,000 or 50 percent of the actual cost of the repair. Grant money is available first-come, first-served. When the money is gone, the program will be discontinued.

MCES instituted the program in an attempt to help reduce financial pressure on private property owners required to comply with their City's I/I reduction programs.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a grant, property owners must complete an application form and include a copy of the paid invoice from the plumbing contractor and the date and number of the plumbing permit issued by the City of Golden Valley Inspections Department. Forms are available from the Golden Valley Public Works Department (763-593-8030) and can be downloaded at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/cityutilitiesinflowinspection/MCESgrant.htm.

The City of Golden Valley submits grant applications to MCES monthly. Funds awarded will be sent to the City of Golden Valley and then issued to the property owner. As of Dec 31, 2008, 18 Golden Valley residents have received a total of \$22,477.39.

Questions? Contact Utilities Maintenance Supervisor Dave Lemke at 763-593-8075. Questions about I/I or the I/I inspections program? Contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.

I/I Inspection Program Enters Third Year

Since late 2006, the City of Golden Valley has been inspecting homes and businesses to determine if roof drains, foundation drains, sump pumps, and other clear water sources are connected to the sanitary sewer system. As the I/I (Inflow and Infiltration) inspections program enters its third year, it's time to take a look at how things are going.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Between 2004 and 2006, the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) identified 49 Twin Cities communities, including Golden Valley, with excessive clear water flows into the regional wastewater system. Called Inflow and Infiltration (I/I), this excessive flow is an environmental and financial burden to the entire region, costing about \$300-\$400 million annually.

To force cities to take action, the MCES adopted a program in 2006 to impose a surcharge for communities with excessive I/I (Golden Valley's surcharge is \$380,000 per year). Cities could choose to reduce I/I in lieu of the surcharge, and Golden Valley was one of the first cities in Minnesota to aggressively go after the problem.

Private property owns 147 miles of sanitary sewer pipe in Golden Valley, and the City has no way of knowing if it is properly maintained. To truly address I/I, the City concluded it was necessary to inspect private sewer systems.

Inspections are conducted upon request and in conjunction with City street rehabilitation projects. Point of Sale I/I inspections are required before a property is offered for sale or transferred. Improper connections or significant defects in the sanitary sewer service pipe must be corrected before the City will issue a Certificate of I/I Compliance. If a Certificate of I/I Compliance is more than one year old, a sump pump inspection is required before a sale or transfer of ownership. Failure to obtain a Certificate of I/I Compliance is a misdemeanor and may result in additional monthly charges on the customer's utility bill (\$500 residential, \$1,000 non-residential) and possible loss of water service.

Fixing I/I

The most cost-effective way of dealing with I/I is a region-wide effort to disconnect sump pumps and foundation drains connected to sanitary sewers and to repair leaky sanitary sewer pipes. Homeowners are responsible for maintaining and repairing the sewer pipes from their home or building to the City's main line in the street. Common defects include:

- root intrusion
- cracks, breaks, or missing pipe
- illegal connections from sump pumps, drain tile, and roof leaders (downspouts)

Homeowners generally repair or replace roofs, decks, or other portions of property as they age, but since sewers are out of sight, they often go unattended until they break.

For more information about I/I inspections or to download a Point of Sale inspection application, go to the City's Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us and click on the green "Point of Sale" banner.



APPROXIMATELY 23 PERCENT OF GOLDEN VALLEY'S SANITARY SEWER SERVICES HAVE BEEN INSPECTED FOR I/I COMPLIANCE.

Combustion Air: What Is It And Why Do I Need It?

The Minnesota State Building Code requires all appliances equipped with a draft hood to be supplied with an adequate supply of combustion air.

Combustion air is the air needed to properly vent a fuel-fired appliance (eg, a furnace, water heater, or space heater). It does not include clothes dryers, ranges or fireplaces, although there are specific requirements for venting fireplaces and clothes dryers.

How It Works

Air is drawn up at the appliance's draft hood through the vent (what most people call a chimney) to the outside atmosphere, helping to exhaust the by-products of combustion. If there is not an adequate supply of air for this process to occur, the appliance may backdraft and spill combustion products (including carbon monoxide) into the building.

For many years the Building Code required combustion air supply through a duct from the outside into the space serving the appliance(s). Since adoption of the International Mechanical Code and International Fuel Gas Code (with State Amendments), there are now three ways the combustion air may be provided:

- Method 1: Provide a duct from the outside to deliver the combustion air to the appliance(s).
- Method 2: If an adequate volume of air is present within the building, all of the required air supply may be taken from inside the building. You may use adjacent spaces if the appliance enclosure does not provide the required volume. There are five prohibited locations you cannot use for appliances or combustion air: sleeping rooms, bathrooms, toilet rooms, storage closets, and (not a typo), surgical rooms. If you use adjacent areas to "gather" the required volume, you will need to place grilles in the walls so the air can get to the appliance. Most installers are aware of these requirements, but if you are handy and want to do the work yourself, the Inspections Department can provide you with the information you'll need to complete the job.
- Method 3: A combination of outside and inside air supply.

All methods achieve the same result—they provide air for the proper venting of an appliance or appliances.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

The most significant change to the Code is the allowance of inside air for combustion air. This decision may be the result of a focus on energy-efficient construction. If you build or improve your house to keep out the winter cold, it makes sense to avoid putting holes in the construction and allowing cold air in. Remember, a duct bringing air in from outside is a hole.

Using method 1 or 3, the air coming through the duct is the same temperature as the air outside.

It may be tempting to stuff a towel or otherwise cover a duct from the outside when you feel the cold air coming in, but don't! It may be even more important in the winter months as people don't open their windows and try to keep their doors closed and sealed.

If you have questions regarding the requirements for combustion air supplies, contact the Golden Valley Inspections Department at 763-593-8090. 

Joe Kauth, Chief Building Inspector

ENERGY AUDIT MAY SAVE MONEY

If you're trying to find ways to save money in every area of your life, don't forget to evaluate your home energy consumption, where even small changes can give you big gains.

CenterPoint Energy recommends customers schedule a home energy audit and learn how to lower their energy use. The wholesale cost of natural gas remains significantly higher than last year.

"By scheduling a low-cost energy audit with a qualified CenterPoint Energy technician, customers can learn where they have energy loss, how they can reduce their usage and ultimately lower their natural gas bill," says David Baker, vice president of operations for CenterPoint Energy. "Though wholesale natural gas prices have dropped somewhat recently, the price of natural gas can change quickly, and we want our customers to prepare today for higher energy."

The energy audit will reveal areas in your home where you can reduce energy consumption, such as inefficient heaters, old windows, and faulty doors.

In addition to an energy audit, CenterPoint Energy also recommends the following tips:

- Schedule an annual tune-up by a professional to ensure that the heating system and other gas appliances are operating safely and efficiently, and to avoid costly and inconvenient repairs.
- Place furniture away from supply vents and registers to avoid restricting airflow.
- Take measures now by installing weather stripping, caulking around windows and doors, and sealing attic spaces to save energy.
- Install a programmable thermostat to regulate the home temperature and adjust it automatically to conserve energy in both the summer and the winter months, when energy use is at its peak.

To schedule an audit, call 612-372-4727 or 800-245-2377. 

GET YOUR PASSPORTS AT GV DMV

If you're hoping to go anywhere outside the USA this year, you're going to need a passport.

But don't wait until the last minute. The documentation takes four to six weeks to process (you may shorten processing time to two to three weeks with an additional charge of \$60). So if you're planning a spring trip, apply for a passport now.

The Golden Valley Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV), on the ground level of City Hall, has been issuing passports since 2005. Cost for adults is \$115 (\$75 for the passport, with a \$25 processing fee and \$15 photo fee). For those under age 16 the cost is \$100 (\$60 for the passport, with the same processing and photo fees). Both parents must also be present. The DMV accepts cash, checks, and money orders, but not credit cards.

Here's what you need to bring:

- proof of citizenship (such as a birth certificate)
- two checks, one payable to the US Department of State and one payable to the City of Golden Valley
- paper work (optional)
- a 2"x2" photo of yourself against a white background (optional)

Fill out the paperwork at the DMV, or save some time and do it beforehand at www.travel.state.gov (click on the "Passports" link). Remember to bring the printouts with you.

Passports expire after 10 years for adults and after five years for those under 16.

Owning a passport is more important than ever. Under new border security laws, even just driving to Canada can be difficult without a passport or birth certificate, and beginning in June 2009, it may be illegal without a passport.

The Golden Valley DMV is open weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm and Tuesdays until 6 pm. Call 763-593-8101 for more details.

Your Neighbors May Not Like How You Drive

Citizens nationwide are concerned about neighborhood traffic issues—namely cut-through traffic and traffic speeds in residential areas. That has cities, including Golden Valley, taking a more proactive approach to neighborhood traffic management.

WHO'S DRIVING ON MY STREET?

To determine the scope of a cut-through traffic concern, City staff reviews street or neighborhood traffic patterns and performs actual traffic counts. Most often, staff finds that traffic is composed of neighbors. How does the City know this? It compares estimated traffic volumes and patterns from the area to actual traffic volumes.

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) studies traffic volumes in neighborhoods nationwide using traffic counters, census data, or interviews with residents. ITE estimates traffic volumes for each type of land use, then publishes the results to be used by engineers in cities and counties across the country. For example, a single-family home will average 9.6 trips per day. Think that sounds high? Try counting all of your trips for a week, including visitors and deliveries and services. The results may surprise you.

Observations of traffic patterns in neighborhoods often confirm the traffic volume estimates. Most of the time, the volumes and patterns show the traffic to be your neighbors, just as you are part of the traffic past someone else's home.

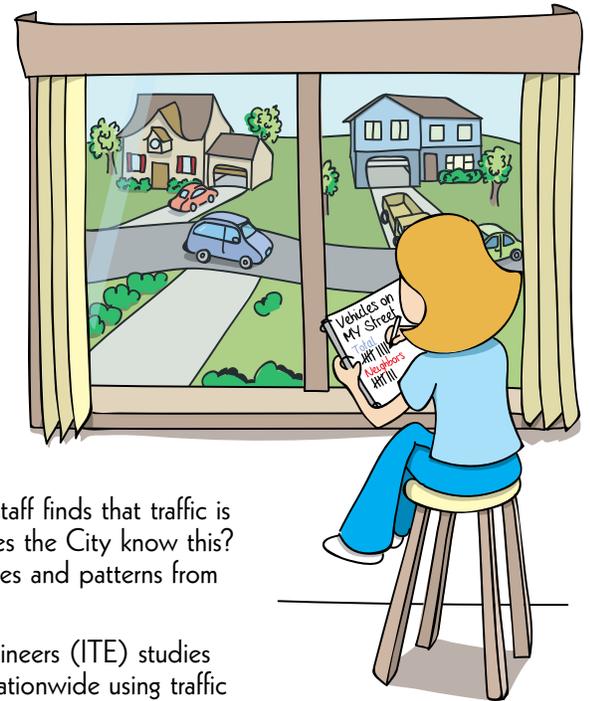
If excessive cut-through traffic is identified, roadway changes such as narrowing, median construction, and access restrictions can help. Other changes can include turn restrictions and signal re-timing along primary routes to reduce delay.

Traffic Speeds

Concerns about traffic speeds are usually followed by a request for the City to lower speed limits, put up signs, or increase enforcement in the neighborhood. What should residents expect regarding traffic speeds on residential streets? Minnesota state law establishes a 30-mph limit on local streets in urban districts (virtually all streets in Golden Valley qualify). Speed limits other than 30 mph in urban areas are set by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Most motorists drive at safe and reasonable speeds. On residential streets, traffic often appears to be traveling faster than it actually is. Sometimes vehicles traveling at a higher speed will trigger a complaint. In these cases, reporting the license plate number of the offending vehicle to the police may help alter the offending driver's speed awareness. The best way to reduce traffic speeds in residential areas is to drive within the speed limit yourself. Vehicles that go the speed limit act as pace cars for other traffic.

In residential areas where speed problems have been identified, the Golden Valley Police Department deploys a speed trailer (which displays the speed of approaching vehicles) to educate motorists and raise awareness. Police officers follow up with targeted enforcement efforts. In Golden Valley, such efforts have consistently found that speed violators are most often the residents themselves and not drivers from other areas.



Property Maintenance Checklist: *Why Not?*

If you don't keep your home well-maintained, ask yourself, "why not?" That's what Golden Valley's Property Maintenance Inspector Josh Kunde wants you to think about. Why not maintain your home? Why let your property go to shambles? Why spend more money in the long run? Why cause your neighborhood home values to drop? Why risk the health and safety of you and your family? Why be neglectful?

Tackle the issue before it becomes an issue. Be proactive. The following is a checklist you can use to make sure your home is in good shape. Using this checklist now will save you from trouble in the future, so why not?

Questions about the City's property maintenance code? Contact Kunde at 763-593-8074. 

NOTE:

Permits may be required to complete work. Contact Inspections at 763-593-8090 for further information.

Help For Homeowners

The City of Golden Valley has teamed up with the nonprofit Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) Financial Resources to deliver fast and free home improvement advice to any resident who wants it.

Homeowners looking to do home improvements can call the CEE and have an expert sent to their home for inspection, advice, and unbiased opinions. Golden Valley funds the advice service for the benefit of all property owners.

Funds are limited, so plan ahead. If you want help planning a home improvement project, call the CEE at 612-335-5856. For questions about the service, contact the CEE at 612-335-5881. 



My Property Maintenance Checklist: Interior

Security

- Locks on ground floor windows

Doors and Windows

- Operational windows must have screens
- Exterior doors solid core or insulated
- All doors must be operational
- All garage doors must be operational

Ceiling

- Water damage
- Cracks or chipping
- Acceptable general condition

Flooring

- Free of cracks/holes/rips etc
- Bathroom and kitchen flooring watertight
- Free of tripping hazards

Walls

- Holes in walls
- Cracks or chipping
- Mold or water damage

Stairs

- Carpeting is secure
- Handrails on all stairways
- Must be illuminated

Tub/Shower

- Washable and water tight surface around tub and floor

Toilet

- Free of chips and cracks
- Properly secured to floor
- Sanitary conditions
- Flushes correctly

Ventilation

- Bath fan installed and operable if no window

Smoke Detector

- Present and functioning on every floor

Electrical

- All outlets/switches have plates
- All wires concealed
- No extension cords used with appliances
- GFCI to code

Fire Extinguisher

- Fire extinguisher

Furnace/Air Conditioning

- Venting free of rust and fully operational

Water Heater

- Verify relief valve
- Free of leaks and rust

Washer/Dryer

- Gas dryer must have shut-off valve
- Dryer must have metal ductwork to exterior
- Washer must have water shut off

Dishwashers

- Permanently installed to code
- Clean and sanitary condition
- Seals in good working order

Sink/Wash Basin

- Free of chips and cracks
- Sink area water tight and washable surface
- Hot and cold water

Stove/Range/Oven

- All burners and oven elements operable
- Oven gasket in good condition
- Gas range must have shut off valve

Refrigerator

- Fully operational, with secure gaskets

Food Storage/Preparation

- Cabinet doors and drawers w/hardware
- Kitchen sanitary—no accumulated garbage



Check Out These SEMINARS At The Remodeling Fair

Kitchen and Bath Remodeling: Small Innovations to Total Renovations

Decks and Three- and Four-Season Porches

Refinishing Wood Floors

New Trends In Interior Design

Bath Remodeling

Kitchen Design Workshop

Rain Gardens and Barrels

Restoring Windows

Toolkit For Green Building

Making Your Home More Accessible

Spring Into Landscaping

A Beginner's Guide to Remodeling Green

Sustainability Makes Sense And Cents For Your Home

IF YOU GO...

WHAT: The annual *Home Remodeling Fair*

WHEN: Sunday, March 1, from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm

WHERE: Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy 7, Hopkins (one mile west of Hwys 7 and 169). Parking is available at Eisenhower, and free shuttle service is available from the parking lot at Oak Ridge Country Club (two blocks north of Hwy 7 on 5th Ave/Oak Ridge Rd). Watch for signs.

COST: Free

Remodeling Fair Is March 1

It's time again for the free Home Remodeling Fair, an indispensable tool for the do-it-yourselfer in all of us.

The Fair, a multi-city effort to boost housing conditions throughout the western suburbs, will feature nearly 100 exhibitors, many free seminars (see sidebar), and an "Ask the Pro" booth. Exhibitors include architects, landscapers, designers, electricians, roofers, lenders, city inspectors, and more. There will be free seminars and demonstrations, architects and interior designers at the "Ask the Pro" no-obligation advice booth (bring your photos, sketches, and questions), and food concessions in the cafeteria.



Sponsors are the Cities of Golden Valley, St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka, and St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka Community Education. Co-sponsors are Air Quality Services Inc, Alderman Construction Inc, Boyer Building Corp, Building Arts Sustainable Architecture & Construction LLC, Center for Energy-Environment, Cronstroms One Hour Heating and Air Conditioning, Home Works Remodeling & Repair Inc, J.W. Williams Construction Inc, Knight Construction Design Inc, Neighborhood Building & Remodeling Co, Otogawa-Anschel Design-Build, and Steele Construction Services Inc.

For more info, go to www.homeremodelingfair.com or contact Golden Valley's property maintenance inspector at 763-593-8074.

City of
Golden Valley

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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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

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